



Board of Directors Annual Meeting

February 25, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Remote Via Zoom

Agenda

1. Chair's Remarks
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests
5. Minutes
6. Chair & Conservation Ontario Report
7. 2020 Audited Financial Statements
8. Conservation Awards
9. Service Awards

2021 Business

10. Code of Conduct
11. Election of Officers
12. Nominating Committee
13. Authorization to Borrow
14. 2021 Appointments
15. General Manager's Report
16. Consent Agenda
 - 16.1(a) Business Arising
 - 16.1(b) Conservation Area Updates
 - 16.1(c) Current Watershed Conditions and Water Levels
 - 16.1(d) NDMP Floodplain Mapping Work Update
 - 16.1(e) Engineering & Design Plan for Management of Contaminated Sediment in the St. Clair River
 - 16.1(f) Planning Activity Summary Report
 - 16.1(g) Regulations Activity Summary Report
 - 16.1(h) Drainage Update
 - 16.1(h.2) Summary and Outcome of Drain Review Process Meeting
 - 16.1(i) Healthy Watersheds Status and Outreach Report
 - 16.1(j) Black Lighting for Insects at Moore
 - 16.1(k) Mussel Research

- 16.1(l) Conservation Education
- 16.1(m) 2021 Special Events
- 17. Other Business Items
 - 17.1 Seasonal Camping Fees
 - 17.2 Board and Staff Member Fee Policy
 - 17.3 Camping Policies
 - 17.4 NDMP Intake 6 – Mitigating Flood Risk
 - 17.5 WECI Projects 2021-2022
- 18. Correspondence
- 19. New Business
- 20. Adjournment

Additional Items

- 2021 Schedule of Meetings
- 2021 Board of Directors
- 2020 Annual Report

8.1 Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2020 Conservation Award Winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.

9.1 Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the service awards presented to the directors and staff and further that they be thanked for their years of dedicated service.

Conclusion of 2020 Business

2021 Business

10. Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges and complies with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's Code of Conduct and Administrative By-laws.

11.1 Moved by: Seconded by:
That Brian McDougall be appointed chair for the election of the 2021 Chair and Vice Chair.

11.2 Moved by: Seconded by:
That Chris Durand and Donna Blue be appointed scrutineers in the event of an election.

11.3 Moved by: Seconded by:
That nominations for the position of Chair be closed.

11.4 Moved by: Seconded by:
That nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed.

12.1 Moved by: Seconded by:
That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2021 Nominating Committee's Report.

16.1 (b) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update report dated February 7, 2021 on Conservation Areas.

16.1 (c) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 11, 2021 regarding current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.

16.1 (d) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 11, 2021 on the update to the floodplain mapping project.

16.1 (e) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 11, 2021 on the on-going project work on the Engineering and Design Plan for the Management of the Contaminated Sediment in the St. Clair River.

16.1 (f) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's monthly Planning Activity Summary Report, dated February 2, 2021 for the period from November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021.

16.1 (g) That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Report dated February 2, 2021 on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) from November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021.

16.1 (h.1) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 3, 2021 on Drainage Updates and the current projects in collaboration with the Drainage Community to build relationships and improve communication.

16.1 (h.2) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update on the outcome and summary of the SCRCA Drain Review Process meetings held on February 18th 2021 .

16.1 (i) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 12, 2021 on Healthy Watersheds Program and Biology Department Update

16.1 (j) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated January 28, 201 on 'Black Lighting At Moore Wildlife Area, 2020' by Allen Woodliffe

18. Moved by: **Seconded by:**
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence from the Town of Petrolia, dated December 15, 2020 regarding the SCRCA 2021 budget and Bill 29, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act – Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act

19. New Business

20. Moved by: **Seconded by:**
That the meeting be adjourned.



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: December 10, 2020 Time: 10:00 am
Remote via Zoom

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

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Melissa Deisley, Regulations Coordinator; Chris Durand, Manager of GIS and IT; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Sarah Hodgkiss, Planning Ecologist; Brian McDougall, General Manager; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Lands

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a safe and Merry Christmas. Sharon Nethercott, Conservation Education Coordinator and Melissa Levi, Conservation Education/ Community Partnership Technician were recognized for their Watershed Interpreters Network award for their outstanding achievement in developing virtual field trips in response to COVID-19 and area school closures. This resource was accessed by over 20,000 students, teachers and families across the country. Sharon Nethercott was congratulated on her upcoming retirement and thanked for her service, as was Melissa Levi in her acceptance of a new role within the SCRCA as Conservation Education Coordinator.

Congratulations were given to Director Kevin Marriott, who was elected the 159th Warden of Lambton County.

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-20-104

Miller – Gordon

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

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on November 12, 2020 were reviewed.

BD-20-105

Burrell – Kennes

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held November 12, 2020, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

Province of Ontario 2020 Budget

- On Thursday, November 5th, the Ontario government will release its 2020 Budget through Bill 229
- Bill 229 is an omnibus Bill that also includes changes to over 40 Acts including the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act
- Second reading of Bill 229 was completed on November 23rd
- Bill 229 was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
- The Standing Committee began its consultation of Bill 229 on November 30th and completed its consultation on December 2nd
- Presenters to the Standing Committee (regarding Schedule 6 concerns) included
 - Conservation Ontario
 - Credit Valley Conservation Authority
 - Crow Valley Conservation Authority
 - Canadian Environmental Law Association
 - Grand River Environmental Network
 - Environmental Defense
 - Ontario Nature
 - Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations
 - Nature London
- It is anticipated that the Standing Committee will debate revisions and report as early as December 4th

Municipal Comments and Resolutions

- Middlesex Centre – supported resolution
- Point Edward – supported resolution
- Plympton-Wyoming – did not support the proposed resolution
- Oil Springs – Did not support the proposed resolution

Conservation Ontario has been tracking further support from across the Province – the link below can provide updates – as of December 3, 2020 the list included:

<https://conservationontario.ca/policy-priorities/conservation-authorities-act/support-for-conservation-authorities>

- 11 Conservation Authority Boards
- 40 Municipalities
- 35 partner organizations

- Over 300 media mentions including the full page ad (at right) which appeared in the Toronto Star on November 28th

A copy of the letter addressed to the Premier, Deputy Premier and Ministers regarding Provincial Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act was reviewed.

Verbal Update:

Legislation of Bill 229 has now passed and received royal assent with some alterations to the Act having been made by the Standing Committee. New regulations may be in effect by early 2021.

Directors Comments:

Director Brad Loosley and Kevin Marriott expressed their opposition to the drafted letter

BD-20-106

Burrell – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated December 3, 2020 and further approves the correspondence regarding Bill 229 to be signed by the Chair.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the Conservation Ontario Council Meeting held on September 28, 2020 were reviewed.

BD-20-107

Brown – Brennan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the Conservation Ontario Council meeting held remotely on September 28, 2020.”

CARRIED

BD-20-108

McGill - McEwen

“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and endorses the recommendations accompanying Items 7.1 a - 7.1 t. with the exception of 7.1 d and 7.1 l”

CARRIED

The report on business arising from the November 12, 2020 is reviewed.

(a) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on Business Arising from the November 12, 2020 meeting.

2020 Camping Statistics:

- Campgrounds closed from April 25 – June 4, 2020
- Seasonal camping opened June 5, transient camping opened June 29
- Transient camping operated with approximately 50% of sites open

- Pools were closed for 2020
- Overall campground revenue down 23.8% (\$290,646.17 as of October 31, unaudited)

Campground Upgrades 2020:

Due to the Coronavirus, some campground upgrades planned for 2020 were postponed.

Warwick Conservation Area

- Wetland constructed and surrounding area to be naturalized with a trail/ picnic access
- Exterior finishes completed at new WIFI pavilion
- Work continued on the WIFI café near the pool. Was not made available to campers in 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns.

A.W. Campbell CA

- AED purchased and installed for emergency use (Foundation funded)
- New panel and servicing for 4 campsites
- New dock to provide viewing/fishing access in pond, funding donated by Brooke Central School and the Alvinston Optimist Club

L.C. Henderson CA

- Boardwalk upgrades completed

Day Use Conservation Area Updates:

- 79 memorial trees planted at 13 Conservation Areas
- Hazard Trees removed at Strathroy CA, Peers Wetland CA, Wawanosh CA, Clark Wright CA, Highland Glen CA, Cuddy Woods, Lambton County Heritage Forest, Lambton County Museum, Perch Creek Habitat Management, Marthaville Habitat Management, and all 3 campgrounds

Strathroy CA

- 18 sections of boardwalk were donated by Bonduelle and installed by SCRCA staff
- Grant proposal being prepared for submission to the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Aquatic Species at Risk
- Grant proposal will seek funding to conduct a Class EA study investigating alternatives to the Head St. dam and reservoir

Coldstream CA

- Boardwalk repairs completed with materials supplied by Middlesex Centre and labour completed by SCRCA staff
- Grant proposal submitted to the Great Lakes Local Action Fund requesting funding to rebuild over 500' of boardwalk at Coldstream and for habitat creation along the East branch of the Sydenham River

- Contractor has been selected to replace the pavilion roof at Coldstream CA, work not completed at time of report

Wawanosh CA

- New dock constructed for wildlife viewing in the South wetland cell
- Old wildlife viewing tower removed
- Dr. Janice Gilbert of the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre has been hired to complete a phragmites control and habitat improvement plan for Wawanosh CA. Funding is being provided by Friends of the St. Clair River

Peers Wetland CA

- Wallaceburg Snowmobile Club lease expires at the end of 2020
- Snowmobile Club building was destroyed in a fire overnight on November 30th, site cleanup was completed the following week as debris posed a risk to the public
- Dyke between the wetland and Otter Creek was repaired in late November, work included:
 - Brushing of dyke vegetation to allow for dyke repairs
 - Replacing the failed overflow spillway with an outlet pipe
 - Repairs to muskrat damage
 - Building up low areas on the dyke to improve trail conditions
- Sydenham Field Naturalists contributed 50% of repair costs

Directors Comments:

Director Larry Gordon acknowledged the Brooke Central School, Alvinston Optimists Club, Bonduelle and Middlesex Centre for their donations and involvement to carry out the conservation work that we wish and are required to do.

(b) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas update, dated November 25, 2020.

Highlights:

- Flood threat is low due to drops in water levels on the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and in Wallaceburg
- Water level forecasts for Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair show levels may reach or exceed record-highs in January through April
- Regional precipitation amounts are near normal averages for 6 and 12 month periods; recent 3 month period is below normal
- Response rate to recent Flood Watch bulletin below 50%

Flood Threat

The current flood threat is low owing to a drop in water levels in Wallaceburg and on the Great Lakes, resulting in a 33cm freeboard capacity in downtown Wallaceburg (as of this report). That said, strong winds similar to those recently on November 15th show

that wind storms have the capacity to quickly elevate water levels in Wallaceburg and impact shorelines.

As part of SCRCA's mandate to notify municipalities of flood conditions, the Water Resources department attached a read-receipt to the recent Flood Watch email notification to identify gaps in communication. Of the 138 municipal staff who were sent the Flood Watch bulletin, 60 read the email, which is a response rate of 43.5%.

Great Lakes Levels

- Water levels on all three lakes dropped a few centimetres compared to this time last year
- Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie all exceeded their October 10 year and all-time averages, ranging between 43cm and 80cm, but none exceeded the October 1986 record levels
- The lakes are forecasted to drop 5 – 10cm in November
- Upper range predicted mean water levels on Lakes Huron and St. Clair are forecasted to be below record levels in December
- Water levels are forecasted to have the potential to be near or exceed record highs in January through April for both lakes

Precipitation Conditions

- Low amounts of rainfall so far this November have brought totals for the last quarter below normal values for the region
- Rainfall averages for 6 and 12 month periods for all regions are near normal amounts

(c) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 26, 2020 on the Current Watershed Conditions and Great Lakes Water Levels.

(d) Item removed from consent agenda

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. The 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.

Due to inclement weather, the amount of field work that was to occur in fall 2019 had to

be reduced from what was originally planned. Pollutech was able to collect surface sediment samples and measure water velocity to assist with assessing sediment stability, and was able collect a number of deeper core sediment samples in Priority Area 1 to measure contaminant concentrations.

Following completion of the fall 2019 field work, the consultant shared information with the SCRCA on the preliminary results and developed a plan for conducting the next round of field work in 2020. The SCRCA reviewed and approved the consultant's plan which included more deep core sediment sampling, a survey of underwater features, and the use of an underwater camera to assess the condition of structures in the area.

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 had to adjust their work schedule and reassess their procedures for conducting field work.

The additional field work was completed in July 2020, with additional health and safety measures incorporated to address COVID-19. The preliminary results were discussed with the Sediment Management Oversight Committee in August and September 2020.

Project Update:

Upon reviewing the results, it was determined that additional information on sediment quality was needed to address some data gaps that remained in certain areas, and to obtain more current sediment quality data in other areas.

The additional field work was completed in October 2020 and involved the collection of 20 deep core sediment samples, and 46 shallow surface sediment samples.

Each of the field sampling events in this project work has involved the use of small boats for conducting specialized sampling and survey work. Area companies were given advance notice of the proposed work so that any health and safety requirements could be addressed when performing work in the vicinity of docking areas or pipeline crossings.

The sampling event in October 2020 also involved the use of a crane in the vicinity of Priority Area 1. The crane was used to place a small boat behind the enclosed dock areas so that sediment samples could be collected from the desired locations.

The consultant made a presentation to the Sediment Management Oversight Committee on November 25, 2020, explaining the results of the October 2020 sediment sampling, including how it compared to historical sediment sample results. The consultant is continuing with analysis of the data and will be presenting information to the committee again in December 2020 on recommended next steps.

The SCRCA has requested submission of a revised project schedule from Parsons to confirm how the additional field sampling work and delays due to COVID-19 will impact the project completion date.

Finance:

Funds provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada for fiscal year 2019/20 for the engineering consultant work were 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 were 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.

(e) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 26, 2020, on the Engineering and Design Plan for Management of Contaminated Sediment.

During the snow and ice free months SCRCA Biology conduct numerous watershed based monitoring and research projects to understand the physical health, through water quality sampling and the biological health, through studying aquatic organisms like fish, mussels and benthic macroinvertebrates. The 2020 field season presented many unique challenges with an ongoing global pandemic, a shorter monitoring season due to lockdown restrictions and a work schedule bursting at the seams. Despite these unique challenges, the biology department was able to go beyond projected deliverables.

Update:

In early June, staff continued with the ongoing turtle head-starting program, where turtle nests are located within the watershed and monitored during the incubation period. Staff carefully collect the eggs from nests in danger from predation and destruction. With the help and care provide by Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and the Upper Thames Region CA, eggs are safely stored in incubators until they hatch. The turtle team collected a total of 799 eggs, 496 eggs of the endangered Eastern Spiny Softshell and 303 eggs of the Common Snapping Turtle. An incredible 682 healthy hatchlings were released back into the wild in late August, providing a vital jumpstart for the next generation.

Turtle Decline: Habitat loss, destruction, degradation, fragmentation, road mortality, over abundance of middle-level predators and shoreline development all play a role in the decline of Ontario turtles.

Importance: Reptiles are experiencing global declines of 20 and 40 percent. In our province, 75 percent of reptiles are listed as nationally and provincially at risk. The

Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle's distinction, 'endangered', means it is facing imminent extinction. Without devoted and strategic effort, this species will be lost from Ontario.

Effort: This program requires a mammoth amount of time, dedication and multi-agency cooperation. Three SCRCA staff members spend 12-14 hours a day surveying and excavating nest through the summer nesting months. Temperatures this year at ground level on the sandy exposed nest sites reached a staggering 59C°.

Highlight: 2020 marks the most successful year for the turtle head-starting program. 682 is a record breaking number for SCRCA biology.

Between egg collection and waiting for the hatchlings to develop the biology team began mussel monitoring along a 5km stretch of the Sydenham River. The study detected 1688 live mussels, including 79 individuals representing 7 species facing extinction. These include species like the Northern Riffleshell, Rainbow and Snuffbox. Although rarely seen or encountered, mussels play an integral role in shaping aquatic ecosystems. Beneath the surface mussels are a filtering powerhouse, a single mussel can filter 40L of water per day, which means the mussels detected in this study can filter a staggering 6752L per day. The filtering process removes algae, organic matter and nutrients, converting cloudy contaminated water to clear and healthy, benefiting a multitude of organisms from plants to fish to invertebrates.

Freshwater Mussel Decline: In North America, freshwater mussels have declined by 70%.

Habitat degradation, pollution, invasive species (Round Goby and Zebra Mussels) and loss of fish hosts which are vitally important during the mussle reproduction cycle.

Importance: The Sydenham is a unique and critically important system as it is home to many of the country's freshwater mussel species. Currently, twelve of the fifteen mussel species assessed as at-risk in Ontario by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) inhabit the turbid waters of the Sydenham River. The reports and data created from this study are used and shared throughout both the Canadian and global research community.

Effort: Another mammoth time commitment involving multi-agency cooperation and resources, including Oceans and Fisheries Canada and the University of Windsor. Five SCRCA staff members spent many hours crawling along a 5km stretch of the river searching for mussels, using a technique known as 'Raccooning'.

Highlight: The East Sydenham River population of Northern Riffleshell mussels is one of only three reproducing populations on the entire planet and is considered to be the healthiest population in Canada.

As the mussels continue to filter the waters and turtle hatchlings begin to emerge from incubation, fish monitoring begins. The 2020 study looked at the detection of the invasive Round Goby using 10 index sites in the Sydenham River previously surveyed

in 2002, 2010, 2016 and 2020. Round Goby are a non-native fish that arrived from the Caspian Sea in the ballast water of large shipping vessels. In Ontario, Goby can reduce native fish populations particularly, sport fish through predation of eggs and young whilst simultaneously competing for food sources. Many bottom-dwelling species like the Eastern Sand Darter (Endangered) face fierce competition for survival from Gobies. In total, 3611 fish, representing 40 species were captured, identified and released, including 233 Round Goby.

Freshwater Fish Decline: Studies have revealed 4 out of 10 freshwater fish species in North America are facing declines. These declines include sport fish and other species that support sport fish populations. Habitat loss, degradation, siltation, invasive species and pollution all play a role in fish population declines in Ontario.

Importance: The Sydenham River bears the title as one of Canada's most biodiverse rivers, there are around 83 different types of fish that call it home. Study after study has shown a community rich in biodiversity is a healthier community overall. Studies like this help map where invasive species reside and congregate which, is essential when fighting to conserving native biodiversity and promote watershed health.

Effort: Five SCRCA staff, conducting 47,000 electrofishing seconds across 12 survey sites, ranging from Dawn Mills to Alvinston. These data will be used at the federal and provincial level to aid in invasive species management.

Highlight: Only one Eastern Sand Darter was detected throughout the entire study.

Financial Impact:

All monitoring and research projects conducted by SCRCA Biology are supported through self-generated revenue and external grant programs.

(f) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 25, 2020 summarizing the Monitoring and Research Activities of the Biology Department.

SCRCA delivers a habitat stewardship program for landowners throughout the watershed to assist with the implementation of various habitat projects to maintain/improve water quality and to create wildlife habitat. The Biology monitoring program collects data on water quality, fish, mussels, turtles, and benthic invertebrates. Staff are involved in various outreach and education components related to stewardship and species at risk.

Update:

The grants awarded and applied for are in addition to ongoing grants that the Biology department has secured for 2020-2023.

Provincial Grants awarded:

- MNRF Species at Risk Stewardship Fund 2020-2022: \$155,000 – Biological monitoring and landowner stewardship project implementation

Provincial Grants applied for:

- OMAFRA COA 2020-2022: \$85,000 – Stewardship outreach and project implementation
- MECP COA 2020-2021: \$60,000 – Lambton Shores Healthy Lake Huron program
- OMAFRA COA 2020-2022: \$50,000 – Lambton Shores Healthy Lake Huron program
- MECP Great Lakes Local Action Fund 2020-2021: \$50,000 – Coldstream Conservation Area upgrades and landowner stewardship project implementation

Federal Grants awarded:

- DFO Canadian Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk Year 2 top up (of a 4-year agreement equalling \$1,117,000): \$110,000 – biological monitoring and landowner stewardship project implementation
- ECCC EcoAction 2020-2022: \$99,000 – Stewardship outreach and landowner stewardship project implementation

Federal Grants applied for:

DFO Habitat Stewardship Program 2021-2023 – SAR threats assessment
Wildlife Habitat Canada 2021-2023: \$100,000 – stewardship outreach, biological monitoring, and landowner wetland/upland habitat stewardship project implementation

Financial Impact:

The awarded applications have secured \$365,000 for 2020-2022 above what the Biology department has already secured for this year and future years of funding (e.g. Years 3 & 4, CNF grant: \$657,000). These funds will go towards staffing, private landowner stewardship projects and outreach. Biology staff currently have \$345,000 in requests to Provincial and Federal governments/organizations to cover staff salaries, education and outreach, and landowner stewardship.

(g) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 16, 2020 on the Habitat Stewardship Program and Biology grants.

Through financial support 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 Watershed to reduce the impact of this nutrient on the Great Lakes basin and improve the health of the local ecosystem. 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 coordinate with local stakeholders, First Nations, and community members to identify sources of phosphorus and determine best-value solutions for our region. A community engagement and outreach strategy will be developed to implement the Management Plan.

Progress since June 2020 board report:

- Conducting/compiling research and collecting data based on direction from committees
- Drafting reports that will provide the basis for chapter content
- Conducted tile drainage survey
- Preparing point source surveys
- Attended local virtual rural water quality events
- Presentation to St. Clair River Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee
- Participating on the Lake Erie Action Plan Implementation Committee; Agricultural and Natural Heritage Subcommittees

The SCRCA Project Team is compiling feedback from the committee meetings and one-on-one discussions with committee members to direct ongoing research. This information is being investigated, discussed at meetings, and incorporated into the draft Management Plan.

Upcoming committee meetings:

- Non-Point Source Working Group Meeting – December 11, 2020
- Point Source Working Group Meeting – December 14, 2020

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 finalized a work plan and signed a three-year contribution agreement with ECCC totaling \$220,000 covering 2019-2022 which will support the development of the Sydenham Watershed Phosphorus Management Plan.

(h) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated November 27, 2020, regarding Environment and Climate Change Canada funding for a Sydenham Watershed Management Plan.

Tree Planting Program

- Approximately 56,500 trees were planted this year through the tree seedling afforestation program.
- The majority of trees were planted by SCRCA crews totalling 50,340 trees on 29 individual properties. 32 Landowners purchased and planted approximately 6200 trees.
- The total value of trees and planting services this year was \$152,000 plus \$48,240.00 in advanced payments for 3 years vegetation control services.
- \$176,718.82 was awarded to landowners through multiple grant programs.
- Landowners contributed \$51,000 including H.S.T. added to the cost.
- Carry forward into 2021 (3 year advanced payments for tending) amounts to \$110,294.50 plus \$16,921.60 carry forward deficit from 2020, plus \$7,748.80 advanced grant payment from Forests Ontario for 3 projects that were postponed in spring due to COVID-19 for a total carry forward into 2021 in the amount of \$134,964.90
- Staff are currently working on next year’s tree program, contacting landowners, performing site visits, formulating planting plans and finalizing available grants for landowners.

Large Stock Tree Program

- Each February SCRCA sends a list of tree species, sizes, and prices to municipal offices for ordering larger stock trees in the spring. Municipalities then submit a list of quantities they wish to purchase at the wholesale price. Individual landowners can also purchase trees with a minimum 10-tree order. The deadline for ordering trees is normally March 15th. SCRCA then submits a finalized bulk tree order to the wholesale tree nurseries.

- Trees arrive at the SCRCA facility in Strathroy-Caradoc where municipalities and landowners pick up their trees, normally between the 15th and 20th of April.
- The average cost of a large stock potted or burlap ball tree is approximately \$22.00

Seed Collection Program

- The SCRCA continued with its annual tree seed collection program again this year. Staff collected more than 2,500 litres of tree seed within the SCRCA watershed. The seed will be used to grow seedling trees for its tree planting program and to ensure healthy forests of the future by planting genetically indigenous trees back into the region.
- The majority of the tree seed collected are oaks, hickories, walnut and maple. This year's tree seed collected will be seedling trees in 2022 and 2023.

Lambton County Mosquito Control Program

- Under direction from Lambton Public Health, SCRCA treated approximately 16,500 municipal catch basins within the City of Sarnia and Lambton County towns, villages and rural areas.
- Catch basins were treated with three separate applications of a mosquito larva growth regulator at 21-day intervals starting in late June and ending in mid August to reduce the number of potential West Nile virus carrying mosquitos within populated areas in Lambton County throughout the summer. Each of the three applications is completed over a period of 9 days.
- SCRCA also performs efficacy testing throughout the summer. Results this year were similar to last year with approximately 86% average effectiveness.
- Work is carried out under the SCRCA Pesticide Operators licence, staff exterminator's licences and MECP permits.
- The work is contracted to SCRCA by the County of Lambton, renewable every 3 years

Lambton County Phragmites Program

- In 2018 the County of Lambton and SCRCA formed an agreement to create a multi-year Phragmites coordinator project with the goal of reducing the presence of Phragmites australis in Lambton County.
- The ultimate goal is to bring together partners who work on controlling phragmites to understand, educate and inform all parties involved of current and any proposed status and actions, to connect partners with senior government, industries, potential funding agencies and to jointly create prioritized actions.
- This year was somewhat challenging for certain aspects of this initiative since we were unable to hold any information workshops and all public events were cancelled, however we were successful with some public outreach and education. One landowner in Enniskillen Township worked with SCRCA to organize a phragmites control plan on 50 of his properties covering more than 600 acres. A plan was implemented and the first phase of work started this year. This sparked interest from neighbouring landowners to do the same. A concerned citizen from the Sarnia area approached SCRCA for assistance to

form a community group with a goal to help save Wawanosh wetlands from invasive phragmites. SCRCA staff are working with this person to create an action plan for next year and to find future funding partners to assist with the high cost of a multi-year, on the ground, phragmites eradication program.

(i) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 26, 2020 on the Conservation Services Programs and projects across the watershed as well an overview of the Large Stock Tree Planting Program

The Planning Activity Summary report for the month of October, 2020 was reviewed.

(j) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's monthly Planning Activity Summary Report for the month of October, 2020.

The Regulations Activity Summary report on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations for the month of October, 2020 was reviewed.

(k) That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Report on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) for the month of October, 2020.

(l) Item removed from consent agenda

At the September 17th Board of Directors meeting, Directors discussed comments from local drainage engineers who have concerns that the Conservation Authorities Act is taking precedence over the Drainage Act and is therefore hindering development applications and plan of subdivisions where Drainage Act approvals are required. Discussion took place around the SCRCA Drain Enclosure Policy, and it was noted that rescinding the Policy would not impact the involvement of the SCRCA under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, as proposed works would still need to be reviewed to ensure no impacts to upstream or downstream flooding and erosion. The Drain Enclosure Policy was subsequently rescinded by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors has requested that staff prepare a report highlighting where, within the Conservation Authorities Act, drain enclosure works fall under.

Drainage Act vs. Conservation Authorities Act

Under the *Drainage Act*, municipalities are legislated to maintain and repair drains and to respond to petitions for new drainage systems. The Drainage Act defines a process whereby property owners can petition their local municipality to develop communal solutions to solve drainage problems. The Drainage Act is primarily used in rural Ontario

but is occasionally used to resolve drainage issues in urban areas. It has also been used to develop a legal outlet for storm and surface water generated from urban areas.

Under section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* conservation authorities (CAs) regulate development in or adjacent to watercourses, wetlands, the shoreline of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System or inland lakes, river or stream valleys, hazardous lands and other areas where, in the opinion of the Minister, development should be prohibited or regulated or should require the permission of the authority. A CA may grant permission for development if, in the opinion of the authority, the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land is not affected. CAs also regulate activities that change, divert, or interfere in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse, or that change or interfere in any way with a wetland. Municipal drains are generally watercourses as defined under the CA Act, and are therefore regulated by the CAs.

Because of the incongruent provisions between the two provincial Acts, there is potential for legal liability issues with regard to maintenance and repair of existing drains. If a municipality is unable to proceed with required drain maintenance or repair because of requirements for a CA Act s. 28 permit, the Municipality could be held liable for any consequences. If drain repair and maintenance activities are carried out (with or without a CA Act s. 28 permit) and impact regulated areas with respect to the CA's regulatory responsibilities under the CA Act, the CA could be held liable for not undertaking or enforcing its regulatory responsibilities.

Conservation Authorities Act

The purpose of the Conservation Authorities Act is to provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario. As part of this mandate the Conservation Authority looks at the cumulative and potential negative impacts on the watershed which include:

- downstream flooding
- upstream flooding
- overland erosion
- increased sediment loads
- degraded stream health (i.e. water quality/aquatic species)

Relevant Policy

28(1) Subject to the approval of the Minister, an authority may make regulations applicable in the area under its jurisdiction,

- a) restricting and regulating the use of water in or from rivers, streams, inland lakes, ponds, wetlands and natural or artificially constructed depressions in rivers or streams;
- b) prohibiting, regulating or requiring the permission of the authority for straightening, changing, diverting or interfering in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream, or watercourse, or for changing or interfering in any way with a wetland;

c) prohibiting, regulating or requiring the permission of the authority for development if, in the opinion of the authority, the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or pollution or the conservation of land may be affected by the development;

Under this Act, Development means

- a) the construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind;
- b) any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the size of the building or structure or increasing the number of dwelling units in the building or structure;
- c) site grading, or
- d) the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material originating on the site or elsewhere;

Under this Act, watercourse means an identifiable depression in the ground in which a flow of water regularly or continuously occurs;

Specific to St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, O.R. 171/06

Alterations prohibited

5. Subject to section 6, no person shall straighten, change, divert or interfere with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse or change or interfere with a wetland

Permission to alter

6 (1) The Authority may grant a person permission to straighten, change, divert or interfere with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse or to change or interfere with a wetland;

(2) The permission of the Authority shall be given in writing, with or without conditions;

7. A signed application for permission to straighten, change, divert or interfere with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse or change or interfere with a wetland shall be filed with the Authority and shall contain the following information:

- 1. Four copies of a plan of the area showing plan view and cross-section details of the proposed alteration;
- 2. A description of the methods to be used in carrying out the alteration.
- 3. The start and completion dates of the alteration
- 4. A statement of the purpose of the alteration

Moving Forward

Good communication among all parties remains fundamental for all drainage works to be effective. Municipalities and Conservation Authorities should be in regular communication to understand one another's interest and be aware of changes and developments. In order for this protocol to be successful, municipalities and CAs should meet at minimum annually to discuss the Municipality's workplan. Proponents of a drainage project should initiate contact about a particular project as early in the process

as possible to ensure a common understanding on all sides and to address potential issues before they become more serious.

Drain enclosures are generally discouraged as they can have broad implications on water quality and quantity, recharge/infiltration, can cause increased erosion, and have effects on the overall health of local and downstream habitats.

SCRCA objectives for watercourse alterations include:

- Preserve and enhance the physical and ecological function of the watercourse and the natural system,
- Ensure no adverse impacts on the watercourse upstream or downstream of the proposed alteration,
- Ensure no increase in upstream and downstream flooding,
- Ensure no decrease in riparian/floodplain storage, and,
- Ensure no adverse impacts to erosion processes.

In order to address the above objectives, the SCRCA will require an application be submitted for all drain enclosure projects and technical studies may be necessary to show that the above objectives are being met. These technical studies must be carried out by a qualified professional with recognized expertise and recognized methodologies to the satisfaction of the Conservation Authority. These established procedures should be in keeping with MNR's Technical Guides for Natural Hazards, other Provincial Guidelines and/or guidelines approved by the Conservation Authority Board that are within the intent of the Act and regulation.

We also surveyed surrounding Conservation Authorities. Where there are municipal drains, all CAs including ABCA, LTVCA, ERCA, GRCA, and UTRCA use the above regulations to oversee drain maintenance, improvements, and new drain proposals. All CAs stated that they strongly discourage drain enclosures. While, all CAs use the above policies to discourage drain enclosures, some have created policies to further explain how they review and regulate drains. Neighbouring CAs including the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, and Essex Region Conservation Authority require written permission or permits under the CA Act for Municipal Drains. This is consistent with the process that the SCRCA is carrying out. ***(m) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 23, 2020 on Silt Fencing as a Requirement for Drainage Works.***

2020 Watershed Interpreters Network (WIN) Innovation Award:

The Watershed Interpreters Network (WIN) was established in 2007 to foster and facilitate communication among Ontario's Conservation Authority educators. Every year, the group awards deserving Conservation Authority educators with awards to honor the passion, dedication and impact individuals have made in their region.

This year, the annual WIN Innovation award was ‘pivoted’ to celebrate a Conservation Authority education department that had shown leadership in creating new and innovative opportunities to engage students throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SCRCA was selected as the winner of the WIN Innovation award for 2020. This past spring, Sharon Nethercott, Conservation Education Coordinator and Melissa Levi, Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician developed “virtual field trips” to the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area in response to the sudden school closures this past March. In the spirit of education, Sharon and Melissa created 14 curriculum-connected, grade-specific “field trips” for both Elementary and Secondary school students. The resource was provided to teachers free of charge until the end of the 2019-2020 school year to support their sudden transition to online learning.

The success of the field trips exceeded all expectations. Over 20,000 students/teachers/families accessed the “field trips” from across Ontario and Canada. They were also accessed by educators teaching abroad.

Congratulations to both Sharon and Melissa for their dedication, innovation and commitment to keeping students connected to nature during these unprecedented times.

Currently, the SCRCA education team is offering a number of program options to watershed schools that abide by school board COVID-19 policies and guidelines. The full suite of program options is available at www.scrca.on.ca/govirtual.

Conservation Education Staff Changes:

After an amazing 33-year career with the Authority, Sharon Nethercott, the SCRCA Conservation Education Coordinator is retiring at the end of December. Sharon’s passion for engaging students with the natural environment has been pivotal in the success and expansion of our conservation education programs over the years. The Authority wishes her well as she embarks on this new and exciting chapter in her life.

Melissa Levi, the current Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician will assume the role of Conservation Education Coordinator effective January 1, 2021.

The Authority has also added a new member to the Conservation Education team. Myra Spiller joined the SCRCA on November 23rd as the new Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician.

(n) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 26, 2020 regarding the SCRCA Conservation Education Watershed Interpreters Network (WIN) Innovation Award and staff changes.

Minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee held on September 9, 2020 were reviewed.

(o) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the September 9, 2020 meeting minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

The revenue and expenditure report to October 31, 2020 was reviewed.

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

The November, 2020 disbursements were reviewed. An error was noted in the amount reported for Payroll 24. The corrected total of disbursements is \$746,904.95.

(q) That the Board of Directors approves the November 2020 disbursements as amended in the amount of \$746,904.95

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

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

The investment reports to October 31, 2020 were reviewed.

(s) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the investment reports to October 31, 2020.

The approved 2021 schedule of fees was reviewed.

(t) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the approved 2021 schedule of fees.

At the September 17th Board of Directors meeting, Directors discussed comments from local drainage engineers who have concerns that the Conservation Authorities Act is taking precedence over the Drainage Act and is therefore hindering development applications and plan of subdivisions where Drainage Act approvals are required. Discussion took place around the SCRCA Drain Enclosure Policy, and it was noted that rescinding the Policy would not impact the involvement of the SCRCA under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, as proposed works would still need to be reviewed to ensure no impacts to upstream or downstream flooding and erosion. The Drain Enclosure Policy was subsequently rescinded by the Board of Directors.

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Director's Comments:

Director Brad Loosley brought forth concerns regarding the wording within section 28 of the Drainage Act that could be misinterpreted and result in unnecessary efforts. General Manager, Brian McDougall explained that Regulation 171/06 was established as per the Act and is followed as it is laid out in the document. It was also discussed that it is the intention of SCRCA staff to meet with the Drainage Superintendents of all member

municipalities to resolve any issues. Staff will be looking to obtain funding for consultation and demonstration projects. Directors request a more fulsome report and/ or a presentation to better understand the Regulations as they relate to the Drainage Act.

BD-20-109

Scott - Loosley

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 23, 2020 on Municipal Enclosed Drains and the Conservation Authorities Act.”

DEFERRED

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

- Request for Pre Qualification (RFSQ) started on November 6, 2020
- SCRCA received 12 submissions before November 18, 2020
- An evaluation team (SCRCA, City of Sarnia, Shoreplan Engineering) is reviewing the submissions.
- Following are the list of contractors interested in shoreline projects.
- Tender process will start first week of December 2020
- Shoreline work in this section is expected to start January 2021.

Bright's Grove, Old Lakeshore Road East

- Facca Inc. started shoreline work on February 10, 2020.
- All shoreline work is completed as of November 27, 2020
- City of Sarnia has requested for a secondary capstone placement along the entire length of the project
- FACCA Inc is expected to provide an estimate for this work this week.

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

- Cope Construction commenced shoreline work in December 2019
- Toe stones were inspected using a professional diver in May 2020
- Deficiencies were identified at the toe of shoreline protection
- 17 locations have been identified along this section
- Contractor attempted to fix deficiencies from a barge on October 9 2020
- Deficiencies still remain
- Contractor exploring alternative methods to complete repairs

2021 Shoreline Projects:

SCRCA is working with City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township to prioritize projects for 2021. The following are the recommended projects for 2021.

City of Sarnia Projects

- Design and construction of shoreline for Pine avenue to Penhuron Drive, Bright's Grove, ON.
- A groyne only project to:

- Prioritize location of groynes
- Installation of 2 – 3 groynes

St. Clair Township Projects

- Design of Shoreline protection for the following Parks:
 - 1) Reagan Park
 - 2) Port Lambton Park
 - 3) Seager Park.

Additional Comments:

In response to questions brought forth by Director Mike Stark, Director of Water Resources, Girish Sakar provided a verbal update regarding Phase 2 of the Brights Grove to Helen Ave Project. 17 toe stones remain in need of repairs for which a barge will be required in order to complete the work. Cope Construction is aware but has not yet been successful in mobilizing the necessary equipment. A 10% hold back is being maintained, as per the contract. Staff will continue following up with the contractor.

BD-20-110

Stark – MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on Shoreline Projects dated November 26, 2019.”

CARRIED

Director of Finance, Tracy Prince provided a verbal update of the comments received to date in response to the 2021 draft budget. Clarification and additional reporting has been provided to several municipalities.

Concerns regarding the draft budget have been expressed by the Township of Dawn-Euphemia and are expected from the Town of Petrolia and the City of Sarnia, more specifically in regards to the special levy for Highland Glen.

BD-20-111

Burrell - Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal summary of comments received to date on the 2021 Draft Budget.”

CARRIED

Recorded Vote in Reference to BD-20-112

Director	For	Against
Brennan, John		✓
Broad, Al	✓	
Brown, Pat		✓
Bruziewicz, Andy		✓

Burrell, Terry		✓
Faas, Joe		✓
Gordon, Larry		✓
Hall, Aaron		✓
Kennes, Frank		✓
Loosley, Brad	✓	
MacKinnon, Betty Ann		✓
Marriott, Kevin	✓	
McEwen, Netty		✓
McGill, Mark	✓	
McMillan, Dan	✓	
Miller, Steve		✓
Nemcek, Frank	✓	
Scott, Lorie	✓	
Stark, Mike		✓
Westgate, Jerry		✓
Totals	7	13

BD-20-112

Loosley – McMillan

“That the Board of Directors defers the 2021 budget of \$9,739,780 with a non-matching general levy of \$1,018,576 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the Modified Current Value Assessment of each Municipality within the Authority’s area of jurisdiction.”

FAILED

Municipal Funding Summary	2021 Budget Total CVA Apport.%	2021 Budget CVA Apport.%	Representative	y/n Vote
Municipality				
Adelaide Metcalfe Tp	1.9190%	1.9190%	Betty Ann MacKinnon	y
Brooke-Alvinston Tp	1.7871%	1.7871%	Frank Nemcek	n
Chatham-Kent M		6.5222%	Joe Faas	y
Chatham-Kent M	13.0443%	6.5222%	Aaron Hall	y
Dawn-Euphemia Tp	2.6508%	2.6508%	Alan Broad	n
Enniskillen Tp	1.9973%	1.9973%	Kevin Marriott	n
Lambton Shores M	4.9903%	4.9903%	Lori Scott	y
Middlesex Centre M	2.2426%	2.2426%	Dan MacMillan	y
Newbury V	0.1528%	0.1528%	Mark McGill	y
Oil Springs V	0.1986%	0.1986%	Kevin Marriott	n
Petrolia T	2.5364%	2.5364%	Brad Loosley	n
Plympton-Wyoming T	5.4734%	5.4734%	Netty McEwen	y
Point Edward V	2.2156%	2.2156%	Larry Gordon	y
Sarnia C		12.4891%	Terry Burrell	y
Sarnia C		12.4891%	Mike Stark	y
Sarnia C	37.4674%	12.4891%	Andy Bruziewicz	y
Southwest Middlesex M	1.1705%	1.1705%	Mark McGill	y
St. Clair Tp		5.6011%	Pat Brown	y
St. Clair Tp	11.2021%	5.6011%	Steve Miller	y
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp		4.3240%	Frank Kennes	y
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp	8.6479%	4.3240%	John Brennan	y
Warwick Tp	2.3039%	2.3039%	Jerry Westgate	y

100% 100%

90.830%

9.170%

Total of CVA Levy Apportionment Present

100.000%

Vote Passed By

90.830%

BD-20-113

McMillan – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2021 budget of \$9,739,780 with a non-matching general levy of \$1,018,576 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the Modified Current Value Assessment of each Municipality within the Authority’s area of jurisdiction.”

CARRIED

BD-20-114

Bruziewicz – MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2021 budget of \$9,739,780 with a municipal matching general levy of \$161,000 including finalized Modified Current Value Assessment values, updates to specific projects and municipal comments received to date.”

CARRIED

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Retention Policy requires the Board to approve destruction of documentation subject to this policy when the specified time has passed to retain the information.

2008 – Accounts Payable Invoices, Cheques, Deposit Slips, and Camping Deposits
2009 – Accounts Payable Invoices, Cheques, Deposit Slips, and Camping Deposits
2010 – Accounts Payable Invoices, Cheques, Deposit Slips, and Camping Deposits
2011 – Accounts Payable Invoices, Cheques, Deposit Slips, and Camping Deposits
2012 – Accounts Payable Invoices, Cheques, Deposit Slips, and Camping Deposits
2013 – Accounts Payable Invoices, Cheques, Deposit Slips, and Camping Deposits

2007 – Accounts Receivable Invoices
2008 – Accounts Receivable Invoices
2009 – Accounts Receivable Invoices
2010 – Accounts Receivable Invoices
2011 – Accounts Receivable Invoices

2009 – Bank Reconciliations (excluding cheque registers if attached)
2010 – Bank Reconciliations (excluding cheque registers if attached)
2011 – Bank Reconciliations (excluding cheque registers if attached)
2012 – Bank Reconciliations (excluding cheque registers if attached)

Timesheets older than 7 years (not official documents)

This list of documents will be compiled for shredding by a qualified shredding company and will be scheduled following the Board approval of the destruction of these documents.

BD-20-115

Westgate – Stark

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated December 1, 2020 regarding document retention and approves the destruction of the identified documents as per the SCRCA Document Retention Policy.”

CARRIED

The following surplus equipment has no value, and will be delivered to an e-waste facility:

1 – Canon IPF750 Plotter – no longer in working order

BD-20-116

Marriott – McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 19, 2020 regarding the disposal of nonessential and surplus equipment and approves the disposal method as outlined.”

CARRIED

Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) is proposing new regulations to enable use of the Species at Risk Conservation Fund (the Fund) and to establish a provincial agency to administer the Fund. They are also proposing to amend Ontario Regulation 242/08 to streamline Endangered Species Act authorizations by amending certain conditional exemptions.

ERO posting 019-2636: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2636>

On January 18, 2019, the Ontario government gave notice on the Environmental Registry that that they were conducting a ten-year review of the Endangered Species Act, which came into effect on June 30, 2008. A discussion paper, 10th Year Review of Ontario’s Endangered Species Act: Discussion Paper (ERO number: 013-4143), was posted on January 18, 2019. The comment period was 45 days from January 18 to March 4, 2019. SCRCA staff prepared comments on the discussion paper which were presented to the SCRCA Executive Committee at the February 2019 meeting, and subsequently submitted to the Environmental Registry. The decision was posted April 18, 2019.

On May 16, 2019 the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors approved comments which were subsequently submitted to the Environmental Registry on more proposed amendments to the Endangered Species Act. The proposal, “*10th Year Review of Ontario’s Endangered Species Act: Proposed Changes (ERO: 013-5033)*” was posted April 18, 2019, with the comment period open for 45 days from April 18 to May 18, 2019.

The Board’s earlier submission to the Environmental Registry on ERO number: 013-4143 included the following comments related to the newly proposed legislation under ERO 019-2636:

Conservation Offsetting

The proposed changes to the ESA include creating a Species at Risk Conservation Trust, to allow municipalities or other infrastructure developers the option to pay a charge in lieu of completing certain on-the-ground activities required by the act. The funds would support strategic, coordinated and large-

scale actions that assist in the protection and recovery of species at risk. It is proposed that the funds would only support those activities that are reasonably likely to support the protection and recovery of prescribed species.

The concept of conservation banking should be approached with a high degree of caution, and the decision to use this approach should only be considered as an option after steps have been taken to eliminate and minimize potential negative impacts. The province should carefully examine and provide direction on conservation banking, with input from Indigenous communities, municipalities and stakeholders. If it decides to enable conservation banking through law and policy, it must address such issues as governance and oversight, limits to offsetting, equity, transparency, the mitigation sequence, establishing equivalence, monitoring and enforcement. If this Species at Risk Conservation Trust is created, interdisciplinary watershed managers with local watershed knowledge should be involved to ensure that actions are directly appropriately.

A major concern is the potential for loss of regional habitat and biodiversity in areas which have high land values if offsets are provided elsewhere in the province. It is difficult to establish equivalency, and any monetary value must include the value of the lost habitat plus an overall benefit.

The use of conservation banking offers promise in that there is increased certainty of benefitting the species when offsets are established in advance. Conservation Authorities are already actively involved in helping proponents address their overall benefit obligations through the delivery of habitat improvements required under S. 17(2)c permits. While Conservation Authorities could also be effective partners in the delivery of on-the-ground habitat improvements under alternative authorization tools such as conservation banking and/or a conservation fund, a cash-in-lieu approach solely for the purposes of expediency of approvals should be avoided.

Strategic Objectives(s):

From the Strategic Action Plan “Goal 2 – Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes.”

Financial Impact:

- A payment-in-lieu approach that is not stringent and could result in reduced outcomes for species at risk.
- A downloading of Endangered Species Act implementation costs from Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) to proponents (e.g., municipalities, developers, farmers).

SCRCA's Proposed Comments

In general, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is in favour of legislation that results in strategic, large-scale, and coordinated actions that would support more positive outcomes for select species at risk. SCRCA supports the fact that proponents would still be required to take action to minimize impacts on species at risk and their habitats, as required by law.

In many cases, the goals and objectives of SCRCA's existing programs and expertise align well with the Endangered Species Act; particularly protecting habitat and promoting stewardship projects. We have leveraged funding from private and public sources which provide benefits to species at risk, while also contributing towards ecosystem services such as flood and erosion control. SCRCA supports continued government commitment to providing meaningful impacts to the protection and recovery of species at risk in Ontario. With our expertise, SCRCA may be in a position to accept payment from the fund, as a Recipient, to carry out on the ground conservation projects to provide beneficial actions for Species at Risk.

The newly created Agency, the Species at Risk Conservation Trust, will be funded by proponents registering for certain conditional exemptions in O. Reg. 242/08 for eligible activities that will impact conservation fund species. The funds collected from Proponents will cover the cost of the beneficial actions for Species at Risk, and the administration costs of the Agency and Recipients. There is risk that the legislation as proposed, will result in a lower proportion of Proponent funding going towards beneficial actions for Species at Risk and more towards administration. The cost-breakdown of funding an entirely new agency based on the destruction of Species at Risk and their habitat needs to be carefully considered.

SCRCA echoes biologists' commentary in Facets Journal that "Offsetting policies—policies that attempt to compensate for losses of biodiversity or reconstitute habitat at an impacted site by generating ecologically equivalent habitat elsewhere may be deemed politically necessary. In such cases, we suggest that the party that destroys habitat must be required to create new habitat to replace what has been lost to all affected species, rather than paying a charge to the Fund. We recognize that with increasing development and urban sprawl, some level of habitat destruction is inevitable. Although preserving intact habitat is more likely to aid an at-risk species, if offsetting policies are to be included in Ontario's ESA, we propose a zero net habitat loss approach. Any destroyed habitat should be replaced by restoring or creating habitat elsewhere. Habitat should be replaced with habitat, not with dollars."
(<https://www.facetsjournal.com/doi/10.1139/facets-2019-0050#f1>)

"While we appreciate that the Species-at-Risk Conservation Trust must provide an annual report to the Minister of the effectiveness of the Fund in achieving its purpose (More Homes, More Choice Act 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 9, s. 20.16), the current evaluating entity is the Trust itself, not an independent third party. Furthermore, the report is to be made available only to the Minister and not to the public. For transparent, reproducible

scientific research to effectively and efficiently protect Ontario's species at risk (see Ellison 2010), we strongly suggest the review be completed by a third-party, nongovernment scientific entity and, upon completion, be shared with the public.”: (<https://www.facetsjournal.com/doi/10.1139/facets-2019-0050#f1>)

SCRCA has concerns about how ESA exemptions and offsetting measures could affect biodiversity hotspots, including those found in within Carolinian Canada and the St. Clair Region. Development pressure could have proportionally greater impacts upon SAR concentrated within the last vestiges of intact globally rare habitats found in this area (e.g., Tall Grass Prairie, Oak Savannah, forested dune complexes, and the Sydenham River valley). The Benefiting Ratios approach should weigh in a variety of biological factors and even identify areas that are irreplaceable “no touch zones” or nature preserves where streamlined authorization and offsetting is not acceptable. Both Credit Valley Conservation Authority and Toronto Region Conservation Authority have published guidelines that account for variation in ecological sensitivity. Credit Valley Conservation's 2020 Ecosystem Offsetting Guidelines (https://cvc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/rpt_CVCEcoOffset_FINAL_20200313.pdf) suggest a range of offset ratios from 1:1 to 1:50 based on different basal areas recorded in forestry surveys. CVC also considers ecosystem functions (e.g., wildlife habitat, topographic, or hydrologic features and functions) in calculating compensation ratios. Toronto Region Conservation Authority factors lag time, the time required for a newly restored ecosystem to reach a similar level of function as the impacted ecosystem being replace, to calculate Benefiting Ratios (<https://s3-ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/trcaca/app/uploads/2019/02/05151028/TRCA-Guideline-for-Determining-Ecosystem-Compensation-June-2018.pdf>). These guidelines recognize one size fits all approach is not appropriate in highly unique and rare habitats found in the extreme southern portion of Ontario. The globally significant habitats and SAR of the St. Clair Region should be more highly protected and valued when considering how to streamline the authorization approach and determining benefiting ratios.

BD-20-117

Scott – Burrell

“That the Board acknowledges the report dated November 18, 2020 regarding Environmental Registry of Ontario posting ERO 019-2636 A proposal under the Endangered Species Act to enable use of the Species at Risk Conservation Fund and to streamline authorizations for certain activities that impact species at risk, while maintaining protections for species at risk and further approves the proposed response to this posting and directs staff to submit this response to the identified provincial contact on behalf of the Board of Directors.”

CARRIED

BD-20-118

Brown – Marriott

“That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 11:19 am to discuss Conservation Awards and personnel information with the General Manager, Manager of Communications, Director of Finance, Manager of IT/ GIS and Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator remaining.”

CARRIED

ICBD-20-02

Burrell – Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors approves the member’s meeting per diem, the Chair’s honorarium and the Vice Chair’s honorarium be adjusted annually by the cost of living adjustment derived for the previous year’s municipal adjustments.”

CARRIED

ICBD-20-03

Loosley – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the mileage rate, cost of living adjustment and the step adjustments to the salary grid for 2021.”

CARRIED

ICBD-20-04

Loosley – Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 26, 2020, and further approves the nominations for the 2020 Conservation Awards with winners to be invited to the 2021 Annual General Meeting to receive their awards.”

CARRIED

BD-20-119

Burrell - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 11:34.”

CARRIED

Under New Business, Directors gave their thanks to staff and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

BD-20-120

Scott - Kennes

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

Joe Faas
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Remote

Members Present: Andy Bruziewicz, Terry Burrell, Joe Faas, Larry Gordon, Brad Loosley, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Mark, McGill, Steve Miller

Regrets: Lorie Scott

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/ GIS; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Brian McDougall, General Manager; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

Guests: Ashley Didone and Jordan Keuken, MNP LLP

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave his remarks. 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.

EC-21-01**Loosley – MacKinnon**

“That the Executive Committee adopts the agenda for the meeting as presented.”
CARRIED

Municipal Forum with Conservation Authorities – Hosted by Lambton County

- June 2019 – the More Homes More Choice Act includes changes to the Conservation Authorities Act – specifically focusing on the mandate of Conservation Authorities
- December 2019 – Lambton County Council requested that the County’s two Conservation Authorities attend a forum for municipal councils and staff
- February 2020 – the Province hosts a series of forums regarding Conservation Authorities to obtain regional / local government input
- April 2020 - The scheduled forum is postponed – the COVID-19 pandemic took hold on Canada in mid-March
- Provincial government continues to seek input regarding Conservation Authorities via surveys, etc.
- August 2020 – Conservation Authorities are requested to attend a virtual forum, outlining the impacts of the new mandate and impacts to 2021 budgets

- October 2020 – Conservation Authorities respond to request – Authorities are continuing to seek answers to many questions regarding revised mandate and rumored additional changes to the Conservation Authorities Act – Authorities respectfully request that the forum be postponed until legislative and regulatory changes anticipated from the government are provided in order for the Authorities to provide complete answers to the coming changes to Conservation Authorities
- December 2020 – Budget Bill 229 is passed by the Province – the Bill includes many changes to the Conservation Authorities Act – however regulations will be required to provide details as to how these changes will be implemented
- December 2020 – Conservation Authorities are requested to attend a virtual forum, outlining the impacts of the new mandate and impacts to 2021 budgets in February 2021
- December 2020 – The Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks forms the Conservation Authorities Working Group
- January 2021 – SCRCA requests that the forum be postponed until regulations regarding the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act are released
- January 2021 – The Conservation Authority Working Group has been formed to make sure conservation authorities and other stakeholder groups have a stronger voice at the table when it comes to implementing recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and improving Conservation Authority governance
- Working group members are drawn from conservation authorities, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Conservation Ontario, development and agriculture sectors
- The working group members include:
 - Chair Hassaan Basit, President and Chief Executive Officer of Halton Region Conservation Authority
 - Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario
 - John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
 - Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
 - Chris Darling, Chief Administrative Officer, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
 - Rob Baldwin, Chief Administrative Officer, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
 - Brian Tayler, Chief Administrative Officer, North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority
 - Samantha Lawson, Chief Administrative Officer, Grand River Conservation Authority

- Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Scott McFadden, Mayor, Township of Cavan Monaghan
- Associate members of the working group include:
 - Jason Sheldon, Vice-President, Land Development, Remington Group
 - Gary Gregoris, Senior Vice-President, Land Development, Mattamy Homes
 - Josh Kardish, Vice-President, EQ Homes
 - Michelle Sergi, Director Community Development, Region of Waterloo
 - Leslie Rich, Policy and Planning Liaison, Conservation Ontario
 - Barb Veale, Director, Planning and Watershed Management, Halton Region Conservation Authority
 - Laurie Nelson, Director, Policy and Planning, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
 - Mark Wales, Past President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- The working group's first task will include looking at the first phase of proposed regulations that impact Conservation Authorities and their participating municipalities.
- These proposed regulations will be available for public consultation in late January 2021
- The CA Working Group met in mid-January for the first time
- Unfortunately, little information will be made available about the progress of the Group as all associated with the Group were required to sign non-disclosure agreements
- We have learned that CA Working Group meetings have been scheduled every two weeks into June 2021
- The CA Working Group has also been informed that their final version of the regulations may not be the regulations that will be implemented by the Province
- Conservation Authority General Managers, including members of the CA Working Group, are hoping to meet monthly over the next few months in order that shareable information is disseminated to all Conservation Authorities

A verbal update was provided by Brian McDougall, General Manager. Correspondence was received from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in the last week providing proclamation of changes to legislation and the Conservation Authority Act, including changes to regulations that may affect SCRCA membership and term limits for Chair and Vice-Chair positions, among others. A full report including all changes will be provided at a future Board of Directors meeting. The first of 3 phases takes effect on February 2, 2021, followed by the phase 2 in April, 2021 and the final phase in June, 2021.

EC-21-02

Burrell – Gordon

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 2, 2021.”

CARRIED

The report on business arising was reviewed.

EC-21-03

Burrell – Gordon

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the updates on business arising from the December 10, 2020 meeting.”

CARRIED

A presentation of the draft 2020 Audited Financial Statements was provided by Ashley Didone, MNP LLP.

Director’s Comments:

Executive Committee member, Betty Ann MacKinnon expressed thanks to the MNP team for providing a clear and comprehensive report.

EC-21-04

Miller – Burrell

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report from the Authority’s auditors, MNP Chartered Professional Accountants, LLP and accepts responsibility for the 2020 financial statements and the Statement of Continuity of Reserves and Reserve Funds and year end finances and further approves the year-end adjustments, reserves and reserve adjustments as outlined in the schedule dated December 31, 2020 and recommends that the Board of Directors approves the 2020 Audited Financial Statements.”

CARRIED

The December 2020 disbursements were reviewed.

EC-21-05

MacKinnon – Burrell

“That the Executive Committee approves the December, 2020 disbursements, as presented in the amount of \$1,167,714.05”

CARRIED

The 2020 municipal general levy report was reviewed.

EC-21-06

Miller – Gordon

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges that all 2020 municipal general levy has been received.”

CARRIED

The summary report of Director’s expenses for 2020 was reviewed.

EC-21-07

Burrell – McGill

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the Status Summary report on Directors’ expenses from January 1 to December 31, 2020.”

CARRIED

Draft minutes of the January 14, 2021 Flood Action Committee were reviewed.

EC-21-08

Burrell – Miller

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the draft minutes of the Flood Action Committee held virtually on January 14, 2021.”

CARRIED

The year 2021 marks the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s (SCRCA) 60th Anniversary. Formerly, the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority, the SCRCA was founded on January 12, 1961, in cooperation with the Province of Ontario and local municipalities.

The original 60th Anniversary plans have pivoted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A 60th Anniversary committee has been established that will lead the organization and delivery of celebration activities. Staff propose that these activities span the entire 2021 year and utilize online mediums and small in-person events when and if COVID-19 restrictions allow.

Activities to Date:

60th Anniversary Logo

he logo will be used on all SCRCA communications (e.g., letter head, email signature lines, etc.) for the duration of 2021

St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation President’s Award

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation approved the recommendation to present Enbridge Gas with the Foundation’s President’s Award in 2021. Enbridge Gas (formally Enbridge and Union Gas) have donated over \$130,000 to support Authority programs. The Authority’s 60th Anniversary messaging will be incorporated into the event/presentation/media release.

SCRCA 60th Anniversary Video – Message from General Manager, Brian McDougall

On January 12th, 2021, a video message by General Manager, Brian McDougall was posted on the SCRCA's Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter. The message provided a brief history of the SCRCA and invited partners and our watershed communities to keep updated on anniversary plans through the SCRCA's social media and website.

SCRCA 60th Anniversary Media Release

A media release was circulated to local news outlets on January 15th, 2021. The release has been published in several local newspapers (e.g., Wallaceburg Courier Press, Strathroy Age Dispatch) and has garnered interest and interview requests by local radio stations (CBC Radio 1, myFM Strathroy).

Proposed 60th Anniversary Celebration Activities:

- Developed by the 60th Anniversary planning committee
- Most activities will have a media release drafted and circulated to local media outlets
- Proposed activities are subject to change based on staff availability and changes to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines.

Hashtags (#Celebrating60, #CelebratingStClair, #60YearsOfStClair)

Hashtags (#) are used on social media and websites to label digital content relating to a specific topic. Hashtags developed for the SCRCA's 60th Anniversary will be incorporated into social media campaigns and posts throughout 2021. When appropriate, other social media campaign hashtags will be included into SCRCA messaging (e.g., Conservation Ontario's #StepIntoNature, #HealthyHikes, #ConservationMatters, etc.)

In Person Events:

4 Million Trees planted in the St. Clair Region

100 Hectares of Wetland Creation in the St. Clair Region

These two milestones will be celebrated with small in-person media events (or one combined event) if and when COVID-19 restrictions allow. Champion landowners will be contacted to gauge interest in having signage, etc. placed on their property to mark these achievements.

60th Anniversary Memento/ Give-Away(s):

Masks, Coffee Mugs, Pens

Items will be made available to staff and Board of Directors and provided as a thank you or give-away at events, etc. The 60th Anniversary logo will be embroidered or imprinted.

Community Engagement:

Watershed Scavenger Hunt/Passport to Nature

To encourage watershed communities to visit local conservation areas and reap the benefits of being outdoors, a scavenger hunt and/or passport competition will be held in celebration of the SCRCA's 60th year. Clues and/or locations will highlight and educate the public on the work of the SCRCA. Completed entries will be put in a draw for a prize(s).

Art Contest/ Online Memory Board

Administered through the SCRCA website, a space will be created for our local communities, partners, Board of Directors, and staff to share their experiences, stories and art that reflects on 60 years of conservation in the St. Clair Region. Entries will be screened prior to being made public.

Online:

Live-Streaming – A Day in the Life of a...

This activity will provide viewers with the opportunity to watch SCRCA staff at work. Field work and other activities will be live-streamed using an online platform (e.g., Facebook Live). The public will be educated on the work the SCRCA does to protect the environment and watershed communities. Additional messaging will be included based on the task and department being featured.

SCRCA Highlights – Social Media Campaign

This monthly social media campaign will feature different programs and projects administered by the SCRCA including their history, successes, and challenges.

A verbal update was provided by Brian McDougall, General Manager. A presentation titled "Why Wetlands Matter" by Dr. Dianne Saxe, Ontario's former Environmental Commissioner was planned for the SCRCA Annual General Meeting on February 25th, 2021. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, this presentation has been cancelled.

Director's Comments:

SCRCA Board of Directors Chair, Joe Faas gave thanks to Donna Blue, Manager of Communications and the 60th Anniversary Committee for their efforts in planning the celebrations.

EC-21-09

MacKinnon – Burrell

"That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report dated January 28, 2021 regarding the SCRCA 60th Anniversary and the current and proposed celebration activities."

CARRIED

EC-21-10
Burrell – Miller
“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. McDougall", written in a cursive style.

Joe Faas
Chair

Brian McDougall
General Manager

CONSERVATION ONTARIO COUNCIL MINUTES
December 14, 2020 (Meeting via Zoom)

Voting Delegates Present:

Chair: Wayne Emmerson, Lake Simcoe

Brian Horner, Ausable Bayfield	Janet Mason, Mississippi
Alan Revill, Cataraqui Region	Sally McIntyre, Mississippi
Katrina Furlnetto, Cataraqui Region	Bruce Mackenzie, Niagara Peninsula
Chris Wilkinson, Catfish Creek	Chandra Sharma, Niagara Peninsula
Chris Darling, Central Lake Ontario	Lin Gibson, Nickel District (Con.Sudbury)
Karen Ras, Credit Valley	Carl Jorgensen, Nickel District (Con.Sudbury)
Deb Martin-Downs, Credit Valley	Brian Taylor, North Bay-Mattawa
Tim Pidduck, Crowe Valley	Keith White, Nottawasaga Valley
Linda Laliberte, Ganaraska Region	Mariane McLeod, Nottawasaga Valley
Helen Jowett, Grand River	Doug Hevenor, Nottawasaga Valley
Samantha Lawson, Grand River	Andy Mitchell, Otonabee
Cathy Little, Grey Sauble	Dan Marinigh, Otonabee
Scott Greig, Grey Sauble	John Wise, Quinte
Tim Lanthier, Grey Sauble	Brian McGillis, Raisin Region
Hassaan Basit, Halton	Martin Lang, Raisin Region
Lloyd Ferguson, Hamilton	Richard Pilon, Raisin Region
Lisa Burnside, Hamilton	Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Rideau Valley
Ted Smith, Kawartha	Dan Gieruszak, Saugeen
Mark Majchrowski, Kawartha	Jennifer Stephens, Saugeen
Stephen Harvey, Kettle Creek	Marchy Bruni, Sault Ste Marie Region
Elizabeth VanHooen, Kettle Creek	Corrina Barrett, Sault Ste Marie Region
Mike Walters, Lake Simcoe Region	George Darouze, South Nation
Donna Blunt, Lakehead	Angela Coleman, South Nation
Tammy Cook, Lakehead	Joe Faas, St. Clair Region
Michael Columbus, Long Point Region	Larry Gordon, St. Clair Region
Judy Maxwell, Long Point Region	Brian McDougall, St. Clair Region
Mark Peacock, Lower Thames	Jennifer Innis, Toronto and Region
Jim Alyea, Lower Trent	John Mackenzie, Toronto and Region
Rhonda Bateman, Lower Trent	Sandy Levin, Upper Thames River
David Turton, Maitland Valley	Ian Wilcox, Upper Thames River

Members Absent:

Mattagami Region Conservation

Guests:

Brad McNevin, Quinte Conservation	Jennifer Keyes, MNRF	Debbie Scanlon, MECP
Phil Beard, Maitland Valley Conservation	John Dungavell, MNRF	Wendy Lavender, MECP
Scott Peck, Hamilton Conservation	Minister Yurek, MECP	Saira Ilinovich, MECP
Tim Byrne, Essex Region Conservation	Keley Katona, MECP	
	Cloe Stuart, MECP	
	Pat Kinch, MECP	

CO Staff:

Kim Gavine, General Manager	Nicholas Fischer	Patricia Moleirinho
Deborah Balika	Bonnie Fox	Leslie Rich
Kristin Bristow	Jane Lewington	Jo-Anne Rzadki
Jane Dunning	Nekeisha Mohammed	Rick Wilson

1. Welcome from the Chair

Chair Emmerson welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Presentation by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - Jennifer Keyes, Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch and John Dungavell, Manager, Water Resources Section

Status of Implementation of Ontario’s Flooding Strategy (presentation attached to the minutes) of the meeting.

**#16/20 Moved by: Alan Reville, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Seconded by: Dave Turton, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority**

THAT the presentation be received.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was re-ordered to accommodate external speakers.

**#17/20 Moved by: George Darouze, South Nation Conservation
Seconded by: Karen Ras, Credit Valley Conservation**

THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There was none declared.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Corrections: Tim Byrne, Essex Region Conservation Authority (corrected from Niagara Peninsula)
Sally McIntyre, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority was listed as in attendance in error.

**#18/20 Moved by: George Darouze, South Nation Conservation
Seconded by: Mike Columbus, Long Point Region Conservation Authority**

THAT the Minutes from the meeting held September 28, 2020 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none that was not covered by the meeting agenda.

7. Motion to move from Full Council to Committee of the Whole

#19/20 Moved by: George Darouze, South Nation Conservation
Seconded by: Lin Gibson, Conservation Sudbury

THAT the meeting now move from Full Council to Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED

8. Items for Discussion

- a. Update on the *Conservation Authorities Act Review and Schedule 6 of Bill 229, Protection, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020*

Kim Gavine, Bonnie Fox, and Jane Lewington provided a presentation which is attached to the minutes.

C.W. #19/20 Moved by: John Wise, Quinte Conservation
Seconded by: Dan Gieruszak, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

THAT Council receives this report as information.

CARRIED

C.W. #20/20 Moved by: Jennifer Innis, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
Seconded by: Karen Ras, Credit Valley Conservation

Whereas conservation authorities have been requesting that a clause of indemnification or statutory immunity for the good faith operation of essential flood and erosion control infrastructure and programming be added to the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act) consistent with the same statutory indemnification afforded to municipalities, the Province and agencies of the Province;

Whereas recent planning and permitting amendments to the CA Act by Bill 229 create considerable concerns that the science-based watershed approach to decision making will be superseded by the Minister or the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal;

Whereas under the new provisions of the CA Act an authority must issue a permit where a Minister's Zoning Order has been issued by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing even if it is contrary to the desires of the authority Board and or the professional advice of authority staff;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Province be requested to amend the CA Act and or regulations to add a clause of indemnification for the good faith operation of essential flood and erosion control infrastructure and programming and/or issue indemnities under the appropriate Acts and regulations to conservation authorities that are compelled to issue permits due to the new provisions of CA Act and associated Planning Act Minister Zoning Order decisions.

And that the Premier, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister of Finance, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, the

Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the City of Toronto, and all Conservation Authorities be circulated this resolution.

CARRIED

**Presentation by Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks:
Conservation Authorities Act Amendments - Conservation and Source Protection Branch, MECP**

(Minister Jeff Yurek, Chloe Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land and Water Division, Sam Lyon, Manager, Conservation Authority Office and Keley Katona, Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch)

Earlier in the meeting, Minister Yurek advised Council that he had asked Hassaan Bassit (CEO, Conservation Halton) to play a role in chairing a Conservation Authorities Working Group he was creating to help implement changes to conservation authorities.

H. Bassit expressed that he was interested in playing this role but that he was still waiting to see a Terms of Reference and learn more about timing. He did indicate, however, that it was his understanding that the group would consist primarily of conservation authorities.

The collective questioned whether or not this role would be representing the collective. H. Bassit indicated that was not his understanding but that his role would be to keep the meetings moving along. He would not be looking at this as an opportunity to speak publically.

**C.W. #22/20 Moved by: Sandy Levin, Upper Thames Region Conservation Authority
Seconded by: Karan Ras, Credit Valley Conservation**

To support Hassaan Basit's role in chairing the newly created Minister's Working Group.

The MECP presentation is attached to the minutes of the meeting. Council discussed the need for a technical briefing to be provided to conservation authority staff on the amendments made to the Section 28 regulation. MNRF staff agreed to provide the briefing in January.

**C.W. #21/20 Moved by: Lloyd Ferguson, Hamilton Region Conservation Authority
Seconded by: Mike Columbus, Long Point Region Conservation Authority**

THAT the presentation be received.

CARRIED

**Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Collaborative Update
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and Conservation Ontario**

(Keley Katona, Pat Kinch (Manager, Operations and Client Services, MECP) and Deborah Balika, (Source Water Protection Lead, CO))

Deborah Balika, (CO) introduced Pat Kinch, Manager, Strategic Planning and Operational Standards (MECP), Debbie Scanlon, Manager, Source Protection Approvals Unit (MECP) and Wendy Lavendar, Manager Source Protection Planning (MECP). The MECP presentation is attached to the minutes of the meeting.

b. General Manager's Report

C.W. #23/20 Moved by: Ted Smith, Kawartha Conservation
Seconded by: Lin Gibson, Conservation Sudbury

THAT Council receives this report as information.

CARRIED

c. Council Meeting Dates 2021

C.W. #24/20 Moved by: John Wise, Quinte Conservation
Seconded by: Dave Turton, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

THAT the 2021 Conservation Ontario Council meeting schedule be adopted.

CARRIED

d. Budget Status Reports for the period ending October 31, 2020

C.W. #25/20 Moved by: Lin Gibson, Conservation Sudbury
Seconded by: Dave Turton, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

THAT Council receives this report as information.

CARRIED

e. Update on the CO Client Service and Streamlining Initiative and Proposed 2021 Workplan

Leslie Rich (CO) presented an update and the presentation is attached to the minutes.

C.W. #26/20 Moved by: Karen Ras, Credit Valley Conservation
Seconded by: Kawartha Conservation

THAT information on the High Growth CAs Second Interim Report on Section 28 Timelines be received;

THAT Robert Baldwin (LSRCA) be endorsed as a member of the Client Service and Streamlining Initiative Steering Committee;

That Melinda Bessey (LSRCA) be endorsed as a member of the CO Timely Review and Approvals Taskforce;

AND THAT Council endorse the interim 2021 Workplan for the Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative.

CARRIED

f. Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the One Ontario Initiative

Rick Wilson (CO) provided an overview and the presentation is attached to the minutes.

**C.W. #27/20 Moved by: Mike Columbus, Long Point Region Conservation Authority
Seconded by: John Wise, Quinte Conservation**

THAT the proposed “Memorandum of Understanding between Conservation Ontario and the One Ontario Initiative” dated November 30, 2020 be endorsed.

CARRIED

9. Consent Items:

**C.W. #28/20 Moved by: Lin Gibson, Conservation Sudbury
Seconded by: Brian Dougall, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority**

THAT Council approve a consent agenda and endorse the recommendations accompanying Items 9 a-h.

CARRIED

a. New CO Section 28 Regulations Committee Representative

THAT Kellie McCormack (Conservation Halton) be endorsed as a member of the CO Section 28 Regulations Committee

b. Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Extending Grandfathering for Infrastructure Projects and Providing Additional Flexibility for Excess Soil Reuse” (ERO#019-2462)

THAT Conservation Ontario’s comments on “Extending Grandfathering for Infrastructure Projects and Providing Additional Flexibility for Excess Soil Reuse” (ERO#019-2462) submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on November 20, 2020 be endorsed.

c. Conservation Ontario’s comments on “Exempting dams from requiring a permit to take water” (ERO#019-2517)

THAT Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Exempting dams from requiring a permit to take water (ERO#019-2517)” submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on November 17, 2020 be endorsed.

d. Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Proposed amendments to regulations made under the Environmental Protection Act and Ontario Water Resources Act to make modifications to Environmental Activity and Sector Registry requirements and exemptions for low risk short-term water taking activities”

THAT Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Proposed amendments to regulations made under the Environmental Protection Act and Ontario Water Resources Act to make modifications to Environmental Activity and Sector Registry requirements and exemptions for

low risk short-term water taking activities” (ERO#019-2525) submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on November 20, 2020 be endorsed.

- e. Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Proposed Project List for comprehensive environmental assessments under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA)” (ERO#019-2377).

THAT Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Proposed Project List for comprehensive environmental assessments under the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA)” (ERO#019-2377) submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on November 10, 2020 be endorsed.

- f. Conservation Ontario’s comments on “Proposed amendments to the Director’s Technical Rules” under section 107 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*

THAT Conservation Ontario’s comments on “Proposed amendments to the Director’s Technical Rules” under section 107 of the Clean Water Act, 2006 (ERO# 019-2219) submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on November 9, 2020 be endorsed.

- g. Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Proposal to require municipal support for new or increased bottled water takings” (ERO#019-2422) and Schedule 18 of Bill 213, *Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2020*

THAT Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Proposal to require municipal support for new or increased bottled water takings (ERO #019-2422) and Schedule 18 of Bill 213, Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2020 submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on November 17, 2020 be endorsed.

- h. Program Updates

- i. Marketing & Communications Program Update

THAT Council receives this report as information.

- ii. Business Development & Partnerships Report

THAT Council receives this report as information.

- iii. Information Management (IM) Program Update

THAT Council receives this report as information.

- iv. Drinking Water Source Protection Program Update

THAT Council receives this report as information.



Board of Directors Acknowledgment Of Code Of Conduct & Administrative By-Laws

Board Approved Administrative By-Laws – November, 2018

I hereby acknowledge that I have received and read St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Employee Code of Conduct contained in Section 6 of the SCRCA Administrative By-Laws and that I am fully aware of its terms. I also agree to read and comply with all policies adopted by St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

I understand that any breach, or alleged breach, of the Code of Conduct shall be investigated in accordance with the Enforcement of By-laws and Policies procedure outlined or referred to in the Authority's Administrative By-law.

I understand that St. Clair Region Conservation Authority from time to time may issue policies which also govern member conduct. I confirm that I will comply with all provisions of the Code of Conduct and adopted policies.

Board Member Name: _____

Board Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

February 11, 2021

The 2021 St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Nominating Committee meeting was held remotely on the above date, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Present: Terry Burrell
Joe Faas, Authority Chair
Larry Gordon, Authority Vice-Chair
Aaron Hall
Betty Ann MacKinnon
Regrets: Lorie Scott
Staff: Ashley Fletcher, Secretary-Clerk
Brian McDougall, General Manager
Chris Durand, Manager of IT/ GIS

NC-21-01

Burrell – Hall

“That Larry Gordon be chair of the Nominating Committee for 2021.”

CARRIED

NC-21-02

Burrell – MacKinnon

“That the attached 2021 Nominating Committee report be recommended to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.”

CARRIED

NC-21-03

Gordon – Hall

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Committee Chairman

2021 Nominating Committee Report

Low Water Response Committee

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Terry Burrell | 2. Aaron Hall |
| 3. Mark McGill | 4. Authority Chair |
| 5. Authority Vice- Chair | |

Executive Committee

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Terry Burrell | 2. Larry Gordon |
| 3. Frank Kennes | 4. Brad Loosley |
| 5. Betty Ann MacKinnon | 6. Mark McGill |
| 7. Steve Miller | 8. 2021 Authority Chair |
| 9. 2021 Authority Vice-Chair | |

Other Authority Committees (membership as per Administration Regulations)

Flood Action Committee

1. Authority Chair
2. Authority Vice-Chair
3. Joe Faas (Director from Chatham-Kent representing Dresden)
4. Aaron Hall (Director from Chatham-Kent representing Wallaceburg)
5. Steve Miller or Pat Brown (Director from St. Clair Township)

Western Fair Association

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Frank Kennes | 2. Betty Ann MacKinnon |
|-----------------|------------------------|

Watershed Management Plan Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Steve Miller
(Non-point Source) | 2. Terry Burrell
(Point Source) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Planning Policy Procedural Manual and Technical Guidelines Committee

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. John Brennan | 2. Pat Brown |
| 3. Terry Burrell | 4. Betty Ann MacKinnon |
| 5. 2020 Chair | 6. 2021 Vice-Chair |

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 15, 2021
Submitted by: Brian McDougall

Item 15.1

Subject: General Manager's Report

Recommendation:

- That this report be accepted as an update

Municipal Forum with Conservation Authorities – Hosted by Lambton County

- An update regarding the proposed forum was provided to the Executive Committee and that information is contained with the Executive Committee Minutes

Legislative Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) Begin To Be Proclaimed

- The following email and Frequently Asked Questions were received from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
- Comments have been inserted to clarify the impacts on SCRCA

From: ca.office (MECP) [mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca]

Sent: February 5, 2021 10:46 AM

Subject: Proclamation of Provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act

Good morning,

With the amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (“CAA”) in Bill 229, the *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020*, now passed by the Legislature, the government has made a series of substantive amendments to the CAA in 2017, 2019 and in 2020, resulting in a number of un-proclaimed provisions in the CAA.

On February 2, 2021, some specific provisions in the CAA were proclaimed to initiate changes to conservation authority governance, for consistency in administration, transparency and financial accountability, as well as increased municipal and provincial oversight of conservation authority operations. These provisions are not tied to any specific regulations, and relate only to provisions from the 2019 and 2020 CAA amendments. Specifically, these include:

- Government requirements (e.g. Non-derogation provision clarifying that nothing in the CAA is intended to affect constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights);
- Provisions related to conservation authority governance (e.g. changes to the conservation authority municipal membership);
- Minister’s powers (e.g., enabling the Minister to issue a binding directive to a conservation authority following an investigation); and
- Housekeeping amendments.

Please refer to the [CAA](#) on e-Laws for a complete list of the provisions that are now in force.

We are proposing that the remaining un-proclaimed provisions be proclaimed in two further stages over the coming months to align with the roll out of proposed regulations and policy. These include:

- i) Provisions related to natural hazard management, mandatory programs and services, community advisory boards, the agreements and transition period, and fees.
- ii) Provisions related to municipal levies, and standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs and services.

It is anticipated that Item i) provisions may be proclaimed as early as April, while Item ii) provisions may be proclaimed as early as June (possibly in concert with the release of the regulations currently being reviewed with the Conservation Authority Working Group)

We have received a number of questions about the implications of certain provisions coming into force, and particularly those related to the composition of conservation authority membership. I can assure you that we are moving forward with a smooth transition to the new framework. Please refer to the attached FAQ for critical information on the implementation of these new measures.

My team in the Conservation Authority Office are available to answer any questions that you may have about the provisions that are now in effect as a result of the stage 1 proclamation. Please do not hesitate to contact us at ca.office@ontario.ca.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will be in touch at a future date to notify you of the proclamation of the remaining provisions.

I look forward to continuing to work with you through our upcoming consultations on the new regulatory proposals under the CAA to ensure we put conservation authorities in the best position possible to be able to deliver on their core mandate.

Sincerely,

Keley Katona
 Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch
 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Implications of Proclamation of Various Provisions: Frequently Asked Questions

Implications of Proclamation of Various Provisions: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 2021/02/08

1. Do participating municipalities have to appoint new members to conservation authorities now in order to meet the 70% requirement?

Immediate action is not required on the part of conservation authorities or by municipalities related to the provision requiring 70% of municipally appointed members be elected officials.

Current members should complete the remaining duration of their appointments. As new members are appointed, participating municipalities should be appointing members in a way that complies with this new requirement. A participating

municipality may also apply to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks requesting an exception to this 70% requirement. The request should include the rationale for the request, and what proportion of members the municipality is proposing to be elected officials. Requests should be sent to minister.mecp@ontario.ca.

SCRCA does not have to take any actions at this time.

At the completion of their current appointments, member municipalities will be required to appoint elected officials to the SCRCA Board of Directors.

2. Does a conservation authority need to immediately initiate the term limits of chair/vice-chairs and rotate amongst participating municipalities?

Immediate action is not necessarily required.

Implementation of this provision could begin at the first meeting held this year (following the proclamation date of February 2, 2021), or at such other meeting as may be specified by the authority's by-laws. A participating municipality or conservation authority may also apply to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks requesting an exception to the term limit or rotation. The request should include the alternative approach being proposed, and the rationale for the request. Requests should be sent to minister.mecp@ontario.ca.

Generally it has been interpreted that the term limits come into effect at the Annual General Meeting – the Chair & Vice Chair elected February 25, 2021 will be subject to these term limits. Chair and Vice Chair must be elected annually and may only serve 2 consecutive terms. Chairs and Vice Chairs shall not be succeeded by other representatives of their municipality.

Implications of Proclamation of Various Provisions: Frequently Asked Questions

3. When should conservation authorities transition to the use of generally accepted accounting principles?

If not **already** the **practice**, conservation authorities will transition to the use of generally accepted accounting principles for local government and ensure that key conservation authority documents are made available to the public (i.e., minutes of authority or executive committee meetings, auditor reports) following proclamation of these provisions on February 2, 2021.

SCRCA uses generally accepted accounting principles. Meeting minutes and audited statements are made available on the SCRCA website.

4. When do copies of municipal member agreements need to be sent to the Minister and made public?

Please submit any existing agreements (on the number of total conservation authority members and number of members per participating municipality in a conservation authority) to the Minister within 60 days of February 2, 2021 (i.e., by April 3, 2021).

If no such agreement is in place as of February 2, 2021, but such an agreement is entered into at a future date, please provide it to the Minister within 60 days of executing the agreement. These agreements should also be made available to the public through the conservation authority's website or other appropriate means within these same timelines.

SCRCA bases the number of members representing each municipality based on population as identified in the CAA. Agreements for shared representation such as Enniskillen / Oil Springs and Southwest Middlesex / Newbury will be provided to the Minister either through agreement or Council resolutions.

5. Which provisions of the *Conservation Authorities Act (CAA)* are you proclaiming in his first phase?

Provisions in the CAA that come into effect February 2, 2021, as part of this first phase include:

Housekeeping Amendments

- Clarifying "Minister" means the Minister of the of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (rather than the Minister of the Natural Resources and Forestry) (Bill 108, 2019).
- Administrative change by striking out "of the Environment" from "Minister of the Environment" (in the section on CA dissolutions – clause 13.1(6)(c)) (Bill 108, 2019).
- Remove a legislative date (now stale) for a past transition period for conservation authorities (CAs) to up-date administrative by-laws (Bill 229, 2020).

Implications of Proclamation of Various Provisions: Frequently Asked Questions

Government Requirements

- Non-derogation provision to recognize existing Aboriginal or treaty rights (Bill 229, 2020).
- Enable the Minister to delegate his or her powers to an employee of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Bill 229, 2020).

Proposed Updates to the SCRCA Administrative Bylaws will be placed on the Agenda for the April 2021 Board meeting and possibly additional meetings in 2021 if required as a result of further proclamations.

Governance

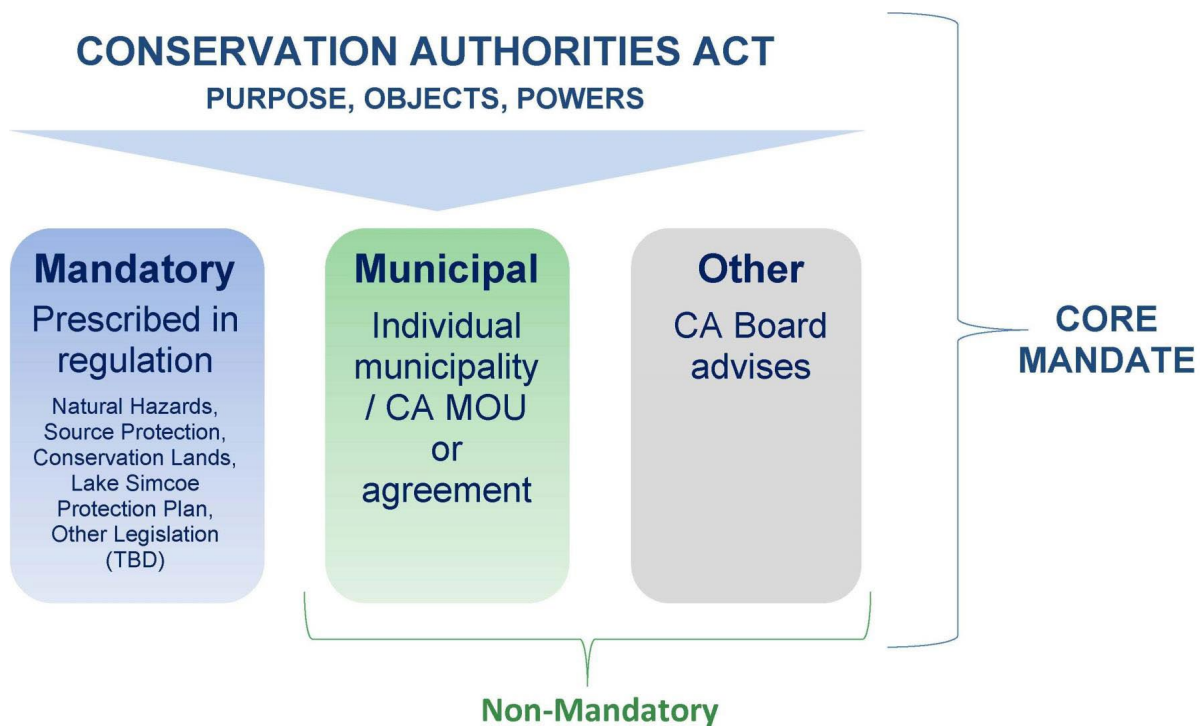
- Changes to the CA municipal membership provisions including requiring 70 per cent of municipally appointed members to be elected officials with provision for the Minister to permit less than 70 per cent on application by a participating municipality (Bill 229, 2020).
- Requiring copies of municipal member agreements on number of total CA members agreed upon and numbers per participating municipality in a CA agreed upon, to be made public and provided to the Minister (Bill 229, 2020).
- Removal of the regulation making authority regarding the composition of the CA (Bill 229, 2020).
- Minister's power to appoint a member from the agricultural sector with limitations added to the member's voting rights (Bill 229, 2020).
- Limiting the term of the chair/vice-chair and rotating of the chair/vice-chair among a CA's participating municipalities with provision for the Minister to permit an exception to these requirements upon application of the CA or participating municipality. If an exception is granted, this would allow a chair/vice-chair to hold office for more than one year or two terms, or a member to succeed an outgoing chair, vice-chair, appointed from the same participating municipality (Bill 229, 2020).
- Minor amendments to the 'powers of authorities': integrating the CA power to "cause research to be done" with the CA power to "study and investigate the watershed" in order to support the programs and services the CA delivers; to require consent of the occupant or owner of the land before a CA staff can enter the land for the purpose of a CA project (such as land surveying); and to remove the power of a CA to expropriate land (Bill 229, 2020).
- Require CAs to follow generally accepted accounting principles for local governments, make key documents (annual audit, meeting agendas and minutes and member agreements) available to the public (Bill 229, 2020).

Minister's Power

- Enable the Minister to issue a binding directive to a CA following an investigation (Bill 229, 2020).
- Enable the province, upon recommendation by the Minister, to appoint a temporary administrator to assume control of a CA's operations following an investigation or the issuance of a binding directive, if the directive is not followed. Immunity is provided for the administrator (Bill 229, 2020).

Moving Forward

- MECP is continuing on with consultations on its regulatory and policy proposals in two phases, mandatory program and services (phase 1) and municipal levy (phase 2)
- The Conservation Authority Working Group is meeting biweekly to assist with this review
- A transition period will be established for Authorities and Municipalities to enter into agreements for municipal funding of non-mandatory programs and services
- During this transition period, Authorities will develop and implement transition plans (ex. Prepare an inventory of programs and services, inform municipalities of the required agreement, consult with municipalities regarding the inventory, identify next steps to be taken to enter into agreements with municipalities for funding on non-mandatory program and services
- MECP is looking to have these agreements implemented to be included in the 2022 Authority Budget, this would present a significant challenge for SCRCA and would be all but impossible for some of the Golden Horseshoe Conservation Authorities
- One additional item that is anticipated to be spelled out in the regulations is an Advisory Committee
 - The Advisory Committee could include Stake Holders, Partners, Community Residents, etc. to provide community information, disseminate information and support Authority programs and services
- The following graphic continues to provide the best summation of Conservation Authority Mandate



Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 11, 2021
Submitted by: Ashley Fletcher

Item 16.1 (a)

Subject: Business Arising

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 a later date

Regarding BD-20-87

It is requested that staff provide a report outlining any legislative and regulatory changes that are brought forward from Parliament including implications to the 2021 budget.

Ongoing

Refer to Item 15.1

Regarding BD-20-109

Directors request a more fulsome report and/ or a presentation to better understand the Regulations as they relate to the Drainage Act.

Deferred to a later date

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 7, 2021
Submitted by: Greg Wilcox

Item 16.1 (b)

Subject: Conservation Areas Update

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas report dated February 7, 2021.

Background:

- The Conservation Authority owns 15 conservation areas
- Seven are managed by the local municipality and 8 are operated by the Conservation Authority
- Three of the eight CAs 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
- Surplus Revenues from the campgrounds are held in reserve to fund capital upgrades in the campgrounds
- The 2021 camping season is anticipated to run from May 1 to October 17

Campgrounds Update:

- Due to Covid-19, adjacent transient campsites can not be operated at the same time, approximately 50% of SCRCA's transient campsites are available for reservation
- On-line transient campsite reservations opened January 11, 2021 (second year for the on-line reservation system)
- During the first 20 days of reservations, 2021 payments for transient camping totalled \$69,940 down from \$99,582 in 2020
- All seasonal campsites are reserved for the 2021 season
- It is unknown at this time if pools will be in operation for the 2021 season
- Warwick CA had approximately 15 trailers and/or sheds broken into in December. OPP investigated and all site occupants were contacted. All campers at Warwick were notified of the situation by email or Facebook. Staff continue to patrol the property on a 1-2 week basis.
- The entry gate at AW Campbell CA was damaged when a suspect of a high speed pursuit crashed through them in January. OPP apprehended the suspect

and are submitting the cost of the damages to the courts in an effort to have the Authority reimbursed.

Increased Day Use of Conservation Areas:

- Staff have observed a considerable increase in the day use of SCRCA’s conservation areas during the pandemic
- Increased CA use has continued into the winter
- Increased garbage collection has been required at some properties this winter
- Parking lots are not sufficient to handle all parking requirements on busy days (parking on grass, along laneways, and along the road)
- During the stay at home order hockey rinks have not been accessible to the public, skating on outdoor ponds/reservoirs is occurring at many of SCRCA’s Conservation areas (cautionary signage posted)

Highland Glen Study Update:

- A detailed site inspection has been carried out by AECOM
- Site survey work has been completed by TRUELINE Services Inc.; a bathymetric survey is yet to be completed
- AECOM has provided a draft copy of a report on the current status of the facility including some preliminary concepts for repair/upgrade
- The report identifies significant damages to almost all structural components of the facility (retaining walls, break walls, ramp, etc.)

Suggested Short Term Solution to Open the Boat Ramp

Recommended Repair Option	Estimated Cost
Installation of modular floating walkway along the boat ramp	\$10,000
Installation of riprap along the bank directly east of the boat ramp	\$10,000
Installation of a floating breakwater in place of the missing groyne wall	\$50,000
Installation of a removable aluminum stairway for beach access	\$10,000

Long Term

- Recommendations still being developed
- Initial discussions indicate replacement of a number of structures
- In addition, an extension to the curtain wall and new shoreline protection structures
- Significant costs will be incurred to restore and protect the boat launch



Grant Proposals:

- Grant proposal submitted to the Great Lakes Local Action Fund requesting funding to rebuild over 500' of boardwalk at Coldstream CA and for habitat creation along the East branch of the Sydenham River
- Grant proposal submitted to the Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk to complete a Strathroy reservoir and dam decommissioning Class Environmental Assessment. This 2 year project would investigate alternatives to the dam and reservoir that would mitigate the negative environmental impacts that the dam/ reservoir have on the Sydenham River.

Conservation Lands Clerk JCP Position

- This position was filled in November by Kandyce Affleck
- Position focus is on developing a new template and guidance document for Conservation Area Property Management Plans
- Many Conservation Area Management Plans require updating
- Kandyce has also assisted with some field work and has worked on the updated seasonal camping policies

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 11, 2021
Submitted by: Emily De Cloet

Item 16.1 (c)

Subject: Watershed Conditions Update

Recommendation:

That the following watershed conditions be recognized:

- Flood risk is high due to the ice jam on the St. Clair River
- Sydenham River at Wallaceburg frozen, with 60 cm freeboard
- Forecasts indicate possibility of near or above record-high water levels on Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair in coming months
- Short-term precipitation average is well below normal values, long-term averages near normal

Background:

St. Clair River Ice Jam

Above seasonal temperatures and northerly winds resulted in free-floating ice from Lake Huron to move into and accumulate in the lower reaches of the St. Clair River the week of February 1, 2021, resulting in an ice jam and elevated water levels in the region of the St. Clair Flats and Port Lambton.

Canadian and U.S. Coast Guard vessels have been conducting daily ice breaking operations in an effort to clear the jam, however recent below-normal air temperatures have resulted in ice formation over Lake St. Clair, thereby halting ice breaking efforts due to the inability of ice to be cleared and flushed out of the river. As of this report, the ice jam remains intact and the flood risk in the area remains high.

Water Levels

Levels across the Sydenham River are currently stable and below bankfull thresholds. The river in the area of Wallaceburg is fully frozen, with levels affording approximately 60 cm of freeboard.

Water level data for the surrounding Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair show water levels in December 2020 were similar to those in 2019, yet were above average compared to longstanding periods of record (Figure 1).

Water level forecasts by Fisheries and Oceans Canada indicate the potential for levels to meet or exceed record highs on Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie over the next six months, should above normal climate conditions materialize.

December 2020	Lake Huron	Lake St. Clair	Lake Erie
Mean for Month (Preliminary Data)	177.14	175.63	174.65
Mean for Month Last Year	177.25	175.68	174.68
Change	-0.11	-0.05	-0.03
Mean for Month, Last 10 years	176.39	175.10	174.23
Change Compared to Current	0.75	0.53	0.42
Mean for Month, All Time	176.35	174.93	174.01
Change Compared to Current	0.79	0.70	0.64
Statistics for Period of Record			
Maximum Monthly Mean / Year	177.26	175.80	174.89
	1986	1986	1986
Change Compared to Current	-0.12	-0.17	-0.24
Minimum Monthly Mean / Year	175.61	174.24	173.19
	2012	1964	1934
Change Compared to Current	1.53	1.39	1.46
Next Month Estimate			
Probable Mean for Next Month	177.10	175.63	174.65
Next Month Compared to Current	-0.04	0.00	0.00

Figure 1: Great Lakes water level statistics. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2021.

Precipitation

Recent below-normal precipitation has resulted in regional averages significantly below the normal three-month average, however a wet August which saw double the normal precipitation has brought regional averages for both the past six and twelve months to near normal (Table 1).

Table 1: Precipitation summary for the region and surrounding areas. Government of Canada, 2021.

Precipitation (mm)	Sarnia		Strathroy		London		Windsor	
Last Quarter	Actual	Normal	Actual	Normal	Actual	Normal	Actual	Normal
November	66	76.4	82	94.5	60.8	91.1	66.5	75.5
December	45.3	68	90.4	92.4	77.7	88.6	25.5	74.7
January	28.9	50.1	35.8	75.3	37.2	74.2	19.9	57.6
Averages								
last 3 month totals	140.2	194.5	208.2	262.2	175.7	253.9	111.9	207.8
last 3 month % of normal	72.1%		79.4%		69.2%		53.8%	
regional average	68.6%							
last 6 month totals	428.5	431.6	511.8	504.9	499	514.5	363.3	448.6
last 6 month % of normal	99.3%		101.4%		97.0%		81.0%	
regional average	94.7%							
last 12 month totals	749.7	846.8	874	945.1	856.6	987	744.8	918.4
last 12 month % of normal	88.5%		92.5%		86.8%		81.1%	
regional average	87.2%							

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 11, 2021
Submitted by: Girish Sankar

Item 16.1 (d)

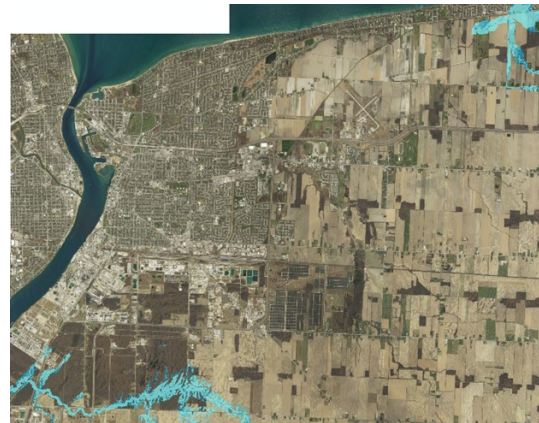
Subject: NDMP Floodplain mapping work update

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 11, 2021 on the update to the floodplain mapping project.

Background:

- SCRCA staff have completed QA/QC of all survey data, survey work included surveying cross-sections of creek and measuring culverts and bridges
- This floodplain mapping exercise will include the 100 year and regional flood lines for the SCRCA watershed
- Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modelling has been completed and draft flood lines have been developed by Riggs Engineering
- Quality control of the draft flood lines is being undertaken by Riggs Engineering.
- Staff are currently reviewing the draft flood lines and identifying data gaps
- Riggs Engineering is in the process of scheduling a training session for floodplain mapping with SCRCA and municipal staff
- New flood lines are expected to be available by June 2021.



QC of floodplain mapping: Data gaps and Missing information

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021 **Item 16.1 (e)**
Report Date: February 11, 2021
Submitted by: Girish Sankar and Mike Moroney

Subject: Engineering and Design Plan for Management of Contaminated Sediment in the St. Clair River – Work Underway

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors support the on-going project work so that an engineering and design plan for the management of the contaminated sediment can subsequently be completed as planned.

Background:

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

Following a competitive procurement process, the SCRCA retained Parsons Inc. in August 2019 to prepare the engineering and design plan. Shortly afterwards, work on the plan commenced that included a field component. Field activities were conducted in fall, 2019; summer, 2020 and fall, 2020 and involved the following:

- Water velocity measurements and the sampling of surface sediment to assess sediment stability,
- The collection of a number of shallow sediment samples and deep core sediment samples to measure mercury concentrations at various depths,
- The use of an underwater camera to assess the condition of structures in certain areas
- A bathymetry survey.

Additional health and safety measures were incorporated to address provincial and federal requirements related to COVID-19.

Project Update:

The consultant made a presentation to the Sediment Management Oversight Committee in November, 2020, summarizing the results of the most recent sediment sampling, including how it compared to historical results.

Additional presentations were made to the Oversight Committee in December, 2020 and January, 2021 after further analysis of the sampling data. Discussions are underway in regard to the recommended path forward to address the contaminated sediment based on the results of the sampling.

The progress of the consultant's work is being tracked against key deliverables, costs and timelines. The SCRCA has requested submission of a revised project schedule from Parsons to confirm how the additional field sampling work and delays due to COVID-19 will impact the project completion date.

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 2, 2021
Submitted by: Sarah Hodgkiss, Laura Biancolin

Item 16.1 (f)

Subject: Planning Activity Summary

A summary of staff activity related to Municipal Plan Input and Review is presented below. This report covers the period from November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021.

Municipal Plan Input and Review			
File Reference	Location	Municipality	Municipal File
PL#2019-109	1425 Melwood Drive	Adelaide-Metcalfe	OPA01-2020 Z02-2020
PL#2020-0068	4965 Walkers Drive	Adelaide-Metcalfe	B05-2020
PL#2020-0010	9912 Oldfield Line	Chatham-Kent	B01-20
PL#2020-0078	26887 Baldoon Road	Chatham-Kent	B-95/20 & B-99/20
PL#2020-0084	26074 St. Clair Road & 8581 Dover Centre	Chatham-Kent	B-82/20, B-83/20, B-84/20 and B-91/20 A-50/20
PL#2021-0008	431 Wallace St, Wallaceburg	Chatham-Kent	
PL#2021-0011	South of Isaac St, East of Db St and north of Camden St	Chatham-Kent	
PL#2018-110	First Ave	Enniskillen	
PL#2018-111	Country View Drive	Enniskillen	38T-07001
PL#2020-0056	3263 Petrolia Line	Enniskillen	58 of 2015 B005-20
PL#2020-0022	9338 West Ipperwash Road	Lambton Shores	ZO-08/2020
PL#2020-0055	Freeman Street	Lambton Shores	
PL#2020-0076	Beachwood Ave.	Lambton Shores	
PL#2020-0082	6769 and 6771 East Parkway Dr, Ipperwash	Lambton Shores	ZO-15/2020
PL#2021-0007	Ipperwash Ansi	Lambton Shores	
PL#2018-042	Part Lot 8, Concession 8	Middlesex Centre	OPA 52 ZBA-17-2020 39T-MC2003
PL#2018-023	Ilderton Road	77 Middlesex Centre	39T-MC1701

PL#2019-008	Timberwalk Trail	Middlesex Centre	ZBA 03 2019 39T-MC1901
PL#2019-080	10283 Ilderton Road	Middlesex Centre	OPA 51 ZBA-16-2020 39T-MC2002
PL#2020-0073	10284 Ilderton Road, Coldstream	Middlesex Centre	
PL#2020-0077	Ilderton Road and Bowling Green	Middlesex Centre	39T-MC1701
PL#2021-0006	10606 Ilderton Road	Middlesex Centre	
PL#2018-100	Part Lot 11, Concession 11	Petrolia	
PL#2019-112	546 Maude Street	Petrolia	
PL#2020-0070	First Ave and Fourth St	Petrolia	
PL#2018-109	North of 6810 King Street	Plympton-Wyoming	38T-20001
PL#2018-045	5706 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	OPA 39 ZBA16/2016 38T-18005
PL#2018-055	3424 Egremont Road	Plympton-Wyoming	2020 11 23 38T-18003
PL#2018-022	Queen Street	Plympton-Wyoming	51-2018 38T-18004 B01-2018, B01-2020
PL#2018-113	3096 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	OPA 41
PL#2019-102	Fleming & Queen Street	Plympton-Wyoming	38T-19004
PL#2020-0001	3368 London Line	Plympton-Wyoming	OPA 41
PL#2020-0042	3383 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	
PL#2020-0043	Lakeshore and Flemming Road	Plympton-Wyoming	
PL#2020-0074	Bonnie Doone Road & Queen Street	Plympton-Wyoming	
PL#2020-0075	4386 Confederation Line	Plympton-Wyoming	OPA 53
PL#2020-0086	3096 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	
PL#2018-080	1540 Venetian Boulevard	Point Edward	B01-2018, B02-2019, B03-2019
PL#2019-115	1600 Venetian Blvd	Point Edward	
PL#2020-0079	1540 Venetian Blvd	Point Edward	
PL#2020-0081	Venetian Blvd	Point Edward	
PL#2018-084	2024 London Line	Sarnia	
PL#2018-014	834 Lakeshore Road	Sarnia	OPA 12
PL#2019-076	21 Ube Drive	Sarnia	
PL#2019-091	2950 Sunset Blvd	Sarnia	B28/2019

PL#2019-108	Modeland Road and Michigan Ave	Sarnia	SD2-2009 A18-20 and A32-20
PL#2020-0014	6068 Blackwell Sideroad	Sarnia	
PL#2020-0017	1612 London Line	Sarnia	B10 2020
PL#2020-0035	L'heritage Drive, westerly end	Sarnia	OPA#22 ZBA 4-2020- 85 of 2002
PL#2020-0037	Modeland Rd and Michigan Ave, Sarnia	Sarnia	OPA#27 No. 13-2020- 85 SD2-2020
PL#2020-0060	2054 Lakeshore Road, Sarnia	Sarnia	A35/2020
PL#2020-0072	Development Area 2	Sarnia	
PL#2020-0083	North Severance (4953 Kimball Road)	Sarnia	
PL#2021-0002	1565 Colborne Road	Sarnia	A3-2021
PL#2020-0059	23683 McArthur Road	Southwest Middlesex	B9-2020
PL#2020-0069	1 Dundas St, Newbury	Southwest Middlesex	B-1-2020
PL#2020-0080	5733 Falconbridge Dr	Southwest Middlesex	P11-2020 B11-2020
PL#2018-043	Hill Street (Pt Lt 27, Con 11)	St. Clair	38T-18002
PL#2019-098	Indian Road & St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair	
PL#2020-0038	1378 Rokeby Line	St. Clair	B-04-20
PL#2020-0048	4166 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair	B-07-2020
PL#2020-0062	142 West Ward Line, Port Lambton	St. Clair	B-10-20
PL#2020-0063	1895 Courtright Line, Bridgen	St. Clair	B-13-20
PL#2020-0064	4520 St. Clair Parkway, Port Lambton	St. Clair	A-25-20
PL#2020-0071	681 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair	
PL#2020-0085	403 LaSalle Line	St. Clair	
PL#2021-0004	2975 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair	A-31-20
PL#2021-0005	935 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair	A-01-21
PL#2021-0014	637 St.Clair Parkway	St. Clair	
PL#2018-103	Second Street	Strathroy-Caradoc	OPA1-2019
PL#2018-058	22701 & 22681 Adelaide Road	Strathroy-Caradoc	ZBA01-2019 39T-SC- CDM1901 B10/2018, B11/2018
PL#2019-068	Queen St and Glendon Dr Mount Brydges	Strathroy-Caradoc	ZBA02-2020 39T- SC2001

PL#2021-0001	7870 Falconbridge Drive, Strathroy	Strathroy-Caradoc	
PL#2020-0025	7794 Confederation Line	Warwick	B-04-20
PL#2021-0003	6190 George St	Warwick	121 of 2012
Total Plan Review Items: 75			

Environmental Assessments

File Reference	Location	Municipality
EA#2020-018		
EA#2019-006	Petrolia	Petrolia
EA#2020-008	402 & Camlachie Road	Plympton-Wyoming
EA#2020-019	Oil Springs Line to Bickford Line, St Clair Township	St. Clair
EA#2020-017	5768 Nauvoo Rd, Watford	Warwick
Total Environmental Assessments: 5		

Legal Inquiries

File Reference	Location	Municipality
LL#2020-0038	285 Albert Street	St. Clair
LL#2020-0040	4703 Riverside Drive	St. Clair
LL#2021-0001	224 West Holt Line	St. Clair
LL#2021-0005	1872 Kimball Road	St. Clair
LL#2020-0039	6652 Calvert Drive	Strathroy-Caradoc
LL#2020-0041	35 Pearson Ave	Strathroy-Caradoc
LL#2021-0002	Albert Street / Napperton	Strathroy-Caradoc
LL#2021-0003	92 Centre Street West	Strathroy-Caradoc
LL#2021-0004	Albert Street / Napperton	Strathroy-Caradoc
LL#2021-0006	235 Front Street East	Strathroy-Caradoc
Total Legal Inquiries: 10		

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 2, 2021
Submitted by: Melissa Deisley, Jeff Vlasman, Jordan Fuller, Kelli Smith

Item 16.1 (g)

Subject: Regulations Activity Summary

A summary of staff activity related to the Conservation Authority's *Development, Interference of Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation* (Ontario Regulation 171/06 under Ontario Regulation 97/04) is presented below. This report covers the period from November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021.

Regulations Permits Issued

Application #	Location	Municipality	Proposal	Submitted	Issued	Days
R#2021-0019	2109 Katesville Drive, Kerwood	Adelaide-Metcalf	Dig	Jan-14	Jan-29	15
R#2020-0188	12631 Splinter Line	Chatham-Kent	Addition to existing dwelling	Nov-25	Nov-26	1
R#2020-0297	15 Keller Street, Mitchells Bay	Chatham-Kent	Construction of a new storage shed/ shop	Sep-22	Dec-10	79
R#2020-0341	26456 Richmond Road, Dover Centre	Chatham-Kent	New Foundation/addition	Dec-11	Dec-11	1
R#2020-0528	5010 Dufferin Ave, Wallaceburg	Chatham-Kent	10' by 20' shed	Dec-19	Jan-29	41
R#2020-0546	445 Murray St, Wallaceburg	Chatham-Kent	Permit to renovate gas station	Jan-22	Jan-29	7
R#2020-0550	432 Agnes Street, Wallaceburg	Chatham-Kent	New Foundation/Dwelling	Oct-08	Nov-24	47
R#2020-0575	29 Second St	Chatham-Kent	Building garage	Nov-30	Nov-30	1
R#2020-0576	11076 Base Line, Dresden	Chatham-Kent	Construct a bunkhouse	Nov-02	Nov-06	4
R#2020-0627	836 Wallace Street	Chatham-Kent	New pre-fabricated shed.	Dec-18	Dec-18	1

R#2020-0649	9562 Baseline Road	Chatham-Kent	Addition to existing detached garage.	Dec-17	Jan-29	43
R#2020-0669	37 Reaume Ave	Chatham-Kent	Addition	Oct-21	Dec-17	57
R#2020-0712	19 Avondale Court	Chatham-Kent	New garage.	Jan-04	Jan-21	17
R#2020-0738	Base Line	Chatham-Kent	Drilling to provide fibre optic internet.	Jan-07	Jan-07	1
R#2020-0739	North Street	Chatham-Kent	Drilling for fibre optic internet.	Jan-07	Jan-07	1
R#2020-0820	GWD 33450	Chatham-Kent	Integrity dig.	Dec-17	Jan-06	20
R#2021-0021	14979 Main Line, Bothwell	Chatham-Kent	Installation of conduit	Jan-14	Jan-29	15
R#2020-0710	5693 Bentpath Line	Dawn-Euphemia	New build.	Dec-09	Dec-09	1
R#2020-0660	3990 Petrolia Line	Enniskillen	Construct shed 40x40, and 40x16 lean-to.	Dec-10	Dec-10	1
R#2020-0004	9625 Ipperwash Road	Lambton Shores	Construction of Shop	Oct-28	Nov-05	8
R#2020-0622	6415 Robert Ave, Lambton Shores	Lambton Shores	Addition	Nov-17	Nov-20	3
R#2020-0638	5726 Lakeshore Road	Lambton Shores	Installation of HDPE and fiber optics.	Oct-20	Nov-27	38
R#2020-0639	6262 Lakeshore Road	Lambton Shores	Installation od HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Oct-20	Nov-27	38
R#2020-0640	5907 Lakeshore Road	Lambton Shores	Installation of HDPE and fiber optics.	Oct-20	Nov-27	38
R#2020-0641	5958 Lakeshore Road	Lambton Shores	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Oct-20	Nov-27	38
R#2020-0642	6109 Lakeshore Road	Lambton Shores	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Oct-20	Nov-27	38
R#2020-0643	6602 Lakeshore Road	Lambton Shores	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Oct-20	Nov-27	38

R#2020-0644	6646 Lakeshore Road	Lambton Shores	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Oct-20	Nov-27	38
R#2020-0645	7042 Lakeshore Road	Lambton Shores	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Oct-20	Nov-27	38
R#2020-0655	5276 Cliff Road	Lambton Shores	Shoreline repair.	Dec-17	Jan-04	18
R#2020-0656	5284 Cliff Road	Lambton Shores	Shoreline repair.	Dec-17	Jan-04	18
R#2020-0658	5280 Cliff Road	Lambton Shores	Shoreline repair.	Dec-17	Jan-04	18
R#2020-0661	8739 Freeman Street	Lambton Shores	Construction of single family home with attached garage.	Dec-01	Dec-02	1
R#2020-0542	3232 Devonshire Rd	Plympton-Wyoming	Second storey addition	Dec-18	Jan-05	18
R#2020-0621	4274 Bluepoint Drive	Plympton-Wyoming	Addition to the front of the house.	Nov-09	Nov-09	1
R#2020-0823	4868 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Jan-08	Jan-08	1
R#2020-0824	4930 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Jan-08	Jan-08	1
R#2020-0826	5074 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Jan-08	Jan-08	1
R#2020-0828	5346 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Jan-08	Jan-08	1
R#2020-0829	8011 Hillsboro Road	Plympton-Wyoming	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Jan-08	Jan-08	1
R#2020-0830	8091 Hillsboro Road	Plympton-Wyoming	Installation of HDPE pipe and fiber Optics.	Jan-08	Jan-08	1
R#2020-0422	427-5600 Blackwell Side Road	Sarnia	wish to enclose existing deck at SE corner of existing dwelling to create a 83 sunroom	Dec-07	Dec-08	1

R#2020-0553	760 Tudor Close West	Sarnia	Groyne repair	Dec-17	Dec-17	1
R#2020-0562	1582 Lakeshore Rd	Sarnia	Groyne repair	Sep-16	Dec-17	92
R#2020-0631	Part of Lot 7-7, Range 3	Sarnia	Integrity dig GW 327	Oct-06	Nov-10	35
R#2020-0632	Part of River Lot 23	Sarnia	Integrity dig	Oct-06	Nov-10	35
R#2020-0700	1500 Old Post Road	Sarnia	Addition	Nov-20	Nov-25	5
R#2020-0720	2271 & 2273 Goldie Lane, Sarnia	Sarnia	Like for like seawall replacement	Nov-09	Nov-09	1
R#2020-0721	1000 Lake Chipican Drive, Sarnia	Sarnia	Remove tree stump and extend groyne landward	Nov-10	Nov-10	1
R#2020-0729	2054 Lakeshore Road	Sarnia	New garage.	Dec-03	Dec-09	6
R#2020-0732	1010 Plank Road	Sarnia	Installing battery energy storage system.	Nov-17	Dec-22	35
R#2020-0572	4724 Riverside Drive	St. Clair	New build	Jan-04	Jan-05	1
R#2020-0662	4486 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair	Shoreline repair.	Dec-03	Jan-07	35
R#2020-0663	4488 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair	Shoreline repairs.	Dec-03	Jan-07	35
R#2020-0725	4520 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair	New garage.	Nov-16	Nov-17	1
R#2020-0817	GWD 2900	St. Clair	Integrity dig.	Dec-17	Jan-06	20
R#2020-0818	GWD 2980	St. Clair	Integrity dig.	Dec-17	Jan-06	20
R#2020-0819	GWD 14650	St. Clair	Integrity Dig.	Dec-17	Jan-06	20
R#2020-0025	7162, 6939, 6774 Calvert Drive	Strathroy-Caradoc	Directional boring 2x50mm HDPE	Dec-09	Jan-29	51
R#2020-0480	7030 Calvert Drive, Strathroy	Strathroy-Caradoc	Tear down/rebuild	Jan-13	Jan-19	6
Total Permits Issued: 60		Average Number of Days to Issue for this Period: 19.15				

Regulations Inquiries

FileReference	Municipality	Location
R#2020-0368		unknown
R#2019-403	Adelaide-Metcalf	1457 Melwood Road
R#2019-687	Adelaide-Metcalf	26079 Kerwood Road
R#2020-0107	Adelaide-Metcalf	5172 Scotchmere Drive, Strathroy
R#2020-0666	Adelaide-Metcalf	28619 Dolphin Road
R#2020-0727	Adelaide-Metcalf	23878 Thames Road
R#2020-0754	Adelaide-Metcalf	486 Second St, Strathroy
R#2020-0019	Brooke-Alvinston	3202 Park Street
R#2020-0064	Brooke-Alvinston	7299 Churchill Line, Watford
R#2020-0252	Brooke-Alvinston	3725 Sutorville Road
R#2020-0487	Brooke-Alvinston	James St, Inwood
R#2020-0756	Brooke-Alvinston	6674 Shiloh Line
R#2020-0814	Brooke-Alvinston	3126 Queen Street
R#2020-0841	Brooke-Alvinston	7450 Aberfeldy Line
R#2021-0009	Brooke-Alvinston	3195 Inwood Road
R#2021-0033	Brooke-Alvinston	Gardner Trail Road, Alvinston
R#2019-295	Chatham-Kent	574 Sandra Crescent
R#2019-349	Chatham-Kent	557 Camden Street
R#2019-440	Chatham-Kent	6711 Angler Line
R#2019-582	Chatham-Kent	1828 Dufferin Avenue
R#2019-792	Chatham-Kent	Base Line Bridge, Wallaceburg
R#2019-801	Chatham-Kent	913 Elgin Street
R#2019-821	Chatham-Kent	206 Turnbull Avenue, Wallaceburg
R#2019-829	Chatham-Kent	6228 Base Line Road, Wallaceburg
R#2019-869	Chatham-Kent	566 Sandra Crescent, Wallaceburg
R#2019-894	Chatham-Kent	7523 North River Line, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0007	Chatham-Kent	210 Hudson Crescent, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0008	Chatham-Kent	123 Mitchell Drive, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0020	Chatham-Kent	7188 Bassette Line
R#2020-0029	Chatham-Kent	295 St George Street, Dresden
R#2020-0047	Chatham-Kent	110 Water Street, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0050	Chatham-Kent	27706 St. Clair Road

R#2020-0060	Chatham-Kent	1018 Elizabeth Street, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0084	Chatham-Kent	110 Water Street, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0096	Chatham-Kent	South of 744 Nelson Street, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0128	Chatham-Kent	27860 St. Clair Road, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0133	Chatham-Kent	110 Water Street
R#2020-0180	Chatham-Kent	Property east of 4073 Dufferin Ave
R#2020-0181	Chatham-Kent	12619 Cider Mill Line
R#2020-0191	Chatham-Kent	29766 Cuthbert Road
R#2020-0217	Chatham-Kent	5745 Stewart Line, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0293	Chatham-Kent	7186 Bassette Line, Dover Center
R#2020-0301	Chatham-Kent	10 Taylor Mitchels Bay
R#2020-0314	Chatham-Kent	29939 St. Clair Parkway, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0321	Chatham-Kent	740 Victoria Avenue, Dresden
R#2020-0349	Chatham-Kent	40 Highland Drive, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0355	Chatham-Kent	553 Walnut Street, Dresden
R#2020-0392	Chatham-Kent	Nelson St Bridge over Running Creek
R#2020-0396	Chatham-Kent	12631 Splinter Line, Thamesville
R#2020-0457	Chatham-Kent	115 Water Street, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0523	Chatham-Kent	11773 Wabash Line, Thamesville
R#2020-0526	Chatham-Kent	25961 Baldoon Road, Dover
R#2020-0533	Chatham-Kent	4073 Dufferin Ave, Wallaceburg
R#2020-0586	Chatham-Kent	6997 Mallard Line
R#2020-0682	Chatham-Kent	South of 744 Nelson Street
R#2020-0728	Chatham-Kent	29739 Arnold Road
R#2020-0758	Chatham-Kent	473 Brown Street & 561 Robinson Street
R#2020-0764	Chatham-Kent	7211 Bassette Line & Lot 13 Con 14 PT 2
R#2020-0789	Chatham-Kent	399 Lindsley Street West, Dresden
R#2020-0813	Chatham-Kent	85 Main Street
R#2021-0038	Chatham-Kent	7 Bayview, Mitchell's Bay
R#2020-0110	Dawn-Euphemia	2101 & 2148 Cameron Road
R#2020-0704	Dawn-Euphemia	North of 172 Dawn Mills Road
R#2020-0708	Dawn-Euphemia	8392 Euphemia Drive
R#2019-834	Enniskillen	3764 Oils Springs Line, Enniskillen
R#2020-0152	Enniskillen	4525 Churchill Line

R#2020-0532	Enniskillen	3196 Black Ash Road, Enniskillen
R#2020-0676	Enniskillen	5656 Shiloh Line
R#2021-0014	Enniskillen	3196 Black Ash Side Road, Enniskillen
R#2021-0048	Enniskillen	5483 Petrolia Line
R#2019-105	Lambton Shores	5476 Huron View Avenue
R#2019-115	Lambton Shores	5274 Cliff Road
R#2019-888	Lambton Shores	8388 Glendale Drive, Lambton Shores
R#2019-910	Lambton Shores	6230 Cedar Drive, Lambton Shores
R#2020-0013	Lambton Shores	16 Eureka Street, Forest
R#2020-0036	Lambton Shores	Lot 23 (immediately east of 5471) Beach Street
R#2020-0071	Lambton Shores	6250 London Road, West Ipperwash
R#2020-0091	Lambton Shores	Lot 70 Con West of Lake Road
R#2020-0095	Lambton Shores	5958 Lakeshore Road, Lambton Shores
R#2020-0151	Lambton Shores	6252 Hickory Creek Line
R#2020-0154	Lambton Shores	Hickory Creek
R#2020-0375	Lambton Shores	6256 London Road, Lambton Shores
R#2020-0432	Lambton Shores	William possibly 6294
R#2020-0445	Lambton Shores	9698 Tobias Lane, Lambton Shores
R#2020-0527	Lambton Shores	6572 Lakeshore Road, Bosanquet
R#2020-0637	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach St
R#2020-0646	Lambton Shores	5132 Cedarview Drive, Lambton Shores
R#2020-0707	Lambton Shores	6780 East Parkway Dr, Ipperwash
R#2020-0752	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach Street
R#2020-0765	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach Street
R#2020-0776	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach St
R#2020-0788	Lambton Shores	behind 9509 Ipperwash road
R#2020-0800	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach Street
R#2021-0011	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach Street, Lambton Shores
R#2021-0012	Lambton Shores	Lambton Shores
R#2021-0024	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach Street, Lambton Shores
R#2021-0025	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach Street, Lambton Shores
R#2021-0027	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach Street, Lambton Shores
R#2021-0034	Lambton Shores	5512 Beach St, Lambton Shores
R#2021-0059	Lambton Shores	6216 Juniper Lane

R#2019-308	Middlesex Centre	9528 Gold Creek Drive
R#2020-0035	Middlesex Centre	9753 Gold Creek Drive (across 9772), Komoka
R#2020-0078	Middlesex Centre	13153 12 Mile Road
R#2020-0098	Middlesex Centre	22604 Vanneck
R#2020-0198	Middlesex Centre	2098 Michigan Line, Sarnia
R#2020-0705	Middlesex Centre	5372 Egremont Drive
R#2020-0751	Middlesex Centre	Lot 8, Con 9 Lobo
R#2020-0755	Middlesex Centre	22643 Vanneck Rd
R#2020-0522	Oil Springs	4859 Oil Springs Line, Enniskillen
R#2020-0833	Oil Springs	2423 Kelly Road
R#2020-0839	Oil Springs	4700 Orchardview Drive
R#2020-0840	Oil Springs	4704 Orchardview Drive
R#2020-0256	Petrolia	4108 Glenview Drive
R#2020-0366	Petrolia	4052 Applewood Drive, Petrolia
R#2020-0569	Petrolia	4067 Pine Crescent
R#2020-0718	Petrolia	4070 Catherine Street
R#2019-045	Plympton-Wyoming	4274 Bluepoint Drive
R#2019-229	Plympton-Wyoming	3082 and 3078 Lake View Avenue
R#2019-520	Plympton-Wyoming	7152 Bonnie Doone Road
R#2019-527	Plympton-Wyoming	4902 The Moorings Circle
R#2019-580	Plympton-Wyoming	4450 Lakeshore Road
R#2019-746	Plympton-Wyoming	3290 Devonshire Road
R#2019-814	Plympton-Wyoming	5028 Lakeshore Road, Plympton-Wyoming
R#2019-826	Plympton-Wyoming	3074 Lake View Avenue, Plympton
R#2019-840	Plympton-Wyoming	4376 Lambton Lane, Plympton-Wyoming
R#2020-0043	Plympton-Wyoming	4376 Lambton Lane
R#2020-0044	Plympton-Wyoming	5094 Lakeshore Road
R#2020-0069	Plympton-Wyoming	5094 Lakeshore Road
R#2020-0112	Plympton-Wyoming	3692 Beverly Glen, Camlachie
R#2020-0117	Plympton-Wyoming	5592 Camlachie Road, Plympton Wyoming
R#2020-0126	Plympton-Wyoming	4200 Aberarder Line, Camlachie
R#2020-0137	Plympton-Wyoming	7092 Bonnie Donne Road, Camlachie
R#2020-0200	Plympton-Wyoming	4612 Lakeside Street, Plympton
R#2020-0208	Plympton-Wyoming	3373 London Line

R#2020-0232	Plympton-Wyoming	4818 Fisher Beach Road
R#2020-0246	Plympton-Wyoming	3890 Ferne Avenue, Bonnie Doone
R#2020-0264	Plympton-Wyoming	5094 Lakeshore Road, Plympton Wyoming
R#2020-0265	Plympton-Wyoming	5094 Lakeshore Road, Plympton Wyoming
R#2020-0345	Plympton-Wyoming	3232 Devonshire Road, Camlachie
R#2020-0404	Plympton-Wyoming	3480 Queen Street
R#2020-0454	Plympton-Wyoming	4056 Bluepoint Drive, Plympton
R#2020-0470	Plympton-Wyoming	unknown
R#2020-0479	Plympton-Wyoming	Lambton Lane, Lot 31
R#2020-0529	Plympton-Wyoming	Vacant Property south of 4058 Bluepoint Drive, Plympton
R#2020-0556	Plympton-Wyoming	7988 Norma Ave
R#2020-0605	Plympton-Wyoming	3846 Egremont Road
R#2020-0626	Plympton-Wyoming	Lot 31 Lambton Lane
R#2020-0674	Plympton-Wyoming	3261 London Line
R#2020-0709	Plympton-Wyoming	3548 Queen Street
R#2020-0713	Plympton-Wyoming	4606 Lakeside Street
R#2020-0745	Plympton-Wyoming	6149 Oil Heritage Road
R#2020-0759	Plympton-Wyoming	4021 Cullen Drive
R#2020-0787	Plympton-Wyoming	7080 Bonnie Doon Road
R#2020-0797	Plympton-Wyoming	6754 Craigmere Lea
R#2021-0039	Plympton-Wyoming	Blue Point, Camlachie
R#2019-831	Point Edward	35 Exmouth Street, Sarnia
R#2021-0020	Point Edward	Lake Huron Shoreline
R#2019-128	Sarnia	2098 Michigan Line
R#2019-202	Sarnia	550 Lakeshore Road
R#2019-346	Sarnia	2687 Lakeshore Road
R#2019-387	Sarnia	2721 Hamilton Road
R#2019-444	Sarnia	2866 Old Lakeshore Road
R#2019-476	Sarnia	2950 Sunset Boulevard
R#2019-587	Sarnia	674 Beach Lane
R#2019-635	Sarnia	2006 Olive Avenue Brights Grove
R#2019-673	Sarnia	2984 Lakeview Trail, Sarnia
R#2019-675	Sarnia	1958 Churchill Line Sarnia
R#2019-779	Sarnia	2687 Old Lakeshore Road, Sarnia

R#2019-842	Sarnia	2946 Huronview Drive Brights Grove
R#2019-871	Sarnia	2341 Michigan, Sarnia
R#2019-876	Sarnia	5641 Blackwell Sideroad
R#2020-0048	Sarnia	1430 Lakeshore Road
R#2020-0086	Sarnia	2966 Sunset Boulevard, Brights Grove
R#2020-0094	Sarnia	604 Beach Lane, Sarnia
R#2020-0108	Sarnia	2341 Michigan Line, Sarnia
R#2020-0185	Sarnia	1748 Michigan Line
R#2020-0238	Sarnia	2021 Marion Avenue, Brights Grove
R#2020-0310	Sarnia	1216 Haight Lane, Sarnia
R#2020-0486	Sarnia	2098 Michigan Line, Sarnia
R#2020-0554	Sarnia	764 Tudor Close West
R#2020-0701	Sarnia	1214 Haight Lane
R#2020-0730	Sarnia	1805 Modeland Road
R#2020-0734	Sarnia	1407 London Road
R#2020-0802	Sarnia	1245 Birkdale Crescent
R#2020-0810	Sarnia	1606 Lakeshore Road, Sarnia
R#2020-0811	Sarnia	2056 Lakeshore Road
R#2020-0845	Sarnia	1930 1/2 Franklin Ave
R#2021-0001	Sarnia	2293 Passingham Drive
R#2021-0004	Sarnia	1930 1/2 Franklin Avenue
R#2021-0026	Sarnia	1439 Blackwell Road, Sarnia
R#2021-0042	Sarnia	1961 Blackwell Road, Sarnia
R#2018-029	St. Clair	733 St. Clair Parkway
R#2019-170	St. Clair	405 Beresford St. Corunna
R#2019-462	St. Clair	3951 Seaway Road
R#2019-508	St. Clair	3916 St. Clair Parkway
R#2019-515	St. Clair	4096 St. Clair Parkway
R#2019-872	St. Clair	1774 Oil Springs Line
R#2020-0010	St. Clair	1117 St. Clair Parkway
R#2020-0051	St. Clair	2274 Smith Line
R#2020-0171	St. Clair	Lot 21, Con 7 Moore & Lot 18, Con 5 Moore
R#2020-0381	St. Clair	935 St. Clair Parkway
R#2020-0455	St. Clair	4358 McDonald Street, Port Lambton

R#2020-0530	St. Clair	411 Beresford Street, Corunna
R#2020-0647	St. Clair	2975 St. Clair Parkway
R#2020-0761	St. Clair	1898 Baseline Road
R#2020-0784	St. Clair	733 Wilkesport Line
R#2020-0822	St. Clair	2801 St. Clair Parkway
R#2020-0836	St. Clair	2840 Moore Line
R#2019-798	Strathroy-Caradoc	6864 Olde Drive
R#2019-822	Strathroy-Caradoc	6997 Falconbridge Drive, Melbourne
R#2019-858	Strathroy-Caradoc	Glendon Drive, Mount Brydges
R#2019-861	Strathroy-Caradoc	72 Pannell Lane
R#2019-877	Strathroy-Caradoc	399 Metcalfe Street East, Strathroy
R#2020-0006	Strathroy-Caradoc	Falconbridge Drive
R#2020-0017	Strathroy-Caradoc	399 Metcalfe Street, Strathroy
R#2020-0023	Strathroy-Caradoc	Metcalfe St W & Victoria St
R#2020-0031	Strathroy-Caradoc	399 Metcalfe Street East, Strathroy
R#2020-0040	Strathroy-Caradoc	SW of 7404 Glendon Drive
R#2020-0046	Strathroy-Caradoc	399 Metcalfe St. E., Strathroy
R#2020-0052	Strathroy-Caradoc	399 Metcalfe Street East, Strathroy
R#2020-0053	Strathroy-Caradoc	399 Metcalfe Street East, Strathroy
R#2020-0103	Strathroy-Caradoc	8015 Inadale Drive, Mount Brydges
R#2020-0113	Strathroy-Caradoc	East of 7404 Glendon Drive
R#2020-0207	Strathroy-Caradoc	6997 Falconbridge Drive
R#2020-0311	Strathroy-Caradoc	491 Riverview Drive, Strathroy
R#2020-0324	Strathroy-Caradoc	17 Hull Road Strathroy
R#2020-0352	Strathroy-Caradoc	6997 Falconbridge Drive
R#2020-0376	Strathroy-Caradoc	214 Riverview Drive, Strathroy
R#2020-0420	Strathroy-Caradoc	6997 Falconbridge
R#2020-0436	Strathroy-Caradoc	6997 Falconbridge Road
R#2020-0438	Strathroy-Caradoc	Trout Haven Campground Site #2
R#2020-0440	Strathroy-Caradoc	78 Parkview Cres, Strathroy
R#2020-0462	Strathroy-Caradoc	55 Head Street South
R#2020-0475	Strathroy-Caradoc	32 Kemp Crescent, Strathroy
R#2020-0476	Strathroy-Caradoc	506 Dewan Street
R#2020-0483	Strathroy-Caradoc	7880 Walkers Drive, Strathroy

R#2020-0714	Strathroy-Caradoc	8380 Olde Drive
R#2020-0731	Strathroy-Caradoc	9338 Olde Drive
R#2020-0733	Strathroy-Caradoc	22796 Christina Road
R#2020-0846	Strathroy-Caradoc	LOT 19, CON 4 SER
R#2021-0029	Strathroy-Caradoc	Corner of Head St & Second St
R#2019-310	Warwick	6293 Warwick Village Road
R#2020-0348	Warwick	7018 Egremont Road

Total Regulations Inquiries: 243

Regulations - DART Completed Files

File Reference	Municipality	Drain / Watercourse
R#2020-0597	Brooke-Alvinston	McEachren Drain
R#2020-0628	Brooke-Alvinston	Moffat Lucas Branch Drain
R#2020-0633	Brooke-Alvinston	Moffat Lucas No.w
R#2020-0740	Brooke-Alvinston	McIntyre Weed
R#2020-0741	Brooke-Alvinston	Edgar Drain Branch
R#2020-0743	Brooke-Alvinston	Campbell Leitch
R#2020-0749	Brooke-Alvinston	Steadman No 1
R#2020-0805	Brooke-Alvinston	Thompson Drain
R#2019-711	Chatham-Kent	Little Bear
R#2020-0706	Chatham-Kent	Crawford Pumping Station Main Drain
R#2020-0744	Chatham-Kent	Dykemane
R#2020-0753	Chatham-Kent	Fourth Concession Outlet Drain
R#2020-0757	Chatham-Kent	Robinson Pike
R#2020-0768	Chatham-Kent	Roberts
R#2020-0773	Chatham-Kent	Purdie Creek Drain
R#2020-0775	Chatham-Kent	Hind Drain & South Branch
R#2020-0790	Chatham-Kent	Traxler
R#2020-0791	Chatham-Kent	Jenkins Drain
R#2020-0847	Chatham-Kent	Stocking Drain
R#2020-0848	Chatham-Kent	Dankey Drain
R#2021-0032	Chatham-Kent	Burgess Drain
R#2019-657	Enniskillen	Perry Drain
R#2020-0724	Enniskillen	Piggot/Piggott Mitchell
R#2020-0807	Enniskillen	Noble Wolley Drain

R#2021-0005	Enniskillen	Simposon Drain
R#2021-0006	Enniskillen	Acton Drain
R#2021-0031	Enniskillen	McGeachy Drain
R#2021-0051	Middlesex Centre	Bear Creek Drain Br 1
R#2020-0772	Oil Springs	Gumbed Line Drain
R#2020-0211	Plympton-Wyoming	Stewart Creek or may be Aberarder Creek WC
R#2020-0779	Plympton-Wyoming	Chalmers
R#2020-0780	Plympton-Wyoming	Falconer Ramsay
R#2020-0781	Plympton-Wyoming	Parker Creek
R#2020-0783	Plympton-Wyoming	Lessy Drain
R#2021-0036	Plympton-Wyoming	Park Drain
R#2021-0037	Plympton-Wyoming	Kerrigan Drain
R#2020-0747	Sarnia	VanGaver Drain
R#2020-0680	Southwest Middlesex	McFarlane
R#2020-0742	Southwest Middlesex	Kavelaar
R#2019-670	St. Clair	Hubbard
R#2020-0703	St. Clair	Chowen
R#2020-0796	St. Clair	McDonald Drain No. 2
R#2020-0792	Strathroy-Caradoc	Humphrey Drain
R#2020-0794	Strathroy-Caradoc	Pierce Drain
R#2020-0650	Warwick	Moffat Drain-Branch 7 Extension
R#2020-0668	Warwick	Hall Drain
R#2020-0767	Warwick	Auld Redmond
R#2020-0769	Warwick	Moffatt Drain
R#2020-0770	Warwick	Holbrook-Fenner Drain
R#2020-0771	Warwick	Kilmer Drain
R#2020-0808	Warwick	Perry Drain
R#2020-0815	Warwick	Iles Drain
R#2021-0041	Warwick	Brandon Drain 2003
Total DART Permits Issued: 53		

Regulations Inquiries - Drains

File Reference	Municipality	Drain / Watercourse
R#2019-131	Chatham-Kent	Frank Bishop
R#2019-329	Chatham-Kent	Wilmott Drain

R#2019-381	Chatham-Kent	Bear Creek
R#2020-0535	Chatham-Kent	Urquhart Drain
R#2019-525	Enniskillen	Duggan Drain
R#2020-0835	Enniskillen	Duggan Drain
R#2021-0052	Middlesex Centre	Bear Creek Drain 2008
R#2019-503	Petrolia	County Road Drain
R#2019-330	Plympton-Wyoming	Stuurman Drain
R#2020-0219	Plympton-Wyoming	Paul Drain
R#2020-0536	Plympton-Wyoming	Fleming Drain
R#2020-0280	Southwest Middlesex	Robinson Drain
R#2021-0049	Southwest Middlesex	McFarlane Drain
R#2020-0702	St. Clair	McGee Drain
R#2019-879	Strathroy-Caradoc	Amiens Road
R#2019-154	Warwick	Moffatt Drain
R#2019-612	Warwick	Aarts Drain No. 2
R#2019-807	Warwick	Perry Drain
R#2019-835	Warwick	McChesney Drain
R#2019-883	Warwick	Ravell-O'Neil Drain
Total Regulations Inquiries Regarding Drains: 20		

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 3, 2021
Submitted by: Kelli Smith

Item 16.1 (h)

Subject: Drainage Update: New Projects and Building Relationships

Recommendation:

That the board acknowledges the report on Drainage Updates and the current projects in collaboration with the Drainage Community to build relationships and improve communication.

Background:

Virtual Drainage Process Discussion Meetings:

At the December 12th, 2019 Board Meeting, the Board of Directors directed staff to consult with watershed drainage superintendents and municipal representatives for comments on the drain enclosure policy. On September 2, 2020, SCRCA staff reached out to Drainage Superintendents for comments regarding this policy, shortly afterwards at the Board Meeting on September 17th 2020, the Drain Enclosure Policy was rescinded. There appeared to still be a need for discussions and clarity regarding the SCRCA drain review process. The SCRCA hosted two virtual workshops on February 18th for SCRCA staff and Drainage Superintendents within the SCRCA watershed. This meeting was established to foster and build good working relationships and clearly outline the SCRCA drainage process for both drainage superintendents and the SCRCA staff. The agenda consisted of a variety of discussion topics including: the Conservation Authorities Act, the general review process (i.e. when SCRCA should be notified of drain projects to reduce delays), the rescinded drain enclosure policy, potential opportunities for funding BMP projects on drains, and an opportunity for drainage supers and staff to ask any questions to the SCRCA, or seek clarity on any concerns within this process.

A total of 17 drainage superintendents and staff RSVP'd to the meetings. The SCRCA intends to use the feedback received from these groups to develop a "checklist" that will be used by the Drainage Superintendents and SCRCA staff to improve clarity between the two organizations on what is required for drain projects in order to reduce any delays in projects. Drainage Superintendents are encouraged to bring forth projects for the 2021 season that could be used as demonstration sites for implementing Best Management Practices or including the use of Green Infrastructure on drains.

Drainage Research Project

In the fall of 2020 SCRCA staff were approached by Drainage staff in Chatham-Kent interested in researching the potential impacts of drain maintenance practices on water quality and reviewing the various best management practices and innovations in order to provide solutions. Seeing great benefit in this question and looking to explore further, SCRCA staff reached out to the Healthy Headwaters Lab from the University of Windsor for input. The partners met in late 2020 and it was decided that a literature review would be the most effective research method to start this project off. A second-year undergraduate co-op student, Kirsten Van Goethem, from the University of Waterloo has graciously taken on the project and will continue to work with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, SCRCA, and University of Windsor Healthy Headwaters Lab to conduct the literature review. At the end of the co-op term Kirsten will present her findings to the group and other interested parties.

Financial Impact:

Funding for these projects has been obtained through a grant from the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs as part of the COA program. The funds are going to support the virtual workshops, support for Chatham-Kent staff contribution to the project and the co-op position. Additional funding through EcoCanada is also supplementing the support of the co-op student.

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 22, 2021
Submitted by: Kelli Smith

Item 16.2(h) - Update

Subject: Summary of Outcome of Drain Review Process Meetings

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges this update on the outcome and summary of the SCRCA Drain Review Process meetings held on February 18th 2021.

Background:

SCRCA Drain Review Process Meeting Update

- Two meetings held February 18, 2021 with a total of 22 participants, including Drainage Superintendents, Drainage Engineer's and Municipal staff
- Lots of good discussion and questions brought up
- Questions and discussion centred around the following: sediment and erosion control timing windows, definition of a watercourse, watershed size and proposed enclosures, section 6 of the Drainage Act requesting an Environmental Appraisal is not used but rather request for additional studies under the Conservation Authorities Act, SCRCA use of Department of Fisheries and Oceans Drain Classification system, and invoicing/fees for projects.
- Following the meeting the presentation and a survey were sent to all participants

Next Steps:

- SCRCA staff are working on a document summarizing the questions asked during the meeting with answers and responses to be circulated to attendees this week
- One of the questions asked involved section 6 of the Drainage Act, requesting an Environmental Appraisal and technical studies requested under the Conservation Authorities Act; working with one of the Drainage Superintendents to seek guidance from OMAFRA and Conservation Ontario on how to address this issue

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 12, 2021
Submitted by: Jessica Van Zwol

Item 16.1 (i)

Subject: Healthy Watersheds Program and Biology Department Update

Recommendation:

That the Board acknowledges the report dated February 12, 2021 on Healthy Watersheds Program and Biology Department Update

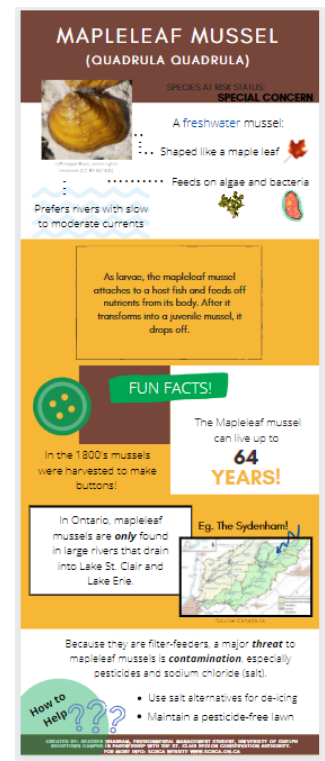
Background:

SCRCA's Biology Department and Conservation Services delivers a habitat stewardship program for landowners throughout the watershed to assist with the implementation of various habitat projects and agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to maintain/improve water quality and to create wildlife habitat. The Healthy Watershed Program has restored or enhanced over 1,000 ha of land, and over 4 million trees have been 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.

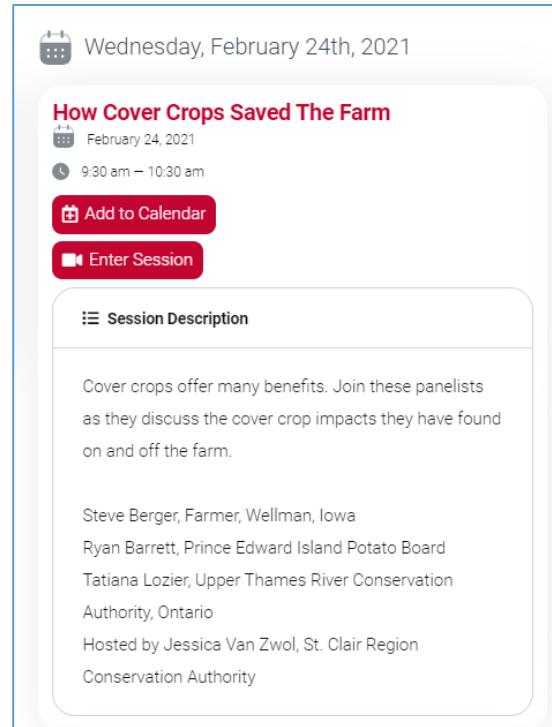
To encourage uptake and implementation of BMPs amongst farmers and rural landowners within our watershed, SCRCA provides relevant information regarding the building of soil health and water quality through workshops, conferences, newsletters and social media. To ensure we share good quality information to landowners, we have established various partnerships within the agricultural and research communities.

These are some ways we collate relevant information to disseminate to farmers in our watershed:

- We worked with Dr. Laura Van Eerd of University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus to create a student project to create infographics for SCRCA social media that highlight aquatic species and how on-land stewardship actions could help protect them. These infographics were valued on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Some of Dr. Van Eerd's students are from our watershed and are familiar with the Sydenham River (funded through DFO).



- Jessica Van Zwol was invited to join the “Soils at Guelph”/Midwest Cover Crop Council Conference advisory committee. This conference is full of useful and practical information that farmers in our watershed could utilize. **Jessica will be hosting a panel discussion on implementing cover crops on Wednesday February 24th at 9:30 am** (funded through EcoAction). Everyone is welcome to participate - we have been promoting the event on our social media to encourage farmers within our watershed to participate (entire 4-day conference registration is \$35) <https://soilsatguelph.ca/event/midwest-cover-crop-council-conference/>



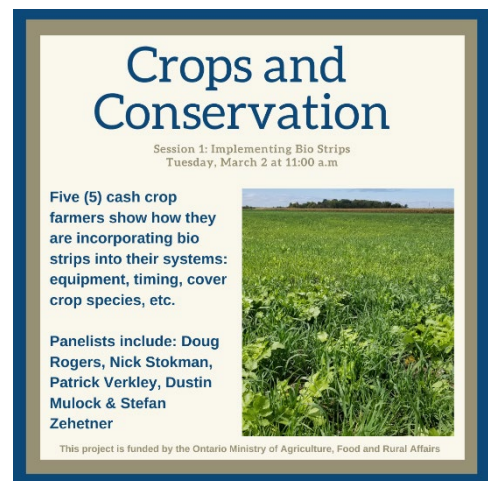
- SCRCA was invited to participate in a discussion hosted by **Toby Barrett, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Ernie Hardeman)** to provide feedback on how to improve the Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability (LEADS) program that provides grants for cover crops, equipment modifications, and stewardship to farmers in our region.

- SCRCA is coordinating a virtual webinar series with Lower Thames Valley, Essex Region, Long Point, Catfish Creek, and Kettle Creek Conservation Authorities to promote agricultural BMPs in southwestern Ontario. The **SCRCA bio strips webinar will be hosted by Jessica Van Zwol on Tuesday March 2 at 11 am and will showcase 3 local farmers.** Zoom link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rClaiXttQNK77chxfu3L_Q. The free event

will be advertised in Today’s Farmer and on SCRCA social media. This event (as well as the others in the series) is geared to SCRCA farmers as well as Lake Erie farmers (funded through OMAFRA COA).

- The Biology department will participate in a DFO-led webinar on aquatic species at risk and DFO’s regulations to provide clarity to consultants, drainage superintendents, drainage engineers, and contractors in our watershed regarding working in or near water. The tentative date is set for March 11;



we will be reaching out to contacts in the near future, please let us know if you are interested (funded by DFO).

- Sarnia Lambton Climate Action Group has reached out to Biology and Communications staff to create a partnership promoting community, private landowner, and school greening tree planting within the watershed (funded through EcoAction).
- In early winter, stewardship staff sent out over 1,800 newsletters to farmers in Lambton Shores and the East Branch of the Sydenham River highlighting BMPs that can build soil health and minimize impacts to water quality. We highlighted 2 farmers from our watershed. This newsletter has resulted in a number of farmers contacting SCRCA regarding stewardship funding for various projects (see below, funded through EcoAction and MECP COA).

Lambton Shores Watershed Project
Fall 2020

Although we're already heading into December shortly, this year sure feels odd: on one hand it feels like it flew by yet, March Break and planting plans seems ages ago! SCRCA staff hope you and your loved ones remain safe and happy and enjoy as much time as you can outdoors and in nature. Nature is great for improving one's mental health.

Now that most of this season's crops are off or will be shortly, we can recharge and ponder plans for next #Plant2021. If you haven't tried planting cover crops, maybe you can incorporate a simple mix of oats and radish into your rotation. Cover crops don't have to be fancy, nor expensive. We have a grant available for up to \$500 or 50% of the seed cost if you planted a cover crop this fall. Call or email me today to apply!

This newsletter focuses on utilizing bio strips as a means of providing year round ground cover to keep your soil and nutrients where you need them most. We highlight how 3 Ontario farmers have incorporated bio strips into their farming systems. While this newsletter is only one source of information, we encourage you to research online as there are so many resources (and farmers!) available to answer any questions you may have on bio strips and other conservation farming practices.

Yours in Conservation, Jessica Van Zwol and The Healthy Watersheds Team at St. Clair Conservation

Why Bio Strips?

There's a lot of buzz about bio strips in agriculture these days. Bio strips are a combination of cover crops and strip tillage. Bio strips are rows of vegetation in a field planted alongside the main crop rows to reduce the amount of bare soil in a field especially in the winter and spring seasons when we have the most precipitation. Bio strip plant roots hold on to the soil, reducing erosion and keeping valuable soil and nutrients where next year's crops need them. Bio strips can also scavenge nutrients for the following crop, tackle soil compaction and provide a food source for the millions of soil microorganisms that help crops grow.

Bio Strips - Thoughts to consider when incorporating into your farming system

It's always important to have a game plan and know what you hope to achieve by adding a layer to your farm practices. Things to think about when incorporating bio strips and the species to grow:

- What nutrients do your future crops need and/or what nutrients are lacking in your field?
- What nutrients can the species in the bio strip scavenge and/or provide?
- How will you plant your bio strips? Drill seeded, broadcast or applied when side dressing?
- How can you use and/or tweak your existing equipment to make bio strips work?
- What is the termination plan? Will the bio strips winterkill?
- Will you plant pre- or post-termination?

St. Clair Conservation Healthy Watersheds Program

Are you looking for financial assistance to retain soil & nutrients on your land?

We secure funding for landowners for Nutrient Retention Infrastructure: *In-field berms, grassed waterways, riparian buffers, wetlands, and windbreaks*

- We connect landowners with resources and financial incentives to help implement Best Management Practices and stewardship projects.
- Landowners can meet with SCRCA staff on site to discuss project design and implementation. Staff can offer advice and answer questions about the process of implementing projects.
- Grant availability depends on what funding sources are available and the guidelines and deadlines outlined by the funding sources, such as the project location and site.
- Projects are reviewed against the funding criteria before a grant is awarded.
- Typically, grants of 50% are provided to landowners for eligible projects to a maximum of \$10,000. In some cases, up to 100% of the project sub-total may be approved for some types of projects.
- The Healthy Watersheds Program main stewardship goals are:
 - Improving water quality and quantity
 - Improving fish and wildlife habitat, with a focus on aquatic species at risk habitat

If you are interested in setting up a site visit, call 519-245-3710 or email:

- Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist, jvanzwol@scrca.on.ca (x241)
- Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services, sshaw@scrca.on.ca (x213)
- Jeff Sharp, Conservation Services Specialist, jsharp@scrca.on.ca (x1217)

With funding support from Ontario

Practical ways Ontario farmers are making bio strips work

Doug Rogers, Lambton Shores: Doug has grown cover crops for 10 years and moved towards bio strips 5 years ago. With no-till farming, it can be hard to no-till into winter wheat. Strip tillage did not work too well either with his twin-row cropping system. He calls bio strips a "poor man's strip till machine". In the crop planting row, daikon radish, oats, and yellow peas will winterkill and provide good ground for spring planting. In the non-planting rows, where wheel traffic moves, Doug grows cereal rye, crimson clover, sunflowers, buckwheat and flax. By keeping his farm equipment on the green bio strips, he's mitigating his soil compaction risk. In his bio strips, Doug chooses species like flax, buckwheat and sunflowers to provide food sources for local pollinators.

Due to his proximity to Lake Huron, Doug chose bio strips to reduce wind and water erosion of his light Brisbane loam soils. Bio strips help hold down the soil year round, keeping the soil and nutrients where he needs them. Doug suggests that if you are starting cover crops or bio strips, talk to farmers who have been working with them and don't plant too thick! For more about Doug's practices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Gt1Wb5g>

Dustin Mulock, Woodville: Dustin uses bio strips in his no-till twin row corn, wheat, and soybean rotation. Early on, Dustin noticed that rye was a best friend to his crop because it provided an early spring food source for slugs. The slugs weren't aware of the emerging corn and remained on the rye.

In the planting row, Dustin plants a mix of winterkill cover crops, choosing species with tillage capabilities and able to break up compaction: sunflower, rapeseed, legumes such as peas, faba beans, vetches, kale, oats, barley and tillage radish. When the ground freezes, the cover crop roots freeze and heave as one, accomplishing the same outcome as tillage, but without the use of equipment, nor risk of compaction.

In the bio strips, Dustin plants oats, barley, rye, and his favourite heavy vetch - a "nitrogen and biomass producing monster", that "melts" in the spring. He finds this mix, along with clovers, provides a yield bump for soybeans or white beans. The benefit of incorporating rye into a bio strip is two-fold: rye is allelopathic, which means it naturally suppresses weed growth and rye acts as a cross-season nutrient holder. Rye soaks up nutrients that can be utilized by the following crop. This action also helps with weed suppression. Dustin's goal is to have the rye draw down nitrogen in the soil to prevent weed growth, but terminate the rye in time to release nitrogen to the corn when it is most needed. He emphasizes that not all the nutrients are immediately given to the corn, rather some of the nutrients are utilized by soil microorganisms and released later. Dustin plants corn 2-3 days before the rye and vetch are terminated, preventing the rye from drying out and becoming rope-like, which is nearly impossible to manage.

Like Doug, Dustin's bio strips serve as controlled traffic lanes for farm equipment. The roots of the rye help disperse vehicle weight. Dustin adopted Glencoe-farmer, Dave McEachern's adage: "drive on the green and plant in between". For more about Dustin's practices, check out his Twitter: [@DustinMulockKovera](https://twitter.com/DustinMulockKovera)

Nick Stolman, Adelaide-Metalife: This is Nick's first year using bio strips. As a no-till farmer, planting corn into wheat stubble can be a struggle. Farming on heavier clay soils, Nick has tried to "get a little bit of black dirt in the spring to plant into, whether that be with vertical tillage in the fall or strip till in the fall". He doesn't own strip tillage equipment so in the past, he hired someone to do strip tillage. For the plot sizes he was experimenting with, that cost didn't outweigh the benefits, even if he expanded strip tillage to all his fields. Nick firmly believes in the benefits of "having roots without having soil disturbance, mycorrhizae... reducing erosion, [and] maintaining the living soil biome". With these principles in mind, Nick researched what he could do with the equipment he has and settled on bio strips. Using RTK and Autosteer, Nick adjusted a 12-foot drill to plant strips of radish where he plans to plant corn next year and red clover in his non-planting rows. Red clover is known to double its root mass in October, so Nick planned to wait as late as he could to terminate the red clover with glyphosate and Dicamba. He chose radish for the planting row to reduce erosion, build soil, and suppress weeds, but also because it winterkills with little residue left at corn-planting time. This way, the spring sunshine can warm the soil of the planting row and he can plant corn in conditions conducive to seed germination and plant growth. For more about Nick's practices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9D6d8RtUd>

Monitoring the health of the watershed

In the summer, the SCRCA Biology crew conducts an intensive field-monitoring program throughout the watershed. Monitoring helps staff understand the physical and biological health of the watershed. The 2020 field season presented unique challenges with a pandemic and subsequently, a shortened monitoring season due to lockdown restrictions. Nonetheless, the weather (and water!) cooperated and all monitoring was completed.

In June, we run a turtle head-starting program, with turtle nests identified and monitored. Staff collect eggs from nests in danger from predation and destruction. In collaboration with Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and Saltbush Wildlife Centre, 799 eggs of Eastern Spiny Softshell and Common Snapping Turtle were incubated until hatching. The turtle team released 682 hatchlings in late August.

The Biology crew also monitored for mussels. To find mussels, staff "racon" on all farms, pawing through the river bottom. The study identified 1,688 live mussels of which, 79 were from at risk populations, including species like the Northern Riffleshell, Rainbow, and Snuffbox. Although rarely encountered, mussels play an integral role in healthy aquatic ecosystems. Mussels are filtering powerhouse: a single mussel can filter 40L of water per day removing algae, organic matter, and nutrients from the water, reducing turbidity (cloudiness) and nutrient load of the water and improving water quality for all aquatic organisms. This means that the mussels collected this summer filter a 6,752L/day!

This year, staff completed a study of the movements of the invasive Round Goby in the Sydenham River. Maybe you have caught some fishing in Lake Huron? The data will be compared to previous studies conducted since 2002. Round Goby are a non-native fish that arrived in the Great Lakes from the Caspian Sea in the ballast water of large shipping vessels. In Ontario, Goby can reduce native sportfish populations through the predation of eggs and young and competition for food. Mapping where these invaders reside is essential for understanding how to conserve native biodiversity.

Physical health attributes, like water quality are monitored year round, especially during storm events. If you've ever wondered about the shed at Kings Road and Thompson Line-it collects water samples during storm events of Shashawandah Creek.

Municipal Drain Conservation Practices

Municipal Drains are vital for transporting water off the land to improve farmability and benefit yield. When combined with other BMPs, these systems can transport high-quality water to Lake Huron. A major theme of this newsletter is to keep productive soil and nutrients on the land where it is needed most. Projects like buffer strips, grassed waterways, and windbreaks can be the first line of defense on your property.

For any works conducted on or adjacent to a drain (e.g. maintenance or improvements), proper sediment and erosion control is essential to prevent transport of sediment downstream. Control measures can include: silt fencing, turbidity curtains, straw bale check-dams, temporary erosion control blankets, and sediment traps. Discuss the work plan with your Drainage Engineer or Superintendent; they can recommend appropriate control measures as requirements can vary by site. Ensure work is conducted during dry, low or no-flow periods. Complete the work outside of spring freshets or significant precipitation events, as this is when water is at its highest levels and fastest velocity. Make sure that every regulatory effort was made to remain in compliance with applicable legislation and the terms and conditions associated with any permits, approvals or authorizations issued for the project. Your local Conservation Authority and other regulatory agencies may also be involved in the project. Finally, ensure that all disturbed areas are re-vegetated with enough time to germinate before removing any temporary control measures.

- Stewardship staff are working with Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to develop a factsheet on maintenance of erosion control berms to promote the longevity of this green infrastructure (see below, funded through OMAFRA COA).

Rill Erosion & Berms

Rill erosion is distinct finger-like paths where soil has been washed away. Many farmers live with these rills and leave the areas idle or fill them in year after year. This requires more energy and time to manage. One of the best management practices to control this type of erosion is earthen berms and inlet risers or water and sediment control basins (WASCBs). This BMP intercepts water runoff and then releases it slowly to a subsurface drain pipe in less than 24 hours. These BMP should be implemented to combat rill erosion where the topography is relatively flat (slope <2%) and the contributing watershed is small (<10ha). For large contributing watersheds, multiple structures or grassed waterways may be required. You should always work with a qualified professional to ensure proper design and make sure site specific conditions are considered.

For OMAFRA Certified Erosion Control Contractors near you check out: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/soilerosioncontractors.htm>

Proper design is a big part of the project. If it's not done right, it's not going to work— worse, it will give these projects a bad name!"

Peter Dimmers, Oxford County, OMAFRA BMP: Controlling Soil Erosion on the Farm

Construction

- Work with a qualified professional
- An emergency overflow spillway should be included on all (narrow or broad-based) berm systems
- Ensure proper berm height is achieved and allows for freeboard & settling of runoff sediment
- If possible, berms should be constructed in the same direction as crop rows to minimize inconvenience to field operations
- Install subsurface piping prior to berm construction

Drainpipe sizes can be reduced since runoff is stored for 24 hours

- Topsoil must be scraped away, but can be stockpiled for later replacement following construction
- Use sub-soils free of stones and debris with a minimum clay content of 10%
- Build in 15cm (6in) layers, compacting progressively
- Dress the structure with topsoil to promote vegetative growth

Maintenance

It is essential to the long-term integrity of the structural erosion control system! With good maintenance practices, a in-field berm structure can last a lifetime.

- Regularly inspect the berm, inlet & subsurface drainage system for burrowing animals, cracks, settling & other concerns
- Protect the ponding area from excessive sedimentation by using crop rotations and conservation tillage
- If excess sediment builds up in the ponding area, remove it
- Although riser inlets are designed to handle crop residue, at times they may need to be cleaned off
- Check the emergency spillway after extreme runoff events and carryout necessary repairs immediately
- Consider mowing the berm twice a year to control woody vegetation

Freeboard allows for an extra 15cm (6in) in height on a riser inlet for emergency protection.

For information about available grants, contact Jessica Van Zwol jvanzwol@scrc.ca 519-245-3710

- The Biology and Communications departments finished the Aquatic Species at Risk Newsletter that will soon be delivered to over 60,000 households in the watershed (funded through DFO)
- The GIS department, in conjunction with stewardship staff, are currently developing 2 erosion mapping tools that will assist in targeting areas that would benefit from voluntary implementation of BMPs in the Brown Creek and Lambton Shores watersheds. The Lambton Shores tool is being created in conjunction with the other 4 Healthy Lake Huron Conservation Authorities (funded through OMAFRA COA).
- Centre Ipperwash Community Association has invited Jessica Van Zwol and Emily De Cloet to present to their members in March on coastal stewardship and Lake Huron water levels (funded by MECF COA).
- Lambton Wildlife Inc. invited Craig Paterson, Biology department, to present on our 2020 Round Goby fish monitoring program (funded by DFO).
- In spring 2021, Roland Eveleens, a University of Windsor Master's student will join the Biology department as a FishCast Intern for a 16-week term. FishCAST is a co-curricular training program designed by experts and funded by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council to train graduate students in the fisheries and aquatic sciences. Roland will work with SCRC to create outreach material based around his research on freshwater mussels in the Sydenham River.

Information sharing, partnerships, and word-of-mouth lead to on the ground stewardship projects. We are currently working with 27 landowners to implement 30 stewardship projects on over 70 acres in our watershed.

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.

in 2020. This year, in just 3 nights of sampling, **115 different species of moths and 27 non-moth species** identified. Twelve species of these moths are likely to be uncommon in Ontario. Check out the Board package for photos highlighting the diversity of all these species!

Now that this study has been conducted for 2 years at Moore Wildlife Area, Allen Woodliffe is interested in extending his studies to other Conservation Areas within our watershed. Reid Conservation Area, with its mature woodlands, wet meadows and Sydenham River riparian habitat, is known to be a local biodiversity hotspot, supporting a number of rare and sensitive species. For these reasons, Allen is hoping to find more uncommon or rare species at the property. He also suspects that there are still many more species to be discovered at Moore Wildlife Area.

**Black Lighting for Insects
At
Sydenham River Nature Reserve
2020**



**P. Allen Woodliffe
Chatham, Ontario
December, 2020**

Introduction

The Sydenham River Nature Reserve, located at the Lambton and Middlesex counties border south of Alvinston, is owned by Ontario Nature. It was visited on two occasions in 2020 to search for moths and other invertebrates which would be attracted by a black light. Visits were made on July 20 and September 16.

The process

Two lights were used at each visit. One light was set up at the end of Buttonwood Drive, with the white sheet draped over the vehicle, as illustrated in the cover image. The second light was about 50-75 metres along the trail into the forest, where a rope was temporarily tied between two trees and the white sheet placed over the suspended rope. Even though the two lights were not far apart, the one along the trail is of a slightly different wavelength, potentially attracting different species. Photos were taken with a Canon 5DIII, Canon 100mm f/2.8 macro lens, one or two extension tubes, and a Canon Macro Ring Lite flash.

Typically, warm (~15C or above), humid nights with little or no wind are ideal, and evenings were chosen for the best opportunity for these conditions. The lights were turned on about half an hour after sunset and on continuously for about three hours on average each night.

Photographing moths and other invertebrates has become increasingly popular in the last decade or so, with the availability of several exceptionally useful sources of information. These include:

- Peterson *Field Guide to Moths of Northeastern North America*, by David Beadle and Seabrooke Leckie, 2012;
- BugGuide, an online insect identifying data base hosted by the Dept of Entomology, Iowa State University;
- iNaturalist, an online database and identification system which in Canada, is sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, The Royal Ontario Museum, Parks Canada and Nature Serve Canada.

The emphasis of these visits was on moths, and certainly they did not disappoint. There were actually more than the 101 species on the list that were photographed. However as moths age, they wear considerably, losing many of the scales that give them their characteristic pattern and colours. Some were too worn to identify beyond genus, and others were too worn to even identify to the genus level. There are a few that remain on the BugGuide or iNaturalist websites, hoping that some expert will be able to examine the photo and eventually determine which genus and/or species these currently unknown specimens are. In the list below, most species will have a common name. Some species do not have a common name, so are listed only by their scientific name.

Not a lot of effort was made to photograph non-moth insects. Caddisflies were sometimes abundant, but it is a large group which are often difficult to identify from a photo to the species level. Some beetles were photographed, but some were so small that a photo good enough for identification was almost impossible to get. The list of non-moth species included here is just what were taken as the opportunity arose. Of particular note, however, was the observation of a leafhopper, *Chlorotettix lusorius*. At the time, July 20, it was the first record for Canada on iNaturalist, and only the second record on iNat for all of North America, with the other being in Maryland, USA. The person who identified it is an authority on leafhoppers on both iNat as well as BugGuide. After I had posted it on iNat he contacted me and asked me to also post it on Bug Guide. Since then it has been found in a few other places in Ontario, including possibly, but not yet confirmed, at the Moore Wildlife Area.

Moth Status

Many of the moth species are considered relatively common in Ontario, as per the status given in Beadle and Leckie (B&L). Those that B&L considered uncommon are marked with *. Those with ** are not included in B&L and are likely uncommon. Species in **bold** are considered Rare in Ontario according to the Natural Heritage Information Centre. The species in brackets are likely, but not confirmed.

B&L include approximately 1500 moth species in their field guide, and feature mainly the more common species or more colourful or distinctly patterned ones. However, there are believed to be at least 3000 species occurring in the area that field guide covers, so there are a few documented at SRNR that were not included in B&L.

Moths (101)

Acrobasis sp.

Ambiguous Moth, *Lascoria ambigualis*

American Idia, *Idia americanalis*

Arcigera Flower Moth, *Schinia arcigera*

Aster-headed Eucosma, *Eucosma tomonana*

Banded Tussock Moth, *Halysidota tessellaris*

Beautiful Wood-nymph, *Eudryas grata*

Bent-lined Carpet, *Costaconvexa centrostrigaria*

Black Duckweed Moth, *Synclita tinealis*

Black-patched Glaphyria, *Glaphyria fulminalis*

Bold-feathered Grass Moth, *Herpetogramma pertextalis*

Broad-banded Eulogia, *Eulogia ochrifrontella*

Bunchberry Leaf folder Moth, *Olethreutes connectum***

Canadian Melanolophia, *Melanolophia canadaria*

Carrot Seed Moth, *Sitochroa palealis*

Celery Leaf tier, *Udea rubigalis*

Chickweed Geometer, *Haematopsis grataria*

Clover Hayworm, *Hypsopygia costalis*

Common Angle, *Macaria aemulataria*

Common Idia, *Idia aemula*

Common Pug, *Eupithecia miserulata*

(Coneflower Borer, *Papaipema nelita**)

Copper Underwing, *Amphipyra pyramidoides*

Cross-lined Wave, *Timandra amaturaria*

Curve-lined Agonopteryx, *Agonopteryx curvilineella*

Dark Olethreutes, *Olethreutes nigranum*

Definite Tussock Moth, *Orygia definita*

Delightful Donacaula, *Donacaula melinellus**

(*Dichomeris ventrellus***)

Dingy Cutworm, *Feltia jaculifera*

Double-banded Grass-veneer, *Crambus agitatellus*

Double-striped Scoparia, *Scoparia biplagiata*

Dull-barred Endothenia, *Endothenia hebesana*

Elegant Grass-veneer, *Microcrambus elegans*

Faint-spotted Palthis, *Palthis asopialis*

Flowing-lined Snout, *Hypena manalis*

Forest Tent Caterpillar Moth, *Malacosoma disstria*

Four-dotted Agonopterix, *Agonopterix robiniella*

Friendly Probole, *Probole amicaria*

Geometrid sp.

Glossy Black Idia, *Idia lubricalis*

Gold-stripe Grass-veneer, *Microcrambus biguttellus*

Gold-striped Leaf tier, *Machimia tentoriferella*

Grapevine Looper, *Eulithis* sp.

Gray-marked Tortricid, *Decodes blasiplagana*

Grease Moth, *Aglossa cuprina*

Green Leuconycta, *Leuconycta diptheroides*

Guenee's Pearl, *Anania tertialis**

Gypsy Moth, *Lymantria dispar*

Hairnet Acleris, *Acleris forskaeana*

Hickory Leafroller, *Argyrotaenia juglandana*

Hickory Leafstem Borer, *Acrobasis angusella*

Hop Vine Moth, *Hypena humuli*

Horned Spanworm, *Nematocampa resistaria*

Impulsive Apamea, *Apamea impulsiva*

(Indigo Stem Borer Moth, *Papaipema baptisiae*)

Interrupted Dagger, *Acronicta interrupta*

Large Mossy Glyph, *Protodeltote muscosula*

Large Tolyte, *Tolyte vellela*

Leucania sp.

Linden Prominent, *Ellida caniplaga*

Many-spotted Scoparia, *Scoparia basalis*

Maple Spanworm, *Ennomos magnaria*

Marbled-green Leuconycta, *Leuconycta lepidula*

Meadow Rue Borer, *Papaipema unimoda**

Melanolophia sp.

Moonseed Moth, *Plusiodonta compressipalpis**

Oblique-banded Leafroller, *Choristoneura rosaceana*

Olethreutes sp.

Painted Lichen Moth, *Hypoprepia fucosa*

Pale Beauty, *Campaea perlata*

Pale-winged Gray, *Iridopsis ephyraria*

Pink-barred Pseudeustrotia, *Pseudeustrotia carneola*

Purple-backed Cabbage Worm, *Evergestis pallidata*

Red-fringed Emerald, *Nemoria rubrifrontaria*

Showy Emerald, *Dichorda iridaria*

Signate Melanolophia, *Melanolophia signataria*

Sleeping Bailey, *Baileya dormitans*

Smith's Dart, *Xestia smithii*

Snowy Geometer, *Eugonobapta nivosaria*

Soft-lined Wave, *Scopula inductata*

Splendid Palpita, *Palpita magniferalis*

Spotted Grass Moth, *Rivula propinquialis*

Straight-lined Plagodis, *Plagodis phlogosaria*

Striped Oak Webworm, *Pococera expandens*

The Badwing, *Dyspteris abortivaria*

The White-speck, *Mythimna unipuncta*

Thelma's Agonopterix, *Agonopterix thelmae***

Thin-winged Owllet, *Nigetia formosalis**

Three-patched Bigwing, *Heterophleps refusaria**

Tortricid sp.

Vagabond Crambus, *Agriphila vulgivagellus*

Virginian Tiger Moth, *Spilosoma virginica*

Waterlily Borer, *Elophila gyralis*

Wavy-lined Fanfoot, *Zanclognatha jacchusalis*

White-lined Snout, *Hypena abalienalis*

White-spotted Hedy, *Hedya chionosema***

White-spotted Redectis, *Redectis vitrea*

Woodgrain Leafroller Moth, *Pandemis lamprosana***

Yellow-collared Scape Moth, *Cisseps fulvicollis*

Yellow-gray Underwing, *Catocala retecta*

Non-moths (28)

Caddisfly, Hydropsychinae

Caddisfly, *Pycnopsyche* sp.

Citrus Flatid Planthopper, *Metcalfa pruinosa*

Dobsonfly, *Corydalus cornutus*

Grapevine Beetle, *Pelidnota punctata*

Green Stinkbug, *Banasa calva*

Green Stinkbug, *Chinavia hilaris*

Hickory Hairstreak

Ichneumon sp.

Ichneumonid, *Netelia* sp.

Leafhopper, *Paraphlepsius* sp.

Leafhopper, *Scaphoideus obtusus*

Leafhopper, *Scaphoideus pullus*

Leafhopper, *Chlorotettix lusorius***

Leafhopper, *Chlorotettix* sp.

Leafhopper, *Draeculacephala* sp.

Leafhopper, *Gyponana octolineata*

Leafhopper, *Ponona quadralaba*

Leafhopper, *Tylozygus bifidus*

Mayfly

Northern Bush Katydid, *Scudderia septentrionalis*

Northern Flatid Planthopper, *Flatormenis proxima*

Red-banded Leafhopper, *Graphocephala coccinea*

Saddled Leafhopper, *Colladonus clitellarius*

Spittlebug

Treehopper, *Carynota mera*

Two-spotted Tree Cricket, *Neoxabea bipunctata*

Weevil, *Conotrachelus* sp.

Appendix I: Select photos of moths photographed at SRNR



Banded Tussock Moth



Curve-lined Agonopteryx



Four-dotted Agonopteryx



Black Duckweed Moth



Dichomeris ventrellus



Green Leuconycta



Black-patched Glaphyria



Faint-spotted Palthis



Gypsy Moth



Carrot Seed Moth



Forest Tent Caterpillar



Hairnet Acleris



Interrupted Dagger



Sleeping Bailey



Woodgrain Leafroller Moth



Maple Spanworm



Striped Oak Webworm



American Idia



Marbled-Green Leuconycta



The White-speck



Broad-banded Eulogia



Moonseed Moth



Waterlily Borer Moth



Clover Hayworm



Common Idia



Hop Vine Moth



Thelma's Agonopteryx



Coneflower Borer



Large Tolyte



White-lined Snout



Definite Tussock Moth



Purple-backed Cabbage Worm



Yellow-gray Underwing



Flowing-lined Snout



Spotted Grass Moth



Beautiful Wood-nymph



Bold-feathered Grass Moth



Guenee's Pearl



Soft-lined Wave



Bunchberry Leafroller



Horned Spanworm



Straight-lined Plegodis



Canadian Melanophia



Linden Prominent



The Badwing



Delightful Donacaula



Moonseed Moth



Three-spotted Filip



Friendly Proboscis



Red-fringed Emerald



White-spotted Hedya



Grapevine Looper



Showy Emerald



Arcigera Flower Moth



Bent-lined Carpet



Chickweed Geometer



Cross-lined Wave



Large Mossy Glyph



Yellow-collared Scape Moth



Elegant Grass-veneer



Painted Lichen Moth



Pink-barred Pseudeustrotia



Thin-winged Owlet



Gold-striped Leaf-tier



Indigo Stem Borer Moth



Oblique-banded Leafroller



Gray-marked Tortricid



Meadow-rue Borer



Smith's Dart

Appendix II. Non-moth species



Grapevine Beetle



Green Stinkbug



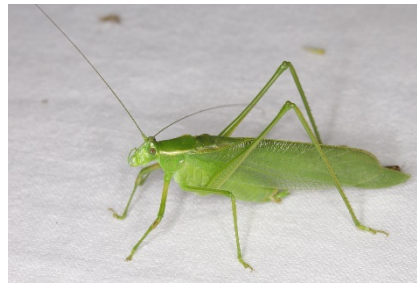
Ichneumonid



Leafhopper, *Chlorotettix lusorius*



Leafhopper, *Tylozigus bifidus*



Northern Bush Katydid



Caddisfly



Gyponana octolineata



Ponona quadralaba



Northern Flatid Planthopper



Red-banded Leafhopper



Saddled Leafhopper



Treehopper, *Carynota mera*



Two-spotted Tree Cricket



Weevil, *Conotrachelus* sp.

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 10, 2021
Submitted by: Craig Paterson

Item 16.1 (k)

Subject: Results from mussel research conducted by SCRCA Biology in 2020

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on the results from mussel research conducted by SCRCA Biology in 2020

Background:

Local residents cherish the Sydenham River. Many connect with it through a collection of recreational activities, including fishing, paddling, photography, hiking and exploring. This study aids in preserving the integrity of this local treasure for present and future generations.

The Sydenham River, situated in Southwestern Ontario, boasts an elaborate array of biodiversity, supporting some of the richest species diversity in Canada. The River and connecting lands, provide critical habitat to a plethora of fish, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. This vital ecosystem also provides sanctuary to an extensive variety of Canada's freshwater mussels. In 2020, under the direction of DFO and in accordance with the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR), the St Clair Region Conservation Authority Biology department conducted systematic freshwater mussel surveys to understand spatial patterns of mussel distribution and habitat relationships. This report is the product of data obtained during year two of a four year study funded through CNFASAR grant. The 2021 field season signals the beginning of year three and will involve replicating year two efforts at new locations along the Sydenham. Year four will target historic freshwater mussel study sites.

Importance: The Sydenham is a unique and critically important system as it is home to many of the country's freshwater mussel species. Currently, twelve of the fifteen mussel species assessed as at-risk in Ontario by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) inhabit the turbid waters of the Sydenham River. The reports and data generated from this study are used and shared throughout both the **Canadian and global research community**. In North America, freshwater mussels have declined by 70%. Habitat degradation, pollution, invasive species (Round Goby and Zebra Mussels) and loss of fish hosts which are vitally important during the mussel reproduction cycle.

Research Results: Throughout the 4km reach a total of **1689 live mussels** were detected, representing **22 different species**, including **89 SAR**, representing eight species. Although freshwater mussel populations in the Sydenham River have been well studied over time, the study sites surveyed in 2020 have received minimal attention and consequently, data on species richness and abundance was relatively absent. The 2020 study has provided a unique opportunity to explore a vast and contiguous segment of this diverse and remarkable river system.

Highlight: Although rarely seen or encountered, mussels play an integral role in shaping aquatic ecosystems. Beneath the surface, mussels are a filter-feeding powerhouse. **A single mussel can filter 40 L of water per day.** Collectively, the mussels recorded in this study can filter a staggering **25 million litres of water a year, which is equivalent to 10 Olympic size swimming pools.** This filtering process removes algae, organic matter, and nutrients; converts cloudy contaminated water to clear and healthy; and benefits an array of aquatic organisms from plants to fish to invertebrates.

Collaborations: This work is only possible due to the collective effort from Kelly McNichols-O'Rourke, Margaret Sheldon and Todd Morris of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Healthy Headwaters Lab at the University of Windsor, led by Dr. Catherine Febria and the continued support from local private landowners who graciously permit access to their lands.

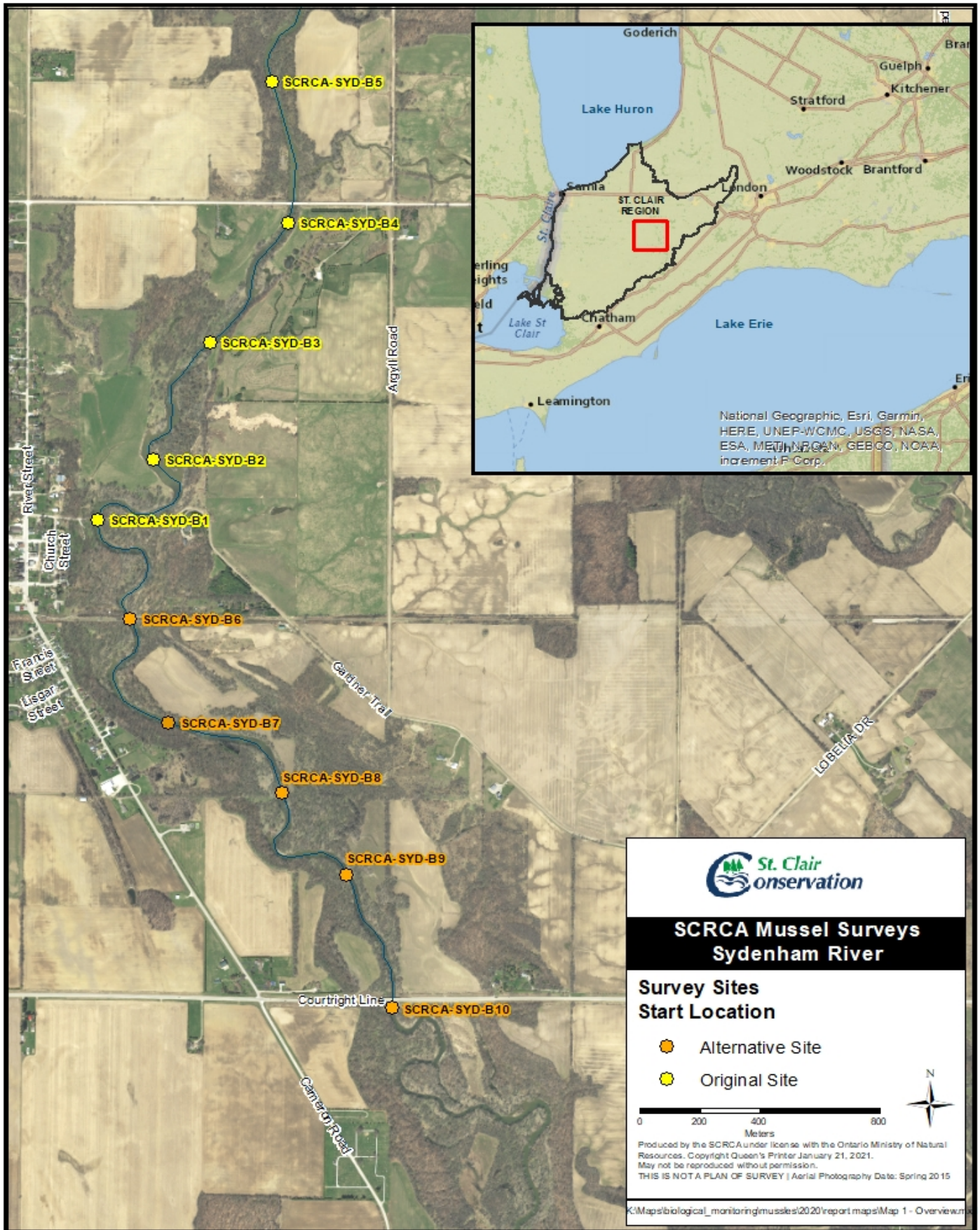
Financial Impact:

All monitoring and research projects conducted by SCRCA Biology are supported through self-generated revenue and external grant programs.

Projects like this contribute to our understanding of the Sydenham River. In order to preserve the health of a river you need to study what lives in it. Our unique freshwater mussel populations act as one tool in a vast environmental toolbox, which we can use to measure how healthy our river is.

- 1. River health can be measured by studying fish and mussels.**
- 2. River health influences the local community and its residents.**
- 3. Actions by the local community and its residents effect river health.**

This study can aid in making informed, watershed-based decisions that can improve water quality, maintain & monitor river health and preserve this remarkable system for not only local residents but for future generations.



Winter Education Programs

Education evolution is happening all around; times are changing fast and the SCRCA Education Team is eager to meet these challenges with innovative, creative and exciting new programming options. Many of the winter, 2021 program offerings were developed utilizing grant/sponsorship funding, providing teachers with free programming. For a full list of our current programs, please visit www.scrca.on.ca/govirtual.

- 1. Maple Syrup Program:** A fun mix of live streaming, pre-recorded videos, songs and games will bring kids on a trip through time to teach them all about maple syrup. The students will also learn about French-Canadian culture and the celebrations that take place around “le temps des sucres”, thanks, in part to a new partnership with the Sarnia-Lambton French Community Centre. The SCRCE Education Team is very excited to offer this bilingual program to our watershed schools! The program runs from March 5-12, with 4 out of 10 spaces already booked!
- 2. Phosphorus 101:** Sponsored by Friends of the St. Clair River and EcoAction Canada, this program introduces students from Grades 8-12 to the issue of phosphorus loading into our watershed and Lake Erie. This live-stream version of the program fully booked within a few weeks of its launch; over 200 students have participated to date.
- 3. Aquatic Species at Risk:** This longstanding program, currently sponsored by the Canada Nature Fund, has been re-created into a pre-recorded video series for teachers (Grades 4-12) to use with their students. The 4-part series was launched Feb. 4th, 2021 and has over 70 views (~1500 students reached).
- 4. Watershed 101:** Friends of the St. Clair River are sponsoring this brand new live-stream program which focuses on the interconnectivity between land and water. Grade 6-8 students will ‘tour’ the conservation area, learning about watershed management and how what happens upstream impacts downstream. This program is fully booked for 2021 with over 175 students expected to participate.
- 5. Spring Water Awareness Program:** Plains-Midstream Canada continue to sponsor this program. Staff are in the design/development stage to adapt this program to meet the ever-changing needs of the schools and students in our watershed. The current goal is to create a hybrid virtual-schoolyard program which would allow staff to engage students in-person.

Kettle and Stony Point First Nation – Canadian Nature Fund, Year 2

Staff have been working with two classes this year at Hillside Elementary School in partnership with the Ojibwee program and the Principal/Education Director to add a western science lens to the school's Land Based Education curriculum. Successful school outdoor visits occurred in October, November, and December, 2020. The project is now on hold due to school closures, but visits will resume once the school re-opens. This partnership continues to grow and evolve despite school closures; Steve Styers (Principal and Education Director) and Nicole Monague (Ojibwee Instructor) have both agreed to participate in the Great Lakes Virtual Field Trip project as part of the Teacher Focus Group and have graciously connected us with Indigenous Water Protectors to interview for the project.

Special Events 2021

A.W. Campbell Maple Syrup Festival

CANCELLED

Date: Saturday, March 20 to Sunday, March 21, 2021

Time: 10 am to 3 pm

Location: A.W. Campbell Conservation Area



Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race

TO BE CONFIRMED

Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021

Registration: 10 am to 11 am

Start Location: Mossie Line at Sydenham River

End Location: Shetland Conservation Area



Denning's Memorial Forest Dedication

TO BE CONFIRMED

Date: To Be Confirmed

Time: 2 pm

Location: Centennial Park, Strathroy

Ipperwash Beach Shoreline Clean-up

Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021 (Tentative)

Time: 9 am to 11 am

Location: Centre Ipperwash Beach Boat Launch



A Geocaching Adventure

Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 (Tentative)

Time: 9 am

Location: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication

Date - Sunday, September 26, 2021 (Tentative)

Time: 2 pm

Location: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area



For details on events, visit www.scrca.on.ca

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021 **Item 17.1**
Report Date: January 26, 2021
Submitted by: Greg Wilcox

Subject: Camping Season and Fee Modifications in the Event of an Altered Seasonal Camping Season

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors approves the fee adjustment formula proposed for 2021 in the event that the seasonal camping season is altered due to COVID-19, approves up to a 2 week extension to the camping season, and approves the full refund of daily camping fees when staff deem appropriate.

Background:

Due to COVID-19, SCRCA’s camping season could be shortened/ interrupted in 2021. To be prepared for this possibility, staff have prepared a formula that would allow seasonal camping fees to be modified as changes to the season occur.

Current Seasonal Fees (May 1 – October 17):

Fee Type	2021 Approved Fee	Season Length	Cost per week
Site Permit	\$2430	24 weeks	\$101.25
Weekly Pump-out	\$470	24 weeks	\$19.58
Bi-weekly Pump-out	\$235	24 weeks	\$9.38
Golf Cart	\$210	24 weeks	\$8.75
Exterior Fridge	\$180	24 weeks	\$7.50

Proposed Camping Extension:

Similar to 2020, the camping season could be extended for up to 2 weeks in 2021. This would provide campers additional opportunity to enjoy the parks while allowing SCRCA to recover lost revenue in the event that COVID-19 interrupts the camping season.

Proposed Seasonal Fee Adjustments:

1. All seasonal fees listed in the table above would be adjusted based on the following formula:
Season Length (in weeks) x Cost per week

2. If pools are not able to operate each seasonal permit would be reduced by \$215 (estimated operating cost of pools/# of seasonal sites). If pools operate and are closed due to COVID requirements/concerns, no refunds will be available.

Proposed Daily Camping Fee Adjustment

1. 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 refunds of reservation fees when appropriate.

Financial Impact:

The extent of the financial impact is unknown at this time. Delays or interruptions to the camping season may be necessary to keep campers/staff safe and to follow public health recommendations/requirements.

If the seasonal camping season is shortened, the following reductions in revenue are estimated.

Seasonal Camping (All Campgrounds)

Fee Type	Estimated # of Customers	Weekly Revenue	Total
Site Permit	425	\$101.25	\$43,031.25
Weekly Pump-out	25	\$19.58	\$489.50
Bi-weekly Pump-out	240	\$9.38	\$2,251.20
Golf Cart Pass	175	\$8.75	\$1,531.25
Exterior Fridge	65	\$7.50	\$487.50
Total Estimated Weekly Revenue Loss (Includes Taxes)			\$47,790.70

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

\$215 per site permit x 425 Seasonal Permits = \$91,375 (Includes Taxes)

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: January 27, 2021
Submitted by: Greg Wilcox

Item 17.2

Subject: Proposed Conservation Areas Board and Staff Member Fee Policy

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors approves the proposed Board and Staff Member Fee Policy for Conservation Area Use.

Background:

Providing Board and staff members with reduced rates for Conservation Area use increases internal knowledge of CA facilities, increases staff presence at Authority properties, provides a modest perk, and has minimal financial impact.

Board and staff member discounts have existed at SCRCA and other Conservation Authorities for many years. SCRCA has not had a written policy in place to guide staff on the implementation of reduced rates.

Board and staff members are provided a Conservation Ontario pass annually that permits free admission into many Ontario Conservation Areas. Currently, SCRCA waives day use fees for all Conservation Ontario pass holders at our three campgrounds.

The proposed reduced rates for camping (both seasonal and transient) are consistent with a number of other Conservation Authorities. A 50% rate reduction was most common among other Authorities who were contacted.

A written policy will provide clarity for campground staff when implementing rate reductions and eliminate staff discretion, which could lead to inconsistencies.

Financial Impact:

Five current staff members have seasonal sites reserved for 2021. This would result in total site discounts of approximately \$5376.

In recent years, transient campsite use by staff has been minimal. An estimated 10 camping nights per year by staff would result in a discount of approximately \$217.



St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Board and Staff Member Fee Policy for Conservation Area Use

Discounts apply to conservation areas owned and operated by SCRCA. Discounts do not apply at conservation areas operated by our municipal partners through lease agreements. (Example: Camping at Shetland CA)

Day Use Fees

Day Use Entry Fees	\$0
Pavilion Rentals	\$0 (will need to pay applicable insurance fee)
Canoe/Kayak Rentals	\$0 (if available, can't be reserved)

Consistent with the Conservation Ontario Board Member/Staff pass, Authority staff will not be charged day use entry fees at SCRCA conservation areas. Currently day use fees exist at A.W. Campbell CA, Lorne C. Henderson CA, and Warwick CA. Please show your Conservation Ontario Pass to the gatehouse or place on your vehicle dash.

Transient Camping Fees

Site Fee	50% discount
Reservation Fee	\$0
Change Fee	\$0
Cancellation Fee	\$0

All current SCRCA Board members and staff will receive a 50% discount on transient camping site fees. Discount applies to the campsite occupied by staff; discount does not apply to reservations made for friends/family on additional sites. Sites reserved by Board Members or staff during the initial reservation period (January of each year) do not qualify for discount. Board member and staff discount does not apply on long weekends.

Please reserve directly through Conservation Areas Manager or campground staff (not online).

Seasonal Camping Fees

Seasonal Site Fee	50% *(applies only for the duration of time on the Board of Directors or the time employed by the Authority)
Sewage Pump Out	50% (no charge for superintendents and assistants)
Exterior Fridge/Freezer	\$0
Golf Cart	\$0

*example of discount for staff not employed for the entire camping season

Employed for 12 weeks during the camping season

Site Fee (\$2000) / # of Camping weeks in season (24 wks)= \$83.33 per week

12 weeks employed * \$83.33/wk * 50% discount = \$500 discount



Seasonal Site discounts apply only to Board members or staff who are the registered occupants of the seasonal site. This discount is not intended for extended family.

There is no discount to the non-refundable site deposit that holds your campsite for the following season.

General:

Any discount received is deemed a taxable benefit by CRA and as such all discounts received in the Year will be added to your T4's. This includes all discounted or waived fees such as Golf Carts, Pump Outs, Reservation Fees, etc.

All Conservation Area users will be expected to follow the same policies and regulations that govern the activities and use of Authority properties.

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: January 27, 2021
Submitted by: Greg Wilcox

Item 17.3

Subject: Updated Seasonal Camping Policies/Regulations, Refund Policy, and Golf Cart Rules

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors approves the updated “Seasonal Camping Policies and Regulations”, “Golf Cart Rules”, and “Seasonal Camping Refund Policy” and permit staff to implement minor updates in future years.

Background:

A number of policies govern seasonal camping at SCRCA’s three campgrounds. To simplify our policies for campers, staff have combined the Seasonal Campground Regulations and Seasonal Campsite Standards into one “Policies and Regulations” document.

Additionally, updates have been made to both the Seasonal Camping Refund Policy and the Golf Cart Rules.

Seasonal Camping Policies and Regulations (item 15.5b) and Golf Cart Rules (15.5c) will follow this report. The Seasonal Camping Refund Policy is included later in the report.

Key Changes:

Seasonal Camping Policies and Regulations

Regulation #	Regulation	Change from Previous
7	Must provide proof of insurance	Insurance was required but proof was not required
9	Personal or recreational use of drones prohibited.	Not in previous regulations. Concerns regarding safety and privacy.
11	E-bikes permitted on roadways only	Not in previous regulations. Can pose safety concern on trails.
14	Cannabis use prohibited during alcohol/cannabis ban, otherwise	Cannabis use not in previous regulations

	cannabis permitted on registered site and open spaces	
15	Cultivation of cannabis is prohibited	Not in previous regulations
64-67	Off-season storage and access	Not outlined in previous regulations

Golf Cart Rules

Rule	Change from Previous
Carts must be back on site by 11pm and remain until 8am unless campers have mobility issues requiring cart use during quiet hours	Not in previous rules. Change will reinforce the quiet hour's policy and encourage safe use of golf carts.
Proof of insurance required	Not required in previous rules
Only electric carts allowed	This was a requirement, but not stated in rules
Cannabis rules added to alcohol section	Not in previous rules

Seasonal Camping Refund Policy

Policy	Change from Previous
No refund of seasonal camping deposit	Previous policy did not include the non-refundable deposit that started in the 2021 camping season.
Refund formula based on the number of weeks into the camping season	Old refund policy was 60% until June 1, 30% until July 1, no refund after July 1

SCRCA Seasonal Camping Refund Policy

This policy is intended to maintain good relations with both current and prospective patrons. SCRCA campgrounds will all adhere to this policy to ensure consistency when providing refunds.

When seasonal campers make their full site payment and submit their completed seasonal campsite application, they are committing to becoming a "seasonal camper". These campers then receive a reduced rate for a campsite for the duration of the seasonal camping permit.

Once a seasonal payment is processed refunds must comply with our seasonal camping refund chart. Rather than implementing a "zero refund" policy, seasonal campers may request a refund of their seasonal camping fee (minus non-refundable deposit, minus the off-peak weekly camping rate for each week on site). **There will be NO refunds for other paid seasonal camping services.**

Please note that the refund policy does not apply to site evictions. NO REFUNDS are available at any time as a result of a seasonal campsite eviction.

SCRCA Seasonal Camping Refund Chart			2021 Sample Calculation	
Date Site Vacated	# of weeks camped	Refund Formula	Calculation	Refund
May 1 or prior	0	Site Fee - \$200 deposit	\$2430 - \$200	\$2230
May 2 – 7	1	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (1*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(1*225)	\$2005
May 8 - 14	2	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (2*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(2*225)	\$1780
May 15 - 21	3	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (3*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(3*225)	\$1555
May 22 - 28	4	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (4*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(4*225)	\$1330
May 29 – June 3	5	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (5*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(5*225)	\$1105
June 4 – June 10	6	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (6*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(6*225)	\$880
June 11-17	7	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (7*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(7*225)	\$655
June 18 - 24	8	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (8*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(8*225)	\$430
June 25 – July 1	9	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (9*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(9*225)	\$205
After July 1	10	Site Fee - \$200 deposit – (10*weekly off peak rate)	\$2430-\$200-(10*225)	\$0



2021 Conservation Area Policies & Regulations
Seasonal Camping – REVISED DUE TO COVID-19, FEB 10, 2021
 205 Mill Pond Crescent, Strathroy, ON, N7G3P9
www.scrca.on.ca

A.W. Campbell
 Conservation Area
 8477 Shiloh Line, Alvinston
 (519) 847-5357
campbell@scrca.on.ca

L.C. Henderson
 Conservation Area
 3653 Petrolia Line, Petrolia
 (519) 882-2280
henderson@scrca.on.ca

Warwick
 Conservation Area
 6101 Warwick Village Rd,
 Warwick
 (519) 849-6770
warwick@scrca.on.ca

Note: All Conservation Area (CA) rules and regulations are subject to revision without notice at the discretion of the Superintendent. Any questions regarding policies and regulations should be directed to park staff.

REVISIONS:

Covid -19 continues to be a very fluid situation and SCRCA policies and regulations for seasonal camping will likely change throughout the season. Staff will ensure that changes are communicated electronically as necessary. To assure camper and staff safety, we will not deliver paper copies of changes to campsites. Revisions that have been made as of the date above are identified in *red italics*, to help campers quickly identify changes. Any questions about the policies and regulations should be directed electronically to park staff.

General

- All federal, provincial and municipal laws apply while on SCRCA properties (A.W. Campbell, L.C. Henderson and Warwick Conservation Areas), *including directives from the federal and provincial governments and public health officials pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic.*
- SCRCA is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged property.
- Requests for police, fire, and ambulance services should be made by calling 911. Please also inform park staff of any disturbances or emergencies.
- Verbal or physical abuse or threatening behavior toward SCRCA staff or other CA users will not be tolerated and may result in immediate eviction from the campground.
- No person shall willfully damage any public or private property, buildings, or other facilities.
- All seasonal campers must provide a minimum \$1 million liability insurance which names their conservation area as an additional insured on the policy.
- All campers must provide a copy of their insurance policy or provide a formal letter from their insurance providers to show proof of insurance (including liability) at the start of the camping season.

Conservation Area Activities

- No excessive noise or disturbance permitted at any time. Quiet hours are from 11:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. No audio devices, musical instruments, etc. during quiet hours. Generators are prohibited within the CA, permission may be granted under certain circumstances.
- The possession or use of drones for personal or recreational use is strictly prohibited.
- The possession or use of a slingshot, air rifle, firearms or archery equipment is strictly prohibited. Use or possession of the above may result in charges under the law and/or immediate eviction.
- ATV's are not permitted within any of the SCRCA's conservation areas. The use of E-bikes is permitted on conservation area roadways only. All other power-assisted, low speed vehicles are not permitted with the exception of single rider assistive devices.
- Riding lawn mowers are not permitted, medical exemptions may be obtained through the Conservation Area Superintendent.

Alcohol/cannabis bans prohibit the possession or consumption of alcohol and cannabis anywhere within the property including registered campsites. Refer to **Conservation Areas Important Dates** for dates of these bans.

- Outside of a ban, consumption of alcohol is permitted on registered campsites only.

Transporting alcohol off your campsite is not permitted.

14. Outside of a ban, consumption of cannabis is permitted on registered campsites and in open spaces, like trails and parking lots. Smoking of cannabis is not permitted in enclosed public spaces, washrooms, shelter areas, within 20m of a playground or sporting area (such as horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, etc.), in a canoe/kayak, in a golf cart, or within pool enclosures.
15. Cultivation of cannabis is prohibited within all SCRCA Conservation Areas.
16. All visitors are to park in designated parking areas and have a valid entry permit displayed. Visitors must vacate the property by 11 p.m. nightly.
17. All day use and overnight visitors are subject to the fees that govern the use of the conservation area. Campground and day use hours may be restricted at the discretion of the Campground Superintendent.
18. Pet owners must comply with all provincial legislation and local animal control bylaws. Pets are prohibited in washrooms, showers, buildings, or pool enclosures unless they are designated service animals. No more than two pets are permitted on a single campsite. All pets are to be on a leash that does not exceed 2 meters (6 feet) at all times. Owners must clean up after their pets. No pets shall be left unattended or permitted to disturb others. Pet owners must ensure their pet does not make excessive noise. Aggressive/inappropriate behavior of a pet will result in immediate removal of the pet from the CA.
19. Pools: Parents/guardians are responsible for the supervision of their children. Swimmers will be required to follow SCRCA's Public Swimming Admittance Procedure which may require the completion of a swim test. No glass or food allowed in the swimming pool area. Everyone within the pool enclosure must follow the posted rules and the instructions of the lifeguard.
20. Campers must provide SCRCA staff or its designated representative's access to the campsite for maintenance, operations, servicing, development, and security.

Permits & Vehicles

21. Permit holders must be at least 18 years of age and be the primary occupant of the site.
22. Permit holders must ensure that all individuals occupying the site do not interfere with quiet, peaceful use and enjoyment of conservation authority lands by other campers and CA visitors.
23. Seasonal campsite permit authorizes two adults, and any unmarried children (under age 18) to

occupy the campsite. A maximum of six overnight campers including occupants and visitors are permitted on any site at once.

24. Subletting or renting trailers and/or sites is strictly prohibited.
25. Posted speed limits must be observed. Vehicles must be operated in a way that respects the Highway Traffic Act as well as the Conservation Authorities Act while within park boundaries. Passengers are not permitted to ride in the bed of a truck.
26. Two vehicles are permitted on an individual site at any time. All vehicles must display a valid vehicle pass at all times with license plate number clearly marked on the pass.
27. Storage of utility trailers on campsite is prohibited.

Golf Carts

28. Golf Carts are permitted at all 3 Conservation Areas such that the appropriate fee has been paid (see SCRCA Fees and Important Dates document), and liability insurance must provide coverage for the operation of golf carts.
29. All golf carts must have site number posted on the front and back of the vehicle (numbers must be at least 3 inches tall). Golf carts must be parked on your campsite by 11 p.m. and remain parked until 8a.m. unless approval by superintendent for operation during quiet hours for mobility reasons.
30. The same rules that apply to motor vehicles apply to golf carts within the campground. Drivers must have a valid driver's license. Golf carts must stay on roads and designated trails and must respect the posted speed limits. The number of passengers must be limited to the number of seats. Golf carts must always yield right-of-way to pedestrians. No alcohol/cannabis may be consumed on a golf cart, no open alcohol is permitted on golf carts, golf carts are not to be operated under the influence of alcohol/cannabis.
31. A copy of the SCRCA Golf Cart Rules must be signed by the site occupant annually, prior to use of golf carts.

Campsite Equipment

32. A permit allows one main hard-topped camping unit, one tent or dining tent, one shed, and two vehicles.
33. Trailers must be 20 years of age or newer and meet the approval of the CA superintendent. The trailer must not be a mobile home and cannot be used as a permanent residence. Park models are not permitted. Maximum trailer size: 40 feet x 8.5 feet.
34. All camping units must be oriented with the trailer hitch assembly facing the road for easy

- accessibility. Removal may be requested at any time due to maintenance and/or safety concerns. Trailers must be maintained, road-worthy, licensed and easily removable from the site.
35. Roof installations and/or alterations not part of the original trailer design are not permitted. Add-a-rooms are not permitted.
 36. Patio lights are permitted and must be turned off by midnight. All lights must be physically attached to the camping unit, shed, or deck. No more than 40 feet of exterior low wattage lighting is permitted on a single campsite.
 37. Swimming pools, wading pools, hot tubs, outdoor spas, large recreational equipment (e.g. trampolines, personal playground equipment) are not permitted.
 38. No permanent clotheslines are permitted. Portable, temporary clotheslines are permitted.
 39. Fences are not permitted to mark the boundaries of campsites.
 40. Equipment, furniture, or structures in poor condition, deemed to be unsafe or unsightly must be removed from the site at the direction of the superintendent.
 41. All lawn furniture must be designed for outdoor use and must be kept in good repair.
 42. No decorations or ornamentation are permitted to be attached to the trees or vegetation of any kind (attach to deck, shed, or camping unit only).
 43. Paying the associated fee (found in SCRCA Seasonal Camping Fees and Important Dates document) allows a site to have 1 energy efficient exterior fridge. The fridge must be connected to an approved electrical receptacle (no extension cords) and contained in an enclosed shed and must be locked & secured on the site at all times. Disposal of broken refrigerators are the responsibility of the camper.
 44. It is the law to have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your trailer. Seasonal campers must comply with the Ontario Fire Code alarm requirements. All alarms should be tested monthly and after any absence for more than a few days. Replace alarms as required by legislation.
 45. No sewage or grey water may be dumped from the camping unit except in designated dumping stations. Permanent underground grey water or sewage tanks are prohibited. All wastewater connections and equipment is subject to inspection by CA superintendent. **Sewage pumping services are provided on a one time, weekly, or bi-weekly basis** (*subject to fees – refer to SCRCA Fees and Important Dates document*).
 46. Hydro service is provided to the main camping unit only. Any hydro installation on a campsite must be authorized by the superintendent and completed by a qualified electrician. Any hydro

cords must be one continuous cord between the trailer and the power receptacle and must be properly rated for the campsite voltage.

47. Washing machines are prohibited on individual campsites. Washing of vehicles is not permitted. Lawn watering is prohibited without the approval of the superintendent.

Decks, Patios & Sheds

48. One deck or patio is permitted and dimensions are restricted to the length of the trailer and no more than 10 feet in width. Maximum deck height is 23 inches at its highest point.
49. Decks must be free standing, not attached to the trailer and must be constructed of materials intended for exterior use (pressure treated wood, patio stones, etc.)
50. One storage shed permitted per campsite and can be a maximum of 8 feet x 10 feet with a peak height of 8 feet. All sheds must be a pre-manufactured design, constructed of weather-proof exterior material and approved by the CA superintendent prior to being placed on site.
51. Any improvements to the campsite (deck, patio, shed, etc.) must be approved by the campground superintendent in advance. Absolutely no excavations are permitted.
52. Campsites must be kept clean and well maintained at all times, mowing grass regularly.

Waste Disposal

53. Trash must be bagged and deposited in the waste bins provided.
54. Recycling bins are provided at the conservation area. Please use them responsibly – following waste management guidelines provided.
55. Yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings, and branches must be composted when possible at the location provided within the campground.
56. Furniture, appliances, barbecues, construction material, and hazardous items must not be disposed of within the conservation area.

Environment & Conservation

57. Campers should make every effort to conserve electricity and water. When the site is not being used, campers must turn off indoor & outdoor lights & air conditioners. Please keep plumbing in good working order.
58. Collecting, cutting, removing, or destroying any plant, tree, or other living object is strictly prohibited. Do not strip bark, use nails or attach wires to trees or shrubs.
59. To help limit the spread of invasive species and disease, all firewood must be purchased locally. SCRCA has firewood available for sale by the bundle in each campground.

- 60. All firewood must be cut prior to entering the campground. Up to one face cord of firewood may be stacked neatly and stored on the campsite or in a shed. No skids, palettes or construction materials are permitted. Collecting firewood and the use of chainsaws within SCRCA's property is prohibited.
- 61. In the event of a fire ban, all site occupants are expected to comply with the order of the Fire Chief or Fire Marshall. Campfires must NEVER be left unattended and flames should not reach more than 2 feet off the ground.

Sale of a Trailer, Transfer of the Site Permit

If a trailer is sold and to remain on the site:

- 62. The vendor must obtain approval in advance from the Superintendent to sell the trailer on site and transfer the lot to the new owner(s).
- 63. Prior to the sale of a trailer, the vendor must complete an RV/campsite transfer form and submit to the Superintendent for approval.

Off Season Storage and Access

- 64. Camping permits are valid during the dates printed on them, generally from May 1 until the Sunday following Thanksgiving.
- 65. During the off season campground gates are locked. Only L.C. Henderson CA may on occasion operate with open gates for the purposes of the Education Program.
- 66. During the off season, seasonal campers who have paid their campsite deposit for the following season may leave their trailer on site.

- 67. During the off season, seasonal campers may park at the gate and walk in during daylight hours to check on their property. If a camper is not able to walk in, they may have a family member/friend walk in on their behalf. Walk in visits to seasonal camping sites are intended solely for checking on property, not for recreational use of campsites. Conservation area trails remain open during the camping off season and seasonal campers are welcome to enjoy use of the trails. Please display your vehicle permit while parked outside the campground gate.

Other specific Covid-19 Related Requirements

- 68. *In order to prevent the spread of Covid-19, seasonal campers must adhere to social distancing directions, group size limitations, and other Provincial Orders. If you are feeling unwell, you are asked to refrain from visiting the campground.*
- 69. *If seasonal campers have a comment, compliments, or complaint, they are asked to either call the park by phone or email staff, to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19.*
- 70. *In the event of a provincial order to suspend the season, seasonal campers will be asked to vacate accordingly.*
- 71. *Available park facilities may change throughout the season to comply with public health recommendations and to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19.*



St. Clair Region Conservation Authority GOLF CART RULES

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority operates family oriented campgrounds. For safety reasons, the same rules that apply for motor vehicles on our roads and highways do apply in the campgrounds. If driven carelessly, golf carts can be a hazard to occupants, other campers, and staff.

Golf Cart Rules:

- Drivers must have a valid driver's license. Young drivers must produce proof if asked.
- Drivers with a beginners license must be with a parent at all times and produce proof if asked.
- Golf carts must not exceed the posted speed limit.
- Stay on park roads and designated trails.
- Must **yield right-of-way** to pedestrians at all times.
- Limit the number of passengers to the number of seats.
- At 11pm your cart must be back on your site and stay there until 8am the next morning. Campers with mobility issues can get approval of the superintendent to use carts during quiet hours.
- The associated fee must be paid prior to the cart entering the campground.

Each Cart Must Have:

- The site number (at least 3" tall) on the front and back of the cart. Failure to have the site number posted on the cart may result in the loss of golf cart privileges.
- Front and rear lights if driven after dusk.
- Be properly insured for use in campground with proof of current insurance provided to the campground. Most trailer insurance providers will add coverage for your golf cart at minimal cost.
- Only electric carts are allowed in the campgrounds.

Alcohol/Cannabis and Golf Carts:

Campers who consume alcohol/cannabis while operating a golf cart or are under the influence of alcohol/cannabis greatly increase the risk of injury to other visitors and to themselves.

- No alcohol/cannabis may be consumed while on a golf cart (driver or any passenger).
- No open alcohol is permitted in the golf cart at any time.
- Golf carts are not to be operated while under the influence of alcohol/cannabis.

Contraventions will result in removal of privileges and golfcart from the park.

As the listed owner of a golf cart, kept or used at an SCRCA campground, I hereby acknowledge reading and understanding the rules and regulations.

Signatures: _____ Campground: _____ Site# _____ Date: _____

Current Insurance on File: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 11, 2021
Submitted by: Girish Sankar

Item 17.4

Subject: NDMP Intake 6 – Mitigating flood risk

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 11, 2021 on NDMP funding intake 6 and directs staff to work with the member Municipalities to obtain the required matching funding and continue to improve the flood forecasting and warning program.

Background:

National Disaster Mitigation Program

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

Conservation Authorities are on the front lines of the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Program. They are responsible for monitoring and predicting flood flows and water levels within their watersheds, operating flood control structures such as dams and disseminating flood messages to local municipalities and agencies.

SCRCA is proposing to create redundancies within its flood network at critical flood-prone areas and enhance their flood network to ensure emergency preparedness and response by all partners is done as quickly as possible with the latest watershed data. Real - time water level monitoring options will be explored at 2 locations within the SCRCA watershed. Redundancies are proposed at 4-6 sites, in particular the McKeough Dam, Brigden, Wallaceburg and Dresden, with each site receiving an additional power source, data logger, and source of communication, and at least two sites are proposed to have discharge radars installed.

Strategic Objectives(s):

Develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion – Improve meteorological data acquisition.

Financial Impact:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$151,000 with 50% matching funds from municipality. SCRCA has set aside \$37,750 for this project and is seeking the remainder from municipalities.

Staff will continue to look into other funding sources to provide additional funds for this project. If approved, the special levy for the municipalities will be determined based on Modified Current Value Assessment, as the levy of the Authority budget. SCRCA is seeking the remainder (\$37,750) from remaining Municipalities.

Project Costs	NDMP	Municipal contribution requested	SCRCA
\$151,000	\$75,500	\$37,750	\$37,750

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021
Report Date: February 11, 2021
Submitted by: Girish Sankar

Item 17.5

Subject: Water and Erosion Control Projects 2021- 2022

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 11, 2021 on ongoing status of Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects, and further approves the projects submitted for funding in 2021 – 2022 and further will assist staff in obtaining matching funds, where required, to support these projects upon confirmation of funding approval.

Background:

- 2021 - 2022 Projects will be submitted on February 19, 2021
- The WECL program is still subject to funding approval from the Province
- All applications will be reviewed by a committee of provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives in late April or early May and will be ranked in comparison to all submitted projects from across the Province
- If funding is confirmed for this program, a list of approved projects may be available in March 2021
- A list of WECL projects for 2021 - 2022 is outlined below

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost	Grant Requested
Port Lambton Shoreline Protection	Port Lambton Shoreline Restoration Phase 1	Shoreline work at Port Lambton Park along St. Clair River using armourstone and riprap.	\$700,000	\$350,000
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Helen and Kenwick St) Phase 3A	Carry out Shoreline stabilization for Phase 3A	\$800,000	\$400,000

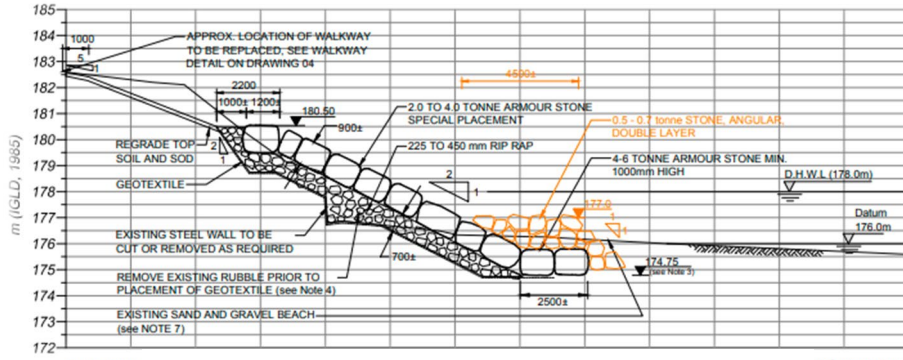
Head Street/ Coldstream Dams	Decommissioning Study	Study to consider decommissioning of the Head street and Coldstream dams	\$120,000	\$60,000
ARDA Dyke	Hazard Tree Removal	Remove trees and shrubs along the dyke that pose stability issues to the dyke	\$20,000	\$10,000
W. Darcy McKeough Dam	Dam instrumentation, Drain and Channel floor repairs	Structural Health Monitoring of the Dam, Gate Inspection, Channel and Drain repairs on the McKeough Floodway as identified in the Engineering reports.	\$70,000	\$35,000
Highland Glen CA	Highland Glen CA –Erosion Repair	Implement repairs to minimize erosion for safe use of boat launch as outlined in Engineering study.	\$200,000	\$100,000
All SCRCA owned Dams	Engineering Inspection of all SCRCA structures	Engineering Inspection & report by consulting engineer for all SCRCA owned and maintained dams.	\$60,000	\$30,000

Bright's Grove, Kenwick Street to Helen Avenue – Phase 3A

- SCRCA received 5 submissions on January 12, 2021
- Total tender prices varied from \$2,618,713.25 to \$6,313,875.00, inclusive of H.S.T
- 56078 Ontario Ltd o/a R&M Contractors was awarded the contract work on January 21, 2021 at a value of \$2,618,713.25 inclusive of H.S.T. for this shoreline improvement work.
- Construction work is scheduled to start on February 17, 2021

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

- Deficiencies were identified at the toe of shoreline protection
- 17 locations have been identified along this section
- Alternative design has been developed to fix these deficiencies
- We are working with Cope Construction on a timeline for this work



Alternative design for Toe repair – Phase 2

Bright's Grove, Old Lakeshore Road East

- Shoreline Project is complete.
- Minor site restoration work will be completed in April 2021



Old Lakeshore road East Shoreline Project

Strategic Objectives(s):

Build a stronger and more valued organization through business excellence - Continue to seek funding opportunities that can support our municipalities in undertaking projects that improve our watersheds.

December 15, 2020

SCRCA
Mr. Brian MacDougall
Via email bmcdougall@scrca.on.ca

Dear Brian,

On December 14, 2020, during the regular session of Petrolia Town Council, Council reviewed the correspondence received from SCRCA in relation to the Bill 229, the motion as presented was defeated;

MOVED: Don Welten

SECONDED: Wade Deighton

WHEREAS the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act;

WHEREAS the Legislation introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the conservation authorities' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications;

WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act;

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without CA watershed data and expertise;

WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs;

WHEREAS municipalities require a longer transition time to put in place agreements with conservation authorities for non-mandatory programs;

WHEREAS conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative;

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, and their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process;

AND WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within our jurisdiction for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value the conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value the conservation authority's work to ensure safe drinking water.

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

www.town.petrolia.on.ca

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Province of Ontario work with conservation authorities to address their concerns by repealing and/or amending changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act;

THAT the Province of Ontario delay enactment of clauses affecting municipal concerns;

THAT the Province of Ontario provide a longer transition period up to December 2022 for non-mandatory programs to enable coordination of CA-municipal budget processes;

THAT the Province respect the current conservation authority/municipal relationships;

AND THAT the Province embrace their long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

DEFEATED

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of any additional assistance.

Yours truly,



Mandi Pearson
Clerk/Operations Clerk

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

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2021 Members Appointed to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Municipality	Term	Director	Address	Telephone	E-mail
Adelaide Metcalfe	2	Betty Ann MacKinnon	2340 Egremont Dr Strathroy, ON N7G 3H6	519 287 2699	bmackinnon@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca
Brooke-Alvinston	2	Frank Nemcek	2973 Ebenezer Rd, R.R #1 Alvinston, ON N0N 1A0	519 847 5591	fnemcek@brktel.on.ca
Chatham-Kent	2	Joe Faas	4488 St. Clair Parkway Port Lambton, ON N0P 2B0	519 436 3208	joe.faas@chatham-kent.ca
	2	Aaron Hall	68 Blake Street Wallaceburg, ON N8A 2S2	519 436 3229	aaron.hall@chatham-kent.ca
Dawn-Euphemia	2	Alan Broad	1252 Shetland Rd, R.R. #2 Florence, ON N0P 1R0	519 784 0373	mayor@dawneuphemia.on.ca
Enniskillen/ Oil Springs	2	Kevin Marriott	5383 Shiloh Line, R.R #1 Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0	519 844 2307	viperkev@hotmail.com
Lambton Shores	2	Lorie Scott	7321 Leighton Dr Port Franks, ON N0M 2L0	519 243 3005	lscott@lambtonshores.ca
Middlesex Centre	2	Dan McMillan	10365 Ilderton Rd, R.R. #2 Ilderton, ON N0M 2A0	519 666 1549	dcmillan@gto.net
Petrolia	2	Brad Loosley	411 Greenfield St Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0	519 882 2073	bloosley@petrolia.ca
Plympton-Wyoming	2	Netty McEwen	3859 Egremont Road Plympton-Wyoming, ON	519 899 4030	netty@xcelco.on.ca
Point Edward	2	Larry Gordon	9 Village Green Crt Point Edward, ON N7V 4J3	519 336 8581	lgordon@villageofpointedward.com

2021 Members Appointed to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Municipality	Term	Director	Address	Telephone	E-mail
Sarnia	2	Bill Dennis	1013 Mike Weir Drive Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0	519 330 0835	bill.dennis@sarnia.ca
	2	Terry Burrell	954 Champlain Rd Sarnia, ON N7V 2G2	519 336 5545	terry.burrell@sarnia.ca
	2	Mike Stark	1333 Coral Way Sarnia, ON N7V 3R9	519 542 2054	Mike.Stark@sarnia.ca
Southwest Middlesex / Newbury	1	Mark McGill	23129 Taits Rd Glencoe, ON N0L 1M0	519 476 9791	mmcgill@southwestmiddlesex.ca
St. Clair	2	Pat Brown	576 Riverside Dr Corunna, ON N0N 1G0	519 862 2050	pbrown@stclairtownship.ca
	2	Steve Miller	4238 St. Clair Parkway, P.O 231 Port Lambton, ON N0P 2H0	519 677 5676	smiller@twp.stclair.on.ca
Strathroy-Caradoc	2	John Brennan	52 Frank St Strathroy, ON N7G 2R4	519 205 2311	jbrennan@strathroy-caradoc.ca
	2	Frank Kennes	291 Pinetree Lane Strathroy, ON N7G 4H8	519 878 1783	fkennes@strathroy-caradoc.ca
Warwick	2	Jerry Westgate	6332 Nauvoo Rd Watford, ON N0M 2S0	519 331 2519	jjwestg801@execulink.com

If you would prefer that an alternate mailing address, phone or e-mail be used please inform Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator:

205 MillPond Cres
Strathroy, ON N7G 3G9

519 245 3710
x 200

Afletcher@scrca.on.ca



Annual Report 2020



A Message from Our Chair

The last year has been one of the most challenging and unprecedented years in our history. The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic required significant alterations to the daily operations of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) to ensure the health and safety of our communities, staff, and Board of Directors. Meetings were held online, events were cancelled, and where possible, staff completed their duties from home. I want to thank our staff and Board for their resilience and perseverance during these difficult times.

If one positive could be drawn from the past year, it is the renewed connection and need by our communities for safe outdoor spaces to enjoy. The mental and physical health benefits of spending time in nature have been thoroughly documented in research. Traffic at our 15 Conservation Areas increased significantly throughout the pandemic. The SCRCA was able to keep these areas open to the public thanks to the cooperation of our visitors in following COVID-19 guidelines.

Our staff showed tremendous innovation and creativity to maintain our services and connect with our watershed communities. Over 56,000 tree seedlings were planted throughout the St. Clair Region, freshwater mussels were studied along a 4 km stretch of the Sydenham River, and over 12,000 teachers, students, and parents accessed our conservation education department’s virtual field trips to the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area.

Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the support, patience, and understanding of our local communities and partners. As we enter 2021, the SCRCA will continue to provide watershed services in new and creative ways to work towards reaching our vision of a healthy and sustainable natural environment in the St. Clair Region.

Joe Faas
Chair, Board of Directors

Our Vision

A healthy and sustainable natural environment in the St. Clair Region.

Our Mission

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.

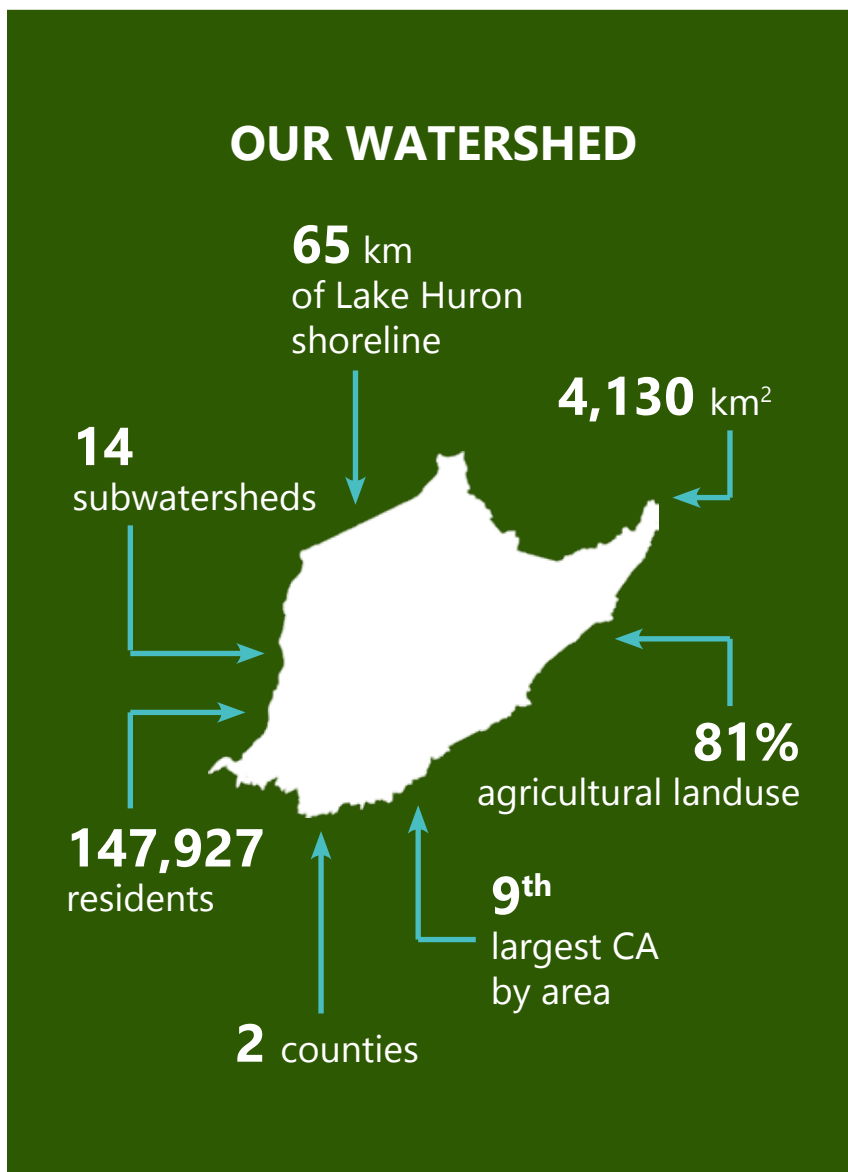
Our Goals

1. Develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.
2. Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes.
3. Provide recreation and education opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn from our natural environment.
4. Build a stronger and more valued organization through business excellence.

About Us

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) is one of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CA) responsible for the conservation, restoration, and management of natural resources within its watershed. The St. Clair Region includes the Sydenham River watershed and smaller watersheds that drain directly into southern Lake Huron, the St. Clair River, and northeastern Lake St. Clair.

Our programs aim to: 1) reduce the risk to life and property from flooding and erosion; 2) improve water quality; 3) promote habitat creation and stewardship; 4) provide outdoor recreation opportunities; 5) increase environmental awareness and literacy; and 6) monitor and protect our most vulnerable species. We achieve this in cooperation and partnership with our member municipalities, government agencies, Indigenous communities, community groups, local landowners, and businesses.



Board of Directors

The SCRCA is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the 17 member municipalities we serve.

Township of Adelaide Metcalfe

Betty Ann MacKinnon

Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston

Frank Nemcek

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Joe Faas
Aaron Hall

Township of Dawn-Euphemia

Alan Broad

Township of Enniskillen/ Village of Oil Springs

Kevin Marriott

Municipality of Lambton Shores

Lorie Scott

Municipality of Middlesex Centre

Dan McMillan

Town of Petrolia

Brad Loosley

Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Ron Schenk (Jan - May)
Netty McEwen (Jun - Dec)

Village of Point Edward

Larry Gordon

City of Sarnia

Andy Bruziewicz
Terry Burrell
Mike Stark

Municipality of Southwest Middlesex/Village of Newbury

Mark McGill

Township of St. Clair

Pat Brown
Steve Miller

Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

John Brennan
Frank Kennes

Township of Warwick

Jerry Westgate

Water Resources



Groundwater Sampling - 2020

Our water resources team oversees the SCRCA flood forecasting and warning program, and the maintenance and operation of flood control structures, including the W. Darcy McKeough Floodway. We work closely with local municipalities to protect public infrastructure through shoreline protection works. Our team also administers the Drinking Water Source Protection program for the St. Clair Region which protects municipal sources of drinking water from contamination. Lastly, our water resources department monitors and reports on Great Lake water levels and conducts groundwater sampling on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.



Flood Operations

11 stream gauges, **5** snow sampling sites, real-time meteorological data, and ice conditions monitored to determine flood risk.

31 flood events in 2020 resulting in **69** bulletins being issued.

17

**WATER
CONDITIONS
STATEMENTS**

1

**SHORELINE
CONDITIONS
STATEMENT**

38

**FLOOD
WATCH
BULLETINS**

13

**FLOOD
WARNING
BULLETINS**

Erosion Control Projects

\$55,411 secured through provincial Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) fund to support shoreline protection projects in the City of Sarnia.

Shoreline protection projects in 2020 focused on the Lake Huron shoreline in Brights Grove and along the St. Clair River shoreline in the community of Courtright. These projects were funded by the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, the City of Sarnia, and the Township of St. Clair.

Brights Grove Shoreline



Groundwater Monitoring

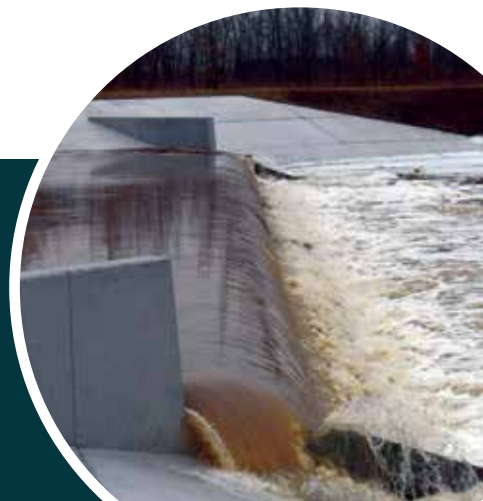
9 wells monitored for water levels.

8 wells monitored for water quality.

Drinking Water Source Protection

Residents living in the SCRCA watershed are protected from significant drinking water threats through the administration of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Water Protection Plan. The SCRCA houses a Risk Management Official/Inspector who works with local communities to ensure risks to drinking water are mitigated. All initially assessed existing threats identified in 2016 have been addressed with on-going inspections and assessments occurring regularly.

The W. Darcy McKeough Floodway is the largest flood diversion project in Ontario. When operated, it helps reduce the threat of flooding in the Town of Wallaceburg by diverting the North Branch of the Sydenham River towards the St. Clair River. Extreme rain events and strong winds led to the dam being operated twice in 2020 — once on January 13th and again on March 29th, 2020.



Planning and Regulations

Shoreline Erosion along Lake Huron

As a watershed management agency acting under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the SCRCA is responsible for ensuring that development is directed outside of areas prone to flooding and erosion. Under *Ontario Regulation 171/06, "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses"*, staff review permit applications for development within these areas to ensure that the proposed development will not result in future risk to lives or property. In addition, the SCRCA assists our member municipalities with review of development applications under the *Planning Act* to ensure that development adheres to the natural hazard and natural heritage policies identified in the Provincial Policy Statement.



Planning Activity 2020

Inquiries	118
Active Files	145
Application Types (Note: Active files may have multiple applications)	242
Minor Variances	18
Severances	57
Site Plan	20
Subdivision/Condominium	42
Zoning By-law	65
Official Plan	40
Files with Natural Heritage	34%

Regulations Activity 2020

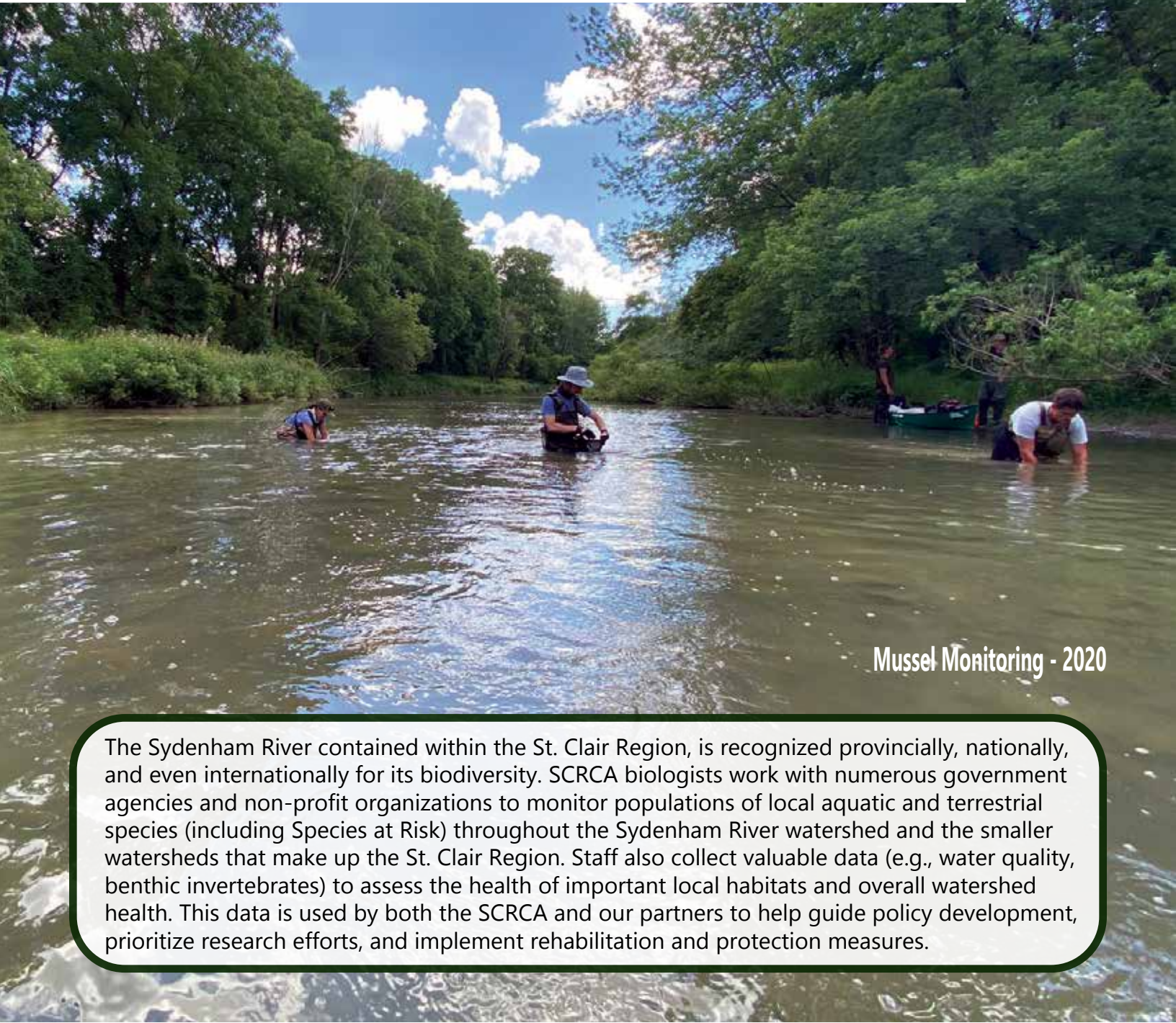
Legal Inquiries	41
Permits Issued under Ontario Regulation 171/06	182
Inquiries under Ontario Regulation 171/06	388
Compliance/Enforcement Matters under Ontario Regulation 171/06	118
Hearings	0

Drainage Act and Section 28 Regulations Team (DART) Protocol Activity 2020

Total Drainage Projects Reviewed	159
Standard Compliance Requirements (SCRs) Issued	102

Erosion is a natural process that impacts the shorelines of all the Great Lakes. Recent record high water levels for Lake Huron has led to significant impacts to both private and municipally-owned reaches of shoreline, resulting in the need for repair or installation of new shoreline protection structures. The SCRCA issues permits for shoreline protection to ensure that works are properly designed and structurally sound, can withstand coastal processes, and do not result in flooding or erosion on properties upstream or downstream. The SCRCA recognizes that landowners may need to complete interim emergency works to temporarily stabilize the shoreline to protect their property while proper coastal engineering and permit review is undertaken. Landowners requiring emergency stabilization on their property should contact the SCRCA to acquire emergency work authorization prior to construction.

Biology



Mussel Monitoring - 2020

The Sydenham River contained within the St. Clair Region, is recognized provincially, nationally, and even internationally for its biodiversity. SCRCA biologists work with numerous government agencies and non-profit organizations to monitor populations of local aquatic and terrestrial species (including Species at Risk) throughout the Sydenham River watershed and the smaller watersheds that make up the St. Clair Region. Staff also collect valuable data (e.g., water quality, benthic invertebrates) to assess the health of important local habitats and overall watershed health. This data is used by both the SCRCA and our partners to help guide policy development, prioritize research efforts, and implement rehabilitation and protection measures.



Water Quality Monitoring

10 water quality samples collected in 2020 and analyzed for nutrients, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), and metals. Provincial water quality lab closures due to COVID-19 significantly impacted SCRCA sample collection.

14 benthic invertebrate monitoring stations throughout the watershed.

Fish Monitoring

83 of the **160** native freshwater species in Ontario are found in the Sydenham River.

8,476 fish detected from **19** sites in 2020 including:

45 different fish species

2 invasive species

3 species at risk

Snake Monitoring

53 hatched snake eggs recorded, in total, from the monitoring of 10 artificial nesting structures for signs of successful reproduction.

Turtle Head-Starting Program



682 turtle eggs successfully rescued, incubated, hatched and released, including:

438 Spiny Softshell Turtles

244 Common Snapping Turtles

Mussel Monitoring

1,689 live mussels recorded along a 4 km stretch of the Sydenham River, including:

8 different species at risk

Eighty-nine mussels collected in 2020 were identified as a species at risk including the globally threatened Northern Riffleshell (pictured right), Salamander Mussel, Snuffbox, and Rayed Bean.



The 2020 fish monitoring program focussed on the detection of the invasive Round Goby (pictured right). Round Goby was found at nine of the ten sites along the Sydenham River. This aggressive invader has spread rapidly from Lake St. Clair to the Head Street Dam in Strathroy. These records will help map the changes in the distribution and range of these non-native fish and assist in prioritizing actions to conserve native fish populations in the St. Clair Region and beyond.



Stewardship and Forestry



PC - Doug Rogers

Cover Crops on an Agricultural Field

The SCRCA promotes and supports activities that will create healthy watersheds and improve local water quality and soil health. Conservation Authority staff provide educational opportunities, technical advice, and financial assistance to local landowners interested in establishing Best Management Practices (BMPs) and stewardship projects on their properties (e.g., tree planting, wetland creation). Additionally, our forestry experts offer woodlot management services that include developing woodlot management plans and certifying woodlands under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP).



Environmental Stewardship

\$310,169 in grant funding secured to support 78 projects (April 2019 - December 2020).



- 60** tree planting projects (28.5 hectares)
- 10** wetland projects (6 hectares)
- 1** erosion control project
- 2** livestock fencing projects
- 1** grassed waterway
- 4** tallgrass prairie projects (12.5 hectares)

Tree Planting

50,340 seedlings planted on 28 individual properties (26 hectares) by SCRCA planting crews.

6,120 seedlings and **620** large stock trees supplied to local landowners and two municipalities.

Over **2,500** litres of seed collected from native tree species including oak, hickory, walnut, and maple.

Every fall, SCRCA staff collect seed from native trees throughout the watershed. The seeds grow into trees that will be used in future afforestation projects in our region and ensure the trees produced are genetically adapted to our local growing conditions.



Woodlot Management Services

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP):

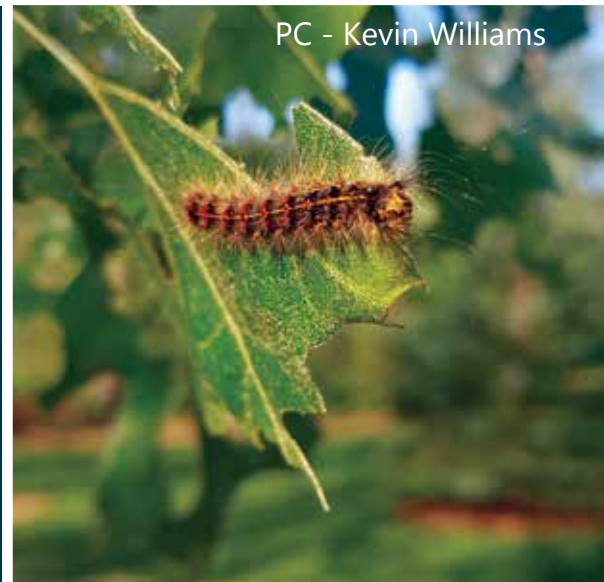
- 3** new plans, managing **63** hectares of forest
- 1** renewed plan, managing **19** hectares of forest

Woodlands Conservation Bylaw

Administered by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority on behalf of the County of Lambton since 2011.

Gypsy moths are invasive insects that arrived in Ontario from Asia and Europe. During the larval life stage, gypsy moth caterpillars feed on the foliage of trees. During periods of high infestations, the caterpillars can severely defoliate host trees which can threaten tree health and increase vulnerability to future infestations. In 2020, large gypsy moth infestations were observed in Lambton Shores, Sarnia, Plympton-Wyoming, and throughout the Lambton Heritage Forest and Pinery Provincial Park. In cooperation with Lambton County, the SCRCA has supported community education efforts to help residents recognize and remove egg masses, collect and dispose of live caterpillars, and become informed on treatment options.

PC - Kevin Williams



Conservation Areas



Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

Research has shown that spending time in nature has many positive impacts on both mental and physical health. The SCRCA owns and maintains properties throughout the watershed that provide numerous recreational opportunities including hiking, camping, fishing, and bird watching. Our team maintains and continuously strives to improve these areas for the enjoyment of our visitors.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, several measures were implemented to ensure the health and safety of our guests and staff including cancelled campground events, limited amenities, enhanced cleaning and sanitizing, and reduced transient campsite availability. SCRCA staff organized safe and family-friendly activities to engage our visitors during the 2020 season including photo contests, scavenger hunts, and a family fishing derby.

Conservation Lands

15 Conservation Areas covering **620** hectares.

Manage **7** natural areas for Lambton County.

Over **40** kilometers of hiking trails.

Campgrounds

3 regional campgrounds with over **500** sites.

420 seasonal campsites.

\$929,000 gross revenue in 2020.



In 2020, the Sydenham Field Naturalists held two volunteer events to remove invasive Phragmites from Peers Wetland. Funding support provided by Enbridge allowed for the purchase of hip waders and cane cutters, among other supplies. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of volunteers, approximately 75 m² of the wetland was cleared of Phragmites.

Special Projects

Healthy Lake Huron

To improve water quality and promote clean beaches along the southeast shores of Lake Huron, the Healthy Lake Huron (HLH) program was launched in 2011. Since then, the SCRCa has partnered with all levels of government, local health units, other conservation authorities, and community groups to retain nutrients on the land and reduce the risk of harmful algal blooms between Sarnia and Tobermory. In 2020, the HLH team ran a social media campaign called #PieceofthePuzzle to connect Lake Huron communities with the lake and highlight the role we play to keep Lake Huron healthy. Over 180 social media posts/tweets reached more than 85,000 people and highlighted the on-going efforts and future actions needed to maintain and improve water quality in this local Great Lake.

Sydenham River Watershed Phosphorus Management Plan

Through funding provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada, the SCRCa is coordinating the development of a phosphorus management plan for the Sydenham River watershed to reduce the loading of this nutrient to waterways, which contributes to degraded local water quality and algal blooms in Lake Erie. The objective of this program is to work with local stakeholders to identify sources of phosphorus, determine best-value solutions, and implement an outreach strategy. Meetings have been held with the Point Source and Non-Point Source Working Groups, Indigenous Engagement Committee, Advisory Committee, and Water Quality Technical Team since 2019. Feedback from these committees have directed on-going research and are being incorporated into the draft Management Plan.

St. Clair River Area of Concern

The St. Clair River was identified as an Area of Concern (AOC) in 1987 due to a lengthy history of urban and industrial development. For over 30 years, the local community, Indigenous Peoples, and government have been working together to improve the water quality and aquatic habitat of this water body and remove it from the list of Great Lakes AOCs. Continued action was guided through 2020 by the 2017-2022 Work Plan, which identifies the remaining remedial actions to address each Beneficial Use Impairment. The SCRCa continues to lead the project work to develop an engineering and design plan for managing contaminated sediment in three priority areas of the St. Clair River, with the field work component completed in 2020. Funding for this project is being provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Dow Canada.

Lambton County Phragmites Partnership and West Nile Virus Control Program

Through funding provided by Lambton County, the SCRCa has assumed the coordinator role for the Lambton County Phragmites Partnership. The objective of this program is to increase local awareness of the threat of invasive Phragmites and support local organizations and municipalities in implementing eradication measures to reduce its spread. In addition, the SCRCa was contracted by Lambton County to treat catch basins in partnership with Lambton Public Health as part of their West Nile Virus Control Program. In 2020, 16,500 catch basins were treated three times with a larval growth regulator throughout the County and Aamjiwnaang First Nation to prevent mosquito larvae from developing into adult insects.

Outreach and Education



Pond Study at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

Education is an important part of shaping tomorrow's environmental leaders and teaching communities about local conservation efforts. Our Conservation Education program offers a variety of hands-on, curriculum-based, indoor and outdoor programs geared towards both elementary and secondary school students. Local media outlets and social media are utilized to enhance and expand conservation awareness throughout the St. Clair Region watershed, and beyond. Additionally, staff organize and attend local events to introduce communities to the SCRCA, what we do, and how we can assist them in becoming more environmentally-minded in their everyday lives.



Education

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic drastically altered the way educators were able to connect to their students. Spring school closures had teachers shifting to online platforms to reach their students and September restrictions resulted in cancelled field trips and limited access to school properties. Despite these challenges, the SCRCA Education Team eagerly created innovative and exciting new program opportunities to support teachers and keep students connected to nature. Their suite of virtual and school-yard programs were not only successful, but welcomed by educators, parents, and students throughout the watershed.

3,946 students participated in traditional conservation education programs between January and March 2020 prior to school closures due to COVID-19.

9 Virtual Field Trips created that reached over **12,000** students, teachers and parents.

3,168 students engaged through new fall program options including the “Nature in Your Neighbourhood” school-yard program, “Live-streaming with a Naturalist”, and “Family Field Trips” to the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area.

Over **\$83,000** in funding provided by **6** different organizations and government agencies to reduce or eliminate costs to schools and students and support education program upgrades.

Communications

Social Media 2020:

Facebook

1,763 Followers

1,704 Page Likes

259 Posts



Twitter

295 Tweets

227 Retweets

699 Followers

5,473 Engagements (clicks, retweets, replies, follows, and likes)



Media Relations:

19 media releases

497 news article mentions

In response to the spring school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the SCRCA education team focused on virtually recreating their conservation education field trips to keep students connected to nature and support teachers as they transitioned to online learning. The “Virtual Field Trips” covered a range of grade-specific, curriculum-connected environmental concepts such as biodiversity and wetland ecosystems and were accessed by teachers, parents, and students throughout Ontario, across Canada, and by educators teaching abroad.



GIS and IT



Our Geographic Information System (GIS) and Information Technology (IT) experts provide essential support services to all SCRCA departments and programs. In addition to maintaining important technological infrastructure (i.e., computers, servers), our GIS and IT staff create, update, and manipulate geographic data into a form that other departments and programs can easily comprehend and utilize. Our GIS/IT staff also researches and investigates new and exciting technologies to improve efficiencies within the Authority.

2020 Highlights

- Updated riparian and natural heritage analysis and mapping for the St. Clair River Area of Concern.
- Provided mapping and data support to the Sydenham River Watershed Phosphorus Management plan that is currently under development.
- Arranged Virtual Private Networks (VPN) and remote access to enable staff to work remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provided mapping and GPS survey assistance to support the development of new floodplain mapping and mussel monitoring transect delineation.
- Successfully implemented Microsoft Teams to allow staff to communicate and collaborate on projects efficiently while working away from the office.

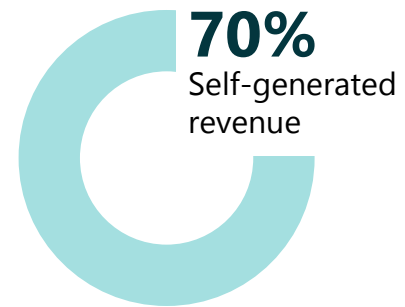
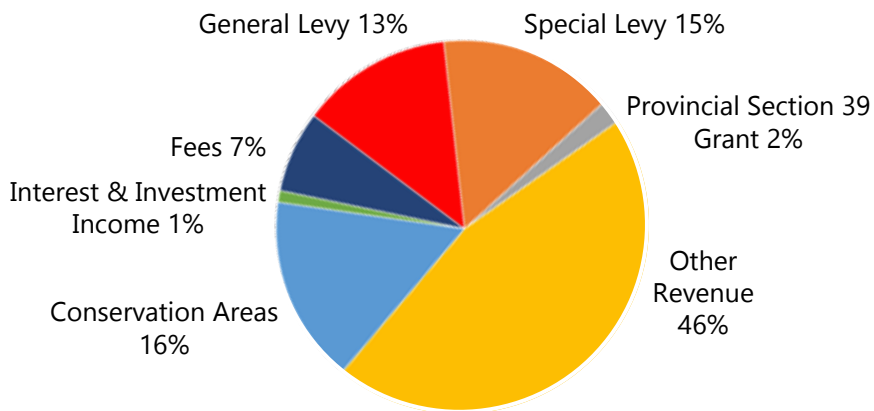
The SCRCA GIS team analyzes data and creates maps and other products that help staff prioritize stewardship and rehabilitation efforts to improve habitat and water quality health. A riparian analysis (pictured left) was completed in support of the St. Clair River Area of Concern program in 2020. The analysis identified the status of riparian vegetation within 5 metres and 30 metres of watercourses draining into the St. Clair River. The project also quantified the length of each watercourse that had riparian vegetation on one side, both sides, or no riparian vegetation at all.

Administration

The administration and finance team at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority plays an integral role in fostering a positive and safe workplace for all Authority employees and managing the Authority budget. Our team continuously updates and improves SCRCA policies to achieve business excellence and sustainability while maintaining a positive corporate atmosphere.



2020 Revenues - \$8,506,499*



Over **\$1.7 million** in funding provided to the SCRCA by 21 organizations and government agencies (2020-2021 fiscal year).

\$4.30 per \$100K of Assessment Value

Municipal Levy

Each year, SCRCA staff actively seek additional funding opportunities and sources of revenue to support conservation in our region thereby reducing costs to our member municipalities. As a result, the SCRCA holds the lowest municipal levy as a percentage of budget in Ontario (13%).

In 2020, our programs and services cost \$7.21 per person in the SCRCA watershed.



Conservation Foundation

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation is a registered, charitable organization with the purpose of raising funds to support the conservation programs of the Authority. The organization accepts donations and raises funds through the dedication of volunteers and staff that support several initiatives including conservation education; tree planting; the protection of wetlands, soils and forests; and upgrades to conservation area facilities and amenities.



Authority Support

Over **\$75,500** provided by the Foundation to support 2020 Conservation Authority programs.

Foundation Lands

17 properties totalling **461** hectares.

Conservation Scholarships

3 scholarships presented to graduating high school students pursuing post-secondary studies in a conservation-related field.

A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000 award
Brady Grubb, Lambton Kent Composite School

Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship - \$500 award
Trevor McBrayne, Lambton Kent Composite School

Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship - \$500 award
Gracie Goodhill, North Lambton Secondary School



Gracie Goodhill receives her conservation scholarship from SCRCA Chair, Joe Faas.

Memorial Forest Programs

79 trees planted at **13** different locations through the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program.



For over 20 years, the Foundation has partnered with Denning's Funeral Home to establish the Denning's Memorial Forest Program. Through this program, Denning's makes donations on behalf of families they serve which support tree planting efforts and conservation education. In 2020, a donation of \$16,110 was made to the Foundation to support these programs.

Our Staff

Administration Office

Kandyce Affleck, Conservation Lands Clerk (Nov - Dec)
Laura Biancolin, Planner (Jul - Dec)
Donna Blue, Manager of Communications
Erin Carroll, Director of Biology
Brooke Ciuman, Drainage Clerk (Sept - Dec)
Stephen Clark, Risk Management Official/Inspector
Brett Conners, COOP Student, Water Quality (Feb - Apr)
Dallas Cundick, Manager of Planning (Jan - Feb)
Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist
Melissa Deisley, Regulations Coordinator
Nicole Drumm, Special Projects Technician
Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS
Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/Board Coordinator
Jordan Fuller, Planning and Regulations Data Integrity Technician (Oct - Dec)
Michelle Gallant, Regulations Officer (Jan - Aug)
Justin Greenside, Field Service Technician
Nicholas Hagerty, Survey Technician (Jan - Aug)
Sarah Hodgkiss, Planning Ecologist
Sarah Hume, Payroll and Accounting Clerk
Anastassia Lagounova, Stewardship Outreach Technician (Jan - Mar)
Brian McDougall, General Manager
Mike Moroney, Project Manager
Erica Ogden, Planner (Jan - Mar)
Craig Paterson, Watershed Monitoring
Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry
Natasha Pozega, St. Clair River RAP Coordinator (Sept - Dec)
Tracy Prince, Director of Finance
Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources
Cassie Sauer, Planning and Regulations Clerk (Sept - Dec)
Alison Seidler, GIS Specialist
Jeff Sharp, Conservation Services Specialist
Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services
Kelli Smith, Watershed Biologist

Sam Sommerville, Conservation Services Technician (May), Fish and Wildlife Technician (Jun - Dec)
Myra Spiller, Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician (Nov - Dec)
Celia Terry, GIS Data Migration Technician (Oct - Dec)
Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist
Janice Vegh, Planning and Regulations Document Archivist (Oct - Dec)
Jeff Vlasman, Regulations Officer (Sept - Dec)
Meagan Weber, Planning and Regulations Clerk
Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

Drinking Water Source Protection

John Campbell, Senior Information Management Analyst
Deb Kirk, Administrative Assistant
Linda Nicks, Hydrogeologist

Field Offices

McKeough Floodway

Shane White, Maintenance Foreman, McKeough Floodway

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

Mike Tizzard, Superintendent
Don Skinner, Assistant Superintendent

Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

Terry Barrie, Superintendent
Luke Derks, Assistant Superintendent
Sharon Nethercott, Conservation Education Coordinator
Melissa Levi, Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician

Warwick Conservation Area

Glenn Baxter, Superintendent
Jessy VanderVaart, Assistant Superintendent

Staff Retirements

Michelle Gallant, Regulations Officer at the SCRCA, retired in August after two years with the Authority. Sharon Nethercott, Conservation Education Coordinator, retired in December after an amazing 33 year career. We wish Michelle and Sharon all the best in their next chapters.



Sharon Nethercott
33 Years with SCRCA



St. Clair Region

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