

February 18, 2016

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the Community Centre in Coldstream, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Norm Giffen, Vice Chair; Diane Brewer, Alan Broad, Tony Bruinink, Andy Bruziewicz, Todd Case, Joe Faas, Larry Gordon, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Don McCallum, John McCharles, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Muriel Wright

Absent: Mike Kelch, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Jeff Wesley

Special Guests: John Fraser, M.P.P. McNaughton's office; Bev MacDougall, Lambton County Warden; Dick Hibma, Chair, Conservation Ontario; Sharon McMillan, Middlesex Centre; Jason Webb, Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry; Ralph Coe, Strathroy-Caradoc; Angela Toth, Strathroy-Caradoc; Darrell Randel, Ducks Unlimited; Bill Bilton, SCRCF; Jake Lozon, RLSN; Lindsay Buchanan; RLSN; Ken Williams; MPW Chartered Professional Accountants LLP; Muriel Andreae

Conservation Award Winners: Mary Ellen King and John King; Ken VanMinnon; Doug Rogers; Janice Dolliver and Janet Campbell

Also Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Rick Battson, Director of Communications; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Sharon Nethercott, Conservation Education Co-ordinator; Melissa Gill, Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician; Donna Strang, St. Clair River RAP Co-ordinator; Steve Clark, Water Resources Specialist; Mark Bakelaar, LCH Assistant Superintendent; Maryanne Nieuwenhuizen, AWC Maintenance Foreperson; Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Steve Arnold, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority welcomed everyone to the 2016 annual meeting. He requested people read through the annual report and take special note of the many partnerships we have forged. That it was through the partnerships that we moved the yardstick forward to create safer and healthier watersheds. Mr. Arnold then outlined programs that did not receive any municipal general levy dollars, but that are funded through the efforts of staff to seek out grants or operate programs that generate revenue.

BD-16-001

Bruziewicz - Wright

"That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting be adopted."

CARRIED

The Chair requested that each Director declare a conflict of interest at the appropriate time, on any item within this agenda in that a Director may have pecuniary interest.

BD-16-002

Bruinink - McCharles

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held December 10, 2015, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

BD-16-003

Gordon - Broad

“That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held February 4, 2016, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

Sharon Nethercott and Melissa Gill made a presentation on the Authority’s Conservation Education Program and Girish Sankar and Steve Clark made a presentation on Flood Forecasting & Warning program and a watershed update.

BD-16-004

Broad - McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentations regarding the Authority’s Conservation Education program and Flood Forecasting & Warning program and watershed update.”

CARRIED

The 2015 Audited Financial Statements were discussed.

BD-16-005

Bruinink – McCharles

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and report from the Authority’s auditors, MPW Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, and further approves the 2015 Audited Financial Statements.”

CARRIED

Four Conservation Awards were presented:

- Mary-Ellen and John King. Together jointly own approximately 1100 acres located in the Sydenham Watershed in Lambton County, between Alvinston and Watford. They are excellent stewards of their land and have led by example completing numerous environmental projects working with the Authority, Ducks Unlimited and the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network. Since 2005, they have retired a total of 47 hectares of marginal or fragile land on their properties including buffers along watercourses, shelter belts and plantation planting, and establishing tallgrass prairie. In addition, they undertook a project to divert tile outlets into a series of wetlands to filter runoff from the farm and they have established sediment traps and grass waterways to protect against erosion on steep slopes. This extraordinary stewardship effort is to be commended.
- The Strathroy Community Christian School has been very active in using its resources to promote conservation. Several years ago, they constructed a boardwalk into an adjacent wetland and they use this to include an outdoor education component to their science curriculum. This year their Senior Kindergarten class used the boardwalk to collect and

identify different types of lady bugs. Each grade has their own planter box adjacent to the fence. They engage their youngest students by having them prepare and plant flower boxes with spring bulbs each year– I bet it is a big moment for these students when the bulbs open in the spring. They actively recycle each day. They try, as much as possible, to be a garbage free school by having their students bring their garbage home whenever possible. Not only are the students involved in environmental learning, they also learn about social responsibility by planting garden vegetables which are harvested and donated to the Women's Rural Resource Centre. It is always gratifying to recognize the work of our young people and obviously the Strathroy Community Christian School is doing an excellent job of including hands-on opportunities for their students to become good stewards of our land and creating responsible citizens.

- Mr. Doug Rogers farms in Lambton Shores and, for the last 19 years, has been a leader in the farming community using innovative stewardship methods to protect the environment. Mr. Rogers utilizes strip farming with corn, beans, and wheat. This method not only allows more exposed surface area for his crops to receive sunlight, but also largely cuts down on overland erosion. He also uses grassed waterways, which are strips of grassland within cultivated fields, to slow down and filter runoff. Once established, maintenance involves mowing once or twice a year. The 15 - 30 foot-wide grassed buffers reduce erosion and keep soil on the field. After doing much research and attending many conferences in the United States, Mr. Rogers plants multi-species cover crops after his crops come off to ensure there is a living cover on his ground year round. This further helps reduce erosion and keeps the organic matter and nutrients on the field, where the crops benefit. When possible, he uses mechanical methods of reducing weeds as opposed to chemical treatments. Mr. Rogers has been working with staff to promote conservation by hosting tours of his property and acting as a spokesperson for soil conservation. For the past two years he has collected water samples from his tile outlets because he is concerned about phosphorus levels in the Great Lakes and wants to know how farmers can reduce their impact. Mr. Rogers, we greatly appreciate your efforts in land stewardship as well as your support by being our landowner champion.
- The Enviro-Friends of Coldstream is a remarkable group of volunteers that have been running the Coldstream Conservation Area since 1994 in order to keep this beautiful park a part of the community. In addition to the day-to-day operation, they actively raise funds to continually improve the Conservation Area for the enjoyment of the community. Each year they hold a Gala that, this year, raised over \$10,000. That is an amazing show of support from the community. They used these funds to offer free summer day camp for local families; to hire 2 summer students; they were able to offer a Junior Councillor Program for 13 local teens; they undertook trail and boardwalk improvements; and painted the washrooms. I would say this is very ambitious for a group of volunteers. The Enviro-Friends of Coldstream exemplifies the meaning of volunteerism. It is very unusual for such a group to remain so active for over 2 decades – this is to be highly commended.

BD-16-006

McMillan – Miller

“That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2015 Conservation Award Winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.”

CARRIED

2016 service awards were presented:

Five Years of Service

Maryanne Nieuwenhuizen, Maintenance Foreperson, A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

Ten Years of Service

Steve Miller, representing St. Clair Township

Mark Bakelaar, Assistant Superintendent, Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

25 years of service

Brian McDougall, General Manager

35 years of service

Kevan Baker, Director of Lands

BD-16-007

Marriott - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the service awards presented to the directors and staff and further that they be thanked for their years of dedicated service.”

CARRIED

Diane Brewer, representing Southwest Middlesex/Newbury will be leaving the Board this year. The chair thanked Diane for her contribution to this board. A short break allowed directors to meet with Conservation Award winners.

The meeting then continued when Chair, Steve Arnold, welcomed Don McCallum, representing Southwest Middlesex/Newbury to the Board.

BD-16-008

Broad - Bruinink

“That Bill Bilton be appointed chairperson for the election of the 2016 Chairman and Vice Chairman.”

CARRIED

BD-16-009

Marriott – Nemcek

“That Dick Hibma and Jason Webb be appointed scrutineers in the event of an election.”

CARRIED

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant and nominations were called for the office of Chairman for 2016.

Steve Miller nominated Steve Arnold for the position of chair.

BD-16-010

Bruzewicz - Case

“That nominations for the position of Chairman be closed.”

CARRIED

Steve Arnold advised that he would stand. Steve Arnold was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2016.

Frank Nemcek nominated Andy Bruziewicz for the position of Vice Chair.
Steve Miller nominated Norm Giffen for the position of Vice Chair

BD-16-011

Miller – Nemcek

“That nominations for the position of Vice Chairman be closed.”

CARRIED

Andy Bruziewicz and Norm Giffen both advised that they would stand. Both nominees spoke and an election was held.

Andy Bruziewicz was declared Vice Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2016.

BD-16-012

Faas – MacKinnon

“That the ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

Steve Arnold, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the Nominating Committee report for 2016.

BD-16-013

Marriott - Nemcek

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2016 Nominating Committee's Report.”

CARRIED

BD-16-014

McMillan - Faas

“That the 2016 Executive Committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be: Steve Arnold, Chairman; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chairman; Norm Giffen, Joe Faas, Tony Bruinink, Larry Gordon, Jeff Wesley, Betty Ann MacKinnon and Muriel Wright.”

CARRIED

The 2016 borrowing bylaw was considered.

BD-16-015

Miller - Faas

“That the Authority Chairman or the Vice Chairman and the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or Director of Finance be authorized to borrow from the Libro Credit Union, Strathroy for the general operations and capital program of the Authority, a sum not to exceed \$1,011,455 to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed the member municipalities and general revenue.”

CARRIED

Appointment of an Auditor for 2016 was considered.

BD-16-016

Marriott - Bruinink

“That MPW Chartered Professional Accountants LLP be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2016.”

CARRIED

The 2016 appointments to Conservation Ontario were considered.

BD-16-017

Broad - Wright

“That the Authority's 2016 representative to Conservation Ontario will be the Authority Chair, the Vice Chair will be the first alternate and the General Manager be the second alternate.”

CARRIED

The General Manager's Report was presented:

- 2015 was a very successful year for the Authority. This success results from the diligent work of staff, the support of the Board of Directors and the partnerships forged with others enabling the Authority to provide a comprehensive watershed management program throughout the region. To all, we extend a sincere thank you.
- Highlights include:
 - reconstruction of access road at Warwick Conservation Area
 - completion of shore protection works at Cathcart Park and Lambton Area Water Supply System
 - natural heritage and office plan/zoning bylaws commenting up significantly
 - tree planting continues to exceed 55,000 annually and tree seed collection increases to meet demand
 - partnerships continue to assist Authority in funding best management practices projects on private lands
 - 12,700 children participate in conservation education classes
 - Thames – Sydenham & Region Source Water Protection Plan is approved
- 2016 Budget
 - this year's budget was approved at the December 2015 Board meeting.
 - correspondence regarding levy and invoices have been forwarded to member municipalities.
 - this has allowed staff to get an early started on some projects.
- Succession Plan
 - a rough first draft of a succession plan has been circulated amongst senior staff
 - it was intended that the draft plan would be ready to be presented to the Board in February, however that will be postponed until the April Board meeting
 - the document outlines background, objectives, values, current practices and proposed tools to promote stability for the organization

- Municipal Presentations
 - staff are available, at your request, for presentations to council or committees on any programs and services of the Conservation Authority or Foundation. We would be pleased to address council on any issue of interest.

BD-16-018

Gordon – MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 5, 2016.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Conservation Strategy Schedule.

- the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is developing a strategic plan to guide our activities over the next 5 years. Since our inception on 1961, our programs have continued to evolve to reflect changing priorities in watershed management. Over the years, we have developed a culture of “success through partnerships”. We are stronger and can accomplish so much more when we align ourselves with others with similar goals. These partnerships have allowed us to be opportunistic in bringing in talent and funding into our region to help us build healthier and more resilient watersheds.
- We have developed strong ties with the municipalities we serve. Through a supportive Board of Directors, our programs continue to reflect local needs and priorities. It is imperative, however, that we continue to re-evaluate our programs to ensure they meet the future needs of our watershed.
- In a previous exercise, the Conservation Authority developed a vision and mission and a series of four goals. The purpose of this next phase is to seek input on our goals, our current programs, and suggested future strategic actions.
- Process and Schedule
 - develop a draft document (staff)
 - present to Board at April Meeting for permission to distribute
 - seek stakeholder and public input through internet posting, Facebook, Twitter, and direct email (May)
 - present input to Board at June Meeting
 - finalize Conservation Strategy and present to Board of Directors at September meeting

BD-16-019

Nemcek - McCallum

“That the Board of Directors approves the proposed Conservation Strategy schedule, dated February 5, 2016, culminating with the presentation of the final draft to the Board of Directors at the September 2016 meeting.”

CARRIED

A staff report on water levels, current and flood conditions was presented.

- Highlights
 - flow conditions variable into the new year
 - no snowpack conditions throughout watershed
 - lake levels remain close to last year into 2016

- Watershed Precipitation and Streamflow Conditions
 - comparison of flows for the preceding months for last year over this year reflect lower precipitation amounts throughout the last part of 2015 on both the North Branch (Brigden) and East Branch (Alvinston). Several events in January and into the first part of February however have resulted of periods of rain, higher temperatures, snowmelt and significant ground thawing. Similarly, Wallaceburg was subsequently impacted with declining flows until January followed by several fluctuations throughout the month and into February
 - as with last year, precipitation numbers were noticeably lower in November, December and again into January ending the 12 month period with a regional deficit of 15% at 85%
 - to date numbers have not improved into 2016 and snowfall remains less than anticipated
 - with lower precipitation there is a risk of an impact on water reserves into summer 2016
- Flood Threat
 - lower precipitation conditions at the end of 2015 resulted in reduced average flows across the watershed and into the first part of 2016. Flood threat has increased somewhat into February due to variable temperatures causing snow melt and higher runoff which increased flows for short periods following these events. Temperatures are expected to continue to be above normal for the balance of February, and with Lake Huron remaining essentially open water, this may contribute to additional lake effect snowfall accumulations melting rapidly with above zero temperatures. Seasonal snow surveys commenced November 15th with little or no snow coverage being recorded as of January 1st, however this changed with some snow accumulation mid-month but was subsequently lost recently and eliminating all snow cover. River ice conditions indicate very thin ice and most ice has now moved out of watercourses to date with the exception of slow moving areas. Conditions will continue to be monitored into early 2016 to provide a watershed assessment in anticipation of the spring freshet period.
 - Environment Canada temperature and precipitation forecasts for the first part of 2016 predict above normal temperatures across most of the country likely as a result of El Niño but predicted normal in our region. Contrary to these predictions however, local temperatures have been above average. As indicated by the mean temperature comparison for January 2015 to 2016 with only 2 days above zero in 2015 and 7 days in 2016 and record setting daily maximum temperatures and many stations. Predictions for precipitation appear to be consistent with below normal values but may change as a result of open water in the Great lakes and lake effect snowfall contingent on weather patterns and prevailing wind conditions.
- Impact of El Niño
 - every two to seven years, an unusually warm pool of water - sometimes 4 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit (2 to 3 degrees Celsius) higher than normal - develops across the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean to create a natural short-term climate change event. In 2015 this warm condition, known as El Niño, appears to be migrating north along the western coast of North America and effects the weather patterns developing in western Canada which subsequently move eastward toward Ontario. This 2015\2016 phenomenon appears more prevalent than in the 1997 event.
- Weather Forecast
 - Winter – slightly above normal temperatures and precipitation are expected into the winter season

BD-16-020

Faas - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 5, 2016, regarding current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects was discussed.

- we continue to wrap up projects on a monthly basis. Status of other WECl projects is outlined below:

Structure	Project Name	Status
McKeough Dam	McKeough slope Stability investigation	Completed
McKeough Dam	McKeough Floodway Berm repair	Completed
McKeough Dam	McKeough Dam Drop structure repair	Ongoing, Reviewing quote from Contractor. Work is expected to begin March/April 2016
LAWSS	LAWSS shoreline repair	Completed
ARDA Dykes	Hazard Tree Removal	Completed

- McKeough Drop Structure Repair:
 - restoration work is planned for Spring 2016
 - existing coating will be removed
 - slab surface will be prepared with sand blasting
 - some cracks may need to be ground a bit deeper
 - cracks will be fixed by injecting Resins to prevent water penetration
 - protective coating will be applied on all treated areas.

BD-16-020

Miller - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 3, 2016 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects submitted for funding in 2015-16 was discussed.

- potential applications for WECl projects are being reviewed by Authority Staff
- 2016- 2017 Projects should be submitted by February 24 2016
- once submitted, all applications will be reviewed by a committee of provincial and conservation authority staff representatives in March and will be ranked in comparison to all submitted projects from across the Province
- list of approved projects is anticipated in May or early June
- list of potential WECl projects is outlined below

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested(\$)
Courtright Park	Courtright Park Shoreline restoration	design, tender and rehabilitate shoreline at Courtright Park along St. Clair River using armourstone and riprap.	\$600,000	\$300,000*
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Helen and Kenwick Sts) Phase 1	carry out construction of Phase 1 from the recommendation of engineering study.	500,000	250,000*
W. Darcy Mckeough Dam	Slope Restoration	repair slopes along the McKeough floodway	\$100,000	\$50,000
Esli Dodge Dam	Esli Dodge Repair Project	repair of Concrete cable/retaining wall	\$10,000	\$5,000
L.C.Henderson Weir #1	L.C.H. Outfall Repair Project	spillway Repair	\$20,000	\$10,000
Head Street	Stop log replacement	replace wooden stop logs with Aluminum logs	\$25,000	\$12,500
Petrolia Dam	Stop log replacement	replace wooden stop logs with Aluminum logs	\$25,000	\$12,500
W. Darcy Mckeough Dam	Dam Safety Review	detailed safety review of Darcy McKeough Dam	\$30,000	\$15,000

* not in approved 2016 budget. Will require approval from St. Clair Township and the City of Sarnia for matching funds for these projects.

BD-16-021

MacKinnon - Case

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 5, 2016, regarding potential Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects that will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for funding in 2016 - 17.”

CARRIED

The Regulations Activity Reports dated January 31, 2016, was reviewed.

BD-16-022

Nemcek - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Report dated January 31, 2016 on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) for the months November 2015, December 2015 and January 2016.”

CARRIED

The November and December's Municipal Drain activity report was presented.

BD-16-023

McCallum - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the municipal drain November and December 2015 activity report, dated January 26, 2016, associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART).”

CARRIED

The Planning Department’s November and December 2015 Planning Activity Summary Reports were discussed.

BD-16-024

MacKinnon - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for November and December 2015.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the St. Clair River Area of concern was presented.

* OFFICIAL Re-designation of the “Degradation of Aesthetics” Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI):

* Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) along with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (OMOECC) have approved the re-designation of the “*Degradation of Aesthetics*” BUI to “Not Impaired” in the St. Clair River AOC, pursuant to the provisions of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, 2012. A letter confirming the re-designation was received from the ECCC Regional Director General, Michael Goffin. In his letter, Mr. Goffin congratulated and recognized the contributions of the numerous agencies and organizations working towards “de-listing” the St. Clair River including the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

* In 1991, the “*Degradation of Aesthetics*” BUI was identified as “Impaired” due to the unsightly presence of floating scums and obnoxious odours on the St. Clair River originating primarily from industrial and municipal spills and discharges. Since then, improved regulations and legislation have significantly reduced the size and frequency of spills to the St. Clair River. In addition, municipal and industrial discharges have decreased by 85% and 80%, respectively. The recommendation to re-designate this BUI to “Not Impaired” followed three years of aesthetics monitoring, the application of an Aesthetics Quality Index and surveys of local water users, all indicating significant improvements in the aesthetics of the St. Clair River.

* An announcement and celebration event was held in September 2014 to acknowledge the local approval for the re-designation, however, ECCC and OMOECC concurrence constitutes the final step in the St. Clair River AOC BUI re-designation process.

BD-16-025

Gordon - Case

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the staff report dated February 2, 2016 on the St. Clair River Area of Concern.”

CARRIED

A schedule of Special Events was reviewed:

- A.W. Campbell Maple Syrup Festival, March 19 - 20, 10:00 - 3:00, A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
- Sydenham River Canoe Race, April 17, Registration 10:00 - 11:00 (Mossie Line at the Sydenham River) Race ends at the Shetland Conservation Area
- Denning Bros. Funeral Home Memorial Forest Dedication, May 29, 2:00 Centennial Park, Strathroy
- Member's Project Tour, June 23
- Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, September 10, 9:00 - 11:00, Ipperwash Beach
- McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication, September 18, 2:00 Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area
- Geocaching Event, September 18, 9:00 am Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
- Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication, September 25, 2:00 Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

BD-16-026

McCharles - Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the schedule of Special Events outlined in the attached flyer.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Lambton Shores – Healthy Lake Huron program was discussed.

- Outreach and Education Funding for improving awareness and understanding regarding soil health, water quality and pollinator species was secured through the Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI), which is administered through Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (\$13,140 for Year 1, \$21,500 each for Years 2 & 3). This grant will provide funding for a stewardship bus tour, soil health workshop on February 11, 2016, and a mail out in the spring to farmers, advertising the importance of the Farmland Health Checkups, soil health, water quality, and pollinator species.
- staff attended the Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association (LSCIA) Winter Meeting in Wyoming December 2. We set up a booth and had literature available regarding our Tree Planting Program, GLASI brochures, Species at Risk, and other granting program information.
- on January 6 & 7, Jessica Van Zwol and Jeff Sharp had a booth at the Southwest Agricultural Conference in Ridgetown. Farmers stopped by to ask questions about GLASI, tree planting, and stewardship projects. We spoke to about 30 farmers.
- at the Annual General Meeting of LSCIA on January 15th, Steve Arnold, Chair of the Board of Directors & Mayor of St. Clair Township awarded Allan and Kathy Butler the Outstanding Farmer of the Year Award. Jessica Van Zwol spoke in front of 100 LSCIA members to discuss available grants, GLASI initiatives, and our soil health workshop. A booth was set up at this event as well and staff spoke to over ten individuals regarding tree planting, GLASI grants, and stewardship projects.
- Peter Johnson of Real Agriculture will be hosting our soil health clinic in Alvinston February 11. To date, we have 20 farmers registered to attend.
- staff will also be manning a booth at the Middlesex Soil and Crop Improvement Association Annual General Meeting February 17.
- we now have a Twitter account! Check out @SCRCA_water for our latest tweets! (but don't forget our Facebook page either for the latest information about campgrounds,

- events and interesting environment pictures and videos).
- Stewardship projects – **Grants available** SCRCA secures funding to support landowner implemented stewardship projects including riparian buffers, block tree planting, windbreaks, wetlands, and erosion control measures. Staff meet with landowners and offer advice and project design and where applicable, support projects with grants. Call today for more information. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, nearly \$155,000 were allocated to public and private landowner stewardship projects in Lambton Shores and the Sydenham River Watershed from Ontario Ministries of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, Environment and Climate Change, and Natural Resources and Forestry; Environment Canada, and Middlesex Stewardship Council.

Bd-16-026

McMillan - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated February 3, 2016, regarding Healthy Watersheds program, stewardship outreach events including Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association’s Annual Meeting and the Southwest Agriculture Conference and the verbal update on last week’s soil test clinic.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee were reviewed.

BD-16-027

Case - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the September 23, 2015 Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting.”

CARRIED

BD-16-028

Miller - Broad

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Steve Arnold
Chair

Brian McDougall
General Manager