



Board of Directors Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: February 25, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Remote

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

Regrets: Mark McGill, Lorie Scott

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Melissa Deisley, Regulations Coordinator; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/ GIS; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Sarah Hodgkiss, Planning Ecologist; Brian McDougall, General Manager; Craig Patterson, Water Quality Technician; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services; Kelli Smith, Biological Technician; Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

Guests Present: Ashley Didone MNP LLP, Jordan Keuken, MNP LLP

Conservation Award Winners Present: Sandra Marshall

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Joe Faas, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority welcomed everyone to the 2020 annual meeting and went on to present some of the challenges faced by the Conservation Authority this past year, as well highlighted its many accomplishments. The perseverance and resilience of the Staff and Board was recognized, and in particular, the work of the IT department in creating virtual spaces for staff to work safely and effectively from home.

2020 Highlights:

- The water resources team continued to provide essential flood forecasting and monitoring services. Sixty-nine flood bulletins were issued during 31 flood events and the McKeough Dam was operated twice to protect the Town of Wallaceburg from severe flooding.
- Over 50,000 trees were planted throughout our watershed.
- Progress was made in completing shoreline protection projects along the St. Clair River and Lake Huron.
- Over 8,000 fish and 1,600 mussels were collected, identified, recorded, and released by the Biology department
- Education staff created innovative and exciting new programs in response

to school closures and COVID-19 school restrictions. The programs were not only successful but welcomed by educators, parents, and students, alike.

- Campgrounds were fully booked through the summer and staff organized new family-friendly activities for our guests to enjoy that followed COVID-19 guidelines.
- Throughout the pandemic, traffic at our conservation areas increased significantly which speaks to our need for safe outdoor spaces to enjoy. Unlike other conservation authorities in the Province, we were able to keep these areas open to the public thanks to the cooperation of our visitors in following COVID-19 protocols.

The support, patience and understanding of local communities and partners during this challenging time was recognized. A thank you was also given to the Board of Directors, The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and staff for their hard work over the past year and all they have done to ensure the future success of the organization. The business portion of the meeting was then commenced.

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.

A conflict of interest on item 16.1(f) within the consent agenda was declared by Director and Chair, Joe Faas.

BD-21-01

Bruziewicz – Hall

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

CARRIED

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

BD-21-02

Stark – Miller

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

CARRIED

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held February 11, 2021 were reviewed.

BD-21-03

Burrell – Loosley

“That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held February 11, 2021, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the Conservation Ontario Council meeting held on December 14, 2021 were reviewed.

BD-21-04

Nemcek – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Conservation Ontario Council meeting.”

CARRIED

Due to an administrative error, the 2020 Audited Financial Statements were omitted from the Board Package and therefore could not be reviewed. An additional meeting is to be called within the coming weeks to address the item.

BD-21-05

Stark – Brennan

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and report from the Authority’s auditors, MNP Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, and further approves the 2020 Audited Financial Statements.”

TABLED

Each Year the Conservation Authority presents Conservation Awards to deserving individuals and groups who have contributed to the environmental health of our region.

This year, we have three deserving award recipients, Walter and Mary Petryschuk and Sandra Marshall

Walter and Mary Petryschuk

The SCRCA would like to acknowledge the efforts to naturalize their “bonus” property just outside of Forest:

- In 1978, Walter and Mary Petryschuk purchased a parcel of land on Hillsboro Road, just outside of Forest to escape the urban lifestyle they were living in Sarnia, Ontario.
- For over 40 years, they have cared for and enhanced the 16-hectare (40 acre) property that houses steep ravines that lead to Hickory Creek.
- Over the years, Walter and Mary have made many improvements to the property including the planting of 500 trees, the creation of trails and the establishment of a tall grass prairie.
- They are members of the Carolinian Canada Coalition, a network of individuals and organizations committed to maintaining healthy landscapes to conserve and protect Canada’s Carolinian Zone. As a result of their membership, a Carolinian Habitat Action Plan was created for the property that outlines how the land will be managed to enhance wildlife habitat.
- The dedication Walter and Mary have demonstrated in protecting and restoring

this property is admirable.

- They continue to let the site regenerate naturally and have already discussed the future of the property with their family to ensure it continues to be protected and enjoyed for years to come.

Walter and Mary Petryschuk were unable to attend the meeting, but did meet with Vice-Chair Larry Gordon the previous week, and were truly touched by the recognition and conveyed their appreciation to the Board.

Director Netty McEwen gave congratulations to Mary and Walter Petryschuk for their environmental efforts and on behalf of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, expressed their pleasure and pride to have them as property owners.

Sandra Marshall

- Sandra is an active advocate and participant in the fight against the invasive species *Phragmites australis* in the Ipperwash Beach region.
- She is a member of the Ipperwash Phrag Phighters community group who work to eradicate stands of Phragmites in their region and educate others on the environmental, social, and recreational impacts Phragmites has on the local community and ecosystem.
- She is always willing to help other communities tackle Phragmites in their jurisdictions and attended the Lambton County Phragmites Partnership Workshop held in October 2018 to share her experiences with other organizations.
- When she's not fighting Phrag, you can find Sandra walking along Ipperwash Beach, almost daily, picking up trash left by other users. Sandra also often attends the Ipperwash Beach Shoreline Clean-up organized in September by the Authority.
- Without the dedication and passion of individuals like Sandra, the establishment of Phragmites would be much more severe than it is today in the Lambton Shores region.
- Described by her nominator, Lorie Scott, as a self-starter, you can be sure that Sandra will continue her fight in erasing this invasive species from the landscape and promoting clean and healthy beaches for many years to come.

Sandra Marshall gave her remarks and thanks to the SCRCA Board and Staff for the support and recognition.

BD-21-06

MacKinnon – McEwen

“That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2020 Conservation Award Winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.”

CARRIED

The 2020 Service Awards were presented

Five Years of Service:

- Sarah Hodgkiss – Planning Ecologist
- Greg Wilcox – Manager of Conservation Lands

Ten Years of Service:

- Maryanne Nieuwenhuizen – Assistant Superintendent at A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

15 years of Service:

- Steve Miller – Township of St. Clair

30 years of Service:

- Brian McDougall – General Manager

BD-21-06

Brown – Marriott

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

CARRIED

The Chair announced the conclusion of 2020 business. The 2021 Board of Directors wishes to welcome Bill Dennis, representing the City of Sarnia. Thanks and well wishes were extended to former board member, Andy Bruziewicz for his many years of service, including his time as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. The meeting resumed to conduct 2021 business.

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

Regrets: Mark McGill, 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

An acknowledgement of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Code of Conduct and Administrative By-laws was reviewed by the 2021 Board of Directors. Directors are asked to please return signed acknowledgements to Ashley Fletcher, Board Coordinator at their earliest convenience.

BD-21-07

Westgate – Stark

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and complies with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s Code of Conduct and Administrative By-laws.”

CARRIED

BD-21-08

Nemcek – Brown

“That Brian McDougall be appointed chair for the election of the 2021 Chair and Vice Chair.”

CARRIED

BD-21-09

Loosley – Burrell

“That Chris Durand and Donna Blue be appointed scrutineers in the event of an election.”

CARRIED

The positions of Chair and Vice-Chair were declared vacant and nominations were called for the office of Chairman for 2021

Larry Gordon nominated Joe Faas for position of Chair
Kevin Marriott also nominated Joe Faas for position of Chair

BD-21-10

MacKinnon – McEwen

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

CARRIED

Joe Faas advised that he would stand and was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2021. Mr. Faas gave thanks for the support and trust of the Board, and expressed his utmost respect for both Staff and Board members.

Al Broad nominated Larry Gordon for position of Vice Chair
Pat Brown also nominated Larry Gordon for position of Vice Chair

BD-21-11

McMillan – Miller

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

CARRIED

Larry Gordon advised that he would stand and was declared Vice Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2021. Mr. Gordon thanked the Board for their confidence and gave his appreciation for the opportunity to continue facing the challenges that lay ahead for the Authority.

Additional nominations were taken from the floor to complete the membership of the Executive Committee.

BD-21-12

Burrell – Marriott

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2021 Nominating Committee's Report.”

CARRIED

BD-21-13

Dennis – McKinnon

“That the 2021 Executive Committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be:

**Joe Faas, Chair
Larry Gordon, Vice Chair
Terry Burrell
Frank Kennes
Brad Loosley
Betty Ann MacKinnon
Mark McGill
Steve Miller
Mike Stark”**

CARRIED

BD-21-14

Hall – Burrell

“That the Authority Chair or the Vice Chair and the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or Director of Finance be authorized to borrow from the Libro Credit Union, Strathroy for the general operations and capital program of the Authority, a sum not to exceed \$2,967,098.00 to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed to the member municipalities and general revenue.”

CARRIED

BD-21-15

Miller – Loosley

“That MNP Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2021.”

CARRIED

BD-21-16

Miller – Nemcek

“That the Authority's 2021 representative to Conservation Ontario will be the Authority Chair, the Vice Chair will be the first alternate and the General Manager be the second alternate.”

CARRIED

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

- Correspondence from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) was reviewed, as were comments from staff clarifying the impacts on the SCRCA
- Further information is expected to be available at the April Board meeting

BD-21-17

Brennan – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 15, 2021.”

CARRIED

Item 16.1(b) was removed from the Consent Agenda, as requested by Director Mike Stark.

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

Director's Comments:

Director Mike Stark expressed concern over the potential long-term costs for repairs to Highland Glen and affirmed his position against this project. It is requested that staff present a full report to the April Board meeting giving both short term and long term costs for repair. Staff gave details of a recent meeting with consultants, in which priorities were re-focussed, possibly resulting in a lower quote for repairs. Staff will be bringing a report to the April board meeting with a specific financial request.

BD-21-18

Stark – Loosley

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update report dated February 7, 2021 on Conservation Areas.”

CARRIED

BD-21-19

Loosley – Miller

“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and endorses the recommendations accompanying Items 16.1 a - 16.1 m, with the exception of 16.1 (b).”

CARRIED

The report on business arising was reviewed.

(a) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on business arising dated Feb 11, 2021.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

(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.

The planning activity report for the period of November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021 was reviewed. An entry recorded incorrectly as Inniskillen is to be corrected to Petrolia, as noted and requested by Director Brad Loosley.

(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.

The regulations activity report for the period of November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021 was reviewed.

(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.

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.

(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.

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

(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.

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).

- 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).
- 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 MECP 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 SCRCA 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.

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

Allen Woodliffe, retired MNRF ecologist, conducted a multi-day study of Moore Wildlife Area on May 23, June 18 and September 9, 2020 to better understand population distribution of moths and other invertebrates attracted by a black light. Allen grew up on a farm just outside of Rondeau Provincial Park. This study was a continuation of a hobby project that began in 2019 and was reported to the Board on December 12, 2019. As a condition of permission to conduct this study, Allen was asked to report back to the Authority Board on his findings.

Moths play a key role in the ecosystem. They consume nectar from flowers, pollinating a variety of species as they move from plant to plant. Moths also serve as an indicator species, as their presence or absence can signal the overall health of the ecosystem. Monitoring their distribution and abundance can give clues to the impacts of pesticides, air pollution and climate change.

A report summarizing Allen's findings was included in the Board package. Overall, there was an increase in the number of species identified from 2019. However, this was expected due to timing differences and the increase in the number of photographs taken 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.

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

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.

(k) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated February 10, 2021 on the results from mussel research conducted by SCRCA Biology in 2020

Fall Education Program Summary

COVID-19 has required the SCRCA Conservation Education team to adapt to new restrictions and guidelines implemented by local health authorities and the federal and provincial governments. The SCRCA education staff has effectively met these challenges with innovative, creative, and exciting new programming opportunities! We are thrilled to be able to share our successes.

1. **Nature In Your Neighbourhood:** Staff were fully booked with schoolyard programming right until the end of December, with over 3000 students reached during fall, 2020. New booking requests are already being made for spring, 2021.
2. **Live-Stream with a Naturalist:** Successfully launched during fall, 2020, this program option connected with 4 classes (3 in-school, 1 virtual), reaching 100+ students. With 21 requests for this program during the winter months, St. Clair will reach an additional 500+ students via live-stream.
3. **Virtual Field Trips:** Several Virtual Field Trip subscriptions were purchased during fall, 2020 and new requests are continuing to be made.

Great Lakes Virtual Field Trip Project

St. Clair Conservation has embarked on a new project funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The St. Clair Education Team is acting as both Huron-Erie Corridor Project Lead and as Project Mentor for the other Team Leads across the province. This project aims to highlight the Great Lakes as a platform to educate students in Grades 8, 9, and 10 in the subjects of Science, History and Geography. Project completion date is March 31st, 2021.

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.

(l) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Progress report dated February 10, 2021.

The 2021 schedule of special events was reviewed.

(m) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2021 schedule of Special Events outlined in the attached flyer.

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:

$$\text{Season Length (in weeks)} \times \text{Cost per week}$$
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)

BD-21-20

Miller – McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated January 26, 2021 on the Camping Season and Fee Modifications in the Event of an Altered Seasonal Camping Season and further approves the fee adjustment formula proposed for 2021 in the event that the seasonal camping season is altered due to COVID-19, approving up to a 2 week extension to the camping season, and also further approves the full refund of daily camping fees when staff deem appropriate.”

CARRIED

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Board and Staff Member Fee Policy for Conservation Areas was reviewed.

Director Comments:

Director Al Broad questioned whether there was a need for seasonal fee reductions for Board members and requested a recorded vote to remove this advantage from the SCRCA Board and Staff Member Fee Policy. The vote passed unanimously.

BD-21-21

Broad – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated January 27, 2021 on the proposed Board and Staff Member Fee Policy for Conservation Area Use and directs staff to remove the seasonal rate reduction for Board members only, approving the policy as amended.”

CARRIED

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 permitted on registered site and open spaces	Cannabis use not in previous regulations
15	Cultivation of cannabis is prohibited	Not in previous regulations

64 – 67	Off-season storage and access	Not outlined in previous regulations
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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.

A sample calculation chart of potentially eligible refunds was reviewed.

BD-21-22

Burrell – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated January 27, 2021 on the updates to the Seasonal Camping Policies and Regulations, Golf Cart Rules, and Seasonal Camping Refund Policy documents and further approves the updates and permits staff to implement minor updates in future years.”

CARRIED

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

BD-21-23

Burrell – McMillan

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

CARRIED

- 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 was reviewed.

Brights 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

Brights 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

Bright's Grove, Old Lakeshore Road East

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

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.

Director's Comments:

Director's requested several points of clarification regarding municipal approval of matching funds for WECl grants. It was explained that due to timeline restrictions, funding opportunities are sourced and applied for in advance of municipal approval, however we are in position to decline the funds if municipalities are not in agreement to match required funding. The WECl Committee meets in March, 2021 and SCRCA staff should be informed of the status of our application by mid-April, 2021.

BD-21-24

Miller – Burrell

“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.”

CARRIED

Correspondence from the Town of Petrolia dated December 15, 2020 regarding the SCRCA 2021 budget and Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act – Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act was reviewed.

BD-21-25

Loosley – Dennis

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence from the Town of Petrolia, dated December 15, 2020 regarding the SCRCA 2021 budget and Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act – Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act”

CARRIED

Under New Business

Director Al Broad brought forth information on a proposed project involving the construction of a building within a woodlot to be used as a community mental health retreat. It is requested that SCRCA planning staff work with the applicants to provide possible options and that the initial fee be waived due to the memorial and charitable initiative.

Staff will assist in providing technical guidance and potential options for consideration and will provide a report to the April Board Meeting on the outcome of meetings and/ or correspondence. Director Terry Burrell requests that the report contain current and potential programs within the Conservation Areas that promote mental health.

BD-21-26

Broad – Dennis

“That the Board of Directors directs SCRCA staff to collaborate with Dawn-Euphemia Municipal staff and Lambton County Planners, providing possible options for the proposed project of the Bergsma family, waiving the initial fee and reporting back to the Board of Directors meeting in April, 2021”

CARRIED

BD-21-27

Burrell – Loosley

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Joe Faas
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager