



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: November 8, 2018 Time: 10:00 a.m.
Administration Office, Strathroy

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Diane Brewer, Alan Broad, Tony Bruinink, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Larry Gordon, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Jeff Wesley, Jerry Westgate, Muriel Wright

Regrets: Mike Kelch, John McCharles, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten

Staff Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Donna Blue, Manager of Communications, Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner/ Regulations Officer; Chris Durand, IT/GIS Coordinator; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Congratulations was offered to those with new council positions and thanks given to all who put their names forward. 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.

BD-18-136

Marriott-Giffen

“That the Board of Directors adopts the agenda for the meeting as presented.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the September 20, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

BD-18-137

Bruinink-MacKinnon

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held September 20, 2018 be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

Minister’s Visit:

- Minister Rod Phillips of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks planned visit to Wawanosh Conservation Area on September 19, 2018 was postponed due to the recall of the legislature
- The Minister plans to reschedule the visit to Sarnia and area including the visit to Wawanosh Conservation Area

Canada Nature Fund Application:

- In early September, an expression of interest was submitted to The Canada Nature Fund (CNF) for funding support in the order of \$1.4 million to support the

creation of a land acquisition strategy, land protection measures and property acquisition

- 175 Expressions of Interest were received with a total funding request of almost \$145 million, unfortunately, our proposal was not among those selected for funding for the Quick Start component
- The next component of the Canada Nature Fund – the Challenge component for protected and conserved areas, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), and the Private Lands component (a renewal of the Natural Areas Conservation Program) – will be launched via calls for proposals in late Fall 2018
- These programs will provide opportunities for multi-year funding of conservation projects based on criteria similar to that of the Quick Start component
- We encourage your organization to consider building on the work done during the development of your Quick Start Expression of Interest and consider submitting a proposal for multi-year funding if appropriate

Environmental Commissioner's Visit:

- On October 5th, Ontario's Environmental Commissioner Dianne Saxe met with Chair Arnold and staff to gain a better understanding of local environmental issues, challenges and successes
- The Commissioner shared several of her points of interest including: environmental protection, climate change, forest cover and invasive species
- Chair Arnold brought forward a concern regarding expanded uses of salt to cover streets and sidewalks as expressed by the Ministry of Transportation and the potential of increase in runoff to our Great Lakes that are already experiencing increase chlorine elevations
- Staff toured the Commissioner to shoreline projects on the Sarnia Bay, Point Edward and Brights Grove, Authority Conservation Areas Wawanosh, Highland Glen and Warwick, innovative corporate forest cover projects in Sarnia and Warwick and discussed issues of agricultural runoff and drainage, phragmites and invasive species controls and Great Lakes water quality
- The Commissioner was engaged in our projects and very complementary of the tour identifying our local issues and highlighting our multiple successes

Transition to Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks:

- Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario continue to communicate with Ministers and staff in both the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- At this point there are few questions being answered and no real engagement with us regarding the transition
- One of the few bits of information coming from these questions has addressed one serious concern – flood forecasting and warning, which is currently within the Fire Prevention sector of the MNRF will remain with MNRF
- Little other information is being provided, including no specified timelines for the transitions completion

Legalization of Cannabis:

- Earlier this month the use of cannabis was legalized across the country
- This will have several impacts on Authority administration and programs
- All existing smoking policies have been affirmed by provincial legislation
- A review of administrative drug and alcohol use policies is underway, if changes are necessary a recommendation will be brought back to the Board for approval
- Smoking in campgrounds has been discussed locally as well as at the recent Conservation Areas Workshop which staff attended
- A report will also be returned to the Board for their review regarding cannabis in Conservation Areas and Conservation Area Campgrounds at an upcoming Board meeting

BD-18-138

McMillan-Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated October 30, 2018.”

CARRIED

Points of Review:

- Note that the Appendices were renumbered to prevent confusion with any other sections of the By-law document.
- The following is a summary of edits made to Draft 1 of the By-laws after the First Reading on September 20, 2018:
 - *Section 3.4 – Maximum Term for Chair and Vice-Chair(s):* No maximum term will be adopted. (Scholten-Bruziewicz)
“There is no maximum number of terms that a Chair and/or Vice-Chair(s) are eligible to stand for re-election to the same office.”
 - *Section 4.14 – Notice of Motion:* 4th paragraph struck (Scholten-Bruziewicz)
~~“Notwithstanding the foregoing, any motion or other business may be introduced for consideration of the Authority provided that it is made clear that to delay such motion or other business for the consideration of an appropriate Advisory Board or Committee would not be in the best interest of the Authority and that the introduction of the motion or other business shall be upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Authority present.”~~
 - *Section 4.17 – Conduct of Members:* Item b) struck (Scholten-Wright)
“No Member at any meeting of the Authority shall:
b) ~~Leave their seat or make any noise or disturbance while a vote is being taken or until the result is declared;~~”
 - *Section 6.3.4 – Election Procedures:* Lot to be drawn after 2nd tied vote (Wright-Scholten)

“Should there be a tie vote between two remaining candidates, new ballots shall 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 Acting Chair or designate.”

- Note that *Section 3.12 – Signing Authority* of the By-law has been updated after the First Reading to reflect the existing Board-approved procedures.
- Note that *Section 5.0 – Approval of By-law and Revocation of Previous By-law(s)* has been updated since First Reading and now includes wording regarding compliance.
“By-law No. 1-2018 shall come into force on the 8th day of November, 2018.”

The Chair and Secretary-Treasurer are responsible for monitoring and maintaining compliance with By-law No. 1-2018 and dealing with any non-compliance issues. Any breach, or alleged breach, of the By-law shall be investigated in accordance with Section 3.20 (Enforcement of By-laws and Policies) of this By-law.

In the event of conflict between any part of this By-law and any part of any prior by-law or administrative rules, By-law No. 1-2018 prevails.”

- The *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act* passed in December 2017 requires that By-laws be in place by December 12, 2018; if the Board approves Draft 2 without amendments, the By-laws may be adopted at the November 8, 2018 Board Meeting.

BD-18-139

Gordon-Nemcek

“That Board of Directors acknowledges the revisions made to the draft of the new St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Bylaws as required through the revisions to the Conservation Authorities Act (Dec 2017) and further that the Bylaws be approved.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the Conservation Ontario council meeting held on September 24, 2018 were reviewed.

BD-18-140

Miller-Bruzewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the Conservation Ontario Council meeting held on September 24, 2018 at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto.”

CARRIED

- Finance department to report on municipal funding with an emphasis on special levies and where those funds are allocated. To be included within the 2019 draft budget booklet.
- Biology department to provide report regarding Species at Risk legislation in respect to municipal drainage works. A report on this topic was provided within the meeting agenda.

BD-18-141

Westgate-Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the September 20, 2018 Board of Directors meeting.”

CARRIED

Camping Statistics:

- 420 full & half seasonal campers have registered in our 3 campgrounds, up from 415 in 2017. 190 seasonal campers are registered at Warwick (189 in 2017), 122 at LC Henderson (119 in 2017) and 108 at A.W. Campbell (107 in 2017).
- Our 3 regional campgrounds were busy this year, gross revenues to the end of September were \$ 1,200,000 (up 3.5 %), (seasonal camping up 2 % to \$842,000; overnight camping up 11% to \$242,000; and pump-out up 27% to \$49,000.00)

Warwick Conservation Area:

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

L.C. Henderson Conservation Area:

- Playground equipment surfacing has been upgraded with engineered wood chips and subsurface drainage
- Trailer pads have been installed on 9 campsites in the Towerview camping area
- All interior and exterior light fixtures have been upgraded with LED bulbs
- A catch basin and subsurface tile drainage was installed on two campsites

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:

- A new concrete sidewalk was installed in front of the pool washroom building
- A hydro panel has been upgraded in the main campground
- Playground equipment surfacing has been upgraded with engineered wood chips (Foundation Funded)
- The pavilion roof has been replaced with steel
- A 9 hole portable mini golf course has been constructed (Foundation)
- Roadway improvements have been completed to the main entrance road between the river crossing and the main parking lot

Highland Glen Conservation Area:

- Approximately 60ft of new walkway has been installed along the inside of the boat ramp (funded through 2017 fees)
- A new beacon light has been installed on the outer seawall
- Welding repairs have been completed on a section of the south seawall
- Walkways have been removed for the season

Other Lands Activities:

- Sub-surface drainage and soil erosion works have been completed on Property 82 (McKeough Upstream lands)
- Wetlands have been developed on Property 82 and 103 (McKeough Upstream lands)
- Bannerstone (Foundation) – property access gates, signage, and a small parking area has been constructed
- Bates (Foundation) – a new property identification sign has been installed
- Lambton Heritage Museum (Lambton County) – staff have reopened a 1 km trail in the wooded portion on the Museum property
- Coldstream CA – board walks were upgraded with 40 new boards and 16 cedar post supports
- Strathroy CA – Bonduelle has donated \$2,500.00 towards the upgrade of the boardwalks along the trails
- Staff have planted approximate 75 hardwood trees on Authority lands as part of the Foundation’s memorial forest tree planting program.

BD-18-142

Wright-McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update, dated October 24, 2018 on Conservation Areas, Foundation, and McKeough Lands including capital projects, facility improvements and camping trends in 2018.”

CARRIED

- Reasonably dry conditions throughout the first part of September were followed by several minor storm events in the last week of the month causing an increase in river levels across the watershed into the first part of October. The exception was Strathroy which had significantly greater precipitation.
- The WISKI data and flood management system was recently implemented by our Water Management Department. This new software replaces our aging gauge management system (GDAT) and has become the standard data management system at many CA’s as well as MNRF. Flood management will utilize both systems on an interim basis to confirm data integrity.

Precipitation:

- No significant events were noted in September and into October resulting in the average 3 month precipitation numbers below average at **94.7%** of normal. Notable exception was Strathroy where above average rainfall was experienced

mostly near the end of the month. Overall six month numbers slightly above expected at **104.1%**. Regional numbers for the year remain above average at **105.8%**

Weather Conditions and Forecast:

ENSO Conditions

- Trending towards El Nino conditions in the fall and winter months.

November

- Slightly below normal temperatures for the first part of the month with precipitation expected to be normal. Warming trend toward the end of the month with average precipitation

Fall and Winter 2018/ 2019

- Winter temperatures will be close to normal, on average, with above-normal precipitation and snowfall. The coldest periods will be in mid and late December, early and late January, and early February. The snowiest periods will be in early December, mid-February, and early to mid-March. April and May will be cooler than normal, with above-normal precipitation.

Flood Threat:

While no specific issues relating to flooding are apparent since the watershed levels can accommodate most events at this time of the year, intense storm systems may result in significant rainfall causing drainage ditches and urban areas to become inundated very quickly. Advisories will be issued as needed from our Flood Management Office.

Great Lakes Levels:

September Lake Huron lake level data (latest available as of this report) indicates a slight increase in overall monthly levels compared to last year by **1cm** over September 2017. Lake St Clair and Lake Erie also show slightly higher increases. Current levels remain substantially above the 10 year average as well as above the all-time average (100 years). While it is difficult to establish a trend, lake levels remain high consistent with the overall trend for the past few years.

Flood Forecasting Innovation Project:

St. Clair Conservation is continuing its partnership with Lambton College on the Flood Forecasting Innovation Project. This project will modernize flood forecasting by providing staff the ability to quickly and accurately forecast flood conditions in locations void of monitoring equipment. Project highlights include:

- Installation of the monitoring camera on the Wallaceburg stream gauge. Approval from Chatham-Kent has been received to move the camera to the McDougall Street footbridge beside the gauge, which will allow a greater field of vision to monitor water level and ice conditions.
- The mobile rain gauge has been installed at the Strathroy office, where the equipment is being tested before being deployed in the field. This mobile unit will allow staff to monitor precipitation across the watershed in areas that do not currently have rain gauges.

Next steps of the project include development of the mobile water level logger, which will provide staff the ability to monitor water levels in real-time, in areas that do not have a stream gauge

BD-18-143

Bruinink-Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 24, 2018 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

National Disaster Mitigation Program:

The National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) was established by the Government of Canada to address the increasing dangers and costs faced by Canadian Communities as a result of flood events. The program will receive \$200 million in funding over the course of five years to improve knowledge regarding flood risks and enhance current flood response programs. These improvements will help protect property and public safety by ensuring more efficient mitigation efforts and recovery procedures following flood events.

Issues/Analysis:

In Ontario, Conservation Authorities have been delegated the primary responsibility for risk assessments and flood plain mapping from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. In the 1970's and 1980's floodplain mapping commenced under the Flood Damage Reduction Program (FDRP). Since that time, there have been no federal or provincial investment towards flood plain analysis.

The existing floodplain mapping of SCRCA is based on older Digital Elevation Models with coarse contour intervals of 5 meters. Floodplain elevation discrepancies are often noticed during the review process, often by 1 – 2 meters or more. Through the SWOOP program, our office has acquired accurate imagery (2010) that can be used to create an extremely detailed DEM with greater accuracy. A flood study using this DEM will deliver accurate floodplain mapping for the watershed.

Staff at SCRCA were successful in the first round of applications to NDMP for floodplain mapping – Phase 1 work which includes City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township.

SCRCA staff propose to apply for Phase 2 funding to complete an updated floodplain mapping study for the remaining part of the watershed. Once these studies are completed (Phase 1 and Phase 2), SCRCA will have updated floodplain mapping for the entire watershed.

Finance:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$310,500. If approved for NDMP funding, 50% of the costs have to be matched by the Municipality, of which 15% is in-kind contributions such as labour, use of facilities and equipment, which can be readily absorbed by SCRCA. The SCRCA is seeking the remainder (\$135,000) from remaining

Municipalities. Staff will continue to look into other funding sources to provide matching funds for this project.

Staff are in the process of finalizing all supporting documentation for this application. Application was submitted on September 25, 2018.

Director and Staff Comments:

The Board of Directors requests a report outlining the potential matching funds required from municipalities over the term of the project.

A discussion was held regarding the accuracy of existing flood lines. SCRCA staff suggest having Project Consultants present to the Board of Directors meeting in order to walk through the guidelines on the development of flood lines.

BD-18-144

Marriott-Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 25, 2018, on the application to National Disaster Mitigation Program to update flood plain mapping for the SCRCA watershed in remaining municipalities and further that the Board approves the submission of the application and directs staff to work with the municipalities to obtain the required matching funding.”

CARRIED

Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Ipperwash Beach – September 8:

Twenty volunteers met on the beach bright and early on a Saturday morning to scour the beach for garbage left in the dunes from summer beach-goers. It's always amazing what we find each year. This year was no different. We found rugs, lawn chairs, diapers, hundreds of cigarette butts, feminine products, a flashlight, a Christmas ornament, small kitchen knives, broken beach toys on top of the usual plastic bottles and food containers. Special thanks to Ipperwash Beach Club, who provided ice cream to all participants – We think everyone worked harder because of the reward! Thanks to Lambton Shores for supplying the garbage bags and gloves as well as transporting the garbage away for us. Ipperwash Beach benefits from such a great community of volunteers that almost daily collect garbage to keep it a pristine environment.

#TDTreeDays in Strathroy, Forest, and Sarnia – September 15, 29 and October 20:

We are amazed at how many community volunteers participate in these events! For the three events, over 120 people attended! Nearly 50 Scouts and Guides attended the Strathroy event, the Mayor of Lambton Shores made sure he planted as many trees as any one else that day, and the Sarnia event brings so many industry volunteers. Over 340 trees were planted through this initiative.

Forest Fall Fair – September 21-23:

As always, our snakes and turtles attract a crowd at the Forest Fall Fair. This year, staff also included our new Invasive *Phragmites* Display. These informational panels aim to provide identification and management tips for rural landowners. Over 250 people stopped by the booth over the weekend and staff shared information on farm best

management practices, conservation areas, and actions individuals can do to improve water quality.

Tailgate Talk – Interseeding & Grazing Cover Crops – Oct 3:

Six local farmers shared their cover cropping experiences and suggestions to a crowd of 25 people. The farmers shared how they were trying to build soil health and stability through cover crops and finding cost benefits in grazing their livestock on the cover crops later into the fall/winter season. Modified cover cropping equipment was on site for farmers to observe and ask questions about. The informal discussions were lively and continued for over an hour beyond our intended end time. A reporter from Today's Farmer attended and the event was funded by a TD FEF grant.

BD-18-145

Bruziewicz-Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated November 1, 2018, regarding Healthy Watersheds program, including the outreach and education events held throughout the watershed.”

CARRIED

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has provided funding for SCRCA to create a Phosphorus Management Plan for the Sydenham River Watershed. Funding is confirmed for 2018-2019 with possibility of an extension for two more years.

The anticipated outcomes of developing this Plan are:

- a summary of the water quality and nutrient status of the Sydenham River Watershed,
- a summary of information and knowledge gaps that exist in water quality and nutrient status for the Sydenham River Watershed,
- an outline of potential next steps to address those gaps,
- recommendations to guide actions of stakeholders in the future

The overall goal of this Management Plan is to work with stakeholders to compile existing data and knowledge and with that information (or lack thereof), chart a path for phosphorus monitoring, management and reduction in the Sydenham River Watershed.

Year 1 (2018-2019) Goals:

- Determine stakeholders and host a stakeholder meeting to encourage early support of the Plan and obtain data from appropriate sources
- Outline Phosphorus sources as a team of stakeholders
- Develop a Steering Committee and Project Team
- Develop a Project Charter
- Develop a draft Table of Contents to submit to ECCC based on input from stakeholders and available data
- Commence literature reviews on BMP strategies

Environment and Climate Change Canada recognizes the Sydenham River Watershed as a Tertiary Watershed of Lake Erie. Under this classification, both the North and East branch of the Sydenham River, Lake St. Clair Tributaries and the St. Clair River Tributaries are all classified into the “Sydenham River Watershed (02GG)” (see map below). We will be using this classification in the Management Plan.

Although the focus is on the Sydenham Watershed, staff plan to involve all 17 of our member municipalities (through technical staff such as drainage superintendents, WWTP operators, etc.) from the beginning. 14 of the 17 member municipalities have jurisdiction in the Sydenham River Watershed. Staff are seeking municipal and local stakeholder buy-in from the beginning as the Management Plan will benefit from local information regarding possible sources and impacts and suggestions on mitigating concerns arising from identified sources.

We anticipate that with early stakeholder buy-in, all stakeholders will gain an understanding of how collectively, we can address the concerns and move forward with strategies on outreach and engagement, and BMP uptake.

Strategic Objectives:

To complete a usable technical report that has support from the beginning from local municipalities and stakeholders to target sources of nutrients, information gaps, and outline potential solutions in our watershed.

The objective of this board report is to encourage the Board to support this large undertaking and promote the plan as it develops.

Financial Impact:

ECCC is providing \$100,000 from September 2018 to March 2019 with the expectation that funding will continue until March 2021. This funding can be allocated to staff salary or towards consultant fees if it is decided that the Plan will be contracted out.

The goal at this point is to use the majority of funding for staff time. We will connect with various ministries and Conservation Authorities to assist us in defining the vision, timelines, and statistical analysis wherever possible. We will lean on the input of our Steering Committee and stakeholders for data, sources identification, and promotion of the plan within their sectors.

Director’s Comments:

The Board of Directors requests a preliminary agenda and background report regarding the Sydenham Watershed Management Plan prior to the meeting with stakeholders.

BD-18-146

Miller-Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated November 1, 2018, regarding Environment and Climate Change Canada funding for a Sydenham Watershed Management Plan.”

CARRIED

Background:

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.

The Sydenham River (both branches) has either current or historic occurrences of 11 species at risk (Federal Species at Risk Act) mussels. Another three species have been assessed as at risk by The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) but have no SARA status at this time. Of these 14 species, five had been recorded on the North branch prior to 2016 (Mapleleaf, Lilliput, Rainbow, Round Pigtoe, and Salamander).

This was a 2 year project (2017 and 2018) to inventory freshwater mussels on the North Sydenham (including Bear and Black Creeks). Funding has been provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Habitat Stewardship Program (SAR stream) and the Ontario Trillium Foundation (through a partnership with Friends of the St. Clair River).

Study Design:

Current records on the North Sydenham are sparse. Rather than completing repeat sampling or focusing on pre-screened “good habitat” locations, a more systematic approach was taken. Two 7km stretches of river will be surveyed each year with 14 surveys conducted in each stretch. By conducting a large number of surveys in a small section of river, we will better understand the distribution and abundance of mussel species in the system.

Each 7km section of river was divided into fourteen 500m segments. One survey will be completed in each 500m segment. Surveys consist of a 4.5hr intensive timed search which were shown to significantly increase the rate of detection of rare species relative to 1.5hr surveys (Metcalf-Smith et al., 2000). Staff search by hand for mussels in the top 5-10cm of sediment, no excavation tools were used. Both live and dead mussels were collected and identified then returned to the system. Typical surveys included staff searching in ½-hour intervals before stopping to process. Based on the volume of mussels at the site, some sites required more frequent processing. Surveys lasted until 4.5hrs of total search time was reached.

Each 500m segment was not surveyed in its entirety. Survey sites varied in length based on the time required to search. Factors commonly affecting search length included width of channel, density of mussels, substrate type, and water depth.

Results:

Throughout the project, 58 surveys were completed. Thirty-five surveys were on Bear Creek and twenty-three on Black Creek. A total of 7945 live mussels and 7825 dead (old shells) were observed. Of the 7945 live mussels, 6161 were observed on Bear Creek and 1784 on Black Creek. That is an average of 176 live mussels per survey on Bear and 78 on Black.

Throughout the project, 22 species were observed (two were dead only). Twenty-one species on Bear Creek and 12 species on Black Creek. Of the species found, six were species at risk (SAR). The following table summarizes the mussels found during the surveys:

Species	Bear Creek	Black Creek	Total Live	SARA Status	COSEWIC Status
Creeper	*	*	28		
Creek Heelsplitter	*		9		
Cylindrical Papershell	*		1		
Deertoe	*	*	305		
Fatmucket	*	*	246		
Flutedshell	*	*	12		
Fragile Papershell	*	*	489		
Giant Floater	*	*	1104		
Lilliput		*	2		Endangered
Mapleleaf	*	*	1754	Threatened	Special Concern
Paper Pondshell	*		6		
Pimpleback	*		2		
Pink Heelsplitter	*	*	125		
Rainbow	*		6	Endangered	Special Concern
Species (Cont.)	Bear Creek	Black Creek	Total Live	SARA Status	COSEWIC Status
Round Pigtoe	*		35	Endangered	Endangered
Salamander	**			Endangered	
Slippershell	**				
Spike	*	**	124		
Threehorn Wartyback	*		8		Threatened
Threeridge	*	*	1216		

Wabash Pigtoe	*		215		
Species (Cont.)	Bear Creek	Black Creek	Total Live	SARA Status	COSEWIC Status
White Heelsplitter	*	*	2245		
Unknown	*	*	13		

(*) present in watercourse live

(**) present in watercourse dead only

Significant Observations:

Pimpleback, Threehorn Wartyback (Threatened – COSEWIC), and Slippershell are all new observations for the North Sydenham. The Lilliput mussel (Endangered – COSEWIC) only had one previous record on the North Sydenham, which was considered historic (1967).

Mapleleaf (Threatened – SARA) was found in high abundance in some areas of the North Sydenham. 1754 Mapleleaf were observed, making it the second most abundant species in the surveys. Although they were found in good numbers, some areas in the watershed did not support the species.

Twenty live species of mussels shows the diversity of the North Sydenham. Historic surveys indicate the presence of an additional four species (Elktoe, Fawnsfoot, Mucket, Plain Pocketbook). Although it does not support 34 species like the East branch, there are only a handful of watercourses in Ontario that have greater diversity.

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-18-147

Wesley-Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report dated October 22, 2018 on mussel research on the North Sydenham River including Bear and Black Creeks.”

CARRIED

Background:

The Ducks Unlimited Canada Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research (IWWR), located in Stonewall Manitoba, conducts research on the unique relationships between wetlands, waterfowl, watershed health, biodiversity, and more.

Bryan Page with DUC is a Research Biologist with work focusing on the cycling of nutrients, the sequestration of carbon and the bioavailability of trace metals in different wetland types across Canada. Bryan is responsible for coordinating the IWWR's water quantity and quality field research activities as well as other projects. Bryan collects data that increases our understanding of the environmental impacts of wetland drainage on water quality and quantity. In particular, he is interested in quantifying the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen exiting wetlands.

In September, Bryan contacted the SCRCA Biology Department about an upcoming project to monitor water chemistry and water quantity flowing into and out of newly constructed wetlands in Southwestern Ontario. Bryan was in need of a partner to complete the weekly monitoring at the wetland sites. Staff were eager to collaborate on a project that monitors the impact of constructed wetlands on nutrient cycles (including phosphorus).

SCRCA's Project Role:

SCRCA Biology staff will act as a contractor for DUC and complete weekly monitoring at eight sites for up to 3 years. Deliverables for this contract include tasks such as:

- Manually measure all inflows and outflows
- Collecting water chemistry samples from inflows, outflows, and wetland basins
- Maintain runoff samplers and collect water quality samples
- Downloading data from flow loggers, and level loggers
- Maintain and troubleshoot flow and level loggers
- Aid in collecting bathymetry data for each basin
- Collect soil and sediment samples
- Ship or deliver water samples to the lab
- Data management
- Other miscellaneous tasks

Financial Impact:

This contract, signed in September provides \$18,000 (plus applicable taxes) of funding for the period ending March 31, 2019. The contract provides \$36,000 of funding annually and will require renewal each year. Funding will cover staff time and vehicle expense. Any equipment purchases required for the project will be invoiced to DUC.

BD-18-148**McMillan-Wright**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report dated October 22, 2018 on DUC/SCRCA's wetland monitoring contract.”

CARRIED

Background:

On September 20, 2018 the SCRCA Board asked for further information on how St. Clair Conservation can help the municipal drainage community meet the requirements of Species at Risk (SAR) legislation.

There are both federal and provincial laws that apply to all drain work with species at risk and species at risk habitat: the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

From the **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**, 2007, S.O. 2007, c. 6
(<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/07e06>):

Biological diversity is among the great treasures of our planet. It has ecological, social, economic, cultural and intrinsic value. Biological diversity makes many essential contributions to human life, including foods, clothing and medicines, and is an important part of sustainable social and economic development.

Unfortunately, throughout the world, species of animals, plants and other organisms are being lost forever at an alarming rate. The loss of these species is most often due to human activities, especially activities that damage the habitats of these species. Global action is required.

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity takes note of the precautionary principle, which, as described in the Convention, states that, where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.

In Ontario, our native species are a vital component of our precious natural heritage. The people of Ontario wish to do their part in protecting species that are at risk, with appropriate regard to social, economic and cultural considerations. The present generation of Ontarians should protect Species at Risk (SaR) for future generations.

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

The purposes of this Act are:

1. To identify species at risk based on the best available scientific information, including information obtained from community knowledge and aboriginal traditional knowledge.
2. To protect species that are at risk and their habitats, and to promote the recovery of species that are at risk.

3. To promote stewardship activities to assist in the protection and recovery of species that are at risk. 2007, c. 6, s. 1.

On June 29, 2018, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks assumed responsibility for the Endangered Species Act, 2007. The act was formerly the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The purpose of the Federal **Species at Risk Act (SARA)** (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/S-15.3.pdf>) is similar:

To prevent wildlife species from being extirpated or becoming extinct, to provide for the recovery of wildlife species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity and to manage species of special concern to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened.

Drainage work must follow certain rules if drain improvement, maintenance or repair occurs in a drain or ditch that could affect a protected species or habitat. Municipalities and the drainage community have expressed concerns relating to additional costs and administration of timelines required to comply with this legislation.

SCRCA's Project Role:

SCRCA currently has no role with regard to species at risk legislation and drains.

Drain Review

The current role of the Authority in drainage review is to ensure that the proponent meets Regulatory requirements of "O. Reg. 171/06: ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY: REGULATION OF DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINES AND WATERCOURSES" (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/060171>). Municipal drains are generally watercourses as defined under the CA Act and are therefore regulated by CAs. O. Reg. 171/06 has no mention of species at risk. This separate piece of legislation states that "no person shall straighten, change, divert or interfere in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse or change or interfere in any way with a wetland" unless permission is granted by the Authority. SCRCA staff work with municipalities to issue permits.

Staff help member municipalities meet O. Reg. 171/06 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.

Species at Risk Stewardship

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's involvement with Species at Risk is primarily with grant funded projects. SCRCA receives funding through the Provincial Species at Risk Stewardship Fund and Federal Habitat Stewardship Fund to promote stewardship activities to assist in the protection and recovery of species at risk.

These grants have supported:

- Collection and incubation of endanger Eastern Spiny Softshell turtle eggs: 740 hatchling turtles were released in 2018.
- Delivery of a Species at Risk education program
- Annual Species at Risk newsletter distributed to more than 60,000 residents
- Sydenham River webpage featuring aquatic Species at Risk
- Installation of Eastern Foxsnake Nesting Boxes
- Testing of newly developed Eastern Foxsnake monitoring protocol
- Fish and mussel surveys to determine distributions.
- From 2001- 2018 stewardship funds have been allocated to **over 500 habitat or water quality improvement projects**. Project types include: tree planting, wetland creation, erosion control, tall grass prairie, streambank stabilization and equipment modification projects.

How can SCRCA staff help with regard to SAR and Drains?:

Staff biologists could act as qualified professionals or ESA/SARA advisors, helping Drainage Superintendents to meet the regulatory requirements of the ESA and SARA. This role would go beyond the current scope of SCRCA's work. It is not the type of work that is typically grant funded.

Examples of ways that staff could assist include:

- Screening for Species at Risk
- Assuring drain projects have accounted for Species at Risk in the design phase
- Completing applications, registering activities, or applying for permits
- Suggesting/ helping to implement habitat mitigations
- Identifying applicable timing windows

Financial Impact:

SARA and ESA advisory fee

The existing staff compliment is already fully occupied with existing board approved programs/projects. Additional staff may be necessary to complete this role. If staff were asked to act as qualified advisors under ESA and SARA, additional costs would

have to be recovered. This new service could be covered by a special levy and/or review fees from partnering municipalities. This structure is similar to the “natural heritage planning advisory service” that SCRCA uses to cover the cost of providing Planning Act comments. The special levy and fee structure could be determined based on number of municipal partners, and number of files annually.

Director’s Comments:

A request was made that Erin Carroll, Manager of Biology, meet with staff from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to further discuss Species At Risk Legislation in respect the drainage works. The Board of Directors also requests a report outlining their discussion and outcomes.

BD-18-149

Faas-Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 24, 2018 regarding the Species at Risk legislation in respect the municipal drainage works.”

CARRIED

Tree Planting Program:

- Landowner site visits for the 2019 spring tree planting program were carried out in the summer and will be ongoing throughout the rest of the year.
- There are 14 confirmed planting projects with landowners so far. With the arrival of the fall season, more calls and requests from landowners for tree planting and tree planting grant programs have started to come into the office.
- Approximately 60,000 trees have been ordered and secured from tree nurseries.
- Approximately 30,000 trees have be allocated to landowner projects thus far.
- Tree prices from the nurseries have increased for 2019, putting another 10% cost increase on tree stock for the second year in a row.

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP):

- We have received several requests for managed forest tax plan approvals.
- New plans are due June 30, 2019 for the 2020 tax year.
- New plans must be approved by a certified plan approver and submitted to the MNRF
- MNRF submits the updated property information to MPAC.
- MPAC adjusts property taxes on the managed forested portion of the property that are equal to agricultural tax rates.
- SCRCA has one approver on staff.

Vegetation Management Program:

- Approximately 260,000 trees require vegetation control this fall.
- Fall herbicide applications on 2016 to 2018 tree planting sites started in October and will continue into late November after the deciduous seedlings go into dormancy and drop their leaves.

Seed Collection Program:

- Enbridge has supported SCRCA's tree program with another generous donation this year. Funding goes towards tree seed collection efforts and a new tree seed bank planting project to support the future of tree planting in this region.
- A tree seed collector workshop was held at L.C. Henderson CA on October 11th. This was a follow up workshop from last year.
- This year, department staff, with help from some new tree seed collectors and several volunteers collected 2,600 litres of tree seed. All seed was shipped to the tree nursery where most of our deciduous trees are purchased. This ensures the trees we plant are genetically indigenous to the region for the health of our future forests.

Director's Comments:

The Provincial Government has invited SCRCA to attend an on-site meeting at the seed plant in Angus, Ontario to discuss the future of the seed plant. The Board of Directors requests an update from staff regarding the outcome of this meeting and a report in 2019 outlining the potential cost involved in developing an in-house seed bank to sustain SCRCA tree planting programs.

BD-18-150

Giffen-Nemcek

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 25, 2018 on the Conservation Services programs and projects across the watershed."

CARRIED

A report outlining the September to October 2018 municipal drain activity associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART) was reviewed.

BD-18-151

Wright-Miller

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the September to October 2018 municipal drain activity report associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART)."

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-18-152

Faas-Bruinink

"That the Board of Directors accepts the Regulations Activity Reports on *"Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses"* Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated October 25, 2018 and includes the period September 1 to 30, 2018 as presented."

CARRIED

A verbal report regarding Regulations (Ontario Regulations 171/06) violations status was given by Dallas Cundick, Manager of Planning.

BD-18-153

McMillan-Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal update from Dallas Cundick, Manager of Planning on the Regulations (Ontario Regulations 171/06) violations status.”

CARRIED

A summary of staff activity related to Municipal Plan Input and Review was reviewed.

BD-18-154

Nemcek-Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports dated October 25, 2018, for the period of September 1 to 30, 2018.”

CARRIED

The statement of revenue and expenditure to September 30, 2018 was reviewed.

BD-18-155

Bruziewicz-Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to September 30, 2018, as it relates to the budget.”

CARRIED

The disbursements from September 1 to October 24, 2018 were reviewed.

BD-18-156

Marriott-Gordon

“That the Board of Directors approves the September to October 24 2018 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$610,200.88.”

CARRIED

The general levy summary to October 25, 2018 was reviewed.

BD-18-157

Miller-Brewer

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2018 general levy receipts to October 25, 2018.”

CARRIED

The investment statements up to September 30, 2018 were reviewed.

BD-18-158

Faas-Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Investment Report, for the period ending September 30, 2018.”

CARRIED

The SCRCA 2019 Draft Fees were reviewed.

BD-18-159

Bruinink-Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the reports on Conservation Area and Planning fees and approves the Schedule of Fees dated October 2018, for all programs and services for the year 2019 fees and further directs staff to circulate the approved fee schedule to all member municipalities and further directs staff to undertake a fulsome review of all Authority fees, most specifically those intended to achieve cost recovery for the Authority.”

CARRIED

Draft Budgets will be sent to Municipalities the Week of November 12 2018
Comments received will be taken into consideration.

BD-18-160

Giffen-Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal summary of comments received to date on the 2019 Draft Budget.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the June 27, 2018 Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting were reviewed.

BD-18-161

McMillan-Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the June 27, 2018 meeting minutes of Joint Health and Safety Committee.”

CARRIED

BD-18-162

MacKinnon-Bruinink

“That the 2019 Nominating Committee consisting of the following four directors representing the four districts of the Authority being Sarnia, Lambton, Chatham-Kent, and Middlesex be: Andy Bruziewicz, Larry Gordon, Joe Faas and Norm Giffen and further that the Nominating Committee’s recommendation for the 2019 committee membership be presented at the Annual General Meeting.”

CARRIED

Board of Directors:

February 28 (4th Thursday) - Annual General Meeting (Wallaceburg)
April 18 (3rd Thursday)
June 27 (4th Thursday) – Project Tour (Warwick C.A)
September 19 (3rd Thursday)
November 14 (2nd Thursday)
December 12 (2nd Thursday)

Executive Committee: at the call of the chair.

February 14 (2nd Thursday) – Audit Review & Recommendation

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

Flood Action Committee: January 10 (2nd Thursday) and at the call of the Chair

Low Water Response: May 16 (3rd Thursday) and at the call of the Chair

Nominating Committee: At the call of the chair. (Potentially prior to February 14 Executive Committee)

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

BD-18-163

Nemcek-Miller

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2019 tentative schedule of meetings for the Board of Directors and Committees, dated October 22, 2018.”

CARRIED

Memorial Forest Dedications:

Memorial forest dedication services were held on September 16th and September 23rd this past fall.

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

The 2nd annual Denning’s Chatham-Kent and West Elgin Memorial Forest Dedication was held on Sunday, September 16th at the Keith McLean Conservation Lands. Tree planting and conservation education are supported through donations made to the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation in recognition of families served by the Chatham-Kent and West Elgin Denning Funeral Home branches.

Approximately 70 people attended the dedication service. Duncan Skinner brought remarks on behalf of the Foundation. A Red Maple tree was planted as a symbol of the

trees that will be planted through the Authority's forestry programs and all the children that will take part in the Authority's conservation education programs.

Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication

The Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication was held on Sunday, September 23rd at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area in Petrolia, Ontario. Duncan Skinner and Steve Arnold provided remarks on behalf of the Foundation and Authority, respectively. Seventy people attended the dedication where a Red Maple was planted as a symbol for all trees dedicated over the last year through donations from individuals not associated with a funeral home program. From September 2017 to August 2018, 78 trees were dedicated through individual donations to the program. To date, a total of 2,095 trees have been dedicated through the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program.

Conservation Awards:

A list of possible conservation award recipients will be brought forward at our Board meeting in December. Board members wishing to nominate any individual or organization should contact Brian McDougall or Donna Blue at the SCRCA Administration Office.

St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation:

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation raises funds to support the work of the Conservation Authority. At the October meeting, the Foundation approved support for a number of project and programs:

- \$6000 to support land management staff costs for Foundation owned lands
- \$15,000 to support three intern positions
- \$60,000 to support Conservation Education

Conservation Education Fundraising:

One of the main Authority programs supported by the Foundation is Conservation Education. Efforts are made to secure funds from corporate sponsors, special events and the bingo program. Additionally, the Conservation Authority applies for government grants to support the education program. Current support efforts include:

Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association (SLEA)

A request has been made to SLEA to continue funding for the "River Bottom Critters" and the "Go with the Flow Groundwater" programs in the amount of \$30,000. The "River Bottom Critters" program is targeted at grades JK-12 and the "Go with the Flow" program is offered to students in grades JK-8.

Plains Midstream Canada

Funding in the amount of \$5000 has been secured from Plains Midstream Canada to support the "Spring Water Awareness" program offered to elementary students (JK to grade 6) in March 2019. The cheque presentation will occur in Spring 2019.

Friends of the St. Clair River

A request has been made to FOSCR to continue funding the “River RAP” conservation education program (\$3000). Confirmation of the funding will be received after the next Directors meeting in late October.

Waste Management

In collaboration with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Conservation Services department, an application was submitted to Waste Management to support tree planting efforts throughout the watershed and conservation education. A total of \$2000 has been secured to support conservation education programming.

Climate Action Fund

Administered through Environment and Climate Change Canada, an application has been submitted in collaboration with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Biology Department to support conservation education. If successful, \$5000 of funding will be available to support programming until March 31, 2019.

Middlesex Mutual Insurance Company:

Through their “Pay-It-Forward” initiative at the 2018 Ilderton Fair, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was selected as the 2018 recipient of Middlesex Mutual Insurance Company’s \$250 donation towards conservation education programming.

2018 International Plowing Match:

The 2018 International Plowing Match (IPM) was held between September 18th and September 22nd in the village of Pain Court, located in the municipality of Chatham-Kent.

The SCRCA with Lower Thames Valley and Essex Region Conservation Authorities partnered on a tent and display for the IPM focusing on creating Healthy Great Lakes. The five-day event drew over 78 000 people to Chatham-Kent from all over Ontario.

The event was a complete success with over 6000 people visiting the Conservation Authority tent over the five days. Displays represented numerous Authority programs related to stewardship and healthy Great Lakes. A broad range of topics were covered including:

- tree planting and wind breaks
- cover crops and buffer strips
- local Species at Risk (SAR)
- biomonitoring techniques (benthic invertebrates)
- water quality monitoring
- regulations and planning
- campgrounds and conservation areas

The tent followed a super hero theme on how you could become a “Great Lakes Guardian”. In addition to the local community and farmers, the tent drew many school children as it was included as a “stop” on the “Education Passport”. This activity required the students to visit four of five tents listed on their “passport” and answer a

question submitted by the organization running the tent.

Over 6000 people visited the Conservation Authority tent over the five days with the largest daily attendance occurring on Saturday of the IPM where we welcomed and engaged over 1700 people.

Visitors could sit on a tree planter and learn about the different tree planting methods and programs offered by Conservation Authorities. Many also had a bit of fun and took advantage of the photo opportunity “pulling” the tree planter.

The importance of nature and outdoor recreation to our overall physical and mental well-being was highlighted in our campground and conservation areas display.

Many children (and adults) were fascinated by Professor Trout who could answer any question about fish, water quality and our local lakes and rivers. Numerous families returned two or three times with their children to talk to “Professor Trout”.

Rainfall simulators educated visitors on how different farming practices (e.g., cover crops vs. no cover crops) can influence the water quality of local water courses.

With funding support from all three Conservation Authorities, the Friends of the St. Clair River, the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival and Union Gas, a Virtual Reality Sandbox was purchased to educate students and visitors on water flow, flooding hazards, erosion and landforms.

Buffer strips and their importance in improving water quality and habitat for local species (including many Species at Risk) was demonstrated at the flowing stream display.

BD-18-164

Giffen-Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications Report dated October 23, 2018 including memorial forests, conservation awards, Conservation Foundation update and conservation education fundraising.”

CARRIED

Fall Education Programs:

Outdoor Education Funding is continuing through the Ministry of Education. Teachers can apply for \$7.00 per student to be put towards our field trips. The SCRCA class fees increased from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per student per 2-hour program. (First increase in 10 years.) To date, the fee increase has not deterred teachers from booking programs. Our fees are still below neighbouring Conservation Authorities.

Program Flyer for Teachers: The LKDSB has begun distribution of e-flyers only. All flyer requests must now be approved through an on-line portal before the School Principals will have access to them. Printed copies will no longer be distributed through this board. The SCCDSB is continuing with printed flyers at this point.

Healing Hike: Staff from the Sarnia Health Unit visited Henderson Conservation Area for a staff team building day. Multiple high school bookings and interest from Gr 7/8 teachers is helping to build momentum in this new mental health awareness program which teaches stress reduction techniques in natural outdoor settings.

River Day: September 27th, 2018 – Assisted biology staff to run a full day workshop for Riverview Central Public School at the St. Clair River. Every student in the school visited Marshy Creek Park for hands-on education focusing on water.

Biology and education staff teach students about aquatic life found in Marshy Creek. Sector Specific Sustainability Practices: Oct. 23rd and Oct 25th - This new SHSM certification has been co-developed with SCRCA biology department staff. The workshop included a site visit to a local farm demonstrating Best Management Practices being implemented on site. This year we partnered with Belan Farms and showcased their 25 years of cover crop experience.

Geocaching Event:

Sunday Sept. 16 – Over 50 people were in attendance from as far away as Michigan, UK, Windsor and London. 4 families, who were new to geocaching attended. They enjoyed learning about this opportunity to explore different conservation areas. Our local waterways were highlighted as 8 of the new caches were named after Fish found in the Sydenham River. The trail improvement partnership with SFX high school students last spring was also highlighted in a cache.

Lambton Upland Game Bird Club Youth Day:

August 18th, 2018 – SCRCA staff provided children with nature-based conservation activities in this annual youth day hosted by the Lambton Upland Game Bird Chapter. Connections were made between collected insects and the ecology of farming, fishing and general ecosystem support.

Forest Fair Agriculture in the Classroom:

September 14th, 2018 – Staff provided information and a hands-on learning game for approximately 150 students in grades 3-6. SCRCA staff discussed the importance of soil on the farm and provided a hands-on erosion experiment.

Brigden Fair Agriculture in the Classroom:

October 5th, 2018 – SCRCA education staff provided an educational display with hands-on activities for approximately 800 students in grades 3-6. Staff discussed 'who lives in the ditch' with a focus on species at risk. Students were encouraged to hunt for mussels in our artificial ditch; learning identification skills and life history of our local mussel populations.

Reptiles at Risk Education Day:

October 10th, 2018 – Education staff partnered with Biology staff to offer this annual education experience for Gr 12 students in our watershed. Students from Great Lakes

Secondary School visited Perch Creek to learn more about Reptiles at Risk, and the habitats they depend upon.

AFSAR Education Days @ Hillside School Kettle Point:

October 3rd and October 22nd – As part of our annual education days at the Kettle Point First Nation school, students in Gr 3 and 4 participated in an outdoor and indoor education day with 3 SCRCA staff. During the ‘outdoor visit’ students were taken to the creek to look at the life supported there. The indoor day focused on Species At Risk at Kettle Point, encouraging the kids to share their own experiences and learn new ideas through games and crafts

BD-18-165

McMillan-Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Report, dated October 24, 2018 including fall education programs and events.”

CARRIED

Update:

The Status Assessment Reports for the Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) - “Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems”, “Restrictions on Dredging” and “Beach Closings” are continuing to move through the re-designation process.

The Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) held their last meeting on October 10, 2018 in Port Huron, Michigan. The next BPAC meeting is being planned for late January 2019 on the Ontario side of the St. Clair River.

Kelly Johnson will be speaking about re-designation of the Beach Closings BUI at the Lake St. Clair Conference being held in Michigan on November 1 and 2, 2018.

Kelly is working with Aamjiwnaang First Nation to organize a tree planting event along the St. Clair River. The tentative date for the event is November 7, 2018. Students and scouts from the community will be invited to participate.

A Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee (CRIC) meeting is being planned for late November 2018.

Kelly is planning a “St. Clair River Evening” event. A number of presenters will speak about habitat restoration in the AOC. A date for the public event will be decided in the near future, and the event will be held in Sarnia.

Staff continue to draft the 2012 – 2017 Accomplishments Report. It is anticipated that the report will be complete this fall.

BD-18-166

Wright-Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair River Area of Concern report dated October 25, 2018.”

CARRIED

Under New Business, Directors requested an update on the Planning Policy Procedural Manual and Technical Guidelines. A verbal update from Dallas Cundick, Manager of Planning was given. Staff continue to work on the manual and anticipate bringing the first draft to Committee by April, 2019.

BD-18-167

Giffen-Marriott

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Steve Arnold
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager