

June 22, 2017

The Board of Directors Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area, Petrolia, at the hour of 1:00 p.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Tony Bruinink, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Larry Gordon, Mike Kelch, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Don McCallum, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Gerry Rupke, Jeff Wesley, Muriel Wright

Absent: Alan Broad, John McCharles, Cindy Scholten, Jerry Westgate

Staff Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Rick Battson, Director of Communications; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/Board Coordinator; Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant

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

BD-17-064

Bruinink - Wesley

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held April 22, 2017, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The General Manager’s Report was presented:

- Foundation Property
 - the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation met on June 2nd, and as requested by the Authority Board, has directed staff to proceed with negotiation of donation agreements for the two property reviewed at the last Board meeting in April
- On-line Payments & Donations
 - the Authority has been working towards expanding our options for payments of fees for the last several months
 - fee payees and donors have expressed concerns over providing credit card information to us over the phone, while Authority staff, as always, were looking to improve the efficiency of the payment and accounting processes
 - with a variety of fees/donations being paid for camp sites, conference registrations, planning applications, regulations permits, tree planting, memorial trees, etc., we knew we needed a system that would provide a suite of tools to not only get funds transferred but also obtain the necessary information for receipts, reports, proper accounting, etc.
 - we have built the base for the online payment system and we were able to use the donation option as our first phase of implementation
 - Beta testing was successfully completed in March and the online payment option went live in May

- online fee payment will be available later this year

BD-17-065

Rupke – Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated June 12, 2017.”

CARRIED

The proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act as introduced in Bill 139 was discussed.

Directors’ Comments:

- further information and explanation regarding draft Conservation Authorities Act 28.2, cancellation of permits was requested.

BD-17-066

Rupke - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act as introduced in Bill 139 – Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act (2017) as well as the associated Frequently Asked Questions backgrounder from Conservation Ontario.”

CARRIED

Comments, dated May 24, 2017 submitted via Ontario’s Environmental Registry were reviewed.

BD-17-067

Giffen - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors formally approves the comments dated May 24, 2017 submitted via Ontario’s Environmental Registry regarding Canada-Ontario draft Action Plan for Lake Erie EBR Registry Number 012-9971 as previously circulated for review and comments.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding business arising was reviewed:

- would like a means for feedback implemented regarding Conservation Areas, so the public can voice their concerns.
 - camper reservations receipt and seasonal Camper packages are being revised to include comments sections
 - campers will be asked to provide comments via digital media (email, website, facebook, etc.)
- staff should attend Drainage Superintendent’s meeting in January.
 - 2-3 staff have attended the annual Drainage Superintendents Conferences each of the last 3 years
 - staff will continue to attend
- please add the Chatham-Kent directors to the directors expense charts for 2017.

- Chatham-Kent directors have been added to the 2016 directors expense chart for our files and will be included in 2017 and future despite showing no expense
- concern regarding one legislation contradicting another regarding drainage.
 - maintain open lines of communication with all levels of government in order to ensure projects can proceed in a timely fashion

BD-17-068

Nemcek - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the June 7, 2017 Board of Director’s meeting.”

CARRIED

A Conservation Lands Update was reviewed:

- Conservation Areas:
 - the Conservation Authority owns 15 conservation areas and manages 17 properties for the Foundation
 - of those 15 conservation areas, 6 are managed by the local municipality and 9 are operated by the Conservation Authority
 - of these 9, 3 conservation areas are regional campgrounds which attract campers from primarily Southwestern Ontario
 - our three regional campgrounds have over 500 campsites and 415 seasonal campers and are financial self sufficient
 - profits obtained from our campgrounds are used to offset capital improvements
 - the camping season in 2017 runs from Friday, April 28 to Thanksgiving Day
- Warwick Conservation Area
 - a 24 x 32 ft pole type storage shed has been constructed
 - engineered wood chip playground protective surfacing has been installed under the main day use area play equipment
 - roads have been upgraded with gravel
 - the pool washroom hydro panel has been upgraded
 - 3 sections of boardwalk have been installed on the White Pine trail
 - hydro and water has been installed to two overflow campsites in the woodlot campground
 - woodlot campground laundry shed has been renovated with new appliances, flooring and plumbing
 - 550 meters of new chip and dust trail to be developed around the perimeter of the 5-acre climate change tree growth plantation (Foundation).
- L.C. Henderson Conservation Area
 - campground pool has been renovated with 2 new ladders and entrance railing
 - roads have been upgraded with gravel
 - 10 new picnic tables have been constructed
 - one shower area has been upgraded with new shower surround and ceramic tile on the floor and walls
 - a new sidewalk has been installed in front of the shower areas

- two new hydro panels have been installed, one in the main washroom building and one in the campground area
- LED lighting have been installed on the main washroom building and on 2 utility poles
- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
 - a new concrete side walk has been constructed at the pool washroom and visitor center
 - permanent hydro (6 – 30 amp campsites) to be installed at the Campbell house group camp area
 - water distribution pump house has been renovated with new internal and external siding and new internal plastic water lines
 - roads have been upgraded with gravel
 - 10 new picnic tables have been constructed
 - upgrades have been completed at the main campground washroom (new concrete sidewalk and signage) and at the gatehouse and entrance area (new signage and fee box)
- Highland Glen Conservation Area:
 - approximately 40 ft of new walkway have been installed along one side of the boat ramp, this will allow for more than one boat to dock at a time
 - the existing walkway has been elevated to meet rising lake levels
 - an existing seawall has been repaired by excavation and installing new tie back supports
 - armor stone rocks have been re-positioned to provide better protection for the steel seawall
 - fees are being charged for the use of the boat ramp and vehicle entry this year
 - fees are being collected through the MacKay Pay system, where payments are collected on line or by phone.
 - revenue collect will be used to offset future repair costs to the ramp, seawalls and conservation area infrastructure
 - to date we have had 34 seasonal boat ramp passes and 7 vehicle seasonal passes purchased (the seasonal pass can also be used to enter any of our campground conservation areas for the 2017 season)
- Keith McLean Conservation Lands (Foundation Property):
 - effective April 1st, Scott O'Brien was hired as the new Superintendent
 - a new floor has been installed in the Kent Bridge Road pump house
 - a trail identification sign has been installed at the main parking lot
 - Lake Erie water levels are at a 30 year high resulting in one of the agricultural fields being partially flooded
- Other Lands Activities:
 - a 5-year tower lease has been negotiated with Cogeco Connexion Inc. for the existing tower & building (Peers Wetland CA)
 - a bench and concrete pad has been installed along the Strathroy North Valley Lands trail

- a 3-acre wetland has been constructed at property 97 in the McKeough Upstream Lands; this included a 2 acre pond and 1,000 hardwood trees (funded by Union Gas and Wildlife Habitat Canada)
- 2 benches have been installed along the trail at the Peers Wetlands (benches donated by Sydenham Field Naturalists)
- existing tennis courts to be removed and new courts constructed at the Esli Dodge Conservation Area (project of Lambton Shores)
- Marketing/Camping Statistics:
 - Our conservation areas have been marketed as follows to date in 2017:
 - Sarnia Lambton and Chatham-Kent Tourism Guide
 - camping ad has been placed on MyFm website
 - Conservation Ontario – “Your Guide to Conservation Areas”
 - Central Lambton Travel Guide
 - Hayter Publication’s Special Editions (4) “Cottage and Campers”
 - Sarnia Art Walk (Downtown Sarnia, June 3rd and 4th)
 - 415 seasonal campers have registered in our 3 campgrounds, up from 413 in 2016. 189 seasonal campers are registered at Warwick (188 in 2016), 119 at LC Henderson (117 in 2016) and 107 at A.W. Campbell (108 in 2016).

BD-17-069

Gordon - McMillan

”That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update, dated June 7, 2017 on Conservation Areas, McKeough Upstream lands and Foundation properties.”

CARRIED

A letter from the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation was considered. A recorded vote was requested.

Steve Arnold – for
 Tony Bruinink – for
 Andy Bruziewicz – for
 Joe Faas – for
 Norm Giffen – for
 Larry Gordon – for
 Mike Kelch – for
 Betty Ann MacKinnon – for
 Kevin Marriott – for
 Don McCallum – against
 Dan McMillan – for
 Steve Miller – for
 Frank Nemcek – against
 Gerry Rupke – against
 Jeff Wesley – for
 Muriel Wright – against

BD-17-069

Kelch - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence from the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation dated May 24, 2017 as well as the report dated June 9, 2017 regarding a request for relief from fees for the use of Highland Glen Boat Ramp and further that 6 annual passes be provided and information exchanged on their use.”

CARRIED

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

- Watershed Stream Flow
 - while flow conditions remained seasonal into the month of May, two events resulted in a significant impacted on flows across the watershed in the early part of the month
 - as noted in the above hydrograph for the Wallaceburg, an initial rain event in the first week brought levels up slightly but was followed by a second significant rain event in excess of 70mm over a two-day period in some regions of the watershed bringing high flow conditions.
 - in anticipation of potential high water conditions a Water Conditions Statement was issued May 4th following by two Flood Watch bulletins on May 5th and updated again on May 6th. During that period readings at Wallaceburg continued to be at close to top of bank for almost 48 hours while the watershed continued to drain. No additional rain was received and wind conditions remained in a favourable direction from the north-east reducing the impact of wind on outflow conditions flow conditions gradually returned to normal for the remainder of May and into June.
 - data collected during the event peak for all stations identified the bank full conditions with several stations reporting flows into floodplain areas at Florence and Brigden as well as close to full conditions at most stations in the lower reaches of the watershed. Peaks had already subsided in the upper reaches in Strathroy, Alvinston and Petrolia. As noted previously, Wallaceburg remained at 99% full for a period of several days
 - comparison of actual monthly flows with period of record identifies significantly greater flow conditions for this May ranging from 30% to 60% higher than expected
 - with the significant rain events, regional averages are now higher moving into the summer months with the three-month average benefitting from higher May numbers at 127% of normal. Numbers for six months are slightly lower than normal due to lower amounts in the upper parts of our region. Accumulation averages for the last twelve months are right on the 100% values. This is encouraging considering the impact of drought conditions experienced during 2016
 - precipitation values logged at our hi-resolution precipitation station identify rainfall patterns during April and May with greater accuracy than previously possibly. New installations are planned at Alvinston with an a similar Ott-Pluvio device combined with a new weather station and automated snow measurement equipment as part of the second year of a program of MNRF equipment allocations to regional CA's.
- Threat
 - based on current conditions we continue to monitor any major rain events as they occur. River levels and weather patterns are anticipated to stabilize into the

summer months and these are expected to prevail with seasonal flows remaining in the average range. Advisories will be provided as conditions dictate.

- Weather Forecast
 - short term conditions indicate slightly above near normal temperatures for the remainder of June with near normal precipitation
 - longer term forecasts into the summer months suggest average temperatures with below average precipitation and slightly below average
- Great Lakes Levels
 - The monthly comparison for May 2017 (current available data) indicates that Lake Huron levels very close (2cm) to May 2016 suggesting a slight stabilizing trend in local lake levels possibly due to reduced 2016/17 snowpack in the north and significant drought conditions in 2016. Numbers continue to remain above the 10 year average for Lake Huron by 57cm. Lake St. Clair levels are higher than last year (11cm) and 51cm above the 10 year average. Both Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair current values (May) continue to remain above the average for the entire period of record.

BD-17-070

Faas - Kelch

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 12, 2017 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 2017-2018.

- review of WECl applications have been completed by a committee of provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives.
- all the Projects submitted for WECl funding has been approved
- following 9 projects were approved for 2017- 2018.

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 St) 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-17-071

Miller - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 7, 2017 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed and further acknowledges the project updates on the previously funding projects and projects submitted for 2017-2018 funding.”

CARRIED

An update on Aamjiwnaang First Nation Shoreline naturalization work was discussed.

- Aamjiwnaang Shoreline Naturalization
 - 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.
- Project Highlights
 - habitat pod
 - finger groynes
 - fishing pier
- a budget of \$155,000 has been confirmed for the project (EC 50,000, Aamjiwnaang FN - \$80,000 and MOECC - \$25,000)
- staff are coordinating with federal agencies to secure permits for the shoreline work
- 5 Tender takers for this project and 3 tenders were submitted

- tender submissions were significantly higher than the total budget for this project
- project scope was reduced to ensure 2 out of 3 features of this shoreline project can be completed
- revised bids have been received
- staff are discussing these updates with AFN to get their approval to proceed with the work.
- further information will be provided verbally at the Board meeting

BD-17-072

MacKinnon - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update report, dated June 8, 2017, on Aamjiwnaang First Nation Shoreline naturalization work.”

CARRIED

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

- GIS Procedure for Locating Agricultural BMPs in a Lambton Shores sub-watershed Using a 2m resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM), two derivative indices were created to identify areas with potential erosion. Stream Power Index (SPI) is a measure of a water body’s erosion power and can be used to predict locations where gullies are likely to occur. SPI is calculated based on slope and contributing area. Topographic Wetness Index (TWI) uses similar data sets as SPI but can be used to predict areas of surface saturation.
- Walk the Watershed (WTW) is a program in which landowners voluntarily allow SCRCA staff to walk their property. Our goal is to walk with the landowner if possible so that we can understand the overland flow of water in the watershed as well as discuss potential projects. This year’s Walk the Watershed will focus on the drains in the headwaters of Shashawandah Creek, focusing on the Russel Drain, Shawana Drain, and Sloan Russel Drain. Over 20 landowners have been contacted. Overall, the response has been great, some landowners already have multiple erosion control projects in mind. Walk the Watershed will happen during the 2nd week of June.
- application of SPI and TWI New to this year’s WTW, staff will bring aerial maps overlaid with the SPI and TWI indices. This provides staff (and landowners) a good opportunity to ground truth the data with what they see on the land combined with the landowner’s experience.

BD-17-073

McMillan - Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 5, 2017 on the Healthy Watersheds Program “Walk the Watershed” in Lambton Shores, and endorses staff efforts to engage private landowners in Best Management Practices to improve the surface water quality.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Watershed monitoring was reviewed.

- Aquatic Monitoring and Reporting
 - Watershed report cards production is underway. A multi-departmental committee is pulling together data, maps, and write-up relating to groundwater, surface water, forest conditions. Release is scheduled for World Water Day, March 22, 2017.
 - St. Clair River AOC Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan - A Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan for the St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC) is scheduled for completion in December 2017. This report is required for the eventual delisting of the AOC. The draft plan summarizes the current status of aquatic habitat, highlights successful coastal wetland projects, identifies linkages to broader initiatives, identify tools for future aquatic conservation, and identifies next steps for aquatic conservation in the St. Clair River AOC.
 - Benthic Macro-invertebrates (aka river bottom critters) - Benthic collection was completed through the first part of May. The assortment of invertebrates found on the river bottom are used to indicate the health of SCRCA subwatersheds. Based on the pollution tolerance of the animals at a particular site, a score can be determined and used for calculating watershed report cards grades.
 - Fish Monitoring in the St. Clair River AOC - So far this spring, biology staff have performed fish sampling at eight sites in the St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC). Our biologists caught 40 different species and a total of 4,119 fish. Fish Species at Risk (SAR) like the Blackstripe Topminnow and Spotted Sucker (pictured below) were found at four of the eight sampling sites. These fish monitoring efforts in the AOC are supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.
 - Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF) – When a spill or environmental impact occurs, or when Ontario’s environmental rules are not followed, environmental penalties may be issued. The Ontario Community Environment Fund uses money collected from these penalties to support environmental improvement projects in the watershed where a violation or environmental impact happened. In 2017 SCRCA was awarded funds supporting surface water quality monitoring, benthic monitoring, watercourse temperature monitoring, and tree planting. All components of this project are underway this Spring.
 - Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) - SCRCA in partnership with the Friends of the St. Clair River are in year 2 of a 3 year grant. As well as fish monitoring, OTF funds support mussel monitoring, temperature monitoring, benthic monitoring, stewardship projects, and education programs. Mussel monitoring has just begun in 2017 and another important sighting has occurred.
 - Biological Inventories - St. Clair Region Conservation staff helped Waste

Management with biological inventories to attain their Canadian Wildlife Habitat certification.

- Community Engagement
 - Ontario Nature Partnership - SCRCA has partnered with Ontario Nature in relation to the stewardship of the newly acquired Sydenham Nature Reserve that is located just south of Alvinston.
 - the official opening ceremony took place May 7. SCRCA and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) hosted a mussel demonstration for the approximately 100 participants that day.
 - May 14-15 SCRCA and DFO conducted fish inventories at the property.
 - May 16-17 SCRCA, Ontario Nature and along with expert botanists, orthinologists, and malacologists conducted a Bioblitz of the property. Funding for the event was provided by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
 - Art Walk – Staff participated in Artwalk in Sarnia on June 3rd and 4th. Many visitors stopped by the booth and were enticed and intrigued by our Eastern Foxsnake and Snapping Turtle. Staff discussed our reptile monitoring program and other biological monitoring conducted by the SCRCA.
 - Sarnia Pond Club Talk – May 2, staff were invited to do a talk at the Sarnia Pond Club. The slide presentation focused on rare species and the work SCRCA is doing to protect them.
 - Upcoming Events
 - July 14th at Warwick Conservation Area and July 28th at A.W Campbell Conservation Area staff will be conducting aquatic BioBlitz's. A BioBlitz is a detailed study of biodiversity in a specific location over a specified period of time. We'll look for fish, mussels, stream critters, and more. Registration is through our events page on the website.
 - August 25th at A.W. Campbell biology staff will also be hosting a Turtle Birthday Party. This is an opportunity to educate the community about our local turtle species and highlight our work with the Spiny Softshell Turtle and other turtle species at risk.

BD-17-074

Wright - Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 5, 2017 on the Watershed Monitoring.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Heathy Watersheds Program Update was discussed.

- Species at Risk workshop – Coldstream, May 24
 - each year, the Coldstream Public Library invites SCRCA staff to lead a wetlands/aquatic workshop. This year, we focused on Species at Risk from mussels to turtles to fish. The evening event, geared to families, began with an in class portion led by Erin Carroll and then the group made it's way down to Coldstream CA. After Jessica Van Zwol and Erin Carroll demonstrated some of the biological monitoring techniques that staff use, children were encouraged to participate and

find their own creek critters. We had about 30 adults and children attend the event. Only one child got completely soaked but all went home smiling and soggy!

- the event was funded through TD Friends of the Environment, Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Program – Species at Risk stream, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s Species at Risk Stewardship Fund
- Healthy Lake Huron Update meeting – Tiverton, May 30
 - after 5 years of implementation, the Healthy Lake Huron committee, made up of Conservation Authorities, MOECC, Environment Canada, county planners and health units, and Lake Huron environmental NGOs, discussed the future direction of Healthy Lake Huron. The group shared highlights of how the campaign has been a success. Going forward, the group will determine how best to focus funding to priority watersheds and Lake Huron Tributaries. The continuation of water quality monitoring was discussed and unanimously agreed upon for the creation of long term databases.

BD-17-075

Rupke - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 7, 2017 on the Healthy Watersheds Program Update, and endorses staff efforts to engage private landowners in Best Management Practices to improve the surface water quality and continue to work towards a Healthy Lake Huron initiative.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding spring 2017 tree planting was presented.

- Seedling/Reforestation program
 - tree seedlings arrived on April 24th as normal for spring delivery time.
 - SCRCA crews planted 95,000 trees for 33 separate projects on private and industrial lands.
 - 2000 trees were planted for MTO along Hwy 402 again this year
 - 15,000 more trees planted at the Union Gas Lobo compressor site
 - 4000 trees planted at the First Solar farm in Sarnia
 - two tractor-mounted mechanical tree planters and one 4 person hand planting crew were used to plant seedling trees during one the wettest spring planting seasons we have ever seen.
 - approximately 30,000 trees had to be planted by hand in locations where tractors could not operate or were too wet to plant with heavy equipment.
 - another 6000 trees were ordered for 40 landowners to plant on their own.
 - more than \$165,000 in federal, provincial and local grant dollars was provided to property owners this year to subsidize the cost of trees, planting services and long term vegetation management.
 - all sites were sprayed with a pre-emergent herbicide soon after planting.
 - another 200,000 trees were resprayed with herbicide this spring on sites that were planted in 2014, 2015 and 2016.
 - planting operations were delayed on several occasions this year due to the cold wet month of May. However, tree planting was completed on June 2nd – same as

last year.

- Large Stock/ Municipal tree program
 - approximately 800 large stock potted and bare root trees were purchased by landowners this spring for windbreak and roadside tree planting
 - Brooke-Alvinston purchased approximately half of the trees for municipal residents to pick up and plant plus another 100 more trees planted by SCRCA staff. Brooke-Alvinston provides a financial incentive for landowners interested in purchasing and planting their own trees.
 - 10 other individual landowners from across the watershed purchased trees.
 - price quotes were obtained from 2 wholesale tree nurseries and trees were purchased from both nurseries.

BD-17-076

Giffen - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 9, 2017 regarding spring 2017 tree planting on private, corporate and public lands.”

CARRIED

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

- our three-year contract with the County of Lambton to conduct a mosquito larva control program ended in 2015 but had an option to be extended an extra 2 years. This is the final year of the extension for catch basin larvicide treatments for the Lambton Public Health West Nile virus control program.
- six summer staff from the watershed services department will be treating approximately 16,000 catch basins with a mosquito growth regulator.
- four staff will be working out of the Strathroy office and 2 staff will be working out of the W. Darcy McKeough Dam to cover the south west end of the County.
- pre-treatment larva sampling has been scheduled for the week of June 12th to determine mosquito activity.
- results will be sent to Lambton Public Health. Mosquito activity will be used to determine when to start catch basin treatment. Approval from the Medical Officer of Health is required before treatments commence.
- applications for permits have been submitted to the London M.O.E.C.C. office and we are currently awaiting approval for permits to apply methoprene and Bti:
- Kettle Point and Aamjiwnaang First Nations will be contacted and offered the service again this year. MOECC permits are not required for these.
- Methoprene pellets will be applied to approximately 15,000 catch basins with 3 separate treatments spread out at 21 day intervals throughout the summer. Another 1500 catch basins in predetermined areas will receive a single methoprene briquette for season long control. A different colour paint mark for each separate application of larvicide is applied to every catch basin.
- costs to the County will remain the same as last year.
- treatments of methoprene pellets usually start around the week of June 25th and finish around the 15th of August.
- some efficacy testing may take place this year to monitor how well pellets and briquettes are controlling mosquito populations. SCRCA staff will conduct the sampling work.

BD-17-077

Gordon - Kelch

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 9, 2017 regarding the Authority’s agreement with Lambton County to undertake the application of Larvicide to catch basins as part of Lambton County Community Health Services West Nile Virus Program.”

CARRIED

Regulations Summary Reports for April and May 2017 were reviewed.

BD-17-078

Miller - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors accepts the Regulations Activity Reports on *“Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses”* Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated May 31, 2017 and includes the period April 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017, as presented.”

CARRIED

Planning Activity Summary Report for April and May 201 was explained.

BD-17-079

Wright - Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for April and May 2017.”

CARRIED

A staff report updating the West Ipperwash Dynamic Beach Assessment was explained.

- at the last Board meeting, the Baird and Associates Coastal Engineers “West Ipperwash Dynamic Beach Limit Assessment” report was provided.
- following the Board meeting, the SCRCA circulated the report to the residents and posted on our website for comment by June 1, 2017. An ad was also posted in the Lakeshore Advance.
- the West Ipperwash Property Owners Association (WIPOA) assigned one resident to provide comprehensive comments to the SCRCA. This was very helpful.
- including the WIPOA submission; 4 submissions were received.
- Kettle Stoney Point First Nation have not commented or requested a consultative meeting to date. However, it is recognized this consultation process may be ongoing, dependent on KSPFN position on the assessment.
- generally, comments received are neutral and can be addressed by both the consultant and SCRCA. Responses will be provided in the comments section and re-circulated.
- this consultative phase will be presented to the Board in September.
- pending comments/revisions, the goal is to finalize the study by late Fall.

BD-17-080

Bruzewicz - Kelch

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update on the West Ipperwash Dynamic Beach Assessment dated June 9, 2017.”

CARRIED

A staff report on DART was presented.

BD-17-081

Wright - Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 9, 2017 on Drainage Act and Conservation Authority Act Protocol (DART) Municipal drain activities and drain Letters of Review for April and to date June 2017.”

CARRIED

Authority revenue and expenditures to April 30, 2017, were reviewed.

BD-17-082

Kelch - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to April 30, 2017, as it relates to the budget.”

CARRIED

April and May 2017 disbursements totaling \$905,572.74 were considered.

BD-17-083

Giffen - Kelch

“That the Board of Directors approves the April and May 2017 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$905,572.74.”

CARRIED

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

BD-17-084

McMillan – Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2017 general levy receipts to May 31, 2017.”

CARRIED

Directors reviewed the Investment Statements through to April 2017.

BD-17-085

Kelch - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the financial investments through April 2017.”

CARRIED

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

BD-17-086

MacKinnon - McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the March 234, 2017 meeting minutes of Health and Safety Committee.”

CARRIED

A staff report including the canoe race, spring education programs, special events, and community outreach was explained.

- Canoe Race - the weather couldn't have been nicer for a mid-April paddle down the Sydenham River in support of Conservation Education. 88 boats entered the Sydenham River Canoe Race on Sunday April 23, raising a total of \$3,284.00 through registration fees, pledges, and T. shirt sales. Thanks to all of the many, many people who helped out at this year's race!
- Spring Education Programs - Conservation Education continues to be a popular field trip focus for area schools. Programs are booked daily from early April through to June 27th. Teachers appreciate the hands on opportunities to connect classroom learning to the natural world.
- New Program: POKECACHING: A Pokemon Go inspired version of Geocaching - the game was created by LKDSB Enrichment Students for the SCRCA. The pilot program ran April 25th and 26th with some “snags”. During the wrap up of the game, the students brainstormed ideas for improvement. It was an excellent opportunity for the organizing students to see their creation in action and to learn how to make improvements. Two more bookings for the program were requested thanks to word of mouth. The program will be offered as a part of the SCRCA's Education programming.
- Great Lakes Student Conference - May 18th, 2017 – approximately 70 Lambton County grade 11 and 12 students participated in this full day student conference. Outdoor education staff assisted in development and delivery of this very successful conference.
- ICE Training - May 2nd and 3rd, 2017: SCRCA acted as a ‘sector partner’ to assist LKDSB deliver Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) training to Wallaceburg District Secondary School (WDSS) students. The students were given the challenge of ‘How can St. Clair Conservation motivate youth to seek the health benefits created by spending time in nature?’ As part of the training, education staff led a 2 hour ‘empathy building’ workshop, in which students were introduced to the health benefits of time spent in our local CA's. As a follow-up, the students participated in a formal ICE training session at WDSS. The students met the challenge with enthusiasm and creativity; some of the best ideas pitched included hosting ‘volunteer youth work days’ to allow the students a chance to participate in conservation projects; a youth photography contest; hosting a fundraiser 5km and 10km run; and using social media like twitter and u-tube to communicate with teens(RTL) the amazing benefits of spending time outdoors
- Special Events
 - Kid's Fun Fest Sarnia: SCRCA staff will be participating in Kids Fun Fest 2017 on Saturday June 10th in Sarnia. The booth will highlight camping and SCRCA programs. Outdoor education staff will help kids explore the world of birds and offer a hands-on activity making their own bird nests using natural materials and mud!
 - Community Partnerships: Return the Landscape: Education staff has joined Return the Landscape (RTL) Board of Directors to act as a liaison between

SCRCA and RTL maintaining and growing this community partnership. The next meeting of the board is June 22nd, 2017.

- Sarnia-Lambton Arbour Week Committee: Education Staff continue to chair the committee and are helping to organize four tree plantings in the 4 corners of Lambton County. We will be planting a total of 150 trees to celebrate Canada's birthday. Sugar maple seedlings were delivered to each student in 4 winning classrooms in Lambton County who participated in the Arbour Week Contest. Students were asked to draw a comic about a 150 year old tree and some very creative works were received.

BD-17-087

Nemcek - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the education staff report dated June 8, 2017, including the canoe race, spring education programs, special events, and community outreach.”

CARRIED

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

- in an effort to increase Great Lakes literacy the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change funded a Great Lakes Student Conference organized by St. Clair Conservation with Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) staff. Over 70 students from four LKDSB high schools attended the conference where they had the opportunity to learn about issues surrounding the Great Lakes, possible career paths, and explore cultural connections.
- the conference was a great success, in large part, because of the following workshop leaders that participated and provided their expertise:
 - Pollutech
 - Aamjiwnaang First Nation
 - Sciansational Snakes
 - Return the Landscape
 - St. Clair Conservation Biology Staff
 - Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- feedback from participating Great Lakes Secondary School Teacher, Craig Griffiths: *“I just wanted to take a moment to give a big thank you for the Great Lakes Conference. I really can't say enough good things about the event. It so well run, interactive and informative and not just for the students. It really was a fantastic opportunity for all of the students, not only because they were able to learn about their local ecosystems, but also because they were given the opportunity to see and talk to so many people in our community that are highly involved in environmental issues. I realize that there were numerous people involved in the organization of this event and I can only imagine how much time and effort was put into it. Once again, thank you very much for the day and please pass this on to whoever else may deserve a thank you! If there is anything that I can do to help make this event a possibility in the future please to do not hesitate to ask.”*

BD-17-088

Wright - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on the Great Lakes Student Conference dated June 5, 2017.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Schoolyard Greening Program was presented.

- the Conservation Authority and Lambton Public Health partnered for a schoolyard greening initiative called “Tomorrow’s Greener Schools Today – Lambton.” The intent of the project was to plant trees with elementary school students to increase green space and shade on playgrounds. From a health perspective, once the trees mature they will protect children from harmful UV radiation. From a conservation perspective, planting the trees with the kids encouraged environmental stewardship. An educational component regarding the benefits of trees was provided by the Conservation Authority and Lambton Public Health during each event.
- in our first year of this project, five elementary schools in Lambton County submitted proposals and all five proposals were accepted. Based on available funding, each of the five schools received eight trees and the planting events took place this May and June. A total of 40 trees were planted.
- Lambton Public Health and the Authority were successful in securing a TD Friends of the Environment Foundation grant to cover the costs of the initiative for 2017.

BD-17-089

Kelch - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on the Schoolyard Greening Program in conjunction with Lambton Public Health dated June 6, 2017.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Art Walk in Sarnia was reviewed.

- beautiful weather during the 14th annual Sarnia Artwalk, helped to draw in large numbers of people from all over the region – last year the event saw over 25,000 visitors. The weekend-long festival was an excellent opportunity for public outreach and to raise awareness about the programs offered at St. Clair Conservation. We handed out free reusable bags with the SCRCA logo and pamphlets on our programs.
- this year, to invoke pride in the unique biodiversity found in our region, we focused on Species at Risk found in our area. Our Snapping Turtle and Eastern Foxsnake displays drew in many curious visitors and started a lot of productive conversations. People were amazed to learn about some of the endangered species that live in our area and we also had the chance to dispel misconceptions about these animals.
- Sarnia Artwalk is a vibrant and exciting event that we are very pleased to take part in every year.

BD-17-090

Gordon - McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on Art Walk dated June 6, 2017.”

CARRIED

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

- Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Update
 - Beach Closings BUI:
 - the status assessment for the “Beach Closings” BUI for the St. Clair River AOC was presented to the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) at the May 24, 2017 meeting in Sarnia, Ontario.
 - the report proposed the re-designation of this “Impaired” BUI to “Not Impaired” based on improvements to local infrastructure (e.g., combined sewers and Water Pollution Control Plants (WPCPs)) that have reduced inputs of *E. coli* into the St. Clair River along with low measurements of bacteria at local beaches and swimming areas,
 - BPAC approved the re-designation recommendation. 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).
- Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems BUI:
 - on November 16, 2017, the “*Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems*” BUI status assessment was presented to BPAC. The report recommends re-designation from “Requires Further Assessment” to “Not Impaired”.
 - the report assessed reproductive success and deformity rates in Northern Leopard Frogs (*Rana pipiens*) and Snapping Turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) exposed to St. Clair River water and sediment. Results were positive with high hatching and low deformity rates observed in both species.
- BPAC voted in favour of the re-designation recommendation. The status assessment is currently being reviewed by the Four Agency Managers Work Group.

BD-17-091

Marriott - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 8, 2017 on the St. Clair River Area of Concern.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Scholarship Program was presented.

- the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority offers scholarships for graduating high school students living in or attending a high school within the region under jurisdiction of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Students must be pursuing an education in a conservation/environmental related course of study (eg. forestry, biology, geography, agriculture, ecology etc.) in a recognized Canadian University or College.
- the Conservation Scholarship program rewards these students based on their academic achievement and their demonstrated interest and involvement with the environment. The Scholarship is funded through trust funds with the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and was created through donations from individuals and organizations.
- this year, we received 9 applications. The applications were reviewed by a committee established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation which included Steve Arnold, Archie Kerr, Rick Battson and Brian McDougall. The following scholarships were approved by the committee The scholarships will be presented in June or early July.
 - A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarships - \$1,000 award
Monique Benedict, Strathroy and District Collegiate Institute
Emily Fraser, Great Lakes Secondary School
 - Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship - \$500 award
Jillian Ball, Lambton Kent Composite School
 - Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship - \$500 award
Nicole Delmage, North Lambton Secondary School

BD-17-092

Miller - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Scholarship Program report dated June 14, 2017.”

CARRIED

An update on the Drinking Water Source Protection Program was presented.

- Current Status of the Source Protection Program: the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Plan, approved in September 2015, came into effect on December 31st, 2015 and implementation of the plan policies is now well underway. For the past year and a half Conservation Authority staff from the Thames-Sydenham and Region have been supporting implementation of the local source protection plan and are monitoring local implementation progress. Additionally, UTRCA has signed agreements with seven

- municipalities in the Region provide risk management services and implement plan policies on their behalf.
- **Local Progress Updates: New Source Protection Committee Chair Appointed:** on March 22nd, the Source Protection Programs Branch confirmed that Mr. Dean Edwardson had been appointed by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change as the new Chair of the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Committee. The Committee's long-standing Chair, Mr. Bob Bedggood, indicated his intent to resign from his position once his term expired in August 2016. The Chair's position was then advertised by the Public Appointment Secretariat in June of 2016, and with support from the Source Protection Authorities, the Source Protection Programs Branch undertook a process to interview and select a candidate for appointment. We are pleased to have Mr. Edwardson, a long-standing industry representative on the committee, as the new leader for the Committee.
 - **Source Protection Committee Size Reduction:** in May 2016 the Striking Committee (made up of the Chair and Vice Chair of each of the three Conservation Authority Boards of Directors) decided to reduce the size of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) from 21 to 15 members, largely due to the decreasing role and responsibilities of the Committee moving forward. The process to reduce the size of the Committee, however, was deferred until a new SPC Chair had been appointed. Now that Dean Edwardson has been appointed as the new Chair, the process to reduce the size of the Committee is moving forward. Committee members will be receiving letters that either offer an extension to their current appointment, or thank them for their years of service. The next Committee meeting will be held on October 19th, 2017 and all current members will be invited to attend. The reduction will take effect after the October meeting.
 - **2017-2018 Budget and Work Plan:** the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change approved a new funding agreement for the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region which runs from April 1st, 2017 to March 31st, 2018. The objective of this grant funding agreement is to enable the Conservation Authorities to continue to support implementing bodies and maintain local awareness of source protection.
 - **Education Campaign Targeting Small Quantities of Hazardous Waste:** the Source Protection Plan contains an education and outreach policy specifying the use of an education program to target the handling and storage of hazardous chemicals, known as Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids, in concentrations typical of household use. Source Protection staff are currently preparing an educational campaign that will fulfill this policy requirement. Flyers will be delivered door to door in each wellhead protection area, and a website and promotional video are also being produced as part of the campaign.
 - **Risk Management Services Renewal:** UTRCA has established a regional Risk Management Office on behalf of seven municipalities, including the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. SCRCA employee, Steve Clarke is acting as the Risk Management Official for Chatham-Kent under an agreement between SCRCA and UTRCA. The service agreement with the seven municipalities was for an initial period of three years (September 1st, 2014 – August 31st, 2017). UTRCA has proposed an option for renewing the service agreement for an additional three years and four months covering the period of September 1st, 2017 to December 31st, 2020. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent, the City of London, the Township of Perth East, and the Town of St. Marys have formally approved the agreement renewal. Final decisions from the remaining three municipalities are still pending.

- Section 36 Work Plan: at the time that the Thames Sydenham and Region Source Protection Plan was approved in September 2015, the Minister ordered the Source Protection Authorities to prepare and submit a workplan under Section 36 of the Clean Water Act and submit it to the ministry by November 30, 2018. The workplan shall propose the detailed steps for the review of the source protection plan, including which portions of the plan are to be reviewed, the timeframes for each step of the review, the consultation that would be undertaken as part of the review, and rationale for each step. The workplan must be developed in consultation with the Source Protection Committee, participating municipalities, and the MOECC. Staff will be taking initial steps in 2017 to begin preparation on the Section 36 workplan.

BD-17-093

McMillan - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 7, 2017 providing an update on the Drinking Water Source Protection Program.”

CARRIED

Under New Business the General Manager outlined the many staff changes and upcoming staff changes.

Kelly Johnson has been hired as the new St. Clair AOC Coordinator.

Donna Strang is now on maternity leave and will be returning next year as Manager of Communications

Rick Battson will be retiring the end of August

Nicole Drumm is now Communications Technician and will be filling in until Donna returns.

Ashley Fletcher has been hired as the Administrative Assistant/Meeting Coordinator

Marlene Dorrestyn will be working modified hours

The Board of Directors went in camera to discuss property and personnel issues.

BD-17-094

Miller - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 1:35 p.m. to discuss property and personnel issues with the General Manager, the Director of Lands and the Director of Finance remaining.”

CARRIED

BD-17-095

Marriott - Kelch

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 1:55 p.m..”

CARRIED

BD-17-096

Kelch – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 9, 2017 and further directs staff to inform the Foundation, that the Board does not support the acceptance of the proposed donation, however, that Mr. Brandon is to be commended for his conservation ethic, but that his proposed donation should be politely and respectfully declined.”

CARRIED

BD-17-097

Miller – Kelch

“That the Board of Directors approves and accepts the proposal of RWAM Insurance and directs staff to initiate the new program September 1, 2017.”

CARRIED

BD-17-098

Miller – Faas

“That the Board of Directors approves the waiving of Conservation Area entrance fees for July 1, 2017 in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary of confederation.”

CARRIED

BD-17-099

Faas - Gordon

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Steve Arnold
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager