

February 22, 2018

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 216 in Petrolia, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

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

Regrets: Diane Brewer, Mike Kelch, Don McCallum

Staff Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Eva Baker, Records Management Clerk; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Terry Barrie, Lorne C. Henderson Superintendent; Erin Carroll, Manager of Biology; Steve Clark, Water Resources Specialist; Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Technician; Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant; 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; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources; Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services

Foundation Directors Present: Bill Bilton, Lyn Goddard

Special Guests Present: Jeff Baranek, Township of St. Clair; Mary Ann Buntrock and Colleen Collins, Lambton Children's Safety Village; Dave Depuydt, Ministry of Natural Resources; Dean Edwardson, Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association; Dave Ferguson; Judy Krall, Enniskillen Township; Jake Lozon, Rural Lambton Stewardship Network; Anne McGugan; Don McGugan, Mayor, Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston; John Rodey, St. Clair Township; Bill Weber, Warden, Lambton County; Ken Williams, MPW Chartered Professional Accountants LLP; Bob Woolvett, Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Media Present: Melissa Schliz, Petrolia Topic | Sarnia & Lambton County This Week

Conservation Award Winners Present: Mike Belan on behalf of Belan Farms

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Steve Arnold, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority welcomed everyone to the 2017 annual meeting. Some of the Authority's many projects accomplished this year include:

- Secured \$816,000 in funding from the province's Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure program to complete nine erosion control projects

- Planted over 74,000 trees on both private and public lands in the watershed, and supplied another 7,000 trees to landowners
- Established a Tree Seed Collector Mentorship Program to support the sustainability of local forestry
- Worked with landowners to complete 27 stewardship projects to improve rural water quality and soil health; in total, the projects were valued at over \$320,000
- Performed aquatic Species at Risk research including a study of freshwater mussel populations on the North Branch of the Sydenham River; biologists covered 14km of river adding over 8,000 new data points
- Participated in the development of the province's Domestic Action Plan aimed to reduce phosphorus levels and combat algal blooms in Lake Erie
- Engaged almost 12,000 local students through conservation education classes that foster environmental awareness and an appreciation for the natural treasures of the region

Many of our projects and programs would not be as successful as they are without the many partnerships we have forged with other organizations and communities over the years. They would also not be possible without the dedication of staff to search for outside sources of funding. In fact, in 2017, the Conservation Authority was successful in receiving over \$2 million in grants to support our important work! Looking forward, we will continue to be innovative and focused on the needs of our watershed and member municipalities. With the passing of the updated Conservation Authorities Act in late 2017, we can expect to see some changes. The modernized Act more clearly defines the watershed management role, governance and funding mechanisms for all 36 of Ontario's Conservation Authorities. In the upcoming year we will be learning more about how this legislation will affect our operations. In closing, he acknowledged and thanked our Board of Directors and staff for their continued commitment and dedication over the past year to improve and protect our local communities and environment.

Warden Bill Weber brought greetings on behalf of Lambton County.
Mayor John McCharles brought greetings on behalf of the Town of Petrolia.

BD-18-001

Rupke - Broad

“That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting be adopted.”

CARRIED

The Chair 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-18-002

Gordon - Bruinink

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held December 14, 2017, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

BD-18-003

Rupke - Wright

“That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held February 12, 2018, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

A presentation regarding the Flood Event from February 19 – 26, 2018 and Innovating Flood Forecasting in the St. Clair Region was given by Steve Clark, Water Resources Specialist, and Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Technician.

BD-18-004

Giffen - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation regarding Innovations to Flood Forecasting in the St. Clair Region given by Steve Clark, Water Resources Specialist, and Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Technician.”

CARRIED

BD-18-005

Bruziewicz - MacKinnon

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and report from the Authority’s auditors, MPW Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, and further approves the 2017 Audited Financial Statements.”

CARRIED

Conservation Award Presentations

Wesley Stokes

Wesley is a local high school student who is passionate about the outdoors and local conservation efforts. He first volunteered with the Authority at the annual Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Ipperwash Beach. Shoreline litter is a serious environmental concern that impacts wildlife, water quality, and can pose a serious health and safety hazard. This cleanup saw nearly 50 pounds of garbage removed from Ipperwash Beach. After the Cleanup, Wesley was eager to find out other ways he could help and signed up to volunteer for both the Strathroy and Sarnia TD Tree Days. Along with other volunteers, Wesley helped with the planting of 150 native trees at each event. These 300 new trees will increase green space and habitat in these communities. It is

exciting to see this kind of passion for the environment in a young person and we want to thank Wesley for his enthusiasm and contributions.

Belan Farms

Big Mike, Small Mike, Wee Mike, and Tony Belan operate their family farm in the township of Dawn-Euphemia. Their twelve-hundred-acre farm has been operating for 65 years, and they adopted no-till practices over 25 years ago. The Belans are focused on growth, efficiency of inputs, and sustainability with the goal of improved soil health while maintaining consistent yields. They have embraced a variety of best management practices including: planting cover crops, rotational grazing, inter-seeding into standing corn, and planting green in the spring. They regularly test their soils and, based on the response they get from the field, they modify their practices and equipment.

The Belans are also interested in sharing their experiences with other farmers – they have hosted many farm tours and delivered countless presentations. Wee Mike is a member of the Ontario Soil Network and has been a speaker at several Authority landowner stewardship events, including the Soil Health Conference held last week in Chatham. At these events, Mike showed off modifications he made to his equipment and talked about his approach to farming.

Through their innovative work, the Belans have been featured in publications including Ontario Farmer, Better Farming, Country Guide, and No-Till Farmer. In 2016, the Belan farm was visited by the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario – which resulted in their experiences being highlighted in the provincial report, “Putting Soil Health First: A Climate-Smart Idea for Ontario.” Belan Farms was also the recipient of the 2017 Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association’s Outstanding Farmer of the Year Award for their exemplary farming practices.

This family has shown passion and dedication for environmental stewardship and are great advocates of best management practices.

BD-18-006

Marriott - Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2017 Conservation Award Winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.”

CARRIED

2017 service awards were presented:

- 5 years of service: Mike Kelch, Tracy Prince, Kelli Smith
- 10 years of service: John McCharles
- 15 years of service: Glenn Baxter, Tim Payne, Don Skinner
- 20 years of service: Terry Barrie, Norm Giffen

- 30 years of service: Sharon Nethercott

BD-18-007

Gordon - Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the service awards presented to the directors and staff and further that they be thanked for their years of dedicated service.”

CARRIED

The meeting continued when Chair, Steve Arnold advised that the meeting would be moving onto 2018 business.

BD-18-008

Wesley - Miller

“That Bill Bilton be appointed chair for the election of the 2018 Chair and Vice Chair.”

CARRIED

BD-18-009

Broad - Wesley

“That Dean Edwardson and Ken Williams be appointed scrutineers in the event of an election.”

CARRIED

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant and nominations were called for the office of Chairman for 2018.

Andy Bruziewicz nominated Steve Arnold for position of Chair.

BD-18-010

Broad - Gordon

“That nominations for the position of Chair be closed.”

CARRIED

Steve Arnold advised that he would stand and was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2018.

Larry Gordon nominated Andy Bruziewicz for Vice Chair.

Tony Bruinink nominated Norm Giffen for Vice Chair.

BD-18-011

Scholten - Wright

“That nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed.”

CARRIED

Andy Bruziewicz advised that he would stand.

Norm Giffen advised that he would stand.

A ballot vote resulted in a tie. A second ballot vote also resulted in a tie. It was requested that the Authority by-laws be reviewed to ensure that procedures for elections ending in a tie vote would be reviewed and reported back to the Board.

BD-18-012

Rupke - Bruinink

“That the election of Vice Chair and Nominating Committee Report be deferred to the April 19, 2018 Board of Director’s meeting”

CARRIED

BD-18-013

Miller - Scholten

“That the ballots be destroyed”

CARRIED

The 2018 borrowing bylaw was considered.

BD-18-014

Bruinink - Nemcek

“That the Authority Chair or the Vice Chair and the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or Director of Finance be authorized to borrow from the Libro Credit Union, Strathroy for the general operations and capital program of the Authority, a sum not to exceed \$1,173,855 to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed the member municipalities and general revenue.”

CARRIED

Appointment of an Auditor for 2018 was considered.

BD-18-015

Scholten - MacKinnon

“That MPW Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2018.”

CARRIED

The 2018 appointments to Conservation Ontario were considered.

BD-17-016

Marriott - Westgate

“That the Authority's 2018 representative to Conservation Ontario will be the Authority Chair, the Vice Chair will be the first alternate and the General Manager be the second alternate.”

CARRIED

The General Manager's Report was presented:

Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act Receives Royal Assent

- The above legislation includes changes to the Conservation Authorities Act
- Some changes are effective immediately, timelines are provided for implementation of other changes and still further changes are expected through subsequent regulations
- Changes effective immediately include:
 - Section 2 – definition of operating expenses
 - Section 20 – public access to agreements
 - Section 21 – Fee establishment, collection and review
 - Section 23 & 24 – Levy apportionment and payment
 - Section 25 & 26 – Regulations and permitting
 - Section 27 – Authority lands
 - Section 29 – Enforcement and offences
 - Section 33 – Governance and Minister's Regulations
 - Additional information available upon request
- Authority bylaws are to be updated by December 2018 – Conservation Ontario is working with MNRF to provide a template for all Authorities that should be available by March

New Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

- On January 17, Nathalie Des Rosiers, was named Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
- She formerly held the position of Parliamentary Assistant with the Ministries of Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Conservation Ontario is seeking an introductory meeting with the new Minister in the near future

Lambton Children's Safety Village (LCSV)

- Hydro One has provided a verbal estimate for the draft development plan for the LCSV at LC Henderson CA – changes to the existing servicing will be able to provide the necessary hydro based on the draft plan – however, updates to existing transformers, lines of service, etc. have been estimated at a minimum of \$50,000.00 – these costs are in advance of any construction costs
- MIG Consulting Engineers will be providing an assessment of the septic facilities, the capabilities to accommodate the proposed increase services and use, as well as a cost estimate for any changes, additions, etc. that would be required to support the proposed development
- Updates to the draft development plan have raised additional concerns with staff regarding the impacts on the existing education programs and the campground

A report will be provided to the April Board meeting providing further details on the servicing costs and impact concerns

BD-18-017

Bruinink - Wesley

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 7, 2018.”

CARRIED

Watershed Stream Flow

- Current flow numbers have stabilized following a warmer period during the week of January 23rd when several days of above zero temperatures melted much of the snowpack combined with 20 - 30mm rainfall
- River ice that was firmly in place since the colder period in December and early January, had melted as of this report. Cooler seasonal conditions into February may result in moving ice becoming frozen in place in many areas of the watershed
- January levels as compared to monthly expected averages at all gauges. Normal March average levels by comparison, are close to our existing levels.
- A comparison of flow at Wallaceburg of 2016 to 2017 indicates that flows were generally lower in 2017 likely due to lower temperatures and most precipitation falling as snow and not entering the watercourses immediately.
- Regional precipitation numbers for the last quarter are at or above average for most stations with the exception of Sarnia (**66.7%**). Extensive lake effect snowfall was evident in the upper reaches of the watershed notably in December and January for Strathroy resulting in an overall average of **103%** for the region. Six month precipitation was a little below that at **90.3%** however the full years regional average is on target at **99.7%**

St. Clair River/Lake Huron Ice Conditions

- Extensive ice formation due to low December temperatures on the lower parts of Lake Huron as well as the formation of ice in the St. Clair River has resulted in significant formation of ice jamming south of Courtright this year. Damage to the Sombra ferry docks and many other private docks along the river has been extensive. With a milder trend at the end of January we have now observed movement of the ice pack further south toward with open water in much of the river north of Walpole Island
- Levels are currently being monitored and advisories will be include in SCRCA Flood Bulletins based on Fisheries and Oceans hydrology data located at Point Edward and Port Lambton. Additional equipment will also be deployed to provide increased monitoring capabilities in this region.
- While Lake Huron ice conditions moderated with the shift to warmer temperatures in mid-January opening previously frozen areas at the southern portion of the lake, colder temperatures into February forecasts indicate re-freezing some areas of open water in the lake.
- An annual comparison of lake temperatures and ice formation identifies 2018 as being a colder (4.7C) than 2017 (5.9C) and 2016 (6.4C). Open lake conditions may contribute to additional lake effect snow.

Snow Conditions

- As noted 2017 had extensive snow in December but very little in the remaining year
- In contrast 2018 received significant accumulations until mid-January when a thaw reduced snowpack to zero in most of the watershed. This situation may change into February.

Flood Threat

Changeable weather patterns into February and March will potentially contribute to an uneven ice breakup. Ice jamming can cause unpredictable areas of high-level conditions both throughout the watershed and on the St. Clair River. Milder conditions in conjunction with precipitation events may create flooding in flood prone areas into the spring 2017. We will continue to monitor conditions and issue bulletins as needed.

Current Weather

- It was evident that the end of 2017 and into the first part of 2018 was generally colder than normal being significantly below the monthly means for the period. Temperatures moderated into the end of January and into February.
- Anticipated temperatures and precipitation suggest a slightly below average February and a mild and wet March
- The effect of El Nino on continental weather systems has been evident this winter season with colder temperatures

- While these factors may dominate during a given period, any combination of three influencing factors may contribute to our weather systems as illustrated below.

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

The monthly comparison for December 2017 (current available data) indicates that Lake Huron levels higher again (**24cm**) compared to December 2016 suggesting a continued higher trend in local lake levels. Numbers also continue to increase above the 10-year average for Lake Huron by **70cm**. Lake St. Clair levels are higher than last year (**24cm**) **49cm** above the 10 year average. Both Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair current values (December) continue to remain above the average for the entire period of record by **46cm** and **45cm** respectively.

BD-18-018

McMillan - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 1, 2018 regarding current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

- We continue to wrap up projects on a monthly basis. Status of other WECI projects is outlined below:

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work
Courtright Park	Courtright Park Shoreline restoration	Shoreline work at Courtright Park is ongoing.
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Helen and Kenwick St) Phase 1	Construction work is progressing well at Brights Grove
Eslie Dodge Dam	Eslie Dodge Repair Project	Ongoing
L.C.Henderson Weir #1	L.C.H. Outfall Repair Project	Completed
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Drop Structure Downstream Erosion Control	Close to Completion
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Vegetation Management Plan	Completed
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Watercourse Obstruction Removal	Completed
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	McKeough Sill Repair	Completed
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Wing wall repair	Completed

Courtright Waterfront Restoration – Phase 1

- Contract awarded to BRE-Ex Construction
- A budget of \$720,000 has been 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
- 50 working days have been provided for completion 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).
- Approximately 130 meters of Shoreline work will be completed in this phase
- Construction work will be completed April 2018 with restoration work planned for May 2018.
- This is the first phase of construction at Courtright Park.

Sarnia Shoreline Protection – Phase 1

- Contract awarded to Atlantis Marine Construction Canada Inc
- A budget of \$700,000 has been confirmed for the project (WECI \$350,000; City of Sarnia- \$350,000)
- Construction work started last week of January 201
- 30 working days have been provided for completion of the project under the contract
- Construction work will be completed April 2018 with restoration work planned for May 2018.
- This is the first phase of construction for Helen avenue to Kenwick park shoreline restoration

BD-18-019

McCharles - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2018 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed.”

CARRIED

- Potential applications for WEIC projects are being reviewed by Authority Staff
- 2018- 2019 Projects should be submitted by February 12 2018
- Once submitted, 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 potential WEIC projects for 2018 - 2019 is outlined below

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested (\$)
Courtright Park	Courtright Park Shoreline Restoration – Phase 2	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) Phase 2	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 Head street and Coldstream dams	\$120,000	\$60,000
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

BD-18-020

Broad - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 5, 2018, regarding potential Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects that will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for funding in 2018-19.”

CARRIED

The Regulations Activity Reports dated January 31, 2018, was reviewed.

BD-18-021

Broad - Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Report dated January 31, 2018 on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) from December 31, 2017 and January 31, 2018.”

CARRIED

A schedule of Special Events was reviewed:

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: Centennial Park, 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

BD-18-022

Wright - Scholten

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

CARRIED

David R. Montgomery Lecture– December 12, 7-9 pm Sarnia

A classic Canadian snowstorm was not enough to prevent over 120 people from attending SCRCA’s guest lecture by David R. Montgomery in Sarnia. Montgomery is a geologist and professor of Earth and Space Sciences at the University of Washington. Montgomery combines ancient wisdom, modern science and firsthand experience to demonstrate that soil regeneration is possible for farms of any size and in any climate. He outlined conservation agriculture principles used by farmers across the world, that when practiced together can restore soil and increase yields from year to year. The audience was quite engaged and asked many questions. The *Sarnia Observer* highlighted the event with two articles –one before and one after. The event was supported by GLASI funding.

Lambton Soil & Crop Improvement Association Annual General Meeting January 13, 2018

SCRCA Chair Steve Arnold presented Belan Farms with this year’s Outstanding Farmer of the Year Award. Belan Farms has also received SCRCA’s Conservation Award for their farm business’ focus towards soil conservation and sustainability. Staff spoke in front of the crowd of 100 encouraging uptake of BMPs and extending an invitation to our Soil Health Conference.

Soil Health Conference - February 15, 2018, Chatham

We collaborated with Lower Thames Valley CA to reduce the registration costs and help with advertising costs. We also secured 13 sponsors to have a booth. Their sponsorship fees helped to pay for the venue and food costs. This event was a main deliverable in our watershed-wide OMAFRA COA funding (2016-2018).

Frank Gibbs (Wetland and Soil Consulting Services, LLC) worked for the USDA in Ohio for 36 years and spoke on BMPs in hydric soils. Dr. David Lobb (University of Manitoba)

shared the economics of soil loss through wind, water and tillage erosion. Dr. Wendy Taheri (Terra Nimbus) is a specialist in arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi & plant growth. Dale Cowan (AGRIS and Wanstead Cooperatives) is a Senior agronomist and sales manager, 4R Nutrient Stewardship Specialist, and 2016 International Certified Crop Adviser of the Year. Dale spoke about local initiatives. We had Ivan O'Halloran and Anne Verhallen, both from OMAFRA begin and end the day with talks on phosphorus and how to conduct your own soil tests.

In addition, 15 local farmers shared their experiences on our farmer panel discussions. Panel topics included reducing tillage, cover crop and rotational grazing, erosion control methods, soil stewards on big acres, planting green, and making interseeding work. Over 100 farmers, agriculture industry representatives, and researchers participated in the event.

Upcoming events:

Winter Manure Spreading Education Event

March 22, a collaboration with Lambton Soil & Crop Improvement Association and Lambton Cattlemen's Association. An OMAFRA representative will be speaking about incorporating manure and reducing water quality risks.

Ducks Unlimited Canada Strathroy Chapter Fundraising Event

March 24, staff will attend, network and provide a short presentation highlighting the great partnership SCRCA has with DUC and past wetland projects in the Headwaters of the East Branch of the Sydenham River.

Focus on the Thames Forum

March 27 & 28, staff are participating in discussions in this 2-day workshop at Upper Thames CA.

BD-18-023

Nemcek - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated January 30, 2018, regarding Healthy Watersheds program, stewardship outreach events including the David R. Montgomery lecture, the Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association’s Annual Meeting and the Soil Health Conference.”

CARRIED

The Sydenham watershed is heavily impacted through human activities. Sustained monitoring of benthic communities and surface water is important to assess long-term changes in water quality. By obtaining baseline data on these watercourses we can better understand the risks of nutrient loading, runoff, and potential spills from various land uses and how to manage them. Tree planting such as block planting, wind breaks,

and riparian buffers help to sequester carbon, improve water quality, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat.

In February 2017, a proposal was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) requesting all available funds totaling \$23,378 from the Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF) to support St. Clair Conservation's Aquatic Monitoring Program and Tree Planting Program.

Specifically, SCRCA requested funding to:

- Conduct annual sampling at 13 benthic macro-invertebrate stations
- Collect surface water quality samples from 14 stations monthly from April to November.
- Plant 10 000 trees within the Sydenham watershed

Amount requested from OCEF:	\$23,378
Amount from all other sources (cash / donations):	\$40,958
Amount from all other sources (in-kind):	\$25,369
Total value of project:	\$89,706

St. Clair Conservation was notified by MOECC in September of 2017 that \$23,378 was allocated from the OCEF towards the project for 2017/18. This is the second consecutive year that SCRCA received funding from this program.

BD-18-024

Faas - Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated January 26, 2018, on the Ontario Community Environment Fund grant “St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA)’s Tree Planting, Outreach, and Baseline Health Assessment” and authorizes St. Clair Conservation Authority to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Province of Ontario.”

CARRIED

The Hazard Tree Management Policy was reviewed.

BD-18-025

Bruzewicz - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the receipt of the Hazard Tree Management Policy and further approves the implementation of the policy on lands owned and managed by the Conservation Authority”

CARRIED

BD-18-026

Faas - MacKinnon

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Steve Arnold
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager