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; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Alan Broad, Tony Bruinink, Todd Case, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Larry Gordon, Mike Kelch, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, John McCharles, Don McCallum, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Cindy Scholten, Jeff Wesley

Absent: Dan McMillan, Gerry Rupke, Muriel Wright

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. He requested everyone remember, respect and appreciate those who fought for us and those who are currently with the armed forces. He recognized staff for the TD Environmental Awareness Award which he accepted on behalf of the Authority at the Chamber of Commerce Gala Awards. 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-16-131

Scholten - Bruinink

"That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held September 15, 2016, be approved as distributed."

CARRIED

The General Manager's Report was presented:

- Environmental Awareness Award
 - on October 20th, Strathroy & District Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Gala Awards Celebration
 - in 2012, the Authority was awarded the Community Involvement Award
 - this year, the Authority was nominated for the TD Environmental Awareness Award
 - Chair Arnold proudly accepted the Award for the Authority
- Agriculture Sector Working Group
 - a large group of representatives from agriculture and adjacent agriculture organizations formed by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to provide input to OMAFRA regarding proposed agricultural components of the Domestic Action Plan to reduce phosphorous levels in Lake Erie
 - 5 Conservation Authorities have been active participants with the Group
 - OMAFRA has requested a meeting with Conservation Authorities to discuss what CAs do now regarding efforts to reduce phosphorous run-off and what CAs could do if more resources were available and to review some ideas about what OMAFRA would like to see CAs do
 - the meeting is scheduled for November 14th at the Upper Thames Watershed Conservation Centre

- Upcoming Events
 - Shoreline Information Night
 - for Reach 5 (Haight Road East to Hillcrest Nisbet Drive Sarnia)
 - Dynamic Beach Assessment
 - Monday November 14, 2016 4:00 pm 8:00 pm
 - Real Canadian Superstore, Upper Meeting Room
 - 600 Murphy Road, Sarnia
 - 2017 Annual General Meeting
 - February 16, 2017 10:00 am
 - Brooke–Alvinston Inwood Community Centre Auditorium
 - 3210 Walnut Street, Alvinston
 - meeting to be followed with Lunch

Directors' Comments:

- requests page numbers for whole package.
- requests report on air quality at Sarnia Airport
- why recommending Education Review for EBR

BD-16-132

Scholten - Kelch

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager's report, dated November 1, 2016."

CARRIED

Conservation Ontario minutes of the September 15, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

BD-16-133

Bruziewicz - Nemcek

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the September 26, 2016 meeting minutes of Conservation Ontario."

CARRIED

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

- Boat ramp at Highland Glen
 - determine fees and viability of a Trillium application
 - report at upcoming meeting report later in meeting
- McKeough dam and upstream lands
 - requested a report regarding actions to gain control of the Phragmites what works best – report to be provided at the December meeting – which will include substance of Lambton County organized round table meeting regarding phragmites.

BD-16-134

Marriott – MacKinnon

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the September 15, 2016 Board of Directors 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
- 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 has enhance reception and coverage
 - a new laundry shed to be constructed in the woodlot campground
 - the main campground washroom roof will be replaced with steel
 - 25 wildlife shrubs have been planted (Bingo)
- 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
 - subsurface drainage has been installed in the Towerview campground and on one of the seasonal campsites
 - a new door has been installed to the outdoor education center office
 - 30 wildlife shrubs have been planted (Bingo)
- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area (Municipality of Brooke Alvinston)
 - a 12 x 34 ft addition was constructed to existing workshop; the addition facilitates a superintendent's office, staff lunch room and storage.
 - pool washrooms have been upgraded with new lighting, washroom fixtures and an accessible shower area
 - bike cross trail has been upgraded with new gravel surfacing
 - 30 wildlife shrubs have been planted
- Other Lands Activities:
 - safety railing and stairs have been installed along the trail system in the Strathroy Conservation Area (funded by Bonduelle)
 - a number of cedar post supports and board walk decking has been upgraded at the Coldstream Conservation Area (Middlesex Centre)
 - a new deck and accessible ramp has been constructed at the Peers Wetland CA (Sydenham Field Naturalists and Union Gas)
 - 52 trees to be planted in our conservation areas (Foundation)
 - many of our trails on all our properties have been widened and trimmed back to permit better access for trail users
 - property boundary and no hunting signs have been posted on Foundation and managed forest properties.

Camping Statistics:

- 421 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, gross revenues to the end
 of September are \$ 1,128,000 (up 3 %), and net revenues remained even
 (seasonal camping up 2 % to \$792,000; overnight camping up 6% to \$213,000;
 and pump-out up 10% to \$37,000.00)

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)
- a number of dead ash trees to be removed from around the perimeter of the property at the Maples Woodlot (Plympton-Wyoming)
- at the Evoy property; a new property identification sign has been installed and forestry staff are preparing a forest management plan which will enable the property to be eligible for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plan (MFTIP) (waiting for MPAC to provide a roll number)
- at the Keith McLean Conservation Lands; extensive tree trimming has taken place along the access laneway off Rose Beach Line and around one of the agricultural fields
- 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:

- 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
- forestry staff continue to manage the over 40,000 trees 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)
- approximately 8000 ft of 4 inch and 1600 ft of 6-inch tile drainage has been installed at Property 82

Miller - Wesley

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update, dated October 24, 2016 on Conservation Area maintenance and development, McKeough Upstream Lands and management activities on Lambton County Lands."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Highland Glen boat ramp and seawall project was presented.

- Highland Glen Conservation Area:
 - 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
 - the access to the conservation area and boat ramp have been free and the operation and maintenance costs are covered by general levy.
 - proposed fees for 2017 will assist with maintenance and upkeep costs.
 - to our knowledge the Highland Glen boat ramp is the only 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 entire project was approximately \$ 200,000.00 with funds coming 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 maintenance and upgrades required to meet public needs and ensure the facility is safe and usable long term
 - Proposed Upgrades:
 - replace and install approximately 60 ft of new docking walkways along both sides of the boat ramp, this will allow for more than one boat to be docked at a time
 - repair existing seawall by excavation and installing new tie back supports
 - remove existing non-operational dock supports from within the harbor area
 - reposition existing armor stone to provide the necessary support for the steel seawall
 - Estimated Cost \$40,000.00

BD-16-136

Scholten - Gordon

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 25, 2016 on the Highland Glen boat ramp and seawall project."

CARRIED

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

- Watershed Precipitation and Streamflow Conditions
 - Highlights:
 - lower precipitation and levels into fall
 - average watershed flow conditions
 - precipitation and flow conditions continued to be lower than normal in September with most of the regional stations reporting only 60%-70% of the expected rain. The major exception was the Windsor region which experienced a significant rainfall over a period of several days resulting in significant local flood conditions. This localized storm did not however affect our region directly and the final three-month precipitation was recorded at below the average at 94% of normal.
 - several storm events into October improved precipitation conditions slightly into
 October with several periods of continuous precipitation associated mostly with
 frontal weather systems which are more common in the fall period. This
 maintained watershed flows close to average with levels being a little above
 average at some stations.
 - flows recorded at key stations in the watershed identify the sudden response to rain events which returned to normal quickly. Additionally, flows at Wallaceburg, while not as quick to respond, have continued however to gradually decline over the last two months by approximately 30cm. As we move into the winter flows will likely continue to be at or slightly below average as the amount of runoff is reduced with the colder conditions and greater storage in the form of snowfall.
 - as noted, precipitation remained lower in September and higher in the upper areas of the watershed. Central areas continued the trend of 40% less than average precipitation.
 - regionally the three and six month trend continues be below average by 6% and 13% respectively which in turn has now begun impacted on the past 12 month numbers. While these numbers indicate reduced amount of precipitation, this trend has not been as significant as other areas of the province to the east where Level II and in some cases level III conditions have been persistent over the course of the summer and into the fall.
 - MNRF data is compared with the last significant drought period in 2012 and although it has been a somewhat dry summer for our watershed this year, the MNRF standard for drought conditions was not met as it was for our watershed in 2012. Watersheds throughout the province continue to experience low flow conditions as compared to the precipitation and flow conditions thresholds for August
 - flood threat based on current conditions there is no concern for any flood conditions as the watershed is able to handle most storm 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.
 - weather forecast (Data: Weather Network, Environment Canada, OFA)
 - long term outlook Environment Winter will be warmer than normal in the remainder of 2016, with above-normal precipitation and snowfall.
 Temperatures will be colder with higher precipitation into 2017 with the potential for significant lake-effect snow conditions. The coldest periods will be in early to mid-January, late January, and late February, with the

snowiest periods in mid and late December, early January, and mid-February.

- Great Lakes Levels (Canadian Hydrometric, NOAA data September)
 - the monthly comparison for September 2016 (current available data) indicate that Lake Huron levels have increased only slightly by 8 cm over September 2015 and continue to remain above the 10 year average for Lake Huron at 59 cm. Lake St. Clair levels are almost identical to last year and 38 cm above the 10 year average. Both lakes also remain above the average for the entire period of record by approximately 30 cm.

BD-16-137

Bruinink - Nemcek

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 27, 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.

• we continue to wrap up projects on a monthly basis. Status of 2016 WECI/Shoreline projects is outlined below:

Structure	Project Name	Status	
McKeough Dam	Dam Safety Review	Golder Associates have been retained to complete the DSR	
McKeough Dam	McKeough Dam Drop structure repair	Completed by Brosco Concrete restoration as of September 2016	
Petrolia Dam	Stop log replacement	Completed as of July 2016	
Courtright Park	Courtright shoreline revitalization	Design work ongoing	
Aamjiwnaang Shoreline	Aamjiwnaang shoreline naturalization	Design work ongoing, Construction work expected to start early 2017	

- McKeough Dam drainage improvement works
 - previous inspections of the Floodway channel sideslope showed indications of slope failure
 - in some cases, sideslopes had slid down the slope opening up crevices along the top of the side slope parallel to the channel
 - this was attributed to the concentration of surface runoff at a few low areas on the top of the berms
 - McKeough staff have installed a tile along the top berm to drain water effectively to minimize the low spots.
 - 2 sections of approximately 900 foot of 4-inch tiling was completed, these tiles outlet to the bottom of the channel

Marriott - Case

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 27, 2016 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed."

CARRIED

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

- Recent Event Highlights
 - Ipperwash Beach Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup September 10 more than 10 community volunteers met at the Centre Ipperwash Boat Launch
 and spread out from there to clean the beach. We even had visitors from
 Michigan volunteer! Over 50 pounds of garbage were collected.
 - Ag in the Classroom September 16 as part of our growing relationship with the agriculture community in Lambton Shores, staff was asked to provide a soil health and water quality demonstration to 120 grades 3 & 4 students from Forest. Using chocolate sprinkles for livestock "poop" and food colouring for fertilizers and herbicides were quite a hit with the students!
 - Mount Brydges TD Tree Days September 17 despite the rain, over 60 Scouts and volunteers came out to plant 150 native trees in 3 parks in Mount Brydges.
 - Forest Fall Fair September 23-25 staff had a booth at the Forest Fall Fair and spoke with many individuals and families about what SCRCA does, including biological monitoring and agricultural and stewardship grants.
 - Sarnia TD Tree Days October 22 we had close to 50 volunteers participate in this sunny but chilly Saturday morning tree planting event at Canatara Park in Sarnia. A large portion of the volunteers were international students from Lambton College. They had a great time; if it weren't for them, it would have taken a long time to plant all 300 trees. Some of Shell's Environment employees participated and are keen to partner with SCRCA to create a similar event!
 - 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.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association Winter meeting November 3 staff will have a booth to talk with farmers about stewardship projects, soil health, and water quality (GLASI)

Directors' Comments:

options for more shoreline cleanup

BD-16-139

Faas - Scholten

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated November 1, 2016, regarding Healthy Watersheds program, including the outreach and education events held throughout the watershed."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Fish Community Surveys conducted in 2016 was explained.

- Fish Community Surveys
 - with support from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and a threeyear partnership with the Friends of the St. Clair River funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), the SCRCA biology staff have been able to complete fish community surveys throughout our watershed. Survey work for OTF focused on the St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC) while DFO work took place throughout the St. Clair Region.
 - the purpose of fish community surveys is to gain important information on fish species distribution and watershed health. Additionally, the data will provide information for management recommendations.
 - the fish data collected will be compiled and shared with other entities including DFO, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the Flowing Waters Information System (FWIS), so that the information can be used to instruct policies and studies. Our data will contribute to important fish records that began in the early 1900s.
 - 8for the 2016 fish surveys:
 - 16 sites were sampled
 - thousands of fish were examined (identified, weighed, measured and recorded)
 - invasive species that threaten our native fish were found at multiple sites including carp, goldfish and goby
 - approximately 40 different fish species were identified in these locations combined; there are approximately 160 native freshwater fish species in Ontario with the Sydenham being home to at least 82 of these species

BD-16-140

Kelch - Bruziewicz

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated October 25, 2016, regarding Fish Community Surveys conducted in 2016 through partnerships with Ontario Trillium Foundation via Friends of the St. Clair River and DFO."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Education Outreach Program was presented.

- the SCRCA biology department participated in several public outreach and educational events this year and, through these programs, were able to reach thousands of people spanning various demographics.
- Turtle Watch/Adopt-a-Pond the SCRCA, in conjunction with Middlesex Public Library, held a community information event called Turtle Watch. The information presented was created by the Toronto Zoo's Adopt-a-Pond program with a focus on locally significant turtles as well as other local reptiles and amphibians. Topics covered by the presentation included the identification of all turtle species native to Ontario, how to help turtles safely cross roadways, and citizen science programs that families can participate in. The audience of the presentation was mainly local families with young children. Following the presentation, all those in attendance were invited to congregate at a nearby stream where a SCRCA staff member had collected and discussed interesting aquatic life and was available to answer specific questions on turtle habitat and life cycles.
- Strathroy District Collegiate Institute Earth Week Presentations Strathroy District Collegiate Institute (SDCI) asked the SCRCA to give a presentation on Species at Risk and Invasive Species to all six of their grade 9 level Canadian Geography classes. The

presentations covered all species at risk located within the watershed with an emphasis on mussels and reptiles. Talking points included unique attributes of certain species as well as some of the factors that cause species to become at risk. Hands-on material was also brought in for the post-presentation question and answer session where a lot of interest was directed at species at risk reptiles, particularly turtles. Overall, around 200 students were reached during the two days over which the presentations were given.

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation Earth Day at the request of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation the SCRCA attended their annual Earth Day celebrations. A biology staff member was on hand with information about species at risk in the region, including snakes and turtles. The theme for this year's celebration was turtles and, as such, many of the questions raised at the SCRCA booth revolved around local at risk turtles.
- Kettle and Stony Point First Nation School Education Program over two days in October, grade 3-5 students from the Hillside School at Kettle and Stony Point First Nation were educated on aquatic insects, fish, reptiles, species at risk, and their environmental significance. On the first day, the classes spent time with our biologists in Shashawandah Creek where they were able to capture aquatic insects and check minnow traps. The second visit consisted of an in-class portion where SCRCA staff presented material on habitat loss, reptilian species at risk, and played an educational game outside with the children that reinforced the concepts learned earlier in the day. The students were then read a story book on the locally endangered Five-lined Skink and took part in a craft where they used clay to make a skink of their own.
- Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival the 8th Annual Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival was coordinated by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and was held at the CM Wilson Conservation Area. This three day festival took place from October 4-6 and had a record attendance of nearly 2,000 students. The students were able to visit more than 40 educational and interactive stations to learn about various topics relating to water. On the first day, the biology staff member in attendance delivered a program on the importance of groundwater protection and for the remaining two days ran a station that addressed the importance of the native flora and fauna, with a focus on the aquatic insects, that live in our watercourses. The kids had a chance to use nets to catch and study the insects, tadpoles and fish living in the nearby pond. By working with the LTVCA, we were able to engage children in the community, foster respect for our water resources, and encourage environmental stewardship and sustainability.

BD-16-141

Miller - Gordon

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 25, 2016 on the recent outreach activities for the Education Outreach Program in the St. Clair Region." CARRIED

A staff report regarding watershed report cards was presented.

- Background
 - all Conservation Authorities agreed to produce Watershed Report Cards on a regular basis to:
 - respond to public demand for easily understood environmental information
 - allow Conservation Authorities to demonstrate accountability
 - allow comparison of environmental parameters between abutting watersheds

- SCRCA Report Card includes a Summary Report on Forest Conditions and Surface Water Quality
- in addition, the St. Clair region was divided into 14 subwatersheds, and 14 individual Report Cards written
- forest conditions are graded on the amount of Forest Cover and Forest Interior
- surface water quality grades are based on Total Phosphorus, E. coli and Benthic invertebrate values where this information is available
- cards include assessments and grades for Forest Conditions and Surface Water Quality and analysis or written descriptions of: land use; geology; soils; streamside cover; wetlands; groundwater; natural areas; fishes; species at risk; area; municipalities; First Nations; watercourses and waste water treatment plants
- Current Status
 - the planned release of the next round of watershed report cards is 2018.
 - the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation donated \$10,000 in 2017 towards to production of the next round.
 - it is anticipated that a contract position under the Job Creation Program will be hired in December with the contract extending until the end of March. This person will work on delineating the woodland boundaries, using updated aerial photography.

Scholten - Nemcek

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 26, 2016 on watershed report cards."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Conservation Services programs was reviewed.

- Tree Planting Program
 - staff are busy preparing for the 2017 spring tree planting program
 - interested landowners are being called and site visit appointments are well underway
 - all projects that meet the program criteria are planned for project review on November 22nd for funding approval under one or more of the grant programs that SCRCA has available for financial incentive.
 - 2017 tree allocations and prices from the supplying nurseries are expected to be finalized before the end of the month.
 - more than \$120,000 in grants have been secured through several individual tree planting and habitat improvement programs and will be used to offset landowner project expenses.
 - approximately 40,000 trees are expected to be subsidized though the SCRCA in 2017.
 - Forests Ontario provided SCRCA approximately \$70,000 in grant this year which
 was used to offset some of the costs of tree planting expenses on private lands
 and some of the costs associated with the Assisted Migration Tree plot at
 Warwick CA.
- Seed Collection Program
 - this year's tree seed collection was very successful with approximately 600 litres of oak and hickory seed collected and another 2500 litres of walnut seed

- collected and shipped to our supplying tree nursery.
- deciduous trees are a major component of the SCRCA planting program and future seedling stock from the tree nursery is directly related to the tree seed collected and shipped annually.
- all tree seed collected by SCRCA staff is local seed. Since demand for deciduous trees is higher than what is available from tree nurseries, first choice for next year's deciduous trees is normally given to the agency that collected that particular tree seed. This also ensures that trees planted by SCRCA in the future will be from genetically local tree stock.
- Vegetation Management Program
 - approximately 200,000 trees require follow up with herbicide this fall
 - fall herbicide application for vegetation control on 2013 to 2016 tree planting sites started in late October and will end after the first killing frost.
 - warmer fall weather over the past several years has delayed the program due to deciduous trees holding on to their leaves longer than normal
 - approximately 8 km of municipal brush control was completed this summer for the municipality of Southwest Middlesex. Regrowth of woody brush from the previous year's drain clean out is treated with a herbicide to prevent reestablishment.
- Stewardship funding
 - we were awarded a one year grant under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Species at Risk Stewardship program for 2016-2017
 - a new stewardship application was required for 2017-2018, so we decided to combine this year's application with the Reptiles SAR application which was also due this year. The biology department worked on the application process and combined both SAR projects into one very big application. It was recently submitted for review
 - another year of funding from Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund resulted in many hours of laborious work in Lambton Shores this year. A final report will be submitted to OMAFRA in the new year.
 - the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group has secured 3 years of funding under other programs. SCRCA will continue to work with them and support their efforts.

Scholten - Bruinink

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 1, 2016 on the Conservation Services programs and projects across the watershed."

CARRIED

Regulations Summary Reports for September and October, were reviewed.

Scholten - Marriott

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Reports on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), for September and October, 2016 and further acknowledges the shoreline "in water and nearshore works" currently being investigated."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding high lake levels and erosion was presented.

- Lake Huron is experiencing high lake levels and erosion of the shoreline whereas in the
 last twenty years minimal erosion has occurred due to low lake levels. There are
 numerous Regulation violations as a result of "knee jerk" installations of (non
 engineered) sheet steel walls and groynes which can have a significant impact updrift
 and downdrift of the structure. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority shoreline is
 heavily protected with structures that are aging and failing to various degrees.
- We are aware of one lawsuit involving shoreline protection structures on Lake Huron between landowners immediately south of Bayfield in the ABCA watershed. The ABCA has been named in the suit as well as the municipality. The claim is over a groyne that required significant repair. ABCA's insurance company is involved. Following discussions with ABCA senior staff, several Conservation Authority Best Management Regulations application/violation practices were reiterated as important and need to be included in policy:
 - need to obtain downdrift and updrift adjacent neighbour written approval
 - Conservation Authority site specific peer review by a P. Eng. with expertise in coastal engineering.
- Proposed Revised SCRCA shoreline policy:
 - the SCRCA reserves the right to request additional technical studies or additional information. SCRCA will generally require shoreline development be reviewed by the CA retained coastal engineer. Costs are to be borne by the proponent. Information and the qualified engineering coastal review is necessary in order for staff to make informed recommendations on applications which are subject to appeal to both the Board of Directors and Mining and Lands Commissioner.
- it is important to note that applicants have the right to appeal a Conservation Authority's staff recommendation/decision on proposed development in a shoreline regulated area to the Authority Board of Directors via a hearing process.
- Other Conservation Authorities have been contacted for information regarding their costs. Qualified Coastal engineering review costs range from \$1500 – 3000.00.
- A 100 foot wide fully serviced waterfront property is valued at 1.5 million in Sarnia. A
 100 foot wide waterfront property in Ipperwash (Centre) is 1.0 million. These are vacant
 lot values.
- the cost is only 0.3% of the land value; not taking into account dwellings, which are increasing three fold in size and value from original.

Kelch - Scholten

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 31, 2016 on high lake levels and erosion, ongoing litigation and SCRCA's Coastal review of Development applications, and further approves the minor revisions to current SCRCA staff review policy and that staff be directed to make the revisions."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding a request to update the 1992 Shoreline Protection Structures landowner resource manual was considered.

- Lake Huron is experiencing high lake levels and erosion of the shoreline whereas in the last twenty years minimal erosion has occurred due to low lake levels. There are numerous Regulation violations as a result of "knee jerk" installations of (non engineered) sheet steel walls and groynes which can have a significant impact updrift and downdrift of the structure. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority shoreline is heavily protected with structures that are aging and failing to various degrees.
- General recommendations for appropriate shoreline structures is needed for shoreline residents.
- SCRCA staff are recommending an update to the January 1992 Design Considerations for Shore Protection Structures. The document is 25 years old. Several chapters need to be updated including: water levels, geotechnical considerations, inclusion of Lambton Shores and Sarnia and West Ipperwash dynamic beach information, shoreline protection design concepts and improvements to existing structures, permits and approvals, etc. It is proposed this document be specific to the reaches of SCRCA shoreline with cross sections extractable for residents and that the document and information be made user website friendly for resident use. For example, web site links to applicable structure cross sections and other applicable information for each area. Cost:

Total	50,000.00	based on verbal estimate
Grant	25,000.00	from External grants (infrastructure technology transfer)
		Surplus adjustments, reserves
Pt. Edward	2,500.00)	
Sarnia	7,500.00)	apportionment based on length of
Plympton Wyoming	7,500.00)	shoreline
Lambton Shores	7,500.00)	

• unanimous municipal support will be required to proceed if a joint project with neighbouring lakeshore C.A.'s can be arranged total costs could be reduced by 20%

Directors' Comments:

- additional information needed to be clarified, where is boundary. Subsequent updates to budget. Please send out in next couple of weeks.
- what did the original report say?
- include comparison of 1992 versus 2016.
- was the prediction correct? Close?

BD-16-146

Scholten - Giffen

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 26, 2016 on the request to update the 1992 Shoreline Protection Structures landowner resource manual and approves this as a 2017 SCRCA project with provincial grants allocated and further

that the remaining funds are to be allocated to the Lake Huron shoreline municipalities as outlined, subject to funding approval from Lake Huron Shoreline municipalities and further directs staff to add this project to the Authority budget for 2017."

CARRIED

A staff report on DART was presented.

 Municipal drain August – October 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 AUGUST		
	FHR #	Municipality	Geographic Township	Drain Name	Project Description	SCRs Issued	
	2706	Chatham- Kent	Dover	Kime Pumpworks	Bottom only cleanout	1	
	SCRC	A DART FILES			2016 SEPTEMBER		
	FHR #	Municipality	Geographic Township	Drain name	Project Description	SCRs Issued	
	2712	Southwest Middlesex	Mosa	King Drain & Armstrong Drain	Brush top of bank, brush bank slope, bottom only cleanout	3	
	2713	Southwest Middlesex	Mosa	McVicar Drain	Brush top of bank, brush bank slope, bottom only cleanout	3	
	2715	Warwick	Warwick	Auld- Redmond Drain	Brush top of bank, brush bank slope, bottom and 1 slope cleanout	3	
	2717	St. Clair	Moore	Phillips Drain	Brush bank slope, bottom only cleanout	2	
	2718	St. Clair	Moore	Wheeler Drain	Brush bank slope, bottom only cleanout	2	

BD-16-147 Miller - Kelch

CARRIED

Planning Activity Summary Report for August and September 2016 was reviewed.

BD-16-148

Marriott - MacKinnon

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for August and September, 2016."

CARRIED

[&]quot;That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the August to October 2016 municipal drain activity report associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART)."

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

- Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Update:
 - 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.
 - On September 14, 2016, BPAC voted in favour of approving the re-designation recommendation. There was one opposing vote. Next steps will include review by the Four Agency Managers Work Group consisting of representatives from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (OMOECC), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).
 - Beach Closings BUI and Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems
 BUI: both the "Beach Closings" and "Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive
 Problems" BUIs received approval by the Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP)
 Implementation Committee (CRIC) for re-designation to "Not Impaired".
 Consultation with Walpole Island and Aamjiwnaang First Nations is on-going.
 - Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems BUI: Four open houses were held to solicit feedback on the draft "Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems" BUI discussion paper. The purpose of the paper was to initiate a discussion on the status of this BUI as it is anticipated that its re-designation may not be received positively by the local community. The comments and feedback received will be summarized and presented to the CRIC who will determine what steps are required to move forward with the re-designation.
 - Early comments received by the Wallaceburg Advisory Council for a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH) on a draft of the "Restrictions on Drinking Water or Taste and Odour Problems" discussion paper prompted CRIC to circulate a voluntary survey to local industries. The survey asks for information regarding spill prevention initiatives implemented by local industries that go above and beyond their regulatory requirements. Distribution of the survey was facilitated through the Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association (SLEA).
- Recent and Future Meetings:
 - Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee (CRIC):
 - September 20, 2016 Walpole Island First Nation
 - December 1, 2016 Sarnia, Ontario
 - Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC):
 - September 14 Port Huron, Michigan
 - November 16, 2016 Sarnia, Ontario
 - Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Population Subcommittee
 - September 21, 2016 Strathroy, Ontario
- Presentations and Events:
 - Presentations were delivered and/or St. Clair River AOC information was displayed at recent meetings and events including:
 - St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Bus Tour September 23, 2016
 - American BUI Removal Celebration Event, Marysville, Michigan –

September 7, 2016

 Michigan State University Environmental Journalism Class Presentation at Guthrie Park – September 19, 2016

BD-16-149

Case - Scholten

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update dated October 26, 2016 on the St. Clair River Area of Concern."

CARRIED

Authority revenue and expenditures to September 30, 2016, were reviewed.

BD-16-150

Bruziewicz - Scholten

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to September 30, 2016, as it relates to the budget."

CARRIED

September and October 2016 disbursements totaling \$782,265.65 were considered.

BD-16-151

Miller - Marriott

"That the Board of Directors approves the September and October 2016 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$782,265.65."

CARRIED

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

BD-16-152

Scholten - Gordon

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2016 general levy receipts to October 31, 2016."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding investments was reviewed.

BD-16-153

Bruinink - Faas

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Investment Report, for the period ending September 30, 2016."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding 2017 fees was explained.

Bruziewicz - Marriott

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on Conservation Area fees and approves the Schedule of Fees dated October 2016, for all programs and services for the year 2017 fees and further directors staff to circulate the approved fee schedule to all member municipalities."

CARRIED

BD-16-155

Kelch - Bruziewicz

"That the Board of Directors directs staff to provide a report regarding potential increases in fees to balance increase cost to all stakeholders prior to the 2018 budget deliberations."

CARRIED

The apportioning of matching and non-matching general levy to member municipalities for 2016 was considered.

BD-16-156

Case - Scholten

"That the Board of Directors approves the apportioning of matching and non-matching general levy to member municipalities for 2017 as per Schedule A, using the Modified Current Value Assessment, values provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources in October 2016."

CARRIED

A verbal summary regarding the comments received to date on the 2017 draft budget was discussed.

Directors' Comments:

- concerns regarding year after year increases
- needs to connect better with municipalities
- what are we doing compared to other Conservation Authorities.

BD-16-157

Marriott - Kelch

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 1, 2016 and verbal summary of comments received to date on the 2017 Draft Budget."

CARRIED

Minutes of the June 8, 2016 meeting of the Health and Safety Committee were reviewed.

BD-16-158

Miller - Kelch

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the June 8, 2016 meeting minutes of Joint Health and Safety Committee."

CARRIED

Appointments to the 2017 Nominating Committee were discussed.

BD-16-159

Kelch – Bruziewicz

"That the 2017 Nominating Committee consisting of the following four directors representing the four districts of the Authority being Sarnia, Lambton, Chatham-Kent, and Middlesex be: Norm Giffen, Jeff Wesley, Mike Kelch and Larry Gordon and further that the Nominating Committee's recommendation for the 2017 membership be presented at the Annual General Meeting."

CARRIED

The 2017 Tentative Schedule of Meetings was considered.

BD-16-160

Nemcek - Kelch

"That the Board of Directors approves the 2017 tentative schedule of meetings for the Board of Directors and Committees, dated October 18, 2016."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding AODA IASR training was explained.

- all Board and Staff need to have the updated integrated Customer service and AODA training to remain compliant.
- training can be completed at home using the links provided in the Board Package or a time can be arranged to be completed at the office before November 18th.

BD-16-161

Bruziewicz - Bruinink

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 31, 2016, on AODA IASR Training and further that any director who has not completed this training, do so by November 18, 2016 and provide a copy of the completed testing to the Authority for required record keeping."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding communications was presented.

- Memorial Forest Dedications
 - from September 2015 August 2016, 538 trees were dedicated. 487 of these trees were through funeral home partnerships and 51 were through individual donations to the program.
 - two dedications were held in the month of September. The last dedication for the McKenzie and Blundy memorial forest program was held on September 18 at the Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area. Steve Arnold brought greetings from the Foundation and Authority. Approximately 800 people attended. In her remarks, Katherine Scimmi, Owner and President of the Funeral Home indicated that they may be interested in continuing with support for the Foundation through a continuation with a tree planting program. It was suggested to her afterward that she should contact us when they are ready to discuss a renewed program.
 - the Foundation's dedication was held on September 25 at the Lorne C.
 Henderson Conservation Area. Duncan Skinner and Steve Arnold provided the remarks. Approximately 70 people attended.
 - to date, 14,504 trees have been dedicated at 45 sites throughout our region.

McKenzie and Blundy Funeral Home – 7,193 trees dedicated (218 in 2016) Denning Brothers Funeral Home – 2,838 trees dedicated (181 in 2016) Nicholls Funeral Home – 2,035 trees dedicated (88 in 2016) Dodge/Denning Funeral Home, Forest – 531 trees dedicated Individual Donations – 1,907 trees dedicated (51 in 2016)

Conservation Awards

 a list of possible conservation award recipients will be brought forward at our board meeting in December. Board members wishing to nominate any individual or organization, should contact Rick Battson at the office.

Conservation Foundation

- the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation raises funds to support the work of the Conservation Authority. At a recent meeting, the Foundation approved support for a number of projects and programs:
- \$3,000 to support Conservation Scholarships
- \$5,000 to support a 3D mapping project
- \$6,000 land management staff costs for Foundation owned lands
- \$7,000 for trails at Conservation Areas
- \$7,000 to support memorial tree planting
- \$8,000 to finance a summer Conservation Intern position
- \$10,000 to support the Watershed Report Cards
- \$50,000 to support Conservation Education

Conservation Education Fundraising

- one of the main Authority programs supported by the Foundation is Conservation Education. This support includes efforts to secure funds from corporate donors, special events and from support through the bingo program. In addition, the Conservation Authority applies for government grants to support the education program. Support for 2016 included:
- Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association: SLEA will continue its funding of the River Bottom Critter and the Go With The Flow Groundwater programs in the amount of \$30,000. The River Bottom Critter program is targeted at grades K 10 and the Go With The Flow Groundwater program at grades 4 8.
- Union Gas: Union Gas continued its support the Spring Water Awareness
 Program in 2015 in the amount of \$5,000. Union gas has supported this program for 5 years. This program targeted at grades K 6.
- Friends of the St. Clair River: The FOSCR is providing \$2,000 to support an inclass program called the *River RAP*. This program is introduced using the RAP video supported by the Foundation in previous years. This program is targeted at grades 8 10. We have requested for an additional \$2,000 to help with the shortfall in fees caused by the elementary teachers work action.
- for 2017, funding from the Healthy Kids Community Challenge Lambton has been secured. This project is led by Nicole Boyer, Project Coordinator for Healthy Kids Community Challenge Lambton. A number of municipalities and health units are involved along with the St. Clair Region and others. We were successful in receiving approval for \$118,000 for a number of initiatives. Of interest to the Authority/Foundation is the approval of \$8,500 for Conservation Education Programs for the SCRCA.

Kelch - McCallum

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications Report dated October 26, 2016 including memorial forests, conservation awards, Conservation Foundation update and conservation education fundraising."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Conservation Education was presented.

- Fall Education Programs
 - education staff have been enjoying the good weather during a very busy fall.
 Programming is booked up through to December with many programs booked into the New Year and beyond.
 - preparation and presentation of Specialist High Skills Major programming has been a major focus. The following SHSM programs have been developed and offered to the Lambton Kent District School Board: Tree Planting, GPS/GIS, Nutrient Management, and Principles of Drainage. Watershed Management will be presented November 1st.
 - Properties of Drainage & Nutrient Management Certification Program:
 - the Biology Department assisted in delivery of the program to 30 area Grade 11 and 12 Specialist High Skills Major Agricultural students. Topics discussed included history of drainage in our watershed, The Drainage Act, benefits and challenges of drainage, nutrient impacts, watershed management & water quality concerns.
 - we recently learned about Experiential funding that should be available from the Province to schools in the fall of 2017. Funding will help to off set the cost of Conservation Field Trips for local schools. Outdoor Education funding from the Province has been on going for 4 years.

Events

- Henderson Geocaching Event, September 18 a beautiful day was forecast for the 8th annual event which attracted over 45 enthusiastic geocachers. Many participants were impressed by the trails and campground facilities. Participants came from as far away as the United Kingdom, Windsor, London and Michigan.
- Children's Water Festival there was record attendance of more than 600 elementary students each day over the 3-day festival. Daily attendance on site was in excess of 900 people which included high school students, volunteers, teachers, educational assistants and parent helpers. There was high media interest in show casing over 40 hands on water conservation activities geared for students in grades 3 to 5. More than 12,000 elementary students have now attended this festival over the past 8 years.
- Mini Rekindle the Spark Workshop SCRCA staff shared our success with Specialists High Skills Major programs offered to local school boards at Wildwood C.A. on September 9. The workshop is always an excellent opportunity to share ideas with other outdoor educators.
- Lambton Upland Game Bird Youth Day on August 27th, staff participated in the
 annual Youth Day hosted by the Lambton Upland Game Bird Chapter. SCRCA
 provided children with a nature-based conservation activity; hunting for insects
 with sweep nets! Connections were made between the insects and the ecology
 of farming, fishing and general ecosystem support. We also found a snake in
 our hunt, so the important roles of reptiles in our watershed were discussed.

- Wyoming Fair Agriculture in the Classroom
 - staff provided information and a hands-on learning game for approximately 300 students in grades 3-6. SCRCA Staff discussed the important role farms play to help maintain healthy wetlands, forests and overall watershed health.
- Species at Risk Program, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
 - September 28th and Oct 12th: As part of the annual education days at Kettle Stoney Point First Nations School, students in Grade 3 and 4 participated in both outdoor and indoor educational activities with 3 SCRCA staff. During our 'outdoor visit' students visited Shashawanda Creek to investigate the life supported there. The indoor day focused on Species At Risk, specific to Kettle/Stoney Point, encouraging the kids to share their own experiences and learn new ideas through games, crafts and stories.
- River Day at Riverview School
 - October 18th, 2016: Working with the Biology Department to fulfill Trillium Grant deliverables, we engaged the entire school of 160 students in a River Day Celebration at Marshy Creek Park along the St. Clair River. Students participated in Fish survey demonstrations and grade appropriate curriculum connected games and activities.

BD-16-163 Kelch - Scholten

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Report, dated October 28, 2016 including fall education programs and events."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the 5-year Strategic Plan was considered.

- at the September meeting, a strategic plan was distributed along with a questionnaire and a recommendation to seek input from our stakeholders. The Strategy was distributed to board members, Foundation board members, municipalities and several other stakeholders. It was posted on the website and was promoted through Facebook.
- we received two completed questionnaires. Both were supportive and offered comments
 of support and comments that provided suggestions as to ways to succeed with our
 strategic actions. A number of comments focused on controlling costs of implementing
 the strategy. There were no comments that would necessitate changes in the Strategy,
 rather they could be incorporated in yearly work plans.
- examples of the comments:
 - "Look at what other CAs and farm organizations are doing in order to improve our current actions"
 - "Be on the lookout for forthcoming grants at all times"
 - "The four goals address our current needs at this time, but will need to be reviewed on a regular basis"
 - "The impacts of climate change must be addressed in a proactive manner which limits loss of property and our natural resources"
 - Re: focus on phosphorous "need to work at the international level to achieve success Re: improve regulation mapping "Yes this would be helpful in explaining decisions relative to floodplain delineation"

Scholten - Giffen

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 28, 2016 and further approves the 5-year Strategic Plan entitled Our Future to Shape – A Way Forward."

CARRIED

A staff report regarding an update on the Drinking Water Source Protection Report was reviewed.

- Staffing
 - last month, Michelle Fletcher Source Water Protection Project Coordinator for Thames-Sydenham & Region Source Protection Region confirmed that she would be assuming the position of Aquatic Biologist at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority at the end of December
 - today it was announced that Jenna Allain will be taking over the Project Coordinator position at the beginning of January - Jenna has been with the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region program for 8 years and has been coordinating their program for the last 4 years
- Risk Management Services
 - in September and October, the Project Coordinator met with all municipalities requiring risk management services – both those contracting the Source Protection Region for risk management services and those who are undertaking services or contracting services from other sources
 - reporting requirements and status updates were shared
 - some municipal staff indicated that they may be looking to the Source Protection Region for risk management services in the future
 - current risk management services contracts end in August 2017 and include a clause for renewal 6 months in advance of the contracts end date – as a result Source Protection Region staff will be engaging the municipalities in renewal discussion in the near future with the intention of having approvals in place by March 2017
- Provincial "Status" of Source Water Protection
 - the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) has been meeting with Source Protection Regions to solicit comments on the future of source protection
 - most of the interest is based around funding of the Region's roles moving forward
 - MOECC is seeking an understanding of the costs of the 'mature' state of the program – envisioned for 2019 and beyond – viewing the next 2 years as transition to that mature state
 - MOECC staff have indicated that they expect only minor reductions to funding for Source Program Regions as we move through this transition

BD-16-165

Marriott - Kelch

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated November 1, 2016, on Drinking Water Source Protection."

CARRIED

The meeting went "In Camera" to discuss personnel issues.

Scholten - Kelch

"That the Board of Directors go in camera at 11:26 a.m. to discuss personnel issues with the General Manager and Director of Finance remaining."

CARRIED

BD-16-167

Kelch - Marriott

"That the Board of Directors rise and report at 12:00 noon."

CARRIED

BD-16-168

Kelch - Bruziewicz

"That the Board of Directors approves the member's meeting per diem remains unchanged for 2017."

CARRIED

BD-16-169

Kelch - Gordon

"That the Board of Directors approves the Chair's honorarium and the Vice Chair's honorarium remain unchanged for 2017.

CARRIED

BD-16-170

Kelch - Marriott

"That the Board of Directors mileage rate be .54 per km and future rates be tied to the Province of Ontario mileage rates."

CARRIED

Directors' Comments:

more information is required for the December meeting.

BD-16-171

Kelch - Marriott

"That the meeting be adjourned."

Steve Arnold Chair Brian McDougall General Manager