



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: April 19, 2018

Time: 10:00 am

St. Clair Conservation Authority Administrative Office

---

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Betty Ann MacKinnon, Frank Nemcek, Joe Faas, Jeff Wesley, Alan Broad, Kevin Marriott, Gerry Rupke, Dan McMillan, John McCharles, Muriel Wright, Larry Gordon, Mike Kelch, Cindy Scholten, Dave Brewer, Steve Miller, Norm Giffen, Tony Bruinink, 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; Melissa Gill, Conservation Education/ Community Partnership Technician; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Sharon Nethercott, Conservation Education Coordinator; Tim Payne, Forest Management Specialist; Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources; Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services

Guests Present: Jenna Allain, Source Water Protection Coordinator

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.

- At our Annual General meeting in February, the election of our Vice Chair for 2018 was conducted by a Board appointed Chair, via secret ballot, and was observed and tabulated by Board appointed scrutineers – all aspects of which follows accepted election procedures
- The first vote for Vice Chair resulted in a tie vote
- The second vote for Vice Chair also resulted in a tie vote
- Unfortunately, I was not able to confirm any procedures outlined in the Authority Bylaws for such a situation
- Without assurance that all procedures were being adhered to, the election was deferred to the April Board meeting in order to clarify procedures for an election in the event of a tie
- A review of the Authority's Bylaws found no reference to tie votes or procedures to proceed beyond a tie vote

- A review of the Conservation Authorities Act provided leave the following highlights of interest
  - At the first meeting held in each year or at such other meeting as may be specified by the authority's by-laws, the authority shall appoint a chair and one or more vice-chairs from among the members of the authority
  - Each member of an authority is entitled to one vote
- Historically, failing to have specific procedures to follow, the Authority Board has turned to Robert's Rules of Order for procedural direction
- The following is taken from ROBERT'S RULES FOR CONDUCTING ELECTIONS - April 18, 2016 - C. Alan Jennings, PRP, PRP
  - Elections are decided by majority vote unless your bylaws provide differently
  - In the case of a ballot election, an election isn't complete until the position is filled, and a position is not considered filled until a candidate receives the threshold number of votes required for election
  - In most cases, the threshold is a majority of the votes cast
  - If you have only two candidates and the vote is a tie, you repeat the balloting until one candidate receives a majority
  - Should there be a tie vote between two candidates, new ballots will be distributed and a second vote held
  - Should there still be a tie after the second ballot a third vote shall be held
  - Should there be a tie after the third vote, the election of the office shall be decided by lot drawn by the Chief Administrative Officer or designate
- With the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, one of the requirements of each Authority is to update the Authority Bylaws, approve and implement these updated bylaws within one year (December 17, 2018)

**BD-18-27**

**Scholten-Bruinink**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the report dated March 29, 2018, and further that the Board of Directors proceed with the election of the Vice Chair for 2018 as outlined in Robert's Rules For Conducting Elections and further that these election procedures be incorporated into the update of the Authority's bylaws to be completed in 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-18-28**

**Marriott-Wesley**

**“That Nicole Drumm and Chris Durand be appointed as scrutineers for the election of Vice Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

Andy Bruziewicz was elected Vice Chair for 2018.

**BD-18-29**

**Kelch-Wright**

**“That the ballots be destroyed.”**

**CARRIED**

The Nominating Committee Report was presented. One vacancy on the Executive Committee was identified following the election of the Vice Chair. Mike Kelch was nominated by Steve Arnold.

**BD-18-30**

**Wesley-McMillan**

**“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the revised 2018 Nominating Committee’s Report.”**

**CARRIED**

Minutes of the February 22, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

**BD-18-31**

**McCharles-Miller**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held February 22, 2018, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

Canoe Race

- It is with regret that the Annual Sydenham River Canoe Race be cancelled for 2018.
- Due to localized flooding, the start and finish sites will not be useable in time for the event.

South West Woodlot Association

- The Lambton County Woodlot Owners Association was established by a group of resident woodlot owners in 1994

- The Association’s fundamental purpose continues to be to encourage sustainable forest practices by helping landowners acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake these practices
- In promoting woodlots and their importance, the group holds educational events throughout the year (visits to managed and unmanaged woodlots, tree-planting demonstrations, sawmill tours, and an annual bus tour)
- In 2016 the Lambton Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Owners Association changed their name to South West Woodlot Association
- Since its inception, the Authority has provided a Technical Advisor to the group
- Initially, Donald Craig was the appointed advisor, and in his retirement Donald continues to be involved in the organization
- In 2009, Tim Payne was appointed as Technical Advisor to the group and he is prepared to continue in this role

#### Staff Changes

- Patty Hayman has been the Director of Planning with SCRCA since 1989
- Prior to joining SCRCA, Patty had also worked at Kettle Creek and Upper Thames River Conservation Authorities
- Patty will be retiring on May 25<sup>th</sup> after almost 30 years of service to the organization
- Many thanks to Patty for her passion for planning and the watershed and all our best wishes as she moves into the next chapter of her life
- Dallas Cundick will assume responsibility for the Planning department as Manager of Planning as of May 1<sup>st</sup>
- As with any senior staff departure, a review of the organization structure is ongoing to ensure that all options are reviewed for efficiency and effectiveness

#### Innovative Farmer’s Board

- Invitation to Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist to sit on the board of directors as a representative of the Conservation Authorities.

#### **BD-18-32**

#### **Nemcek-Gordon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated April 9, 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

It was recommended that Tim Payne be appointed to continue as Technical Advisor to

the Association.

**BD-18-33**

**McMillan-Marriott**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence from the Southwest Woodlot Owners Association dated March 29, 2018, and further that Tim Payne be appointed to continue as Technical Advisors to the Association.”**

**CARRIED**

- Black Creek Cemetery is located adjacent one of the upstream properties of the McKeough Dam on the south side of Stanley Line just east of Pretty Road
- The Cemetery Board is dealing space issues and has requested that the Authority review any options for the transfer of a small portion of land to the cemetery
- The Foundation has successfully worked with the Cemetery Board in the past to plant trees on and around the cemetery
- The map below outlines the options that staff have reviewed based on this request
- The Lang Property, known as Property 95, was purchase in 1983
- The north portion of the farm, 47 acres, is lease to an agricultural tenant through 2020

**Strategic Objectives(s):**

- Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan states – Provide recreation and education opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn from our natural environment – and further highlights community conservation and recognition
- Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan states – Build a stronger and more valued organization through business excellence

**Financial Impact:**

- The financial impact of the transfer would be the ongoing loss of agricultural rental revenue for the 0.5 acres requested
- Current rental rate for the property is \$190 per acre
- Therefore, the impact would be the loss of \$95.00 annually
- In the long term, the value of the property could be reduced by \$5,000 - \$10,000

**BD-18-34**

**Bruziewicz-Kelch**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated April 6, 2018, regarding the request from Black Creek Cemetery for a donation of land and further that the one half acre of land be transfer to the Cemetery at their cost.”**

**CARRIED**

A report regarding the locations of past and future Annual General Meetings was presented. Two errors were identified and corrected and two additional sites were added to the list.

**BD-18-35**

**Bruinink-Wright**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the additions, and revisions to the schedule of meeting locations for the Conservation Authority’s Annual General Meeting and adopts the list as a preferred rotation for subsequent years.”**

**CARRIED**

A verbal report of the Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting held on April 16, 2018 was given by Brian McDougall, General Manager.

A new template regarding by-laws was developed and requires completion by December of 2018. SCRCA Staff will present a draft copy for review at the September board meeting. An edited version will be presented in November with the final copy submitted for approval in December, 2018.

The Conservation Ontario 2018 Board of Directors welcomed a new Chair and Vice Chair:

- Chair: Don MacIver, Credit Valley Conservation
- Vice Chair: Mark Burnham, Mississippi Valley CA
- Vice Chair: Lin Gibson, Conservation Sudbury

Carbon offsets program for Ontario is currently being developed. Comments have been made requesting that the farm community be included within this program.

**BD-18-36**

**Scholten-Gordon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal report of Conservation Ontario’s Annual General meeting held April 16, 2018 at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto as well as Queen’s Park Day April 17, 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

Business Arising from last meeting:

Lambton Children’s Safety Village

- Update on self-generated Hydro options contained within handout report

2017 Audited Financial Statements

- Update on Forestry account of \$11,000 (i.e. what this is, what restrictions are on this account)
- Update to be provided at June 28, 2018 Board meeting

#### Highland Glen

- Directors request that signage is posted near boat launch reminding users to pay and outlining how parking fees have allowed for improvements. This may also include future plans and the cost of those jobs.
- Appropriate signage has been completed and will be installed this month.
- Verbal update to be provided at Board meeting

#### **BD-18-37**

#### **Miller-Gordon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the February 22, 2018 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 420 seasonal campers and are financial self sufficient
- Profits obtained from our campgrounds are used to offset capital improvements
- The camping season in 2018 runs from Friday, April 27 to Thanksgiving Day

#### Warwick Conservation Area

- Hydro service, lights and a new ag tuff ceiling have been installed in the storage shed
- The 9 hole mini golf course to be upgraded with new carpet and 4 x 4 lumber
- Roads to be upgraded with gravel
- All light fixtures and exterior lighting have been upgraded with LED bulbs and new fixtures
- A new laundry shed has been constructed and installed at the main washroom building

#### L.C. Henderson Conservation Area

- Playground equipment surfacing to be upgraded with engineered wood chips and subsurface drainage

- Roads to be upgraded with gravel
- Trailer pads to be installed on 5 campsites in the Towerview camping area
- All light fixtures and exterior lighting to be upgraded with LED bulbs and new fixtures
- A catch basin and subsurface tile drainage to be installed
- A new solar pole light to be installed in the un-serviced camping area
- 36 stumps have been removed and the area leveled with topsoil

#### A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

- The concrete sidewalk in front of the pool washrooms to be upgraded
- Improvements to be made to the main entrance roadway between the river crossing and the main parking lot (fall 2018)
- A hydro panel to be upgraded in the main campground area
- Roads to be upgraded with gravel
- Playground equipment surfacing to be upgraded with engineered wood chips and subsurface drainage (Foundation Funded)
- The pavilion roof has been replaced with steel
- All light fixtures and exterior lighting have been upgraded with LED bulbs and new fixtures
- The Maple Syrup Festival was a success this year with over 1,350 people attending

#### Highland Glen Conservation Area:

- Approximately 60ft of new walkway along the inside of the boat ramp seawall to be installed
- Welding repairs will be completed on a section of top railing and joints on one of the outer seawalls

#### Other Lands Activities:

- 12 board walk sections have been constructed and will be placed along conservation area trails (funded by Foundation)
- Conservation Lands staff will be maintaining the Lambton County CN rail trail between Camlachie and Brights Grove; maintenance will include trail surface grading, grass cutting and tree removal and planting.
- Sub-surface drainage and soil erosion works are planned for Property 82 on the McKeough Upstream lands
- Forest management reviews and inventories will be carried out on the Evoy and Reid Properties
- Staff have repaired or repositioned many of the boardwalks and bridges damaged by spring floods (Strathroy Conservation Area)
- 13 stumps have been removed from along the access roadway at CJ McEwen



- McLean Property (Foundation) – drainage pump shaft has been upgraded in the field pump house
- Bannerstone (Foundation) – property access gates and signage to be install; a small parking area to be established off of Kent Bridge Line
- Over the winter we have accepted campsite reservations (overnight camping only) at the administration office for our 3 regional campgrounds; as of March 31<sup>st</sup> 839 reservations have been taken, collecting \$109,000.00; as compared to 750 reservations and \$96,649.00.00 collected in 2017 (HST adjusted)

**BD-18-38**

**Nemcek-McMillan**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update dated April 7, 2018, outlining development and management activities on Conservation Areas, McKeough, Lambton County and Foundation Lands.”**

**CARRIED**

Timeline

- August 2017 – Met with LCSV representatives to discuss overall concept
- September 2017 – Overall concept and basic plan presented to the Board of Directors – Board acknowledge report and directed staff to report back on outlined issues – Issues identified include: power supply, septic services, impacts to existing programming (camping, education, lands)
- December 2017 – Updated concept plan shown to Board and verbal report by GM
- February 2018 – Update provided to Executive Committee of Board of Directors
- February 2018 – Hydro One advises that power supply to the proposed development based on the available concept plan will cost between \$35,000 - \$50,000 to make power available to the conceptually proposed development
- February 2018 – Updated the Board of Directors on the capital costs for power supply, advised them of consultant undertaking septic servicing review, concerns brought forward by staff regarding impacts on existing programs and additional information will be provided in April

Comments

- The Board of Directors has acknowledged that we are reviewing the concept of having the LCSV developed at LC Henderson CA and they have been updated on the status of that review three times
- At this time, the Board of Directors have not approved the construction of LCSV at LC Henderson CA, endorsed the signing of an operating agreement or an implementation plan for the development

## Issues

- Capital costs to have hydro service improved to have available power for the proposed work - \$50,000
- The report on the septic services is expected to be completed this week and will be provided to the Board on April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Revenues generated from camping cover all operating and maintenance costs, as well as development and staff – no “tax dollars” (municipal levy) are provided to support LC Henderson CA
- Conservation Education programs generate over 50% of their budget from donations and fees
- Any impacts to these programs that result in financial losses (reduced camping use, fewer student programs) could have a direct impact on staff in these program areas
- Based on the updated concept plan shared with the LCSV Committee (below), Authority staff have identified several points of concern that could impact existing programming:
- Education Program potential impacts
  - Loss of useable space – major impacts on 7 existing education programs
  - Noise and visual distractions – it can be difficult to maintain children’s attention without the presence of other stimuli, especially when you are helping them to connect with the sites, sounds and feeling of natural areas
  - Congestion – at lunch time most days and during high wind days (when we do not use forested areas), space can be an issue based on the current use - the proposed additional classroom would help relieve some of this concern but with very limited open space, twice the number of children will reduce the quality of the experience of all programs and increases the risks of other issues
  - Current programs are fully booked – one of the benefits of the LCSV was identified as a draw for students to Authority Education programs – with fully booked programs there can be little impact
  - Parking – very often parents accompanying classes drive separately to the site – at times the existing parking lot does not meet demand (especially with younger classes) – with space already at a premium, any loss to parking is unreasonable, therefore additional classes will simply increase parking issues
  - Construction
- Campground potential impacts
  - Noise and visual distractions – campers in our campgrounds are seeking a quiet and peaceful natural setting for their camping experience – 3 of the 4 camping areas are located in close proximity to the proposed village location

- Mixed messaging – issues, in the past, have resulted in battery powered vehicles (child sized) are not permitted at Authority campgrounds due to noise issues – the LCSV is expected to employ these vehicles as part of their programmes
- Open Space Congestion – the campground operates from May 1 – Thanksgiving – currently no education programming is schedule during July and August, providing opportunities for campers to use open areas – any LSCV programs in the summer months could have an impact
- Washroom Size and Maintenance – issues of use or overuse of washroom facilities or the Authority ability to maintain the facilities to the desired standard may be an issue that could impact camper satisfaction
- Construction
- In order to reduce these impacts, a revised concept plan has been drafted for internal review (below)
- Authority staff have confirmed that the revision does negate some of the issues, but several significant issues remain
  - Potential loss of revenue, noise issues, tree preservation, septic issues, construction disruption and agreement on annual costs sharing continue to be issues identified from the Camping program
  - Changes to the concept plan do move and concentrate the issues, but do not eliminate them – several education programs use the area of the existing mini-golf course and the proximity to the education centre will continue to make student focus an issue – the mini-golf area has also be an important area for shade as classes often use this as a cool down area out of the direct sunlight
  - As well, the mini-golf course has recently undergone a facelift with material costs of almost \$5,000
- This revised concept plan has not been reviewed with LCSV representatives and may not be satisfactory for their needs or desires

The Board of Directors held discussion regarding the possible outcomes, including:

- How the LCSV fits in with SCRCA's mandate with regards to education
- Competition to and distraction from current educational programs
- Impact on camper experience and potential loss of revenue
- Loss of Investments on improving the LC Henderson grounds (i.e. mini put, tree plantings)
- Accessibility and visibility of the location
- Congestion and overpopulation of the area
- Current hydro and septic capacity

<b>Recorded Vote re BD-18-39</b>		
<b>Director</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Brewer, Diane		X
Broad, Alan		X
Bruinink, Tony		X
Bruziewicz, Andy	X	
Faas, Joe	X	
Giffen, Norm	X	
Gordon, Larry	X	
Kelch, Mike	X	
MacKinnon, Betty Ann		X
Marriott, Kevin		X
McCharles, John		X
McMillan, Dan	X	
Miller, Steve		X
Nemcek, Frank		X
Rupke, Gerry		X
Scholten, Cindy	X	
Wesley, Jeff	X	
Westgate, Jerry		X
Wright, Muriel	X	
Arnold, Steve		X
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>

**BD-18-39**

**Kelch-Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated, April 6, 2018, regarding proposed Lambton Children’s Safety Village and further advises the Lambton Children’s Safety Village Committee that the proposed development will impact the existing programs at LC Henderson CA and therefore that Safety Village cannot be located at this location.”**

**LOST**

<b>Recorded Vote re BD-18-40</b>		
<b>Director</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Brewer, Diane	x	
Broad, Alan	x	
Bruinink, Tony	x	
Bruziewicz, Andy		x
Faas, Joe	x	
Giffen, Norm	x	
Gordon, Larry	x	
Kelch, Mike		x
MacKinnon, Betty Ann	x	
Marriott, Kevin	x	
McCharles, John	x	
McMillan, Dan	x	
Miller, Steve	x	
Nemcek, Frank	x	
Rupke, Gerry	x	
Scholten, Cindy		x
Wesley, Jeff	x	
Westgate, Jerry	x	
Wright, Muriel	x	
Arnold, Steve	x	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>

**BD-18-40**

**Rupke-Broad**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated, April 6, 2018, regarding proposed Lambton Children’s Safety Village and further directs staff to advise the Lambton Children’s Safety Village Committee of the issues regarding the proposed development at LC Henderson Conservation Area and other Conservation Areas and negotiate a revised plan that alleviates impacts on the Authority programs for review and approval of the Board of Directors.**

**CARRIED**

- Current flow numbers have stabilized into March following the early freshet and rain event in the third week of February which resulted in the operation of the McKeough Floodway. With no significant additional rain, watercourses were flowing at normal seasonal levels. Some ice conditions persisted due to cooler temperatures throughout the March but have now dissipated. Snowfall was also present due to lake effect conditions however; there were no considerable accumulations, which have not had any impact on flow conditions.

- Wallaceburg levels have continued to be consistent with normal conditions with the exception the February flood event and a smaller event in the first week of April. The Top of Bank level has been added for comparison with actual level.

#### Precipitation

- Regional precipitation numbers for the first quarter are at or above average (110.6%) for most stations with the exception of the upper reaches of the watershed at (99.6%). This quarterly average was due to higher than normal precipitation in February. This also increased six month figures (108.6%) but yearly numbers remain consistent with normal (98.5%)

#### Snow Conditions

- Most snowpack in SW Ontario was reduced in March but with overall lower temperatures, some snowfall was evident but with little or no notable accumulations
- As expected snowpack continues to be still in place in northern areas of the province. The presence of snow in these areas may continue to contribute to anticipated higher lake levels.

#### Flood Threat

Consistent but cooler weather patterns into March reduced the flood threat and there were no significant events during the month. Spring rainfall events will, as in all years have potential for flood events when significant rainfall is experienced. Rain and wind events in the first part of April did not create any watershed based flooding however, significant wind coupled with high lake levels has resulted in shoreline surge conditions which are now being monitored. The Great Lakes online surge modelling system has been developed by the Provincial Surface Water Monitoring Centre as a result of the continued impact of high water levels and extreme wind conditions. These models and forecasting are now being utilized by those Conservation Authorities with shorelines to better predict and provide appropriate warning protocols and messaging. We will continue to monitor conditions and issue bulletins as needed.

#### Forecasted Weather Conditions

- Overall - Weather conditions into Spring show a relatively strong La Nina influence.
- Long range - Model showing movement towards neutral effect, but remaining below neutral in La Nina conditions

April - Average to below average temperatures in southwestern Ontario. Precipitation outlook is within seasonal conditions.

May - While the rest of Ontario is moving to above seasonal temperatures and enjoying a traditional spring, our region is forecasted to remain in the seasonal temperature range. Precipitation is anticipated to be seasonal to slightly below seasonal levels

June - Below seasonal temperatures with precipitation conditions drier than normal

Summer - By July, our region is modelled at warmer than normal temperatures with precipitation modelled to be seasonal to drier than normal. Years identified as being similar based on modelling include 2006 and 2013.

#### Great Lakes Levels

The monthly comparison for February 2018 (current available data) indicates that Lake Huron levels higher again (26cm) compared to February 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 (10cm) 52cm above the 10 year average. Both Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair current values (February) continue to remain above the average for the entire period of record.

#### BD-18-41

#### Bruzewicz-Miller

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 5, 2018 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”**

**CARRIED**

- 2018- 2019 Projects have been submitted on February 12, 2018
- All applications will be reviewed by a committee of provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives in March and will be ranked in comparison to all submitted projects from across the Province
- List of approved projects is anticipated in May or early June
- List of WECl projects for 2018 - 2019 is outlined below

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested (\$)
Courtright Park	Courtright Park Shoreline Restoration – <b>Phase 2</b>	Shoreline work at Courtright Park along St. Clair River using armourstone and riprap.	\$700,000	\$350,000
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Helen and Kenwick St) <b>Phase 2</b>	Carry out construction of Phase 1 from the recommendation of engineering study.	\$800,000	\$400,000
Head Street/ Coldstream Dams	Decommissioning Study	Study to consider decommissioning of the	\$120,000	\$60,000

		Head street and Coldstream dams		
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Equipment Painting	Paint equipment and Waterproofing the gatehouse building	\$150,000	\$75,000
ARDA Dyke	Hazard Tree Removal	Remove trees and shrubs along the dyke that pose stability issues to the dyke	\$24,000	\$12,000
All Structures	Engineering Inspection	Engineering inspection and reporting to review structural integrity and required maintenance of all authority owned dams	\$60,000	\$30,000

### **Courtright Waterfront Restoration – Phase 1**

- A budget of \$720,000 was confirmed for the project (WECI \$350,000; St. Clair Township - \$350,000, Great Lakes Community Guardian fund \$20,000)
- Construction work started last week of January, 2018 by Bre-Ex Construction Inc.
- As of April 5, 2018, 49 working days have been completed of the project under the contract (a working day is any day during which the conditions permit the contractor to be able to undertake work to greater than 60 percent of capacity).
- All in-water works were completed before March 30, 2018.
- 2 outfalls were located and needed repair. This was not identified in the contract.
- Approximately 130 meters of Shoreline work has been completed as of today.
- Due to timeline restrictions and higher cost provided by Bre-Ex, SCRCA recommended that no additional work be completed.
- Minor restoration and repair work is on-going and the crew will be completing restoration in May, 2018.
- This is the first phase of construction at Courtright Park.
- Pictures below is taken on April 5<sup>th</sup> looking south and north along the Courtright park.

### **Sarnia Shoreline Protection – Phase 1**

- A budget of \$700,000 has been confirmed for the project (WECI \$350,000; City of Sarnia \$350,000)
- Construction work was completed on March 13, 2018.
- Construction crew faced a number of weather related challenges, but were extremely dedicated to complete the project.
- 30 working days was provided for completion of the project under the contract



- Restoration work planned for May, 2018.
- Due to half load restrictions, a pile of armour stone is left on site and will be placed in May, 2018 when the crew returns in May, 2018.
- This is the first phase of construction for Helen avenue to Kenwick park shoreline restoration

#### **BD-18-44**

#### **Scholten-Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2018 on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects and approves the projects submitted for funding in 2018-2019 and further will assist staff in obtaining matching funds, where required, to support these projects upon confirmation of funding approval.”**

**CARRIED**

#### Factsheets

New factsheets are now available on our website. The factsheets include information on how to make early season cover crop planting work and variable rate nutrient application. Both factsheets include case studies on projects we have completed with landowners in our watershed.

#### Educational Signs at Demonstration Farms

Two educational roadside signs are set to be installed in the coming weeks. The signs explain and showcase Agricultural Best Management Practices at demonstration sites across our watershed. A variable rate nutrient application sign will be installed near Dresden and an interseeding cover crops sign will be installed near Oil Springs.

#### Healthy Lake Huron Spring Newsletter

Our Healthy Lake Huron Spring 2018 Newsletter will be mailed to over 300 rural properties in Lambton Shores. The newsletter features articles which promote the use of cover crops to improve soil health, reduce erosion and improve water quality. Our upcoming Biostrips Workshop and cover crop grant program are also highlighted.

#### Soil Health Conference

Our Soil Health Conference in Chatham was extremely successful! Over 185 producers, attended the event, majority of professions broke down into: 75% cash crop producers, 33% vegetable producers, 26% ag business, 22% livestock producers, 19% Certified Crop Advisors (CCA), as well as organic producers, government staff and conservation organizations.

Speakers included Frank Gibbs (formerly of USDA), Dale Cowan (International CCA of the Year), Dr. Wendy Taheri, Dr. David Lobb, Dr. Ivan O'Halloran and Anne Verhallen, all of whom spoke about phosphorus, soil health, economics of soil loss, soil microorganisms and 4R Nutrient Management. Additionally, 15 local farmers spoke on

informal discussion panels to share their experiences with improving soil health and reducing soil erosion.

An important message from the conference was to remember that there is no single answer to improving soil health and nutrient management – it takes a combination of BMPs and that the combination will change from farm-to-farm and even year-to-year.

Feedback comments included the following:

“Thank you for organizing such a great meeting. Good caliber of guest speakers with great take home messages. It was educational with lots to think about. Hope you can do this again”

“Just wanted to say - great job. Thank you for the opportunity to participate. I really enjoyed the mix of speakers and loved hearing the farmers, especially the Soil Network participants present.”

“The conference was excellent, speakers, location, logistics and all. The discussions and information exchanged was very timely. Your team from SCRCA all deserve a pat on the back.”

Survey results included the following:

- 97% of attendees found that the conference demonstrated the value of implementing agricultural BMPs
- 100% of attendees found that the information provided was useful, new and increased their knowledge
- Most attendees indicated cost limits the adoption of BMPs followed by limited experience, risk (perceived or actual) and access to information
- 75% of respondents have at least 3 crops in their rotation
- 74% of respondents use cover crops
- 63% of respondents practice regular soil testing
- 58% of respondents practice reduced tillage
- 37% of respondents practice 4R Nutrient Stewardship
- Suggested for future discussion topics: cover crops, agricultural soil biology, biostrips/planting green and reducing compaction

**BD-18-45**

**Kelch-Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2018 on the Healthy Watersheds Program.”**

**CARRIED**

Conservation Authorities (CAs) regulate activities that change, divert, or interfere in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse, or that interfere with wetlands. Municipal drains are generally watercourses as defined under the CA Act and are therefore regulated by CAs.

Staff help member municipalities meet regulatory requirements by issuing Standard Compliance Requirements (SCRs) as per the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act (DART) Protocol and Letters of Review (LoR) for projects where DART does not apply (Drainage Act, S. 4: Petition Drains and S. 78: Improvements). Staff also meet with Drainage Superintendents on proposed projects and conduct site visits where necessary. If drain repair and maintenance activities are carried out (with or without permission) and result in impact on regulated areas with respect to the Conservation Authority's responsibilities under the Conservation Authorities Act, the Conservation Authority could be held liable for not under taking or enforcing its regulatory authority.

SCRs and LoRs outline project specific sediment and erosion control measures for all projects. Upstream and downstream flooding are considered where appropriate (e.g., culverts and enclosures) and advice is incorporated into review letters and SCRs. Interference with wetlands is discouraged by negotiating project specific mitigations. St. Clair Conservation staff work with municipalities to try to find solutions that meet the requirements of both the Drainage Act and the Conservation Authorities Act.

#### On-site Meetings

In 2017 SCRCA staff started to attend all on-site meetings held by the Municipalities for drainage projects. By doing this staff are able to bring forth any concerns regarding the proposed project early which can help to prevent hold ups later in the process. This also allows SCRCA to develop and maintain greater relationships with our Drainage Superintendents. Approximately 30 on-site meeting were attended by staff in 2017. Some concerns that are brought up include locations of wetlands and significant features. The SCRCA has policy in place with regards to wetlands which provides mitigations and advice for work within and around wetlands.

#### (Zsoldos Drain)

A new municipal drain is proposed in geographic Zone Township, Chatham Kent. The location of the proposed drainage works is within/adjacent portions of the Skunks Misery Provincially Significant Wetland Complex. The new drainage works follow a clearcut of portions of this woodland and wetland. Note: a Woodland Conservation or Tree cutting bylaw does not exist in Chatham Kent. SCRCA biology staff notified (in writing) CK drainage staff and consultant Spriet Associates early in the proposed drainage process of the PSW presence. The PSW is regulated by the SCRCA Ontario Regulation 171/06 "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses". CK has proceeded with drainage nevertheless and the report has received 3rd reading.

To complicate matters, the woodland and wetland is situated in both the SCRCA watershed and LTVCA watershed, with proposed drainage wholly outletting to SCRCA upper watershed tributaries.

SCRCA is working with LTVCA to address the violation and interference with the wetland caused by the clearcut. A separate but related issue is the proposed drainage works (Drainage Act) that as proposed could negatively impact the wetland.

Authority staff are proud of the success in working with municipalities in protecting the remaining wetlands in the watershed. Through this cooperation, SCRCA has generally not required written permission for new drainage works via Ontario Regulation 171/06 and has simply screened and provided general advice if appropriate to ensure wetlands are protected. However, with the concerns with the proposed works adjacent the PSW and the absence of any mention of the PSW in the drainage report, the SCRCA will require that C-K obtain formal written permission under SCRCA Regulation 171/06 to pursue the Zsoldos municipal drainage works. Adherence to the SCRCA Wetland Policies under Section 28 will be required.

**A year in review – 2017**

2017 saw a total of 109 files submitted to SCRCA for review. 63 were reviewed under the DART protocol and received SCR permissions. 45 were reviewed by staff and received LoRs as the works were outside of those specified under the DART protocol.

Categories of Drain Review	January - April 2016	May - August 2016	September - December 2016	Totals
DART Protocol – SCR issued	17	24	22	<b>109</b>
Letter of Review Issued	16	18	11	
Other Types of Files (e.g., Environmental Assessment, sign-off, Assessment changes)	0	0	1	
<b>Total Files</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>	

**BD-18-46**

**Bruinink-Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the report dated March 27, 2018 summarizing 2017 Municipal Drain Review activities including action on the proposed new Zsoldos municipal drain.”**

**CARRIED**

Every five years conservation authorities release watershed report cards to help watershed residents, agency staff and conservation authority directors understand environmental health on a watershed basis. Report cards provide a 'check-up' on the health of many of Ontario's Watersheds. A comparison of SCRCA's watershed conditions with neighbouring watersheds can be found at <http://watershedcheckup.ca/>

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority cards assess and grade surface water quality and forest conditions in 14 sub-watersheds. The Report Cards are compiled every 5 years therefore the 2018 Report Card is based off data collected from 2011-2015. Both the 2013 and 2018 Report Cards use the guidelines and updated grading system recommended by Conservation Ontario in 2011.

Surface water quality indicators include Total Phosphorus, benthic invertebrates, and bacteria (*E. coli*). Forest condition indicators include the percent forest cover, percent forest interior, and the percent of the riparian zone that is forested. Each of these indicators are graded with specific parameters and these grades have been defined from A to F (Excellent to Very Poor). The Report Card analysis is based on water quality data collected by St. Clair Conservation staff, and GIS mapping. The water quality information is collected at individual sites that are selected to reflect the subject watershed. The forest evaluation has been completed at a landscape level from analysis of aerial photographs.

Results for this year's Report Card resulted in surface water quality grades for the St. Clair Region ranging from C to D. Overall, the Middle East Sydenham, Lower East Sydenham, Lower North Sydenham and Lambton Shores Tributaries scored C grades while the remaining sub-watersheds scored D grades. Forest condition grades ranged from C to F; with a C grade in Lambton Shores Tributaries, most watersheds receiving a D grade, and an F grade in Cow and Perch Creeks, and Lake St. Clair Tributaries.

The latest round of report cards reinforces the need for an aggressive strategy to change the watershed. With change and stressors, such as intense agricultural practices, population growth, commercial and industrial development and climate change continually affecting the watershed, recognition of local actions that improve the watershed health is very important. There have been collective efforts over the years including dozens of projects that have been completed through the Healthy Watershed Program and Healthy Lake Huron Clean Water Clean Beaches Program. Examples of these positive contributions are included and summarized in each watershed Report Card.

**BD-18-47**

**Kelch-Wright**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 4, 2018 on Watershed Report Cards and reporting on the health of St. Clair Conservation watersheds.”**

**CARRIED**

The Biology Department has had great success with grant proposals carrying into this year, with active grants currently totaling over \$1,000,000 and a potential additional \$1,185,000 from new applications in 2018/19.

**Financial Impact:**

Multi-year grants for 2018/19 include:

- A three year \$160,300 grant from the Friends of the St. Clair River/Ontario Trillium Foundation to conduct aquatic inventories, restore aquatic habitat and for education and outreach.
- A three year \$270,000 grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada for the “Sydenham River Healthy Watersheds Program – An Ecosystem Approach for Species at Risk.”
- A two year \$217,560 grant from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs for the “to restore, protect and conserve Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health through Agriculture Outreach & Education”
- A two year \$40,000 grant from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs for the “Healthy Lake Huron – Lambton Shores Clean Water, Clean Beaches Program”
- A three year \$57,400 grant from Environment Canada and Climate Change for the “Healthy Watersheds Program – North Sydenham River Recovery.”
- A three year \$21,500 from Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (Great Lakes Agriculture Stewardship Initiative) for Soil Health, Water Quality, and Pollinator Habitat Outreach and Education.
- A two year \$18,074 grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada for the “North Sydenham Watershed Mussel Inventory”

As well, there were a number of one-year projects funded for 2018/19

- \$30,000 from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for the protection, evaluation and restoration of riparian wetlands.
- \$23,378 from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (OCEF) for the “Sydenham Tree Planting and Baseline Health Assessment”
- \$25,000 from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund) for the “Sydenham River Recovery Program”
- \$60,000 from Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for the “Healthy Lake Huron – Lambton Shores Clean Water, Clean Beaches Program”

- \$10,000 from Environment and Climate Change Canada for the “Healthy Lake Huron – Lambton Shores Clean Water, Clean Beaches Program”
- \$70,400 from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Species at Risk Stewardship Fund for the “Sydenham River Habitat Stewardship Program”
- \$20,000 from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program for Habitat Enhancement of the Hardy Creek Floodplain.

The following additional applications have been submitted to date for 2018/19 funding:

- \$600,000 has been requested from Environment and Climate Change Canada (Great Lakes Protection Initiative – Preventing Toxic and Nuisance Algae Stream) for the “Reducing phosphorus loss through agricultural outreach & stewardship in Southwestern Ontario” (4 year proposal)
- \$143,685 has been requested from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Species at Risk Stewardship Fund) for the “Reptiles at Risk” Program (3 year proposal)
- \$120,900 has been requested from Environment and Climate Change Canada (Great Lakes Protection Initiative – Citizen Science Stream) for the “St. Clair Region Farmers For Great Lakes Water Quality Science” (4 year proposal)
- \$99,991 has been requested from Environment and Climate Change Canada (EcoAction) for the “St. Clair Region’s Freshwater Reach-ahead Program Pilot” (2 year proposal)
- \$80,000 has been requested from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership for “reducing phosphorus loss through agricultural outreach and education” (18 month proposal)
- \$60,000 has been requested from Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for the “Healthy Lake Huron – Lambton Shores Clean Water, Clean Beaches Program” (1 year proposal)
- \$28,888 has been requested from Environment and Climate Change Canada (Habitat Stewardship Program – SAR Stream) for the “Barrier Removal on Bear Creek at Moore Habitat Management Area” (1 year proposal)
- \$8,900 is requested annually from Fisheries and Oceans Canada for a contract to collect fisheries data (1 year proposal)
- \$5,464 has been requested from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for the “A.W. Campbell CA Pollinator Meadow” (1 year proposal)
- \$7,050 has been requested from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation – TD Tree Days for Strathroy and Sarnia (1 year proposal)
- \$30,858 has been requested from Canada Summer Jobs to fund three summer positions: A Biological Monitoring Assistant, and two Watershed Conservationists

**BD-18-48**

**Kelch-Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report dated April 4, 2018 on the biology department’s grant/ funding update for 2018/ 19.”**

**CARRIED**

Freshwater mussels play an extremely important role in the health of freshwater rivers and lakes. Buried beneath layers of sand they filter and clean water, are a source of food for many different species and most importantly, act as a “bioindicator” as their health has direct links to the overall health of the aquatic ecosystem. However, due to increased pollution, siltation, habitat loss and invasive species competition, many are listed as “at risk” in Ontario. With at least 80 species of fish and 34 species of freshwater mussels historically found in the Sydenham River, it is one of the most species-rich watersheds in all of Canada – no other river in Canada has greater freshwater mussel diversity. With this knowledge, research and monitoring within this diverse system is an important action in protecting these degrading populations.

SCRCA Projects - 2017:

The Sydenham River is made up of two main branches, the East Branch and the North Branch. The East Branch has long been recognized as a hotspot for mussel diversity whereas the North Branch has often been overlooked and understudied. In order to work on closing these knowledge gaps, the SCRCA’s biology staff conducted 28 mussel surveys covering 14km of the North Branch in 2017 and plan to study another 14km in 2018. This year alone, staff captured and processed 5,282 live mussels in addition to 3,040 old shells, thereby adding over 8,000 new data points to the North Branch of the Sydenham. Twenty species were observed including five Species at Risk. This important research project is being funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk.

In addition, the mussel relocation survival assessment phase of the 2016 Bear Creek barrier removal was conducted. The survey took place on July 31-August 1 and 296 live mussels were observed. Only one Species at Risk mussel (Mapleleaf mussel) was observed, however it was the most abundant species of those surveyed. A second survival survey will take place in 2018 to fulfill the permit requirements of the project.

2017 Canadian Freshwater Mollusc Research Meeting: November 8-9, 2017

The second biennial Canadian Freshwater Mollusc Research Meeting was held in November at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington, Ontario. The meeting was jointly hosted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. This meeting was organized to bring together Canadian malacologists to share past, current, and ongoing research on freshwater molluscs. Topics of discussion included status and distribution, life history, conservation genetics, species at risk, threats, propagation activities, and outreach actions. With representation



from the Pacific to the Atlantic, attendees came from federal departments, provincial/state agencies, academic institutions, environmental nongovernmental organizations, naturalist groups, zoos, museums, and interested citizens. SCRCA biologists attended the meeting and found it as a great environment for building relationships to promote future collaborations and research opportunities, as well as learn about other Freshwater Mussel research and initiatives taking place within other geographic regions.

#### The Sydenham River – An Important Piece to Mussel Research

There are a number of organizations and researchers that travel to the Sydenham River to conduct research as it remains the most diverse mussel habitat in Ontario. Presented at the Canadian Freshwater Mollusc Research Meeting, three research projects listed below used the Sydenham River as a home base. Fisheries and Oceans and MNRF often invite SCRCA biologists to participate in mussel research projects when in SCRCA's watershed.

- Exploring Ontario Nature's first riverine reserve: The Sydenham River Nature Reserve  
A group of biologists from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has launched an inventory survey along a 2.5km stretch within the Sydenham River Nature Reserve. This specific reach has never been inventoried. After a three-day survey, a total of 1691 animals, representing 24 species, were observed, including seven Species at Risk (SAR). This survey provides a better understanding of reach variability as well as the freshwater mussel community throughout the river.
- Selective feeding of freshwater mussels: implications for resource partitioning  
Researchers from the University of Guelph have been examining the feeding of three freshwater mussel species in the Sydenham River at Florence, ON in different flow conditions. The study showed that higher feeding was observed under flowing conditions across all the mussel species and that different mussel species were capable of selectively feeding on particular algal species.
- Can Adaptive Cluster Sampling Improve Ontario Mussel Species at Risk Monitoring?  
Collaborations between MNRF and University of Trent studied simulation-based methods to evaluate whether adaptive clustering sampling could improve single-species monitoring. Data for eight mussel species (including three species at risk) collected from two sites (Rawdon Creek and Sydenham River) were used. It was determined in all cases that adaptive sampling was less accurate and efficient than simple random sampling or systematic sampling with random starts.

For more detailed explanations or to read about additional mussel research, please visit: <http://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/40663693.pdf>

#### Conclusion:

Mussel monitoring work conducted by SCRCA biology staff throughout the Sydenham watershed plays an important role in the overall research and knowledge of Ontario Freshwater Mussel populations. With the Sydenham River being the most diverse location in Ontario, current knowledge gaps should be filled in order to promote the best possible planning and management practices. SCRCA collects valuable baseline data that is contributing to closing these gaps and providing a greater understanding about species presence and distribution, especially Species at Risk. This data is valuable to a wide range of organizations including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and will be used for various projects for years to come.

#### **BD-18-49**

##### **Faas-Giffen**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report dated April 4, 2018 on mussel research and monitoring taking place throughout the Sydenham River watershed by SCRCA biology staff and other organizations.”**

**CARRIED**

#### Stewardship Projects

- There were 12 projects funded by the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund (SARSF) for 2017- 2018. A total of \$31,500 from this program went toward funding riparian buffers, stream bank stabilization, wetland creation, upland habitat improvements, agricultural windbreaks and afforestation projects valued at more than \$168,000
- Construction for some projects began in February and March mainly for wetland creation. Most of the projects are expected to begin May 1st and be completed over the course of four to five weeks
- A new application for SARSF 2018 - 2019 was submitted to MNRF last fall. We received notification on April 5<sup>th</sup> that our proposal was not selected for funding for the 2018/19. SCRCA has received funding from this program since 2008, however the SARSF has changed some of their priority categories and competition for funding has increased. The review committee decided that the SCRCA proposal for stewardship projects was not strong enough to meet SAR recovery needs for priority species.

#### Tree Planting Program

- Tree seedlings and shipping dates from supplying tree nurseries are operating approximately one to two weeks behind normal spring schedules this year.
- Nurseries don't expect to start lifting seedlings until the week of April 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> due to cold and wet conditions so far this spring.
- Trees are expected to arrive sometime around the 25<sup>th</sup> of April or later.

- SCRCA crews will be planting approximately 55,000 trees on 28 properties this spring.
- Another 5,500 trees will be distributed to an additional 40 landowners for planting.
- Two tractors will be rented and used to operate the two SCRCA owned mechanical tree planters. One hand planting crew will be required for planting difficult sites. Planting is expect to take place starting around the first week of May this year.
- Approximately 10 acres will be planted on Enbridge land at the Wilkesport site in St. Clair Township this spring. This will be the final year of an 8 year-long project to “help reforest” Lambton County under a Naturalization Project they committed to in 2010 in partnership with SCRCA. Union Gas Limited will be subsidizing the cost of 4 of the 10 acres of this Enbridge project for compensation from a tree removal project in St. Clair Township in 2017
- Approximately 275,000 trees require spray maintenance this spring (under the 3 year vegetation control program) plus another 55,000 trees scheduled for planting this year. Two machine sprayers will start herbicide applications in April as soon as weather and site conditions permit.
- The 3 year tending work is paid in advance and carried forward each year to cover the cost of the labour and material.

#### Large Stock Trees

- Approximately 850 large stock trees have been ordered for the spring
- Three municipalities are ordering trees this spring and two other municipalities are interested in a large stock tree program next year. The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston is providing a financial incentive to its municipal property owners who purchase and plant trees on their property through this program.
- Trees range in size from a half metre tall for evergreen trees to 2.0 metres tall for the hardwood trees. Most of the trees are potted or in a dirt ball with burlap. Some species and oversized trees come in bare root form. The bare root trees are less expensive, however, they require much more protection when transporting and storing.

#### Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

- Many forest property owners have recently been contacting SCRCA for assistance preparing a new plan or approving a renewed plan for the managed forest tax incentive program for the 2019 tax year.
- New plans must be approved by a plan approver and are due June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Plan renewals must also be approved by a plan approver and are due July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018
- Minimum requirement for the program is 4 hectares of woodland exclusive of residence or non-forestry use structures
- Approved plans are sent to the MNRF and information is then sent to MPAC

- The MFTIP offers a reduction in property taxes to landowners of forested land who prepare a plan and agree to be good stewards of their property

**BD-18-50**

**Gordon-Marriott**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 5, 2018 regarding Conservation Services projects and programs.”**

**CARRIED**

- The County of Lambton operates a West Nile virus (WNV) program including a larvicide application program to control mosquito larva in catch basins. The Conservation Authority has been treating catch basins in all rural and urban areas in Lambton County, including the City of Sarnia since 2006 under direction from Lambton Public Health. SCRCA obtains permits each year from the Ministry of the Environment and trains, certifies and registers summer staff as pesticide technicians to treat catch basins with a mosquito larvicide product.
- Catch basins are treated with methoprene (mosquito larvicide) between July 1st and August 30<sup>th</sup> with 3 separate applications at 21-day intervals for mosquito control during the most vulnerable time of the year for transmitting the disease. Methoprene is a growth regulator that prevents the mosquito pupa from emerging as a biting adult mosquito. Approximately 65% of the Lambton County catch basins are located in the City of Sarnia.
- The three year contract for larvicide application between SCRCA and the County of Lambton ended in 2017 under the maximum extended contract term. SCRCA submitted a new price and treatment option plan to the County last month for a new three year contract term.
- A tender for a three year contract for larvicide application by the SCRCA was offered to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent this year and is currently being reviewed for consideration by County staff
- SCRCA staff also conduct efficacy tests in part with the treatment program by collecting mosquito pupa samples throughout the summer. Pupa are monitored for percent adult emergence. Past efficacy tests show an 80% average effectiveness at controlling mosquito emergence.

**BD-18-51**

**Nemcek-McMillan**

**“The Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2018 on the application of Larvicide to catch basins in Lambton County for the control of West Nile Virus in 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

- Recently, an open ditch drain cleanout took place along the length of the drain where a landowner had planted trees and unfortunately, a large percentage of the trees were damaged in the process
- The landowner gave the cleanout contractor permission to work from his property as long as the contractor agreed to be careful not to damage the trees in the process
- The landowner later contacted SCRCA as well as the municipality to determine if the trees could be replaced
- The trees were planted as seedlings in 2009 as part of a Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (RLSN) habitat improvement project and fully funded by RLSN
- SCRCA was contracted by RLSN to plant the trees on the landowner's side of drain, which is where excavation equipment is normally used during a drain cleanout and where the spoil from the drain is normally placed
- An SCRCA tree planting agreement was still used even though it was a RLSN project
- The landowner was aware of the necessary permission requirements for planting trees along the property line but neglected to contact the municipality regarding the proposed tree planting along the drain
- Fortunately, this is a rare occurrence however; we need to avoid similar occurrences in the future.
- How can SCRCA effectively and efficiently work with landowners and their adjacent landowners to attain all tree planting objectives and ensure with funders that the projects are not only implemented but also successful in the long term?
- With these projects being carried out on private property, the landowner not only has the rights but also the responsibility for the works occurring on their property therefore, how can we ensure that the landowner obtains all necessary permissions and takes full responsibility for their project?
- The existing planting agreement requires landowners who wish to plant trees less than one metre from a neighbouring property must obtain the signature of the adjacent landowner under a statement permitting such encroachment within the property boundary. Should we also require a landowner to obtain permission from the municipality, including a signature as well as the selection of material deposition or landowner paid disposal that would ensure that the property owner has discharged their responsibilities as a landowner in the preparation for a project to be carried out on their property?
- Therefore, staff propose to:
  - Revise the existing Private Landowner's Tree Planting Agreement (below are excerpts from the agreement) to incorporate a clearer statement for planting along municipal drains
  - Add a statement outlining that when a landowner wishes to plant a row or more of trees along a municipal drain, the landowner agrees to have the spoil material from any future drain maintenance placed in another location and removed at the expense of the landowner

- Incorporate a mandatory signature line where the municipality and/or municipal drainage superintendent and the landowner agree to the above method of future drain maintenance works should future maintenance risk damaging existing trees
- A similar statement and signature line will be added for projects that are close to adjacent properties

**BD-18-52**

**Kelch-MacKinnon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2018 regarding Private Lands tree planting projects and Municipal Drain Maintenance Projects and further that the Tree Planting Agreement between the landowners and the Authority include awareness of conditions in planting along or adjacent municipal drains and that the planting project has been reported to the drain engineer and municipal drainage superintendent.”**

**CARRIED**

A summary of staff 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.

**BD-18-53**

**Marriott-Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Report dated April 4, 2018 on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) from February to March 31, 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

A summary of staff activity related to Municipal Plan Input and Review covering January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018 was reviewed

**BD-18-54**

**Scholten-Kelch**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Report for January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

A summary of the Municipal drain activity report associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART) covering October 2017 to March 2018, was reviewed.

**BD-18-55**

**Wright-McMillan**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the October, 2017 – March, 2018 municipal drain activity report associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART).”**

**CARRIED**

The Lake Huron Shoreline Management Plan was approved by the Board of Directors in 2015.

In 2016/17, SCRCA retained W.F. Baird and Associates, Coastal Engineering to undertake the above noted dynamic beach studies. Numerous updates on the studies were forwarded to the Board of Directors in 2016 and 2017. In 2016 public open houses were held and in 2017 further consultation on the West Ipperwash study was necessary due to the complex issues in this Reach.

These studies are included as additional references in the Directors Board Package and on the Director Access website.

Revisions to the SMP are summarized in the Preface Section to the SMP.

A track changes document citing full revisions of the full SMP is available on the Directors Access page on the Authority website. A complete hard copy of the SMP (142 pages) was provided in December 2015.

Strategic Objectives(s):

Meets Goal 1 and Strategic Action 1 of SCRCA Strategic Plan

Study Findings:

As the dynamic nature of the beach was unknown at the time of historic development, a well defined building line was established on a beach deposit. The 2010 provincial dynamic beach default limit extended beyond the development line. The nature of the beach in the vicinity of the development had also been impacted.

Based on the results of the assessments, Baird and Associates recommended that the dynamic beach hazard limit could be reduced. This was based on sound coastal engineering modelling and principles and is outlined extensively in the individual reports. No objections were received on the recommendation of a reduced hazard limit as presented. The consultation process was a beneficial exercise as best management practices were discussed thoroughly with expertise from a well respected coastal engineering firm. Residents and the KSPFN community were appreciative of the expertise and opportunity to discuss issues with the consultant and SCRCA Planning and Regulations staff.

#### Financial Impact:

The individual technical studies financial arrangements were previously approved with grants and special benefitting municipalities sharing costs. No financial impact to SCRCA for changes to documents. Changes done in house and is a Regulatory requirement. Positive financial impact for individual residents as options for redevelopment on parcels were extremely limiting; particularly West Ipperwash.

#### **BD-18-56**

#### **Rupke-Kelch**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the update on Lake Huron Shoreline Management Plan Reaches 5 and 36/37 Dynamic Beach studies, which reduces the default dynamic beach limit based on sound coastal engineering modelling and principles and that updates be made to the Lake Huron Shoreline Management Plan as circulated as well as any other guidance documents for consistency purposes.”**

**CARRIED**

The review of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) began in Spring 2016 and has concluded with the creation of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) to replace the OMB. Staff attended an in-person session to discuss the OMB on October 27, 2016.

In addition to the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, Bill 139 – *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017*, which received Royal Assent December 12, 2017, also made changes to the planning process. Staff attended an information session about the changes to the planning process on March 9, 2018. The majority of changes discussed below take effect on April 3, 2018. This report focuses only on changes related to the Conservation Authority and does not specifically address all changes related to municipalities.

The Authority is involved in the planning process through our delegated responsibility from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to provide comments on natural hazards and our agreements with member municipalities to provide comments on natural heritage.

The Bill 139 changes related to the planning process included:

- repealing the OMB and replacing it with the LPAT,
- establishing the Local Planning Appeal Support Center, and;
- making changes to the Planning Act.

The LPAT will be an independent, province-wide appeal body for land use planning matters. The hearing process will be modernized and made less adversarial by promoting active adjudication, limiting oral evidence and cross examination, requiring mediation before hearings and improving timelines.



The Local Planning Appeal Support Center will be a separate agency, intended to help level the playing field for citizens and provide information on land use planning, appeal procedures and advice. A new user friendly website will be created, with publically accessible decisions on appeals.

Of the changes made to the Planning Act, a summary of those changes which relate to the Authority's responsibilities are outlined below. The direct relation to the Authority is highlighted in *italics*.

#### Longer Decision Timelines

The intended outcome of increasing the decision timelines is to provide more time to assess planning matters, hear input from the public and negotiate solutions to possible issues to avoid potential appeals before making a decision.

- Official Plan Amendments – 210 days extended from 180 days
- Zoning By-law Amendments – 150 days extended from 120 days

*The Conservation Authority will have more time to provide comments to the municipality and work with applicants to achieve a resolution.*

#### Consistency/Conformity Standard

Changes to the Planning Act will restrict the grounds for an appeal of official plan amendments and zoning by-law amendments to **only** matters of consistency and/or conformity with provincial and/or municipal policies and plans. This change will limit the ability of the LPAT to overturn decisions made by locally-elected councils, whereas previously the OMB could make any planning decision that council could have made.

The LPAT must dismiss an appeal of a local decision unless it is inconsistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), does not conform/conflicts with provincial plans, or does not conform with applicable official plans (e.g. upper-tier official plan). If a local decision is determined to be inconsistent or conflicting with policies, the matter must return to the municipality for a new decision. This change does not apply to appeals exclusively site-specific in nature (e.g. subdivision, consents, minor variances).

*Conservation Authority concerns related to Natural Hazards and Natural Heritage will continue to be a grounds for an appeal as they stem from the PPS.*

#### Requirement to Send New Information Back to the Municipality

The LPAT is required to send new information at subdivision hearings back to the municipality for re-evaluation of the original decision, if requested by the municipality. Previously, the OMB had the authority to determine whether to send new information back to the municipality. If material is sent back to the municipality, they have 60 days to reconsider the decision and make a written recommendation back to the LPAT.

*The Conservation Authority, working with the Municipality, can also review new information and provide input to recommendations.*

#### No Appeal of Major Provincial Decisions

With this change, no appeals of provincial decisions on official plans and major official plan updates will be permitted. The intended outcome is to reduce the number of appeals and increase the implementation of provincial policies, in order to protect important provincial interests such as public health and safety.

*Improved implementation of provincial policies related to Natural Hazard and Natural Heritage will assist the Conservation Authority when reviewing applications.*

#### Climate Change

All municipal official plans are required to include climate change policies to identify goals, objectives and actions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, including through increased resiliency.

*This requirement further supports the Conservation Authority's strategic plan objectives.*

#### **BD-18-57**

##### **Marriott-Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated March 12, 2018, regarding the Bill 139 changes related to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.”**

**CARRIED**

The revenue and expenditure report to February 28, 2018, as it relates to the budget, was reviewed.

#### **BD-18-58**

##### **Scholten-Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to February 28, 2018, as it relates to the budget.”**

**CARRIED**

The January, February and March 2018 disbursements were reviewed.

#### **BD-18-59**

##### **Kelch-Gordon**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the January, February and March 2018 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$959,377.55.”**

**CARRIED**

The report on the 2018 general levy receipts to date were reviewed.

**BD-18-60**

**Nemcek-Broad**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2018 general levy receipts to date.”**

**CARRIED**

The January, February and March 2018 Investment Reports were reviewed.

**BD-18-61**

**Brunink-Bruziewicz**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the January, February and March 2018 Investment report.”**

**CARRIED**

The November 29, 2017 Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting minutes were reviewed.

**BD-18-62**

**Gordon-Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the November 29, 2017 Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting minutes.”**

**CARRIED**

Upon request of the Walpole Island Heritage Committee April White of Environment and Climate Change Canada along with Kelly Johnson, St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan Coordinator attended the Walpole Island First Nation Chief and Council meeting on February 27, 2018. April White made a presentation to Chief and Council regarding re-designation of the Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) – “Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems”, “Restrictions on Dredging” and “Beach Closings”. Chief and Council voted to acknowledge the recommendation. Aamjiwnaang First Nation previously passed a similar motion in regard to re-designation of the BUIs. Support to re-designate the BUIs from “Impaired” to “Not Impaired” has also been received from the Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC) and the Bi-National Public Advisory Council (BPAC). The three BUIs will now continue on through the re-designation process.

**BD-18-63**

**Rupke-Kelch**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated March 22, 2018 on the St. Clair River Area of Concern.”**

**CARRIED**

Staff is proposing a Conservation Authority Project Tour on Thursday, June 28, 2018 from 8:30a.m. to 12:00p.m. The bus will leave and return to the Mooretown Sports Complex. We will have lunch followed by the Board meeting. This year, we will be focusing on projects in the western portion of our watershed.

### **Proposed Tour Highlights**

- Courtright Waterfront Park Shoreline Improvement Project
- Aamjiwnaang Shoreline Naturalization Project
- Guthrie Park; Area of Concern update
- Bear Creek Barrier Removal
- Stewardship Projects
- Moore Wildlife Habitat Management Area

### **BD-18-64**

#### **Scholten-McMillan**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 3, 2018 on the proposed project tour scheduled for June 28, 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

### **2018 Special Events**

#### **Soil Health Conference**

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018

Time: 8am to 5pm

Location: John Bradley Convention Centre, Chatham

#### **A.W. Campbell Maple Syrup Festival**

Date: Saturday, March 17 to Sunday, March 18, 2018

Time: 10am to 3pm

Location: A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

#### **Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race**

Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018

Registration: 10am to 11am

Start Location: Mossie Line at the Sydenham River

End Location: Shetland Conservation Area

#### **Denning’s Strathroy Memorial Forest Dedication**

Date: Sunday, May 27, 2018

Time: 2pm

Location: 32 Metcalfe Street West, Strathroy

#### **Member’s Project Tour**

Date: Thursday, June 28, 2018

Time: 8:30am to 12:00pm

**Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup – Ipperwash Beach**

Date: Saturday, September 8, 2018

Time: 9am to 11am

Location: Centre Ipperwash Beach boat launch

**Denning’s Chatham-Kent and West Elgin Memorial Forest Dedication**

Date: Sunday, September 16, 2018

Time: 2pm

Location: Keith McLean Conservation Lands

**A Geocaching Adventure**

Date: Sunday, September 16, 2018

Time: 9am

Location: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

**Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication**

Date: Sunday, September 23, 2018

Time: 2pm

Location: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

For details on events, visit [scrca.on.ca/events](http://scrca.on.ca/events)

**BD-18-65**

**Nemcek-Gordon**

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

**CARRIED**

**Winter Programing**

Thanks to the Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association, Groundwater and River Bottom Critters programs were the focus of our winter season for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. Several primary classes also visited Henderson Conservation Area, experiencing an enjoyable and educational winter program with snow on the ground! Union Gas Funding for the Spring Water Awareness Program has ended after 7 years. Staff is currently looking for a new funding source to continue this informative and educational safety program.

**Healthy Kids Community Challenge**

Power off and Play, Funded by Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The SCRCA received \$8,000 in grant money to promote being active. Staff designed a school yard winter program to encourage kids to get outside and play. 6 classes at 5 different schools each participated in 40 minutes of outside nature activities. Post cards

promoting hiking trails at our C.A.'s were also distributed to encourage families to visit C.A.'s.

### **Education Fees**

Education Fees have not increased in over 15 years. They are currently under review for the 2018/2019 school year.

### **Special Events**

*Maple Syrup Festival:* The Alvinston Maple Syrup Festival was a popular place to spend the last weekend of March Break. Bright sunny days and cold frosty nights made for great weather conditions and helped to keep the ground a little less muddy. Over 1,300 visitors walked the trails and viewed the historic displays of making maple syrup.

*Canoe Race:* April 22 is set aside for this year's paddle down the Sydenham. Find a partner and enjoy the beauty of the river on Earth Day! Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.

### **Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)**

Staff is currently developing two new Certification Workshops to add to our SHSM program offerings; Animal and Plant Management, and Habitat Restoration. Both Certifications will focus on Species at Risk within the Sydenham watershed. Students will be introduced to the ways SCRCA manages Conservation Areas to protect and improve habitat for local Species at Risk.

### **ICE Training**

ICE (Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship) training partnerships continue to grow. SCRCA education staff have two training sessions planned for spring 2018. One partnership with St. François Xavier French Catholic School, Sarnia, will focus on improving the trails at LC Henderson C.A. The other training with Holy Cross Catholic School in Strathroy will focus on coping with mental health issues amid today's stresses by spending time in nature.

### **Fun Fest**

SCRCA staff will be participating in Kids Fun Fest 2018 on Saturday June 9th in Sarnia. The booth will promote camping and SCRCA programs. SCRCA staff will provide children with a hands-on nature themed activity. Past years have included themes such as nest building, mud painting, temporary nature art, and nature-themed games.

**BD-18-66**

**Kelch-Marriott**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Report, dated April 4, 2018 including the winter programming, program development and expansion, Community Partnerships, and Special Events.”**

**CARRIED**

The letter from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding the Proposed Projects for Crothers Conservation Area was reviewed.

**BD-18-67**

**Wesley-Faas**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the letter from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding the Proposed Projects for Crothers Conservation Area and supports the current trail name change, trail extension and installation of Story Book trail posts”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-18-68**

**Scholten-Giffen**

**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**

**CARRIED**



---

**Steve Arnold**  
**Chair**



---

**Brian McDougall**  
**General Manager**