

December 14, 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 10:05 a.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Tony Bruinink, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Larry Gordon, Mike Kelch, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Don McCallum, John McCharles, Dan McMillan, Jerry Westgate

Regrets: Alan Broad, Kevin Marriott, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Jeff Wesley, Muriel Wright

Staff Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Erin Carroll, Manager of Biology; Nicole Drumm, Communication Technician; Chris Durand, IT/GIS Coordinator; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Tim Payne, Forest Management Specialist; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous 2018.

It was 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 November 9, 2017 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed.

Giffen-MacKinnon

BD-17-168

That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held November 9, 2017, be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

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

- Standing Committee on Social Policy made minor changes to the Section 4 - Conservation Authorities Act
- Third reading debate has occurred on November 23rd and 29th
- We have been advised by the Minister that she expects final reading of the Bill prior to the Christmas recess

Ontario Bill 148 - the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act

- Received Royal Assent on November 27th
- Direct changes to:
 - Employment Standards Act
 - Labour Relations Act
 - Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Impacts of 6 additional Acts
- Impacts for Authority
 - Increased minimum wage – summer Conservation Area and Conservation Services staff
 - On Call and Call-In minimum payments – Conservation Area and Water Management staff

GOAL: Reduce Canadian phosphorus loadings by 40 per cent	
CATEGORY OF ACTION	ACTIONS
A. Reduce phosphorus loadings	<p>A1. Support watershed and nearshore-based strategies and community-based planning for reducing phosphorus loadings</p> <p>A2. Reduce phosphorus loadings from urban areas</p> <p>A3. Reduce phosphorus loadings from agricultural and rural areas</p>
B. Ensure effective policies, programs and legislation	<p>B1. Support and strengthen policies, programs and legislation</p> <p>B2. Strengthen decision-making tools</p>
C. Improve the knowledge base	<p>C1. Conduct monitoring and modelling</p> <p>C2. Conduct research to better understand nutrient dynamics in the Lake Erie basin</p> <p>C3. Conduct research to better understand and predict the impact of climate change on the Lake Erie ecosystem</p> <p>C4. Conduct research to improve existing practices and develop new innovative practices and technologies for phosphorus loss reduction</p>
D. Educate and build awareness	<p>D1. Enhance communication and outreach to build awareness, improve understanding and influence change</p> <p>D2. Share data and information</p>
E. Strengthen leadership and co-ordination	<p>E1. Improve communication and co-ordination</p> <p>E2. Establish an adaptive management framework</p>

Draft Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan - Partnering on Achieving Phosphorus Loading Reductions in Lake Erie from Canadian Sources

- This action plan identifies a range of on-the-ground actions to reduce phosphorus loadings from urban, agricultural and rural lands, and to encourage good environmental stewardship
- These actions need to be co-ordinated with and linked to current federal, provincial and municipal government initiatives, as well as initiatives conducted by conservation authorities, key sectors and others
- The actions are separated into five categories and thirteen general actions
- 37 specific actions have been identified under Category A – 4 specific action attributed to Conservation Authorities
- 15 specific actions under Category B – 1 specific action attributed to Conservation Authorities
- 46 specific actions under Category C – 8 specific action attributed to Conservation Authorities
- 15 specific actions under Category D – 1 specific action attributed to Conservation Authorities and 1 specific action attributed to Conservation Ontario
- 10 specific actions under Category E – 1 specific action attributed to Conservation Authorities
- 123 total specific actions as of the last draft reviewed
- 15 specific actions attributed to Conservation Authorities and as many more where Authorities are included as unidentified partners of senior government
- Conservation Authorities figure prominently throughout the document as the senior levels of government look to us as a significant partner in any implementation plan to achieve a 40 percent reduction in phosphorous loads to Lake Erie by 2025
- The Action Plan is expected to be released in early 2018.

MacMillan-Kelch

BD-17-169

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

CARRIED

A verbal report from the December 11, 2017 Conservation Ontario Council meeting was given by Brian McDougall.

Bruinink-McCallum

BD-17-170

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal report from the Conservation Ontario Council meeting of December 11, 2017.

CARRIED

From the November 9, 2017 meeting:

- (RE BD-17-145) Motion directed staff to offer letter to J. Burbidge in support of a petition to Plympton-Wyoming for an updated drainage report.
 - *Letter of support prepared for Chair's signature*
- As the SCRCA moves toward reducing our environmental footprint in the workplace, Board Packages have been made available online as of September 2017. For each board package not printed, this saves an average of 64 pieces of paper and \$11.47 in printing and courier costs. The Board of Directors have been asked to sign for their preferred format and current preferences are as follows:

Board of Directors - Preferred format	
Electronic	9
Printed copy	6
Not yet signed	5

An updated voting sheet was re-circulated at the meeting to allow for Board members to consider a new option of receiving the board package on a couriered USB rather than in paper format.

Kelch-Gordon

BD-17-171

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the November 9, 2017 meeting.

CARRIED

Conservation Areas Year in Review:

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 were busy this year, gross revenues to the end of October were \$ 1,184,000 (up 3 %), and net revenues are up 23% (seasonal camping up 2 % to \$824,000; overnight camping up 4% to \$231,000; and pump-out up 5% to \$38,000.00)

Warwick Conservation Area

- A 24 x 32 ft pole type storage shed was constructed
- Engineered wood chip playground protective surfacing was installed under the main day use area play equipment
- Hydro and water was installed to two overflow campsites in the woodlot campground
- 550 meters of chip and dust trail was developed around the perimeter of the 5-acre climate change tree growth plantation (Foundation).

L.C. Henderson Conservation Area

- One shower area was upgraded with new shower surround and ceramic tile on the floor and walls
- Two new hydro panels were installed, one in the main washroom building and one in the campground area
- Weir surfacing was improved with erosion control matting and gravel surfacing (WECI)
- New carpet and 4 x 4 side railings were installed on the mini put golf course

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

- Permanent hydro (6 – 30 amp campsites) was installed at the Campbell house group camp area
- The water distribution pump house was renovated with new internal and external siding and new internal plastic water lines
- Upgrades were completed at the main campground washroom (new concrete sidewalk) and at the gatehouse and entrance area (new signage and fee box)
- A weather station was installed (Water Resources Department)

Keith McLean Conservation Lands (Foundation Property):

- Scott O'Brien was hired as the property superintendent
- a trail identification sign was installed at the main parking lot
- A tower agreement was negotiated with XplorNet, the tower will be installed along Kent Bridge Line this fall
- The first Denning's Memorial Forest dedication was held on Sunday, September 17th; over 60 people attended

Highland Glen Conservation Area:

- 40ft of new walkway was installed along one side of the boat ramp
- An existing seawall was repaired by excavating and installing new tie back supports
- The armor stone on the outer seawall was re-positioned
- 2 LED beacon lights were installed on the outer seawall
- The McKay pay on-line payment system was implemented for vehicles and boat ramp traffic.

Other Lands Activities:

- A 3-acre wetland was 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 was installed on 2 McKeough Upstream agricultural properties.
- Esli Dodge - 4 tennis courts were constructed with asphalt surfacing and new fencing (project of Lambton Shores)
- Bridgeview – 2 oil wells were decommissioned (MNR funded)
- Coldstream – board walks were upgraded with 60 new boards and 20 cedar post supports
- Staff have maintained over 35 kms of trails by removing fallen, dead or dangerous trees and installing or repairing boardwalks
- Staff planted 72 hardwood, 35 cedar and spruce trees and 30 shrubs on Authority lands this fall (Foundation - Bingo)

McMillan-Bruinink**BD-17-172**

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands report, dated November 30, 2017 outlining the maintenance and development activities on Conservation Lands for 2017.

CARRIED

Enviro-Friends of Coldstream Newsletter reviewed.

Gordon-Faas

BD-17-173

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the letter received from the Enviro-Friends of Coldstream highlighting activities and events at the Coldstream Conservation Area in 2017.

CARRIED

Watershed Stream Flow

- Review of precipitation and the associated flow at Wallaceburg during October and November identifies an average response to rain events increasing flows by no more than 20cm at the gauge. With milder temperatures, precipitation fell as rain and was quickly absorbed by the watershed returning to normal after a few days with the exception of a late November event which caused levels to rise prompting a **Watershed Conditions - Flood Outlook Bulletin**. This resulted from precipitation concentrated upstream in the central areas of the watershed as noted by Warwick OTT Pluvio High resolution rain gauge
- A comparison of monthly flow averages indicate flows in November are very close to normal with the exception of Alvinston. As temperatures cool into the winter months flows will continue to moderate to average levels with freezing conditions. January average levels are indicated with the blue line.
- Regional precipitation numbers for the last quarter are lower at most stations (**71%** to **89%**) and above average for Windsor and the southern areas of the Watershed resulting in an overall average of **86.7%** for the region. Six month rainfall was a little below that at **83%** however the full years regional average is right on target at **99.5%**

Flood Threat

Based on current conditions we continue to monitor any major rain events as they occur. Several rain events influenced river levels and current 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 above normal temperatures and normal precipitation into the first part of December.

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

The monthly comparison for October 2017 (current available data) indicates that Lake Huron levels higher again (**18cm**) compared to October 2017 suggesting a continued higher trend in local lake levels. Numbers also continue to increase above the 10-year average for Lake Huron by **67cm**. Lake St. Clair levels are higher than last year (**14cm**) and **50cm** above the 10 year average. Both Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair current values (October) continue to remain above the average for the entire period of record by **44cm** and **47cm** respectively.

- Research data provided by the Great Lakes Environmental lab outlines the balance or water budget for major inputs and outputs from each of the Great Lakes. Continued research in the is area can be used to assist in predicting changes in the basin system and which factors may influence lake levels now and in the future.

Gordon-McMillan

BD-17-174

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated December 1, 2017 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.

CARRIED

Status Update: Phase I

- A budget of \$600,000 has been confirmed for the project (St. Clair Township \$300,000; MNRF (WECl) - \$300,000)
- Tenders were advertised for this phase of the project during the week of November 8th
- Tenders closed on 23rd November
- Staff reviewed the tenders and made the recommendation to the Board Members on December 14.
- Staff are coordinating with MNRF and DFO for permits
- Construction is expected to begin early January 2018
- Lowest Tender is by Bre-Ex Construction Inc for \$441, 453.60 Inclusive of H.S.T

Tender Results were reviewed.

McCharles-Bruinink

BD-17-175

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 30, 2017 regarding the tender opening for Phase 1 – Courtright Waterfront Park Shoreline Improvements and further accepts the tender of Bre-Ex Construction Inc subject to a complete review of the tenders, a satisfactory financial capabilities review of the preferred contractor and authorizes the Chair to sign contracts for the project.

CARRIED

Status Update: Phase I

- A budget of \$600,000 has been confirmed for the project (City of Sarnia \$300,000; MNRF (WECI) - \$300,000)
- Tenders were advertised for this phase of the project during the week of November 13th
- Tenders closed on November 30th
- Staff reviewed the tenders and made the recommendation to the Board Members on December 14.
- Construction is expected to begin early January 2018
- Awaiting permit from DFO
- Lowest Tender is by Atlantis Marine Construction Canada Inc for \$531, 828.85 Inclusive of H.S.T

Tender results were reviewed.

Bruinink-Kelch

BD-17-176

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 30, 2017 regarding the tender opening for Phase 1 – Brights Grove – Kenwick Street to Helen Avenue and further accepts the tender of Atlantis Marine Construction subject to a complete review of the tenders, a satisfactory financial capabilities review of the preferred contractor and authorizes the Chair to sign contracts for the project.

CARRIED

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! 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. David Lobb (University of Manitoba) will share on the economics of soil loss through wind, water and tillage erosion. Dr. Wendy 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, soil stewards on big acres, planting green, and making interseeding work. The event is funded through OMAFRA COA.

To register: <https://www.scrca.on.ca/events/soil-health-conference/>

Westgate-MacKinnon

BD-17-177

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 22 2017 on the Healthy Watersheds Programs Outreach Update.

CARRIED

SCRCA Planning activity summary for the month of September, October and November was reviewed.

Faas-Kelch

BD-17-178

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's monthly Planning Activity Summary Report for September, October and November 2017.

CARRIED

Summary of September, October and November 2017 activity related to the Conservation Authority's Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (Ontario Regulation 171/06 under Ontario Regulation 97/04) was reviewed.

McMillan-Gordon

BD-17-179

That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Report on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) for September, October and November 2017.

CARRIED

"Cracks in the Foundation" – Oct 13, 2017 Hamilton Spectator article was reviewed.

Bruinink-Kelch

BD-17-180

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the newspaper article dated October 13, 2017 on erosion occurring on the Niagara Escarpment as an informational item only.

CARRIED

- The Committee held its 1st meeting November 28, 2017 at the SCRCA Administration Office.
- The Committee requests the entire draft Manual be reviewed by the Committee before its first release. The first release of the manual involves circulation to municipal technical focus groups.
- The Committee would like to see a general timeline.
- A detailed public and First Nations communication strategy will be developed in the future. Approximate public release is anticipated for 2018-2019. The communication strategy is to be reviewed and approved by the Committee. This phase of consultation will consider how input is to be received and incorporated. Expertise from the SCRCA Communications Department will be obtained for the development of this strategy; with the focus being Education and Information sharing.
- The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday February 8th, 2018 at 9:00 am at the Strathroy Administrative Office.

McCharles-Giffen

BD-17-181

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the summary of the Planning Procedural Manual and Technical Guidelines Committee meeting held November 28, 2017.

CARRIED

SCRCA September 27, 2017 Joint Health & Safety Committee Minutes were reviewed.

**Kelch-Westgate
BD-17-182**

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the September 27, 2017 meeting minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

CARRIED

Revenue and expenditure report to October 31, 2017 was reviewed.

**McMillan-MacKinnon
BD-17-183**

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to October 31, 2017, as it relates to the budget.

CARRIED

The SCRCA disbursements from November 2017 were reviewed.

**Bruinink-Bruziewicz
BD-17-184**

That the Board of Directors approves the November 2017 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$423,484.17.

CARRIED

The report on the 2017 General Levy Receipts to date was reviewed. It was confirmed that all levies are now paid.

**Kelch-Gordon
BD-17-185**

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2017 general levy receipts to date.

CARRIED

The report on Investment Analysis and the Investment reports for the period ending October 31, 2017 were reviewed.

**Faas-Gordon
BD-17-186**

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated December 1, 2017 on Investment Analysis and attached Investment Reports for the period ending October 31, 2017.

CARRIED

The draft Statement of Operations as at September 30, 2017 was reviewed.

Bruinink-Giffen

BD-17-187

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the draft Statement of Operations as at September 30, 2017

CARRIED

Changes to the Administrative Manual were reviewed.

Kelch-McMillan

BD-17-188

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report and approves the 2017 changes to the Administration Manual.

CARRIED

2018 budget was considered and a weighted vote for non-matching levy was recorded.

Municipal Funding Summary	2018	2018			
	Budget	Budget		y/n	
	Total CVA	CVA	Representative	Vote	
Municipality	Apport.%	Apport.%			
Adelaide Metcalfe Tp	1.7919%	1.7919%	Betty Ann MacKinnon	y	
Brooke-Alvinston Tp	1.6459%	1.6459%	Frank Nemcek		regrets
Chatham-Kent M		6.5221%	Joe Faas	y	
Chatham-Kent M	13.0442%	6.5221%	Jeff Wesley		regrets
Dawn-Euphemia Tp	2.4895%	2.4895%	Alan Broad		regrets
Enniskillen Tp	1.8246%	1.8246%	Kevin Marriott		regrets
Lambton Shores M	4.9393%	4.9393%	Gerry Rupke		regrets
Middlesex Centre M	2.1241%	2.1241%	Dan MacMillan	y	
Newbury V	0.1455%	0.1455%	Don McCallum	y	
Oil Springs V	0.1979%	0.1979%	Kevin Marriott		regrets
Petrolia T	2.5349%	2.5349%	John McCharles	y	
Plympton-Wyoming T	5.2521%	5.2521%	Murel Wright		regrets
Point Edward V	2.3394%	2.3394%	Larry Gordon	y	
Sarnia C		13.0475%	Mike Kelch	y	
Sarnia C		13.0475%	Cindy Scholten		regrets
Sarnia C	39.1424%	13.0475%	Andy Bruziewicz	y	

Southwest Middlesex M	1.1405%	1.1405%	Don McCallum	n	
		5.5006%	Steve Arnold	y	
St. Clair Tp	11.0011%	5.5006%	Steve Miller		regrets
		4.1624%	Norm Giffen	y	
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp	8.3248%	4.1624%	Tony Bruinink	y	
Warwick Tp	2.0619%	2.0619%	Jerry Westgate	y	

100% 100%

57.440% Yes

1.141% No

**Total of CVA Levy
Apportionment
Present**

58.581% Total

**Vote Passed
By**

98.053%

Vote for

12

**McMillan-Bruinink
BD-17-189**

That the Board of Directors approves the 2018 budget of \$7,015,586 with a non-matching general levy of \$553,855 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the Modified Current Value Assessment of each Municipality within the Authority's area of jurisdiction.

CARRIED

**Kelch-Gordon
BD-17-190**

That the Board of Directors approves the 2018 budget of \$7,015,586 with a municipal matching general levy of \$310,000 including finalized Modified Current Value Assessment values, updates to specific projects and municipal comments received to date.

CARRIED

This surplus equipment has no value, and will be delivered to an e-waste facility.

- OLD Win 2003 Server Tower “Hyde” – non-functioning
- OLD Win 2003 Server Tower “GIS-Data” – obsolete, not supported
- C0084 Desktop Tower – non-functioning
- C0092 Desktop Tower - non-functioning
- C0063 Desktop Tower - non-functioning
- LG 17” LCD Monitor - non-functioning - S/N 708NDKD56213
- Lexmark Colour Laser Printer C543dn - non-functioning – S/N 9468NNM
- Linksys 2.4 GHz Wireless Router – obsolete - S/N CDFB0F3A8849
- Linksys 2.4 GHz Wireless Router – obsolete – S/N CDF80E4P4310
- DLink Router – obsolete – S/N R3ET1D3000975
- Misc – broken keyboards/mice/cables

Faas-McMillan

BD-17-191

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated December 4, 2017 regarding the disposal of nonessential and surplus equipment and approves the disposal method as outlined.

CARRIED

MacKinnon-Bruinink

BD-17-192

That the Board of Directors go in camera at 11:26 a.m. to discuss Conservation Awards and Personnel issues with the General Manager, Director of Finance and Communications Technician remaining.

CARRIED

Bruziewicz-Kelch

BD-17-194

That the Board of Directors rise and report at 11:40 a.m.

CARRIED

MacKinnon-Kelch

BD-17-193

That the Board of Directors endorse the motions from the in-camera discussion.

CARRIED

Under New Business:

- A Presentation on the 2017 Conservation Authorities Bi-ennial Tour at Credit Valley Conservation and Conservation Halton was given by Tony Bruinink.

- The Board of Directors requests that the high and low year figures be represented on each surface water elevation graph provided within the Current Watershed Conditions reports.

Faas-Bruziewicz

BD-17-195

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED



Steve Arnold
Chair

Brian McDougall
General Manager