



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: June 27, 2019

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Warwick Conservation Area, Warwick

Directors Present: Alan Broad, Pat Brown, Andy Bruziewicz, Terry Burrell, Joe Faas, Chair; Larry Gordon, Vice Chair; Frank Kennes, Brad Loosley, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Mark McGill, Carmen McGregor, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Mike Stark, Jerry Westgate

Regrets: John Brennan, Ron Schenk, Lorie Scott

Staff Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Dallas Cundick, Manager of Planning and Regulations; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Sarah Kellestine, Payroll/ Accounting Clerk; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

Guests: Norm Giffen, Susan McFarlane

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the SCRCA staff for their efforts in organizing the annual bus tour. 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-19-72

Loosley – MacKinnon

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

CARRIED

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on April 18, 2019 were reviewed.

BD-19-73

Burrell – McGregor

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held April 18, 2019, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on May 16, 2019 were reviewed.

BD-19-74

Burrell – Loosley

“That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, held May 16, 2019, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

Conservation Authority Operations:

- Bill 108
 - The Schedule amends the Conservation Authorities Act.
 - The Schedule imposes the duty on every member of an authority to act honestly and in good faith with a view to furthering the objects of the authority.
 - The Act is also amended to list specific programs and services that are required to be provided by an authority if they are prescribed by the regulations, which may include programs and services related to the risk of flooding and other natural hazards.
 - Authorities continue to be authorized to provide other programs and services, including programs and services that it determines to be advisable to further its objects.
 - If financing by a participating municipality under section 25 or 27 of the Act is necessary in order for the authority to provide such programs and services, the authority and the participating municipality must enter into an agreement in order for the authority to provide the program or service. On and after a day prescribed by the regulations, the authority is prohibited from including capital costs and operating expenses in respect of such programs and services in its apportionment of payments to the participating municipality if no such agreement has been entered into. Authorities are required to prepare and implement a transition plan in order to ensure they are in compliance with this requirement when it takes effect.
 - An authority is authorized to determine the amounts owed by specified municipalities in connection with the programs and services the authority provides in respect of the Clean Water Act, 2006 and Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008.
 - Other amendments include authorizing the Minister to appoint one or more investigators to conduct an investigation of an authority's operations.
- Ministerial Program Breakdown
 - In October 2018, the responsibility for the administration of the Act was transferred from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)

to Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), with the exception of the natural hazards and Crown land components and section 28 regulations

- This change in responsibility for the Act was made through Order in Council 1149/2018 under the Executive Council Act
- Responsibility for the administration of the Act, including Minister's Approvals under the Act and required reporting, is now with MECP, Great Lakes Office, Great Lakes and Inland Waters Branch, Land and Water Division
- The Conservation Authorities team is led by Carolyn O'Neill, Manager, Great Lakes Office, with staff Jessica Isaac and Liora Burton joined by staff Liz Mikel and Rheanna Leckie who have been transferred from MNRF to MECP.
- Approvals related to land dispositions, revenue from dispositions and projects under Section 24 of the Act (e.g., land acquisition strategies) will now be administered by this office
- Procedures for these approvals have not changed, and requests for approval, as well as audited financial statements and any other materials to be submitted to the province under the Act or its policies not related to natural hazards, should now be addressed to the MECP Great Lakes Office

- **Modernizing conservation authority operations – Conservation Authorities Act**

- The MECP, under the above noted Environmental Registry posting, identified “core mandatory” programs and services provided by conservation authorities
 1. Natural Hazard Protection and Management
 2. Conservation and Management of conservation authority lands
 3. Drinking water source protection (as prescribed under the *Clean Water Act*)
 4. Protection of the Lake Simcoe watershed (as prescribed under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*)
- MECP has confirmed that the protection of Lake Simcoe is specific to the Lake Simcoe watershed and is not to be used as a template for broader Conservation Authority programs and services
- Therefore the remaining 3 ‘core mandatory’ programs may broadly outline the programs and services that Authorities will be able to levy member municipalities for support
- Further definition of these program and service areas is required and may be presented in the anticipated regulations

- Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities have drafted the following definitions in order to have a starting point for discussion with the Ministry

Draft Text for Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation

- Natural Hazard (Management)
 - The purpose of the natural hazard (management) mandatory program and service is to advance and contribute to the:
 - Assessment and reduction of risk and protection of life and property from natural hazards;
 - Successful implementation of the five pillars of Emergency Planning and Management in Ontario for natural hazards: Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery;
 - Effective delivery of plan review and permitting in support of achieving complete communities
 - The standards and requirements that advance the purpose include:
 - Efficient and effective delivery and enforcement of Section 28 Regulation under the Conservation Authorities Act;
 - Efficient and effective delivery of Plan Review on matters of provincial interest relating to the Natural Hazards (Section 3.1 under Public Health and Safety under the Provincial Policy Statement – excluding forest fire);
 - Forecasting of flood events and the issuance of flood warnings, alerts and advisories to prepare those who must plan for, respond to and recover from the flood event;
 - Activities undertaken to inform and coordinate those who must respond to a low water event;
 - Operation and maintenance of infrastructure for the purposes of flood and/or erosion control and/or low flow augmentation to mitigate risk to life and property damage from flooding and/or erosion and/or which assist in managing the impacts of low water events;
 - Watershed scale data collection, monitoring, data management and modelling;
 - Watershed scale studies, plans, assessments and/or strategies, that inform/identify actions to reduce natural hazard risk and protect life and property from natural hazards, including climate vulnerability risk assessment;
 - Provision of water and land management and stewardship activities to minimize flooding and erosion and to reduce risks;
 - Activities undertaken to minimize flooding and erosion from ice build-up and jamming; and,
 - Communication, outreach and public education activities to ensure broader public appreciation of the importance of managing natural hazards and their associated risks for the protection of life and property

- Source Protection Authority
 - The purpose of the source protection authority mandatory program is to: advance and contribute to the protection of existing and future sources of drinking water in Ontario.
 - The standards and requirements that advance the purpose include:
 - Watershed scale data collection, monitoring, data management, modelling, and studies and assessments necessary to update the source protection plans to ensure that policies address threats to drinking water sources;
 - Provision of stewardship activities to reduce risks to drinking water sources;
 - Policy interpretation of the Source Protection Plan to support provincial and local decision making; and,
 - Communication, outreach and public education activities to ensure broader public appreciation of protecting our drinking water sources.
 - Roles for the lead source protection authorities of source protection regions and for stand-alone source protection authorities including:
 - Administering source protection committees to support local source protection planning;
 - Annual progress reporting to assess the effectiveness of source protection policy implementation across Ontario;
 - Information management to ensure that data is retained and databases and models are updated and maintained;
 - Providing scientific, technical and administrative support and resources to other source protection authorities in a source protection region; and
 - Serving as a liaison between the Ministry and other source protection authorities in a source protection region.

- Conservation and Management of Conservation Authority Lands
 - The purpose of the conservation and management of conservation authority lands mandatory program and service is to advance and contribute to the:
 - Conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity and natural heritage;
 - Preservation of areas of significant environmental and ecological importance; and,
 - Provision of education and recreational opportunities in the natural environment.
 - The standards and requirements that advance the purpose include:
 - Watershed scale data collection, monitoring, data management, and modelling necessary to evaluate the health of the watershed natural resources and changes in health from stresses affecting the watershed that will inform conservation authority land acquisition and management goals and objectives;
 - Acquisition of conservation land;
 - Inventories and surveys to create baseline documentation of what natural features and conservation values are present on conservation authority owned properties;

- Preparation of a land management plan for each property owned by a conservation authority;
- Monitoring programs and enforcement actions to ensure the maintenance of land title, ecological integrity of conservation authority owned properties, and public safety;
- Provision of water and land management and stewardship activities to ensure the property is maintained in accordance with the approved property plan; and,
- Communication, outreach and public education activities to ensure broader public appreciation of conservation authority lands.

BD-19-75

Marriott – Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated June 17, 2019.”

CARRIED

The correspondence dated April 16, 2019 regarding the appointment of a technical advisor for the South West Woodlot Association was reviewed.

BD-19-76

McMillan – Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence dated April 16, 2019 regarding the appointment of a technical advisor for the South West Woodlot Association, and further that Tim Payne be appointed to continue in the role of Technical Advisor to the Association for 2019/2020.”

CARRIED

Dealing with Provincial Funding Cuts:

- On April 12th SCRCA was notified that 2019 – 2020 Provincial funding for Hazard Management would be reduced by \$149,965.20
- Hazard Management funding from the Province of Ontario was provided to support the following program areas:
 - Flood Control Structures – Operation, Minor Maintenance & Preventative Maintenance
 - McKeough Dam & Floodway, ARDA Dykes
 - Erosion Control Structures – Operation, Minor Maintenance & Preventative Maintenance
 - Sarnia Erosion Control, Sarnia Bay Erosion Control, Point Edward Erosion Control, Dresden Erosion Control, Wallaceburg Walls, Strathroy Erosion Control, Corunna Erosion Control
 - Flood Forecasting & Warning – System Operation & Rationalization

- System operation, data collection, model calibration and operation, communications, systems plan, response to a flood
 - Ice Management
 - Preventative measures supported by a current ice management plan (sediment removal, ice breaker standby, etc.)
 - Plan Input
 - Commenting of Municipal Official Plans and Amendments
 - Information
 - Watershed Planning & Technical Studies
 - Legal Costs
 - Legal costs where the Authority/Province is named pertaining to Authority capital projects
 - Administration
 - Overhead and support costs not related to delivery of a specific program
- With municipal budgets and the Authority's budget approved, requesting additional funds from member municipalities is not a reality for 2019
- In reviewing our options to deal with the impact of these lost revenues, we have to understand what Authority programs were to be funded by these funds
- Alternative funding sources for programs in this area are limited to non-existent, however, any reasonable opportunity will be sought out
- Budget balancing measures reviewed have focused on expenditure reduction, elimination and postponement
- The following measures were reviewed and discarded as they had the potential to have negative or long lasting impacts:
 - staff reductions
 - full-time to part-time or full-time to seasonal
 - reduced salary expenditures
 - leave without pay, Rae days
 - eliminating staff training
 - reduce training costs to only those required to undertake projects
 - reducing board expenses
 - eliminating after meeting meals, bus tour
 - service reductions
 - Flood Control – ARDA Dykes – currently inspect dykes for issues and report to Chatham-Kent for action
 - Eliminating grant allocated to this program (\$4,000) could jeopardize structures – program or costs may be downloaded to municipalities
 - This may be a necessary change for 2020

- Erosion Control – All erosion control projects – current inspect annually and undertake minor maintenance on projects
 - Eliminating grant allocated to program (\$20,500) could jeopardize structures – program or costs may be downloaded to municipalities
 - This may be a necessary change for 2020
 - Any changes to Flood Forecasting and Warning – would have an adverse effect on program delivery and protection of people and property, there is an increasing demand on staff services due to high lake levels and precipitation trends.
 - Flood Control – McKeough Dam – operating changes may be able to provide for modest savings
 - Our municipalities and watershed residents have requested a reasonable level of service regarding municipal plan input – increases in fees and levy to this area have been necessary to approach desired targets – reduce support to this area would be a significant step back
- The following measures are recommended for implementation to assist in eliminating the funding shortfall:
 - Administration
 - Fleet management – postpone the proposed acquisition / replacement of an Authority fleet vehicle in the second half of 2019
 - \$25,000-\$45,000 expenditure reduction in 2019
 - Administrative Office Capital Improvement – postpone the proposed office reorganization/desk acquisition proposed for second half of 2019
 - ~\$10,000 expenditure reduction in 2019
 - Memberships / Subscriptions – reduction to only those required to support ongoing projects
 - ~\$2,000 expenditure reduction in 2019
 - Flood Control – McKeough Dam
 - Reduced fleet commitment – reallocate a vehicle from the McKeough to the office for project and general use by other departments
 - ~\$2,000 expenditure reduction in 2019
 - Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure funding will permit a redirection of some salary costs to complete proposed projects
 - ~\$10,000 expenditure reduction in 2019

- General spending control and 'belt tightening' could result in reduced expenditures across all eight hazard management program areas
 - ~\$6,000 expenditure reduction in 2019
- The above reductions (~\$75,000) balance approximately half of the shortfall
- A review of the Authorities existing Reserves outlines that:
 - 11 Reserves have current balances totaling just under \$4,000,000
 - Some of these reserves have spending controls, however most of them have only guidance controlling spending
 - The Administration reserve is the largest with over \$1,000,000 to its credit
 - Obtaining the remainder of the funding shortfall from Reserves will result in a ~2% reduction in the overall reserve totals
 - Although this may not be the preferred option, the reserves were established for just this purpose
 - ~\$75,000 to be drawn from Reserves at year end, if required to balance shortfalls in these eight hazard management program areas

BD-19-77

Nemcek – Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 17, 2019 regarding adjusting the budget due to provincial cuts and further directs staff to implement the proposed adjustments for 2019.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting held on April 1, 2019 were reviewed. A verbal update from the Council meeting held on June 24, 2019 was given.

BD-19-78

McMillan – Brown

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of Conservation Ontario’s Annual General meeting held April 1, 2019 at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto as well as a verbal update from Conservation Ontario’s Council meeting of June 24, 2019.”

CARRIED

Regarding BD-18-144

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 September, 2019.

Regarding BD-19-53

Breakdown of Municipalities participating in Large Stock Tree Planting programs
Deferred to September, 2019

Regarding EC-19-18

The Board of Directors requests a staff report outlining the funds invested into the C.J. McEwen property to date.

Deferred to September, 2019

Regarding EC-19-19

The Executive Committee directs staff to request a meeting at the convenience of Members of Provincial Parliament to discuss concerns with Provincial funding cuts at which time a special meeting will be called by the Chair.

Correspondence has been put forward. No response to date.

General Updates:

Update on Rules Surrounding E-mail Voting:

E-mail voting is not explicitly accepted by the Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition, 2013, but special rules can be included within organizational by-laws. The SCRCA Administrative By-Laws adopted in 2018 do not contain specific reference to voting by e-mail and therefore parliamentary authority applies. Furthermore, as per the SCRCA by-laws (Item 4.9 Electronic Participation) "A member shall not participate electronically in a meeting that is closed to the public".

BD-19-79

Miller – McGregor

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on Business Arising dated June 14, 2019."

CARRIED

- The Conservation Authority owns 15 conservation areas
- Six are managed by the local municipality and 9 are operated by the Conservation Authority
- Three of the nine Conservation Areas operated by SCRCA are regional campgrounds offering seasonal camping, overnight camping, and day use opportunities
- Combined, the three campgrounds have over 500 campsites, 420 of these are occupied by seasonal campers
- Profits obtained from our campgrounds are used to offset capital improvements
- The camping season in 2019 runs from April 26 to Thanksgiving Day

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

- Riprap protection for main creek crossing
- Building roof replacements (Pool building and A Group Camp pavilion)
- Replacement of one hydro panel

- Purchase two portable washrooms
- Replace two chemical feed pumps for the water treatment system

Warwick Conservation Area

- 2 hydro panels replaced
- Park internet will be upgraded to fibre optic and two internet hub locations will be established
- Lambton Wildlife grant obtained (\$1000) to naturalize approximately 200m of shoreline along the reservoir to combat erosion and another pollinator garden will be planted

L.C. Henderson Conservation Area

- 2 hydro panels replaced
- Replaced two 60 gallon hot water heaters
- Installed solar pole light
- Purchase two portable washrooms

All Campgrounds

- New recycling receptacles within the parks
- Waste Management recycle bins painted blue and are now lockable to reduce load contamination
- New spinal boards purchased for the pool at Warwick and LC Henderson
- New procedure using swim tests and coloured wristbands for pool access (children under 10) as required for Class A pools by Ontario Public Pool Regulation

Day Use Only Conservation Areas:

- Bonduelle will be supplying boardwalk material and will assemble boardwalk sections for the Strathroy CA
- 70' of new boardwalk to be built at Strathroy CA and 50' of boardwalk will be repaired using the Bonduelle supplied material
- Strathroy District Collegiate high school environmental program spent a day removing garlic mustard at Strathroy CA
- Anderson Windows spent a day removing garlic mustard at Strathroy CA
- new agreement with Middlesex Centre for Coldstream CA maintenance is being drafted
- Highland Glen fee structure set to change on July 1, 2019 with new signs ready for installation (\$15 boat ramp fee, no parking fee)
- Boat ramp walkways installed at Highland Glen, not able to re-install stairs to beach due to significant erosion
- New signs installed at Wawanosh CA detailing the hours of use for the property
- Sydenham Field Naturalists will be conducting a phragmites removal day at Peers Wetland with their volunteers in July

BD-19-80

Nemcek – McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands report dated June 13, 2019.”

CARRIED

In 2016, the Ontario MNR contacted SCRCA with regards to old oil day tanks located at Bridgeview Conservation Area in Petrolia. MNR staff had identified and provided GPS locations of three storage tanks that were open at the surface. The open tanks pose a risk to public safety as many are located in close proximity to trails.

Initial correspondence with the MNR included the following:

As the landowner, and therefore legal operator of these former works under the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act; you are required to remove each tank and rehabilitate the area as per Section 5 of the Provincial Operating Standards which states:

Oil Gas and Salt Resources Operation Standards (V2.0)

5.1 (c)

The operator shall:

(c) ensure that all waste, unused equipment is removed and disposed of properly

5.1.1 (c)

The operator of a work shall ensure that:

(c) all rubbish, debris and refuse from a well or work or resulting from any operation at a well or work is removed immediately from buildings, tanks, wells, pump stations or other sources of ignitable vapours and disposed of in such a manner that no fire hazard is created and in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act;

Current Project Status:

In 2017, \$4000 was budgeted for decommissioning. To date the project has not been completed and the \$4000 has carried forward in the 2018 and 2019 budgets. There have been challenges acquiring a contractor for this work and receiving guidance from the province.

This spring a new contractor was contacted and a site visit was held to assess the project. While on site, an additional storage tank was discovered. As a result, a more thorough search of the property was conducted and a total of seven storage tanks were found.

Financial Impact:

At this time we are waiting on an updated estimate of costs from the contractor that would include the removal of all seven tanks. The contractor will be responsible for the removal and proper disposal of the contents (water, sediment). The contractor will excavate and remove the structures and backfill the sites. Staff will need to clear access to each of the locations for the contractor and acquire fill. Conservation staff and Municipal staff may be able to assist in the overall project, thereby reducing costs.

BD-19-81**Burrell – Marriott**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report dated June 12, 2019 on the progress of the decommissioning of day storage tanks at Bridgeview CA.”

CARRIED

Peers Wetland is a 26.75 acre property located at 29644 Kimball Rd, Wallaceburg. It contains a large wetland, some woodlot, plantation, and is bordered on two sides by Otter Creek. Two lease agreements exist on this property (Cogeco and Wallaceburg Sportsman Club).

Peers Wetland was purchased in 2012 with fundraising support from the local and regional community. At the time of acquisition the Wallaceburg Sportsman Club had a long-term lease (20 year) that continued until December 31, 2020. A new lease was created after the property acquisition that honoured the terms of the lease with the previous owner. The building belongs to the Sportsman Club as per the property purchase agreement.

Nature and Origin of Concerns:

In the Spring of 2019, SCRCA was contacted by Chatham-Kent Police Service informing staff that the door of the Sportsman Club building was open and no one was present. Staff were unable to contact a member of the Club and went to site to close the door. The staff member who closed the door expressed concern over the building condition. A meeting was arranged with members of the club to tour the building and the following concerns arose:

- Siding and shingles in disrepair
- Clutter around the perimeter of the building
- Large number of empty beer and liquor containers inside
- Safety concerns with woodstove and electrical
- Caution tape on wooden ramp to dock because a club member collided with the ramp while riding a snowmobile
- Historic conflict with other user groups (field naturalists)
- Is a Sportsman (Snowmobile) Club a compatible tenant for this site?

Legal Consultation:

- The current lease agreement does not have an option for early termination

- Termination would require a court order (expensive)
- Can offer early termination if both parties agree
- Can send a letter outlining SCRCA concerns (liability, building safety, alcohol consumption, building/property cleanliness)

Financial Impact:

The Sportsman Club pays \$500 annually plus hydro and a share of the commercial property taxes (22%, \$822.32 in 2018). This portion of the property should no longer be taxed at commercial rates if the building were to be removed. There would be some costs associated with building removal (relocation of hydro service, decommissioning of septic and well, site repair, etc.).

BD-19-82

McGregor – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 13, 2019 regarding Peers Wetland and further directs staff to provide written notice to the Wallaceburg Sportsman Club stating that the lease will not be renewed after Dec. 31, 2020, outlining SCRCA’s concerns, and offering early termination of the lease.”

CARRIED

With the retirement of the Director of Lands, the responsibility of managing lands has been split into two positions. The Manager of Forestry is responsible for the McKeough Upstream Lands, Foundation Lands, and the Woodland Management of the County of Lambton Lands.

For the first half of the year, Lands Management for the Conservation Authority has been focussed mainly on the familiarization of the leases, file storage, bookkeeping and reporting.

Recently, there has been a change to access at Moore Wildlife Habitat Management Area for the agricultural tenant that has been harvesting the hay fields. The lease agreement has been terminated mutually based on the access issue. The landlocked nature of this field dictates the necessity to work with adjacent farm tenants. Negotiations with a new tenant for a one year lease are in progress.

The retirement of highly erodible acreage on property 79 was completed this spring through the planting of trees by the Conservation Services Department.

A tenant for property 103 and 105 is in the process of resolving delinquent payments. If unresolved by the end of June, 2019, the lease will be terminated according to the agreement.

A full review of all land records and land designations is in progress. The Ten year management plan will begin this year.

Maintenance logs will be updated and works started in the drier weather for erosion, buffers, access lanes, and agreement compliance.

BD-19-83

McMillan – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on Conservation Authority Lands Management dated June 10, 2019.”

CARRIED

Current Watershed Conditions:

Precipitation Conditions

Average totals for the past three, six and twelve months are above normal for all areas aside from Windsor, which was near average for the six month period and almost 13% below average for the twelve month period.

The high amount of precipitation received this spring depicts the precipitation anomaly experienced across much of North America between March and May of this year.

Flood Threat

An unusually wet spring has resulted in sustained high water levels across the watershed, particularly in Wallaceburg, and a high flood threat for this time of year. Typically in June, Wallaceburg would have approximately 20 to 30 cm between the water level of the Sydenham River and the top of the sheet piling in downtown Wallaceburg. The average water level for Wallaceburg this June has only been 3 cm below the top of bank of 6.03 m). This minimal freeboard has resulted in small precipitation events elevating the water level and causing various degrees of flooding in the area. Other stream gauges are showing similar trends of water levels being higher than previous years in June, with the exception of Strathroy (Note: data gaps resulted in no data for Florence in 2017). Since January, SCRCA has had 9 flood events and sent 23 bulletins, compared to 2018 which saw 5 events and 17 bulletins for the whole year.

Moderate amounts of precipitation is forecast in the upcoming week, however predictions are prone to changing. Soil has been saturated with numerous rain events this season, and any further rain could lead to rivers rising more quickly. Given the current watershed conditions, the threat of minor flooding is high however significant flooding is not expected at the time of this report. Water levels and the weather forecast will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Great Lakes Levels

Data collected from Fisheries and Oceans Canada water levels bulletin show the changes in water levels between months, years and decades. Data shows water levels are remaining high, with increases in the water levels compared to previous years and surpassing previous highs. Water levels in Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair are anticipated to further rise for the month of July.

Seasonal Outlook

Seasonal outlooks are provided each month by Jerry Shields, meteorologist for the Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services branch of the MNRF. This information is used internally to prepare for potential increased flood or drought conditions in the distant future. A summary of the outlook is provided below:

- July, August and September are modelled as being close to seasonal temperatures, with July anticipated to be around seasonal for precipitation amounts, and August and September being drier than seasonal;
- October is modelled as being cooler than normal, with precipitation forecast as being drier than seasonal.

In addition to higher than seasonal precipitation this season, our area has also experienced cooler than normal temperatures this year.

BD-19-84

Marriott – Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 14, 2019 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

- SCRCA has procured survey equipment early this spring
- 2 dedicated staff (Nicholas Hagerty and Nathan Clark) have been performing surveying on a daily basis
- Survey work includes surveying cross-sections of creek and measuring culverts and bridges
- Survey work has been completed for Cow and Perch creek watersheds
- Phase 1 mapping work
 - City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township watersheds
- Phase 2 mapping work
 - The rest of the SCRCA watershed
- Cross-section information will be input into a Digital Elevation Model being developed by Riggs Engineering
- Hydrologic Analysis and Modelling will be performed, followed by floodplain mapping.

BD-19-85

Brown – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 14, 2019 on the update to survey work and floodplain mapping project.”

CARRIED

- 2019 - 2020 WECl Projects were submitted on April 12, 2019
- All applications were reviewed by a committee of provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives
- SCRCA submitted 6 projects

- A list of WECl approved projects for 2019 - 2020 is outlined below

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Received (\$)
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Helen and Kenwick St) Phase 2	Carry out construction of Phase 2 from the recommendation of engineering study.	\$800,000	\$242,942.61
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Mechanical Inspection of Equipment and Painting	Inspect gate equipment and Waterproofing/sealant coating and paint the gatehouse building	\$150,000	\$75,000
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Drain repairs, Channel floor repair	Perform Channel and Drain repairs on the McKeough Floodway as identified in the Engineering reports.	\$60,000	\$30,000

BD-19-86

Stark – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 14, 2019 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed and further acknowledges the updates on the WECl funding for 2019.”

CARRIED

Through funding provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) is coordinating the development of a Phosphorus Management Plan for the Sydenham River watershed to reduce the impact of this nutrient on the Great Lakes basin. Phosphorus is essential to life but when it becomes available in excessive amounts in freshwater environments it can cause algal blooms and hypoxic (low oxygen) conditions. This severely degrades the water quality of lakes and rivers and can impact the safety of water for drinking, recreation, and wildlife.

The objective of this multi-year project is to work with local stakeholders, First Nations, and communities to identify sources of phosphorus, collect and analyze available data, and determine the most effective solutions for our region. A community engagement and outreach strategy will also be developed to implement the Management Plan.

Meetings held to-date:

Date	Meeting	Purpose/Outcome
November 27, 2018	Initial Meeting	Introduced project to local stakeholders, First Nations, and other community members; brainstorming session; received initial feedback and direction
March 7, 2019	Non-Point Source Working Group Meeting <i>Board Representative: Steve Miller</i>	Introduced project to committee members; presented information that is currently known; reviewed proposed Project Charter, Terms of Reference, Project Outline; received feedback and direction
March 7, 2019	Point Source Working Group Meeting <i>Board Representative: Terry Burrell</i>	Introduced project to committee members; presented information that is currently known; reviewed proposed Project Charter, Terms of Reference, Project Outline; received feedback and direction

The SCRCA Project Team has compiled the feedback from these meetings and are using it to direct ongoing research. The information is being compiled and will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Upcoming committee meetings:

- Indigenous Engagement Committee Meeting
- Advisory Committee Meeting
- Water Quality Technical Team Meeting

Strategic Objectives:

The Phosphorus Management Plan is a project that ties into our existing programs and will help us to meet our strategic objective to focus on programs that reduce the loading of phosphorus to the Great Lakes in order to protect, manage, and restore our natural systems.

Goal 2:

“Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes.”

Strategic Actions:

“Develop New Tools to Promote Stewardship Practices and Evaluate the Effectiveness of Best Management Practices: Evaluate the current model of landowner outreach and voluntary stewardship and explore new tools and collaborations that expand conservation opportunities utilizing information from our watershed report cards. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are encouraged to promote soil health, improve water

quality, and provide for more resilient watersheds. Efforts need to be made to evaluate the various BMPs to ensure they are creating the results expected such as reducing nutrient loss from farm fields (with a focus on phosphorus) and decreasing sedimentation in watercourses. This is an opportunity to work with colleges and universities, farming groups, and others to develop solid science to evaluate BMP effectiveness.”

“Focus on Programs to Reduce Phosphorous Loading into the Great Lakes: Governments on both sides of the border have been taking action setting targets for the Great Lakes to deal with the problem of excess Phosphorus. Stewardship programs, while also addressing other watershed needs, should focus on reducing Phosphorous levels entering the Great Lakes.”

Financial Impact:

Staff have submitted the 2018-19 report to ECCC detailing the work that has been completed and have received \$100,000 for the first year of the project. Staff are currently working with ECCC to finalize a work plan and three year contribution agreement that will cover 2019-2022.

BD-19-87

Burrell – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update dated June 10, 2019 regarding the Sydenham River Watershed Phosphorus Management Plan.”

CARRIED

In light of recent provincial budget cuts, Conservation Ontario wanted to advocate on behalf of the efforts of Conservation Authorities to promote conservation and restoration in the province. CO requested SCRCA to send in any recent testimonial from landowners, farmers that specifically reference the important work we do – rural water quality, restoration, tree planting etc. Staff sent out a request to many of the landowners we’ve worked with in the past and the following are the responses we received.

Testimonials:

The Ipperwash Beach community has benefited greatly with support from the Saint Clair Region Conservation Authority. They have provided summer students, staff, equipment, supplies and environmental recommendations since 2016. Without the assistance of the summer students, over a period of 2-3 days each summer the removal of invasive Phragmites and Sweet White Clover from the dunes stretching 3 miles along the shoreline would not have been successful. Attached is a comparison of a property before and after Phragmites and Sweet White Clover were removed. Their efforts, and the positive results seen by the community, have encouraged more locals to take part in this yearly remediation.

The SCRCA has also provided staff, equipment and support each year for our Ipperwash Beach cleanup. They are there no matter what the weather conditions.

I can't express how important the funding provided to the SCRCA has benefited our community.

Sandra Marshall
Chairperson Ipperwash Phrag Phighters

The Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group has appreciated the support given to our habitat restoration work by St. Clair Region Conservation Authority over the past 6 years. In 2012, the shoreline from Lake Valley Grove to Kettle and Stony Point First Nation in Lambton Shores was infested with invasive Phragmites and with their support and other community partners, we have been able to manage Phragmites and restore a large section of the habitat in this Provincially Significant Wetland. We look forward to continuing our partnership to complete this work.

Nancy Vidler
President, Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group

I want to express my deep appreciation for the strong support and guidance I've received from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority in reforesting my farm near Komoka. We've been working closely over the past five years to plant a wide variety of trees typical of Carolinian forests in an effort to return the farmland to a natural state representative of the original forest. The expertise and commitment of the staff at the Conservation Authority - not to mention the financial grants - has been crucial in making this dream a near-reality. I look forward to continuing the relationship as we work together to create a conservation area that meets the UNESCO definition of a private protected area and directly and significantly contributes to the important habitat restoration and conservation efforts of Ontario and Canada.

David Livingstone
Landowner

The pond created here by SCRCA in partnership with the London Foundation is doing well. It is changing to a wetland where many species such as wood ducks, marsh grasses and bullrushes can re-establish themselves. It supports deer and turkey populations as well as amphibians.

Prior to the pond making it was a 3/4 acre plot that was rutted and too wet each fall and spring to work as cropland. Instead, it was filling in with invasive species like purple loosestrife.

As you know, we have retired other farmland sections of this property which was first settled in the 1820's. In areas where the erosion was so severe all or much the top soil had been removed we have planted hundreds of trees with the support of UTRCA which now are controlling the erosion and slowing the release of the run off to the Oxbow Creek and then to the Thames River. As part of the tree planting process, we have had classes held on this property.

We could not have found the funds to do these developments ourselves as we were raising a young family paying for education from preschool to university. I appreciate how in the past the government saw fit to help me do something for the greater good

and long-term health of our community. It is a pleasure to maintain, share, and enjoy these "conserved" areas.

Walter Lenny
Landowner

I believe the key to a healthy and productive environment lies in the soil beneath our feet and within our freshwater basins. So much damage has already been done throughout previous generations, which happens so slowly it goes relatively unnoticed. Today's Farmers can be instrumental participants in shifting this paradigm by helping to sequester carbon and keep pollution out of our waterways. Perhaps some of this damage is reversible but the longer we wait to implement these practices the more challenging it will be. I was pleasantly surprised when I learned that our Conservation Authority was participating in this grassroots movement. Our C.A. has been instrumental in providing education workshops and even bringing world renowned Academics to our area that Producers have been able to learn from and share our own experiences with.

Jake Chapman
Farmer

The SCRCA has been awesome for the citizens of Sarnia, we have done numerous tree planting naturalization projects throughout the City uniting both local and foreign volunteers, residents, schools, local businesses along with staff of the City and SCRCA. These special projects increase the level of living in Sarnia to a higher standard, install community pride as well as improving the environment by reducing our carbon footprint. We at the City and all involved look forward to this annual project each and every year and hope they continue to happen.

Chuck Toth
Supervisor, Horticulture & Arboriculture, City of Sarnia

I thought to send you a brief update on our wetlands project you helped deliver to us a few years ago.

The wetlands area is now well established with plant and wildlife. We get numerous ducks and geese that we never saw in past years at our small pond. Most interesting for me has been ferrets and possibly a mink I have seen in the early mornings. Deer numbers have increased as well as wild turkey. Muskrats are common as are various herons.

Water wildlife is up as well, painted turtles, snapping turtles and a few others I can identify are usually seen. Frogs and toads are always around.

My Managed Woodlands project was approved and it somewhat encompasses the wetland areas - I am hoping these two managed together will make a nice area for wildlife and habitat conservation.

Strathroy Landowner

The St. Clair Regional Conservation Authority has been an excellent source of trees and expertise for the repair of riparian areas on my farm. Reforesting strips of land along the stream bank has reduced erosion and allowed native plants to regenerate.

The native plants, in turn, have provided habitat for a great number of different pollinating insects. It has also provided nesting sites for a variety of birds. All of these environmentally positive consequences are a direct result of the Conservation Authority mandate to control flooding, which in itself is a subject of great concern at the present time.

These efforts need to be supported and many more landowners could make use of the resources available simply by asking.

Andrew Thompson
Landowner

Approximately 12 years ago, my wife and I purchased a 58-acre parcel of land that had a 40-acre woodlot. The remaining 18 acres was farmed for grain crops as well as hay. Our intent was to “naturalize” the 18 acres. I had thought that this project would take many years with significant personal investment of time and financial resources. However, I contacted the SCRCA as well as at that time the Lambton Stewardship Network. The support in terms of materials as well as services was absolutely essential in order to quickly within two years establish a 4 pond “flow through” wetland as well as several acres of Tall Grass. In addition, over 1000 berry-producing shrubs were planted as a food source for Avian species.

This property has been recognized in the form of awards received from: The South West Woodlot Owners, The Sydenham Field Naturalists as well as my wife and I being designated as “Landowner Leaders” by Carolinian Canada!

This Naturalized property has also received accolades from numerous visitors who have requested tours. It is an escape from the omnipresent and increasingly dominant view in SW Ontario of the barren monoculture of grain crops and piles of destroyed woodlots.

It would be prudent for our Political Leaders to exhibit the wisdom and to understand that at day's end, it is NATURE AS SUPPORTED BY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE SCRCA that ULTIMATELY DETERMINES THE QUALITY OF OUR FUTURE!

BEYOND TODAY-THERE IS A TOMORROW!

SUPPORT EFFORTS FOR A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TODAY OR GET READY TO PAY THE SOCIETAL COSTS OF: FLOODS, CROP DISEASES (e.g. VOMITOXIN), A CONTAMINATED FRESH WATER RESOURCE, AS WELL AS MULTIPLE OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS HUMAN HEALTH CONCERNS TOMORROW!

Gary Eagleson
Ridgetown

The Alvinston Community Group would like to thank you and others at the St. Clair Conservation Authority, for all the help you have recently given us. With your suggestions, support and guidance, we went from wanting to “just clean up the Millpond” to creating a wonderful wetlands for wildlife and birds. Your suggestions were very impactful and will greatly improve the area. Things such as not removing what we thought was “scum” from the top of the water, but you helped us to realize that it was duckweed and it was very beneficial to the bugs and to help prevent an explosion of algae in the water. You also recommended that we do not

remove all the dead and fallen trees from the pond as they improve the habitat for creatures such as frogs and turtles.

Your work with us to help develop signage for unique plant and tree species will help people walking by to realize just how special some of the greenery is in our area.

These things and more, would never have happened without your support and input. Thank you so much from everyone on the Alvinston Community Group.

Helen Lomax
President, Alvinston Community Group

I would like to thank you and your staff at St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for there tremendous effort to help organize on farm tours at our farm with not only local farmers but also local high school students that are interested Agriculture. With your team I was able to promote soil health and soil conservation practices on our farm to others. This is a great asset to myself and others interested in protecting our soil and growing our knowledge in sustainable Agriculture.

Mike Belan
Belan Farms

A few years ago we purchased 26 acres of land at the back of our farm. The farmer behind us had to cross Bear Creek to get to 7 acres he farmed. After the purchase St. Clair Conservation came in and planted 7500 Black Walnuts. This was flood land area, and should not have been cleared. The remaining 26 acres was woodlot. A few years later they came back and planted White cedar for a wind break on both sides for the full length of our two farms. My wife and I are pleased with the end result. Thanks again.

LeRoy and Donna Willer
Watford

Once again I was extremely disappointed to read about the 2019 provincial budget cuts of 50% to Conservation.

During the past 10 I have worked closely and receive grants from our local SCRC and Conservation Ontario. We have partnered in cost shared projects such as:

- Equipment modification
- Cover crops seed
- Cover crops seeding modification
- Monitoring tile outlet water to see a difference in VMP and what cover crops do to our water quality
- Hosting events for cover crop and BMP studies.

Living 1 km from Lake Huron, I was particularly interested in reducing run off, soil erosion and phosphorus control.

All of these cost sharing projects wouldn't have been done without the support Conservation, with your cut our water quality will be seriously compromised.

Doug J. Rogers
Lambton Shores farmer

This note is to strongly support the continuation of the great work that is being done by SCRCA and Conservation Ontario.

Financial cuts are a reality, especially if governments have not been financially responsible over a period of time.

However, it is never a good idea to throw the baby out with the water and serious consideration must be given to the benefits and quality of life issues when making decisions.

Alarmed at the speed which urban development was occurring in the London area and causing loss of large areas of prime farm land and animal habitats, I decided to change over from farming to developing a nature area on my 50 acre hobby farm.

Soil erosion was also a significant problem,

With help from the local conservation agency (both financially and with appropriate information) work was done to improve this area for wildlife.

A dam was built, a large 2 acre pond and also a smaller one were created by Ducks Unlimited and about 15 acres were planted with prairie wild grasses and flowers.

The results have been impressive, with good development of the flora which are very attractive in the summer, the soil erosion has been stopped and there has been a significant increase in wild life from bees and butterflies to water fowl and shore birds, deer, wild turkey etc.

They have also planted hundreds of tree saplings that are growing well.

None of this would be possible without their help and guidance and for that I am extremely grateful.

The urban sprawl that is going on in the London area continues and in my opinion it is extremely important for that to be balanced by an active conservation program as has been available in the past.

The quality of our lives and the environment are of prime importance and need to be on the front burner not the back burner.

We cannot get these lands back once concrete replaces the soil.

We and our co-existing wild animal friends need the benefits that a well managed wild life/ environmental program provides both for our physical, mental and societal needs.

Paul Garner MD
Mount Brydges

BD-19-88

Gordon – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Landowner Testimonials of SCRCA for Conservation Ontario dated June 8, 2019.”

CARRIED

Tree Planting Program

- Seedling stock trees arrived approximately one week later than normal this year.
- 80,000 trees were placed in cold storage on April 29th
- For the first 2 weeks only hand planting could be accomplished due to wet weather and poor ground conditions.
- Machine planting crews could only plant several sites for the entire month of May with not much improvement in the first week of June.

- With extended work day hours for the machine planting crews as well as working weekends to make up for the numerous days off during the week because tractors could not get onto the land, approximately 75% of the seedlings were planted by June 10th.
- Machine crews should be finished planting by June 18th if the rain holds off. This is almost one month later than the normal tree planting season.
- With a maximum recommended cold storage time of 4 to 5 weeks for bare root seedlings before survival starts to decline, 2019 will be a true test for tree shelf life.
- This spring's total project value was more than \$300,000 for the cost of trees, planting and long term tending.
- Landowners will be contributing \$57,500 this year.
- SCRCA has secured \$205,000 in numerous grants which were provided to landowner's for projects costs.
- There is approximately \$8000 in unconfirmed grant that SCRCA may or may not receive from the Ontario Community Environment Fund spills action program.
- Conservation services may have to absorb approximately \$30,000 - \$40,000 in project costs this year.

BD-19-89

Nemcek – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 13, 2019 regarding spring 2019 tree planting on private, corporate and public lands.”

CARRIED

- Catch basin treatments with a mosquito larvicide will be conducted in all rural and urban areas within the County of Lambton and the city of City of Sarnia starting in late June and ending in mid-August. SCRCA staff will be working under the direction of Lambton Public Health during the treatment operations.
- Catch basins located within Aamjiwnaang will also be treated under a separate contract with approval for funding from Health Canada.
- Permits to treat surface water are obtained from the MECP under the Authority's Pesticide Operators Licence and Insurance and department exterminator's licences.
- Pre-treatment larvae sampling has been scheduled for the week of June 17th. If activity is low, a second sampling may be required the following week.
- Larvae results are sent to Lambton Public Health. Mosquito activity levels will be used to determine treatment start date. Approval from the Lambton Medical Officer of Health is required before treatments commence.
- Catch basins will be treated with methoprene in pellet formulation. Methoprene is a growth regulator which prevents mosquito larva from becoming biting adults. There will be 3 separate larvicide applications set at 21-day intervals starting around June 25th and finishing around the 15th of August.
- The use of larvicide is limited to an exterminator with a Mosquito/Biting Fly licence or up to 7 trained technicians working under the supervision of a licence holder.

- SCRCA staff will also conduct efficacy tests as part of the treatment program by collecting mosquito pupa samples throughout the summer. Pupa are monitored for percent adult emergence. Past efficacy tests show an average of 80% effectiveness for controlling mosquito emergence.
- A different colour paint mark for each application of larvicide is applied to the centre of every catch basin treated.

BD-19-90

McMillan – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 13, 2019 regarding the treatment of catch basins with a larvicide in Lambton County’s rural and urban areas.”

CARRIED

The regulations activity report on “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” Regulation (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated June 11, 2019 was reviewed.

BD-19-91

Marriott – Burrell

“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 June 11, 2019 and includes the period April 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019, as presented.”

CARRIED

The monthly Planning Activity Summary report dated June 11, 2019 was reviewed.

BD-19-92

MacKinnon – Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports, dated June 11, 2019 for April and May 2019.”

CARRIED

For the purpose of enforcing the regulations made by the SCRCA, pursuant to Section 28 of the *Conservation Authority Act*, it is necessary for the Authority to appoint personnel as Enforcement Officers. This appointment pertains to Ontario Regulation 171/06 made under Section 28 of the Act.

It is also necessary to have the staff Enforcement Officers designated as Provincial Offences Officers in order that they may commence proceedings under the *Provincial Offences Act*.

Kelli Smith completed the CA Level 1 Provincial Offences Officer Course provided by Conservation Ontario, certificate issued March 22, 2019.

BD-19-93

Kennes – Brown

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 14, 2019 regarding the Appointment of an Officer under Section 28 of Conservation Authorities Act (O.R. 171/06) and appoints Kelli Smith as an Enforcement Officer for the purpose of enforcing regulations made by the SCRCA, pursuant to Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, in order to carry out the responsibility of administration and enforcement of this Act.”

CARRIED

The Drainage Act and Conservation Authority Act Protocol (DART) Municipal drain activities for April and May, 2019 were reviewed.

BD-19-94

Burrell – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 6, 2019 on Drainage Act and Conservation Authority Act Protocol (DART) Municipal drain activities for April and May, 2019.”

CARRIED

Improving Level of Service and Efficiency in SCRCA Municipal Drainage Act Review Process:

Kelli Smith, an SCRCA staff member within the Biology Department who coordinates SCRCA Municipal Drainage Act Reviews, has recently completed regulations training to be qualified as a Provincial Offences Officer. This will enable the SCRCA to provide an improved level of service and efficiency by having a regulations trained staff member dedicated to coordinating Municipal Drainage Act review. This allows the SCRCA to have a single point of contact to provide regulations review and approvals on all drain related matters.

The SCRCA Municipal Drainage Act Review Process and related covering letter outlining our process moving forward as well as the SCRCA Drain Enclosure and Wetland Policies were reviewed

This information was forwarded to Drainage Superintendents for Municipalities within the watershed boundary of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) on June 17, 2019.

BD-19-95

McGregor – Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the report dated June 17, 2019, associated with the SCRCA Municipal Drainage Act Review Process.”

CARRIED

Staff of the SCRCA have received an application under O.R. 171/06 to tear down an existing cottage and rebuild a new dwelling in the location of the existing cottage within the existing SCRCA Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Dynamic Beach Hazard Limit in the Center Ipperwash Beach Area (West Ipperwash Road to Army Camp Road).

Provincial Policy and Regulations state that no development can occur in the dynamic beach hazard limit. The current default dynamic beach hazard limit (the sum of the combined flooding and dynamic beach hazard allowance) in Center Ipperwash Beach is 45 m measured horizontally from the position of the 100-year flood level. The Authority received this proposal for redevelopment in the dynamic beach area and outlined that the current SCRCA Board of Director approved policy states the proponent must complete a coastal report which examines their lot and limit of coastal processes to delineate the define portions of the dynamic beach to possibly reduce the development setback limit within the dynamic beach hazard.

The proponent completed the required coastal reports, and as per current SCRCA Board of Director approved policy the coastal reports were reviewed by Authority retained coastal engineer, W.F. Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers Ltd.

The results of these studies concluded that for the subject property;

1. An update to the SMP Horizontal Low Water Level Adjustment to the 100 year flood elevation should be applied; and,
2. A numerical modelling analysis could be used to define the dynamic beach hazard limit.

Update to the SMP Low Water Level Adjustment

SCRCA SMP and West Ipperwash Assessment (Baird 2011 and 2017) discussed that changes in lake level variations have an impact on the horizontal position of the 100-year flood elevation and in turn, on the location of the flood and dynamic beach hazard limits. Lake Huron water levels were below average between 2000 and 2014 and this resulted in significant accretion at Ipperwash Beach. SCRCA SMP (Baird 2011 and 2017) derived the position of the 100-year flood level from the 2007 topographic contours and added a landward adjustment of 15 m to compensate for the low water levels. Lake Huron levels have been on the rise since 2015, and a smaller than 15 m adjustment relative to current survey grades may be appropriate. See image from SCRCA SMP Section 4.4.3 Beach Profile Adjustment for Low Water, from Coast Report copied at end of this staff report.

Numerical Modelling Analysis to define the Beach Hazard Limit

SCRCA West Ipperwash Assessment (Baird 2017) completed a numerical modelling analysis to define the dynamic beach hazard limit at West Ipperwash Beach and determined that elevations of 179.0 and 179.5 m (IGLD'85) would represent the limit for wave uprush and beach profile response at the west and east ends of their study area, respectively. The subject property, in which the proponent submitted an application for redevelopment in Center Ipperwash Beach, is located on the east side of the West Ipperwash Beach study area (Baird 2017). The proponents completed Coastal Reports that discussed in detail the dynamic beach process and included detailed numerical modelling analysis and subsequent outputs. The reports were reviewed by Authority retained coastal engineer, W.F. Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers Ltd. The resulting consensus from the coastal experts recommended that the defined portions of the dynamic beach at the property in question could be defined as the limit for wave uprush and beach profile response from the numerical analysis plus the low water horizontal adjustment, plus a stable slope allowance. This would be the minimum setback requirement in accordance with the technical information submitted with the application.

In light of this new information on the dynamic beach hazard, SCRCA staff engaged with Baird Coastal Engineers further to better understand possible actions that could be undertaken by the SCRCA to further investigate the dynamic beach hazard setbacks at West and Center Ipperwash Beach. The different options discussed are outlined below.

Address the Low Water Level Adjustment

In discussion with Baird Engineering, as lake levels are rising to near all time recorded high levels, and projected to match historic high levels this summer/fall, they outlined that their preferred approach to provide consistency and quality control would be to have the SCRCA develop baseline survey information to be used in determination of the low water adjustment for Ipperwash Beach (West and Center). This would require;

- SCRCA staff surveying the beach profile at beach monitoring station H-10-18 at Ipperwash Beach at a minimum;
 - Survey to be completed every three months to get seasonal variation, and before and after storm conditions etc.;
 - Provide/confirm methodology and data with Coastal Engineer for review to ensuring consistent data set with datum accuracy etc.;
 - Potential site visit to initiate with Coastal Engineer, and ultimate goal for Coastal Engineer to transfer knowledge to SCRCA staff on interpreting the ongoing data set to be able to determine the low water level adjustment based on proponents current surveys submitted with applications for redevelopment;
 - This would allow the SCRCA to address the low water adjustment and have an on-going reference to continually refine.

Addressing Potential for Numerical Modelling Analysis to Define the Dynamic Beach Hazard Limit at Center Ipperwash Beach

Short Term Potential for Individual Landowners to Complete Coastal Assessment Reports

In discussion with Baird Engineering, addressing the low water level adjustment would potentially move the development setback significantly lake ward.

Landowners would be encouraged to rebuild landward of the 45 m default dynamic beach hazard setback with the refined horizontal low water level adjustment of the 100 year flood level. Should they wish to encroach a detailed coastal study would be required. In that case, the SCRCA needs to have guidelines for the proposed coastal reports and an understanding of the analysis tools and numerical modelling approaches coastal engineers have at their disposal.

Baird recommends that to achieve guidelines for future coastal engineering reports and improve SCRCA staff understanding, that a Coastal Engineering Technical Workshop approach be undertaken with site visit and observations of Center Ipperwash Beach. Further to this, a report would be generated for Coastal Engineering Report Submission Guidelines (TOR Guidelines). This would determine technical details required with an application to the SCRCA under O.R. 171/06 that a proponent must complete in a coastal report which examines their lot and limit of coastal processes to delineate the define portions of the dynamic beach and possibly reduce the development setback limit within the dynamic beach hazard.

Long Term Preferred Approach

The Authority is likely to receive further proposals for redevelopment in the dynamic beach area and the current policy states the proponent must complete a coastal report that examines their lot and limit of coastal processes to delineate the defined portions of the dynamic beach and possibly reduce the development setback limit within the dynamic beach hazard. Further, and as per current policy the coastal reports are required to be reviewed by Authority retained coastal engineer, W.F. Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers Ltd, at cost to the proponent. The completed coastal reports and external coastal review can potentially cost each landowner significantly. To prevent inconsistent and piecemeal reports, these beach stretches should be examined on a reach basis. This is the best approach. SCRCA SMP outlines that such numerical modelling analysis effort is to be conducted for a proper reach of shoreline rather than just a single property at a time, and, in doing so, it is important to use the same methodology and experience as those used in previous studies completed for other reaches of the Lake Huron shoreline to achieve consistent hazard guidelines.

Using information (if proceeded with) obtained in the Low Water Level Adjustment and/or the Short Term Numerical Modeling Coastal Workshop, the SCRCA could engage with appropriate stakeholders and determine if it is scientifically advisable, and if there is support, should funds become available, to undertake a site specific beach analysis to determine a reduced dynamic beach limit at Center Ipperwash Beach.

Background on Determining the Dynamic Beach Hazard Limit

A proper study to further evaluate the dynamic beach limit typically involves a two-step process. The first step is an initial site reconnaissance to determine if further, more detailed analysis would be warranted. The initial reconnaissance would be accompanied by a review of existing data on the coastal processes and geomorphology of the area. The second step involves site specific field surveys of the nearshore and beach/dune profiles, compiling offshore bathymetric data, collecting sand samples and testing for grain size, determining design flood levels and wave conditions and numerical modeling of the likely limit of the dynamic beach hazard under storm and high water conditions using appropriate cross-shore beach profile models. (SCRCA SMP)

The SCRCA Shoreline Management Plan (Baird 2011), Lambton Shores Ipperwash beach maps and SCRCA West Ipperwash Dynamic Beach Assessment (Baird 2017) were reviewed.

BD-19-96

Burrell – Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 17, 2019, associated with the SCRCA Shoreline Management Plan Update – Ipperwash Beach, and directs staff to continue further investigation into the dynamic beach hazard setback at West and Centre Ipperwash Beach.”

CARRIED

The revenue and expenditure report to April 30, 2019 was reviewed.

BD-19-97

Burrell – Stark

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to April 30, 2019, as it relates to the budget.”

CARRIED

The April and May, 2019 disbursements were reviewed.

BD-19-98

Nemcek – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors approves the April and May, 2019 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$1,289,952.25.”

CARRIED

The status report on the 2019 general levy receipts to May 31, 2019 was reviewed.

BD-19-99

Miller – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2019 general levy receipts to May 31, 2019.”

CARRIED

The financial investment statements through May 31, 2019 were reviewed.

BD-19-100

Burrell – Brown

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the financial investment statements through May 31, 2019.”

CARRIED

We were notified that CUETs would no longer be offering corporate MasterCard effective August 2019. Through our current bank Libro Credit Union they carry Collabria-Visa as a corporate credit card provider. We will be switch providers to ensure continuity in business purchased, through the switch we wish to increase the limit from \$30,000 to \$35,000. A letter will need to be signed by two Board Members to complete the application. This letter outlines the names of the cardholders and the maximum credit limit based on Board approved purchasing limits. These Credit cards are provided for emergency purchases or purchases that can only be made online and require immediate payment. Credit cards are reconciled monthly and approved by the supervisor.

BD-19-101

Kennes – McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on Corporate Credit Card Renewal dated June12, 2019 and further approves an increased total limit of \$35,000 and the change from MasterCard to Visa cards as well as the addition of Brian McDougall as back-up administrator.”

CARRIED

Every 5 years the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority sends out requests for quotes (RFQ) for the year end auditing services. This year we sent the RFQ to 5 accounting firms in the watershed on March 12, 2019 with a response date of May 15, 2019 we received 2 quotes back, outlined below:

	Year End	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
MPW	Authority	15,000.00	15,450.00	15,913.50	16,390.91	16,882.63	79,637.04
	Foundation	4,570.00	4,707.10	4,848.31	4,993.76	5,143.58	24,262.75
		19,570.00	20,157.10	20,761.81	21,384.67	22,026.21	103,899.79
	Inclusive of HST	22,114.10	22,777.52	23,460.85	24,164.67	24,889.61	117,406.76
MNP	Authority	8,900.00	8,900.00	9,300.00	9,750.00	10,250.00	47,100.00
	Foundation	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,250.00	5,500.00	5,775.00	26,525.00
		13,900.00	13,900.00	14,550.00	15,250.00	16,025.00	73,625.00
	Inclusive of HST	15,707.00	15,707.00	16,441.50	17,232.50	18,108.25	83,196.25
	Total Difference	6,407.10	7,070.52	7,019.35	6,932.17	6,781.36	34,210.51

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority would like to acknowledge the long service and relationship developed with MPW. Due to the budget constraints of the Authority and the costing difference between quotes staff recommends accepting MNP quote. It is not anticipated that there will be a long-term change in workload for the Director of Finance as the year-end papers are currently completed in house and will continue.

A copy of this report was provided to the Foundation Board on June 6, 2019, to appoint MNP as their auditors effective July 1, 2019.

Financial Impact:

In 2019 there will be an overall reduction in cost for the audit of approximately \$4,000, as HST for the Foundation and Authority are expensed a different rates this is approximate. The Foundation will have an increase of approximately \$1,200, with MNP but would have experienced an increase of approximately \$800 with MPW current quote for 2019. The biggest savings is for the Authority.

BD-19-102

Westgate – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated May 22, 2019 regarding the requests for proposals for audit services for the Authority and the Foundation, further subject to acceptance by the Authority Board of Directors on June 27, 2019, that the Board appoints MNP as their auditors effective July 1, 2019.”

CARRIED

Canoe Race

Due to high water levels at the start and finish of the race, the 2019 Sydenham Canoe Race had to unfortunately be cancelled. This was the second year in a row that high water levels have forced cancellation of this popular event. Despite the cancellation, some paddlers still made donations to Conservation Education, raising a total of \$1,000.00.

Spring Education Programs

It has been an extremely muddy spring for classes attending Henderson Conservation Area. Campground staff have assisted with mulching to improve passage along some trails. Conservation Education continues to be a popular field trip focus for area schools. Programs are booked almost daily from early April through to June 26th. Teachers appreciate the hands on opportunities to connect classroom learning to the natural world. They recognize that our programs cannot be replicated in the school yard.

Program Expansion

A new 'Phosphorus 101' program was developed and piloted for Secondary School students. The program is designed to parallel the work being done for the Watershed Plan for Phosphorus Reduction. It gives the students an introduction to the issues of phosphorus and a voice to express their ideas for reduction in the Sydenham River Watershed.

ICE Training: (Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship)

SCRCA continues to expand ICE Training for Secondary School partners. This spring two full ICE training sessions were delivered to watershed schools.

École Secondaire Catholique Saint-François-Xavier (SFX) participated in a 3-day ICE training session. The Grade 11 and 12 students experienced first-hand, the benefits of a Healing Hike for stress reduction and improving mental health. Students were challenged to create interesting ways to engage other youth in Healing Hikes. The training culminated with a Healing Day at Wawanosh Wetlands where the senior students led 4 'Healing Activity' stations for their Grade 8 peers.

April 23rd and 26th – Strathroy District Collegiate Institute participated in a 2-day ICE training session. The Environmental SHSM students were challenged with finding new ways to minimize beaver damage to trees in Strathroy CA, prioritizing both the safety of the beavers and the hikers at the CA. Students pitched their ideas to the Manager of Conservation Areas and the General Manager and their ideas and input were well received.

Special Events:

PAIRS Event

The Lambton-Kent District School Board invited the SCRCA to participate in a "Partners Active In Resource Sharing" event. The goal was to provide grade 10 students and the public, an opportunity to learn more about local industries and organizations in the area. Several departments were represented through the day, providing valuable information regarding potential career paths for the students.

Lambton Heritage Museum PA Day

As a thank you, a donation to the SCRCA Education Staff in cooperation with the ABCA, show-cased water based nature in our Watershed at the Lambton Heritage museum on a recent Professional Activity Day. Activities included a "species friendly"

scavenger hunt, raccooning for mussels in a kiddie pool, touchable table and nature photography slides.

Kid's Fun Fest Sarnia

SCRCA staff participated in Kids Fun Fest 2019 in Sarnia. The booth highlighted Camping at St. Clair as well as other SCRCA programs. Outdoor education staff offered hands-on games and activities with the goal of encouraging children to connect with the natural world.

Committees:

Sarnia-Lambton Arbour Week Committee

Education Staff continue to chair the committee and helped to organize a tree planting community event along the Suncor Trail in Sarnia in May. We planted 65 large stock native trees including Serviceberry and Sycamore. White Birch seedlings were delivered to each student in 4 winning classrooms in Lambton County who participated in the Arbour Week Art Contest. Students were tasked to draw, paint, pastel, crayons, colour pencil or charcoal a piece of art capturing the beauty of trees. Some phenomenal art work was created!

Rekindle the Sparks Planning Committee

Education staff continue to assist with planning the Provincial Conservation Authority Outdoor Educators Workshop for 2019 in November. It will be held at Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre, just north of Orangeville.

BD-19-103

McGregor – Brown

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the education staff report dated June 13, 2019 on the Conservation Education Progress Report.”

CARRIED

For the third year, the SCRCA and Lambton Public Health have partnered for a schoolyard greening initiative called “Tomorrow’s Greener Schools Today – Lambton.” Through the program, staff plant trees with elementary school students to increase greenspace and shade in playgrounds. This year, 170 students from six schools in Lambton County planted 60 trees.

Greener Schools is a hands-on experience that reinforces ecological curriculum concepts outside of the classroom, fosters environmental stewardship, promotes physical activity and healthy living, and provides an opportunity for students to practice soft skills like communication and cooperation. As the new trees mature, they will protect students from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation, provide natural cooling in the schoolyard, improve air quality, and offer other benefits including stress reduction and increased habitat for birds and other small animals.

An educational component regarding the benefits of trees and importance of sun safety is provided by the Authority and Lambton Public Health during each event. This year, each student also received a UV reactive bracelet – the bracelets are a learning tool as they change from white to blue when exposed to sunlight, serving as a reminder to practice sun safety by applying sunscreen, wearing hats, and seeking shade.

There is continued enthusiasm for the Greener Schools program – the number of applications received has grown each year. After the third year of the program, over 400 students from 17 schools have planted 168 trees in schoolyards across Lambton County. The following schools participated in the program for 2019:

- St. Matthew Catholic School, Sarnia
- Bosanquet Central Public School, Thedford
- London Road Public School, Sarnia
- Dawn Euphemia Public School, Dresden
- Lansdowne Public School, Sarnia
- Holy Rosary Catholic School, Wyoming

Feedback from the schools has been very positive, it is the first time many of the students have planted trees and the enriching experience is a source of pride for the students and their schools. Some schools take further steps to engage the larger school community in the project – one principal requested the student participants give a presentation at the next school assembly to share their experience and what they learned with their peers. Others have highlighted the program through their social media accounts and webpages.

Lambton Public Health and the Authority have been successful in securing more than \$15,000 in TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TDFEF) grants over the three years of the program. In 2019, a \$5,350 TDFEF grant covered the costs of the trees, mulch, stakes, and UV reactive bracelets.

Strategic Objective:

Goal 3 – Provide recreation and education opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn from our natural environment.

BD-19-104

Miller – Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on the Schoolyard Greening Program in conjunction with Lambton Public Health dated May 31, 2019.”

CARRIED

The Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) held their last meeting on April 4, 2019 at the DTE Energy facility in East China, Michigan. At this meeting DTE gave a presentation to the BPAC focussed on their safety protocols and environmental safeguards. The next BPAC meeting is being held on June 20, 2019 at Enbridge in Sarnia, Ontario.

The Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC) last met November 22, 2018. The next meeting is planned for June 20, 2019 at the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association office in Sarnia, Ontario.

The Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Populations Subcommittee met at the Conservation Authority office on May 15, 2019. The main topic of discussion was the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI delisting criteria. Staff from Fisheries and Oceans Canada also attended the meeting to discuss their work related to assessment of the BUI.

The St. Clair River Science Symposium was held in Sombra, Ontario on the evening of April 10, 2019. This was a free event open to the public and featured informative presentations on fish diversity, health and habitat. Approximately 60 people attended the Symposium, hosted by Environment and Climate Change Canada, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, and Walpole Island First Nation.

On May 8, 2019 Kelly Johnson, St. Clair River RAP Coordinator, participated in the Canada Waterscapes Speaker Series at the Lambton Heritage Museum in Grand Bend, Ontario. Kelly provided the audience with a broad overview of the St. Clair River AOC and highlighted progress that has been made towards delisting of the St. Clair River.

The 2012 – 2017 Report of Accomplishments has now been finalized. The document will be available to the public in print by mid-June 2019.

BD-19-105

Kennes – McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 6, 2019 on the St. Clair River Area of Concern.”

CARRIED

Applications for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) Scholarship Program were mailed to local high school principals and their department heads in February 2019. Four scholarships are available to graduating high school students who are pursuing post-secondary studies in an environmental field (e.g., biology, ecology, agriculture, etc.). Eligible students must live in or attend a secondary school within the SCRCA boundary.

This year, we received 9 applications. Applications were reviewed by a committee established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation. The selection committee consisted of Norm Giffen, Archie Kerr, Brian McDougall and Donna Blue. The Foundation Board of Directors approved the recommended scholarship recipients at their meeting on June 13, 2019.

All four scholarship recipients have demonstrated their interest and involvement in local environmental initiatives. The following awards will be presented in the coming weeks.

A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship - \$1000

Kevin Robertson, Great Lakes Secondary School, Sarnia, Ontario
Abigail Irwin, Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational School, Petrolia, Ontario

Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship - \$500

Madeline Morrison, St. Patrick's Catholic High School, Sarnia, Ontario

Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship - \$500

Laura Benedict, Strathroy District Collegiate Institute, Strathroy, Ontario

BD-19-106

Loosley – Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2019 Scholarship Program report dated June 13, 2019.”

CARRIED

In the SCRCA's 2016 Strategic Plan, “expand[ing] engagement with our First Nation neighbours” is identified as a strategic action. While the SCRCA has positive and productive relationships with local First Nations, there is a need to build and expand upon these relationships. The Indigenous Relationship Building Training offered by Cambium Aboriginal Inc., an Indigenous company based in Curve Lake First Nation, will provide SCRCA staff with a deeper understanding of the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada since first contact, historical and contemporary issues, and how our nations can move forward in a way that benefits future generations.

The two full-days of training is split into four sessions:

1. Anishinaabe History through Wampum Belts
 - By starting with the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada, present-day legislation and reports are given context
2. Orientation on the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action
 - Learn about Residential Schools and what “Truth and Reconciliation” means
3. Indigenous Communities of Ontario and Beyond Duty to Consult
 - Discuss legislation including the *Indian Act*, *First Nations Land Management Act*, and the Duty to Consult and Accommodate
4. Engaging with Communities
 - Tools to nurture respectful, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous communities within and affiliated with the watershed

The Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority offered the full, four-day version of this training to all of their staff in fall 2018. The two-day, condensed version of the training was made available through Conservation Ontario to select representatives from Conservation Authorities (CAs) across Ontario in February 2019. Participants had very positive feedback of the training – in discussions they identified the need to increase awareness and training across CAs, and felt that it would be important to “ensure that

all Conservation Authorities staff receive the same training to ensure consistent messaging and understanding.” We agree that we need to take steps to increase cultural awareness and build our relationships with indigenous peoples in our community.

This training will open up opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration between the Conservation Authority and local Indigenous communities. It will build our capacity for partnerships, joint grant applications, and youth engagement that will help to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable environment.

Strategic Objective:

Goal 3

“Provide recreation and education opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn from our natural environment.”

Strategic Actions

“Expand Engagement with our First Nation Neighbours: The SCRCA has been reaching out to our First Nation neighbours by providing education programs, and consulting on programs such as the St. Clair River AOC and Drinking Water Source Protection. This engagement has proved to be productive but has pointed to the need to continue and expand. The SCRCA should develop an Engagement Plan to ensure the sharing of each other’s expertise and knowledge to the benefit of the watersheds we share.”

Financial Impact:

The cost of the two-day training for 40 staff is approximately \$3,000 per day. Training will be scheduled at the most opportune time for Authority staff, potentially 1 day in late fall and 1 day in winter, or potentially both days in 2020.

BD-19-107

Gordon – McMillan

“That the Board of Directors supports the participation of SCRCA staff in Indigenous Relationship Building Training provided by Cambium Aboriginal Inc.”

CARRIED

Under new business:

Director Mike Stark expressed concern regarding an infestation of gypsy moths on behalf of Sarnia residents. Healthy Watershed Specialist, Jessica Van Zwol suggested looking into the use of pheromone traps and aerial substances. SCRCA staff will contact the Sarnia arborist for further information and potential recommendations.

Director Frank Kennes expressed concern regarding the proposed fees to Strathroy-Caradoc for authority participation and commenting on the proposed North Strathroy Meadows Secondary Plan. Director Kennes outlined that the secondary plan will provide an assessment of the overall area resulting in better planning and habitat protection, however Strathroy-Caradoc, who are not the end user or the direct beneficiary of

completing this work, are being asked to pay a significant fee for the authority's participation. Staff concurred that this was the discussion at a recent meeting with municipal staff. The request for reconsideration of the fee was based on the overall benefit to the area including the woodlands and wetlands on the property and the negative message being sent to partners by charging fees for non-benefitting proponents who are considered to be doing the right thing.

BD-19-108

Kennes – (Motion not Seconded)

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the request from the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc for the appeal of planning fees in respect to the North Strathroy Meadows secondary plan and further approves the appeal.”

FAILED

BD-19-109

McGregor – Marriott

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Joe Faas
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager