

April 21, 2016

The Board of Directors Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the Administration office, in Strathroy, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Alan Broad, Tony Bruinink, Todd Case, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Larry Gordon, Mike Kelch, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, John McCharles, Don McCallum, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Muriel Wright

Absent: Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Jeff Wesley

Also Present: Dave Posliff, County of Lambton; Ed Molzan

Staff Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources; Erin Carroll, Manager of Biology; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Melissa Deisley, Regulations Officer; Sarah Hodgkiss, Planning Ecologist; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Rick Battson, Director of Communications; Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked staff for their work on the Canoe Race. He also congratulated Norm Giffen for winning his class and for raising the most funds for outdoor education. The Chair then 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-16-029**

**McCharles - Marriott**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held February 18, 2016, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

The General Manager's Report was presented:

- Phragmites
  - correspondence from both Premier Wynne and Minister Mauro in response to the Conservation Authorities' collective requests for support in tackling this invasive species
  - it is our understanding that significant advances have been made toward the approval of new herbicides which will be helpful in controlling phragmites, however it may still be the end of 2016 before we see an announcement approving such a herbicide for use in Canada
- the Coastal Centre
  - the Lake Huron Centre For Coastal Conservation is an organization formed to work with partners to achieve a healthy Lake Huron coastal ecosystem
  - they are a partner with the Authority in the Healthy Lake Huron program and we continue to look for additional partnership opportunities
  - the Coastal Centre has taken on a project that is intended to be an enhancement to the Healthy Lake Huron Program

- the Coastal Action Plan will focus on the near shore areas – areas immediately adjacent the shoreline as well as shallow water areas just off shore
- our participation in the project will ensure no overlap with existing programs or projects and will create a plan supporting the near shore areas from Tobermory to Sarnia
- Conservation Strategy
  - staff have completed a review of the proposed Discussion Paper for the Strategy
  - revisions to the Discussion Paper are still being reviewed as well as some changes to the proposed Strategy format and subsequent work plans
  - the proposed Discussion Paper for the Conservation Strategy will be presented for Board support at the June meeting, followed by partner and public review and comment processes that will occur over the summer
- the South West Woodlot Association
  - since their inception, the Authority has partnered with the woodlot owners association – originally known as the Lambton County Woodlot Owners Association with an expanding membership from a larger geographic area they have changed their name to reflect this change
  - Donald Craig, retired Authority Forester, was the original Technical Advisor appointed to the Association
  - subject to Donald’s retirement, the association requested that Tim Payne, Forest Management Specialist, be appointed to fill the role of Technical Advisor, and Tim has been their advisor for the past 7 years
  - the Association appreciates the knowledge that Tim brings to their organization and they would like Tim to remain as their Technical Advisor for 2016
- Succession Plan
  - the document outlines background, objectives, values, current practices and proposed tools to promote stability for the organization
  - senior staff have provided valued comments and several revisions of the draft Succession Plan have been circulated
  - we are making progress, however the document is still requires some work before it can be presented to the Board
  - the proposed Succession Plan will be included in your package for review and discussion at the June Board meeting
- 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.

Directors Comments:

- St. Clair Township has requested that the Authority participate in the Class Environmental Assessment for the Duthill (Holt Line bridge over the North Sydenham River) bridge.

**BD-16-030**

**Kelch - Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated April 8, 2016.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-16-031**

**Scholten – Kelch**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence from St. Clair Township dated April 13, 2016, regarding an environmental assessment to evaluate options for the deteriorating Duthill bridge and further approves that the McKeough Dam/Callahan Road alternative be investigated and fully assessed as an alternative within the environmental assessment.”**

**CARRIED**

A report regarding Conservation Ontario was presented.

- Conservation Ontario’s Annual Meeting was held.
  - the 2016 Board of Directors include: Chair: Richard (Dick) Hibma (Grey Sauble Conservation Authority) Vice Chair: Mark Burnham (Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority) Vice Chair: Lin Gibson (Conservation Sudbury) Director: Cliff Evanitski (Long Point Conservation Authority) Director: Steve Knechtel (Cataragui Region Conservation Authority) Director: Doug Thompson (South Nation Conservation Authority)
  - the 2015 Annual Report for Conservation Ontario will be provided upon receipt
  - the 2015 Audited Financial Statements were reviewed and accepted
  - a number of court cases was discussed – Conservation Ontario staff are working on summaries and will be included in the June meeting.
  - Letters were received from Wynne and Mauro regarding phragmites control.

**BD-16-032**

**Scholten - Wright**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal report regarding Conservation Ontario’s Annual General meeting held April 11, 2016 at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto.”**

**CARRIED**

Director’s Comments:

- send out information summaries regarding the court cases Conservation Ontario is involved with.

A Conservation Lands Update was reviewed:

- Conservation Areas:
  - the Conservation Authority owns 15 conservation areas in the watershed
  - of those 15 conservation areas, 6 are managed by the local municipality and 9 are operated by the Conservation Authority
  - of these 9, 3 conservation areas are regional campgrounds which attract campers from primarily Southwestern Ontario
  - our three regional campgrounds have over 500 campsites and 420 seasonal campers
  - profits obtained from our campgrounds are used to offset capital improvements
  - the camping season in 2016 runs from Friday, April 29 to Thanksgiving Day

- Warwick Conservation Area (Warwick Township)
  - the pool to be renovated with new 2 x 2 porcelain tile and colored quartz surfacing; the pool was constructed in 1994
  - roads to be upgraded with gravel
  - 5 new picnic tables have been constructed
  - WIFI system to be upgraded with additional transmission units which will enhance reception and coverage
  - approximately 60 stumps to be removed and the affected area filled with topsoil and seeded
- L.C. Henderson Conservation Area (Enniskillen Township)
  - the campground pool fence and ladders to be replaced
  - roads to be upgraded with gravel
  - 5 new picnic tables to be purchased
  - 3 shower areas to be renovated with new shower surrounds and ceramic tile installed on the floors and walls (one special needs shower surround has been installed)
  - 2 fishing platform/floating docks have been constructed and will be installed in the spring (Foundation)
- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area (Municipality of Brooke Alvinston)
  - construction has started on a 12 x 34 ft addition to the existing workshop; the addition will facilitate a superintendent's office, staff lunch room and storage.
  - roads to be upgraded with gravel
  - 5 new picnic tables to be purchased
  - pool washrooms to be upgraded with new lighting, washroom fixtures and side walk
  - staff were busy preparing the conservation area for the Syrup Festival held on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
- Other Lands Activities:
  - a new property identification sign has been installed at the Esli Dodge Conservation Area (Municipality of Lambton Shores)
  - a memorial tree planting plan has been prepared for Warwick Township for 3 of their cemetery properties (Lands and Forestry Departments); the plan outlines planting and funding options
  - 2 board walk sections have been replaced along the trail at the Clark Wright Conservation Area (Strathroy-Caradoc)
  - a memorial bench has been installed at the Marsh Walk Wetlands (Strathroy-Caradoc)
- Marketing/Camping Statistics:
  - Our conservation areas have been marketed in the following publications or events in 2016:
    - Sarnia Lambton and Chatham-Kent Tourism Guide
    - camping ads have been placed on MyFm, Strathroy-Middlesex Chamber of Commerce, and Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce websites
    - Conservation Ontario – “Your Guide to Conservation Areas”
    - Blue Water Tourism Guide (in partnership with other Conservation Authorities)

- Central Lambton Travel Guide
- Middlesex Home & Leisure Show (Strathroy Gemini Complex – April 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Sarnia Art Walk (Downtown Sarnia, June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)
- over the winter we have accepted campsite reservations at the administration office for our 3 regional campgrounds; as of March 31<sup>st</sup> over 678 reservations have been taken, collecting over \$ 87,000.00 in revenue (HST adjusted)
- Foundation Lands:
  - the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation owns 16 land holdings and 456 hectares of land; these lands are maintained and operated by the Conservation Authority
  - staff have remarked the property boundaries and have seeded the access laneway at the Huff Woodlot (Chatham-Kent)
  - new property identification signs have been installed at the Gawne Habitat Management Area (Dawn-Euphemia) and Evoy Woods (Enniskillen)
  - the agriculture lands at the Gawne and Sinclair properties have been leased for the next 5 years.
  - the drainage pump and motor in the pump house along Kent Bridge Road has been repaired with a new electric motor and new bearings installed in the drive shaft (Keith McLean Conservation Lands, Chatham-Kent)
  - the Foundation will provide financial assistance to the Conservation Authority to support the development and maintenance of trails on our properties
- County of Lambton Lands:
  - a new trail loop to be completed at the Perch Creek Habitat Management Area (Perch Creek)
  - fencing has been upgraded on the sand hill in Port Franks; the fence restricts access and allows for dune grasses to become established (Lambton County Heritage Forest)
  - trail head signage to be installed at the Lambton County Heritage Forest

Directors Comments:

- concerns regarding sugar shack at A.W. Campbell

**BD-16-033**

**Nemcek - Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update dated April 6, 2016, outlining development and management activities on Conservation Areas, Lambton County Properties and Foundation Lands.”**

**CARRIED**

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

- Watershed Precipitation and Streamflow Conditions
  - extremely wet throughout March
  - significant precipitation and increased flows in early April
  - lake levels remain close to last year

- While watershed levels remained relatively low with minor flow increases during the traditional freshet period, conditions began to change significantly during the first week of April. Levels rose to higher than average for the period (red line) as a response to extensive rainfall over the Easter weekend and into the following week with over 60mm being received during this period in many areas. Most watercourses flooded into floodplain areas prompting two Water Safety bulletins and a Flood Outlook during the peak period. Levels in Wallaceburg remained close to within 30cm of the top of bank for most of the week and in some instances even higher to within 20cm. Conditions were closely tracked 24 hours a day but did not meet the criteria for the McKeough Floodway to be operated. Factors contributing to these conditions included intense periods of rain across the entire watershed however, most snowpack had been lost earlier in the month and no ice conditions were present at this time alleviating the threat of additional runoff from melting snow and ice obstructing the channels. While levels have since returned to normal, ground conditions remain saturated and flows may be impacted by additional precipitation.
- Flood threat
  - significant precipitation in the month of March brought the average rainfall for the first quarter of the year up significantly to 130.5% of the average for the region improving precipitation numbers greatly when compared to the past year. Some of the January and February precipitation fell as snow and was then released during a period of thaw by mid-March passing out of the watershed prior to the major event at the end of the month. As noted above, the month of March averages at most regional stations were close to 200% of the normal rainfall and this was reflected in extensive higher flows during this period. This overall increase in the monthly average flow was further impacted by storm events during the first week April. Lower temperatures have continued into April and have resulted in periods of late season snowfall. However, any accumulated snowfall will likely melt quickly contributing to the already high water conditions that are anticipated throughout the month. As always we will continue monitor flows and any significant storm events. Advisories will be provided as conditions dictate.
- Great Lakes Levels
  - the monthly comparison for February 2016 (current available data) indicate that Lake Huron levels are almost identical to February of 2015 (6cm difference) continue to remain above the 10 year average for Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron at 42cm and 65cm respectively and also remain above the average for the entire period of record.
  - as noted in a recent report from the Canadian Hydrographic Service: *All of the lake levels rose in December, a first for the period of record (1918–2014). Record high water supplies on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan–Huron were due to the combined effects of above-average precipitation and relatively constant above-freezing temperatures for much of the month and into 2016. This likely resulted in precipitation runoff into the lakes when typically, it would be held as snow while the relatively warm, unfluctuating temperatures created conditions with lower evaporation.*
  - this report is consistent with conditions experienced in our region which were effecting levels in 2015 and again into 2016 including snowpack being lost early in the season both in the north and locally. With factors such as recent precipitation events this year and the existing high lake levels, increased water levels are

anticipated to persist into 2016. This trend continues to impact on shorelines by reducing the extent of many beaches and resulting in additional erosion to adjacent dune areas.

**BD-16-034**

**Bruinink - McMillan**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 8, 2016 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects submitted for funding in 2016-2017.

2016- 2017 Projects have been submitted on February 24, 2016

- 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

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



**BD-16-035**

**Gordon - Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 7, 2016 on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects and approves the projects submitted for funding in 2016-2017 and further will assist staff in obtaining matching funds, where required, to support these projects upon confirmation of funding approval.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding the Healthy Watersheds Program in Lambton Shores was reviewed.

- we are now entering Year 2 of Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) Outreach and Education Funding for improving awareness and understanding regarding soil health, water quality, and pollinator species. This grant will provide funding for a stewardship bus tour, workshops, and a mail out in the spring to farmers, advertising the importance of the Farmland Health Checkups, soil health, water quality, and pollinator species.
- thirty-one farmers came to hear Peter Johnson of Real Agriculture speak at our soil health clinic in Alvinston February 11 – our first workshop funded through GLASI. The topic generated a lot of discussion amongst the farmers.
- staff attended Go Wild, Grow Wild Expo in London, April 2. Our booth attracted a lot of interest with our snake nesting habitat, benthic invertebrates on display under microscope and information about the St. Clair River AOC & stewardship funding. Three thousand people attended the Expo.
- we’ve begun our stewardship site visits again for the year. There has been much interest in GLASI funding and wetlands and tallgrass prairie projects. This is going to be a good year for improving habitat in our watershed!
- 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 stewardship projects in Lambton Shores and the Sydenham River Watershed.
- Upcoming events staff will be participating in:
  - *April 22, 2016:* Saugeen Conservation Stewardship Day
  - *April 23, 2016:* Forest Home & Garden Show – come say hi at our booth!
  - *May 3, 2016:* Healthy Lake Huron All Committee Meeting
  - *May 19, 2016:* Tree planting event at St. Paul de Vincent Elementary School
  - *May 27, 2016:* Is the Coast Clear? Conference hosted by Lake Huron Coastal Conservation Centre

**BD-16-036**

**Scholten - Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2016 on the Healthy Watersheds Program in Lambton Shores – a Five Year Review, and endorses staff efforts to engage private landowners in Best Management Practices to improve the surface water quality.”**

**CARRIED**



A staff report regarding Municipal Drain Review activities was explained.

- so far in 2016 a total of 32 files have been submitted to SCRCA for review. 19 have been reviewed under the DART protocol and have received SCR permissions. 11 have been reviewed by staff and have received LoR as the works were outside of those specified under the DART protocol.
- St. Clair Drains in the Provincial Context - as of October 22, 2015, OMAFRA reported 134 construction projects and 2,369 maintenance projects throughout the province. Within the SCRCA during the same period there were 13 construction projects and 129 maintenance projects. When put into the broader, provincial context construction and maintenance projects within the St. Clair watershed accounted for 10% and 5% of their provincial totals, respectively.
- Municipal Drain On-Site Meetings - SCRCA staff also attend initial on-site meetings for S. 4 and S. 78 municipal drain projects. Drainage Superintendents and appointed engineers have communicated that our involvement early in the process provides them with greater opportunity to address SCRCA concerns on these projects.
- the Municipality of Leamington has created a policy to address buffer strips in municipal drainage reports in an effort to create consistency. By creating a policy and giving direction to appointed engineers, buffers will not have to be debated on a per project basis which in the past had created inconsistencies among municipal drains. They have chosen to adopt a 3m buffer on both sides of open drains with cultivated lands adjacent and have provided a rationale for compensation. Other objectives of this policy included helping to control soil and water quality, helping to reduce sedimentation and the frequency of drain cleanouts, and reducing equipment damage to drain banks causing erosion.

**BD-16-037**

**Marriott - Bruinink**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 7, 2016 summarizing Municipal Drain Review activities.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding Water Quality and Biodiversity in the St. Clair region was presented.

- data collected by the SCRCA for the PWQMN and COA programs has been used in multiple provincial, national, and international programs. Such programs include SOLEC (State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conferences), which uses data collected from Lake Huron tributaries; SPARROW (Spatially Referenced Regressions on Watershed attributes), created by the USGS (United States Geologic Survey) as a modeling technique for relating water-quality measurements to attributes of the watersheds within the model; and the Integrated Climate Change Monitoring Program, a province wide sensitivity analysis created to identify sensitive watersheds. All of these programs have used data collected by the SCRCA from at least one watercourse within the watershed.
- 2015 PWQMN – Results - for the purpose of this report key indicator parameters including total nitrogen, suspended solids, and conductivity have been analyzed. Monthly results from April to November 2015 are reported on in this report. This data is typically reported on by using data collected over five years which will be completed in the next Watershed Report Card in 2017 to get a more accurate understanding of watershed health.

- total nitrogen - total nitrogen values represent all forms of nitrogen dissolved within a watercourse. By collating all forms of nitrogen into one value a broader analysis of the amount of nitrogen within each site can be performed at the expense of removing the ability to interpret the ramifications of said value.
- total nitrogen levels for all analyzed sample sites are often well above the recommended levels suggested by the Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQO). While all of the sites had measured spikes of total nitrogen levels of special concern is Katesville as even the lowest value measured over the past 5 years was above the PWQO. The COA sites (Brown Creek, Dawn Mills, Bear Creek at Zion, and North Sydenham at Lambton Line) have been excluded from the 2011-2015 analysis as they lack a statistically significant number of data points.
- Suspended Solids - suspended solids is a measure of the amount of floating particulate matter suspended in the water column. These suspended particles can be composed of substrate or solid debris that has entered the water, such as degraded plant material, and gives an estimate as to how much detritus is being carried within the watercourse.
- there are no guidelines set for suspended solids by either the PWQMN or COA programs. This stems from the fact that every watercourse will have it's own, unique normal range, which can fluctuate wildly. Examples of this can be found within the data as median values range from 9.5 mg/L to 68.3 mg/L and with maximum values reaching as high as 651 mg/L. One particular note of interest is that the maximum values during the 2011-2015 time frame are well above the 2007-2011 maximum values. However, most of the quartile, median, and minimum values are very similar to their correspondents in the previous timeframe.
- Conductivity
  - the conductivity of a sample indicates water's ability to conduct an electrical current and provides an indication of the amount of dissolved ions. Conductivity varies with water temperature and is corrected to a standard temperature of 25°C. Pure water does not conduct electricity very easily but dissolved ions allow electrical charges to pass more easily.
  - conductivity has no PWQO guideline but as a reference pure water has a conductivity of 5.5  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}^3$ .
  - all of the previous half decade's conductivity measurements are well within their normal ranges based on previous measurements.
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling
  - Aquatic animals without a backbone that are visible to the naked eye and live on the bottom of a watercourse are also known as benthic macroinvertebrates. Mayflies (left), caddisflies (middle), crayfish, aquatic worms, and stoneflies (right) are all examples of benthic macroinvertebrates. These creatures are collected every spring in the SCRCA jurisdiction by Biology staff. Each species has a specific tolerance to environmental change or pollution and therefore can be used as an indicator species.
  - organizations such as the SCRCA collect benthic macroinvertebrates for the purpose of assisting in determining watershed health. Through standardized grading systems this data can be compared over time to identify any changes in watershed conditions.
  - specifically, the SCRCA and many other Conservation Authorities use the Family Biotic Index (FBI) to "score" a watershed. Scores range from very poor to

excellent with a lower FBI value indicating a higher water quality grade. FBI values calculated from sampling sites are averaged with other sites within the same subwatershed to arrive at an FBI average per subwatershed.

- Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling – 2015 Results - for the purposes of this analysis sub-watershed averages between 2011 and 2015 were plotted against the FBI scale. Of note is Rankin Creek, which saw relative stability between 2011 and 2012, spiked up by two FBI categories for 2013 and 2014, before finally jumping back down to below pre-2013 levels in 2015. This site will need to be closely watched in coming years to determine whether or not this massive spike was simply an anomaly or if Rankin Creek goes through cycles such as this on a multi-year basis. Five out of the fourteen sites saw relative stability over the five-year span while six sites saw improvement. The remainder of sites, excluding Rankin Creek, saw an overall decrease in FBI scores with West Otter Creek showing the greatest amount of degradation; dropping from “Fair” to “Fairly Poor”.

#### **BD-16-038**

##### **Gordon - Kelch**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2016 on Water Quality and monitoring aquatic bioindicator species in the SCRCA, and acknowledges the value of continuing to support monitoring and reporting on the aquatic health of St. Clair Conservation watersheds.”**

#### **CARRIED**

A staff report regarding the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Partnership was reviewed.

- the SCRCA is one of eight partners working with KSPFN to provide monitoring, habitat enhancement, stewardship and outreach with respect to Species at Risk on Kettle Stony Point lands.
- 2015 Events:
  - on two occasions, Biology and Outdoor Education staff members met with Grades 3/4 and 4/5 students at Hillside Elementary School to provide education on reptiles, ecosystem health, and aquatic ecology of the Kettle Stony Point area.
  - the first day consisted of an in-class portion where SCRCA staff delivered material on life cycles and biology of these species and why Kettle and Stony Point is so unique with regards to species at risk. Afterward the classes were led down, one at a time, to Shashawandah Creek where they were able to capture aquatic bugs and check minnow traps.
  - the second education day at Hillside School was an indoor day as weather conditions were not suitable to being outside. Students from both classes participated in a survival game from which they learned how species at risk animals face obstacles when they are trying to survive, from losing habitat and fighting threats like poaching, pesticides and invasive species.
  - following the game the students made clay turtles and heard a story of a Blanding’s turtle with an important message regarding protecting habitat and keeping mother earth clean and healthy.
  - overall the students were enthusiastic and asked if we would come back soon!

- KSPFN Species at Risk Community Meeting
  - for the fifth year, biology staff attended the KSPFN Species at Risk Community Event. The event consisted of various partners delivering presentations related to field activities in the Kettle Stony Point area.
  - SCRCA staff and many other organizations set up displays covering a range of interests. Biology staff had an interactive display consisting of invertebrates collected from the creek behind Hillside school. Visitors to the booth enjoyed looking and learning about the “creepy crawlies”.
  - there were many community members who demonstrated great interest and knowledge by raising thoughtful questions and comments.

**BD-16-039**

**Miller – Nemcek**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2016 on the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Partnership, and endorses continued staff involvement in youth education and community outreach and engagement at Kettle and Stony Point.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding Conservation Services projects and programs was presented.

- Stewardship Projects
  - there are 13 stewardship projects that are being funded through the provincial species at risk stewardship fund (SARSF) and the federal habitat stewardship program (HSP) this spring
  - approximately \$80,000 in grant will go towards funding these projects which include riparian buffers, stream bank stabilization, wetland enhancement and upland habitat improvements.
  - estimated project value with landowner in-kind and financial contribution is more than \$500,000
  - construction began in March for some projects and it is expected that all projects should be completed by the end of May
- Tree Planting Program
  - seedling stock shipping from supplying tree nurseries is operating on normal spring schedule this year.
  - tree nurseries planning to start lifting tree seedlings the week of April 11th to 15th.
  - trees are expected to arrive sometime around April 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> with planting operations starting during the last week of April on well drain lands.
  - SCRCA crews will be planting more than 76,000 trees on 29 properties this spring.
  - another 8000 trees will be distributed to an additional 38 landowners for planting.
  - three tractor mounted machine tree planters and one small hand planting crew is planned for operations to take place over the course of a 3 to 4 weeks.
  - more than \$186,000 has been secured through several separate funding sources this year to offset planting costs for most landowners taking part in this year’s program.
  - an assisted migration, tree planting project will be taking place this year on 5 acres of land at Warwick Conservation Area. Assistance from Climate change experts and the Forest Gene Conservation Association will have a big role in this

project. A small number of volunteers will be required to assist with hand planting and site layout.

- Large Stock Trees
  - there are more than 750 large stock trees on order this spring including one very large bulk order for the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston for their local tree planting initiative. Brooke-Alvinston is providing a financial incentive to landowners who purchase and plant trees on their property.
  - trees range in size from 1 metre for the evergreen trees to 1.8 metres for the hardwood trees. Most of the trees come either potted or balled and burlapped.
  - all trees are expected to arrive and be available for landowners the week of April 11 to 15.
- Vegetation Control Program
  - approximately 200,000 trees require spray maintenance this spring (under the 3 year vegetation control program) plus another 76,000 trees scheduled for planting this year. Two machine sprayers will start herbicide applications mid to late April depending on site conditions.
  - the 3 year tending work is paid in advance and carried forward each year to cover the cost of the labour and material.
- Habitat Improvements
  - habitat improvement efforts will take place again this year at the Lake Huron coastal wetlands located in Lambton Shores south of Stoney and Kettle Point.
  - this 70 hectare (175 ac) coastal marsh area was overcome with invasive *Phragmites australis* many years ago and has basically killed off all native vegetation resulting in wildlife habitat destruction.
  - Financial support from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund was received last year. Our 2016 grant application in partnership with the Lambton Shores Community *Phragmites* Group was recently approved and work will continue into fall this year.
  - summer and fall herbicide treatment is scheduled along with other control methods
  - additional funding is expected from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry COA funding and a NextEra Energy financial donation received last year.
- all stewardship, tree planting, vegetation control and habitat stewardship programs and projects are self-supporting. Contributions from landowners and all grants received are used to cover program operations and all associated costs.

#### **BD-16-040**

#### **Marriott - Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 8, 2016 regarding Conservation Services projects and programs.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding the larvicide program in Lambton County was explained.

- West Nile Virus Program
  - the contract for larvicide application between SCRCA and the County of Lambton has been extended into 2016.
  - the County of Lambton operates a West Nile virus (WNV) program including a larvicide application program to control mosquito populations in catch basins. The

Conservation Authority has been treating catch basins in all rural and urban area in Lambton since 2006 under direction from Lambton Public Health. SCRCA obtains permits each year from the Ministry of the Environment and licences summer staff from the conservation services department as pesticide applicator technicians in order to implement the work.

- 70% of the positive samples of WNV are found in the mosquito species *Culex pipiens* (the house mosquito) and related species of *Culex*. The house mosquito breeds mostly in stagnant water that is heavy in organic content. Therefore, catch basins in urban areas are the most common breeding grounds for WNV carrying mosquitoes.
  - approximately 16,000 catch basins are treated in towns and rural communities with 3 separate applications of methoprene (a mosquito larvicide) between July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 65% of the catch basins are within the City of Sarnia.
  - Health Canada studies indicate methoprene is of low toxicity and poses little risk to people when used according to the label instructions.
  - efficacy testing is conducted by SCRCA staff by collecting mosquito pupa samples throughout the summer. Pupa are monitored by Lambton Public Health. Past efficacy tests show 80% effectiveness at controlling mosquito populations.
  - Health Canada has approached SCRCA requesting that a larvicide treatment program continue at Aamjiwnaang First Nation in Sarnia for 2016 and to consider offering a price for services to treat catch basins at Walpole Island, Kettle Point and Oneida.
- this program is fully paid for by the County of Lambton on all public lands and Health Canada for treatments on First Nation lands.

#### **BD-16-041**

##### **MacKinnon - Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 8, 2016 on the application of Larvicide to catch basins in Lambton County for the control of West Nile Virus in 2016.”**

**CARRIED**

Regulations Summary Reports for February and March 2016 were reviewed.

#### **BD-16-042**

##### **Faas - Wright**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Summary Reports on “*Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses*” Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), for February and March 2016.”**

**CARRIED**

Planning Activity Summary Report for January, February and March 2016 was reviewed.



**BD-16-043**

**Case - Giffen**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for January, February and March 2016.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding Natural Heritage services was considered.

- Summary
  - SCRCA has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Lambton County to provide comments regarding natural heritage on planning applications
  - the Lambton County Natural Heritage Study (LCNHS) has been in development since 2007
  - in 2014, the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) was updated and now includes the requirement that municipalities must develop a natural heritage study for their region
  - the LCNHS is the most up-to-date, accurate source for natural heritage data in Lambton County
  - in order to fulfil our duties under the MOA, the SCRCA will need to rely on the study. Therefore, the study needs to be accepted by both the SCRCA Board of Directors and Lambton County Council so that it can be used in our planning advisory recommendations, and be admissible at Ontario Municipal Board Hearings
- Background
  - Provincial Policy Statement Requirements
    - the Provincial Policy Statement for 2014 requires that Municipalities develop a Natural Heritage Study for their jurisdiction
      - PPS 2.1.1 Natural features and areas shall be protected for the long term
      - PPS 2.1.3 Natural heritage systems shall be identified in Ecoregions 6E & 7E, recognizing that natural heritage systems will vary in size and form in settlement areas, rural areas, and prime agricultural areas.
  - What is a natural heritage system?
    - a system of connected natural areas that provide ecological functions and enable movement of species across the landscape over the long term (Natural Heritage Reference Manual, 2010)
      - ecological functions include water filtration, air quality, erosion control, wildlife habitat, sustainable harvest of woodland products, etc.
    - linkages between forest patches and other significant natural features are important for the movement of both animals and plants, which is crucial to the long-term survival of the species
    - Lambton County currently has 13.6% woodland cover, while Environment Canada recommends at least 30% of a watershed should be in forest cover
    - remnant woodlands throughout Lambton County tend to be small in size, occurring in isolated fragments at the back of farm properties



- maintaining significant natural areas is essential to retain a fully functioning natural heritage system
- Lambton County Natural Heritage Study
  - Lambton County initiated a Natural Heritage Study in 2007, and SCRCA has been involved as a partner along with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the City of Sarnia, and the Carolinian Canada Coalition
  - SCRCA applied for funding, attended steering committee and technical committee meetings (>20), provided technical review/feedback/expertise on the study – there has been a large commitment of staff time and resources
  - the study is meant to provide background for the Official Plan update
  - the purpose of the study was to identify gaps in the information that county staff have related to natural heritage, and provide updates including;
    - providing up-to-date GIS mapping of the known natural heritage system in Lambton
    - determining technical criteria for designating significant natural areas
      - based on recommendations from the Ministry of Natural Resources, a review of other southern Ontario jurisdictions, requirements in the PPS, and a field study conducted from 2010-2012
      - criteria for natural heritage features and areas were presented to the public at a meeting on February 15, 2012. There were no concerns expressed at the meeting, nor have there been any concerns about the NHS criteria as presented in the draft County OP through two phases of public consultations.
    - developing recommendations for protecting Lambton’s natural heritage system
    - without the Natural Heritage study, clear direction is not provided. There is greater ambiguity without the study.
- Lambton County Official Plan Update
  - Lambton County has used a natural heritage system approach since its adoption of the 1998 Official Plan – one of the first in Ontario to do so
  - to achieve natural heritage protection and conservation, natural systems will continue to be identified in the official plan
  - land use schedules and text policies should note the presence, location, features, functions and permitted uses in or in proximity to natural areas
  - policies should promote stewardship of natural heritage on private property
  - SCRCA is providing comments on the draft Official Plan
- SCRCA MOA Regarding Natural Heritage pending support of the Natural Heritage Study
  - plan to continue services as per MOA with Lambton County for 2016/2017
  - sign additional MOAs with lower tier municipalities

**BD-16-044**

**Case - Giffen**

**“That the SCRCA Board of Directors acknowledges the memorandum on Natural Heritage services, the Lambton County Natural Heritage Study and Lambton County Official Plan update dated April 1, 2016 and further supports upper tier municipal approval of the Lambton County Natural Heritage study which will provide “best available” natural heritage system information and criteria.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding the St. Clair River Area of Concern was discussed.

- Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Update:
  - Restrictions on Dredging Activities:
    - the “Restrictions on Dredging Activities” BUI was identified as “Impaired” in 1991 due to the need to dispose of dredged spoils from the St. Clair River navigation channel in a Confined Disposal Facility. This was required because contaminant concentrations exceeded Provincial Sediment Quality Guidelines developed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for open-water disposal. A report prepared in 2013 and approved by the Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC) recommends re-designating this BUI to “Not Impaired”. This is based on the substantial decrease in municipal and industrial discharges, improved sediment quality and advancements in the disposal of dredged material. The recommendation has also been supported by Aamjiwnaang First Nation.
    - consultation with the Walpole Island First Nation community has continued with a lunch time community presentation. In addition, the recommendation was presented to the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) at their March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. BPAC members provided some feedback on the report which will be incorporated into the current draft. The recommendation to re-designate the “Restrictions on Dredging Activities” BUI to “Not Impaired” will be revisited at the next BPAC meeting scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
  - Beach Closings:
    - at the March 21, 2016 meeting of the CRIC, committee members approved the re-designation of the “Beach Closings” BUI from “Impaired” to “Not Impaired”, constituting the first step in the re-designation process.
    - the “Beach Closings” BUI was identified as “Impaired” in the St. Clair River AOC due to frequent closures of beaches due to high levels of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) originating from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Water Pollution Control Plants (WPCPs). The status assessment reported on improvements in municipal infrastructure that have reduced or eliminated untreated or partially treated discharges to the St. Clair River along with *E. coli* levels at local beaches and swimming areas. Results were positive. Next steps will include community consultation with Aamjiwnaang and Walpole Island First Nations.
- St. Clair River AOC Science Symposium: on March 23, 2016, Walpole Island First Nation and Aamjiwnaang First Nation hosted a St. Clair River AOC Science Symposium.

- Despite inclement weather, approximately 80 community members and agency staff attended the evening event.
- the purpose of the symposium was to share results with Walpole Island and Aamjiwnaang First Nation community members on collaborative projects relating to a number of fish and wildlife BUIs. Scientists from Environment and Climate Change Canada, the University of Windsor, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans presented research results and answered questions.
  - the research projects reported on support a number of BUIs in the St. Clair River AOC including:
    - Fish Tumours and Other Deformities
    - Degradation of Benthos
    - Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption
    - Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems
    - Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat.
    - Presentations and Events:
  - presentations were delivered and/or St. Clair River AOC information was displayed at recent meetings and events including:
    - St. Clair-Detroit River Systems Initiative Annual Meeting – February 11, 2016 in Taylor, Michigan
    - Go Wild Grow Wild Expo – April 2, 2016 in London, Ontario

**BD-16-045**

**Kelch - Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 5, 2016 regarding the St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC).”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding municipal and public consultation on the draft Wetland Policy was discussed.

- SCRCA took efforts to contact interested and potentially affected parties to inform them about our new internal policy.
- the draft policy was brought to the Board of Directors at the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the carried motion stated “That the Board of Directors acknowledges the SCRCA Draft Regulation 171 Wetland Policy dated September 17, 2015, the proposed circulation for comments, proposed October 28 information session, and further directs the wetland team lead to report back to the Board on consultation”.
- Information Sessions
  - Municipal
    - staff sent an email to 60 municipal clerks, CAOs, planning staff, chief building officials and drain superintendents on October 21, 2015 (see attached list). We provided them with a letter outlining why we had written the policy, on what it was based, how to find out more information about wetlands in Ontario, and how they could provide comments or questions. We also provided the board update, and a background presentation on wetlands.

- an information session for municipal staff was held on November 9, 2015. The information session was hosted at the SCRCA office from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. The staff regulations officers/environmental planner, biological technician, planning ecologist, and manager of biology attended to present and answer questions. The meeting was attended by 5 municipal staff, including 4 planners, and a drain superintendent.
- a question and answer period followed a presentation on the function, identification and regulation of wetlands, and the draft policy. Many of the questions centred on the identification, delineation and communication of where wetlands are located – which is the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Questions specifically about the policy included the timeline for next steps, whether other Conservation Authorities had similar policies, and clarifying the different requirements between a regulations application and a planning application where wetlands are involved. At this time, we informed the municipal staff about our plans to post the policy on the website, and host an information session for the public. We have not received any written feedback from other municipal staff.
- an update was provided to the board of directors at the November 12, 2015 meeting. The motion “That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal report regarding the municipal consultation on the Conservation Authority Regulation Wetland Policy and further that a written report be presented to the December meeting of the Board of Directors.” was passed.
- Public
  - based on feedback from the municipal meeting and board meeting, we moved forward with providing the policy to the public.
  - the draft wetland policy was posted on the SCRCA website on March 7, 2016. The webpage includes the policy, supporting documentation, and contact information (<https://www.scrca.on.ca/planning-and-regs/st-clair-region-conservation-authority-wetland-regulation-policy/> ).
  - at the same time that we posted the policy, we included details on a public open house that would give the public an opportunity to ask questions about the policy. The information about the meeting was available here: <https://www.scrca.on.ca/st-clair-region-conservation-authority-wetland-regulation-policy/>. The open house took place on March 31, 2016 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Despite some interest on our Facebook page, there were no attendees, and we did not receive any questions through email or phone calls regarding the meeting.
- Input Received
  - this process allowed interested or potentially affected partners to provide input into the draft policy. For all partners, we kept a record of the question asked, the method (in-person/phone/email), date received, answer given, method of answer, and if any follow-up was required.
  - no changes were made to the original draft of the policy. The questions received were generally clarification questions about jurisdiction and other policies related to wetlands.

- Next Steps
  - the policy and supporting information will remain available on our website.

**BD-16-046**

**Miller - Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on municipal and public consultation on the draft Wetland Policy and further approves the SCRCA Regulations 171 Wetland Policy.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding the attendance of Regulations staff at the Kettle Stony Point/Lambton Shores Open House was reviewed.

- the SCRCA is one of eight partners working with KSPFN to provide monitoring, habitat enhancement, stewardship and outreach with respect to Species at Risk on Kettle Stony Point lands.
- 2015 Events
  - on two occasions, Biology and Outdoor Education staff members met with Grades 3/4 and 4/5 students at Hillside Elementary School to provide education on reptiles, ecosystem health, and aquatic ecology of the Kettle Stony Point area.
  - the first day consisted of an in-class portion where SCRCA staff delivered material on life cycles and biology of these species and why Kettle and Stony Point is so unique with regards to species at risk. Afterward the classes were led down, one at a time, to Shashawandah Creek where they were able to capture aquatic bugs and check minnow traps.
  - the second education day at Hillside School was an indoor day as weather conditions were not suitable to being outside. Students from both classes participated in a survival game from which they learned how species at risk animals face obstacles when they are trying to survive, from losing habitat and fighting threats like poaching, pesticides and invasive species.
  - following the game, the students made clay turtles and heard a story of a Blanding’s turtle with an important message regarding protecting habitat and keeping mother earth clean and healthy.
  - overall the students were enthusiastic and asked if we would come back soon!

**BD-16-047**

**Nemcek - Kelch**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated April 7, 2016 on the attendance of Regulations staff at the Kettle Stony Point/Lambton Shores Open House held April 2, 2016 at the First Nations Hillside school.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding the January – March 2016 municipal drain activity report associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART) was reviewed.

**BD-16-048**

**Faas - Marriott**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated April 7, 2015 on Drainage Act and Conservation Authority Act Protocol (DART) Municipal drain activities for January, February and March 2015.”**

**CARRIED**

Authority revenue and expenditures to March 31, 2016, were reviewed.

**BD-16-049**

**Rupke - Bruinink**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to February 29, 2016, as it relates to the budget.”**

**CARRIED**

January, February and March 2016 disbursements totaling \$789,437.17 were considered.

**BD-16-050**

**Kelch - Case**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the January, February and March 2016 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$789,437.17.”**

**CARRIED**

A status report on general levy received to date was discussed.

**BD-16-051**

**Scholten - Gordon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2016 general levy receipts to date.”**

**CARRIED**

Directors reviewed the Investment Statements for February and March 31, 2016 reports.

**BD-16-052**

**Wright - Case**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the February and March 2016 Investment report.”**

**CARRIED**

Directors Comments:

- prepare a short summary of investment providers for the June meeting

A list of documents to be destroyed, as per the record retention policy was considered.

**BD-16-053**

**Kelch - McMillan**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the list of documents to be destroyed, dated April 8, 2016, as determined by the record retention schedule.”**

**CARRIED**

Minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting were reviewed.

**BD-16-054**

**Broad - Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting held December 2, 2015.”**

**CARRIED**

Plans for this year’s proposed project tour were explained.

- staff is proposing a Conservation Authority Tour on Thursday, June 23, 8:30 – 1:00. The bus will leave and return to the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area. We will have lunch followed by the Board meeting. This year, we will be focusing on projects in the southwestern portion of our watershed.
- Highlights of Tour
  - Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
  - Conservation Education
  - Bowens Creek Habitat Management Area
  - St. Clair River Area of Concern
  - Cathcart Shoreline Erosion Project
  - W. Darcy McKeough Floodway

**BD-16-055**

**Case - Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated March 31, 2016 on the proposed project tour scheduled for June 23, 2016.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report on Conservation Education was discussed.

- Winter Programing - thanks to our many sponsors, free in-school programs were the focus of our winter season. Several primary classes also visited Henderson Conservation Area, experiencing a muddy, but enjoyable and educational winter program! Hand feeding Black-Capped Chickadees continues to be a highlight in our outdoor winter activities!
- Program Development & Expansion
  - Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) - a partnership was established with the Lambton Kent District School Board to assist with certification programs for the varied SHSM high school students in the board. To date we have been involved in the development of the following programs.
  - GPS/GIS: with assistance from the GIS Department, a 2 hour GIS program is being developed to introduce Grade 12 students in April to some of the capabilities of Geographical Information Systems. In addition, the morning



session will teach the same students use of GPS units to complete a habitat restoration task. These programs are continuing to make excellent use of our GPS receivers purchased by the Foundation.

- Tree Planting: currently working with our Watershed Services department to develop a certification course pertaining to tree planting. Topics covered will include soil testing, light conditions, proper tree siting and afforestation techniques. The program is scheduled to be piloted April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016.
- ICE Training: “Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship Training” also known as “ICE”, was offered to Specialty High Skills Major (SHSM) students in a full-day, in-depth introduction to the art of brainstorming. In March we partnered with UTRCA staff to offer this training to a group of Strathroy SHSM students. The students were faced with the following challenge: “How might we help Conservation Authorities share with teens the health benefits of spending time in nature?” The training day ran smoothly and we plan to offer this training again to other Middlesex and Lambton/Kent students.
- Special Events:
  - Maple Syrup Festival: Approximately 700 people were welcomed to the Sugar Bush at A.W. Campbell Conservation Area on March 19th and 20th. Demolition of the Sugar Shack did not detract from the enthusiasm of visitors who viewed updated historical demonstrations of First Nations and Pioneer methods of collecting sap and turning it into liquid gold. Additional hands-on displays were a big attraction this year. The Alvinston Firefighters prepared pancake and sausage meals for hungry visitors. Event hours were slightly reduced from past years to match the Firefighters hours.
  - Sydenham River Canoe Race: mark your calendars for this year’s Canoe Race: Sunday April 17, 2016. We look forward to another great turn out for this Conservation Education Fund Raiser. Check our website for more details.
  - Art Walk: SCRCA Staff will be participating in Art Walk in Sarnia on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Manned booths will highlight some of the SCRCA’s activities in our watershed.
  - Fun Fest: SCRCA staff will be participating in Kids Fun Fest 2016 on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> in Sarnia. The booth will highlight camping & Outdoor Education staff will offer a nature based art activity encouraging children to explore water colour paints on natural canvases (leaves, bark & twigs).
- Community Partnerships
  - LWI Young Naturalist Groups: Staff continue to run outdoor meetings for both the Young Naturalist Group (ages 7-11) and the Junior Conservationist Group (ages 12 +).
  - Sarnia Lambton Arbor Week committee: Education staff are helping to coordinate a public tree planting at the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Community Centre. The Committee continues to host an Arbor Week Contest for area students. Each student in 3 winning classrooms will receive a Sugar Maple sapling to plant at home.

**BD-16-056**

**Nemcek - Wright**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Report, dated April 7, 2016 including the winter programing, program development and expansion, Special Events, and Community Partnerships.”**

**CARRIED**

The meeting went “In Camera” to discuss personnel issues.

**BD-16-057**

**Wright - Faas**

**“That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 11:10 a.m. to discuss human resources matters with the General Manager, Director of Finance and Consultant Deborah Ward remaining.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-16-058**

**Scholten – Bruinink**

**“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 12:05 p.m.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-16-059**

**Kelch – Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updated presentation regarding the salary grid Market Comparison and further approves proposed Option 1 (implementing changes to the proposed salary grid effect July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016) and further that the next Market Comparison be conducted no sooner than April 2024.”**

**CARRIED**

Mr. Ed Molzan joined the meeting and made a presentation regarding the quality of his well water, the potential contamination of his wells and his attempts to have a test for contaminants completed. He requested the Board’s help to lobby the government to provide contaminant testing for drinking water wells.

Director’s Comments

- send a letter of support to the Minister of Environment
- refer this information to Source Protection.

**BD-16-060**

**Case – Kelch**

**“That a letter of support for well water contamination testing be sent to the Ministry of Environment.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-16-061**  
**Faas - McMillan**  
**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**



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Steve Arnold  
Chair

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Brian McDougall  
General Manager