



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: April 15, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Remote

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**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, Mark McGill, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Lorie Scott, Mike Stark, Jerry Westgate

**Staff Present:** Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Melissa Deisley, Regulations Coordinator; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/ GIS; 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; Kelli Smith, Biological Technician; Kirsten Van Goethem, Drainage Research Co-Op; Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

**Guests Present:** Jenna Allain, Upper Thames Conservation Authority; Dr. Catherine Febria and Lauren Damphousse, University of Windsor

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. 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.

Director Terry Burrell declared a pecuniary interest in relation to item 7.1 (p).

**BD-21-32**

**Marriott – MacKinnon**

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

**CARRIED**

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held on February 25, 2021 were reviewed.

**BD-21-33**

**Dennis – Burrell**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held February 25, 2021, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

The minutes of the Board of Directors special meeting, held on March 10, 2021 were reviewed.

**BD-21-34**

**Scott – Kennes**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting, held March 10, 2021 be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

**Lambton County Council Request for Municipal Forum**

- General Managers of the Ausable Bayfield and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority presented to Lambton County Council on April 7, 2021 regarding the December, 2019 request to attend a municipal forum to advise municipal councilors and staff of changes to the Conservation Authorities Act
- Upon the completion of these anticipated changes and updates to each Authority’s Board of Directors, a Municipal Forum will be very valuable to provide the requested update on legislative and regulatory changes but also for the open communication and information exchange ensuring that all parties have the best understanding going forward
- A presentation outlining the changes to date and those anticipated to be received over the next several months was reviewed.

**BD-21-35**

**Nemcek – Westgate**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated April 1, 2021.”**

**CARRIED**

A summary of changes to the Planning Act and Conservation Authorities Act per Bill 229 Schedule 6, including interpretation, required actions and draft best management practices recommended for CAs was reviewed, as well as the date in force for each section.

A verbal update was provided by General Manager, Brian McDougall. During the Conservation Ontario Council meeting held on Monday, April 12, 2021, members were advised of new changes that will be coming forward from the Conservation Authorities Working Group and that the next phase of proclamations and draft regulations may be seen within the coming weeks. A posting to the Environmental Registry with a 60 day comment period will be brought forward allowing for review and consultation. Further updates will be available within the next month, with a full picture of changes and impacts expected by the fall of 2021.

**BD-21-36****Gordon – Dennis**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the table titled Summary of Changes to the Planning Act and Conservation Authorities Act per Bill 229, Schedule 6 and further directs staff to implement the outlined requirements and best management practice actions as soon as possible, understanding that further actions are anticipated with the proclamation of additional changes and the delivery of updated or new regulations from the Province.”**

**CARRIED**

A discussion was held amongst Directors both in support of and against the motion. General Manager, Brian McDougall clarified that the intention of the exemption request is to set 2021 as a start base, allowing our current Chair and Vice Chair to run for 2 years moving forward, as well as the ability to continue for additional terms, should there be no interested party stepping forward for a position in the annual election. It was also noted that to date, the Province has allowed 6 exemptions to this law.

| <b>Director's Name</b> | <b>For</b> | <b>Against</b> |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Brennan, John          | ✓          |                |
| Broad, Alan            | ✓          |                |
| Brown, Pat             | ✓          |                |
| Burrell, Terry         | ✓          |                |
| Dennis, Bill           | ✓          |                |
| 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        | ✓          |                |
| Faas, Joe              | ✓          |                |
|                        | 16         | 4              |

**BD-21-37**

**Miller – MacKinnon**

**“That the Board of Directors requests an exception from the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding Subsection 17(1.3) of the Conservation Authorities Act – Chair and Vice Chair provisions and endorses the covering letter and application outlining the request to permit Chair and/ or Vice Chair terms to be no greater than 2 years, subject to annual elections and subject to nominated candidates other than the immediate past Chair and/ or Vice Chair, and that this exception recognizes that the term limits be implemented from the elections of the 2021 Annual General meeting going forward, and still further that this be outlined in an update to the Authority’s by-laws.”**

**CARRIED**

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, and
- A bathymetry survey to map out portions of the bottom of the river along the shoreline.

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

In November, 2020 Parsons made a presentation to the Sediment Management Oversight Committee, summarizing the results of the sediment sampling, including how it compared to historical results.

Additional presentations were made to the Oversight Committee by Parsons in December, 2020 and January, 2021 to report on the outcome of further analysis of the sampling results and their recommended approach for managing the contaminated sediment.

**Update:**

The Oversight Committee met with Parsons on February 11, 2021 to review and provide feedback on their draft presentation for the Sediment Management Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of Senior Managers from each of the funding partners. The presentation was amended based on feedback received and a presentation was made to the Executive Committee on February 25, 2021. The Executive Committee requested additional time to consider the information presented and to decide on whether they concur with the consultant's recommended approach for managing the contaminated sediment.

To assist the consultant in the development of an updated project schedule and a reassessment of project costs, the SCRCA developed a draft flow chart on anticipated next steps, including outreach activities. The flow chart was shared with the consultant and discussed with the Sediment Management Communications Team on March 24, 2021.

An updated draft project schedule, scope of work and estimated budget was submitted to the SCRCA by Parsons on March 26, 2021. The Oversight Committee discussed the submission with Parsons on March 31, 2021 and requested a reassessment of the submission for opportunities to reduce the project timing, scope of work and costs for specific activities. A revised submission is anticipated in early April 2021 for review by the Oversight Committee.

Following confirmation of the Executive Committee's concurrence with the recommended approach for managing the contaminated sediment, and the Oversight Committee's acceptance of the updated project schedule, scope of work and budget, the SCRCA will begin working with the Communications Team to prepare material for anticipated outreach activities. Timing will be dependent on the revised updated schedule to be submitted by Parsons.

**Strategic Objectives(s):**

Ensure that our rivers, lakes and streams are properly safeguarded, managed and restored.

**Financial Impact:**

Monthly invoices received from Parsons continue to be reviewed carefully to ensure that costs incurred align with the key project deliverables and the contract agreement. Cost recovery also continues to occur on a quarterly basis with costs shared amongst each of the funding partners.

A verbal update was requested by Director and Vice Chair, Larry Gordon. Director of Water Resources, Girish Sankar informed that the recommended approach by Parsons through SCRCA, sent to the Executive Committee, was received well and the strategy

has been approved. Staff are working with the Communications Team to educate on what the design parameters will be. The design recommendation has now been approved and communications activities are expected within the coming weeks. Further updates will be available within the next month.

***7.1 (c) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the reported dated April 1, 2021 on the engineering and design plan for contaminated sediment in the St. Clair River and further supports the on-going project work being completed as planned.***

### **Brights Grove, Kenwick Street to Helen Avenue – Phase 3A**

- R&M Contractors was awarded the contract on January 21, 2021 at a value of \$2,618,713.25 inclusive of HST.
- Shoreline construction work started on February 17, 2021
- All in-water work has been completed as of March 31, 2021
- Construction work has been very smooth with no issues, with an expected completion of May 15, 2021 including the road and site restoration works.
- We continue to receive positive feedback from the City of Sarnia and its community members.

### **Brights Grove, Kenwick Street to Helen Avenue – Phase 2**

- Alternative design has been developed, reviewed and accepted
- We are working with Cope Construction on a timeline for this work
- This work is expected to start July 15, 2021

### **Brights Grove, Kenwick Street to Helen Avenue – Phase 3**

- City of Sarnia is offering legal assistance in this matter
- A mediation between AMICO and The City of Sarnia was scheduled on March 25, 2021
- A resolution has been reached
- An agreement with the details of settlement is underway.

A verbal update was requested by Director Mike Stark from Director of Water Resources, Girish Sankar in regards to the mediation between AMICO and the City of Sarnia, held on March 25, 2021. Details are underway, however a settlement was determined and an agreement was reached amicably. Staff is awaiting the full details of the settlement and final copy of the agreement.

***7.1 (d) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 1, 2021 on the status of Shoreline projects along Brights Grove.***

The Planning Activity Summary Report, dated March 31, 2021 for the period of February 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021 was reviewed.

Director Mike Stark enquired regarding the position of SCRCA Planning staff, as it relates to the applications for building at 834 Lakeshore Road. Planning Ecologist, Sarah Hodgkiss informed that SCRCA Planning staff have submitted formal comments on this file to the Municipality, from both a natural hazard and natural heritage perspective. Staff have reviewed all updated plans and applications. From a Conservation Authority standpoint, there are no issues with the 2 lots being created along the shoreline, as the developers have demonstrated that the potential building envelopes are not within the shoreline hazard area. In regards to the lots being proposed within the existing significant woodland, SCRCA staff continue to work closely with the developer and with the City on mitigation and compensation plans for the woodlot. A number of options for configuration of building lots have been reviewed and SCRCA planning staff were able to support the design resulting in the least amount of woodland removal.

Additional information, including SCRCA Planning Staff comments was requested by Director Mike Stark.

Clarification was also requested on details of the environmental assessment on Highway 402, Front St to Mandaumin Rd. Planning Ecologist, Sarah Hodgkiss provided follow up e-mail correspondence to Mr. Stark on this file.

***7.1 (h) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's monthly Planning Activity Summary Report dated March 31, 2021 for February 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021.***

**BD-21-38**

**Stark – McMillan**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and endorses the recommendations accompanying items 7.1 (c), 7.1 (d) and 7.1 (h).”**

**CARRIED**

The report on Business Arising was reviewed.

***7.1 (a) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the February 25, 2021 meeting.***

**Report Highlights:**

- Water levels on Great Lakes and in Wallaceburg well below levels from last year
- Six-month water level projections predicting levels to be below 2020 record highs
- Precipitation amounts for the region are below normal
- Spring winds have prompted bulletins for shorelines

## Water Levels

Levels on the Great Lakes and at the outlet of the Sydenham River at Wallaceburg are greatly dependent on precipitation trends in the Great Lakes watershed. Water levels impacted by precipitation trends typically see fluctuations on a long-term temporal scale, with a resulting delay of approximately a year. Figure 1, below, depicts annual precipitation anomalies (deviation from normal values) for the Great Lakes region compared to water levels on Lake Huron at Point Edward.

Above normal precipitation trending since 2015 saw a steady rise in water levels on the Great Lakes. The return of the precipitation anomaly from above normal to near normal (drop beginning in 2019) is starting to see water levels drop on the surrounding lakes, and as a result has reduced the impact of levels in Wallaceburg. As of this report, water levels on the Sydenham River in Wallaceburg are not a significant concern, with approximately 40 cm of freeboard.

Recent low pressure systems have brought rain and strong winds to the region, prompting numerous water safety and flood watch bulletins. While water levels are lower compared to last year, wind-driven storm surge, increased wave action and possible erosion remain a concern for shorelines.

- Water levels are down approximately 30 cm compared to last year on the surrounding lakes
- Levels are approximately 55-70 cm above all-time average water levels
- Preliminary water levels for March were near the predicted levels made in February
- Six-month water level forecast for Lake Huron predicts water levels will be below the record levels made in 2020

## Precipitation

Trends over the past six months have resulted in precipitation amounts for the region well below the normal averages, however a wet August which saw double the normal precipitation has helped bring regional averages for the past twelve months to within a normal range.

### ***7.1 (b) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 1, 2021 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.***

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.

### **Update on the Healthy Watershed Program**

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 hosted a panel discussion on implementing cover crops on Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am (funded through EcoAction).

SCRCA coordinated 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 series was called “Crops & Conservation” – the same title used by the Conservation Authorities that provide quarterly updates to the St. Clair Region Soil & Crop Improvement Association. The SCRCA bio strips webinar was hosted by Jessica Van Zwol on Tuesday March 2 at 11 am and showcased the practices of 3 farmers from the SCRCA watershed. Fifty-eight people participated in the live webinar and a good discussion ensued. 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 participated in a DFO-led webinar on aquatic species at risk in the SCRCA and Essex Region Conservation Authority watersheds. The webinar also provided an opportunity for DFO staff to provide clarity on regulations and processes involved with working in or near water. Our role was to reach out to local consultants, drainage superintendents, drainage engineers, and contractors in our watershed that work in or near water. We invited over 100 people to the webinar and 76 people attended (9 DFO staff and 67 non-DFO). The event was held on March 11 – thanks to the board members who attended!

Jessica Van Zwol and Emily De Cloet were invited to speak at a Virtual Information Night for members of Centre Ipperwash Community Centre. Daniela Klicper from Lake Huron Coastal Centre for Conservation spoke about Coastal Stewardship that beachfront landowners can implement to preserve the Lake Huron shoreline. Emily spoke about water levels in Lake Huron and Jessica shared about opportunities about stewardship projects and extended SCRCA’s gratitude to the tireless volunteers in the Ipperwash Area that clean up the beach daily and removing the invasive Phragmites and sweet clover. Over 70 people attended the event.

Lambton Wildlife Inc. invited Craig Paterson, Biology department, to present on our 2020 Round Goby fish monitoring program (funded by DFO). The presentation was livestreamed to Facebook and within 24 hours, the presentation had over 227 views.

In March, Roland Eveleens, a University of Windsor Master's student joined 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. Make sure you check out our social media for posts on #musselmonday, #treetuesday and #fishyfriday posts. Roland and his research will be featured in the next Conservation Update.

### **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.

#### ***7.1 (e) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 1, 2021 on the Healthy Watersheds Program.***

In March, at a request to reduce lab loads by the province, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) staff were approached by the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MOECP) to demonstrate the importance of the current surface water quality monitoring programs implemented by the SCRCA, and justify the continuation of these programs, particularly the COA Great Lakes Water Quality program. It is proposed to either temporarily stop sampling for this program or remove it. The MOECP's southwestern regional office has been providing lab sample analyses to the SCRCA annually since 2004 under the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) on Great Lakes Water Quality. The COA monitoring started with six locations in 2004 and was expanded to 11 locations by 2008, six of which are sampled bi-monthly amounting to a total of eight sites each month during the ice-free periods. Samples are analyzed for basic water quality parameters similar to those used for PWQMN including nutrients and metals. The main objective of this monitoring program is to protect regional surface water resources by providing reliable and current information on stream water quality. This allows data users to establish baseline conditions, track water quality changes over time, and direct resources for watershed management.

The core mandate of Conservation Authorities is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social and environmental benefits. In order to provide a better understanding of local environmental issues, focus actions where they are needed the most, and track progress overtime, Conservation Authorities monitor the health of natural resources in their watersheds. Water quality monitoring in the St. Clair Region has been on-going since the 1960's. In total the SCRCA monitors 21 stations in three different water monitoring programs, these include eight sites in the Provincial

Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), two sites in the Healthy Lake Huron Initiative and 11 sites as part of the COA Great Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Program.

Compared with other CAs that have smaller and/or more linear watersheds, the SCRCA has a large land-base (4,130km<sup>2</sup>) with four separate drainage basins that require water quality monitoring to understand changes occurring across the region. The four main drainage areas include tributaries for Lake Huron, St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, and the Sydenham River (north and east branches). As stated earlier the SCRCA collects surface water samples for three monitoring programs. These three programs together create a complete picture of what is happening in the St. Clair Region watershed as no one program covers all four drainage basins.

In addition to the large land area, the St. Clair Region is an area with intensive land use that is largely rural and dominated by agriculture (81%) but there are also urban and industrial areas, such as the second largest complex of petrochemical facilities in Canada. Water quality monitoring in the St. Clair River Area of Concern is essential for recording the potential impacts of agriculture and industry in Sarnia-Lambton as well as monitoring progress achieved through the remedial action plan. The Sydenham Watershed has been identified as a high contributing area in Canada for phosphorus loads to the Lake Erie basin but is also one of the most species-rich watersheds in Canada and includes large stretches of critical habitat for aquatic SAR that is essential to their persistence and recovery.

Water quality data obtained through surface water quality monitoring programs are used by watershed managers to both address concerns and identify stewardship actions in the region. Water quality data are also used to inform SCRCA board members, municipalities, planning decisions, and is used in various outreach and education initiatives (e.g., Board Reports, Conservation Updates, Species at Risk Newsletters, bus tours, conservation education programs, workshops, demonstrations). Additionally, the water quality data are used by many of our partners including, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, who use the data as part of the assessments for Species at Risk and critical habitat research, and other academic partners like the University of Windsor, that use the baseline data for various research projects. SCRCA staff reached out to several partners including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Friends of the St. Clair River and University of Windsor Healthy Headwaters Lab who were all willing to provide examples of how they use the data and write letters to support the continued monitoring of the COA program

The COA data also contributes to several key initiatives in the region:

- **St. Clair River Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan**

The St. Clair River was identified as an Area of Concern in 1985 as it did not meet the objectives of the GLWQA due to severely degraded water quality and environmental health. Water quality sites are essential to monitoring watershed changes and progress achieved through the Remedial Action Plan.

- **St. Clair Region Drinking Water Source Protection Area**  
 The Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Plan came into effect on December 31, 2015, after a decade of research which identified vulnerable areas and potential threats. The policy is now being implemented to continue to identify and mitigate threats to municipal water supplies. Turbidity is an example of a local water quality issue relating to drinking water. Walpole Island First Nation and Wallaceburg Water Treatment Plants draw raw water from the St. Clair River but have had to close intakes in the past due to high turbidity caused by storm water flows from the North Branch of the Sydenham River.
- **Sydenham River Recovery Strategy and Action Plan, SAR and Critical Habitat**  
 The Sydenham watershed has been recognized as one of the most species-rich watersheds in Canada. According to DFO, the St. Clair Region supports 28 fish and mussel SAR, including species of global conservation concern and large stretches of Critical Habitat. The areas of Critical Habitat for fishes and freshwater mussels were recently expanded (Feb. 2021) in the St. Clair Region and now include:

  - North Sydenham River (North Sydenham River, Bear Creek)
  - East Sydenham River (East Sydenham River, Brown Creek, mouths of Spring and Fansher Creeks)
  - St. Clair River Tributaries (Whitebread Drain/Grape Run)
  - Lake St. Clair Tributaries (Maxwell Creek, Little Bear Creek)

Water quality in several of these locations are only monitored through the COA program (Brown Creek, Little Bear Creek, and the headwaters of Bear Creek). The Sydenham River Recovery Planning documents identify degraded water quality as one of the major threats to SAR including nutrient and toxic contaminant loads, turbidity, and thermal regime changes.
- **Sydenham Watershed Phosphorus Management Plan and Lake Erie Action Plan**  
 The Sydenham Watershed has been identified as a high contributing area in Canada for phosphorus loads to the Lake Erie basin. The SCRCA is currently working with government agencies and local stakeholders on a Phosphorus Management Plan for the tertiary Sydenham watershed to contribute to provincial and federal commitments under LEAP. One pillar of the Lake Erie Action Plan is an improved knowledge base and, according to the plan, research, modelling, and monitoring programs provide essential data to understand the effectiveness of our actions, how phosphorus enters Lake Erie, and the factors contributing to algal blooms. The monthly water quality samples are essential to understanding phosphorus loading in the Sydenham watershed and where to best prioritize phosphorus reduction efforts.
- **Healthy Lake Huron Initiative**  
 Through the Healthy Lake Huron Initiative, communities are working to protect Lake Huron by implementing best management practices and projects. Lambton Shores has been identified as one of six priority watersheds designated for long-term monitoring (of water quality, water quantity, and weather), research, and project implementation and evaluation. The lessons learned in the six designated

watershed study areas provide valuable knowledge about projects that can be implemented along the entire southeast shoreline.

- **SCRCA Watershed Report Cards**

The SCRCA relies on the water quality data to publish a periodic watershed report card for use by watershed residents, all levels of government, industry and environmental agencies to identify priority areas and direct actions. Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities coordinate on this initiative and use standardized assessment criteria so the status of natural resources can be compared across the province.

- **SCRCA Healthy Watersheds Program**

The SCRCA identifies areas with degraded water quality to prioritize stewardship projects.

- **WISKI database**

WISKI is a software tool used for improved data management and analyses. The COA data is uploaded into a WISKI database through a collaborative effort with the UTRCA where this long-term data set is available to partnering organizations including surrounding conservation authorities.

The SCRCA highly values these data, so invests time/ money to collect the samples and manage the data relating to these stations. As a small Conservation Authority, we have made a significant investment in maintaining these sites, as it requires a staff person one day per month collecting samples (the two alternating COA routes range from 270-290km), a half day per month calibrating equipment and labeling bottles, and about a week managing data on a yearly basis. Sampling is completed the day before or the day after PWQMN samples and employs the same sampling protocols. COA sites are essential to understanding water quality concerns in the region and have greater financial implications as they are important to understanding how resources are best directed.

### **Examples of reports illustrating the various uses of the water quality data:**

- Thames-Sydenham and Region Watershed Characterization Report, St. Clair Region Source Protection area. Volume 2. December 2008.  
[http://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/sp\\_plan3/SupDocs/WCR/SCLair\\_Characterization\\_Report/StClair-Summary.pdf](http://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/sp_plan3/SupDocs/WCR/SCLair_Characterization_Report/StClair-Summary.pdf)
- Interim Watershed Description Report. (Background document for Watershed Characterization report, above).
- St. Clair River Watershed Plan, December 2009. AOC Area 1-A.  
<https://www.scrca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Pub-St-Clair-River-Watershed-Plan-Part-I.pdf>  
<https://www.scrca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Pub-St-Clair-River-Watershed-Plan-part-II.pdf>
- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Watershed Report Card. 2013.  
<https://www.scrca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Report-Card-2013-Report.pdf>

- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Watershed Report Card, 2018.  
<https://www.scrca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2018-SCRCA-WRC-Report.pdf>
  - Ontario's Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards Story Map: <http://stateofontariowatersheds.ca/>
  - Background: <https://conservationontario.ca/policy-priorities/science-and-information-management/watershed-reporting>
- St. Clair River Area of Concern. INTERIM REPORT: Water Quality of Canadian St. Clair River Tributaries, 2004-2012
- Sydenham River Recovery Strategy, July 2002.  
<http://www.sydenhamriver.on.ca/Publications/RecoveryStrategyJuly2002.pdf>

### **Financial Impact:**

The COA Great Lakes Water Quality Monitoring program has received support from MOECP for the analysis of 64-72 water quality samples per year. The SCRCA through various other funding sources has been able to cover the costs of staff time to prepare, collect, and ship the samples to the lab for analysis. In the past programs such as the Ontario Community Environment Fund and Canadian Nature Fund have been used to support the staff time for collection of the water quality samples. In general, the costs for collection and analysis are as follows:

### **Staff Time**

Preparation and Collection: 1 staff @ \$50/hr for 11hrs, samples collected once a month for 8 months = \$4,400

Data management and analysis: 1 staff @\$50/hr for 37.5hrs = \$1,875

Mileage: 270-290km round trip

### **Sample Costs**

Lab Analysis: ~\$100-\$200/sample and 64-72 samples/year = total annual analysis costs ranging from \$6,400 - \$14,400

The following appendices were also reviewed:

- **Appendix 1** Letter to MOECP from the Friends of St. Clair in support of the water quality monitoring by the SCRCA
- **Appendix 2** Healthy Headwaters Lab Use of SCRCA Water Quality Data
- **Appendix 3** Letter from Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences regarding the value of SCRCA Water Quality Monitoring Stations

***7.1 (f) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated March 31, 2021 on the Canada Ontario Agreement – Great Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Program and its value to the SCRCA and partners.***

The Regulations Activity Summary report dated March 31, 2021 on “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) from February 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021 was reviewed.

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

The revenue and expenditure report to February 28, 2021 was reviewed.

**7.1 (i) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to February 28, 2021, as it relates to the budget.**

The status report on the 2021 general levy receipts to date was reviewed.

**7.1 (j) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2021 general levy receipts to date.**

The investment reports to January 31, 2021 was reviewed.

**7.1 (k) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Investment reports to January 31, 2021.**

The Conservation Authorities Statistical Survey – 2017 Financial Report was reviewed.

**7.1 (l) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Authorities Statistical Survey – 2017 Financial Report and accepts this data as information.**

Minutes of the November 12, 2020 Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting were reviewed.

**7.1 (m) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the November 12, 2020 Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting minutes.**

#### **RAP Coordination:**

The most recent RAP Coordination agreement between St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Environment and Climate Change Canada concluded on March 31, 2021. A new multi-year agreement is currently in development to support RAP coordination for the next two years with the option for a third year.

On March 9, 2021, a letter was submitted to the Four Agency Managers Committee to consider the re-designation of the Fish Tumours and Other Deformities Beneficial Use Impairment from *Requires Further Assessment* to *Not Impaired*.

An Initial Draft Status Assessment Report has been prepared for the *Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems Beneficial Use Impairment*. Upon receipt of identified missing data, this report will be presented to the Canadian RAP Implementation Committee for review.

## **Meetings:**

### **Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC)**

- October 27, 2020 – Teleconference
- Next Meeting: TBD

### **Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)**

- December 2, 2020 – Teleconference
- March 10, 2021 – Teleconference
- Next Meeting: April 7, 2021 – Special Meeting- Teleconference

### **Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)**

- February 16, 2021 – Annual General Meeting- Teleconference
- Next Meeting: May 4, 2021 – Teleconference

## **Events:**

Due to restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Aamjiwnaang First Nation converted their annual St. Clair River Days event into a 3-part virtual series. Natasha Pozega attended and provided support for each of the virtual events.

**March 13, 2021-** *St. Clair River Area of Concern 101* presented by Natasha Pozega, RAP Coordinator, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

**March 20, 2021** - *Native Plants of the Ojibwe* presented by Sharilyn Johnston, Aamjiwnaang Environment Department, *Butler's Garter Snake* presented by Dennis Plain, Aamjiwnaang Environment Department, *and Rain Gardens* presented by Shawn McKnight, Return the Landscape

**March 27, 2021** - *Area of Concern, Progress of Beneficial Use Impairments* presented by April White, Environment and Climate Change Canada

**April 21, 2021** - *Virtual Presentation on Drinking Water* This event will provide an overview of the cultural importance of water to the local Indigenous communities living along the St. Clair River, the voluntary and legislated practices adopted by local industry to reduce risk of spills, and the municipal infrastructure upgrades that provide added protection will be shared. Community members will have the opportunity to engage and ask questions about the significant progress made in



improving the aquatic environment of the St. Clair River over the past 30 years—all from the comfort of their homes.

Due to restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the St. Clair River Science Symposium is being converted to a 3-part virtual series for 2021. This event aims to share the results of scientific and/or monitoring information on the remaining impairments in the St. Clair Area of Concern with the community. The first session will be held on **April 21, 2021** from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Interested parties are invited to register at [friendsofstclair.ca/symposium](http://friendsofstclair.ca/symposium).

### **Outreach and Engagement:**

The Friends of St. Clair River and the Remedial Action Plan have partnered to launch a monthly E-Newsletter. The goal of this newsletter is to increase awareness and engagement in the Area of Concern and highlight environmental initiatives happening in the region. Individuals can subscribe to the newsletter at [friendsofstclair.ca](http://friendsofstclair.ca). The first newsletter was released in February 2021 and new editions continue to be released in the second week of each month.

Links to Newsletters:

- [February 2021 Newsletter](#)
- [March 2021 Newsletter](#)

### **Strategic Objectives(s):**

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

***7.1 (n) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 1, 2021 on the St. Clair River Area of Concern.***

### **Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race:**

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and provincial restrictions, staff made the unfortunate decision to cancel the 2021 Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race. This is the fourth year in a row that the race has been cancelled – the 2018 and 2019 races were cancelled due to unsafe water levels and the 2020 race was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff are currently investigating the possibility of holding a virtual fundraiser during the summer as part of the Authority's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The "event" will be formatted similar to other virtual races/walk-a-thons that have been organized throughout the pandemic. Additional information and details will be provided to the Board of Directors at the June meeting.

## **June Board of Directors Meeting and Education Demonstration:**

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic drastically altered the way educators were able to connect to their students. 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.

At the June Board of Directors meeting, our education staff will demonstrate their “Live-stream with a Naturalist” program where our SCRCA education team connects ‘live’ from a Conservation Area. This program, along with their other virtual and school-yard programs developed over the last year, have not only been successful, but welcomed by educators, parents, and students throughout the watershed.

## **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Social Media Campaign**

Between March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first of a series of monthly social media campaigns was launched to celebrate the SCRCA’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and highlight the history and evolution of Authority programs and services. The March campaign focused on Flood Forecasting and Monitoring and the W. Darcy McKeough Floodway.

## **Media and Social Media Analytics:**

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

The following statistics cover the timeframe from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021:

### **Media Relations**

| <b>Activity</b>       | <b>2021 (January – March)</b> | <b>2020 (January – March)</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Media Releases        | 4                             | 6                             |
| News Article Mentions | 105                           | 120                           |

## Social Media

### Facebook

| Activity      | Total | 2021<br>(January – March) | 2020<br>(January – March) |
|---------------|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| New Likes     | 1,758 | 54                        | 108                       |
| New Followers | 1,831 | 68                        | 251                       |
| Posts         | --    | 68                        | 20                        |

### Twitter

| Activity      | Total | 2021<br>(January – March) | 2020<br>(January – March) |
|---------------|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tweets        | --    | 114                       | 65                        |
| Retweets      | --    | 87                        | 93                        |
| New Followers | 722   | 29                        | 30                        |
| Engagements*  | --    | 1976                      | 1880                      |

\* Engagements = clicks, retweets, replies, follows, and likes

**7.1 (o) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications update report dated April 1, 2021.**

### Winter Education Program Summary

COVID-19 continues to have a significant impact on Conservation Education. St. Clair Conservation's Education Team continues to meet these challenges with innovative, creative, and flexible programming! To date over 8,000 students have benefited this school year from St. Clair's willingness to adapt. We are thrilled to be able to share our successes. For a full list of our current programs visit [www.scrca.on.ca/govirtual](http://www.scrca.on.ca/govirtual).

**Sponsored Programs:** St. Clair Education Team has created novel programming to replace traditional 'in-school' programs to ensure good relationships and continued sponsorship with our long-standing partners.

**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. The live-stream version of the program reached ~ 200 participants in 2021.

**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. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and has over 250 views (~6000+ students reached).

**'Watershed 101'** program was developed to replace the 'River Rap' in-school program sponsored by Friends of the St. Clair River. Watershed 101 was fully booked and ~300 students participate in the 1 hour live-stream 'from the Conservation Area' program focusing on watersheds, wetlands, run-off, and watershed management.

**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. Programming dates are planned for the end of April 2021.

**Live-Stream with a Naturalist:** Successfully completed 4 weeks of live-stream programming offering 2 different fee-based programs to students from Kindergarten to Grade 4. This programming option has proven very successful at engaging students of all ages; approximately 500 students participated during the month of March.

**'Nature in Winter'** program, offered to students in FDK-Grade 4, reached ~ 200 students, including one program offered bilingually in French.

**'Maple Syrup'** program was fully booked and as demand continued, the Education Team had to get creative with doubling bookings to accommodate the many requests. Overall, ~300 students participated in the program, which was offered in both English and French.

**Virtual Field Trips:** Requests continue to purchase the Virtual Field Trip subscriptions. This has been an excellent way to recover staff time associated with producing these virtual field trips during 'lock-down' last spring. To date, approximately 900 students have benefited from the Virtual Field Trip subscriptions.

### **Great Lakes Virtual Field Trip Project**

St. Clair Conservation has completed the Huron-Erie Corridor Great Lakes Virtual Field Trip, funded by Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP). The project is now in the Pilot phase and after consultation with teachers/students the project will be ready for release April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The St. Clair Education Team continues to act as Mentor for the other three teams creating Great Lakes Virtual Field Trips across the province.

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

Staff have been working with three classes this year at Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, 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.

Spring planning is now under way and will resume as soon as the school has re-opened. The St. Clair Education Team plans to visit the school twice per month for program delivery and has been invited to participate in a number of community events and cultural programming

***7.1 (p) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Education update report dated April 1, 2021.***

**BD-21-39**

**Scott – Brown**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and endorses the recommendations accompanying Items 7.1 a - 7.1 p with the exception of items 7.1 (c), 7.1 (d) and 7.1 (h).”**

**CARRIED**

Highland Glen Conservation Area comprises approximately 26 acres of predominantly wooded land. Situated on the Lake Huron shoreline, it is located in Plympton-Wyoming approximately 10km west of Forest. The property was purchased as two parcels, one in 1976 and one in 1977. The Conservation Area contains an access roadway, parking lot, pavilion, and boat ramp with seawall and groyne protection.

The groyne on the west side of the boat ramp was constructed by the landowner prior to acquisition by the Authority. In 1986/87 the access road, parking lot, and boat ramp were constructed. Due to safety concerns at the ramp, additional protection was constructed in 1990. The works consisted of a steel sheet pile and armour stone breakwall on the northeast side of the ramp and a steel sheet pile curtain wall connected to the existing groyne on the southwest side.

In late 2019, the original steel sheet pile groyne was damaged during a storm event. High water levels during the last few years have caused significant erosion that threatens the boat ramp infrastructure including the parking lot.

In early 2020 the boat launch was closed for the season due to safety concerns.

#### **Safety Concerns:**

- Waves coming from the west can create rough conditions at the ramp
- High water damaged existing walkways
- Since groyne failure, sediment has quickly accumulated beside the ramp which may impact the ability to launch and navigate within the ramp protection
- Erosion has exposed the eastern side of the retaining wall that supports the boat ramp and is encroaching on the parking lot

#### **Importance of Highland Glen Boat Ramp:**

- Only boat ramp facility between Sarnia and Port Franks

- Allows boaters travelling Lake Huron shoreline to safely dock if lake conditions become dangerous or mechanical issues are experienced (safe harbour)
- Launch facility for Search and Rescue Emergency Services if needed
- Recreational boating access (fishing, pleasure boating, access to cottage properties)
- Access to fishing grounds for First Nations Fishers

### Highland Glen Boat Ramp Study:

In the fall of 2020, AECOM was selected to perform a study of the infrastructure at Highland Glen Conservation Area. Study components included site investigations, topographic and bathymetric surveys, preliminary design of remedial work, a short-term design allowing for safe re-opening, and Class D construction cost estimates.

AECOM has completed a draft report with preliminary cost estimates for review. The works have been broken down by recommended timeframe for implementation. Due to wave conditions on site in the fall, the bathymetric survey is yet to be completed. When lake conditions are favourable, the bathymetric survey will occur and the preliminary design drawings can be completed.

As this report is still a draft, there is opportunity to provide feedback to the consultant prior to completion of preliminary design drawings.

### Financial Implications:

| Repairs Required to Open Boat Ramp |   |          |
|------------------------------------|---|----------|
| 1                                  | Floating platform (dock) to replace damaged walkways.   | \$10,000 |
| 2                                  | Rip rap installation to stabilize eroding shoreline immediately east of boat ramp. Temporary fix until steel retaining wall is installed.                   | \$15,000 |
| 3                                  | Installation of a floating breakwater structure to reduce wave action inside the marina. Short-term fix that requires installation and removal each season. | \$50,000 |
| 4                                  | Aluminum stairway to provide safe beach access. Not a component of the boat ramp, but very important for public safety at the property.                     | \$10,000 |
| 5                                  | Short-term solution to improve safety of railing. (snow fence or similar)   | \$500    |
|                                    | Total Cost Estimate to Re-open Boat Ramp  | \$85,500 |

| Proposed Repairs/Upgrades (1-3 years) |  |           |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 6                                     | Concrete splash apron installed to reduce erosion behind the retaining wall  | \$20,000  |
| 7                                     | Railing replacement for improved public safety.  | \$22,000  |
| 8                                     | New steel retaining wall to protect the parking lot from erosion. This would run parallel to the existing parking lot. Price is for the length of the parking lot. | \$367,000 |
| 9                                     | Replacement of south seawall and extension to meet the bluff (which has receded).  | \$300,000 |
|                                       | Total Cost Estimate (1-3 years)  | \$709,000 |

| Proposed Repairs/Upgrades (3-5 years) |   |           |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 10                                    | Permanent replacement of failed groyne wall with a rock fill breakwater. This could be done at the beginning of project and the need for the temporary floating breakwater would be eliminated. | \$450,000 |
| 11                                    | New retaining wall immediately east of boat ramp.   | \$260,000 |
|                                       | Total Cost Estimate (3-5 years)   | \$710,000 |

| Proposed Repairs/Upgrades (5-10 years) |                                  |           |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 12                                     | Boat ramp replacement.           | \$550,000 |
|  | Total Cost Estimate (5-10 years) | \$550,000 |

| Property Upgrades for Long-term Consideration |  |             |
|---|--|-------------|
| 13  | Day use park sheet pile protection (running the length of the day use area to prevent erosion of the park) | \$1,290,000 |
|   | Total Cost Estimate (Long-term Consideration)  | \$1,290,000 |

Additionally, smaller annual repairs are likely to be required. These would be funded through the collection of boat ramp user fees.

Some components of the boat ramp infrastructure could only be inspected from shore as lake conditions have restricted access. At this time it has been assumed that they are not at the end of their design life and do not require replacement. They will be inspected more closely when the bathymetric survey is completed in April.

**Director's Comments:**

Director Mike Stark brought forth concerns regarding the total preliminary quotes, over \$3,000,000 and the level of matching funds that would be required from all municipalities for this regional project.

Director Netty McEwen raised the point that Highland Glen is not municipally owned land and that user statistics show regional use.

A discussion continued amongst directors, with a range of opinions expressed both in support and in opposition of repairs to the boat ramp. Manager of Lands, Greg Wilcox provided clarification that the opportunity exists to provide feedback to consultants and

that the final report is intended to provide a full picture of the necessary and optional repairs, allowing directors to make a decision.

**BD-21-40**

**Burrell – Scott**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated March 29, 2021 on the boat ramp at Highland Glen and supports the closure of the boat ramp until it can be operated safely.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-21-41**

**Kennes – Gordon**

**“That the Board of Directors directs staff to share the feedback from today’s meeting with AECOM for preparation of the final report to be presented to the Board at the June meeting, as well as financial options to fund the project.”**

**CARRIED**

An introduction to the speakers was provided by Director of Biology, Erin Carroll.

In October, Kelly Johnson, Environmental Specialist, and Brigian Barlow, Manager, Drainage Services from Municipality of Chatham-Kent approached SCRCA with a proposed project. They were interested in determining if drainage practices benefited or impacted drains. The intent was to show that a certain practice may benefit the water quality, habitat or species assemblages in the drain. If benefit could be demonstrated, maybe environmental approvals could be streamlined? The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) was not in a position to conduct this level of academic research, but biology staff thought of the University of Windsor’s Healthy Headwaters team, as staff collaborated extensively with that team last summer for field monitoring. After introductions, all three groups agreed to collaborate. With funding from Eco Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, the group hired a co-op student, Kirsten VanGoethem from the University of Waterloo to write a literature review. Kirsten is a second year Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science Student specializing in Ecology. Her co-op term began in January and finished up last week. Kirsten is here today to present on the research question that all participants agreed upon is: How Does Standard Drain Maintenance Practices Affect (Benefit, Impact) Water Quality? Along with her is Dr. Catherine Febria (she/her/siya): Dr. Febria is a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair and Assistant Professor at the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER) & Dept. of Integrative Biology at the University of Windsor. She is co-Director of the GLIER Organic Analysis & Nutrients Laboratory, a central research facility. She is Associate Director of FishCAST, an NSERC CREATE graduate student training program. Her research focuses on the ecology and restoration of small streams and wetlands, and their role in contributing to ecosystem health in the Laurentian Great Lakes. And Lauren Damphousse (she/her): Lauren is a research assistant and recently completed an undergraduate in Biological Sciences at the University of Windsor. She is currently involved in work concerning



freshwater mussel conservation and restoration as well as agricultural drain management through a conservation lens.

The presentation titled *Agricultural Drain Management in South-Western Ontario: A work in Progress* was provided.

**Director's Comments:**

Directors gave thanks to the presenters and many expressed interest in having this presentation, as well as other topics of study, brought to their municipal council meetings.

**BD-21-42**

**Hall – Brown**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation titled Agricultural Drain Management in South-Western Ontario: A Work in Progress, presented by Kirsten Van Goethem, Drainage Research Co-Op.”**

**CARRIED**

A presentation on Regulations and the Drainage Act was presented by Regulations Coordinator, Melissa Deisley.

**BD-21-43**

**Burrell – Gordon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation titled Regulations and the Drainage Act, presented by Melissa Deisley, Regulations Coordinator”**

**CARRIED**

The January, February and March, 2021 disbursements were reviewed.

**BD-21-44**

**Burrell – Kennes**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the January, February and March 2021 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$1,173,946.14.”**

**CARRIED**

**Under New Business**

- As previously reported, documentation confirming the acceptance of the current membership formula by the Authority Board and all member municipalities has not been located within the reporting timeline requested by the Minister
- It has been recommended to all those Authorities in a similar situation to request that the Board of Directors and all member municipalities confirm their support for the current membership formula and that these be provide to the Minister and posted to the Authority's website upon receipt

General Manager, Brian McDougall provided further clarification that the current membership structure, based on population, is specific to the Conservation Authorities Act. Correspondence will be provided to Municipalities requesting a resolution in support of the current membership composition to ensure compliance moving forward.

**BD-21-44**

**Scott – Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors support the current membership of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority allocating one (1) member each to the Adelaide-Metcalf, Brooke-Alvinston, Dawn-Euphemia, Lambton Shores, Middlesex Centre, Petrolia, Plympton-Wyoming, Point Edward, Warwick; two (2) members to the Chatham-Kent, St. Clair, Strathroy-Caradoc; three (3) members to the City of Sarnia; one (1) member to Enniskillen which will also represent Oil Springs and one (1) member rotating between Southwest Middlesex (first 3 years of each municipal term) and Newbury (final year of each municipal term) be maintained; and further that each member municipality of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority support the current membership plan with a resolution of Council to be copied to the Conservation Authority and subsequently to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.”**

**CARRIED**

The correspondence from SCRCA General Manager, Brian McDougall dated March 19, 2021 providing notice of retirement effective November 6, 2021 was reviewed.

**Director’s comments:**

Words of congratulations and gratitude for the strong leadership, guidance and valuable contributions over the span of Mr. McDougall’s career were acknowledged. Directors wish him all the best in any future endeavors.

**BD-21-45**

**Kennes – Stark**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence from SCRCA General Manager, Brian McDougall dated March 19, 2021 providing notice of retirement effective November 6, 2021.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-21-46**

**Gordon - Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors accepts the retirement of General Manager, Brian McDougall and acknowledges the effective leadership and dedicated service, and further that a meeting of the Executive Committee be convened in short order to commence a search for a replacement, including but not limited to the confirmation of the job description, posting of the position, both internally and externally; selection of an application review and interview team, and subsequently hiring the preferred candidate.”**

**CARRIED**

**Additional Comments under New Business:**

Director Kevin Marriott brought forward concerns regarding the end of a lease agreement between Peacekeeper Park and the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority. The non-profit volunteer group provides space for summer programming, training space for local organizations and programs benefitting youth with special needs and veterans. New locations is being considered within areas surrounding London. Further information may come to the Board of Directors for review and consideration.

**BD-21-47**

**Burrell – Dennis**

**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**

**CARRIED**



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**Joe Faas  
Chair**



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**Brian McDougall  
General Manager**