

September 15, 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, Don McCallum, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Jeff Wesley, Muriel Wright

Absent: Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Kevin Marriott, John McCharles, Dan McMillan,

Staff Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources; Erin Carroll, Manager of Biology; Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner/Regulations Officer; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Rick Battson, Director of Communications; Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and 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-16-095

Case - Rupke

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held June 23, 2016, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The General Manager's Report was presented:

- Conservation Authorities Act Review
 - the Authority's formal comments on Environmental Registry posting #012-7583 – Conserving Our Future: Proposed Priorities For Renewal were submitted on August 19, 2016 – no comments or changes were request subsequent to the presentation and approval at the June 23, 2016 Board meeting
 - comments from some other organizations are beginning to circulate in advance of the September 9, 2016 deadline – complete copies can be made available upon request, but I provide the following notes for information
 - the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) provided 4 pages of comments based around 3 themes:
 - Roles & Responsibility: Clarity but One Size Does Not Fit All
 - create a Conservation Authority framework that fosters harmonization while recognizing that different areas of the province have different needs for watershed management and different abilities to meet those needs
 - Service Standards and Approaches
 - timelines, advice and permits delivered by the CAs should be established within the context of other land use planning timeframes

- protecting natural heritage and avoiding hazard risks is in the provincial interest, there has been a call since the outset of this process to reinstate funding support and address inflationary increases
 - The Board & Governance
 - the current Board makeup is appropriate and accountable
 - The Ontario Landowners Association (OLA) provided 57 pages of comments focused around 5 statements (subject to this disclaimer - *The OLA, including any of its members or staff are not lawyers and any information provided or communicated is not legal advice or counsel. It is for informational purposes only. Please seek legal advice from your lawyer.*):
 - that the Conservation Authorities, in conjunction with Conservation Ontario, are wasting tax-payer's money and have created a conflict between the C.A.'s and other superior governmental entities, making the C.A.'s and Conservation Ontario redundant;
 - there is already a legislated mandate, preamble and object/purpose to the Conservation Authorities;
 - that Municipal Councils need to re-establish their authority over the Conservation Authorities;
 - that the Conservation Authorities do not need any new or extra authority or ability to implement any new regulation or policies;
 - that Conservation Authorities are not using actualities through science, but are merely guessing at what is or is not going to or is happening. Best estimates and simulations are not fact.
- Going Digital
 - in drafting the 2017 budget, staff have been investigating all opportunities for cost savings
 - one of the cost saving measures that we continue to move forward on is eliminating or where necessary reducing the use of paper in our business operations
 - as staff become accustomed to this, we are seeking confirmation from the Board of Directors that we can proceed in converting to a digital Board package
 - this would achieve cost savings in both printing and courier costs
 - implementation would be subject to hardware, software and connectivity abilities for all members
 - without objection, we are planning to begin using a digital board package in November

BD-16-096

Scholten - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated September 1, 2016.”

CARRIED

A report on the west Ipperwash beach was presented.

- as a result of the significant debris deposit on Ipperwash Beach this spring, we have been contacted by not only the West Ipperwash Property Owners Association (WIPOA), but also Lambton Shores and the Centre Ipperwash Community Association (CICA)
- erosion (and the resulting deposition) is a natural process and one of the negatives of owning property on the Great Lakes, however the volume of debris that was deposited on the beaches of Ipperwash in the spring of 2016 was almost unprecedented
- the following email, photos and news article outline the issues experienced in 2016 as well as concerns for 2017
- two requests to the Authority are outlined in the e-mail
 - *“We would like SCRCA to help us apply and attain a grant from Ontario 150 Community Capital Program and Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.”*
 - unfortunately, Canada 150 Program applications had to be submitted in June 2016
 - Ontario 150 Program applications are due September 14, 2016
 - unfortunately, due to our assets exceeding our annual budget, neither the Authority nor the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation are eligible to apply as the principle organization – we can partner with another organization who would be the applicant but there are requirements for those organizations as well
 - this information has been communicated to WIPOA in order for them to seek another partner or apply directly for these funds
 - *“Also we would like to be considered for a grant from the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation”*
 - in order for the Foundation provide funds to support these clean up efforts the works would have to be accepted by the Board as a project of the Authority
- we have partnered with several other organizations in obtaining funds for projects in the past
 - Lambton Shores Phragmites Group – partnered to obtain Great Lakes Guardian funding
 - Friends of the St. Clair River – partnered to obtain Trillium funding for Courtright Waterfront Shore Protection.
- we are partnering on two projects being submitted under the Ontario 150 Program
 - partnering with Friends of St. Clair River regarding shore protection and improvements at Courtright Park in St. Clair Township
 - partnering with Bluewater Anglers regarding Highland Glen Boat Ramp improvements

BD-16-097

Rupke - Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated September 1, 2016 regarding west Ipperwash beach and a request for support from the West Ipperwash Property Owners Association and further that we accept this as a St. Clair Region Conservation Authority project in order to assist the West Ipperwash Property Owners Association in applying to the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation for funding in the 2017 budget to a maximum of \$10,000.”

DEFEATED

Conservation Ontario minutes of the June 27, 2016 meeting were reviewed

BD-16-098

Wright – Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the June 27, 2016, Conservation Ontario Council meeting minutes.”

CARRIED

A report on the business arising from the last meeting was discussed.

- Conservation Authorities Act Review
 - Directors requested that it be left open until July so they could make comments.
 - *submitted comment document as presented at the June meeting on August 19, 2016*
- prepare a report on use at Highland Glen (consider charging fees in order that upgrades can be made, potentially organize a volunteer group to come up with ideas and fundraising/collect fees)
 - *please see report 7.(ii)*
- Large Stock Tree Program
 - prepare a report on who qualifies for the program
 - available dates of large stock and seedlings
 - options for expansion of large stock municipal program
 - *please see report – 10.(iii)*
- prepare a report on what the timelines are for receiving request to issuing permits under O. Regulation 171/06 “*Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourse*”.
 - additional information is being added to the Regulations reports to inform the Board of Directors regarding timelines for permit requests
 - a full report on permit timelines will be provided to the November Board meeting

BD-116-099

Nemcek - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the June 23, 2016, meeting.”

CARRIED

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 primarily from Southwestern Ontario
 - our three regional campgrounds have over 500 campsites and 421 seasonal campers
 - the three campgrounds are self-sufficient receiving no tax dollars towards the maintenance and operation; 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 has been renovated with new 2 x 2 porcelain tile and colored quartz surfacing
 - WIFI system has been upgraded with additional transmission units which will enhance reception and coverage
 - a utility pole was replaced on the main campground feeder line
 - 7 sections of boardwalk have been installed along the trail system
 - a 5-acre parcel of agricultural land has been retired with trees as part of a climate change growth plot study. This study is in partnership with the Forest Gene Conservation Association, Forests Ontario, and SWATT (Southwestern Ontario Afforestation Technical Team) (Forestry Department)
 - upgrades have been made to the mini putt golf area including new railroad features installed on one of the holes
 - many camper events and activities have taken place this summer, these include Halloween in the Park, Canada Day Celebrations and fireworks, live entertainment, wagon and cart rides and a car show.
- L.C. Henderson Conservation Area (Enniskillen Township)
 - the campground pool fence has been replaced with new chain link fence
 - 2 shower areas have been renovated with new shower surrounds and ceramic tile installed on the floors and walls
 - a three-piece dock system has been constructed and installed; this will provide additional access to the pond for wetland studies and better fishing access for our visitors (Foundation)
 - new roadside and directional signage has been installed
 - a new door has been installed to the outdoor education center office
 - weir one has been repaired and resurfaced
 - a new solar blanket with roller has been purchased and installed at the pool (Campers Association)
 - events and activities that have taken place this year include movie nights, chili cook off, live entertainment, horse shoe tournaments, fishing derby, camper dinners, regular wagon rides and Canada Day fireworks

- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area (Municipality of Brooke Alvinston)
 - the 12 x 34 ft workshop addition has been completed; the addition facilitates a superintendent's office, staff lunch room and storage.
 - pool washrooms have been upgraded with new lighting and washroom fixtures
 - bike cross trail has been upgraded with new gravel surfacing
 - 5 sections of boardwalk have been installed along the Lakeside Trail
 - a number of dead ash trees have been removed
 - events and activities that have taken place this year include bagel breakfasts, Christmas in July, Halloween in the Park, face painting, scavenger hunts, movie nights, live entertainment, wagon rides, and Canada Day fireworks
- Other Lands Activities:
 - a memorial bench has been installed at the Marsh Walk Wetlands (Strathroy-Caradoc)
 - board walk sections have been repaired at the Strathroy and Coldstream Conservation Areas
 - beach access steps have been installed at Highland Glen and the walkway to the beach at CJ McEwen was graded
 - a number of dead ash trees have been removed at CJ McEwen and the Maples woodlot
 - trails on our properties have been widened and trimmed back to permit better access for trail users
- Camping Statistics:
 - 421 full, half and quarter seasonal campers have registered in our 3 campgrounds, down from 422 in 2015. 190 seasonal campers are registered at Warwick (191 in 2015), 123 at LC Henderson (123 in 2015) and 108 at A.W. Campbell (108 in 2015).
 - our 3 regional campgrounds have been busy this year with gross revenues to the end of July of \$1,004,000 (up 5%), with net revenues up 7% (seasonal camping up 3% to \$787,000; overnight camping up 11% to \$125,000; and pump-out up 10% to \$36,000)
 - we have had increases in costs associated with the operation of our campgrounds that include: loss of the summer youth employment subsidies (SJS) \$6,400; reduction in land rents \$ 8,000.00; increase in vehicle and equipment allocations \$ 6,000; increase in hydro rates and usage \$ 25,000.
- 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
 - new property identification signs have been installed at the Gawne Habitat Management Area (Dawn-Euphemia) and Evoy Woods (Enniskillen)
 - 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)
 - prescribe burns were carried out on 3 of the tall grass prairie plantations (McLean)

- at the Evoy Woods (Enniskillen) the property boundary survey stakes have been located and marked; and a new property identification sign has been installed. The property was officially opened at a dedication service held on June 20th
- the Foundation has provided 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 has been completed at the Perch Creek Habitat Management Area
 - 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 has been installed at the Lambton County Heritage Forest
 - a new property identification sign has been installed at the Bowens Creek Management Area
- McKeough Upstream Lands:
 - wetlands on properties 38 and 79 have been upgraded to improve water retention and reduce soil erosion
 - a climate change tree growth plot has been planted at property 105; this plot consists of 600 red and swamp white oak seedlings and the study will compare the growth and survival rates of locally supplied and southern U.S. trees (Forestry Department)
 - randomized tile to be installed on one of the agricultural parcels

BD-16-100

Kelch - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update, dated August 18, 2016 on Conservation Areas, Foundation, McKeough and Lambton County Lands including capital projects, facility improvements and camping trends in 2016.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Highland Glen Conservation Area and Boat Ramp fee options were discussed.

- General Information:
 - the Highland Glen Conservation Area is located on Lakeshore Road in the Town of Plympton-Wyoming
 - it has an access roadway, two parking lots, pavilion, beach access, picnic tables, and a boat ramp onto Lake Huron
 - during the spring fishing season and on nice days in the summer the area is extremely busy with boat and vehicle traffic
 - due to the regional usage of the area the Board of Directors designated it a Regional Conservation Area in 2000
 - access to the Conservation Area and boat ramp is free and the operation and maintenance costs are covered by general levy
 - to our knowledge the Highland Glen boat ramp is the only public ramp accessing Lake Huron between Sarnia and Port Franks

- Boat Ramp and Seawall protection:
 - the boat ramp and seawall were constructed in 2 phases; the access roadway and ramp constructed in 1986 and the seawall protection in 1990
 - total cost for the project was approximately \$ 200,000.00 with funding obtained from all levels of government
 - other than a few repairs over the last 25 to 30 years the facility has held up well to weather, time and public use, however, there are upgrades required to meet public needs and ensure the facility is safe and usable long term
 - at the June Board of Directors meeting, a motion was passed by the board directing staff to pursue options to implement user fees for the use of the boat ramp and the Conservation Area
 - fees could be used to maintain the boat ramp and seawall long-term; currently any upgrades to the boat ramp would be funded through general levy or through grants from outside sources
 - on the negative side; when a fee is collect for use of a facility, the Authority's duty of care and legal responsibility is considered much higher; also the public's expectation for maintenance and improvements is generally higher
- Payment Option:
 1. pay at a staffed gatehouse:
 - this requires capital outlay to construct serviced gate house with internet connection
 - anticipated high staffing costs
 - gatehouse would be susceptible to vandalism
 2. Metering with controlled entrance:
 - significate start-up capital cost in the purchase and installation of equipment
 - hydro and internet connection would be required
 - equipment would be susceptible to vandalism
 - no on site staffing required, however staff would be required to collect cash regularly that has been deposited into the metering equipment
 3. Pay by phone (McKay Pay): - preferred payment method
 - users can pay entrance fee with their cell phone by using an app on their phone, or pay on the McKay Pay website, or by calling McKay Pay directly, or by calling the Conservation Authority during regular office hours
 - there are no capital start-up costs, McKay Pay takes 50 cents per transaction as an administration fee
 - McKay Pay provides all the promotional signage
 - staff or contracted staff would be required to inspect the parking areas to ensure vehicles have paid and issue a warning or ticket for non-payment
 - a license plate list would be provided by McKay Pay of vehicles who have paid; this list is updated at the moment payment has been received
 - this system is used by 4 other similar sized Conservation Authorities

Directors' Comments:

- determine fees and viability of a Trillium application
- report at upcoming meeting.

BD-16-101

Wright - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 25, 2016 on the Highland Glen Conservation Area and Boat Ramp fee options and approves the implementation of fees using the McKay Pay system for 2017.”

CARRIED

A Staff Report regarding the Maple Syrup Festival and Sugar Shack was explained.

- Maple Syrup Festival:
 - for over 40 years, the Authority has hosted a maple syrup program at A.W. Campbell Conservation Area. The past number of years we have held this event in conjunction with the Alvinston Fire Fighters Pancake Breakfast. The program has gone through several major changes, adapting to changing circumstances. In the winter of 2016, the sugar shack was removed due to structural issues and safety concerns for our staff and the public.
 - the Festival went ahead as usual without the shack on March 19 - 20. Staff added additional features and activities and spent more time highlighting First Nation and Pioneer methods of syrup production. We also added more emphasis on the collection of sap in the forest itself. Approximately 700 people attended the festival bringing in about \$400 (this is on par with past years). The festival requires 5 staff for the 2-day event and a total of 8 staff days to make the necessary site preparation.
 - the success of our event is directly linked to the local Fire Fighter organization continuing their pancake breakfast fundraiser long term. Open communication with the Fire fighters is required to ensure the success of both events.
- Sugar Shack:
 - staff have initiated efforts to secure outside funding to construct a new sugar shack for the festival. Conceptual building design would be pole storage structure with a proper fire box and chimney system to facilitate the syrup pans. Approximate construction estimate is between \$20,000.00 and \$25,000.00. The building would be required to meet Ontario Building Code specifications and all building inspection requirements.
 - staff submitted a funding request to the Foundation Board of Directors at their June meeting. This request was denied by the Board as they were concerned about the high cost to fund a building that would only be used for one weekend a year. They were also concerned that the viability of our event and the building is greatly depended on the fire fighters continuing their event long term.
 - staff will continue to make every effort to secure outside funding to assist in the construction of a replacement Sugar Shack.
- the Maple Syrup Festival is scheduled for March 18th and 19th in 2017; staff will continue to enhance the displays and activities that made this year's festival a success.

**BD-16-102
Kelch - Case**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Maple Syrup Festival and Sugar Shack report, dated August 25, 2016 and further directs staff to continue to prepare for the 2017 Festival and to investigate outside funding opportunities to assist in the replacement of the Sugar Shack.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the McKeough Dam and upstream lands was presented.

- McKeough Channel and Upstream Properties Phragmites Spraying
 - McKeough staff have treated a number of patches of phragmites in the channel and on the upstream properties.
 - staff have noted an increase in the phragmites population in the channel and on the upstream properties.
 - McKeough staff treated phragmites in a planting pod at Guthrie park
- Prescribed burns
 - McKeough staff have started working on and will continue to work on site preparation and prescribed burn plans to burn prairie grass plantations to promote growth and remove unwanted vegetation.
 - staff conducted 4 prescribed burns in the spring of 2016 on 3 privately owned lands and the McLean property.
- Hunting Administration
 - McKeough staff have completed work on the upstream property hunting program.
 - staff will monitor the properties throughout the hunting seasons to ensure hunters are following the guidelines set out by the conservation authority.
 - staff will also be patrolling the properties periodically looking for hunters that are trespassing to hunt.
 - Fox snake and turtle monitoring
- McKeough staff monitor and report sightings of fox snake and spiny softshell turtles.
- staff are also restoring and improving habitat in the area to help with the recovery of these species.
- earlier this summer staff collected spiny softshell turtle eggs from a nest at the McKeough to keep the eggs from being predated, and sent the eggs to a hatchery to incubate and be released back into the watershed.
- Fox snakes have also nested at the McKeough over the last 3 years and staff will be monitoring and refreshing the materials in nesting boxes later in the year look for signs of fox snake eggs from this year

Directors' Comments:

- requested a report regarding actions to gain control of the Phragmites – what works best

**BD-16-103
Scholten - Faas**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 25, 2016 regarding McKeough Dam and upstream lands projects.”

CARRIED

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

- Watershed Precipitation and Streamflow Conditions
 - lower precipitation levels in the spring of this year raised concerns about potential drought conditions into the summer months. While the impact of lower precipitation has been seen in eastern watersheds, flows continued at or slightly below seasonal levels for our region.
 - two major events in mid-June and July increased flows which quickly returned to normal values. As the jet stream held large warm air masses over much of eastern Ontario throughout July and August, rain events throughout the summer resulted mostly from a pattern of convective storm cells causing localized precipitation patterns rather longer than frontal systems events.
 - several intense periods of rain in the last week of August has also raised overall levels which have persisted for a number of days but should moderate into September.
 - Wallaceburg outflow for the summer varied by only 20cm. with an average level at the gauge of 5.53m. When compared with averages from the period of record there is the continuation of a slight upward trend in river levels over the past 3 years as opposed to the previous 10 years. An additional comparison with Lake St. Clair average levels indicates the close relationship between overall lake level and the potential flow restriction or backwater effect on the outflow from the Sydenham River. This could suggest during this period of higher average lake levels we potentially experience average higher levels in the watercourse as well.
- Low Water Conditions
 - as previously noted, much of the province has received significantly lower amounts of precipitation over the summer to the point that some watersheds have declared Level II and in some cases Level III drought conditions. The calculation of drought conditions is statistically analyzed based on actual precipitation compared to average for the month as well as watershed flows compared to lowest average flows at select gauging stations. Within the SCRCA region precipitation has been close to expected averages although have often occur in a pattern of periods of significant rainfall followed by extremely dry periods. August numbers (Note: as of 25th of the month) continue to be at or above average and contribute to a three-month total regional number of 95% in contrast to much dryer areas in the eastern part of the province. This data is compared with the last significant drought period in 2012 and although it has been a hot summer this year, the MNRF standard for drought conditions was not met as it was for our watershed in 2012.
- Flood Threat
 - with current weather patterns causing extensive sudden rainfall the potential for localized flood conditions may be experienced during these events. While seasonal flows remain in the average range, we continue to monitor changes in watershed conditions as they occur. As always we will continue monitor flows and any significant storm events. Advisories will be provided as conditions dictate.
- Short term outlook
 - seasonal temperature and precipitation across the region over the next 14 days

- Long term outlook
 - Environment Canada anticipates that temperatures will be above average and precipitation will be below normal for the fall season
- Great Lakes Levels (Canadian)
 - the monthly comparison for July 2016 (current available data) indicate that Lake Huron levels have increased by 11cm over July 2015 and continue to remain above the 10 year average for Lake Huron at 57cm and Lake St. Clair 34cm and also remain above the average for the entire period of record.

BD-16-104

Miller - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 25, 2016, on the current watershed conditions, flood risk and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

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

- review of WECl applications have been completed by a committee of provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives. The following 2 projects were approved for 2016- 2017. A list of projects applied for WECl funding and their ranking is provided below.
- funding cut off for projects:
 - Repair > 110
 - Study > 25

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested (\$)	WECl Scoring
McKeough Floodway	McKeough Floodway Berm Repair	Repair work to improve drainage on the floodway berms	\$100,000	\$50,000	115
McKeough Floodway	McKeough Floodway Channel Repair	Repairs to the channel floors	\$30,000	\$15,000	105
Sarnia Shoreline	Sarnia Shoreline protection	Repairs to a section of Sarnia Shoreline (Helen – Kenwick)	\$600,000	\$300,000	90
Courtright Park	Courtright shoreline rehabilitation	Design and restore a section of Courtright shoreline	\$600,000	\$300,000	80
Head Street Dam	Stop log replacement	Replace wooden stop logs with aluminum logs	\$25,000	\$12,500	70
Esli Dodge	Esli Dodge repair project	Design and restore the control structure at Esli Dodge	\$20,000	\$10,000	55

Lorne C Henderson weir	LCH – Outfall Erosion Control	Repair work at LCH	\$30,000	\$15,000	50
McKeough Floodway	Dam Safety Review	A detailed engineering review of the McKeough Dam	\$40,000	\$20,000	65

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

Structure	Project Name	Status
Wallaceburg Retaining wall	Wallaceburg Retaining wall inspection	inspection of retaining wall in Wallaceburg
Petrolia Dam	Stop log replacement	Completed as of July 2016
McKeough Dam	McKeough Dam Drop structure repair	Ongoing
Courtright Park	Courtright shoreline revitalization	Design work ongoing
Aamjiwnaang Shoreline	Aamjiwnaang shoreline naturalization	Design work ongoing

BD-16-105

Kelch - Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 26, 2016 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Municipal Drain Review activities was reviewed.

- Conservation Authorities (CAs) regulate activities that change, divert, or interfere in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse, or that interfere with wetlands. Municipal drains are generally watercourses as defined under the CA Act and are therefore regulated by CAs.
- staff help member municipalities meet regulatory requirements by issuing Standard Compliance Requirements (SCRs) as per the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act (DART) Protocol and Letters of Review (LoR) for projects where DART does not apply (Drainage Act, S. 4: Petition Drains and S. 78: Improvements). Staff also meet with Drainage Superintendents on proposed projects and conduct site visits where necessary. If drain repair and maintenance activities are carried out (with or without permission) and result in impact on regulated areas with respect to the Conservation Authority’s responsibilities under the Conservation Authorities Act, the Conservation Authority could be held liable for not under taking or enforcing its regulatory authority.

- SCRs and LoRs outline project specific sediment and erosion measures for all projects. Upstream and downstream flooding are considered where appropriate (e.g., culverts and enclosures) and advice is incorporated into review letters and SCRs. Interference with wetlands is discouraged by negotiating project specific mitigations. St. Clair Conservation staff work with municipalities to try to find solutions that meet the requirements of both the Drainage Act and the Conservation Authorities Act.
- 2016 Update
 - so far in 2016, a total of 78 files have been submitted to SCRCA for review. 47 have been reviewed under the DART protocol and have received SCR permissions. 26 have been reviewed by staff and received LoRs as the works were outside of those specified under the DART protocol.

Categories of Drain Review	January – April 2016	May-August 2016	Totals
DART Protocol – SCR issued	19	28	78
Letter of Review Issued	17	9	
Other Types of Files (e.g., Environmental Assessment, sign-off, Assessment changes)	1	4	
Total Files	37	41	

- now that fall is approaching the municipal drain projects are picking up especially with regards to maintenance.
- Proposed \$300 fee for review of New Works on Municipal Drains
 - the SCRCA directs considerable resources toward the review of maintenance activities as well as new works for municipal drains.
 - Section 21 (m.1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* give CAs the power to charge fees for services rendered. The “policies and Procedures for Charging Conservation Authority Fees.” (June 13, 1997) directs that fee structure should be designed on a beneficiary pays basis and that fees be set at a level to recover, but not exceed, the costs associated with administering and delivering services on a program basis.
 - drain reviews are an anomaly in the SCRCA fee schedule in that the benefit of the reviews could be attributed to the proponent, but fees are only applied to reviews that fall under the DART Protocol. It is recommended that fees be expanded to also cover new drain projects. A \$300 fee would be charged for each Engineer’s Report where a Letter of Review is issued by SCRCA. Reports prepared under Section 76 of the Drainage Act would be exempt from the fee.

BD-16-106

Wright – Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated September 1, 2016, summarizing Municipal Drain Review activities and a proposed \$300 fee for the review of new works proposed for municipal drains.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Healthy Watershed Program Outreach events was explained.

- twenty-five farmers came on the August 23rd Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) Soil Health bus tour to learn about soil health, pollinator habitat and how other farmers are incorporating cover crops in their farm rotations.
 - Shawn Redick of Delta Power discussed cover crop seeders and had the farmers explore the corn field where a mix of cover crops had been interseeded into waist-high corn.
 - Kerry Lunn of Thamesville (left) shared his experiences with cover crops and shared that he believes his corn fared well through this summer despite drought conditions because of an increase in soil moisture from growing cover crops.
 - Rob Buchanan (Ontario NativeScape, right) shared the benefits of tallgrass prairie as pasture and pollinator habitat at the Sinclair Property.
 - Mike Belan of Oil Springs shared his experiences with cover crops and no-till farming on heavy clay.
 - Funding support: Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (GLASI), Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and Environment Canada.
- staff have also been busy attending Soil and Crop Improvement Association Summer Tours in Middlesex and Lambton Counties. Jessica Van Zwol was provided an opportunity to speak at both events to invite farmers to the GLASI bus tour.
- *Upcoming Events:*
 - Phrag Phighters Community Info night *August 25, 6:30-9 pm*: Come hear what’s being done to control invasive *Phragmites* in Lambton Shores. Staff will have a booth at the event.
 - Ipperwash Beach Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup *September 10, 9-11 am*: We are meeting at the Centre Ipperwash Boat Launch and spreading out from there. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided. Please dress appropriately
 - Ag in the Classroom *September 16*: Staff will be providing a soil health workshop for elementary students in Forest.
 - Mount Brydges TD Tree Days *September 17, 9 am-12pm*: Come on out to this community event and help plant 150 native trees in Lyons Park. Please dress appropriately for the weather.
 - Forest Fall Fair *September 23-25*: Come stop by our booth and say hello!
 - Sarnia TD Tree Days *October 22, 9 am -12pm*: Come on out to this community event and help plant 300 native trees in Canaterra Park. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

- 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, 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.

BD-16-107

Wesley - Broad

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated September 1, 2016, regarding the Healthy Watershed Program Outreach events, including a GLASI Soil Health bus tour and other upcoming events.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Healthy Watershed Program funding was discussed.

- Environment and Climate Change Canada just confirmed a 3-year grant of \$270,000 (\$90,000/year) through the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. We received the full amount we proposed. The funding will go towards on-the-ground stewardship projects (\$52,000/year) that improve aquatic species at risk habitat in the East Branch of the Sydenham River above Dresden. The remaining funding will go towards Landowner Outreach, our annual species at risk newsletter, and our education program (for species at risk).
- Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change recently confirmed \$60,000 for the current fiscal year for outreach and education and stewardship projects in the Lambton Shores Tributaries Watershed, as part of the Healthy Lake Huron Clean Water, Clean Beach campaign.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada also confirmed a 3-year grant of \$57,454 through the Habitat Stewardship Program Prevention stream. This funding will go towards on-the-ground stewardship projects in the watersheds of the North Branch of the Sydenham River as well as biological monitoring.
- TD Tree Days has confirmed funding for two tree planting events in our watershed: Sarnia and Mount Brydges. They have awarded us \$8,675. This funding will cover the cost of the trees (150 in Mount Brydges and 300 in Sarnia) and the planning, preparation, and staffing for the two events.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Canada-Ontario Agreement funding) is providing funding in the amount of \$30,000 for the current fiscal year towards 3 wetland projects and the barrier removal on Bear Creek in the St. Clair AOC.

BD-16-108

Scholten - Kelch

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 1, 2016, on the Healthy Watershed Program and confirmed funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and TD Tree Days.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Reptiles at Risk program was reviewed.

- monitoring efforts of reptiles continued this year as part of our Reptiles at Risk Program. This year a significant achievement was accomplished: the collection, incubation, and release of Spiny Softshell turtles (*Apalone spinifera*) from and into the Sydenham River. In the Sydenham River the Eastern Spiny Softshell turtle is a very unique species that has been up listed to Endangered as of this year.
- habitat loss is a major contributor to the decline of this species. Nesting sites along the Sydenham are few and this does not help the population or success of the species as there are not as many hatchlings observed in this area. Spiny Softshells nest mainly in sandy gravel substrate usually on south facing slopes or areas with lots of sun throughout the day in order to incubate the eggs. Along the Sydenham sandy gravel bars and banks are not as common and are usually dominated by clay and silt. While previous attempts at finding Spiny Softshell nesting sites have been less than successful, this year we have identified four known, communal nesting sites on both branches of the Sydenham.
- eggs that were in immediate danger were collected as soon as possible after being laid (within 24 hours in order to decrease the chances disturbance) and sent to be incubated by Salthaven Wildlife & Education Centre. Once hatched the turtles were kept for monitoring to ensure that no difficulties were being had by the newly born hatchlings before being promptly returned to us. Release of the turtles took place in a slow-water, sheltered area near the original nesting site. The total tally of tiny turtles turned out to be 76 Spiny Softshells and 35 Northern Map turtles, another species at risk turtle within our watershed.
- in addition to turtle monitoring and rehabilitation we have also continued our snake monitoring and rehabilitation initiatives. So far this year we have provided the materials for one Eastern Foxsnake nesting box and plan on distributing more as the fall season continues. As well as providing our species at risk snakes with adequate nesting habitat we are also monitoring all snake populations on our properties with coverboards.
- coverboards are sheets of plywood laid on the ground in order to provide protection and an insulated heat source for snakes, attracting them to the underside of the board. Monitoring is completed by quickly flipping the coverboard to reveal any snakes hidden underneath, identifying them to species, and getting an estimate on their length. All of these values as well as location, time of day, weather, and a variety of others are recorded and delivered to a province-wide database run by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for long-term monitoring. In addition to providing shelter and warmth for snake species the coverboards also provide shelter for many salamander species such as the rare Jefferson's Salamander.

BD-16-109

Nemcek - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 1, 2016, on the Reptiles at Risk program, including highlights of recent surveys for turtles.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the progress of the Bear Creek barrier removal was explained.

- Background
 - Biology staff have observed a barrier in Bear Creek at the Bickford Line crossing while completing water quality sampling. This metal corrugated barrier spans the full width of the river and is an impediment to fish passage when water levels are low. Fish have been observed against the barrier in past years while staff were collecting water samples.
 - Based on information from the landowner at this site, the barrier was installed by SCRCA as part of a stream gauge project prior to the construction of the McKeough Dam. It was never removed and has remained in place since that time.
- Project Approved Through the RFCPP
 - an application was submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program (RFCPP) in April of 2016. The proposal included completing a mussel relocation protocol, removal of the barrier, and creating a rock riffle type structure with a low flow passage at the site of the barrier. The barrier removal would improve fish passage upstream for an additional 20km's for all fishes including recreational fish such as Northern Pike, Walleye, and Channel Catfish.
 - in July the application was approved. In addition to the proposal, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's permit will also require a fish exclusion to be completed prior to the construction phase reducing harm to fish during the project. Additional funding is being provided by MNRF, HSP Prevention, and Friends of the St. Clair River (using Ontario Trillium Foundation funding).
- Mussel Relocation Protocol
 - a mussel relocation was deemed necessary due to the presence of SAR mussels in this system. Round Pigtoe[END], Salamander Mussel[END], and Mapleleaf [THR] are all known to inhabit Bear Creek. The only SAR mussel found at the site during the relocation protocol was the Mapleleaf. To complete the protocol all mussels within the search area (30m of river) had to be captured, measured, photographed, tagged, and relocated to a suitable upstream location. Follow-up survival assessment surveys must be completed after 30 days, 1 year, and 2 years. Mussels are captured by "raconing" which includes sifting through the bottom sediments with your hands and feeling for mussels. The relocation was completed in late August. With the help of other SCRCA departments and other agencies (MNRF youth rangers) we were able to relocate 312 mussels including 69 Mapleleaf. Other species included Pink Heelsplitter, White
- Barrier Removal, Riffle Construction, and Estimated Completion
 - BF Environmental has been contracted to complete the barrier removal and riffle construction. After barrier removal, rock will be placed across the river to provide fish and invertebrate habitat and improve oxygen levels in the water downstream. By creating a rock riffle water levels during spring flood events should continue to flood the adjacent river oxbows providing important fish and amphibian habitat. If the weather (water levels) cooperate the construction will hopefully be completed in September.

BD-16-110**Bruinink - Faas****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 1, regarding the progress of the Bear Creek barrier removal project.”****CARRIED**

A staff report regarding funding to evaluate wetlands in the St. Clair Region was presented.

- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has continued project in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to evaluate wetlands in the St. Clair Region. For 2016/17 Environment Canada through the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF) is also a partner on this project. This updated information will be used to make better informed resource management decisions:
 - Aylmer District staff will work with staff from St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, to identify and evaluate high priority Wetlands (i.e. development pressures, vulnerable drinking water sources, areas with out of date evaluations)
 - 1200ha of wetlands (5 wetland complexes) will be evaluated annually using methodology outlined in the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) to determine significance (e.g. Provincially or non-provincially significant). At least 4 of these wetland complexes (100 ha) will be located within the St. Clair River Area of Concern.
 - at least 2 previously evaluated wetlands will be updated using OWES to determine potential changes in significance, in vegetation communities or hydrological processes over time.
 - results of evaluations (including significance) and mapping will be communicated to MNR annually for incorporation into LIO (Land Information Ontario) (or other supported GIS applications) and annually to municipalities for incorporation into municipal planning documents (official plans).
- work on this project started in mid-June and will continue into early 2017.

BD-16-111**Kelch - Miller****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2016, regarding a partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and funding from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF) to evaluate wetlands in the St. Clair Region.”****CARRIED**

A staff report regarding the Lambton Shores Coastal Wetland Phragmites Control project was discussed.

- Lambton Shores Coastal Wetland is located immediately to the south of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation land and is approximately 150 acres in size.
- this large coastal wetland has been invaded by Phragmites australis and is almost completely void of native vegetation and wildlife species.
- the Conservation Authority partnered with the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group in 2014 and has been successful obtaining a grant in partnership through MOECC's Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund in 2015 and 2016 for phragmites control work in this Great Lakes wetland recovery project.
- this spring started out with very high lake levels resulting in deep water throughout most

- of the wetland which prevented the planned method of control work from taking place (rolling and burning and spraying).
- the cut and drown method was chosen for this year's course of action. Approximately 4 acres of phragmites wetland has been cleared so far. SCRCA summer staff worked with the cut team to haul in all chopped material from the water and onto land which will then be burned after it dries out. Plans to spot treat newly sprouted sections from last year's activities is scheduled for the fall.
 - a wetlands expert from the Tillsonburg area will be mapping and monitoring the cut areas as well as providing management/control advice and options.
 - work will continue into September and October with follow up treatments planned over the next several years.
 - this is a slow and tedious method of control for such a large area. Plans for an emergency use of pesticides permits is in the works for next year.

BD-16-112

Rupke - Gordon

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated September 1, 2016, regarding the Lambton Shores Coastal Wetland Phragmites Control Project and approved funding support from Great Lakes Guardian Fund."

CARRIED

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

- the number of human West Nile virus cases has declined dramatically since Lambton County started their mosquito larva control program approximately 12 years ago. There were more than 50 human WNV cases and several deaths attributed to the virus in 2004 and 2005. In 2015 there were no confirmed human cases of West Nile virus infections reported in Lambton County and the same results for 2016 to date.
- the two most common mosquito species in Southern Ontario that is most likely to spread West Nile virus to humans are *Culex pipiens* (the common house mosquito) and *Culex restuans* (the white-dotted mosquito). Both species lay eggs in swallow stagnate water that urban catch basins provide.
- control methods for mosquitos are to remove stagnant water and where that is not possible, interrupt the mosquito life cycle. The larvicide treatment program stops mosquito pupa from developing into biting adult mosquitos and is the method used for all catch basins in Sarnia-Lambton.
- the final application of larvicide for Lambton County including the City of Sarnia and all towns and villages was completed by conservation services staff on August 25th and will be residual into mid- September when mosquito populations start to decline.
- four staff working from the Strathroy office and 2 staff from the Darcy McKeough Dam treated 3,000 catch basins with a single season long methoprene briquette and approximately 13,500 catch basins were treated with three applications of methoprene pellets at 21 day intervals.
- post treatment efficacy testing will take place between 15 and 20 days after the third round for the pellet treated catch basins and between 60 to 90 days for the season long briquette treated catch basins. Results will be sent to the Lambton Public Health later in September.

- two permits for the mosquito control works were received from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in June.
- Sarnia-Lambton – 16,500 methoprene pellets and briquettes
- Sarnia-Lambton – Bti for wetlands and emergency situations
- Aamjiwnaang and Kettle/Stoney Point First Nation were also treated with methoprene pellets. No permits were required under M.O.E.C.C

BD-16-113

Scholten - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated September 1, 2016, regarding West Nile Virus – Lambton County Mosquito Control Program.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding fall large stock tree program was presented.

- the large stock tree program has been part of the SCRCA tree planting program since the 1980’s and was created to make inexpensive trees available to the counties and municipalities for local planting projects as well as for rural landowners wishing to plant smaller areas but with larger trees.
- these larger trees are used mainly for memorial forest tree planting, street tree planting and shelterbelt planting programs. They are normally conservation/park grade trees that were not perfectly formed, based on Landscape Ontario standard grading methods, but are healthy, good quality and inexpensive trees.
- native evergreen (coniferous) trees come balled and burlapped and up to 1 meter in height.
- native hardwood (deciduous) trees come in either bare root or potted containers and range between 1 m and 2.5 m in height
- prices range between \$10 and \$40 per tree based on species, size and container type
- between 2012 and 2016 approximately 750 trees were ordered each year at a total cost of approximately \$20,000.
- the only participating municipality between 2012 and 2016 was Brooke-Alvinston. Municipalities need to fill in the order form and return to the SCRCA office by the deadline to ensure trees are reserved for the spring planting season.
- applications are normally faxed or emailed to each municipality in the winter for spring pickup.
- due to recent difficulties in obtaining desired stock we have changed the order deadline to December 15th 2016 for spring 2017 tree orders.

BD-16-114

Kelch - Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated September 1, 2016, regarding the Authority’s large stock tree programs and opportunities for municipal involvement.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding conservation services programs across the watershed was reviewed.

- Tree Planting Program
 - currently there are approximately 30 landowners on the contact list for 2017 tree planting - full service program
 - landowner appointments for site visits scheduled to start this month
 - all projects that meet the program criteria are planned for project review in November for funding approval under one or more of the grant programs that SCRCA has available for financial incentive for 2017.
 - more than \$150,000 in grants have been secured through multiple tree planting and stewardship programs much of this funding is used to offset project expenses and landowner costs.
 - survival assessments were completed in July for a portion of 2016, 2015 and 2011 planting projects.
 - 92% tree survival was the average for 2016 sites and an average survival rate for the last 5 years of tree planting came in at 89%
 - survival rates are only attainable at this level with landowner involvement combined with our 3-year herbicide application program.
- Seed Collection Program
 - this year's tree seed collection will start in the first week of October.
 - deciduous trees are a major component of the SCRCA planting program and future seedlings from tree nurseries is directly related to the tree seeds collected and ship annually.
 - all tree seed collected by SCRCA staff is completed in the Southwest tree seed zone primarily in Lambton County. This ensures that trees planted by SCRCA in the future will come from genetically local tree stock.
- Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
 - one new managed forest tax plan approved for 2017
 - three renewal managed forest tax plans approved for 2017
 - MFTIP plans for SCRCA properties are due in 2018
 - we have one plan approver on staff certified to write and approve forest management plans for tax purposes
 - approved plans are send to MNRF and then updated information is sent to MPAC
 - MPAC adjusts property taxes on the forested portion of the property equal to farmland tax rates.
- Vegetation Management Program
 - approximately 15 km of municipal brush spraying was completed this summer for the municipality of Southwest Middlesex. Regrowth of woody trees and shrubs from the previous year's drain clean out is treated with a herbicide to prevent re-establishment.
 - approximately 200,000 trees require follow up fall herbicide treatment this fall
 - fall herbicide application for vegetation control on 2013 to 2016 tree planting sites are scheduled to start in the 3rd week of September will continue into November after the deciduous seedlings go into dormancy and drop their leaves, ending after the first heavy frost.

- 2016 Stewardship funding
 - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Species at Risk program for 2016-2017 habitat stewardship projects.
 - Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund grant for phragmites control work in Lambton Shores
 - Forests Ontario funding for projects 2.5 acres in size or larger in the amount of \$69,542 approved for 2016 tree planting costs for 10 planting projects including funding for the 5-acre Assist Migration (climate change) plot at Warwick CA this spring.
 - OPG funding for Lambton and Chatham Kent tree planting approved for projects 1 acre in size or larger.

BD-16-115

Faas - Case

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated September 1, 2016, regarding conservation services programs across the watershed including approved funding from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests Species at Risk Program, spring tree planting survival & maintenance and other vegetation control programs.”

CARRIED

Planning Activity Summary Report for June, July and August 2016 was reviewed.

BD-16-116

Bruinink - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for June, July and August, 2016.”

CARRIED

A staff report on DART was presented.

- Municipal drain April – May 2016 activity report associated with the provincially approved guidance *“Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART)”* approved by the Board April 18, 2013.*

SCRCA DART FILES

2016 JUNE

<i>FHR #</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Geographic Township</i>	<i>Drain Name</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>SCRs Issued</i>
2670	Chatham-Kent	Chatham	Malette Drain	Culvert Replacement	1
2671	Chatham-Kent	Camden	Farslow Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2672	Chatham-Kent	Chatham	Prins Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2673	Chatham-Kent	Chatham	Simpson Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2

2674	Chatham-Kent	Camden	Courtney Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
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SCRCA DART FILES

2016 JULY

<i>FHR #</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Geographic Township</i>	<i>Drain name</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>SCRs Issued</i>
2675	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	Drummond Creek Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2677	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	McIntyre	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2678	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	Knittle and McMurphy Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2679	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	Kerr Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2680	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	Hebden Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2681	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	Dawn-Euphemia Townline Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2682	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	Molly Creek – West Branch Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2683	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	Dalton Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2684	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	Currie Creek Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2685	Dawn-Euphemia	Dawn	Charles Lawrence Drain	Bottom only cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2690	Brooke-Alvinston	Brooke	McCoubrey-Colhoun Drain	Brush bank slope, bottom cleanout, culvert	3
2691	Chatham-Kent	Camden	Molly's Creek Drain	Brushing bank slope, bottom cleanout	2
2692	Chatham-Kent	Camden	Drummond Creek Drain	Brushing bank slope, bottom cleanout	2

*Note - the SCR's and the above report are prepared by Biology Section staff with ratification by

Planning and Regulations Section/ Regulations Officer. Ontario Regulation 171/06 “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” applies, however the DART protocol is followed for streamlining purposes.

BD-16-117

Miller - Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on Drainage Act and Conservation Authority Act Protocol (DART) Municipal drain activities for June, July and August 2016.”

CARRIED

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

- Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Update:
 - Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems BUI:
 - on June 14, 2016, the Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC) approved the recommendation to re-designate the “Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems” BUI from “Requires Further Assessment” to “Not Impaired”.
 - the draft status assessment reports on two studies conducted in the St. Clair River AOC that look at the reproductive health and development of snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) and leopard frogs (*Rana pipiens*). Results indicated that frog embryos and snapping turtle eggs exposed to water and sediment collected from the St. Clair River experienced high hatching rates (98% and 90%, respectively). Contaminant levels measured in both species were low and deformity rates were below the average natural level observed in the wild (5%) or similar to reference locations (e.g., Lake Huron). There was no evidence of adverse effects in the growth or reproduction of frogs and turtles in the St. Clair River AOC.
- next steps will include consultation with Aamjiwnaang and Walpole Island First Nations.
- Restrictions on Dredging Activities BUI:
 - the “Restrictions on Dredging Activities” BUI status assessment that recommends re-designation from “Impaired” to “Not Impaired” was presented to the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) on March 30, 2016. Council members reviewed the report and provided questions and recommended revisions.
 - revisions to the draft status assessment have been completed and questions answered. The report will be discussed at an upcoming BPAC meeting on September 14, 2016 with an anticipated vote on approving the re-designation recommendation.
- Beach Closings BUI:
 - 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. Community consultations with Aamjiwnaang and Walpole Island First Nations has begun.

- Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems BUI:
 - the “Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems” BUI was identified as “Impaired” in the St. Clair River AOC due to frequent water intake closures resulting from upstream industrial and municipal spills. These closures disrupted the water supply to the downstream communities of Walpole Island and Wallaceburg and also contributed to taste and odour problems.
 - spill frequency has decreased significantly since the 1980’s, however concerns remain regarding the impact of spill events on drinking water quality and supply. In response to these concerns, the CRIC has released a discussion paper intended to initiate a discussion on the status of the “Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems” BUI (available at www.friendsofstclair.ca). The discussion paper provides information and data related to:
 - spill frequency,
 - legislation and regulations surrounding drinking water and spill prevention, and
 - improvements to municipal and industrial infrastructure that reduces their connection to the St. Clair River.

BD-16-118

Kelch - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 22, 2016, on the St. Clair River Area of Concern program.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the 2016 West Ipperwash Dynamic Beach Limit Assessment was presented.

- three coastal consulting firm proposals were received.
- the lowest bid was received from Baird & Associates and following a thorough evaluation and review, the General Manager awarded the project to Baird. This was as per the motion of delegation in June 2016.
- the winning proposal was slightly under budget at \$54,500.00
- the assessment is underway. It involves an area specific analysis of the dynamic beach limit at West Ipperwash. Accepted scientific and engineering principles will analyse the dynamic beach landward limit.
- the study involves consultation with West Ipperwash beach property owners and Kettle Stony Point First Nation (KSPFN), the latter which has “beach rights of use” as determined by the Supreme Court of Canada. Funding constraints allowed for only 1 meeting each between First Nations and property owners. It would be beneficial to continue consultation into 2017; dependant on funding. A meeting between the SCRCA, Baird and SPFN Chief and Council took place on August 15, 2016. Main issues: historic development on dunes, planting non-native (trees), seek greater CA enforcement re Ipperwash beach (Centre).
- a community meeting was held at Indian Hills Golf Course on August 30, 2016, where the consultant presented methodology, preliminary findings and best management practices.

There was very good attendance with over 50 people attending. There are approximately 110 dwellings on the shoreline. Residents were very interested in beach improvements and the SCRCA development guidelines. Appreciation was expressed regarding the opportunity to comment.

BD-16-119

Kelch - Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update report, dated August 24, 2016, on the 2016 West Ipperwash Dynamic Beach Limit Assessment which is a scientific analysis utilizing accepted coastal engineering principles, the public consultation session held August 30, 2016 and further acknowledges the receipt of Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation Consultation and Accommodation Protocol, August 2013.”

CARRIED

Regulations Summary Reports August 31st, was reviewed.

BD-16-120

Faas - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Report on “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated August 31, 2016.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding regulations activity on 3917 Tile Yard Road was considered.

BD-16-121

Kelch – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the Regulations Activity on property 3917 Tile Yard Road, dated August 31, 2016.”

CARRIED

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

BD-16-122

Scholten – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to July 31, 2016, as it relates to the budget.”

CARRIED

June to August 2016 disbursements totaling \$1,552,030.83 were considered.

BD-16-123

Rupke - Miller

“That the Board of Directors approves the June to August 2016 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$1,552,030.83.”

CARRIED

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

BD-16-124

Kelch - Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2016 general levy receipts to August 26, 2016.”

CARRIED

The 2017 preliminary forecast budget was reviewed. To date the Authority has not received the Modified Current Value Assessment calculations from the Ministry of Natural Resources so the numbers from last year have been used.

BD-16-125

Kelch – Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2017 preliminary draft budget of \$5,159,640 with a proposed municipal general levy of \$778,855 and further that this preliminary budget be revised subject to receipt of the Modified Current Value Assessment calculations from the Ministry of Natural Resources and circulated to member municipalities for information and input based on our budget review process.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding draft 2017 fees was explained.

BD-16-126

Scholten - Kelch

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Draft 2017 fees excluding Camping fees to assist municipalities with their budget deliberations.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding investment analysis.

BD-16-127

Scholten - Case

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the staff report, dated August 16, 2016, regarding Investment analysis.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding communications was presented.

- Conservation Education - with the Conservation Education Program about to launch into its season, two promotional flyers were produced highlighting the numerous programs available to students in both elementary and high schools. The flyers were distributed to each teacher in the region highlighting the various programs provided.
- Conservation Scholarships
 - Four scholarships were presented in July by Steve Arnold. The students (and parents) were all very appreciative.
 - A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarships - \$1,000 award: Jared Vanrabaeyns, Lambton Kent Composite School; Emily Glasgow, Lambton Kent Composite School

- Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship - \$500 award: Kurtis Minielly, North Lambton Secondary School
- Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship - \$500 award: Jaime Dimillo, St. Patrick's High School
- Aamjiwnaang Environment Day - staff attended the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Environment Day on August 13. It was an excellent turn out and provided the Authority with an opportunity to showcase our programs.
- Coming Events
 - McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication: Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area, September 18, 2:00 pm – Greetings will be provided by Steve Arnold
 - a Geocaching Adventure: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, Sunday, September 18, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, September 25, 2:00 pm – Speakers – Duncan Skinner, President, St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and Steve Arnold.
 - Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival, C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, Chatham, October 4 - 6

BD-16-128

Kelch - Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications Report, dated August 26, 2016, including information regarding Conservation Education, Coming Events and Conservation Scholarships.”

CARRIED

A discussion paper on “Our Future to Shape – A Way Forward” was discussed.

BD-16-129

Scholten – Wright

“That the Board of Directors approves distributing the document, “Our Future to Shape – A Way Forward” discussion paper dated June 2016, for comment to municipalities, stakeholders and the public with any modifications, if any, based on feedback from the Board of Directors.”

CARRIED

Under New Business, Warwick Conservation Area received wonderful comments regarding staff, facilities and programs.

BD-16-130
Faas - Wesley
“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Steve Arnold
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager