



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: May 7, 2020

Time: 10:12 am

Remote via Zoom

Directors Present: John Brennan, Al Broad, Pat Brown, Andy Bruziewicz, Terry Burrell, Joe Faas, Chair; Larry Gordon, Vice-Chair; Aaron Hall, Frank Kennes, Brad Loosley, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Netty McEwen, Mark McGill, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Lorie Scott, Mike Stark, Jerry Westgate

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Nicole Drumm, Communication Technician; Chris Durand, Manager of GIS and IT; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Sarah Hume, Payroll/ Accounting Clerk; Brian McDougall, General Manager; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Directors Aaron Hall, representing Chatham-Kent and Netty McEwen, representing Plympton-Wyoming. 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-20-29

Burrell – Stark

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

CARRIED

Minutes of the February 27, 2020 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed.

BD-20-30

Miller – Kennes

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held February 27, 2020, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

COVID-19

- Within three weeks of the Annual General meeting in February we were thrust into a new world of isolation and distancing
- Authority staff were very nimble in responding to the necessarily quick conversion to our current operating system and I am proud of how our staff have handled this situation and very happy that we have all remained healthy to date in this crisis
- Our COVID-19 Action Plan is a product of our Business Continuity Plan and our Health & Safety Plan focusing on maintaining operations while protecting staff
- Thankfully, the plan has effectively accomplished those intended goals

- Many of the discussions with the Province have been placed on the back burner with a focus on COVID-19 actions
- However, a group of organizations have submitted correspondence to Premier Ford endorsing the maintenance of the current mandate of Conservation Authorities.

Financial Status

- This pandemic has thrown a shopping cart full of monkey wrenches into our work plans and our financial plans
- Impacts on and changes to work plans are reviewed in other reports throughout the meeting
- Workloads have not dropped off and staff continue to be busy
- Financially, there are different impacts in each department and we are working to manage each independently as that is how they are funded
- Conservation Areas, specifically campgrounds, are experiencing the greatest impacts – revenue lost in overnight camping through the end of the May, delay and potential loss in seasonal camping, while having to maintain minimal staffing to support Snowbird and other homeless seasonal campers
- Conservation Education has been impacted with the changes in Education resulting in a loss of revenue – staff have created some fantastic virtual learning opportunities that are receiving rave reviews in local and province wide school boards
- Planning is seeing a small increase in fees to date
- Other departments are balancing budgets – some reductions in costs due to reduced mileage and fleet costs and office utilities
- Staff are investigating opportunities for participation in federal and provincial funding programs to assist in balancing financial losses principally from wages

The following documents were reviewed:

- SCRCA COVID-19 Action Plan
- Letter to Premier Ford in Support of Ontario’s Conservation Authorities
- Correspondence from MNRF regarding Operational Funding for Conservation Authorities in 2020/2021

Director’s Comments

It is requested that staff prepare a report for the June 2020 meeting providing a dollar value for all cost-saving measures related to the COVID-19 Action Plan that have been applied or implemented and what impact these will have on the existing budget.

BD-20-31

McGill – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated April 28, 2020.”

CARRIED

Correspondence from the South West Woodlot Association regarding the appointment of

a technical advisor for the 2020 term was reviewed.

BD-20-32

Brown – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence dated March 9, 2020 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 2020/2021.”

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 June, 2020

Regarding BD-19-169

The Board of Directors requests that a report is submitted to the December meeting regarding the possibility of providing monthly or quarterly revenue and expenditures for closer monitoring of the budget to date.

Addressed verbally

Regarding EC-20-04

Committee members recommend implementing an asset management plan as a proactive measure in preparation of the 2021 budget.

Please refer to Item 10.3

Regarding BD-20-04

The Board of Directors requests a report from MNP Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, separate from the Audited Statements providing a full breakdown and explanation of “Other Income” as referenced on page 5 of the statements. This report is to be distributed to the Board of Directors.

Please refer to Item 10.2

Regarding BD-20-18

Updated quotes including the full scope of necessary repairs to the Highland Glen boat launch will be brought forward to the April 16, 2020 Board of Directors meeting for further discussion.

Please refer to Item 7.4

BD-20-27

The Board of Directors requests a report to be provided at the April 16, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting on the subject of bio-solids and its potential effects on local water quality and further that this topic be included as part of the SCRCA Phosphorous Management Plan

Please refer to Item 8.2

(a) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the February 27, 2020 meeting.

Highlights

- Flood threat is moderate due to high water levels on the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and in Wallaceburg
- Lake Huron exceeded the February 1986 record by 14 cm, while Lake St. Clair was just below its record level; Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie all exceeded the 1986 record levels in March
- Water levels for Lakes Huron and St. Clair are projected to exceed record levels over the next 6 months
- Precipitation totals are on par with normal regional precipitation amounts

Flood Threat

The current flood threat is moderate owing to sustained high water levels in the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, and the Sydenham River at Wallaceburg. Previously considered minimal amounts of rainfall will have the capacity to elevate water levels into natural floodplain areas, and Wallaceburg will be more susceptible to wind-driven flooding.

- March 2020 water levels in Wallaceburg were 24 cm higher than March 2019; February was 21 cm higher
- As of this report, water levels are currently sitting 5 cm below the top of the bank

Great Lakes Levels

- All three lakes have exceeded their 1986 record-high levels, with only Lake St. Clair not exceeding its March mean for all time
- Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair are projected to exceed record-high water levels over the next 6 months under the maximum water level scenario, and are anticipated to exceed April and possibly May records under the minimum level scenario

Precipitation Conditions

- Rainfall averages are below normal in Sarnia for all time periods, however data gaps are currently present for March rainfall totals, accounting for the discrepancy
- Significant rainfall in January 2020 increased the overall average for the past 3 months
- Long-term precipitation averages are on par with precipitation normal.

(b) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 24, 2020 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.

The Healthy Watershed Program have restored or enhanced over 1,000 ha of land, and over 2.3 million trees planted throughout the region. These projects, along with our outreach and education events aim to minimize non-point source sedimentation, nutrient loading, and thermal changes of water bodies within our watershed.

SCRCA secures funding from federal, provincial, municipal and private sources to support landowner-implemented stewardship projects including riparian buffers, block tree planting, windbreaks, wetlands, and erosion control measures. Staff meet with landowners and offer advice and project design and where applicable, support projects with grants.

Strategic Objectives(s)

The Healthy Watershed Program fulfils Goals 2 and 3 of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority strategic objectives; Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes and provide recreation and education opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn from our natural environment. The objective is being achieved through the strategic action; Develop new tools to promote stewardship practices and evaluate the effectiveness of Best Management Practices and Focus on Programs to Reduce Phosphorous Loading into the Great Lakes:

Financial Impact

The Healthy Watershed Program is funded by grants, landowner contribution and corporate donations. Since its beginning, the program has distributed more than \$1.9 million in grants to landowners, which has resulted in over 550 projects (total project cost nearly \$5.75 million).

Update

Staff have applied for the following grants to support landowner stewardship projects, biological monitoring, and education & outreach:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada – Great Lakes Protection Initiative – \$300,000 request for 2-year project implementing Natural Heritage and Soil Health Projects with a focus on reducing phosphorus losses.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Species at Risk Stewardship Program - \$196,940 request for 2-year project implementing stewardship projects, mussel monitoring, and education and outreach.
- Waste Management and the Town of Petrolia Green Leaders Grant - \$15,000 request for a 1-year project implementing interpretive features at Bridgeview Conservation Area
- Environment and Climate Change Canada – Terrestrial Habitat Stewardship Program - \$95,000 request for 1-year project focusing on habitat stewardship and reptile monitoring in the Sydenham River Watershed

Staff are currently writing up the Final Reports for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Program (\$100,000) and the Canadian Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (\$285,000, Year 1 of 4-year grant)

SCRCA Habitat Stewardship Program 2019-2020

Total Project Costs: \$490,000

Total land retired: ~98.5 acres

Conservative estimate of value of landowner land retirement (~\$7,500/acre): \$743,000

Total Grants provided to landowners: ~\$410,000

Landowners contributed more than \$77,000 out-of-pocket costs to implement projects.

Staff assisted or found grant funding for the following projects:

- 22 Riparian Buffer and Marginal Land Tree Planting Projects and 22 over the counter tree sales (~54,000 trees)
- 8 Wetland Projects
- 3 Tallgrass Prairie Projects
- 1 Cattle Exclusion Fencing Project
- 1 Grassed Waterway Project
- 1 Erosion Control Project

(c) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 1, 2020 on the Healthy Watersheds Program.

The Regulations Activity report for the period of February 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020 was reviewed.

(d) That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulation Activity Summary Report dated April 23, 2020 on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) from February 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020.

The Planning Activity report for the period of February 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020 was reviewed.

(e) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's monthly Planning Activity Summary Report dated April 23, 2020 for February 1, 2020 – March 31, 2020.

The statement of Revenue and Expenditure to March 31, 2020 was reviewed.

(f) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to March 31, 2020, as it relates to the budget.

The status report on the 2020 general levy receipts received to date was reviewed.

(g) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2020 general levy receipts to date.

The Investment Reports to January 31, 2020 were reviewed.

(h) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Investment reports to January 31, 2020.

The November 26, 2019 Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

(i) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the November 26, 2019 Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting minutes.

Strategic Objective(s)

Goal 2 – Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes.

Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC):

The Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC) released their 2017-2022 St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC) work plan in March 2020. The work plan identifies 47 actions remaining to re-designate all remaining Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) to Not Impaired and remove the St. Clair River from the list of Great Lakes AOCs.

The plan is available on the Friends of the St. Clair River website at www.friendsofstclair.ca.

Meetings and Events

Meetings

Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC)

- December 9, 2020 - Teleconference

Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)

- December 11, 2020 – Annual General Meeting – Sarnia, Ontario
- March 10, 2020 – Sarnia, Ontario

Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

- January 23, 2020 – Port Huron, Michigan
- March 12, 2020 – Sarnia, Ontario

Events

On March 7, 2020, the Acting RAP Coordinator attended the Aamjiwnaang First Nation St. Clair River Days event. This is an annual event organized by the Environment Department to educate community members on the AOC program and the progress made towards restoring the St. Clair River. Approximately 50 communities attended the event.

(j) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated March 30, 2020 on the St. Clair River Area of Concern.

Strategic Objective(s)

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

COVID-19 Media Relations

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way in which the SCRCA is conducting business including the unfortunate cancellations of the 2020 Maple Syrup Festival (March 21-22, 2020) and Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak race (April 19, 2020).

The SCRCA remains committed to updating our municipalities and communities with updated procedures and activities related to the COVID-19 situation. At the time of this report, six separate media releases have been circulated to local media outlets and have been posted on the SCRCA website and social media (Twitter, Facebook).

June Board of Directors Meeting – Education Demonstration – June 18, 2020

The June Board of Directors Meeting has typically involved a project tour to allow for our Board and guests to see first-hand the work the Conservation Authority undertakes to protect life and property and ensure the conservation of our environmental resources. For the 2020 meeting, our conservation education programs will be highlighted.

This year, Board members will be invited to an education demonstration prior to the June Board of Directors Meeting on June 18, 2020. Our educators will lead a Grade 4-5 class from Lambton Centennial Public School in Enniskillen through the Boots, Birds and Bugs program administered out of the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area.

Board members will be provided information on the SCRCA's education program, how it relates to the Ontario curriculum and the philosophy behind program development.

This event is subject to change based on direction from the Ministry of Education and the Ontario Government related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

myFM Community Partner

The SCRCA was selected by local Strathroy radio station, myFM, as the April 2020 Community Partner. Through this program myFM will donate \$2,500 in airtime to promote the Authority.

Tune into myFM during the month of April to hear Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist, talk about the SCRCA and what we do to protect life, property and our local environment.

Media and Social Media Analytics

In order to continually improve upon our activities related to local media outlets and social media, communications staff will be reviewing analytics to help assess our communications efforts.

The following are statistics covering the timeframe from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020:

Media Relations

- 9 media releases
- 200 news article mentions

Website

- 38,222 website views by 12,491 users (11,950 new users – 96%)

Social Media

- Facebook
 - New Likes = 108 (Total = 1,455)
 - New Followers = 252 (Total = 1,632)
 - Posts = 59
- Twitter
 - Tweets = 68
 - Retweets = 93
 - New Followers = 30 (Total = 595)
 - Engagements (clicks, retweets, replies, follows, and likes) = 1891

(k) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications update report dated April 24, 2020.

The SCRCA and Lambton Public Health have partnered for the past three years on the schoolyard greening initiative “Tomorrow’s Greener Schools Today – Lambton.” Through the program, staff plant trees with elementary school students to increase greenspace and shade in playgrounds. More than 400 students from 17 schools have planted 168 trees in schoolyards across Lambton County over the course of the program.

Unfortunately, the difficult decision was made to cancel the program planned for spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participant and staff safety, school closures, social distancing measures, health unit capacity during a public health crisis, and general uncertainty contributed to the decision to cancel rather than postpone. Authority staff will work with Lambton Public Health to reassess if the program can go forward in the future.

Financial Impact

For the 2020 program, Lambton Public Health was planning to cover the cost of materials (i.e., trees, stakes, mulch), with the cancellation of the program, these funds have been redirected.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation had approved a contribution of \$3,500 to cover costs incurred by the SCRCA in order to participate in the 2020 program including staff time and mileage, these funds will no longer be needed.

Strategic Objectives

Goal 2 – Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes

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

(I) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 23, 2020 on the cancellation of the 2020 Schoolyard Greening Initiative.

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 Nation communities, 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, was undertaken to 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 training included four modules that were delivered over two full-days. The first session, held on December 4, 2019, focused on the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action. Beginning with the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada provided context for present-day legislation and reports.

During the second day of training, held on March 12, 2020, participants learned about legislation including the *Indian Act*, *First Nations Land Management Act*, and the Duty to Consult and Accommodate. The group also discussed tools to engage with Indigenous communities and nurture respectful, reciprocal relationships. Local First Nation communities were notified of the training and were invited to attend the second session. Two members of Aamjiwnaang First Nation participated in the second training session.

When working with Cambium to coordinate Indigenous Relationship Building training for our staff, SCRCA reached out to the surrounding CAs (UTRCA, LTVCA, and ERCA) to notify them of this training opportunity and, as the other CAs were all interested in participating, the SCRCA worked with Cambium to lead the coordination of the CA training sessions. Not only did this bring this important training opportunity to more people, coordinating the training session dates created more flexibility as staff could attend other CA sessions and it helped to reduce costs that could be shared among the four CAs. All 42 staff from the SCRCA participated in the training.

This training has improved cultural awareness among staff and will help to open up opportunities for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and partnerships between the Conservation Authority and local Indigenous communities.

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 42 staff was approximately \$3,000 per day, financial support for this training was contributed by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Canadian Nature Fund.

(m) That the board acknowledges the report dated April 23, 2020 regarding the participation of SCRCA staff in Indigenous Relationship Building Training provided by Cambium Aboriginal Inc.

Director’s Comments:

Vice-Chair Larry Gordon commended staff for taking part in the Indigenous Relationship Building Training and making this a priority for all Authority staff. Staff are encouraged to continue learning and strengthening the relationship between the Authority and our local Indigenous Communities.

Marriott – Nemcek

BD-20-33

“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and endorses the recommendations accompanying Items a - m.”

CARRIED

COVID-19

March 16, 2020

- All SCRCA facilities closed to the public (no in-person camping payments accepted)
- Campground gates locked, walk-in access only to check on property or walk trails
- Campground superintendents and assistant superintendents continue to maintain the campgrounds, maintain other conservation areas, and communicate with campers by phone and email
- Campground staff to work in their park only (no group projects) or travel individually to maintain other Conservation Areas
- All additional seasonal staff contracts postponed

March 18, 2020

- Trails at SCRCA Conservation Areas to remain open to the public with limited trail maintenance, all other facilities closed

March 24, 2020

- April 15th deadline for seasonal camping fees postponed until further notice
- Overnight camping reservations up to May 31st can be cancelled with full refund of all fees

April 8, 2020

- Announcement that campgrounds will not be opening on April 24
- Overnight reservations between April 24 and May 13 automatically issued refunds

Note: SCRCA owned properties managed by the local municipality followed the policies put in place by the municipality for COVID-19.

Campgrounds

- Work to complete the two Wi-Fi hub locations at Warwick continues including the remaining exterior steel and doors, concrete floor, electrical, and interior finish
- Annual spring maintenance is underway at all campgrounds including grounds maintenance, water system start-up, road grading, trail maintenance
- Significant staff time being spent communicating with campers including providing refunds, monitoring campground traffic, inspecting properties and trails, and monitoring that property users are respecting social distancing
- All seasonal contracts beginning after March 2, 2020 have been postponed
- Campground upgrades on hold including equipment purchases, electrical panel upgrades, stump removal, pool resurfacing, septic study, etc.
- Grass cutting contracts at AW Campbell and Warwick CA suspended until parks open (staff are cutting grass until that time)

Day Use Conservation Areas

- Property inspection schedules were increased for these areas, monitoring compliance with COVID-19 social distancing measures
- Public notice signs were posted at all Conservation Areas

Shetland CA

On April 7, 2020 we received a formal request for ownership of Shetland CA from The Corporation of the Township of Dawn-Euphemia. A full report on the property will be prepared for a future board meeting.

BD-20-34

Burrell - Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas report dated April 16, 2020.”

CARRIED

Due to COVID-19, SCRCA's camping season will be shorter than normal in 2020. Seasonal campers pay an annual camping fee and associated optional fees for the season. Fees should be reduced in 2020 to compensate for the shorter season.

Current Seasonal Fees (April 24 – October 12):

Fee Type	2020 Approved Fee	Season Length	Cost per week
Seasonal Permit	\$2380	24 weeks	\$99.17
Weekly Pump-out	\$425	24 weeks	\$17.71
Bi-weekly Pump-out	\$225	24 weeks	\$9.38
Golf Cart	\$200	24 weeks	\$8.33
Exterior Fridge	\$175	24 weeks	\$7.29

Proposed Camping Extension

The camping season could be extended in 2020 for 2 weeks until October 26. This would provide campers additional opportunity to enjoy the parks while allowing SCRCA to recover some lost revenue.

Proposed Seasonal Fee Adjustments

- All seasonal fees listed in the table above would be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$\text{Season Length (in weeks)} \times \text{Cost per week}$$
- If pools are not able to operate each seasonal permit would be reduced by \$215 (estimated operating cost of pools/# of seasonal sites)

Proposed Daily Camping Fee Adjustment

- That staff have the discretion to provide full refunds for cancellations or changes to camping reservations due to COVID-19. This would include the elimination of cancel/change fees and the refund of reservation fees when appropriate.

Financial Impact:

The full extent of the financial impact of COVID-19 is unknown at this time. Based on the recommended fee changes, estimated lost revenues due to delayed campground opening are as follows.

Seasonal Camping (All Parks)

Fee Type	# of Customers	Weekly Revenue	Total
Seasonal Permit	425	\$99.17	\$42,147.25
Weekly Pump-out	10	\$17.71	\$177.10
Bi-weekly Pump-out	252	\$9.38	\$2363.76
Golf Cart Pass	177	\$8.33	\$1474.41
Exterior Fridge	64	\$7.29	\$466.56
Total Weekly Revenue Loss (Includes Taxes)			\$46,729.08

Additional Reduction to Seasonal Camping Permit Fee if Pools Do Not Open

\$215 per permit x 425 Seasonal Permits = \$91,375

Other Camping Fees Collected in 2019

Fee Type	\$ Collected in May (before tax)	\$ Collected in June (before tax)
Daily Camping	\$23,078	\$40,200
Firewood & Ice	\$729	\$2,272
Total Estimated Monthly Revenue Loss	\$23,807	\$42,472

Director's Comments

Vice-Chair Larry Gordon congratulated staff for their efforts in keeping the Conservation Areas open to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BD-20-35

MacKinnon – Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 23, 2020 and approves an extension of up to two weeks to the 2020 camping season, approves the fee adjustment formula proposed for 2020, approves the fee adjustment to seasonal permits in the event that pools can't open in 2020, and approves the full refund of daily camping fees when staff deem appropriate.”

CARRIED

At the SCRCA Board of Directors meeting held on September 19, 2019, a motion was passed directing that the ownership of the CJ McEwen Conservation Area be transferred to the Town of Plympton-Wyoming.

In Section 21(2) of the Conservation Authorities Act, approval of the Minister is required to dispose of any lands that have received grant under section 39.

Approval of Minister

(2) If the Minister has made a grant to an authority under section 39 in respect of land, the authority shall not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the land under clause (1) (c) without the approval of the Minister except if,

(a) the disposition is for provincial or municipal infrastructure and utility purposes;

(b) the province, the provincial agency, board or commission affected by the disposition or the municipal government, agency, board or commission affected by the disposition has approved it; and

(c) the authority informs the Minister of the disposition. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 10, s. 1 (1).

Terms and conditions

(3) The Minister may impose terms and conditions on an approval given under subsection (2), including a condition that the authority pay a specified share of the proceeds of the disposition to the Minister. 1996, c. 1, Sched. M, s. 44 (3).

To date, confirmation of the disposal of the CJ McEwen property has not been received from the province. In the interim, a lease agreement is required allowing the Municipality to begin managing the property. A draft agreement has been prepared for a term of 5 years and allows termination when transfer of ownership occurs.

The draft lease agreement was reviewed.

Director's Comments

Discussion was held regarding the responsibility of legal costs associated with the transfer of lands. Director's highlighted that the C.J. McEwen Conservation Area is to remain for public, recreational and conservation use.

BD-20-36

Burrell – Marriott

“That the Board of Directors approves the draft lease agreement for the C.J. McEwen Conservation Area between the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Corporation of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming as per the report dated April 18, 2020.”

CARRIED

BD-20-37

Stark – Loosley

“That the Board of Directors impose within the terms of all future property transfers a hold harmless clause indemnifying the Conservation Authority and further that all legal costs associated with the transfer of such property are the responsibility of the entity receiving those lands.”

CARRIED

BD-20-38

Bruziewicz – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 18, 2020 and confirms the “Regional” status of Highland Glen Conservation Area and further directs staff to acquire quotes and proceed with an engineered study including site survey, inspection of existing infrastructure, coastal assessment, and plans/specifications for repairs and improvements to the Highland Glen boat ramp to be paid from Highland Glen reserves and 2020 Highland Glen budget.”

CARRIED

SCRCA campgrounds were scheduled to open for both seasonal and overnight camping on April 24, 2020. On April 8, 2020 SCRCA announced that campgrounds would not be opening for the scheduled start to the camping season due to COVID-19. Campgrounds were not deemed an essential service and staffing was limited to those required to maintain the campgrounds and other Conservation Areas.

A number of seasonal campers contacted SCRCA, expressing their concerns that our campgrounds were their only place to live during the camping season. Both snowbirds

and those who had rental leases ending in April contacted the Authority requesting permission to stay at their trailers during the pandemic.

Initially campers were told they would not be able to move into their trailers as the park was not deemed an essential service and could not operate. On April 16, 2020 the essential business list was updated to include seasonal campgrounds. Seasonal campgrounds were to allow occupants only if they met strict criteria.

Essential Workplaces Criteria for Seasonal Campgrounds:

Seasonal campground requirements

- 3.1 Every person who operates a seasonal campground shall ensure that,
 - a. campsites are provided only to individuals who do not have another residence in Canada and are in need of housing during the emergency period;
 - b. only campsites with electricity, water service and facilities for sewage disposal are provided for use;
 - c. campsites are made available only for trailers and recreational vehicles; and
 - d. all recreational facilities in the campground, and all other shared facilities in the campground such as bathrooms, are closed.

On April 22, SCRCA announced that the parks would open on April 24, 2020 only for existing seasonal campers who meet the criteria set out by the province. Seasonal campers that had provided an email address were the press release by email. All campers that had made staff aware that they were in this situation were contacted by phone.

Campers allowed to return to the park ahead of opening have been made aware that:

- the park is not open to the public at this time
- they will be required to follow all COVID-19 recommendations including self-isolation for 14 days upon returning from another country
- no washrooms or shared facilities are open
- they only have access to their site and open trails
- staff will not conduct sewage pump outs during any 14 day isolation, water will need to be conserved, a portable washroom will be provided if needed, and a contractor will be supplied to empty their tanks at the end of isolation
- gates will be unlocked, but access to the parks is restricted
- staff are to be contacted only by phone/email
- full fees apply at this time

Financial Impact

- Full fees being collected from the campers who are returning (estimated 6-10 sites)

- Current staffing levels will be sufficient to provide necessary services to the returning campers, however increased time will be spent controlling park access, and addressing the needs of occupied sites
- Pump out safety protocols will be modified to include additional PPE, training, cleaning, and showering
- Until all PPE can be sourced and training completed, an outside contractor will be hired to complete all sewage handling

Director's Comments

Directors enquired whether the Authority can apply for provincial support for the costs associated with providing this essential service. Staff are tracking the costs incurred in preparation for an opportunity to apply for funding.

BD-20-39

Loosley – MacKinnon

“That That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 23, 2020 regarding the listing of seasonal campgrounds as an essential service and supports the operation of the campgrounds as an essential workplace providing accommodation to seasonal campers with no other Canadian residence and in need of housing during this emergency.”

CARRIED

The Government of Canada would like input on listing the River Darter (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence populations) as Endangered under the Species at Risk Act, and any comments on the benefits and costs this listing would have on you, your industry, your community and/or the ecosystem. Answers will be used to help inform the decision whether or not to list the species.

The Species at Risk Act recognizes that “wildlife, in all its forms, has value in and of itself and is valued by Canadians for aesthetic, cultural, spiritual, recreational, educational, historical, economic, medical, ecological and scientific reasons”.

The survey is posted online at the following address:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/consultation-documents/river-darter-2020.html>

Comments are due May 21, 2019

Before endorsing this survey response, you may wish to review the following background information found at the links below:

2016 COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the River Darter (PDF, 2.48 MB):

https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual_sara/files/cosewic/sr_River%20Darter_2016_e.pdf

Other information on the species can be found on the Species at Risk Public Registry:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html>

Strategic Objectives(s)

Goal 2 – Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes.

Financial Impact:

The financial impact is summarized in the survey responses below.

SCRCA Response to Survey on the listing of River Darter (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence populations) under the Species at Risk Act

1. Do you think protecting the River Darter (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence populations) under the Species at Risk Act would have economic, environmental, cultural and/or social benefits for you or your group /organization?

Yes

Please provide any other comments that you would like us to consider:

Protecting the River Darter supports St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA)'s Mission and Vision. The vision of the SCRCA reflects the future desired state of our region: "A healthy and sustainable natural environment in the St. Clair region." The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has as its mission, "to provide leadership through coordination of watershed planning, implementation of resource management programs and promotion of conservation awareness, in cooperation with others. "

River Darter and other sensitive aquatic species, such as freshwater mussels, act as sentinels for the overall health of our watersheds. By taking action to protect the most vulnerable species in a system, the overall aquatic environment is better conserved. SCRCA's targeted conservation programs, such as the Healthy Watershed Program, provide technical guidance and financial incentive for landowners to implement projects and practices to improve watershed health. Projects address stressors such as eutrophication, sedimentation and promoting a healthy riparian zone. These stewardship actions taken to protect our most sensitive aquatic species will also protect the broader watershed health with spin-off benefits to tourism, fisheries, drinking water source protection.

2. Do you think protecting the River Darter (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence populations) under the Species at Risk Act would have economic, environmental, cultural and/or social costs for you or your group /organization?

No.

Please provide any other comments that you would like us to consider:

There continues to be pressure on the health of watersheds of the St. Clair Region from the intensification of development and agriculture. If stressors are not managed

appropriately, the costs will be a degradation of watershed health and the potential loss of At-Risk species. Despite the potential implications, there are very few studies on the economics of taking no action to support watershed health. A recent study by Environment and Climate Change Canada demonstrates the economic cost of algal blooms in the Lake Erie economy will amount to \$272 million a year over a 30-year period if left alone (Smith et al, 2019). The tourism sector will be the hardest hit, with a \$110 million equivalent annual cost. The study shows that are significant costs with doing nothing to conserve our aquatic resources. Working to protect and conserving River Darter is a component of maintaining a healthy and sustainable natural environment in the St. Clair region.

Reference: Smith RB, Bass B, Sawyer D, Depew D and Watson SB. Estimating the economic costs of algal blooms in the Canadian Lake Erie Basin. *Harmful Algae*. 2019 Jul;87:101624. doi: 10.1016/j.hal.2019.101624. Epub 2019 Jun 24. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1568988319300915?via%3Dihub>

3. Should the Government of Canada add the River Darter (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence populations) as Endangered to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk for protection under the Species at Risk Act?

Yes.

Please provide any other comments that you would like us to consider:

The scientific evidence supports adding River Darter as Endangered under SARA. A review conducted by COSEWIC, an independent committee of experts that assesses which wildlife species are in some danger of disappearing from Canada and assigns a status to these species recommended the endangered status for River Darter. COSEWIC conducts its assessments based on the best available information including scientific data, local ecological knowledge, and indigenous traditional knowledge. Listing this species will help release public funds needed to mobilize agencies to take action to protect this animal.

4. If the River Darter (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence populations) is listed, do you want to help in its recovery or survival?

Yes.

If yes, how would you like to be involved?

SCRCA develops and delivers watershed-based programs that work with nature to protect, restore and effectively manage our water resources. SCRCA offers an education program that provides opportunities for our citizens to understand and appreciate the value of their natural environment as well as the social and economic benefits of protecting that environment. These programs can be tailored to incorporate recovery actions specifically targeted at improving conditions for River Darter. SCRCA, with funding from Canada Nature Fund is developing a long-term Species at Risk fish monitoring program. This new program could help to monitor population abundance and distribution of River Darter based in the St. Clair Region. SCRCA is willing to assist with

the recovery this species through development of conservation, education and monitoring programs.

5. Please provide any other comments about this listing consultation that you would like us to consider.

Conservation Authorities exist to organize and deliver programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario. Protection and recovery of River Darter and other aquatic Species at Risk complements this mandate. When we work to protect the most imperiled species, other natural resources also benefit, such as clean water, and healthy aquatic habitat is needed to support aquatic biodiversity. St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's healthy watershed program provides project assistance and incentives to landowners wanting to implement stewardship projects.

6. Please indicate if you are commenting as an individual (member of the General Public or Indigenous Person) or on behalf of one of the groups* listed below.

*** If you are commenting on behalf of your group, band, community, business, academic institution, or association/organization, please provide the requested contact information at the end of this survey.**

Non-profit Organization.

7. Where do you live? or Where does your group/organization operate? (Please check all that apply)

Ontario.

8. For what purpose(s) do you fish for or harvest the River Darter (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence populations)? (Please check all that apply)

Other.

Please specify.

SCRCA monitors fish within the St. Clair Region, but to-date none of our fish surveys have detected River Darter.

BD-20-40

Miller - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 24, 2020 on the Species at Risk Act Public Registry Consultation on the River Darter and further endorses the survey responses for submission.”

CARRIED

The legislation surrounding biosolids is regulated at a municipal and provincial level and SCRCA is limited in the actions that can be taken. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is the agency that follows up with nutrient related spills and all other pollution issues through the Spills Action Centre. Municipalities have the ability to adopt their own policies to manage Low and Moderate threats for biosolids.

SCRCA legislation and policies regulate fill if it is within the meander belt of the watercourse, within a floodplain, within or adjacent to a wetland, or if it is causing erosion and sedimentation. If the fill is placed near an area of concern for Drinking Water Source Protection, other policies and legislation may be applicable and enforced by local Conservation Authorities.

If the fill is in an area where development could be allowed, such as within the estimated engineered floodplain, a SCRCA approval is usually provided.

Background

What is it?

Biosolids are referred to as solid or semi-solid material from wastewater treatment plants. It has been processed by remixing the liquid effluent. If the biosolids do not exceed the regulation standards for contaminants, pathogens and odour, it can be applied on agricultural land as a non-agricultural source material (NASM) (OMAFRA, 2016). Biosolids can be sold or imported as a fertilizer or supplement because of its nutritional content for mineral and organic nitrogen, phosphorus and micronutrients such as zinc, magnesium and copper (OMAFRA, 2016). Biosolids have been used as a fertilizer for the agriculture industry in Canada for more than 30 years (OMAFRA, 2016). It benefits the industry by improving soil fertility, reducing the use of commercial fertilizers. Similar to the use of manure, it adds organic matter improving soil structure, soil moisture and its permeability. Approval for biosolids to be applied on land must be obtained by the generators (e.g. municipalities), land applicators or landowners for many jurisdictions.

What are the concerns?

Variations on the nutrient content of biosolids bring public concerns on its use for land application. Some examples include the leaching of nitrates, which if in high concentrations in water is a human health risk (Vanderlei, 2014). Concerns on the accumulation of metals are also present as biosolids can be found to contain trace amounts of elements such as arsenic, lead and mercury (OMAFRA, 2016). If landowners do not practice all best management practices or do not follow the approved regulations, biosolids can enter the watercourse or groundwater supply.

Legislation of Bio-solids

Using biosolids as a fertilizer as a NASM is regulated under the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 and the Nutrient Management Regulation (CCME, 2012). The Nutrient Management Regulation allows land managers to incorporate the benefits of land applied biosolids without degrading the ecosystems and risk the health of humans or animals. The regulation has criteria for (CCME, 2012):

- The concentrations of eleven metals of concern
- The quantity, method and timing of land application
- Separation distances from sensitive areas, such as wells, surface waters and

- neighbouring homes and businesses
- Suitable soil types and topography

Furthermore, details of the Nutrient Management Regulation include that (Fraser, 2010):

- It cannot be applied or stored on a floodplain
- It cannot be applied on a slope greater than 3%
- It cannot be stored on top of tile drains
- Designated setback distances from wells and dwellings
- A minimum distance of 50 metres from watercourses or tile inlet
- Storage of biosolids is only allowed to have a quantity required for one growing yr
- Detailed records on the storage and application such as date, quantities and locations are required

Analysis of biosolids for nutrient and metal concentration are done when being used as a fertilizer to find appropriate application rates onto the agricultural lands. However, not much is said for the presence of emerging substance of concern (ESOCs), some examples such as industrial chemicals, pharmaceutical compounds, hormones and personal care products. The regulations on its presence is dependent on the regulations provincially and by municipalities. Research on the concentrations of ESOCs and its potential long-term impacts are heavily lacking in research, especially for Canada. A literature review of ESOCs in biosolids was developed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (2009) detailing that studies were based from Europe or the United States. For the full report, please refer to https://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/biosolids/pn_1440_contam_invt_rvw.pdf. The report described the current knowledge on industrial chemicals, alkylphenols and their ethoxylates, pharmaceutical compounds, hormones and sterols, personal care products, metals and metalloids and other substances.

Update

The SCRCRA received concerns from both private landowners and the Municipality of Dawn-Euphemia with regards to the storage of biosolids in a few different locations. SCRCRA Staff spoke to the landowner/biosolid operator to confirm that there are no biosolid piles located at Kerwood Road and Winter Drive, and also none at Plank Road in Sarnia. Photos are provided below of the only other reported biosolid piles. There are two locations in question, 1) Oil Springs Line and 2) Hale School Road. Both of these locations are within an agricultural field. SCRCRA Regulations Policies generally do not apply to agricultural practices, including the temporary storage of manure/fertilizer. OMAFRA regulations allow the storage of manure temporarily (up to 300 days). <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/10-039.html> The concerns around the storage of manure/fertilizer should be directed to OMAFRA and MECP.

1) Oil Springs Line. From SCRCRA staff site visits, the biosolid pile is half tarped and located approximately 200m from the top of bank. The pile is located within the estimated engineered floodplain and a clearance could be obtained by the landowner, but it is SCRCRA staff's understanding that the pile is temporary.

2) Hale School Road. From SCRCA Staff site visits, this biosolid pile is fully tarped. The pile is located in close proximity to the roadside ditch and near ponding water however this ditch does not have a direct connection to a natural watercourse or municipal drain. The biosolid pile is located approximately 130-150m from Long Creek. The pile is located within the estimated floodplain, but could receive SCRCA permission in the form of a clearance. Again, it is SCRCA staff's understanding that this pile is temporary.

Director's Comments

Many concerns regarding the safety of biosolids stored in close proximity to waterways and residential areas were expressed. Noted is the concern that biosolid products are now being stored in environmentally sensitive areas beyond the expected timeline. Directors have requested a formal letter of support from the Authority, endorsed by the Chair and Vice-Chair to be sent to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks outlining these extenuating concerns. Directors expressed their appreciation to staff for their assistance thus far, and recognize that the removal of the commercial fertilizer designation is at the discretion of the Provincial and Federal governments. Directors requested that a formal letter requesting redesignation of biosolids, signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair be directed to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

BD-20-41

McMillan – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 24, 2020 on the topic of biosolids and accepts the recommendation that Municipalities develop bylaws that require stronger transparency on the processing procedures and sourcing of biosolids.”

CARRIED

Proposed WECI 2020-2021 Projects:

- SCRCA has submitted three projects for WECI 2020 - 2021 program
- A total of 102 projects have been submitted from 30 CA's
- All applications have been reviewed by a committee of Provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives
- A list of approved projects will be available in May
- SCRCA WECI projects for 2020 - 2021 is outlined below

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested (\$)
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Helen and Kenwick St) Phase 3	Carry out shoreline construction between Helen and Kenwick Street.	\$800,000	\$400,000
Head Street/ Coldstream Dams	Decommissioning Study	Study to consider decommissioning of the Head street and Coldstream dams	\$120,000	\$60,000
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	McKeough Dam- Culvert, slump, erosion repairs	Repair cracks, erosion, slumpage and install instrumentation to monitor structural health of the McKeough Dam.	\$56,000	\$28,000

Courtright Waterfront Park – Phase 3

- DiCocco Contractors commenced the week of January 20, 2020 with tree removal along the shoreline.
- Shoreline revetment work was extended to a total of 120 m as requested by the Municipality.
- A number of storm water outfalls (5) along the shoreline were identified during repair work and they have been replaced to the satisfaction of the municipality, as part of this contract work. Additional project costs have been incurred due to these upgrades.
- All shoreline work is completed, restoration work is planned for May 2020.
- SCRCA staff are seeking input from the municipality over opportunities for tree planting along the shoreline.

Bright's Grove Shoreline Erosion Control Projects: Three Locations

(1) Bright's Grove, Kenwick Street to Helen Avenue – Phase 2

- Cope Construction commenced shoreline work in December 2019 and remains underway.
- An extension of approximately 50 m has been included as a part of this work and a change order has been issued.
- All in - water work has been completed as of March 31, 2020
- Revetment work will continue in April and May 2020
- High water levels posing construction challenges and reducing the work days.

(2) Bright's Grove, Kenwick Street to Helen Avenue – Phase 3

- Amico Infrastructures commended this work on February 10, 2020
- Approximately 60 meters of in-water work has been completed.
- Significant project delays due to bad weather and inferior quality of armor stones and placement
- Construction work has been temporarily stopped due to the in- water timing window restrictions.
- Work to resume on July 15, 2020.

(3) Bright’s Grove, Old Lakeshore Road East

- Facca Incorporated Inc. started shoreline work on February 10, 2020.
- Approximately 40 meters of in -water work has been completed
- Significant project delays due to bad weather and quarry unable to deliver rocks as per engineer specification
- Construction work has been temporarily stopped due to the in- water timing window restrictions.
- Work to resume on July 15, 2020.

SCRCA was successful in getting extensions from DFO to the timing window from March 15th to April 15th. However, additional extensions were not permitted from DFO to this emergency shoreline work.

Brightsgrove shoreline continues to be severely impacted due to high water levels, a number of recent failures have been identified. Shoreline work should proceed to prevent the Old Lakeshore Road from undermining. SCRCA has submitted another emergency application to DFO on April 17th to allow us to continue with in-water shoreline revetment work.

Director’s Comments

Directors gave compliments to staff on the work completed to date in Brights Grove.

BD-20-42

Stark – Hall

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 23, 2020 on the status of ongoing shoreline projects and the new projects submitted for 2020-2021 under the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure program and approves the projects submitted and will assist staff in obtaining matching funds, where required, to support these projects upon confirmation of funding approval.”

CARRIED

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) is continuing to lead the work to develop a detailed engineering and design plan for managing the contaminated sediment in the three remaining priority areas of the St. Clair River. Funding for this project has been provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Dow Canada. That parties that provided funding are actively participating in oversight of the project work through a Sediment Management Oversight Committee.

Parsons Inc., the consulting firm that has been retained by the SCRCA to prepare the engineering and design plan, is continuing with its work on preparing the plan. Parsons subcontracted the field work component to Pollutech EnviroQuatics Limited, a firm with experience in providing environmental consulting and ecotoxicity services.

Working with Pollutech, Parsons prepared a pre-design field investigation workplan, outlining the details of the planned field work for fall 2019, and the health and safety protocols to be followed. The plan was accepted by the Sediment Management Oversight Committee and approved by the SCRCA.

Due to inclement weather, the amount of field work had to be reduced from what was originally planned in fall 2020. Pollutech was able to collect surface sediment samples and measure water velocity to assist with assessing sediment stability, and was able to collect a number of deeper core sediment samples in Priority Area 1 to measure contaminant concentrations.

Project Update

Following completion of the fall 2019 field work, the consultant shared information with the SCRCA on the preliminary results and began development of a plan for conducting the spring 2020 field work. Work that remained included more deep core sediment sampling and the use of a diver to assess the condition of structures in the area.

The engineering consultant has identified some areas where additional work may be required. The SCRCA is working closely with the engineering consultant and the Sediment Management Oversight Committee to determine the best path forward to ensure that the project work is completed within the established project budget.

Due to the implementation of measures in March 2020 by Canada and Ontario to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, the engineering consultant is reassessing their ability to perform the planned field work in accordance with provincial guidelines and legislative requirements. This is expected to impact the timing for undertaking the spring 2020 work, and the timing for completion of other project deliverables as well. The SCRCA has requested submission of a revised project schedule from Parsons.

Obtaining information on the various pipeline crossings in the vicinity of the areas of contaminated sediment is an important part of the project work. The SCRCA held separate teleconference meetings in March 2020 with the engineering consultant and each of the pipeline owners to confirm what information was available on the location of each of the pipelines, and any restrictions when performing work in close proximity to the pipelines. Information provided as a result of these meetings is being assessed to determine where any information gaps remain and next steps.

Finance

Funds provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada for fiscal year 2019/20 for the engineering consultant work have been fully utilized as planned. Funds made available

through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Dow Canada, however, have not been fully utilized and will be carried over into fiscal year 2020/21. The need to carry over these funds was the result of delays in the consultant being able to complete all of the planned field work in fall 2019.

The SCRCA's project manager is continuing to monitor the progress of the consultant's work closely and is tracking progress against key deliverables, costs and timelines.

BD-20-43

Burrell - Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 24, 2020, on the engineering and design plan for management of contaminated sediment.”

CARRIED

The January, February and March 2020 disbursements were reviewed.

BD-20-44

Miller – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors approves the January, February and March 2020 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$1,824,968.99.”

CARRIED

The report providing the descriptions of other income within the audited financial statements was reviewed

BD-20-45

Loosley – Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and accepts the report dated April 24 2020 providing a description of other income within the audited financial statements.”

CARRIED

At the February 2020 Executive Meeting the Committee members recommended the implementation of an asset management plan as a proactive measure in preparation of the 2021 budget in line with the local municipalities.

We have received one proposal from CityWide who will be putting forward a grant application to FCM with the estimated cost of \$68,450 and an annual support cost of 13,480 plus applicable HST. If we receive grant funding we will need to provide 20% matching and would need to support the annual costs of \$13,480 a 1% increase in levy for 2021. If we proceed we will need to issue an RFP for competitive bid pricing on similar product package.

The funding would cover 80% of the project cost, up to a maximum of \$50,000.00. The total estimated project cost would be \$70,000.00, our contribution would be \$20,000.00, as we would maximize the grant if approved.

Proposal estimates were reviewed.

Financial Impact

Increase in Administrative Budget for 2021 to cover cost of annual support of approximately \$13,480, which would result in an approximately 1% increase in levy.

BD-20-45

Kennes – Loosley

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 24, 2020 on the implementation of an asset management program and approves moving forward with the grant application and potential RFP and further directs staff to include in the 2021 budget, conditional on approval of grant dollars.”

CARRIED

Winter Programming

In-school programming continued to be popular in January and February. Staff were invited into watershed schools to teach the highly valued curriculum connected programs offered by SCRCA Education Staff. Sponsors and associated programs are listed below:

Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association:	Groundwater and River Bottom Critters
Plains Midstream Canada:	Spring Water Awareness
Friends of the St. Clair River:	River Rap and Phosphorus 101
Habitat Stewardship Program:	Aquatic Species at Risk

Teacher contract negotiations prohibited teachers from participating in field trips in the New Year. A “Nature In Winter” program at Henderson Conservation Area, previously booked in the fall, provided a welcome opportunity to connect primary students to nature on a beautiful snowy day.

COVID-19 - Special Event and School Updates

In order to keep staff and community members safe, the unfortunate decision was made to cancel both the Alvinston Maple Syrup Festival and Sydenham River Canoe Race.

Education Staff have developed “Virtual Pond Field Trips” for teachers to share on-line with their students. Virtual Field trips for Kindergarten, as well as grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 have been completed and emailed to teachers in our participating Boards of Education. There has been a tremendously positive response (see teacher feedback below)! Thanks to some keen French students, all presentations have been translated for French Immersion and French Elementary school students! Other Education tasks include Program development, curriculum document review, trail maintenance, and thorough cleaning of classroom and supplies.

Teacher Feedback – Virtual Pond Field Trips:

“I love this! Thank you so much. I was just asking everyone today what they enjoy most about the earth and was sharing that my favourite activity was to go dip netting. This is beautifully done and so timely. I like the opportunity at the end to share through SeeSaw and Google classroom.

I have sent it directly to the principal to forward on and will highlight it at our Division meeting this Friday. The French teachers are going to be so pleased to have a French language version. You’ve thought of everything!”

Lambton-Kent District School Board Teacher

Family Nature Fun

Staff are providing nature activities on the SCRCA Facebook page to encourage watershed families to be active outside during this time of school closures. Further development is on-going as we continue to advance ourselves as leaders in promoting a positive connection with nature at this challenging time.

Ojibwee Land-Based Learning/Aquatic Species at Risk Education Partnership

The Canada Nature Fund provided an opportunity for a partnership between SCRCA staff and Hillside School. As part of a new ‘Land-based Education’ initiative, the Ojibwee instructors felt SCRCA could provide a ‘western science’ perspective to complement their Traditional Ecological Knowledge lessons.

From September to March, education staff spent 1-2 days per month instructing 140 students. The three main goals were:

1. Providing Aquatic Species at Risk education
2. Strengthening partnerships between SCRCA, Hillside School and the Kettle Point community
3. Increasing SCRCA’s understanding of the watershed’s Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Director’s Comments

Educational staff were commended for their commitment and work supporting teachers and communities with this resource. Everyone is encouraged to take the virtual tour of Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area.

BD-20-46

McMillan – Brennan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Report, dated April 24, 2020 including the winter programming, program development and expansion, community partnerships, and special events.”

CARRIED

BD-20-47
Burrell – Brennan
“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Joe Faas
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager