

November 9, 2017

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

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Alan Broad, Tony Bruinink, Norm Giffen, Larry Gordon, Mike Kelch, Betty Ann Mackinnon, Kevin Marriott, John McCharles, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Jeff Wesley, Muriel Wright

Regrets: Joe Faas, Don McCallum, Jerry Westgate

Staff Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Erin Carroll, Manager of Biology; Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner/ Regulations Officer; Nicole Drumm, Communication Technician; Chris Durand, IT/GIS Coordinator; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Erica Ogden, Planner; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources; Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services

Guests Present: Stephen Burt, Analee Ferreira, Kevin Gelinias, Lesley Gelinias, Tim Price, Jennifer Burbidge (excused self at 10:30 a.m.)

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.

Minutes of the September 21, 2017 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed.

Bruinink-Scholten

BD-17-134

That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held September 21, 2017, be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

Ontario Bill 139 - the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act

- After seconding reading, Bill 139 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy
- On October 17th, Conservation Ontario staff and the GM of Halton Conservation presented the following comments for discussion with the Standing Committee
 - PART VII ENFORCEMENT AND OFFENCES

- 1) Commencement of Part VII Enforcement and Offences Provisions within Three Months
- 2) Amendment to the Appeal Process for Stop Orders
- 3) Additional Modernized Provisions
 - i) Order to Comply /Take Remedial Action
 - ii) Court Orders on Title Following Conviction
 - iii) Appointment of peace officers
- PART IV MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE
 - Updating requirements for Authority by-laws and improved transparency and effectiveness of Board operations
- REQUEST NEW CLAUSE
 - Liability Protections for CAs Operating Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructure in Good Faith on Behalf of the Province
 - That a clause be added to the Act with respect to flood and erosion control liability to protect conservation authorities operating in good faith.
- PART V OBJECTS, POWERS AND DUTIES
 - This request is to provide clarity and avoid possible restrictions on the role of conservation authorities in climate change mitigation concerning energy conservation, emission reductions, etc. around various voluntary programs.
- It is anticipated that the Standing Committee on Social Policy will take approximately 6 days of meetings to review Bill 139
- We have been advised by the Minister that she expects final reading of the Bill prior to the Christmas recess

Lambton Children's Safety Village

- Assessments are being made regarding the availability to accommodate the changes required for hydro and septic service. Findings of which are expected to be available for review at the Dec 14 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

Giffen-McMillan

BD-17-135

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager's report, dated October 30, 2017.

CARRIED

Conservation Ontario Council minutes of the September 25, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

**Marriott-Gordon
BD-17-136**

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the September 25, 2017 meeting minutes of Conservation Ontario.

CARRIED

- (RE: BD-17-105) Summary requested from Kevan Baker, Director of Lands outlining the number of notices issued to unpaid vehicles including both paid and outstanding
 - Tickets were provided, however tracking system was not in place. Blue tickets were issued to vehicles who had paid and yellow tickets were issued to vehicles who had not paid. This was consistent with other Conservation Authorities using the McKay Pay system. Staff estimate that 1 in 3 boats and 1 in 10 cars paid. In 2018, we are looking to work with the local municipality to issue parking tickets under their parking by-law to vehicles who do not pay.
- (RE: BD-17-124) Subcommittee for the Planning and Regulations Manual to ensure that the development of the document includes consultation with Municipal Planners as well as feedback sought from Development Community.
 - *To be added to consultation plan*
- Report requested from Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources comparing current water levels to previous years up to and including 1985.
 - *To be handed out at meeting*
- Report from Patty Hayman, Director of Planning on Jennifer Burbidge delegation and request of SCRCA under O. Regulation 171/06.
 - *Refer to Item 11 (ii)*
- As the SCRCA moves toward reducing our environmental footprint in the workplace, Board Packages have been made available online. For each board package not printed, this saves an average of 64 pieces of paper. The Board of Directors have been asked to sign for their preferred format and current preferences are as follows: Electronic – 9, Printed copy – 6, Not yet signed - 5
 - In addition to environmental benefits, moving to an electronic format also leads to cost savings. The average cost for producing and shipping each package is \$11.47, which currently equates to \$126.17 per month.
 - Should Directors have questions regarding the electronic format or wish to make a change to their preference, please see Ashley Fletcher

Kelch-Mackinnon

BD-17-137

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the September 21, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

CARRIED

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 418 seasonal campers and are financial self sufficient
- Profits obtained from our campgrounds are used to offset capital improvements

Camping Statistics:

- 418 full, half and quarter seasonal campers have registered in our 3 campgrounds, down from 421 in 2016. 190 seasonal campers are registered at Warwick (191 in 2016), 121 at LC Henderson (123 in 2016) and 107 at A.W. Campbell (107 in 2016).
- Our 3 regional campgrounds have been busy this year, gross revenues to the end of September are \$ 1,159,000 (up 3 %), and net revenues are up 19% (seasonal camping up 2 % to \$824,000; overnight camping up 3% to \$218,000; and pump-out up 5% to \$38,000.00)

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
- The hydro panel at the pool washroom was upgraded
- 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 chip and dust trail has been developed around the perimeter of the 5-acre climate change tree growth plantation (Foundation).
- LED exterior lighting has been installed on two of the washroom buildings

L.C. Henderson Conservation Area

- 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 area
- 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
- Weir surfacing has been improved with erosion control matting and gravel surfacing (WECl)
- New carpet and 4 x 4 side railings have been installed on the mini put golf course
- 25 trees and shrubs have been planted

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) has been 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
- Upgrades have been completed at the main campground washroom (new concrete sidewalk) and at the gatehouse and entrance area (new signage and fee box)
- A weather station has also been installed on the property (Water Resources Department)
- 30 trees and shrubs have been planted (Bingo)

Keith McLean Conservation Lands (Foundation Property):

- 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
- A tower agreement has been negotiated with Xplornet, the tower will be installed on Kent Bridge Line this fall
- The first Denning's Memorial Forest dedication was held on the property on Sunday, September 17th; over 60 people attended

Other Lands Activities:

- A 5-year tower lease has been negotiated with Cogeco Connexion Inc. for the existing tower & building (Peers Wetland CA)

- 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)
- Approximately 680 meters of randomized tile drainage has been installed on 2 McKeough Upstream agricultural properties.
- 2 benches have been installed along the trail at the Peers Wetlands (benches donated by Sydenham Field Naturalists)
- 4 tennis courts were constructed with asphalt surfacing and new fencing - Esli Dodge Conservation Area (project of Lambton Shores)
- Clark Wright - Sun-Canadian Pipeline has completed extensive tree clearing on their easement within the Conservation Area; trails have been re-organized to direct the public away from the easement and the adjacent private property
- Bridgeview – 2 oil wells have been decommissioned (MNR funded)
- Staff planted 72 hardwood trees on authority lands as part of the memorial tree planting program (Foundation)

Miller-Nemcek

BD-17-138

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update, dated October 24, 2017 on Conservation Areas, Foundation, and McKeough Lands including capital projects, facility improvements and camping trends in 2017.

CARRIED

Watershed Stream Flow

- An overview of precipitation and the associated flow over the summer and into fall activity indicates a larger number of rain events in June, July and August increasing flows slightly during these months above seasonal numbers and higher than 2016 for the same period
- Flows continued to reduce throughout the summer with only two rain events having total accumulations of greater than 75mm. There were a number of sporadic smaller events of 25mm to 30mm resulting in the perception of a somewhat unsettled summer.
- There were no significant impact from storm events due to the pattern of the events being distributed and a reduced intensity allowing the watershed to accommodate any short term increases in flow.
- With the installation of the high resolution precipitation gauge at Warwick CA and now a second unit at Alvinston we are now able to obtain instantaneous high quality rain data through satellite based communications systems

- Regional precipitation data illustrates a different picture than the perceived rainy summer. While it was damp, cloudy and generally unsettled, the last three months, with the exception of Windsor experienced only 65% of actual rainfall compared to normal across most of the watershed. Six month totals improved to 90% notably due to spring precipitation but annual numbers continue to remain slightly below the normal values at 90%

Flood Threat

Based on current conditions we continue to monitor any major rain events as they occur. River levels and weather patterns are anticipated to continue to remain seasonal into the winter months and these are expected to prevail with seasonal flows remaining in the average range. Advisories will be provided as conditions dictate.

Weather Forecast (Weather Network data)

- Short term conditions indicate slightly below normal temperatures and normal precipitation into November for the remainder of June with near normal precipitation.
- Longer term into the winter season, the probability forecasts from ECCC suggest above average temperatures and above average precipitation and slightly below average temperature and precipitation.
- With higher temperatures it is anticipated that lake ice cover conditions may be reduced contributing to the potential for increased lake effect snow in the northern areas of the watershed.
- Reduced lake ice conditions may also provide increased evaporation over the winter season may reduce lake levels into 2018 however this difficult to predict considering many other factors influencing level such as overall snow cover in the Lake Superior region.
- Trends into the first part of 2018 suggest warmer than normal temperatures in January and March, and slightly below precipitation with the exception into March with significantly higher than average conditions.

Great Lakes Levels (Canadian Hydrometric, data – September 2017)

The monthly comparison for September 2017 (current available data) indicates that Lake Huron levels higher again (15cm) compared to September 2016 suggesting a continued increasing trend in local lake levels. Numbers also continue to increase above the 10-year average for Lake Huron by **66cm**. Lake St. Clair levels are higher than last year (17cm) and **50cm** above the 10 year average. Both Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair current values (September) continue to remain above the average for the entire period of record.

- The 20-year record compared to the mean for the entire period of record (100 years) illustrates the above average trend over the last 4 years for Lake Huron. Noted also are significant change in conditions for Lake Ontario

- As noted previously, ice cover data for Lake Huron provides some evidence of the relationship between increased levels and ice cover. While the amount of data is limited, years with closer to 100% coverage may have resulted in less evaporation and an upward trend influencing the following summer levels. While this may not be conclusive, it contributes to the understanding of potential factors.

Rupke-McCharles

BD-17-139

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 27, 2017 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.

CARRIED

- Following 9 projects were approved for 2017- 2018.
- Staff have been working on completing WECl Projects.
- List of projects and the status of their work is provided in the table below

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Status
Courtright Park	Courtright Park Shoreline restoration	Shoreline work at Courtright Park along St. Clair River using armourstone and riprap.	Design work complete, reviewing work with the township, draft tender available.
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Helen and Kenwick St) Phase 1	Carry out construction of Phase 1 from the recommendation of engineering study.	Design work complete, reviewing work with the City, draft tender available. Permit applications underway
Esli Dodge Dam	Esli Dodge Repair Project	Repair of Concrete cable/ retaining wall	Waiting response/direction from the Township of Forest
L.C.Hender son Weir #1	L.C.H. Outfall Repair Project	Spillway Repair	Completed
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Drop Structure Downstream Erosion Control	Install rip rap at outlet park	Waiting St. Clair Township response on this project
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Vegetation Management Plan	Develop a vegetation management plan for vegetation control	Ongoing

		within the floodway channel	
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Watercourse Obstruction Removal	Vegetation and debris jam to be removed	Ongoing
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	McKeough Sill Repair	Crack repair to McKeough Dam sill	Completed
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Wing wall repair	Repair cracks in the concrete Wing wall	Completed

Courtright Shoreline Protection

The site is located in the St. Clair Township along the east shore of the St. Clair River in the community of Courtright. The existing site is protected with concrete rubble and stone and extends approximately 400 meters along the St. Clair River shoreline. A number of sections along the exposed shore have failed. The purpose of the undertaking is to provide shore stabilization, improve shoreline access, enhance aquatic habitat and to provide general improvements to the existing shore along the entire project site. The proposed preferred shoreline protection structure, include armour stone/rip rap revetment with aquatic planting and gravel beds incorporated along parts of the shoreline.

Draft Design

- Staff reviewing design with the township and consulting engineer
- applications for permits have been completed
- Permit applications have been submitted to agencies
- construction work is expected to start this Winter (December, 2017)
- habitat/fish monitoring is underway

Kenwick Park Stairs Upgrade

Staff have inspected the steps by Kenwick Park and met with a local landscaping company to come up with a potential solution.

Scope of Work

- Spilt difference on large step rises
- Form and pour concrete in 4 areas of steps and make them non slip
- Eliminate tripping hazard
- Fabricate new custom railings and powder coat all existing railings
- Reinstall the railings

Cost of work: \$7,980 + H.S.T – Southwest Fence and Deck

Sarnia Shoreline Work

- Draft design is available for Shoreline work along Brights Grove
- A groyne will be installed along Kenwick road with cut stones providing access to the beach
- Approximately 60 meters of the shoreline will be restored
- Permit applications have been submitted to agencies
- Draft tender documents are available
- Construction work is expected to start in December

Scholten-Gordon

BD-17-140

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 25, 2017 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed.

CARRIED

6th Annual Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup – September 9

Community volunteers collected over 40 pounds of garbage over a 2.5km stretch of Centre Ipperwash Beach as part of Healthy Lake Huron programming.

Lambton Shores “Ag in the Classroom Event” – September 15

Staff led 250 Grade 3 students in a soil conservation and sustainable agriculture discussion with an interactive display that encouraged problem solving to ensure that practices on the farm do not affect nearby watercourses. This event was an effort to promote a Healthy Lake Huron.

Strathroy TD Tree Day – September 16 Over 70 volunteers planted 150 native trees in Alexandra Park and Cuddy Sports Complex. The volunteers were TD employees, the local Strathroy and Mt Brydges Scouts and Guides, and local community.

Sarnia TD Tree Day – October 21 In just over an hour 35 volunteers (25 adults and 10 children) planted, mulched and watered 150 native trees along the Howard Watson Trail in Sarnia, ON as part of further naturalizing that stretch of trail. A TD Friends of the Environment grant funded both the Sarnia and Strathroy #TDTreeDay events.

Forest Fall Fair – September 22-24 Staff had a booth at the Forest Fall Fair to promote stewardship efforts towards a Healthy Lake Huron. Staff spoke with many individuals and families (>250) about what roles SRCRA plays on the landscape including biological monitoring and agricultural/rural stewardship programs and grants.

Bio-Strips & Cover Crop Demo – September 26 Lambton Shores Champion Landowner, Doug Rogers hosted our Bio-Strips and Cover Crops Workshop. Doug talked about his experience using no-till and cover crops to manage surface water on his farm. Mike Belan of Oil Springs also talked about his experience with inter-seeding cover crops and planting into a living crop (also known as “planting green”).

After presentations from both farmers, attendees had a chance to see Doug’s bio-strips, inter-seeded soybeans and the modifications he has made to his inter-seeder. SCRCA’s Kelli Smith, Aquatic Biologist, provided a presentation on how water “bugs”, like soil insects, can indicate the health of your farm and adjacent watercourses.

New Agriculture Factsheet

An inter-seeding cover crop factsheet was created to provide information on the benefits of cover crops and the benefits of inter-seeding. Three examples of equipment modifications local farmers have done to improve their success with inter-seeding was included to suggest ways farmers could incorporate these practices on their own farms.

Wetland Restoration Factsheet

Due to increasing interest in wetland restoration, we have put together a factsheet to help landowners maintain and improve the wetlands on their properties.

Fall Newsletters and GLASI Postcards

Lambton Shores Watershed Project Newsletters and Water Quality Factsheets were sent to 335 rural

addresses in Lambton Shores promoting soil health and water quality related BMPs. GLASI postcards were sent to 1,756 rural addresses in the Sydenham River headwaters watersheds promoting agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the grants and services SCRCA provide.

Staff attended these events for training and outreach as well:

September 15 – The Dirt on Phosphorus

September 18 – Ontario Soil Network – Farm Plot Tour @ the Van Arkel Farm

September 29 – Getting Cattle onto Cover Crop

October 4 – Farm & Food Care’s “Evidence Based Program Design Recommendations to Enhance Adoption of Soil BMPs by Ontario Farmers” Workshop

October 25 & 26 – 2017 Lake Huron Summit, “Working Together for a Healthy Lake Huron-Georgian Bay: Sharing Community Monitoring Experiences”

Upcoming Events:

David R. Montgomery Lecture

December 12, 7-9 pm Sarnia

David R. Montgomery is a geologist and professor of Earth and Space Sciences at the University of Washington, Seattle. His research has focused on how soil erosion has

undermined once-great civilizations around the world. He will discuss how soil has shaped us and we, the soil. Despite mapping out this correlation, soil degradation on a global scale remains outside of the spotlight, yet it is one of the most solvable crises.

Montgomery highlights farmers who focus on improving soil health and regenerative practices can mend damaged environments and improve their bottom line. He shows how no-till, cover crops, and diverse crop rotations can sustain the indispensable soil microbial ecosystem and in turn, a farmer's crops and livelihood. In doing so, agriculture can help feed the world and pull carbon from the atmosphere.

Montgomery will be joining us in Sarnia to discuss his research combining ancient wisdom with modern science to make the case for a vision where agriculture becomes the solution to environmental problems. The event is free and all are welcome – farmers, gardeners, and the community!

Soil Health Conference - February 15, 2018, Chatham

We are really looking forward to our upcoming Soil Health Conference! Much planning has gone into this event. There will be presentations from Frank Gibbs, Dr. David Lobb, Dr. Wendy Taheri, and Dale Cowan as well as presentations from local researchers. Frank Gibbs (Wetland and Soil Consulting Services, LLC) worked for the USDA in Ohio for 36 years and will speak on BMPs in hydric soils. Dr. Lobb (University of Manitoba) will share on the economics of soil loss through wind, water and tillage erosion. Dr. Taheri (Terra Nimbus) is a specialist in arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi & plant growth. Dale Cowan (AGRIS and Wanstead Cooperatives) is a senior agronomist and sales manager, 4R Nutrient Stewardship Specialist, and 2016 International Certified Crop Adviser of the Year who will speak about local initiatives.

In addition, 15 local farmers will be sharing their experiences on our farmer panel discussions. Panel topics include reducing tillage, cover crop and rotational grazing, erosion control methods, stewarding soil on big acres, planting green, and making interseeding work. The event is funded through an OMAFRA COA grant. This will be a Soil Health event to remember!

Nemcek-Bruinink

BD-17-141

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated November 1, 2017, regarding Healthy Watersheds program, including the outreach and education events held throughout the watershed.

CARRIED

Tree Planting Program

- Staff are busy preparing for the 2018 spring tree planting program
- Landowner interest for spring tree planting is up a bit this year compared to other years
- Site visits started in early October and proposed projects will be brought to the

next project review meeting scheduled in November for approval under one or more of the grant programs that SCRCA currently has available for financial 2018 incentives.

- Approximately 50,000 to 60,000 trees are expected to be subsidized through SCRCA funding programs for next spring
- 2018 tree prices from the supplying nurseries have increased slightly for 2018
- Other expected cost increases will also justify an increase in the 2018 user fee schedule.

Seed Collection Program

- This year's tree seed collection was very successful with approximately 2600 litres of oak, hickory and walnut tree 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 tree seed collected and shipped annually.
- Enbridge provided a generous donation toward our seed collection program this year to support future efforts in local tree seed collection in the SCRCA watershed. Funding went toward a seed collection-mentoring program. Two tree seed experts provided a one-day training event on Oct 3rd at the Warwick CA. There were 14 participants in the program including 3 SCRCA staff.

Vegetation Management Program

- Approximately 250,000 trees require follow up herbicide tending this fall
- Fall herbicide application for vegetation control on 2015, 2016 and 2017 tree planting sites started in late October and will end after the first killing frost (usually early November). This is our 3-year vegetation management program for newly planted tree seedlings. The 3-year spray program is paid in advance and carried forward every year. Payment is used to purchase herbicides and to cover the cost of application work.
- Warmer fall weather over the past several years has delayed the start dates for the past several years and extended it later into the season due to deciduous trees staying active longer into the fall season.

Stewardship funding

- Species at Risk application for 2018-2019 was recently submitted to MNRF for review. MNRF has provided SAR funds toward our Sydenham River Habitat Stewardship program since 2008. Approximately 140 projects including wetland creation, sediment traps, riparian buffers, stream bank stabilization and habitat creation have been funded with \$400,000 of SAR stewardship funding for the past 9 years. These are predominantly private land stewardship projects that

would not have been completed without financial incentive programs such as the SARSF

- Enbridge grant money for seed collection program – funds partially used this year for special training and mentoring. Remaining funds will be used in 2018-2019
- Trees Ontario grant has been secured for 2018 for landowners interested in planting 1.0 hectare or more of trees. Approximately \$70,000 awarded toward trees projects in 2017
- OPG – Essex, Chatham-Kent & Lambton forestry/tree planting ending this year. No future funds currently approved under this program.
- RLSN-SCRCA partnership through RLSN's DFO recreational fisheries grant program: 2018 is the final year (of a 3 year program) for funding for tree and shrub riparian buffers.

Wright-Scholten

BD-17-142

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 26, 2017 on the Conservation Services programs and projects across the watershed.

CARRIED

A staff report on DART was reviewed.

Bruziewicz-McMillan

BD-17-143

That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the June to October 2017 municipal drain activity report associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART).

CARRIED

At the September 21, 2017 Board meeting, the landowner Jennifer Burbidge provided a presentation regarding erosion issues adjacent to the dwelling at 4606 Lakeside Street, Hillcrest Heights, Plympton-Wyoming.

Delegation: Jennifer Burbidge and Chris Hutt

The following motion was passed:

McMillan-Wright

BD-17-132

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the correspondence to Ms. Burbidge dated July 26, 2017, staff’s verbal introduction and Ms. Burbidge’s presentation and that a full report is prepared by SCRCA staff, including an update from Municipality and a written response is formed to Ms. Burbidge’s questions and recommendations provided.”

Update from Plympton-Wyoming

An email requesting an update was forwarded to Adam Sobanski, P-W Director for Public Works on October 24, 2017. P-W has suggested J. Burbidge submit a “notice of Petition” as this is the best solution to issue. AS confirmed as of October 24, 2017, no petition had been filed to date.

The following Appendix items were reviewed:

1. Appendix 1 – Chronology of key events
2. Appendix 2 – SCRCA staff written response to JB questions. In terms of recommendations requested in the September 21 2017 motion, SCRCA refers to the July 26, 2017 attached SCRCA correspondence (Appendix 3).
Recommendation July 26, 2017: JB *“proceed to petition for Drainage Works that will include remediation work in the valley”* (July 26, 2017 SCRCA correspondence).
3. Appendix 3 – J. Burbidge questions presented Sept 21, 2017
4. Appendix 4 – SCRCA July 26, 2017 correspondence to J. Burbidge cc W. Bartlett, A. Sobanski, C. Hutt, SCRCA Regulations staff.
5. Appendix 5 – W. Bartlett P Eng., PW Consulting Drainage Engineer written opinion.
6. Appendix 6 – J. Burbidge survey

Recommendation: JB *“proceed to petition for Drainage Works that will include remediation work in the valley”* (July 26, 2017 SCRCA correspondence). This is consistent with municipal engineering response.

Wright-Scholten

BD-17-144

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on J. Burbidge, 4606 Lakeside St., Plympton Wyoming.

CARRIED

Scholten-Bruziewicz

BD-17-145

That the Board encourages J. Burbidge to petition Plympton-Wyoming for drainage works and directs staff to provide a letter of support towards receiving a new drainage report.

CARRIED

Authority revenue and expenditure report to September 30, 2017 was reviewed.

Kelch-Mackinnon

BD-17-146

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

CARRIED

September and October 2017 disbursements totalling \$581,547.62 were reviewed.

Miller-Nemcek

BD-17-147

That the Board of Directors approves the September to October 24 2017 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$581,547.62.

CARRIED

A status report on the 2017 general levy receipts to October 31, 2017 was reviewed.

McMillan-Marriott

BD-17-148

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

CARRIED

Directors reviewed the Investment Statements through to September 30, 2017.

Gordon-Bruinink

BD-17-149

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Investment Report, for the period ending September 30, 2017.

CARRIED

Camping Fees

Camping Fee Summary and Comparison fees were reviewed.

Planning Fees

At the September 21, 2017 Board of Directors meeting, the Board members were provided with a background report on the “natural heritage planning advisory service” the Authority provides by way of Memorandums of Agreements. This service was officially requested by municipalities in 2015. At the September Board meeting, there were questions on the “activities” listed in Appendix A. Appendix A was reviewed with clarification provided.

To summarize, SCRCA Administration was proposing a 2018 \$40,000.00 special levy to

be partnered with \$30,000.00 in review fees in order to support a Planning Ecologist to provide the required *Planning Act* service for Middlesex County, Chatham Kent and Lambton County. This service provided by SCRCA negates the need for upper and lower tier municipalities to hire qualified staff or consultants to carry out this service. It behoves the Conservation Authority to provide this service as it is part of our Strategic Plan to “*protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways and lakes*” (Goal 2).

After some discussion the following draft resolution was passed:

Broad-Scholten

BD-17-117

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 21, 2017 regarding natural heritage planning advisory commenting services provided to member municipalities and further that the 2018 draft fees be adjusted to ensure cost recovery of the program.”

Going forward:

Planning Department staff have adjusted the user fee schedule to reflect the above request. See proposed 2018 SCRCA Fee schedule. The fee schedule has been presented with Natural Heritage services being separated out from the ministerial delegated and mandated Natural Hazard services. The Natural Hazard planning services directly relate to SCRCA Regulation 171/06. A 25% increase in proponent driven Natural Heritage applications is proposed.

SCRCA does not currently charge fees for review and input services for municipal driven planning applications/initiatives ie. Official Plans, Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws, Tree Cutting bylaws, etc. These can involve numerous meetings, conference calls etc. The Memorandum of Agreement between SCRCA and municipalities states planning *“amendments sponsored by the municipality will be covered within the annual levy applied to Authority programs supported by the municipalities that are part of the County, as supplemented by the review fees collected...”*

A summary of levy comparison between Southwest Conservation Authorities was reviewed.

Of the 3 surrounding CAs providing NH service, SCRCA total levy is less than half of ERCA's total levy. SCRCA is the lowest levy of all 5 CAs and is at least 10% of the next lowest CA (ABCA) and ABCA does not provide the NH service. Although a comparable portion of SCRCA levy goes toward Planning & Regulations, it is not sustainable to provide Natural Heritage planning services without financial assistance (user fees and outside sources).

It is a policy of the province and SCRCA that in order to set fees a comparison with

other agency fees is necessary and this information must be provided publicly.

A 2017 Comparison of Natural Heritage fees, both Planning Act fees and Technical report review fees was reviewed.

Note: \$3,500.00 is equivalent to a private consultant cost for major technical report review fee.

- **Minor** - limited technical assessment of the natural heritage features are required development is within adjacent lands of natural heritage features; natural heritage feature is well documented;
- **Standard** - scoped technical Natural Heritage Impact studies are required (Terms of Reference), development may be within adjacent lands or within natural heritage feature.
- **Major** - comprehensive technical studies or reports are required; development may be within adjacent lands or within natural heritage feature.

A Planning Fee Comparison to Watershed Municipalities was reviewed.

Impacts of 25% increase in proponent driven Natural Heritage fees:

- In comparing SCRCA Planning Act fees to member municipality Planning Act fees, minor variance fee is the same; which is not acceptable. For minor variances, the Planning Ecologist in conjunction with the upper tier County planners will be setting adjacent land boundaries as per PPS Heritage manual in order to reduce need for input. This is to be accomplished by March 2018. Time saved will be allocated toward alliances with border municipalities (i.e. S-C, Lambton Shores initially followed by SW Middlesex etc.) for EIS Technical report review via Memorandum of Agreements and revenue derived from such.

2017 Natural Heritage Budget was reviewed.

2018 Shortfall Recovery Option was reviewed.

Revenue recovery:

Upper and lower tier municipalities must meet the requirements of Section 2.0 Natural Heritage Policies of the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement. Section 2.0 sets out policies for the protection of natural heritage systems, significant wetlands (including coastal wetlands), significant woodlands, significant wildlife habitat, etc. SCRCA's Planning Ecologist has the expertise to provide this service for the watershed, instead of each municipality retaining a staff person or consultant to undertake the service.

For the upper and lower tier municipality driven applications and projects, the Authority can recover remaining funds via 2 Options

- Option 1: Abide by the Memorandum of Agreement which states that an annual 2018 levy of \$20,000.00 contribute toward municipally driven or sponsored Natural Heritage planning amendments or projects or
- Option 2: Revise the Memorandum of Agreement which changes the wording in the agreement to *“amendments sponsored by the municipality will be covered with ecologist hourly rate billed to the municipality requiring the service”*.

The Conservation Authority will keep track of proponent versus municipally driven amendments/projects in 2018 and report back to the Board on financial status. To balance the 2018 budget in this category, SCRCA will need to further undertake and confirm the following:

- Providing the service outside the watershed where the need is evident.
- SCRCA will approach the Conservation Foundation for funding toward Natural Heritage protection in the watershed.

All Programs and Services:

The Draft SCRCA 2018 Fees were reviewed.

Scholten-Rupke

BD-17-150

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the reports on Conservation Area and Planning fees.

CARRIED

Scholten-Wright

BD-17-151

That the Board of Directors abide by the Memorandum of Agreement which states that an annual 2018 levy of \$20,000.00 contribute toward municipally driven or sponsored Natural Heritage planning amendments or projects.

FAILED

Rupke-Bruinink

BD-17-152

That the Board of Directors revises the Memorandum of Agreement for Planning Services with municipalities and counties to *“amendments sponsored by the municipality will be covered with ecologist hourly rate billed to the municipality requiring the service”* and further approves the Schedule of Fees dated October 2017, for all programs and services for the year 2018 fees and still further directs staff to circulate the approved fee schedule to all member municipalities.

CARRIED

Verbal summary of comments received to date on the 2018 Draft Budget given by Brian McDougall, General Manager.

Kelch-Miller

BD-17-153

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal summary of comments received to date on the 2018 Draft Budget.

CARRIED

Minutes from the June 8, 2017 Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting were reviewed.

Wesley-Gordon

BD-17-155

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the June 8, 2017 meeting minutes of Joint Health and Safety Committee.

CARRIED

Scholten-Miller

BD-17-156

That the 2018 Nominating Committee consisting of the following four directors representing the four districts of the Authority being Sarnia, Lambton, Chatham-Kent, and Middlesex be: Mike Kelch, Larry Gordon, Jeff Wesley and Norm Giffen and further that the Nominating Committee's recommendation for the 2018 committee membership be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule:

February 22 (4th Thursday) - Annual General Meeting (Petrolia)

April 19 (3rd Thursday)

June 28 (4th Thursday) – Project Tour (Warwick C.A)

September 20 (3rd Thursday)

November 8 (2nd Thursday)

December 13 (2nd Thursday)

Executive Committee: at the call of the chair.

February 8 (2nd Thursday) – Audit Review & Recommendation

All Board of Director and Executive Committee meetings are held at the Administration Office at 10:00 a.m., with the exception of the June meeting which follows the Project Tour.

Flood Action Committee: January 11 (2nd Thursday) and at the call of the Chair
Low Water Response: May 17 (3rd Thursday) and at the call of the Chair
Nominating Committee: At the call of the chair.

Please Note: This is a tentative schedule and circumstances may necessitate changes. Accordingly, these dates should be confirmed with the Administration Office prior to the meeting date.

Wesley-Nemcek

BD-17-157

That the Board of Directors approves the 2018 tentative schedule of meetings for the Board of Directors and Committees, dated October 11, 2017.

CARRIED

Memorial Forest Dedications

The Foundation is expanding its partnership with Denning Funeral Homes. Tree planting throughout the region and conservation education are supported through donations made to the Foundation in recognition of families served by the Denning Funeral Homes. Over the past year, Denning's has donated a total of \$11,300 to the Foundation. \$7,850 was donated through Denning's Strathroy location. This year, the program was expanded to Denning's new West Elgin location, which donated \$3,450.

The Denning Funeral Home Memorial Forest Dedication for the Strathroy area took place on May 28th. The service was held at Centennial Park where over 250 people were in attendance. Duncan Skinner brought remarks on behalf of the Foundation. The first dedication for the new Denning's location serving the West Elgin and Chatham-Kent area was held at the Keith McLean's Conservation Lands on September 17th. Steve Arnold brought greetings from the Foundation and Authority to the more than 60 people that were in attendance.

The Foundation's dedication was held on September 24th at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area. Duncan Skinner and Steve Arnold provided the remarks. Over 100 people were in attendance. A Red Oak was planted as a symbol for all trees dedicated over the last year through donations from individuals not associated with a funeral home program. From September 2016 to August 2017, 110 trees were dedicated through individual donations to the program. To date, a total of 2,017 trees have been dedicated through the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program.

Volunteer Event

Andersen Windows Conservation Area Clean-up

A local Strathroy company, Andersen Windows, has a corporate initiative called "Nature Preservation Day." SCRCA staff organized a volunteer event for Andersen on September 28th to teach the company about invasive species. For their Preservation

Day, the volunteers helped remove invasive plants from the Strathroy Conservation Area.

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 Brian McDougall or Nicole Drumm 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
- \$7,000 to support memorial tree planting
- \$6,000 to support land management staff costs for Foundation owned lands
- \$8,000 to support recreational facility enhancements at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
- \$8,000 to finance a summer Conservation Intern position
- \$10,000 to support reptile recovery, biological monitoring and public outreach
- \$10,000 to support the Watershed Report Cards
- \$60,000 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 2016-17 included:

Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association:

A request has been made to SLEA to 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:

A request has been made to Union Gas to continue its support for the Authority’s conservation education programs. They have supported the “Spring Water Awareness” program for the past 5 years.

Friends of the St. Clair River:

The FOSCR is providing \$2,000 to support an in-class 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.

DuPont:

DuPont has awarded the SCRCA with a \$6,221 “Clear into the Future Grant” to support the Authority’s Conservation Education Program. The cheque presentation took place on October 17th.

Plains Midstream Canada:

A request has been made to Plains Midstream Canada to continue their support of the Authority’s conservation education – Plains Midstream made a donation of \$3,500 at the end of 2016.

Healthy Kids Community Challenge Lambton:

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 SCRCA and other organizations. Last year, the SCRCA received \$8,500 for our involvement with the Healthy Kids Challenge. The program has unexpectedly been extended to 2018 – Authority staff will be meeting the Healthy Kids Committee to discuss further involvement.

Shell:

A request has been made to Shell Sarnia to support the SCRCA’s conservation education programming.

Wright-Marriott**BD-17-158**

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications Report dated October 23, 2017 including memorial forests, conservation awards, Conservation Foundation update and conservation education fundraising.

CARRIED

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. Thanks to Experiential Education Funding through the Ministry of Education, the month of May is already 50% booked.

Preparation and presentation of Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programming has been a major focus again this fall. The newest SHSM program developed is a Mussel Identification Workshop. This certification has been co-developed with SCRCA biology department staff. The workshop includes an in-class introduction to mussels, their significance in our watershed and the threats they face. A field trip to a local waterway allows students to participate in a timed mussel survey. The goal is for the students to gain first hand mussel identification skills while participating in real citizen science.

Geocaching Events

In addition to school classes, many interested watershed citizens have had the opportunity to learn about Geocaching with the use of SCRCA purchased GPS units.

- Sept. 17: “Healthy Trails Henderson” Geocaching Event. A beautiful day was forecast for the 9th annual event which attracted over 45 enthusiastic geocachers. Many participants were impressed by the trails and campground facilities.
- Sept. 13: 30 Health Unit Staff participated in a 1-hour geocaching presentation along the White Pine Trail at Warwick Conservation Area. It was the “exercise” portion of a Staff team building day.
- Sept. 30: As a part of the 50th Anniversary of the International River Crossing Event, over 300 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts took a turn at Geocaching.

Children’s Water Festival – October 3rd and 5th

The Children’s Water Festival was fully booked well before the start of the school year. Day 2 was unfortunately cancelled due to poor weather. More than 12,500 elementary students have now attended this festival over the past 9 years. Because of the International Plowing Match being held in Pain Court in 2018, the next Children’s Water Festival will be held in the fall of 2019.

Lambton Upland Game Bird Youth Day – August 26th

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. As a result of SCRCA’s continued support and participation in this event, the Game Club has offered a \$1000 equipment grant to the education department. The funds will be used to buy equipment that benefits a wide range of conservation programming.

Wyoming Fair Agriculture in the Classroom – September 12th

Staff provided information and a hands-on learning game for approximately 360 students in grades 3-6. A discussion of the important role farms play to help maintain healthy wetlands, forests and overall watershed health was included.

Brigden Fair Agriculture in the Classroom – October 6th

SCRCA education staff provided an educational display and craft for approximately 800 students in grades 3 - 6. Staff discussed the importance of trees as part of the farm landscape. Students were given an opportunity to create a collaborative 'tree' using fallen leaves and stencils to cut shapes representative of the interconnections between trees, humans and the natural landscape.

Species at Risk Program, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation – October 11th and 18th

As part of the annual education days at Kettle Stony Point First Nations School, students in Grade 3 and 4 participated in both outdoor and indoor educational activities with 3 SCRCA staff from the Education and Biology departments. 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 and crafts.

Staff later received thank you letters from the Grade 4 class.

Kelch-Mackinnon

BD-17-159

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Report, dated October 25, 2017 including fall education programs and events.

CARRIED

The Chair called for a 5 minute recess.

McMillan-Bruziewicz

BD-17-160

That the Board of Directors sit as a Hearing Board and acknowledge the reports and exhibits regarding Application #11316 Developments, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Ontario Regulation 171/06 following the Hearing Procedures set out by the Conservation Authorities Act.

CARRIED

Hearing Board Members Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Alan Broad, Tony Bruinink, Norm Giffen, Larry Gordon, Mike Kelch, Betty Ann Mackinnon, Kevin Marriott (excused due to personal emergency at 11:40 a.m. General support was provided to continue the meeting) John McCharles, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Jeff Wesley, Muriel Wright

Review of Hearing Procedures was reviewed and confirmation from all parties that notification and documentation was received within the necessary time frame.

The Chair requested that each Director declare a conflict of interest on any item within the Hearing agenda in that a Director may have pecuniary interest and gave his remarks:

“We are now going to conduct a hearing under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act in respect of an application by Kevin and Lesley Gelinas for permission to complete the installation of helical piers with foundation as per engineered drawings, and install new truss roof on existing second storey with new attic access to existing mechanical room on the subject property.”

The Authority has adopted regulations under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act which requires the permission of the Authority for development within an area regulated by the Authority in order to ensure no adverse effect on (the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or pollution or conservation of land) or to permit alteration to a shoreline or watercourse or interference with a wetland.

The Authority staff have reviewed the application and supporting information and provided the applicant with a response and made arrangements for this hearing to be scheduled. A staff report has been prepared and provided to the Hearing Board members and the applicant as part of this hearing.

The Conservation Authorities Act (Section 28 [12]) provides that:

‘Permission required under a regulation made under clause (1) (b) or (c) shall not be refused or granted subject to conditions unless the person requesting permission has been given the opportunity to require a hearing before the authority or, if the authority so directs, before the authority’s executive committee.’

In holding this hearing, the Hearing Board is to determine whether or not a permit is to be issued. In doing so, the Hearing Board can only consider the application in the form that is before us, the staff report, such evidence as may be given and the submissions to be made on behalf of the applicant.

The proceedings will be conducted according to the Statutory Powers Procedure Act. Under Section 5 of the Canada Evidence Act, a witness may refuse to answer any question on the ground that the answer may tend to criminate the person, or may tend to establish his/her liability to a civil proceeding at the instance of the Crown or of any person. The procedure in general shall be informal without the evidence before it being given under oath or affirmation.

If the applicant has any questions to ask of the Hearing Board or of the Authority representative, they must be directed to the Chair of the Board.”

SCRCA staff introduced the Hearing Board to the Applicants, Kevin and Lesley Gelinas, their agents Analee Ferreira of Ferreira Law and Stephen Burt of Englobe (previously LVM) as well as SCRCA’s legal agent Tim Price of Little, Inglis, Price & Ewer LLP.

SCRCA staff Dallas Cundick presented the nature and location of the subject application and the conclusions.

SCRCA Staff report was presented by Dallas Cundick.

Applicant’s report was presented by Mr. Kevin Gelinas and his lawyer Analee Ferreira

Hearing Board requested clarification from both SCRCA staff and the applicant.

Kelch-McMillan

BD-17-161

That the Hearing Board move in-camera at 12:07 p.m. to deliberate information provided regarding Application #11316.

CARRIED

Miller-Giffen

BD-17-162

That the Hearing Board rise and report at 12:35 p.m.

CARRIED

Rupke-Scholten

BD-17-163

That the Hearing Board, in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act, held a hearing regarding Kevin and Lesley Gelinas, application N°. 11316 on November 9, 2017 and hereby approves the application as presented and including no increase to the existing footprint, and subject to the submitted engineering drawing, and subject to a hold harmless agreement being executed and placed on title, and further directs staff to issue a notice of decision.

CARRIED

Bruziewicz-Scholten

BD-17-164

That the Hearing Board sit as a Board of Directors.

CARRIED

Gordon-Giffen

BD-17-165

That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 12:36 p.m. to discuss personnel issues with the General Manager and the Director of Finance remaining.

CARRIED

Wesley-Rupke

BD-17-166

That the Board of Directors rise and report at 12:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Kelch-Miller

BD-17-167

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED



Steve Arnold
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager