



# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: December 13, 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, John McCharles, Steve Miller, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Jerry Westgate, Muriel Wright

**Regrets:** Mike Kelch, Kevin Marriott, Dan McMillan, Frank Nemcek, Jeff Wesley

**Staff Present:** Brian McDougall, General Manager; Eva Baker, Records Management Clerk; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Melissa Deisley, Regulations Officer; Chris Durand, IT/GIS Coordinator; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Michelle Gallant, Regulations Officer; Tim Payne, Forest Management Specialist; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and a safe, happy and prosperous New Year. 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-18-168**

### **Scholten-Wright**

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

**CARRIED**

## **BD-18-169**

### **McMillan-Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors sit as a Hearing Board and acknowledge the reports and exhibits regarding Application R#2018-146 Developments, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Ontario Regulation 171/06 following the Hearing Procedures set out by the Conservation Authorities Act.”**

**CARRIED**

Hearing Board Members Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Diane Brewer, Alan Broad, Tony Bruinink, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Larry Gordon, Betty Ann MacKinnon, John McCharles, Steve Miller, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Jerry Westgate, Muriel Wright

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

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

"We are now going to conduct a hearing under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act in respect of an application by John Stathis for permission to construct an interlocking concrete deck and armour stone retaining wall on the subject property.

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

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

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

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

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

The proceedings will be conducted according to the Statutory Powers Procedure Act. Under Section 5 of the Canada Evidence Act, a witness may refuse to answer any question on the ground that the answer may tend to criminate the person, or may tend to establish his/her liability to a civil proceeding at the instance of the Crown or of any person.

The procedure in general shall be informal without the evidence before it being given under oath or affirmation.

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

SCRCA staff Michelle Gallant presented the nature and location of the subject application and the conclusions.

SCRCA Staff report was presented by Michelle Gallant

Analee Baroudi, legal representative and Mr. Milo Sturm, Professional Engineer, both retained by the applicants addressed the Hearing Board.

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

**BD-18-170**

**Giffen-Bruziewicz**

**“That the Hearing Board move in-camera at 11:00 a.m. to deliberate information provided regarding Application R#2018-146.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-18-171**

**Bruinink-Scholten**

**“That the Hearing Board rise and report at 11:10 a.m.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-18-172**

**McCharles-Broad**

**“That the Hearing Board in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act, held a hearing regarding John Stathis, Application No. R#2018-146 on December 13, 2018 and hereby approves the application conditional upon a hold harmless agreement registered on title at the landowner’s expense and directs staff to issue a Notice of Decision.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-18-173**

**Miller-Gordon**

**“That the Hearing Board sit as a Board of Directors.”**

**CARRIED**

Minutes of the November 8, 2018 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed.

**BD-18-174**

**Bruinink-Giffen**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held November 8, 2018, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

### **Canada Nature Fund Application:**

- An expression of interest was submitted to the Canada Nature Fund (CNF) for funding support the creation of a land acquisition strategy, land protection measures and property acquisition
- Unfortunately, our proposal was not among those selected for funding, however we were encouraged to submit an application under the next component of the 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) – was launched in the fall and proposals are to be submitted by December 24
- This program will provide opportunities for multi-year funding of conservation projects through March 2023
- Our previous proposal will be updated and submitted through the Fund's website

### **Environmental Commissioner's Visit:**

- On November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Environmental Commissioners Office released a 4 volume report entitled Back to Basics with 4 specific focuses – Respecting the Public's Voice on the Environment, Clean Water, Wildlife and Wilderness and Southern Ontario's Wetlands and Forests
- The report outlines few highlights and many failures by the Provincial Government with regards to the four areas of focus
- The report also highlighted Conservation Authority with over 175 references to Conservation Authorities include the positive activities and actions of Conservation Authorities and the potential for the Province to partner with Conservation Authorities to take positive actions in these areas of concern
- On November 15<sup>th</sup>, after almost a quarter century, the Provincial government eliminated the Office of the Environmental Commissioner.
- The Provincial government announced that the duties of the Environmental Commissioner will be absorbed by the Auditor General's office
- It's unclear whether the commissioner, Dianne Saxe or her staff will lose their jobs or will be transitioned to the Auditor General's office.

### **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 (MNR) 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

- Little other information is being provided, including no specified timelines for the transitions completion.

**BD-18-175**

**Scholten-Bruinink**

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

**CARRIED**

A verbal report from the December 10, 2018 Conservation Ontario Council meeting was given by Brian McDougall.

**BD-18-176**

**Scholten-Gordon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal report from the Conservation Ontario Council meeting of December 10, 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

**Business Arising from the November 8, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting**

**Regarding BD-18-144**

- The Board of Directors requests a report outlining the potential matching funds required from municipalities over the term of the National Disaster Mitigation Program project. A report is included within the agenda.
- 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. Deferred to 2019.

**Regarding BD-18-146**

- The Board of Directors requested a preliminary agenda and background report regarding the Sydenham Watershed Management Plan prior to the meeting with stakeholders. An agenda was sent to Directors along with the invitation to participate. A report is included within the agenda.

**Regarding BD-18-149**

- 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. A report will be submitted in 2019.

**Regarding BD-18-150**

- The Board of Directors requests an update from staff regarding the outcome of the on-site meeting at the Angus seed plant and a report in 2019 outlining the potential cost involved in developing an in-house seed bank to sustain SCRCA tree planting programs. A report is included within the agenda.

**BD-18-177**

**Bruziewicz-Bruinink**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the November 8, 2018 meeting.”**

**CARRIED**

**Region Conservation Area’s key capital projects in 2019:**

**Warwick Conservation Area**

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

**L.C. Henderson Conservation Area**

- Playground equipment surfacing was upgraded with engineered wood chips and subsurface drainage
- Trailer pads were 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 new solar pole light was installed in the un-serviced camping area

**A.W. Campbell Conservation Area**

- A new concrete sidewalk was installed in front of the pool washroom building
- A hydro panel was 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 were completed to the main entrance road between the river crossing and the main parking lot

**Highland Glen Conservation Area:**

- Approximately 60 ft. of new walkway was installed along the inside of the boat ramp (funded through 2017 fees)
- A new beacon light was installed on the outer seawall

**Camper Activities and Events in 2018:**

- Our campgrounds are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers who assist staff to deliver the many events and activities throughout the camping season
- Below are some of the events and activities which were offered in 2018

**Regular Events:**

- Bingo/wagon rides/kids train rides

- Pot luck dinners/bagel breakfasts/barbeques
- Horse shoe tournaments/yard sales
- Kids crafts/card nights/karaoke nights
- Slip and slide down the Campbell Hill
- Movie nights

### **Special Events:**

- Canada Day Events and Fireworks
- Christmas in the Park/Halloween in the Park
- Fish Fry, Chili Cook-off
- Fishing Derby's
- Turtle Birthday Party
- Live Entertainment
- Camper season ending dinners

### **Other Lands Activities:**

- Sub-surface drainage and soil erosion works were completed on Property 82 (McKeough Upstream lands)
- Wetlands were created 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 was installed

### **Fall work and projects:**

- Lambton Heritage Museum (Lambton County) – staff have reopened a 1 km trail in the wooded portion on the Museum property
- Sandrin Property (Lambton County Heritage Forest) – a new property identification sign was constructed and installed
- Coldstream CA – board walks were upgraded with 40 new boards and 16 cedar post supports
- Strathroy CA – 14 new boardwalks were upgraded along the trail system (Bonduelle Strathroy donated \$2,500.00 towards this project); approximately 75 dead or dangerous trees have been removed from along the trail system
- Staff have planted approximately 75 hardwood trees on Authority lands as part of the Foundation's memorial forest tree planting program
- Many dead and dangerous trees have been removed from along trails, roadways and in day use areas; where possible these trees will be sold in our campgrounds for firewood
- Many of our rural forested properties have been inspected and have had "no hunting signs" posted

**BD-18-178**

**Giffen-Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands report, dated November 26, 2018 outlining the maintenance and development activities on Conservation Lands for 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

**Current Watershed Conditions:**

- Reasonably wet conditions throughout the first part of November were followed by several minor storm events resulting in a Flood Outlook Bulletin (Nov 1<sup>st</sup>) followed by a Flood Watch (Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>) and a further Flood Watch update (Nov 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Levels stabilized back to average flows during the middle of the month however, rain events impacted quickly while precipitation in the form of snow limited flow increases. Temperatures then rose and snowfall melted during the middle weeks of the month resulting in increases across most of the watershed again at the end of the month.

**Precipitation:**

- While there were events at the beginning and end of November, the overall amount of precipitation was divided between rain and snow. Moderately significant events were noted November resulting in the average 3 month precipitation numbers slightly above average 103.4% of normal. One notable exception was in Strathroy, where above average rainfall remained higher impacting the upper reaches of the watershed, while Sarnia and the southern areas remained near average. The overall six month numbers are slightly above expected at **103.9%**, which is very close to the three month average. Regional numbers for the year remain above average at **106.9%**

**Weather Conditions and Forecast:**

**ENSO Conditions**

- Trending towards El Nino conditions in the fall and winter months 2018/ 2019.

**December**

- Slightly milder temperatures to begin in December followed by below average (2 degrees below) temperatures into the remainder of the month. Above average precipitation in the form of snow in the last two weeks leading up to a potentially snowy Christmas. **Chance of a white Christmas 75%**

**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 currently 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:**

October Lake Huron lake level data (latest available as of this report) indicates a slight increase in overall monthly levels compared to last year by 3 cm over October 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 however they do not exceed the all-time highest monthly values established in 1986.

### **BD-18-179**

#### **MacKinnon-Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 30, 2018 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”**

**CARRIED**

### **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation fund:**

The Government of Canada launched the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF), a national merit-based program that will invest \$2 billion to support large-scale infrastructure projects to help communities better manage the risks of disasters triggered by natural hazards. DMAF projects will support the Government of Canada's objectives laid out in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

### **Issues/Analysis:**

Over the past 3 decades, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has completed numerous shoreline protection and erosion control Projects along the Lake Huron and St. Clair River.

Several reaches of the existing shoreline appear in a state of disrepair. High winds, ice jams and significant rain events continue to pose a threat to the condition of shoreline. In the last few years, a number of shoreline failures have occurred along Lake Huron and St. Clair River, and this is threatening the existing public and private infrastructure (School, Roads and Parks). In addition, the torn pieces of the existing retaining wall is a safety concern to children, pets and the users of the shoreline.

This project is geared to provide shoreline protection for select locations along Lake Huron and St. Clair River. This shoreline protection will protect critical Municipal Infrastructure of the City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township.

Shoreline rehabilitation work to protect public infrastructure, thereby building resilience to climate change, natural hazards and extreme weather events.

- 1) Review priority areas of shoreline failure
- 2) Design effective shoreline protection measures
- 3) Prioritize shoreline implementation based on severity of shoreline damages and proximity to Municipal infrastructure
- 4) Implement shoreline protection measures
- 5) Inspect and Monitor construction of shoreline works

**Finance:**

The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$2,000,000. The screening application submitted in September has been accepted. **SCRCA has been selected for submitting the Final application (January 11, 2019).**

The funding distribution is 40 - 60%, with 60% of the costs to be matched by the Municipality. If SCRCA is successful in receiving the funds, we will require matching funds from municipalities in the magnitude of \$12 million dollars over 10 years or 1.2 million every year. SCRCA will apply for other shoreline grants to assist with Municipal contributions.

- 1) City of Sarnia
- 2) St. Clair Township

Letters have been sent to appropriate contacts in the municipalities providing information on this application.

The main benefits of the undertaking are:

- Prevention of further erosion and river sedimentation
- Improvements to aquatic habitats in the river
- Improvement of the general appearance of the area
- Control of loss of land in this area
- Elimination of hazards associated with existing dilapidated structures
- Improvement of public access to the waterfront

**BD-18-180**

**Scholten-Bruziewicz**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 30, 2018 on the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) for shoreline restoration along Lake Huron and St. Clair River and the Board approves the submission of the application and directs staff to work with the City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township to obtain the required matching funding.”**

**CARRIED**

**Courtright Park Shoreline Restoration – Phase 2**

The site is located in the St. Clair Township along the east shore of the St. Clair River in the community of Courtright. The existing site is protected with concrete rubble and stone and extends approximately 400 meters along the St. Clair River shoreline. A number of

sections along the exposed shore have failed. The purpose of the undertaking is to provide shore stabilization, improve shoreline access, enhance aquatic habitat and to provide general improvements to the existing shore along the entire project site.

**Phase 1 of the project was completed earlier this year (2018)**

Phase 2 funding Breakdown – Total - \$225,000

Carry forward funds	\$80,000
Greatlakes community guardian fund	\$20,000
St. Clair Township	\$125,000

Due to limited funding, approximately 60 meters of shoreline work is expected to be completed. Request for additional funding has been made with the St. Clair Township.

- Staff reviewing design and finalizing tender documents with consulting engineer
- Permits have been obtained
- Construction work is expected to start early 2018 (January, 2018)
- Habitat/fish monitoring will be starting in January, 2018

**BD-18-181**

**Miller-McCharles**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 29, 2018 on Phase 2 of the Courtright Park Shoreline Revitalization Project.”**

**CARRIED**

**Angus Tree Seed Plant**

MNRF held a series of workshops at the Angus tree seed plant the week of November 26<sup>th</sup>:

- a) General Information Workshop - November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- b) Industry Workshop – November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- c) Cultural Heritage Working Group – November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The industry workshop was designed to provide an opportunity for industry service providers to share an overview of their organization, to identify the services they are able to provide in the future as well as discuss current and future market opportunities. MNRF addressed the divestment processes which includes all buildings & land plus all equipment and materials. Further information will be relayed as it becomes available.

Several non-government seed stakeholders, including Ontario Forest Gene Conservation Association, Forests Ontario, 4 central Ontario Crown Forest Licensees, and two large, Ontario private tree seedling producers carried out a comprehensive review of tree seed management in order to mitigate the effects from the government’s exit from tree seed management. A business plan was prepared which included various options. MNRF has been kept involved with these efforts and ongoing review will continue with them in the future.

### **Local Seed Storage Options**

SCRCA staff are currently looking into local tree seed storage options, future tree seed bank on CA land and future tree seedling supply options. Staff met with Winkelmolen Tree Nursery in Lynden and the GRCA Burford Tree Nursery west of Woodstock on November 21<sup>st</sup> to investigate potential future options. Further updates will be provided next year.

### **BD-18-182**

#### **Gordon-Giffen**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 30, 2018 on the Angus Tree Seed Plant and exploration of future local tree supply options.”**

**CARRIED**

The Protect Lake Huron 2018-2022 strategy document and draft correspondence to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks was reviewed.

### **BD-18-183**

#### **Bruziewicz-Westgate**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Protecting Lake Huron Strategy and supports the Chair’s endorsement of the draft correspondence to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.”**

**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 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

On November 27, SCRCA hosted a stakeholder meeting in Warwick. We invited a wide range of stakeholders to the event (see below for list of invited groups – we welcome suggestions!) and we had 65 stakeholders in attendance. The goal of the day was to meet and network with stakeholders, introduce the project and get an idea of which stakeholders would like to participate in working groups and determine where SCRCA can obtain data for analysis for the Plan. The afternoon brainstorming session was quite fruitful and staff are currently working towards collating all of the discussions.

Our next steps involve creating the Project Team, Steering Committee and Working Groups. Of the 27 surveys we received, 20 respondents would like to be a part of a working group. These respondents are from the wastewater sector, municipalities, provincial and federal departments, agriculture, First Nations, rural non-profit organizations, and Lambton College.

**Feedback we received from our surveys:**

“Great conference”

“Excellent first step”

“Any action needs to be win-win for property owners involved”

“Your questions here and process launched today support a drive to only your agenda not a shared agenda that everyone will come behind” (For reference – please see our survey questions and agenda)

“Great workshop!” – from ECCC staff

**Invites were sent to the following:**

City of Sarnia, Dover Township, Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Municipality of Lambton Shores, Municipality of Southwest Middlesex, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, Township of Adelaide Metcalfe, Township of Dawn-Euphemia, Township of Enniskillen, Township of Middlesex Centre, Township of Strathroy-Caradoc, Township of St. Clair, Township of Warwick, Village of Oil Springs, Village of Point Edward, Village of Newbury, Zone Township, Lambton Public Health, Lambton Public Works, Lambton Planning, Middlesex Planning, Middlesex Public Health, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Walpole First Nation, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Environment & Climate Change Canada, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, & Rural Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks, Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association, AGRIS/Wanstead Farmers Cooperatives, Lambton College, Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Beef Farmers of Ontario, Sydenham Field Naturalists, Lambton Wildlife, Greater London & Area Golf Superintendents, Cuddy Farms, Rural Lambton Stewardship Network, Ontario Farmer’s Association, Grand River CA, Upper Thames River CA, Ausable Bayfield CA, Lower Thames River CA

**Directors Comments:**

It is requested that the report be sent to all Municipalities for information.

**BD-18-184**

**Wright-Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Sydenham River Phosphorus Management Plan update report dated November 29, 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

The SCRCA monthly Planning Activity Summary report for the month of October, 2018 was reviewed.

**BD-18-185**

**Scholten-MacKinnon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Report for the month of October, 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

Summary of October, 2018 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-18-186**

**Wright-Gordon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Report on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) for the month of October, 2018.”**

**CARRIED**

The Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee (CRIC) for the St. Clair River Area of Concern announced, in November, a “Not Impaired” status has been granted for three Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) - *Restrictions on Dredging Activities, Beach Closings and Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproduction Problems*. Comprehensive surveys and monitoring confirm restoration targets have been successfully achieved. The “Not Impaired” designation of these BUIs represents significant progress towards the restoration of the St. Clair River.

The “*Restrictions on Dredging Activities*” BUI was initially deemed “Impaired” because dredged material from the navigational channel of the St. Clair River and Sarnia Bay (which was federally owned and serviced freighters) often contained concentrations of metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), oil and grease that exceeded the Provincial guidelines for open water disposal. This added a significant cost for dredging

proponents who were required to transport the dredged material to an inland disposal facility instead of disposing within the open water. Today, open water disposal is no longer an acceptable method of disposal due to adverse impacts on fish and fish habitat and dredged materials are clean enough to be reused for beach nourishment and in-fill for construction.

Since 2000, most dredged material from the St. Clair River has been re-used and none has required special handling or treatment due to contaminant levels. Maintaining safe depths for navigation in the St. Clair River is the main purpose of ongoing dredging in the St. Clair River. Both the federal and provincial governments provide comprehensive control and oversight around the dredging and the disposal of dredged material. The procedures for navigational dredging and disposal of dredged material within the St. Clair River AOC are consistent with those that occur throughout the Great Lakes.

The “*Beach Closings*” BUI was originally deemed “Impaired” due to excessive levels of bacteria at swimming areas along the St. Clair River. Major sources were identified as combined sewer overflows (CSOs), Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) effluent, and agricultural runoff. Since that time, all local municipalities in the AOC have invested in WPCP upgrades and sewer separation. The City of Sarnia alone has invested \$35 million dollars since 2012 for WPCP upgrades and \$60 million in sewer separation projects. Communities along the river have been connected to municipal sewers and Wallaceburg has successfully separated 95% of their combined sewers. In addition, best management practices have been implemented in rural communities including thirty-seven riparian buffer projects that have mitigated the input of bacterial pollution from the surrounding areas.

These combined efforts have dramatically reduced bacteria levels and improved overall water quality of the river. Bacteria levels observed at beaches and swimming areas in the AOC are no different than those recorded at locations outside of the AOC. In most cases, bacteria levels recorded at AOC locations were below the Provincial Water Quality Guideline for safe swimming. Where exceedances were observed, waterfowl and other non-anthropogenic sources were identified as the primary inputs.

The “*Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproduction Problems*” BUI for the St. Clair River AOC was initially identified as “Requiring Further Assessment”. The re-designation of this BUI to “Not Impaired” status is the culmination of several exposure and field studies conducted between 2006 and 2014 by Environment and Climate Change Canada. These studies assessed the prevalence of deformities and reproductive success in two aquatic indicator species, the Northern Leopard frog and the Common Snapping turtle. Based on the studies conducted and the results they revealed, there was sufficient evidence for the designation of “Not Impaired” status.

Final approval of the re-designations was received from the federal agency overseeing the Great Lake’s Area of Concern program. This re-designation means there are now two BUIs designated as “Requires Further Assessment” and four remain “Impaired”.

Kelly Johnson, St. Clair River RAP Coordinator, spoke at the biennial Lake St. Clair Conference held in Michigan at the beginning of November. The presentation focused on the monitoring that was completed relating to the “*Beach Closings*” BUI. The work ultimately led to the recommendation to re-designate the BUI to “Not Impaired” status.

The CRIC met at Aamjiwnaang First Nation on November 22, 2018. One topic of discussion was the 2012 – 2017 Accomplishments Report. CRIC members are now reviewing the document, and hope to have it finalized by early 2019.

A verbal update was given by Brian McDougall regarding the funding obtained for the sediment remediation design. The position of Project Engineer will be posted later this month.

**BD-18-187**

**Faas-Bruziewicz**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 26, 2018 regarding the St. Clair River Area of Concern.”**

**CARRIED**

Minutes of the September 26, 2018 Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting were reviewed.

**BD-18-188**

**Scholten-Bruinink**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the September 26, 2018 meeting minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee.”**

**CARRIED**

SCRCA revenue and expenditure report to October 31, 2018 was reviewed.

**BD-18-189**

**Miller-Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to October 31, 2018, as it relates to the budget.”**

**CARRIED**

SCRCA disbursements from November, 2018 were reviewed.

**BD-18-190**

**Wright-Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the November 2018 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$383,402.97.”**

**CARRIED**



The report on the 2018 General Levy receipts to date was reviewed.

**BD-18-191**

**Broad-Scholten**

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

**CARRIED**

The changes to the Administration Manual were reviewed.

**BD-18-192**

**Bruinink-Giffen**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated December 4, 2018 and approves the 2018 changes to the Administration Manual.”**

**CARRIED**

A verbal summary of comments received on the 2019 Draft Budget was given. Director Wright concurs with the correspondence received and confirmed that Plympton-Wyoming has similar concerns to those received via correspondence.

**BD-18-193**

**Bruziewicz-Wright**

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

**CARRIED**

A presentation from BMO Wealth Management was given.

**BD-18-194**

**Miller-Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation from BMO Wealth Management reviewing their investment strategy and options.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-18-195**

**Rupke-Faas**

**“That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 12:05 p.m. to discuss Conservation Awards and personnel information with the General Manager, Manager of Communications, Director of Finance and Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator remaining.”**

**CARRIED**

**ICABD-18-02**

**Faas-Rupke**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 29, 2018, and further approves the nominations for the 2019 Conservation Awards with winners to be invited to the 2019 Annual General Meeting to receive their awards.”**

**CARRIED**

**ICABD-18-03**

**Giffen-Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the member’s meeting per diem of \$75.00, the Chair’s honorarium be \$3550.00 and the Vice Chair’s honorarium be \$1675.00 for 2019.”**

**CARRIED**

**ICABD-18-04**

**Rupke-MacKinnon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges mileage adjustment, the cost of living adjustment to the salary grid and the step adjustments for eligible staff for 2019.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-18-196**

**Scholten-Westgate**

**“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 12:13 p.m.”**

**CARRIED**

Under new business, a discussion was held regarding the Highland Glen Conservation Area parking and boat launch fees.

**BD-18-197**

**Wright-Scholten**

**“That the Board of Directors remove the fee for parking only at Highland Glen.”**

**LOST**

**BD-18-198**

**Wright-Brewer**

**“That the Board of Directors request a report from SCRCA staff on parking fees at Highland Glen.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-18-199**

**Scholten-Westgate**

**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**

**CARRIED**



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**Steve Arnold**  
Chair



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**Brian McDougall**  
General Manager