

February 16, 2017

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre in Alvinston, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Alan Broad, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Larry Gordon, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Don McCallum, John McCharles, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Cindy Scholten, Jeff Wesley, Jerry Westgate, Muriel Wright

Absent: Tony Bruinink, Mike Kelch, Gerry Rupke

Foundation Directors: Bill Bilton, Otto Colosimo, Rex Crawford, Archie Kerr

Special Guests: John Fraser, Monte McNaughton's Office; Bill Weber, Warden, Lambton County; Dean Edwardson, SLEA; Ken Williams, MPW; Jason Webb, Management Biologist, MNR; Jake Lozon, RLSN; Anne McGugan; Ralph Coe, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc; Chad Anderson, Ontario Soil & Crop; Dave Ferguson; Darrell Randell, Ducks Unlimited; Patty Jordan

Media: Heather Wright, Petrolia Independent; Chris Soares, MyFm

Conservation Award Winners: Brandon Jordan; Joanne Vanderheyden, Strathroy-Caradoc; Don McGugan, Jeannette Douglas, Jim Hayter, Randy Hills, Brooke-Alvinston

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Steve Arnold, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority welcomed everyone to the 2016 annual meeting. Some of the Authority's many projects accomplished this past year include, planting of over 100,000 seedlings and 800 large-stock trees on both private and public lands in our watershed, Conservation Services staff established a climate change research plantation at Warwick Conservation Area to monitor the survivability and growth of trees planted from different climate zones in North America, the Authority provided \$322,000 in grant money to local landowners resulting in 46 completed stewardship projects as part of our Healthy Watersheds Program, the review or comment on over 400 planning and regulation inquiries and applications, Biology staff initiated and completed the removal of a fish barrier in Bear Creek that also involved the relocation of over 300 native mussels including the endangered Fawnsfoot species. Our campgrounds brought in over \$1 Million in revenue, we issued a low number of flood warnings despite the high water levels recorded in the Great Lakes, we participated in the development of the Province's Domestic Action Plan to reduce phosphorus levels and combat algal blooms in Lake Erie which is expected to be posted for comment early this year, and almost 14,000 students were engaged and educated through our Conservation Education Program. Many of our projects and programs would not be as successful as they are without the many partnerships we have forged with other organizations and communities over the years. They would also not be possible without the dedication of staff to search for outside sources of funding. In fact, in 2016, the Conservation Authority was successful in receiving over \$2 million in grants to support our important work! Our Board of Directors and staff also looked towards the future of our

organization. We completed a strategic plan that charts our path for the next five years. We found that we did not need to change direction or alter our core programs, rather, we looked at opportunities to enhance our efforts in an effective and comprehensive manner. I think this comprehensive and detailed Conservation Strategy provides us with a positive path forward over the next five years and beyond. In closing, he acknowledged and thanked our Board of Directors and staff for their continued commitment and dedication over the past year to improve and protect our local communities and environment.

John Fraser brought greetings on behalf of Monte McNaughton, M.P.P.

BD-17-001

Scholten - Marriott

“That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting be adopted.”

CARRIED

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

BD-17-002

Wright - Wesley

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held December 8, 2016, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

BD-17-003

Gordon - MacKinnon

“That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held February 2, 2017, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

A presentation regarding the Authority's Phosphorous Reduction Through Stewardship was made by Jessica Van Zwol.

BD-17-004

Miller - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation regarding the Authority's Phosphorous Reduction Through Stewardship.”

CARRIED

The 2016 Audited Financial Statements were discussed.

BD-17-005

Scholten - Marriott

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and report from the Authority’s auditors, MPW Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, and further approves the 2016 Audited Financial Statements.”

CARRIED

Three Conservation Awards were presented:

- Brandon Jordan has been volunteering with the Conservation Authority since 2015. Brandon's work has focused on the conservation of a Species at Risk, the eastern foxsnake. Like other reptiles in Ontario, the eastern foxsnake faces many threats including habitat loss, road mortality, illegal collection, and intentional persecution by humans. As a result, our local population of eastern foxsnake is listed as "Endangered." For the past two years, Brandon has volunteered his time to maintain and monitor snake coverboards and artificial nesting boxes throughout the St. Clair Region. Brandon has been responsible for performing surveys, recording snake sightings and evidence of snake activity, collecting photos, and submitting reports. Brandon's contributions have been valuable additions to our snake habitat enhancement projects and our eastern foxsnake monitoring program. Brandon has shown that he is passionate and dedicated to the conservation of the environment. His hard work is greatly appreciated.
- the Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc was selected as one of this year’s Conservation Award recipients based on their efforts to reduce energy consumption and for their tree planting initiatives. Over the last few years, the municipality has undertaken an impressive list of Energy Conservation measures. In fact, they were recently selected as the recipient of the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association 'Don Harrison Energy Champion Award' for its leadership in energy conservation. Their efforts in energy conservation includes: completed the installation of 10 Kilowatt microfit rooftop solar systems on 13 municipal facilities; fully converted their existing street light inventory, some 1,800 lights, to LED technology, representing over 50% savings in energy consumption and a reduction in maintenance costs of approximately 80%; installed automated control systems at the Gemini Sportsplex arena, West Middlesex Memorial Centre arena and the Tri-Township arena with an expected energy reduction of 211,000 kilowatt hours per year and a savings of \$21,000 each year; upgraded the Gemini Sportsplex ice arena lighting to LED, reducing consumption by 110,000 kilowatt hours per year and saving about \$13,000 each year and planning is underway for the development of an additional 50 acres of ground mounted solar systems on underutilized municipally-owned industrial lands. These are only a few highlights from a myriad of projects undertaken by the municipality to conserve energy and reduce costs. In partnership with the Conservation Authority, Conservation Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Municipality has also been planting trees along road allowances and in parks with the participation of local school children. This program has been active for many years and has truly been a community effort.
- for the last 4 years, the municipality of Brooke Alvinston has been encouraging its local rural residents to plant more trees on their properties to increase tree cover and where possible create future roadside aesthetics by providing a subsidy towards the cost of the trees for its residents. Over 2,000 large stock trees have been purchased and planted

throughout Brooke- Alvinston since 2013 by numerous property owners. In addition to this, Brooke-Alvinston has planted more than 3,800 seedling trees on its own properties over the past 3 years. The SCRCA has assisted Brooke-Alvinston with all its tree planting initiatives and continues to do so again this coming spring with more trees and planting in the works for 2017. This is an excellent example of a partnership between the Conservation Authority, the municipality, and its residents.

BD-17-006

Scholten - Wesley

“That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2016 Conservation Award Winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.”

CARRIED

2017 service awards were presented:

- 5 years of service: Dallas Cundick, Jeff Sharp, Joe Breakey, George Rueger, Jessica Van Zwol, Melissa Gill, Donna Strang
- 10 years of service: Betty Ann MacKinnon, Sherry Turner, John Campbell
- 15 years of service: Andy Bruziewicz
- 25 years of service: Mike Tizzard, Bill Turner
- 35 years of service: Marlene Dorrestyn

BD-17-007

Broad - McCharles

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

CARRIED

The meeting took a short break to allow directors to meet with Conservation Award winners.

The meeting then continued when Chair, Steve Arnold advised that the meeting would be moving onto 2017 business.

BD-17-008

Wright - Marriott

“That Bill Bilton be appointed chair for the election of the 2017 Chair and Vice Chair.”

CARRIED

BD-17-009

Wesley - Faas

“That Dean Edwardson and Ken Williams be appointed scrutineers in the event of an election.”

CARRIED

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant and nominations were called for the office of Chairman for 2017.

Cindy Scholten nominated Steve Arnold for Chair.

BD-17-010

McMillan - Gordon

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

CARRIED

Steve Arnold advised that he would stand. Steve Arnold was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2017.

Muriel Wright nominated Andy Bruziewicz for Vice Chair.

BD-17-011

Faas - Giffen

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

CARRIED

Andy Bruziewicz advised that he would stand. Andy Bruziewicz was declared Vice Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2017.

Larry Gordon, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the Nominating Committee report for 2017.

BD-17-012

Gordon - Wesley

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2017 Nominating Committee's Report.”

CARRIED

The 2017 borrowing bylaw was considered.

BD-17-013

Miller - McCharles

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

CARRIED

Appointment of an Auditor for 2017 was considered.

BD-17-014

Wright - Scholten

“That MPW Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2017.”

CARRIED

The 2017 appointments to Conservation Ontario were considered.

BD-17-015

Scholten - Faas

“That the Authority's 2017 representative to Conservation Ontario will be the Authority Chair, the Vice Chair will be the first alternate and the General Manager be the second alternate.”

CARRIED

The General Manager's Report was presented:

- Administrative Office
 - in the fall of 2016 and the spring of 2017, the Authority has been and will be submitting proposals for funding support that will include requests for funding support for short and long term contract staff
 - all existing office space at the Administrative Office is fully allocated
 - without any additional approvals – 2 and possibly 3 short term contract staff will not have a desk or work station assigned to them this spring/summer
 - our short term solution to meet this need will be to use the Lower Boardroom of the office as work space for these 2-3 staff with the Boardroom table providing their work surface
 - these grants and the accompanying staff help us to get all manner of projects completed and often come with some administrative financial support – therefore not applying to grant programs was not viewed as an acceptable alternative
 - with this understanding, management staff are endeavouring to estimate the need for office space moving forward
 - permanent staffing is not expected to increase, however with some retirements, short term overlap may create some minor issues
 - short term (under 6 months) and long term (over 6 months) contract staff are expected to increase over the next several years with opportunities to contribute to phosphorous targets on Lake Erie, invasive species actions, species at risk review and analysis, St. Clair River sediment remediation, Great Lakes Lakewide Action and Management Plans, etc. adding to the current list of programs that the Authority provides action to under grant programs
 - therefore, if we want to continue to work with funding partners to achieve actions locally and if we believe the opportunities for these programs may even expand, how can we accommodate ~ a half dozen staff that we do not have space for in the Administrative Office?
 - initially, staff investigated existing Authority facilities, then municipal and partner facilities, finally commercial facilities for lease or sale

- while researching optional locations other staff were developing an estimated budget that would be required to meet those needs of various locations
- an offsite location would require the availability of high speed internet service and the necessary equipment to provide computer and telephone access to our existing systems, vehicular support, and appropriate work stations ~\$50,000
- an onsite location would reduce this start-up cost to less than ~\$10,000
- with that information in hand, we are looking into all our options for onsite facilities (temporary addition, permanent addition, purchase and renovation)
- at the same time, we are hoping to have some of the anticipated opportunities firm up in order to have a better understanding of needs
- our Foundation has also been made aware of these needs and provided positive feedback in discussing potential funding support to meet the Authority's needs

BD-17-016

Gordon - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 7, 2017.”

CARRIED

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

- Watershed Stream Flow
 - watershed flow conditions in most areas continue be at or slightly below monthly seasonal averages compared to last report. The additional contribution to flow has been due to several cycles of snowmelt and thaw we have experienced so far this winter. These fluctuations are evident in outflow at Wallaceburg with a two to three week cycle of snow melting conditions, which will increased levels, by a range of 35cm at the Wallaceburg gauge location.
 - by comparison, the same period in the 2015\2016 season having much the same outflow pattern as this year with no significant extreme events.
 - the expected flow at each gauge for January compared to the actual. As observed, we continue to have a minor reduction in flow becoming less significant as we move into the spring thaw period.
- Precipitation: total precipitation based on the last three months continues to be lower than average at 67% and our watershed remains in a Level I drought condition. This in turn impacts our six month totals at 85% of normal and further on our regional average for the year at 90%. With exception of July 2016, the amount of precipitation measured at various locations was generally below 100% for all other months.
- Snow Conditions: snow conditions in our region have fluctuated significantly over this winter resulting from periods of warmer temperatures and melting throughout December and January. Snow measurements conducted by staff on a bi-weekly basis to date has identified only two periods when measurable amounts of snowfall were recorded so far this season. When compared with previous three year data has been included for reference (fig 6). With cooler temperatures and little ice cover on Lake Huron the potential for lake effect snow remains likely.
- Long Term Trend Data: Environment and Climate Change Canada has recently released long term data based on statistical precipitation , temperature and snowfall data using

overlapping 30 year periods. While further detailed analysis is required, certain trends based on these changes begin to become evident including warmer monthly temperature temperatures, an increase in precipitation but reduced snow cover possible due to warmer winter temperature averages. While these numbers are by no influenced by a number parameters, as we continue to collect and review data our understanding becomes clearer regarding overall climate change impact.

- Lake ice conditions continue to reflect the milder trend with only minor ice collecting near shorelines and bays.
- Flood Threat: based on current conditions there is no concern for any flood conditions as the watershed is able to handle most storm events. With seasonal flows remaining slightly below the average range and precipitation falling as snow, flood conditions are less likely at this time. In addition, with no significant ice cover and minimal snow in the watershed the possibility of extensive runoff during the freshet will be reduced into Spring of 2017. Advisories will be provided as conditions dictate.
- Provincial Flood Warning Committee: various ministries including the MNRF Surface Water Monitoring Unit, Conservation Authorities, Emergency Management and Ontario Power Generation participate in a committee overseeing flood management policy, cooperative agreements on data and operational guidelines and procedures. In addition, the committee plans and facilitates the annual Provincial Flood Conference. The SCRCA now has a seat on this committee as the western regional representative for a large group of CA's in Southwestern Ontario.
- Weather Forecast (Data: Weather Network, Environment Canada, OFA)
 - Short Term Outlook: seasonal temperature and precipitation across the region over the next 14 days
 - Long Term Outlook: Environment Canada winter outlook will be warmer than normal into 2017, with above-normal precipitation and snowfall. Temperatures will be slightly above average with higher precipitation 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 – October): the monthly comparison for December 2016 (current available data) indicates that Lake Huron levels are almost identical with December 2015 but continue to remain above the 10 year average for Lake Huron by 47cm. Lake St. Clair levels are also identical to last year and 27cm above the 10 year average. Both Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair current values (December) continue to remain above the average for the entire period of record.

BD-17-017

Marriott - McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated January 27 2017, regarding current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.” **CARRIED**

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

- we continue to wrap up projects on a monthly basis. Status of other WEIC 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, additional log is being made and will be installed in spring 2017

- Other Erosion Control Projects:

Aamjiwnaang Shoreline	Aamjiwnaang shoreline naturalization	Design work completed, seeking permits. Construction work expected to start early 2017
Courtright Park	Courtright shoreline revitalization	Design work completed, review ongoing

- Aamjiwnaang Shoreline

- the project site is located just north of Corunna, Ontario. The site includes the shoreline of approximately 2 kilometers along the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Lands fronting the St. Clair River. The bank is in the order of 10 meters high. The current shoreline of the site, for the most part is protected with rip rap or armour stone revetment. There are some steel sheet structures, docks and a launch ramp within this part of the shoreline. A walkway runs along most of the shore behind the protected shoreline.
- the purpose of the undertaking is to develop concepts that would “soften” and naturalize the shoreline. This project will also include shoreline work that will improve shoreline access, enhance aquatic habitat and provide general improvements to the existing shore along the entire project site.
- Design Highlights
 - habitat pod
 - finger groynes
 - fishing pier
 - a budget of \$123,000 has been confirmed for the project (EC 50,000, Aamjiwnaang FN - \$73,000)
 - staff are coordinating with federal agencies to secure permits for the shoreline work
 - tenders will be advertised for this project in March 2017.
 - staff will review the tenders and make the recommendation Construction is expected to begin early Spring 2017

BD-17-018**Miller - Scholten**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 5, 2017 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed, and further approves the Chair or General Manager to open tenders and award the contract for the Aamjiwnaang Shoreline Naturalization Project subject to the project budget.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects submitted for funding in 2017-18 was discussed.

- potential applications for WECl projects are being reviewed by Authority Staff
- 2017- 2018 Projects should be submitted by February 6 2017
- once submitted, all applications will be reviewed by a committee of provincial and conservation authority staff representatives in March and will be ranked in comparison to all submitted projects from across the Province
- list of approved projects is anticipated in May or early June
- list of potential WECl projects is outlined below:

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested (\$)
Courtright Park	Courtright Park Shoreline restoration	Shoreline work at Courtright Park along St. Clair River using armourstone and riprap.	\$600,000	\$300,000
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Helen and Kenwick Sts) Phase 1	Carry out construction of Phase 1 from the recommendation of engineering study.	\$600,000	\$300,000
Esli Dodge Dam	Esli Dodge Repair Project	Repair of Concrete cable/ retaining wall	\$20,000	\$10,000
L.C.Henderson Weir #1	L.C.H. Outfall Repair Project	Spillway Repair	\$30,000	\$15,000
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Drop Structure Downstream Erosion Control	Install rip rap at outlet park	\$80,000	\$40,000
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Vegetation Management Plan	Develop a vegetation management plan for vegetation control within the floodway channel	\$20,000	\$10,000
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Watercourse Obstruction Removal	Vegetation and debris jam to be removed	\$16,000	\$8,000
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	McKeough Sill Repair	Crack repair to McKeough Dam sill	\$30,000	\$15,000
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Wing wall repair	Repair cracks in the concrete Wing wall	\$30,000	\$15,000

BD-17-019

Faas - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 3, 2016, regarding potential Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects that will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for funding in 2017-18.”

CARRIED

The Regulations Activity Reports dated January 31, 2017, was reviewed.

BD-17-020

Nemcek - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Report dated January 31, 2017 on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) for the months November 2016, December 2016 and January 2017.”

CARRIED

The Regulations Activity Reports dated January 31, 2017, was reviewed.

BD-17-021

Bruziewicz - Wesley

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

CARRIED

A schedule of Special Events was reviewed:

- 2017 Special Events
 - A.W. Campbell Maple Syrup Festival, March 18 - 19, 10:00 - 3:00 A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
 - Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race, April 23, Registration 10:00 - 11:00 (Mossie Line at the Sydenham River) Race ends at the Shetland Conservation Area
 - Denning Memorial Forest Dedication - Strathroy, May 28, 2:00 Centennial Park, Strathroy
 - Member’s Project Tour, June 22
 - Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, Ipperwash Beach - Date tba
 - Denning Memorial Forest Dedication - McLean Conservation Lands, September 17, 2:00
 - Geocaching Event, September 17, 9:00 am Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
 - Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication, September 24, 2:00 Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

BD-17-022

Nemcek - McMillan

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

CARRIED

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

- staff have been quite busy attending a number of agriculture related workshops and conferences over the past few months – as either attendees or hosting a booth.
 - November 28 - Soil Health Research Forum at the OMAFRA building in Guelph – a day of discussions with all levels of government, researchers, Conservation Authorities and farmers.
 - November 29 – CA Agriculture Permit Workshop – the focus was on the Greenbelt but also had discussions beyond that region regarding a guideline of a guide to CA Permits on Agricultural lands.
 - November 30 - Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association Winter Meeting in Plympton Wyoming. Staff had a booth and spoke with farmers regarding GLASI funding opportunities.
 - December 15 – Lambton Shores Priority Subwatershed Steering Committee Meeting in Forest. This landowner group is made up of farmers and cottagers in Lambton Shores and they provide advice to staff regarding ideas for outreach and uptake concerning Healthy Lake Huron and maintaining clean water in Lake Huron.
 - January 4 & 5 – Southwest Agricultural Conference in Ridgetown. Two staff hosted a booth and attended seminars on soil health. This conference is a great method for producers to put a face to a name in our Conservation Authority. We get a chance to reconnect with producers we’ve met or worked with in the past and discuss potential projects with new-to-us producers. This conference is a great opportunity for tweeting lots of relevant information regarding soil health, cover crops, reduced tillage, and water quality on Twitter.
 - January 13 – Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association Annual General Meeting – Staff host a booth and have an opportunity to speak in front of all members about upcoming workshops and funding opportunities that exist. This is also an opportunity for our Chair, Mayor Steve Arnold to present the Farmer of the Year Award to a Lambton County farmer who has demonstrated conservation farming practices. This year the Cornelissen Family Farms Inc. was awarded.
 - January 16 – Middlesex Grain Farmers of Ontario Chapter Meeting – an opportunity to learn and meet with producers in the Middlesex County portion of our watershed.
 - January 25 – Lake Erie Conservation Authority Stewardship Meeting – met with other Lake Erie CAs regarding phosphorus concerns in Lake Erie and how we can work with producers to address the issue. We learned more about 4R Nutrient Stewardship and cover crops with local Certified Crop Advisors and OMAFRA staff.

- Upcoming events:
 - February 13 – Middlesex Soil & Crop Improvement Association Annual General Meeting Ilderton
 - March 3 & 4 – National Farmers' Union Trade Show Chatham-Kent
- SCRCA-led upcoming events:
 - February 16 – SCRCA Annual General Meeting; Jessica Van Zwol to present Phosphorus Reduction through Stewardship
 - March 9 – David Brandt workshop – Cover Crop Innovator from Ohio. Plympton-Wyoming Fairgrounds Dining Hall 1:30-4pm
 - March 22 – Soil Health Discussion Panel – an afternoon with producers sharing their experiences with improving their soil health on their farms. Woody Van Arkel, Dresden; Jim Patton, Everett; Andy Van Niekerk, Sutton; and Mel Luymes, Drayton to present. This workshop will be held at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre from 1:30-4:00 pm

BD-17-023

MacKinnon - McCallum

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated January 30, 2017, regarding Healthy Watersheds program, stewardship outreach events including Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association’s Annual Meeting and the Southwest Agriculture Conference.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Great Lakes Student Conference was explained.

- the Conservation Authority has entered into an agreement with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to host a student conference with all costs supplied by the Ministry.
- the conference will be held on May 18 at the Moore Sports Complex and will be attended by approximately 100 high school students enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major Program. A steering committee has been established with includes Authority staff, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Education, and the Lambton-Kent School Board.
- while planning is just beginning, the focus of the conference will be on Great Lake issues such as phosphorus and invasive species and will include information on the efforts to delist the St. Clair River as an Area of Concern. This is a great opportunity to engage students in local environmental issues.

BD-17-024

Faas - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 1, 2017 on the Great Lakes Student Conference.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee were reviewed.

BD-17-025

Scholten - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the September 21, 2016 Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Ontario Community Environmental Fund grant was considered.

- the Sydenham watershed is heavily impacted through human activities. Sustained monitoring of benthic communities and surface water is important to assess long-term changes in water quality. By obtaining baseline data on these watercourses we can better understand the risks of nutrient loading, runoff, and potential spills from various land uses and how to manage them. Tree planting such as block planting, wind breaks, and riparian buffers help to sequester carbon, improve water quality, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat.
- in February 2016, a proposal was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) requesting \$37,715 from the Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF) to support for St. Clair Conservation’s Aquatic Monitoring Program and Tree Planting Program.
- specifically, SCRCA requested funding to:
 - conduct annual sampling at 13 benthic macro-invertebrate stations
 - collect surface water quality samples from 14 stations monthly from April to November.
 - plant 15,000 trees within the Sydenham watershed
- amount requested from OCEF: \$ 37,715
- amount from all other sources (cash / donations): \$ 88,373
- amount from all other sources (in-kind): \$ 39,390
- total value of project: \$165,478
- St. Clair Conservation was notified by MOE in November of 2016 that \$36,045 was allocated from the OCEF towards the project for 2017/18.
- before St. Clair Conservation can begin undertaking this project, the Authority is “required to provide a copy of their resolution authorizing the Conservation Authority to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Province of Ontario.”

BD-17-026

Wright - Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated February 1, 2017, on the Ontario Community Environment Fund grant “St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA)’s Tree Planting, Outreach, and Baseline Health Assessment” and authorizes St. Clair Conservation Authority to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Province of Ontario.”

CARRIED

BD-17-027

Scholten - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors approves for the signing authorities for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to enter into grant funding or transfer payment agreements with the Province of Ontario.”

CARRIED

Under New Business:

- Frank Nemcek invited everyone to the Maple Syrup Festival – March 18 & 19th
- Al Broad invited everyone to the Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race on April 23rd
- Warden Bill Weber brought greetings from the County of Lambton
- 2017 Biennial Tour is hosted by Credit and Halton C.A.'s on October 1 – 4th – contact Brian if interested in attending.
- the Chair recognized Ed Molzan, a Brooke-Alvinston resident who assisted in the planting of trees at A.W. Campbell Conservation Area with the local Boy Scouts 40 years ago.
- the Chair recognized Dave Ferguson, a Brooke-Alvinston resident who wished to address the meeting. Mr. Ferguson requested that the annual meeting be posted as a special event on the Authority website and that he wanted to see the membership of the Board of Directors include a representative of the agricultural sector.

BD-17-028

Miller - Marriott

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Steve Arnold
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager