



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: September 23, 2021 Time: 9:30 a.m.
Remote

Present: Al Broad, Pat Brown, Terry Burrell, Bill Dennis, Joe Faas, Chair; Larry Gordon, Vice Chair; Aaron Hall, , Brad Loosley, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Mark McGill, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Lorie Scott, Jerry Westgate, Tim Wilkins

Regrets: John Brennan, Frank Kennes, Mike Stark

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS; Sarah Hodgkiss, Manager of Planning and Natural Heritage; Sarah Hume, Payroll/ Accounting Clerk; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Acting General Manager/Director of Water Resources; Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services; Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist

Guests Present: Jessica Barnes, City of Sarnia

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.

BD-21-67

Dennis – McMillan

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

BD-21-68

MacKinnon - Loosley

**“That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 9:35 a.m. to discuss personnel matters with Jessica Barnes, City of Sarnia; Chris Durand, Manager of IT and Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/Board Coordinator remaining present.”
CARRIED**

A short recess was called following the in-camera portion of the meeting.

Chair Joe Faas provided a verbal report on the actions taken during the in-camera Session of the Board of Directors meeting. The decision was made to move forward in the hiring process with the chosen candidate.

It was also acknowledged that Girish Sankar is acting as General Manager in the absence of Brian McDougall.

BD-21-69

MacKinnon – Marriott

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 10:21 a.m.”

CARRIED

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held June 24, 2021 were reviewed.

BD-21-70

Scott – Burrell

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held June 24, 2021, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The minutes of the Board of Directors special meeting, held August 20, 2021 were reviewed.

BD-21-71

Burrell – Westgate

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors special meeting, held August 20, 2021, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

Search for new General Manager:

- The Executive Committee met in late June and reviewed and approved the search timeline, job description, proposed position posting and selected a Resume Review Team and an Interview Team
- The position was posted on June 30th and applications were due on July 30th
- The Executive Committee met on August 6th – the Resume Review Team’s evaluations of the 20 applicants were reviewed – 6 applicants were selected for interviews
- The Interview Team met with 5 candidates on August 30th and 31st – one candidate withdrew his application – the Interview Team was very impressed with the quality of the candidates and after significant discussion, 2 candidates were selected for second interviews
- Second interviews were scheduled for September 17th
- The Interview Team will be selecting a preferred candidate and they will be presenting that applicant to the Board of Directors at a Special Meeting to be scheduled in late September

- It is hoped that the new General Manager will be available to start on November 1st

COVID Response Plan:

- The Authority's Administrative Office remains open to the public by appointment only
- Staff continue to work from home, where possible, to complete their duties
- Management Team members are working in the office 60% of the time and remaining staff are working in the office 40% of the time
- Mask are worn unless staff are working at their desks, washrooms are disinfected after each use, social distancing is maintained wherever possible and frequent hand hygiene is promoted
- Boardrooms are used on an urgency basis and disinfected frequently
- It had been anticipated that the Administrative Office would move into Phase III of our Return To Work Plan in September, however with the increasing numbers of new cases in the Province (Fourth Wave) due to the Delta Variant, any changes have been put on hold

Authority staff will continue to monitor conditions and will report back to the Board on any proposed changes

BD-21-72

Marriott – McGill

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated September 8, 2021.”

CARRIED

Workplan Background:

- Bill 229 was passed in December 2020, included changes to the Conservation Authorities Act
- In the spring of 2021, the Province released a ‘consultation guide’ for developing the final regulations – SCRCA submitted comments via the Environment Registry
- It has been anticipated that the actual regulations would be circulated in August but we have been advised that we should expect them over the next few weeks
- However, the timelines which were included in the Consultation Guide have not been altered and time remains a very significant issue
- The following workplan is intended to put the required timelines and the work to be completed within those timelines into perspective

Draft Workplan:

- The release of the final regulations will be required to complete the Workplan, however any preparation that can be completed in advance will assist in adhering to the timelines
- Transition time has been extended to Jan 1, 2023 – this should provide an opportunity to understand and implement changes in the levy system which may be proposed under the next phase of regulatory changes
- Extended time may be a possibility but will likely require the Minister's permission
- Commitment to Transparency (Item 6.1) – transition plans are due at year end, 2021 and quarterly reports will be required in 2022
- Conservation Ontario is working with Authorities to prepare templates of the multiple documents and reports that are being required by the Ministry as we continue to implement these changes
- Programs and Services are to be allocated under one of three classes in the transition plan
 - Mandatory Programs and Services (where municipal levy can be used without agreement) – these will only be fully defined with the final regulations
 - Municipal Programs and Services – these are non-mandatory programs and services at the request of a municipality requires a MOU with municipality to receive levy
 - Other Programs and Services – these are non-mandatory programs and services an authority determines are needed – requires a MOU with municipality in order to receive levy
- These MOUs are to be completed by the end of 2022 – this is an incredibly tight timeline and on top of that there are complicating issues:
 - Municipalities dealing with COVID-19 may not be interested in MOUs
 - Two elections in 2022
 - And the need to have a Transition Plan in place by the end of 2021 – not knowing the impacts of all the other influences
- Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy is expected to be a requirement going forward – the Authority's current strategic plan is due to be updated and should be considered as compliance in this situation – this may require the addition of numeric goals that have not been part of previous iterations
- The final version of this Workplan in combination with the Programs and Services Review will form the Transition Plan which is due at year end
- Municipal Memorandums of Understanding are due January, 2023

- Proposed Timeline:
 - Mid Fall 2021
 - Review plan with municipalities / neighbouring CAs
 - Draft Planning Services Agreements / MOUs
 - By December 1
 - Programs and Services Inventoried and Categorized
 - Draft preliminary Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy – to be used in negotiating MOUs but may not be final until mid-2022
 - By End of December
 - Submit transition plan to Province and make available to the public
 - Programs and Services Inventoried and Categorized
 - By June 2022
 - Consultation on municipal MOUs and report to province
 - By mid-2022
 - Approvals and Posting

- Next Steps
 - Reallocate staff resources to complete Transition Planning, MOUs and Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy
 - Board approval of Work Plan following regulations being received from province

BD-21-73

MacKinnon – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated September 8, 2021 outlining the draft work plan to bring the Authority into compliance with the updated Conservation Authorities Act under Bill 229.”

CARRIED

The Conservation Ontario Council Report on the proposed Conservation Ontario Governance, Accountability and Transparency Initiative and Endorsement of Steering Committee Representatives, and related attachments were reviewed.

BD-21-74

Burrell – Gordon

“Whereas the provincial government has passed legislative amendments related to the governance of Conservation Authorities; and whereas the Conservation Authorities remain committed to fulfilling accountable and transparent governance; therefore, be it resolved that the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority endorse the three key actions developed by the Conservation Ontario Steering Committee to update CA Administrative By-laws, to report proactively on priorities, and to promote/demonstrate results; and that Authority staff be directed to work with Conservation Ontario to implement these actions and to identify additional improvements and best management practices.”

CARRIED

The minutes of the Conservation Ontario Council meeting, held remotely on June 21, 2021 were reviewed.

BD-21-75

Dennis – Brown

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the Conservation Ontario Council meeting, held remotely on June 21, 2021.”

CARRIED

The report on business arising was reviewed.

7.1 (a) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the June 24, 2021 meeting.

Campgrounds:

2021 Operations

- Seasonal campers were allowed to visit campgrounds beginning May 1, 2021 with length of stay restrictions and using washroom facilities in their trailers
- June 11, 2021 – length of stay restrictions removed as Ontario entered Step 1
- June 14, 2021 – transient camping and washrooms opened
- Transient campsites continue to be operated at approximately 50% capacity with no group camping reservations
- Pools are operating with capacity restrictions, timeslots, sign up sheets, and contact information is collected for all attendees
- July 16, 2021 – volunteer led campground events started with Ontario entering Step 3 and outdoor gathering limits increasing to 100 (all events must be approved by Superintendent and follow COVID-19 protocols)
- Rental pavilions and rental canoes/kayaks not being offered in 2021

- Seasonal camping is full at all campgrounds
- Transient campsites are in high demand with very few vacancies

Speed Bumps Installed at Campgrounds

Controlling the speed of vehicles within the campgrounds remains an ongoing issue. SCRCA's family campgrounds are frequented by many children. Placing speed bumps in locations that are prone to higher vehicle speeds will help in slowing down traffic and improving public safety.

- Two speed bumps and signage were installed at each campground (Foundation funded)
- Speed bumps have been well received and more will be installed in future years

Warwick Playground Upgraded to Certified Playground Mulch

Certified playground mulch is a wood fibre product manufactured from virgin wood, eliminating the possibility of foreign objects and chemicals.

- Warwick playground upgraded from sand which is prone to fecal contamination from wildlife and compaction (Foundation funded)
- All 6 playgrounds within SCRCA campgrounds have been upgraded to either Playground Mulch (5) or peastone (1)

Fire at L.C. Henderson Washroom Building on August 9, 2021

- A fire was observed by campers in the men's washroom at approximately 9:00 p.m. and 911 was called
- Petrolia and North Enniskillen fire departments responded quickly and extinguished the fire
- No injuries
- Lambton OPP investigated and reviewed security footage, a suspect was identified and removed from the campground
- The OPP informed the suspect that they are not allowed on SCRCA properties, staff followed up with a letter to the suspect confirming the ban
- The bathroom had fire damage to the bathroom stall and ceiling, soot covering the entire men's washroom, as well as soot in the exhaust vent
- Staff were able to replace the damaged bathroom stall and fixtures, clean soot off all surfaces, and re-open the washroom within a couple days
- After the camping season, staff will need to paint the washroom, replace the ceiling, and replace the bathroom stall partition with the proper panel

Algae Bloom at A.W. Campbell Reservoir

- On July 28, 2021 an algae bloom was observed in the reservoir at A.W. Campbell
- Campground and Biology staff notified the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
- It was determined that the algae bloom posed minimal, if any, risk to the drinking water well

- The reservoir was closed to recreational activities and MECP collected water samples
- Staff were notified on August 12 of the test results, microcystins were below drinking water and recreational standards
- The reservoir was re-opened for paddling/fishing after consultation with MLHU
- Staff continue to restrict swimming/pet access and educate campers of the situation

Strathroy CA

- The Head St. gravel parking lot has been expanded to accommodate additional vehicles
- The Rotary trail access into the Strathroy CA from the North has experienced erosion creating unsafe conditions for use, repairs have been completed with funding provided by the Strathroy Rotary Club
- Two new Memorial Benches installed in 2021 (Donations)
- SCRCA received reports of plants being harvested in the spring. Strathroy-Caradoc Police Services were contacted and they assisted in public education through social media. Signs were posted in the parking lot prohibiting plant harvest.
- Staff have dealt with multiple incidents involving camping within Conservation Areas in Strathroy. Strathroy-Caradoc Police Services attended each time and campers were evicted from the CA. Encampments within Conservation Areas is a growing issue for many Conservation Authorities.
- Local high school student Hannah Burns, a member of Ontario Nature's Youth Council, is leading a planting project at Strathroy CA. Hannah and a small group of students will be completing a riparian planting of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to improve biodiversity and water quality.
- Local residents, Marilyn Buttery and Lynne Lawrence donated \$10,000 to the Strathroy CA for development of an accessible trail. Staff are investigating options and will apply for additional grant funding to improve accessibility on the trails.

Coldstream CA

- Staff are working with the Envirofriends of Coldstream (local community group) and the Poplar Hill Lions Club to replace a bridge within the Coldstream Conservation Area. The Envirofriends and Lions Club have raised more than \$100,000 towards the project, which will cover the majority of the cost. This is a memorial project; the bridge will be named in memory of Al Bycraft, a long time member of Envirofriends. The existing bridge is in poor condition and this is an important upgrade for this property.
- Grant funding has been approved by the Great Lakes Local Action Fund (MECP) to replace 550' of aging boardwalk at Coldstream CA. This project is a partnership with the Envirofriends. Volunteers will assist SCRCA with the removal of the existing boardwalk and construction of the new boardwalk sections. Two volunteer events are scheduled for September and early October.

Staff continue to apply to funding opportunities to replace the remaining 650' of aging boardwalk.

- Off-road vehicle use has been an issue for numerous years at the Coldstream CA. SCRCA owns a 50 acre property northeast of Coldstream Rd. This property contains a pond, a Provincially Significant Wetland, the Sydenham River, and a hardwood bush that is home to a variety of native wildflowers. This property has been open to the public to hike, but has not actively been promoted and maintained. ATV damage has been ongoing and usage was very high during COVID-19. As a result, staff have:
 - Cleared a small parking area and made it more visible
 - Cleared a trail from the parking lot to an existing trail
 - Posted "No Off-road Vehicle" signs
 - Reached out to CTV news and had a story on the 11:00 news on May 7th
 - Shared the story on our social media

Staff are applying to funding opportunities to expand the parking lot, improve signage, discourage use of closed trail sections, and rehabilitate the damaged trail loop for hiking. Staff believe increased trail use by local hikers is the best options to deter ATV and other non-authorized uses.

Peers Wetland CA

- In the fall of 2020, berm repairs were completed at Peers Wetland. An overflow pipe was installed and the berm was raised to stop Otter Creek from flooding back into the wetland. With lower water levels in 2021, staff have been able to re-establish a trail loop around the wetland. Staff are continuing to work on rehabilitation of the trail.

Wawanosh Wetlands CA

- A new memorial bench has been installed (donation)
- A section of trail was re-routed to bypass an often wet and muddy section of trail

Bridgeview CA

- SCRCA in partnership with the Town of Petrolia are hosting a shrub planting event at Bridgeview CA. Native shrubs will be planted around the wetland to improve wildlife habitat.

With grant funding provided by the Town of Petrolia's Green Leader Program, SCRCA has implemented a number of projects at Bridgeview Conservation Area

- Pollinator/wildflower habitat has been planted around the new wetland
- Two new benches have been installed adjacent to the wetland
- Fifteen large stock trees have been planted
- Duck boxes have been installed
- Turtle basking logs have been installed
- An interpretive sign will be installed next to the parking lot highlighting the benefits of wetlands and pollinators

7.1 (b) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas Report dated August 12, 2021.

The Coldstream Conservation Area is located in the hamlet of Coldstream, Ontario. The property includes day use facilities, the Sydenham River, a dam/reservoir, woodlot, and wetland. There is an existing trail at the south end of the Conservation Area taking you through a cedar swamp, a rare experience in Southwestern Ontario. The cedar swamp is designated a Provincially Significant Wetland. The park also contains facilities including washrooms, a soccer field, playground, volleyball court, and a pavilion. The reservoir located on the property is used for fishing, paddling, and wildlife viewing.

The Municipality of Middlesex Centre (formerly the Township of Lobo) entered into a lease agreement to manage/maintain Coldstream CA in 1997. At this time, the Envirofriends of Coldstream (a local community group) entered into an agreement with the Municipality to operate Coldstream Conservation Area. The most recent lease agreement started in 2012. This current agreement expires at the end of 2021.

At the end of 2018, the Envirofriends informed the Municipality and SCRCA that they would no longer be involved in Conservation Area operations. The Envirofriends continue to work with SCRCA to complete a Memorial bridge project for which the group has raised significant funding over several years. They have also volunteered their time to assist with a large boardwalk replacement project in 2021.

In 2019, SCRCA and Municipal staff started discussions reviewing the current operating model and lease agreement. The Municipality feels it is advantageous to move away from the current model and turn maintenance tasks and responsibilities back over to SCRCA. Staff have provided the Municipality with a draft budget for 2022.

Draft Budget

Description	2022 Budget
Wages & Benefits	\$7,000
Insurance	\$1,000
Taxes	\$900
Grass Cutting	\$8,000
Building Supplies & Maintenance	\$1,500
Garbage Collection	\$500
Utilities	\$1,500

Trail Maintenance	\$3,000
Misc. Maintenance	\$2,500
Oil & Gas	\$300
Vehicle/Equipment Expense	\$250
Total Levy	\$26,450

Financial Impact:

Coldstream CA is classified as a locally benefiting, rural CA. Local rural CAs are funded 90% through special levy to the local municipality and 10% non-matching general levy (all member municipalities). Starting in 2022, when the lease agreement expires, Coldstream CA will follow this funding formula.

Draft budget:

Special Levy – Coldstream	\$23,805
Non-matching Levy	\$2,645

7.1 (c) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated July 7, 2021 on the end of the Coldstream Conservation Area lease agreement with the Municipality of Middlesex Centre.

Report Highlights:

- High intensity rain storms over the past three months have significantly increased the watershed’s precipitation totals, moving SCRCA out of a Level 1 Low Water Condition back to Normal Conditions (Table 1)
- Water levels on the lakes are well below the 2020 levels and are forecasted to continue dropping in the coming months, however remain well above the long term average (Figure 1)
- The current flood threat is low, owing to lower water levels on the Great Lakes, throughout the watershed, and capacity for absorption in the soil

Watershed Conditions

- Intense rainstorms over the past three months contributed to a three-month precipitation average of 113.7% for the overall region, up from the previous three-month average of 57.9%
- The six-month regional average rose from 59.7% as reported in the previous conditions report to 87% as of this report

- The twelve-month regional average remained relatively the same, from 81.1% as reported in the previous conditions report to 80.9% as of this report

Lake Michigan-Huron

- In July, the average water level was 40 cm above the long-term average and 46 cm below the July 2020 mean water level
- Water level forecasts predict the average lake level to slowly decline over the next five months

Lake St. Clair

- In July, the average water level was 51 cm above the long-term average level and 30 cm below the July 2020 level
- The lake continued its seasonal spring rise into July and is predicted to drop in the coming months

7.1 (d) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 1, 2021, on the current watershed conditions, flood risk and Great Lakes water levels.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) is continuing to work with Parsons Inc. on the development of an engineering and design plan for managing contaminated sediment in three priority areas of the St. Clair River. Regularly scheduled Sediment Management Oversight Committee teleconferences continue to be held to provide the committee with updates on the project work and to seek input on any proposed changes to the scope of work.

Field activities were completed by Parsons in 2019 and 2020. The work included:

- water velocity measurements at 15 locations, and grain size analysis of sediment at 10 locations to assess sediment stability
- the collection of sediment samples from 99 locations to assess the horizontal and vertical extent of mercury contaminated sediment in each priority area
- a bathymetry survey to measure sediment surface elevations in the targeted areas

After assessing the extensive amount of new data that was collected, in conjunction with historical data, the consultant concluded that:

- There are no measurable risks to fish presented by mercury in sediment.
- The risk-based goal of an average of 3 mg/kg mercury in the surface sediment, to be protective of fish, has already been met in each Priority Area and at the two Buried Deposits.
- There have been significant decreases in mercury concentrations in surface sediment compared to historical results due to natural recovery.
- Re-exposure of the subsurface buried mercury is unlikely.

- An Erosion Resistant Cover is recommended in focused areas within Priority Areas 1, 2 and 3 to enhance erosion protection and decrease mercury concentrations at the surface.
- The planned remedial actions will achieve the sediment management goals and remedial action objectives.

Update:

Between June and August of 2021, the SCRCA, with support from Parsons where required, held 8 information sessions to present the results of the field work and the recommended remedial approach. Presentations were made to Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Walpole Island First Nation, regulatory agencies, local industry, local municipalities, the Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee, and the Binational Public Advisory Council for the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan.

A Community Information Session was also held for anyone that was interested in participating, including local media. The session was recorded and subsequently posted to SCRCA’s web site. The questions and answers from the session were also posted.

As per the project schedule, Parsons submitted the draft design report to the SCRCA in August 2021. The draft report has been shared with representatives on the Oversight Committee and is currently under review.

Feedback from the information sessions is being taken into consideration as the consultant continues to work on the design details.

Next Steps:

Activity	Timing
Consultant’s Submission of Final Engineering and Design Report	November 2021
Acceptance of Final Engineering and Design Report	December 2021
Implementation of Engineering and Design Plan	To Be Determined

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 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 in accordance with the funding agreements.

7.1 (e) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 1, 2021, on the Engineering and Design plan for Management of Contaminated sediment.

The Healthy Watershed Program have restored or enhanced over 1,000 ha of land, and over 4 million trees planted throughout the region. These projects, along with our outreach and education events aim to minimize non-point source sedimentation, nutrient loading, and thermal changes of water bodies within our watershed.

Update:

This summer has been busy for Healthy Watershed staff. Landowners are very interested in various stewardship projects on their land. Specifically, tree planting, wetlands, cover crops, and septic system upgrades. We've gone on 8 site visits for wetlands alone.

Healthy Watersheds staff sent out soil health and water quality focused newsletters to over 1,500 landowners in the region.

Outreach events that promote stewardship:

Monday, September 13 – **“Why Wetlands Matter”** by Dr. Dianne Saxe. 7:00 – 8:00 pm (EST); Zoom Webinar.

Tuesday, September 14 – **Coldstream Fish Day**. 2 - 6 pm. A drop-in event highlighting fish and fish monitoring in the Sydenham River. There'll be live demonstrations, "touch tanks", and tanks set up to view the diversity of fish species in the Sydenham River. The event will be held at Coldstream Conservation Area, Ilderton. Park in the lot at the end of Marsh Lane and head down the trail towards the River.

Wednesday September 22 – **National Tree Day**. A celebration of St. Clair Conservation's 60th Anniversary and an event commemorating over 4 million trees planted and 100 ha of wetland restored in our watershed. Staff will highlight the importance of terrestrial and aquatic habitat restoration in the preservation of our local species at risk.

Saturday, October 2 - **Bridgeview Community Tree Planting Event**. 9 – 11 am; This public event at the Bridgeview Conservation Area in the Town of Petrolia will see 560 native shrubs and 40 native riparian perennials planted by the community, SCRCA staff, and Town of Petrolia staff. The goal is to continue to naturalize a portion of Bridgeview park (on the south side of Petrolia Line).

7.1 (f) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2021 on the Healthy Watersheds Program update.

Healthy Lake Huron (HLH) is a campaign working towards maintaining and improving water quality of the Lake by taking local action from Sarnia to Tobermory. Technical team members include staff from SCRCA as well as Ausable Bayfield, Saugeen, and Maitland Valley Conservation Authorities, provincial ministries (OMAFRA, MECP), and community groups. HLH provides outreach and educational opportunities for coastal communities, rural centres, and agriculture. Team members work with farmers to implement BMPs that will build their soil health and keep nutrients on the land; with coastal communities to improve dune habitat and invasive species removal and with rural centres to promote rain gardens, trash clean ups, and naturalization projects.

Update:

Dune Grass outreach

To connect with a broader audience, SCRCA staff have created online content regarding the Lake Huron Coast. In the spring, the Municipality of Lambton Shores reached out staff to discuss options for a post-construction site along a newly installed sidewalk leading to Ipperwash Beach. Staff were able to provide feedback as well as staff on-site during the native dune grass planting. Although dune grass transplants are better completed in the fall, it was best to secure the side slope with native plants that could begin to grow roots over the summer. Leaving a bare side slope during heavy rain events in the summer would surely lead to erosion. While we participated, we shot a short video about the importance of dune grasses for dune health and healthy beaches. Since May 19, the video has been viewed 219 times. Link to video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOLONvuWWhrA>

This video has led to the Lambton Shores Nature Trails group reaching out for more information about planting dune grasses and a potential community event in the fall. We are also now looking into installing bird habitat on a trail in Forest to promote trail users connections to nature.

Promoting young women in aquatic research

SCRCA staff held an interview with Sarnia area Grade 10 student Annabelle Rayson who conducted a research study on manipulating zooplankton populations in a controlled environment to determine their ability to control harmful algal growth. This project won at the Lambton County Science Fair and Annabelle went on to present at the Youth Canada Science Fair, where she placed Silver in her category! Since then, SCRCA staff have connected Annabelle to University of Guelph researchers who will further her research. The video interview was well received on social media and to date, the YouTube link has been viewed 73 times. Link to video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnIL_HWMeIQ

Ipperwash Phrag Phighters & Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group

Staff have been coordinating efforts with IPP to tackle the removal of Phragmites in Lambton Shores. Staff helped out in July spraying and cutting Phragmites at the Lambton United Church Camp. Staff also filmed a video that is currently being edited for outreach purposes.

Healthy Lake Huron Erosion Mapping Project with HLH Conservation Authorities

The HLH team (made up of staff from SCRCA, ABCA, SVCA, MVCA, and GSCA), specifically GIS staff, developed maps to understand the risk of soil erosion throughout the Lake Huron basin. The focus was on agricultural land use. The team used OMAFRA and AAFC data that analyzed water erosion risk based on rainfall, soil type, and slope. The erosion potential was categorized under the AAFC labels of severe, high, moderate, low, and very low.

The GIS team looked at:

- The % of each erosion class under natural cover
- The % of each erosion class under agricultural production
- The % of each erosion class under a rotation with three or more crop types (such as corn; soybean; wheat; corn) compared to a rotation with two or fewer crop types (such as corn, soybean).

Mapping allowed the HLH team to examine where the greatest risk of erosion is, how much severely erodible land is under natural cover vs. agricultural production, and how certain agricultural practices such as diverse crop rotations, cover crops, and permanent cover (i.e. pastures) can mitigate erosion potential.

According to AAFC, land that has severe erosion risk should be under permanent cover, whereas areas that have low erosion risk (based on soil type, slope and rainfall) should utilize cover crops and promote diverse (>3 crop rotations).

Upcoming Event: 9th Annual Ipperwash Beach Cleanup, September 11, 2021 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Meet at the boat launch at the end of Ipperwash Road.

7.1 (g) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2021 on the Healthy Lake Huron Program update.

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

7.1 (h) That the Board of Directors accepts the Regulations Activity Reports on “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” Regulation (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated September 3, 2021 and includes June 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021, as presented.

The monthly planning activity summary report for June, July and August, 2021 were reviewed.

7.1 (i) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's monthly Planning Activity Summary Report dated August 31, 2021 for June, July and August, 2021.

The revenue and expenditure report to July 18, 2021 was reviewed.

7.1 (j) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to July 18, 2021, as it relates to the budget.

The June to August, 2021 disbursements were reviewed.

7.1 (k) That the Board of Directors approves the June to August, 2021 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$2,581,151.53.

The status report on the 2021 general levy receipts to August 31, 2021 was reviewed.

7.1 (l) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2021 general levy receipts to August 31, 2021.

The investment statements for the period ending June 30, 2021 were reviewed.

7.1 (m) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the investment statements for the period ending June 30, 2021.

The minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee minutes, held on March 26 and June 8, 2021 were reviewed.

7.1 (n) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the March 26, 2021 and June 8, 2021 Joint Health and Safety Committee."

Conservation Education – 2021-2022 School Year

On September 7, 2021, the SCRCA Conservation Education team will return to work for the 2021-2022 school year.

School boards released their "Return to Learn" plans throughout the summer that outline COVID-19 policies for the 2021-2022 school year including whether field trips would be permitted and if visitor access restrictions would be lifted. Virtual learning models continue to be offered in addition to in-person learning models. Below is a summary of current plans for each of the major school boards the SCRCA serves.

School Board	Return to Learn Plan
Lambton Kent District School Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors permitted pending successful COVID-19 screening and advanced arrangement (unsure if this will include SCRCA in-class conservation education programs) • Field trips are permitted
St. Clair Catholic District School Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors permitted pending successful COVID-19 screening and advanced arrangement (unsure if this will include SCRCA in-class conservation education programs) • Field trips are permitted
Thames Valley District School Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradual return to permitting visitors into schools; currently only those visitors who are deemed essential and have been approved by school administration will be allowed into TVDSB schools • Field trips not permitted
London District Catholic School Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors are prohibited except for emergency circumstances or for limited pre-arranged appointments/meetings • Field trips are not permitted for at least the month of September

Discussions will be held over the next month to finalize the SCRCA’s 2021-2022 conservation education program strategy and options.

2021 Conservation Scholarships

On July 12th and July 17th, the recipients of the 2021 Conservation Scholarships were presented with their awards.

In recognition of the SCRCA’s 60th Anniversary, the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation generously approved an additional \$2,000 in scholarship funding that was distributed between all applicants to the 2021 scholarship program as a one-time “60th Anniversary Bursary”.

A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Zachary Zavitz, Strathroy District Collegiate Institute, Strathroy

A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Nicole Guthrie, Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Sarnia

Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship (\$500)

Johanna Xiu DeKoning, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, Strathroy

Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship (\$500)

Lucie Slakmon, Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Sarnia

Events

Special Virtual Presentation – Dr. Dianne Saxe – Why Wetlands Matter

Date – Monday, September 13, 2021

Time – 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Platform – Zoom Webinar

Geocaching Adventure/CITO (Cache In, Trash Out)

Date – Sunday, September 19, 2021

Time – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location – Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, Petrolia

National Tree Day/SCRCA Celebration – 4 Million Trees Planted, 100 Hectares of Wetland Created

Date – Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Time – TBD

Location – Gold Creek Drive at Komoka Road, Komoka (More details coming soon)

Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication – Cancelled – To be held virtually

Date – Sunday, September 26, 2021

Time – 2:00 pm

Location – Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, Petrolia

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 June 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021:

Media Relations

Activity	2021 (June - August)	2020 (June - August)
Media Releases	8	5
News Article Mentions	231	106

Social Media

Facebook

Activity	Total	2021 (June – August)	2020 (June – August)
New Likes	1832	29	80
New Followers	1910	31	83
Posts	--	53	77

Twitter

Activity	Total	2021 (June – August)	2020 (June – August)
Tweets	--	90	74
Retweets	--	56	35
New Followers	769	30	29
Engagements*	--	1051	981

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

7.1 (o) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications Report, dated September 5, 2021, including information regarding Conservation Education, Coming Events and Conservation Scholarships.

RAP Coordination

On June 14, 2021, the Areas of Concern Annex (Annex 5) leads for the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health supported the “not impaired” designation recommended by the Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee (CRIC) for the Fish Tumours or Other Deformities beneficial use impairment. This marks another milestone for the St. Clair River Area of Concern, with four beneficial uses remaining “impaired” and one “requires further assessment”.

Following the announcement of this re-designation, Natasha Pozega, RAP Coordinator, was interviewed by local reporter, Paul Morden, to provide any update on the status of beneficial use impairments in the St. Clair River. The article was circulated by several media outlets including the Sarnia Observer, Sarnia this Week, Chatham Daily News, and Wallaceburg Courier Press.

The Initial Draft Status Assessment Report for BUI 9-*Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems* was presented to the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) on August 19, 2021. An updated report will be presented to the CRIC for formal decision at the next meeting. This BUI is currently considered “impaired”, and the report recommends re-designation to “not impaired”.

Meetings

Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC)

- Next Meeting: TBD

Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)

- June 28, 2021 – Signage Project Sub-committee – Teleconference
- July 27, 2021 – Signage Project Sub-committee - Teleconference
- Next Meeting: TBD

Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

- August 19, 2021 – Teleconference
- Next Meeting: TBD

Outreach and Engagement

RAP Coordinator, Natasha Pozega attended the Bluewater Anglers Walleye Derby on August 7, 2021 to promote the St. Clair River Fish Consumption Survey launched earlier this year. This survey will collect information about fishing locations, fish consumption behaviors, and limited demographics about the individual. This survey supports the advancement of BUI 1- *Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption* and was identified as a deliverable in the 2017-2022 St. Clair River Area of Concern Workplan. The survey can be completed at friendsofstclair.ca/fishsurvey/.

The Friends of St. Clair River (FOSCR) was a Silver Sponsor for the visit of Theodore Too to Sarnia-Lambton. Theodore TOO is a replica of the famous cartoon tugboat who has recently moved from Halifax, NS to the Hamilton Harbour. Theodore is currently on a mission to promote careers in the marine industry and to emphasize the importance of maintaining, preserving, and restoring Canadian bodies of water. Natasha Pozega, RAP Coordinator, organized a booth with FOSCR on August 26, 2021 at the Mooretown Docks and August 28 & 29, 2021 at Centennial Park in Sarnia to talk to the public about the importance of restoring and protecting the St. Clair River. The event was very well attended with an estimated 3000 visitors to the Mooretown Docks alone. Due to restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the St. Clair River Science Symposium was converted to a 3-part virtual series for 2021-22. The second session is scheduled for October 20, 2021 from 7pm-8pm and will update the community on *Fish and Wildlife Populations in the St. Clair River*. This is a free event that is open to all. Registration is now open at friendsofstclair.ca/symposium.

The Friends of St. Clair River and the RAP Office continue to partner on the production of St. Clair River News, a free 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.

Each of the past newsletters can be viewed at friendsofstclair.ca/about-us/newsletters/.

Strategic Objectives(s):

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

7.1 (p) That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair River Area of Concern Update Report, dated September 3, 2021.

BD-21-76

Miller – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and endorses the recommendations accompanying Items 7.1 a - 7.1 p.”

CARRIED

The Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area (WWCA), was created in the 1980's by Ducks Unlimited Canada in partnership with St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. WWCA can be found at 6011 Blackwell Side Road, east of Sarnia. This property has a triangular shape with Highway 402 forming the south boundary and Perch Creek forming the west boundary. The southern half of the property is Provincially Significant Wetland.

The two wetlands on the property provide staging habitat for North American waterfowl along their migratory routes on both the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways. The wetlands and adjacent upland area provide habitat for other migratory birds and wetland wildlife including turtles, amphibians, fish, and muskrats. As well, the WWCA is a popular destination for a large number of visitors who enjoy activities on the property such as hiking, biking, bird watching, and fishing.

Invasive *Phragmites australis*, a grass that grows in wet conditions, has become very dense throughout the property. Phragmites is negatively affecting wildlife habitat, out competing native plants, and impacting the aesthetic enjoyment of visitors.

In the fall of 2020, Dr. Janice Gilbert, Executive Director of the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre was contracted to develop a phragmites management plan for WWCA. This plan was reviewed by the Board of Directors.

WWCA Phragmites Management Plan:

The plan Dr. Gilbert has developed splits the property into smaller compartments and provides 3-6 year management strategies for each compartment. Below is the summary table outlining the costs to control phragmites in each compartment.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
PMA 1	\$13,500	\$2,000	\$1,000			\$16,500
PMA 2	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$6,750	\$4,500		\$131,200
PMA 3	\$56,600	\$56,600	\$56,600	\$13,750	\$13,750	\$197,300
PMA 4	\$5,400	\$2,400	\$1,100			\$8,900
PMA 5	\$3,200	\$2,200	\$1,100			\$6,700
PMA 6	\$2,400	\$1,100	\$1,100			\$4,600
Total	\$141,300	\$124,300	\$67,650	\$18,250	\$13,750	\$365,250

Strategy Moving Forward:

Due to the significant costs associated with eliminating phragmites from WWCA, staff are proposing to tackle Phragmites Management Area 1 (PMA-1) using SCRCA staff. This PMA is not as densely populated as the other areas. By starting in PMA1, staff will be able to evaluate how effective control methods are before considering larger areas and assess the feasibility of other PMAs.

By using staff resources, the costs will be slightly reduced from the estimates in the plan. PMA 1 will serve as a demonstration site as it is highly visible to property visitors. This will be important, as significant funding would need to be raised if SCRCA is to proceed with phragmites management in other PMAs.

PMAs with greater densities of phragmites would require a combination of staff and contractor labour.

Financial Impact:

Anticipated costs to treat PMA 1 over a three-year period are approximately \$12,000 to \$14,000. Funding for this project will be obtained through grants and donations. As such, the start date will be funding dependent.

BD-21-77

Burrell – McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated July 22, 2021 on the Wawanosh Wetlands Invasive Phragmites Plan.”

CARRIED

Property History:

In approximately 1908, a group of local farmers held a picnic in the bush on the farm of Duncan Bolton, the site of the present Conservation Area. The picnic included live music, fireworks, and baseball. A rental fee was paid to Mr. Bolton. The event continued annually on the second Wednesday in August. In 1934, the group formed a non-profit corporation (Shetland Picnic Corporation) to acquire the property from Mr. Bolton. In 1934, the approximately 10 acre property was purchased. In 1952, an additional 5 acres on the North side of the river was purchased across from the picnic grounds.

On the 8th of May, 1963, the corporation conveyed all the lands acquired to the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority for \$1.00 on the condition that the property would be maintained in perpetuity as a Conservation Area and Park for the inhabitants of the community and others. (Above history obtained in 1972 from Frank Johnston and Eric G. Moorhouse, Frank Johnston was the Secretary of the Shetland Picnic Corporation from 1920 - 1963)

The Township of Dawn-Euphemia has been managing and maintaining the Shetland Conservation Area including the campground for many years. A formal lease/management agreement has never been in place.

Background:

In September 2020, the SCRCA Board of Directors passed the following resolution:

BD-20-77

Burrell – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 4, 2020 regarding Shetland Conservation Area and further affirms the Authority’s commitment to retain the property in perpetuity and still further directs staff to draft an updated management agreement for the property for approval by Dawn-Euphemia Council as well as the Board of Directors.”

A draft copy of the lease was reviewed by the Board of Directors.

The lease has been revised several times through discussions with Dawn-Euphemia staff and consultation with legal counsel. Dawn-Euphemia staff have recommended changing clause 4(6) and Dawn-Euphemia council requested the following change:

Current clause:

- 4(6) If at any time and from time to time, the C.A. receives an arm’s length offer to purchase the Premises which it is willing to accept (other than any offer from any government department, commission, or Conservation Authority or public body), then it shall give the Municipality a copy of such an offer and the Municipality

shall have the right for a period of forty-five (45) days from receiving such an offer to purchase the Lands and Premises on the same terms and conditions as set out therein.

Dawn Euphemia has requested that clause 4(6) be revised to reflect:

that in the event that the CA is in a position to dispose of the Shetland Park and Campground, due to change of legislation, lack of interest or other reason, then the municipality shall have first option of ownership and as such, the CA shall donate the park back to the municipality and that the municipality shall have the right for a period of forty-five (45) days to accept or reject the transfer of ownership; AND upon transfer of ownership, the Conservation Authority may be able to recoup appropriate costs as mutually agreed to by both parties.

Municipal Concerns:

- That the Shetland Conservation Area remain open to the public and not be sold to a private investor
- Hesitant to make capital investments in property if it could be sold and investment lost
- Private investor could make an offer that is beyond what the Municipality is willing to pay

Financial Impact:

Amending clause 4(6) as recommended by the Municipality would limit the Authority and any future Board of Directors if they deem it necessary to sell this property. Although the Board of Directors 2020 motion “affirms the Authority’s commitment to retain the property in perpetuity”, legal counsel has advised against such a clause.

In the event that the Municipality wishes to make a significant capital investment in the property, subsequent agreements can be drafted to protect that investment.

Directors Comments:

Directors voiced concern in respect to the intent of the original donation of land. A verbal background and clarification was provided by the Manager of Lands, Greg Wilcox. The original motion to reject the proposed changes to clause 4.6 of the draft lease agreement was amended by Director, Mark McGill in favour of the changes to this clause, as proposed by the Township of Dawn-Euphemia.

BD-21-78

Scott – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 30, 2021 regarding the draft lease agreement for the Shetland Conservation Area and approves this document, with the inclusion of proposed revisions to clause 4.6, as requested by the Township of Dawn-Euphemia and further directs staff to notify the Township of Dawn-Euphemia of this decision.”

CARRIED

The Authority opened the Campbell House Museum in the early 1970's. The house was furnished with items from the late 1800's to look like a typical farmhouse from that period. Display items were obtained through donations. Items were acquired during the 1970's and gift agreements were made with the donors. During the 1970's the museum typically operated a few days per week from May to September. Operating costs were funded through Ontario's Historical and Museums Branch.

At some point in time during the 1980s, the Museum hours of operation changed and it only opened one weekend each year during the Maple Syrup festival. It continued to operate in this fashion until 2001. In 2001, the Museum was broken into and a number of artifacts were stolen. The Museum has not operated since 2001.

An existing memorial plaque is located across the laneway from the Campbell House Museum.

Safety Concerns:

The Museum building has deteriorated and it is unsafe for public use. Throughout recent years, the building has regularly been broken into during the camping season. Young campers cannot resist getting into and exploring the old building. Unfortunately, this could lead to someone being injured.

Building Removal Recommended:

The costs to repair the building would be very significant. The Museum has not operated for approximately 20 years and the recommended option is to remove it. The contents of the building have also deteriorated and only a portion of the contents may be salvaged. Staff will contact local museums to determine the level of interest in the salvaged items. Items remaining will be sold via auction with any revenues being used to cover the cost of the demolition.

Staff will contact Brooke-Alvinston to discuss any available opportunities for building use prior to or during removal.

Removal Steps:

- Disconnect hydro and install a new outdoor panel to feed the Group C camping area which is currently powered by the panel in the Museum
- Remove historical items and store them in a rented storage container until determination is made on what to do with them
- Contact local museums to determine interest in donation of artifacts
- Sell or dispose of remaining items
- Building demolition and site rehabilitation

Financial Impact:

Electrical Work	\$7,500
Storage Container Rental	\$1,200
Demolition and Debris Removal	\$6,500
Site Rehabilitation	\$1,500
Total	\$16,700

Funds to cover costs associated with the removal of the Campbell House Museum will come from the Campground Capital reserve account.

BD-21-79

Burrell – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated July 14, 2021 on the removal/tear down of the Campbell House Museum from the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area and approves the recommendations made within the report and further that the Municipalities of Brooke-Alvinston and Southwest Middlesex be notified.”

CARRIED

During the 1970’s, significant provincial funding was provided to purchase and develop conservation lands. This funding was reduced in the 1980’s. Conservation Authorities were required to classify Conservation Areas as Regional or Local and the province provided reduced capital funding only to Regional CAs. At that time, the three SCRCA campgrounds were designated “Regional”. This designation is no longer used by the Province, but remains in use by the Authority to determine how Conservation Areas are funded.

Classification of Conservation Areas from SCRCA’s “Watershed Plan Background Report: Recreation Land Management, November 1984”:

1. Regional/Rural
 - Multi-purpose, Regional Centres
 - Active recreation opportunities such as camping and museums

2. Local/Urban

- Day use area, facilities and services reflect local needs
- Maintenance and operating costs funded through special levy

3. Local/Rural

- Day use areas, facilities and services reflect local needs
- Maintenance, operation, and development costs funded through special levy

1990:

The SCRCA decided to use a special levy system to support the locally benefitting CAs rather than increase general levy. Locally benefitting CAs were divided into two groups, in town and rural.

- local/rural CAs used a 50:50 cost share formula (50% special levy to local Municipality:50% General Levy)
- local/in town CAs were funded at 100% by the local Municipality. Municipalities had the option to provide funding to the Authority for maintenance or lease the Conservation Area and manage/maintain at their own expense.

Motion from 1990 Executive Committee:

The Finance and Administration Advisory Board has recommended that Towns which have a Conservation Area within their municipality be charged 100% for the costs of maintenance commencing for the year 1990. This proposal is a direct result of a Review of Conservation Authorities program by the Province of Ontario, which treats these Conservation Areas as non-grantable by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

EC-90-035

MacIntyre – Wray

“That the Executive Committee approves the recommendation of the Finance and Administration Advisory Board that towns which have a conservation area within their municipality be charged 100% for the cost of maintenance commencing for the year 1990.”

Motion from 1990 General Meeting:

A resolution to revise the financing for the maintenance of local conservation areas was considered.

GM-90-28

Dedecker – Douglas

“That the Fall General Meeting approves the recommendation of the Executive Committee for a 50% cost sharing policy for the annual net maintenance costs for the local Conservation Areas of Shetland, Coldstream, Wawanosh Wetlands, Highland Glen, Charles J. McEwen, Clark Wright, and Melwood with the benefitting municipalities in which these areas are located and further that this policy be effective in 1991 and a

financial analysis for each site be presented for consideration to each municipality affected by this policy.”

Starting in 1996, local/rural CA funding switched from the 50:50 cost share to a 90:10 cost share with the Municipality funding 90% of maintenance costs. The remaining 10% is funded through general levy. Also in 1996, the Highland Glen Conservation Area was re-designated as a regional conservation area.

Motion from 1996 Executive Committee:

A proposal to designate the Highland Glen Conservation Area as a regional Conservation Area was considered.

EC-96-150

Dedecker – Skinner

“That the Executive Committee recommend to the Board of Directors that Highland Glen be designated a regional conservation area and further that staff of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Township of Plympton endeavour to raise funds to offset the cost to general levy including establishing a user fee for launching boats.”

Motion from 1996 General Meeting:

The Executive Committee has recommended that the Highland Glen Conservation Area be designated as a regional conservation area for 1997 and beyond.

GM-96-157

Rankin – Webb

“That the Board of Directors approves the recommendation from the Executive Committee, that the Highland Glen Conservation Area be designated a regional conservation area in 1997 and beyond.”

Financial Impact:

Regional CAs (general levy)	Local/In Town (100% of costs to local municipality)	Local/Rural (90:10 cost share with local municipality)
A.W. Campbell	Strathroy	Coldstream
L.C. Henderson	Camden	C.J. McEwen
Warwick	Tony Stranak	Wawanosh Wetlands
Highland Glen	Esli Dodge	Shetland
	Bridgeview	Clark Wright
	Crothers	Peers Wetland

Most Conservation lands located “in town” are leased to the local Municipality for management and maintenance.

Coldstream CA has been leased to Middlesex Centre (formerly Township of Lobo) since 1997. C.J. McEwen was leased to Plympton-Wyoming in 2020. Although designated as local/rural CAs, upon entering into the lease agreements the Municipalities have paid 100% of the costs of management and maintenance.

Regional Conservation Areas with campgrounds do not receive levy funding and operate on a self-sustaining basis including the accumulation of a capital reserve to assist in funding necessary upgrades and improvements.

BD-21-80

Burrell – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated July 14, 2021 on the history of Conservation Area funding.”

CARRIED

The following information was compiled from a review of SCRCA’s Highland Glen Conservation Area files and the official minutes of Board of Directors and Committee meetings.

Highland Glen Conservation Area History:

1974

- SCRCA Proposed Land Assembly Program for Lake Huron Shoreline developed with a list of possible properties for acquisition including Highland Glen

1976

- Acquisition of Highland Glen (“Anderson” property, ~\$293,000)
- Province funded 65%, Authority funded 35%
- Authority share split 30% City of Sarnia, 20% Sarnia Township, 30% Plympton Township, 20% Town of Forest

1977

- Acquisition of Highland Glen (“Bradley” property, ~\$30,000)
- Province funded 65%, Authority funded 35%
- Authority share funded through general levy

1980

- Highland Glen erosion control report by MacLaren Engineers, Planners, and Scientists Inc.
- Annual erosion rates along the Highland Glen beach estimated between 0.2 and 0.4 metres per year
- Recommended to protect both the low and high bluff areas with seawall or longshore revetment

1980

- Highland Glen Master Plan completed
- Acknowledged the shortage of boat launching facilities in the area
- Recommended acquiring the property to the North to create a boat launching facility (was never acquired)

1984

- April 2 – The Council of the Town of Forest passed a resolution requesting the Authority to consider the development of a public boat launch at Highland Glen CA
- May 10 - Conservation Areas Advisory Board recommends that a boat ramp not be installed at the Highland Glen Conservation Area

1985

- Request by Plympton Township, Bluewater Anglers, and public to provide fishing and recreational boat access point at Highland Glen Conservation Area
- May 30 - Conservation Areas Advisory Board recommends the construction of a boat ramp at Highland Glen Conservation Area

1986

- Access road and parking lot constructed at a cost of approx. \$50,000
- cost shared 50% Province, 50% Plympton Township

1987

- Boat ramp constructed at a cost of approx. \$60,000
- cost shared 50% Province, 50% Plympton Township

1988/89

- Boat ramp receives active use
- Several accidents and complaints as a result of lack of protection from unpredictable lake conditions
- Threat to property and life if protective measures not constructed

Late 1980's

- Gatehouse operated for a few years to collect boat ramp fees
- Discontinued as it was not financially feasible

1989

- Representatives from Provincial and Federal Members of Parliament, Plympton Township, Lambton County, Conservation Authority, and MNR meet to review project
- Funding commitment from Federal Small Craft & Harbours (\$60,000) and Plympton Township (\$25,000)

- \$10,000 MNR funding re-allocated from proposed development at Shetland and Esli Dodge CAs
- \$50,000 of additional funding required, requested from the Province through Conservation & Recreation Land Management Capital Development and Resident Sport Fishing License Program

1990

- Contract awarded for steel component of work
- \$50,000 shortfall to complete project remains, Plympton Township lends Authority \$50,000 interest free to complete armour stone component of project to be repaid by Dec. 31, 1990
- Project substantially complete and open to the public June 28

2016

- McKay Pay app payment system introduced to collect fees from boat ramp users

2019

- Damaged observed to a groyne and the boat ramp walkways making it unsafe for use, erosion damage also threatening the infrastructure

2020

- Boat ramp closed to the public due to safety concerns
- Data request submitted to MTO to determine the municipality of origin of boat ramp users based on licence plate numbers collected in 2017 – 2019

Municipality	Any Fee Paid	Single Use Fee	Season Fee
Adelaide-Metcalf	22	22	0
Brooke-Alvinston	27	22	5
Chatham-Kent	6	6	0
Dawn-Euphemia	2	1	1
Enniskillen	61	52	9
Lambton Shores	188	138	49
Middlesex Centre	10	10	0
Plympton-Wyoming	125	98	27
Sarnia	140	127	13
St. Clair	16	16	0
Strathroy-Caradoc	32	31	1
Warwick	10	8	2
Out of Watershed	207	189	18
No Data	98	77	21

Fees paid by municipality. This does not capture any boat ramp use that was not paid for or where the licence plate was entered incorrectly. Some “out of watershed” users are likely to be cottage owners in the area, whose licence plates are registered at their

home address. Others will be “out of watershed” residents who are renting/camping in the area or have travelled to use the facility.

2020

- AECOM contracted to complete a report on the Highland Glen Conservation Area and boat ramp

2021

- AECOM completed the study in July of 2021
- Boat ramp remains closed

BD-21-81

Scott – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 13, 2021 on the history of the Highland Glen Conservation Area.”

CARRIED

The Highland Glen Conservation Area was purchased by SCRCA in 1976 and 1977 to provide public access to the Lake Huron shoreline. It 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 Conservation Area contains an access roadway, parking lot, pavilion, and boat ramp with seawall and groyne protection. The boat ramp remains closed at this time due to safety concerns.

In 2020, AECOM was contracted to investigate various issues at the site and develop rehabilitation concepts with preliminary designs. This report is now complete and can be reviewed as ite 8.6 (b), following this report.

AECOM Report:

The AECOM report identifies the infrastructure that is in need of repair, replacement, or upgrading and provides preliminary cost estimates. Recommended timing has been identified for each recommended improvement. Facility upgrades could be phased in over a 5-10 year period. A number of upgrades were identified as immediate with some being required in the first year to safely re-open the facility. Below is the summary table from the report.

Summary Table of Recommendations

It should be noted that both the West Breakwater and the Northeast Breakwater were only viewed above the waterline through photographs. Light surface corrosion and minor damages were observed above the water surface. AECOM has recommended a close-up investigation of the full length of both breakwaters to assess any other

damage. The investigation should include both an above and underwater inspection to assess the existing condition of the breakwaters. The underwater inspection would be carried out by a commercially qualified dive team in accordance with the Ontario Regulations for Diving Work. A preliminary cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 is estimated. This cost does not appear in the recommendations table.

Options for Consideration:

	Option for Discussion	Benefits/Concerns		Cost Estimates
1	Install aluminum stairway beach access and short-term railing safety solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach access is used by visitors of all ages and abilities • Reduce liability risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently steep and can be slippery • Risk of visitor injury in current condition 	\$10,000 stairway \$500 railing
2	Complete minor repairs to West and Northeast breakwater to prevent further degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete repairs before further degradation occurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed repair could shorten structure lifespan • If the facility is not restored this investment would be lost 	\$9,000 (West), \$12,000 (Northeast)
3	Short-term repairs to allow boat ramp to safely open while awaiting future work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would provide for public use more quickly • Would provide lake access for emergency services more quickly • Would allow revenue collection to resume • Provides time to source grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff concerns regarding floating breakwater (cost of installing and removing annually, storage, sediment infilling) • \$50,000 breakwater structure is 	\$10,000 floating dock \$60,000 dredging \$50,000 floating breakwater \$10,000 erosion protection of shore east of ramp

		funding for larger repairs	only temporary	
4	Approve repairs listed as 5 year or earlier with current funding structure, conditional on a minimum of 50% grant funding of any works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start the process of facility rehabilitation Provides staff direction to start applying for funding opportunities May require community partners for some grants Would eliminate the need for the floating breakwater if funding can be secured to install new rockfill breakwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs not covered by grant would be the responsibility of all Municipalities (general levy) May need to allow levy to be phased over a number of years providing municipalities more time to budget for costs Timeline dictated by funding availability 	<p>\$10,000 modular floating platform \$60,000 dredging \$450,000 rockfill breakwater \$391,000 parking lot protection \$280,000 retaining wall east of ramp \$320,000 south seawall steel sheetpile replacement \$20,000 concrete splash apron \$22,000 railings \$150,000 culvert upgrades \$20,000 underwater investigation of west and northeast breakwater</p> <p>Total \$1,721,000 pre tax (minimum \$860,500 pre tax sourced through grant)</p>
5	Underwater investigation of West and Northeast breakwater structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates concerns over unknown condition of these structures Report only includes \$21,000 in minor repairs for these structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional cost Unknown timeline for completion 	\$15,000 - \$20,000

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditions above the waterline only show minor corrosion • Could be done ahead of any other repairs to confirm breakwaters are in reasonable condition 		
6	Form a Highland Glen Boat Ramp Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A smaller group of board members can meet with staff to develop recommendations • Recommend future direction for Highland Glen CA • Recommend how repairs should be funded • Whether or not repairs should be completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential delays in decision (may also accelerate decision making?) 	To be determined based on recommendations
7	Complete only immediate repairs to keep the facility operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levy funding to complete only necessary repairs to safely re-open • Would allow public use for an unknown period of time • Use boat ramp revenues to fund minor repairs and annual costs associated with installation of floating breakwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would not protect the long-term operation of the facility • Would require temporary floating breakwater 	\$10,000 floating dock \$60,000 dredging \$50,000 floating breakwater
8	Decommission boat ramp and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of boat access to 	Unknown at this time

	operate Highland Glen CA as a day use property with beach access and picnic facilities	congestion on busy days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces future maintenance expenses • Decommissioning costs expected to be much lower than repairs and upgrades 	Lake Huron for the public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of emergency access to the lake (search and rescue) • Loss of harbour which could be used by boaters during storm/rough water 	
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The AECOM Preliminary Design Report for the Highland Glen Conservation Area and Boat Launch was reviewed.

BD-21-82

MacKinnon – Wilkins

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Highland Glen Conservation Areas and Boat Launch Final Preliminary Design Report of 2021 and further that an aluminum beach access stairway and short-term railing safety solution be installed in 2022 at an estimated cost of \$10,500 funded through general levy to alleviate identified safety concerns.”

CARRIED

BD-21-83

Wilkins – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and approves the minor repairs to the Highland Glen boat ramp structures identified as the West and Northeast breakwater in 2022 at an estimated cost of \$21,000 funded through general levy.”

CARRIED

BD-21-84

Marriott – Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the recommendation of staff, that the short-term floating breakwater solution be eliminated as an option due to concerns regarding annual installation and removal, storage, sedimentation inside the boat ramp protection area, and cost.”

CARRIED

BD-21-85

Dennis – Miller

“That the Board of Directors form a Highland Glen Boat Ramp Committee, working with staff to evaluate options, evaluate the funding model, and develop recommendations for the full Board’s review and further that the Committee be comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair and one representative from each of Sarnia, Plympton-Wyoming and Lambton Shores, as well as three representatives from the remaining municipalities.”

CARRIED

Ms. Leah Bogaart approached staff and the General Manager regarding the purchase of land for use as a residential lot. Ms. Bogaart enquired specifically about part of McKeough Upstream Land 105. The portion requested for consideration is approximately 24.0 acres. (Proposal attached)

At this time, the SCRCA has aligned the management and retention of lands through the strategic plan and direction under the Conservation Authority’s Act R.S.O. 1990, C. C.27

Approval of Minister

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

- (a) the disposition is for provincial or municipal infrastructure and utility purposes;*
- (b) the province, the provincial agency, board or commission affected by the disposition or the municipal government, agency, board or commission affected by the disposition has approved it; and*
- (c) the authority informs the Minister of the disposition. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 10, s. 1 (1).*

Terms and conditions

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

Grants

39 Grants may be made by the Minister to any authority out of the money appropriated therefor by the Legislature in accordance with such conditions and procedures as may be prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, s. 39.

Staff will be working on a review of the lands and will determine whether any may be considered as excess. This review will also include a Land Securement Strategy and will address impacts of the operation of the McKeough Dam, severance requirements, Ministerial approval, loss of annual revenue, and the need for comparable offers.

Strategic Objectives(s):

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

Management of Authority Owned Lands: Through the completion of Property Management Plans, the Authority continues to manage its lands to balance revenue production and effective management of woodlands, wetlands and biodiversity.

Financial Impact:

Loss of annual revenue.

BD-21-86

Burrell – Scott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 9, 2021 regarding request made to purchase a portion of the Mckeough Upstream Land 105, and further concurs with staff’s recommendation to retain ownership of this land in its entirety.”

CARRIED

Correspondence from Mr. Roman Krzewina was received and reviewed by the Board of Directors. The subject property is 26456 Richmond Road, Dover Centre, the Owner is Roman Krzewina. Mr. Krzewina’s concerns are with the costs incurred for a permit from the SCRCA in 2020/2021 to lift the existing dwelling and put a foundation/first storey underneath.

Mr. Krzewina’s concerns were as follows:

- 1) Unable to fulfill permit requirements, after permit was issued;
- 2) Not at fault that the application was filled out after the job was done. Not informed that they needed two permits from two different institutions. Received permit from Chatham-Kent and followed all requirements;
- 3) Should have been informed that a permit was needed from SCRCA;

The following are the fees incurred:

\$110.00 dollar – processing fee

\$1,320.00 dollars for application fee (Minor Permit B, primary dwelling, \$660.00 (doubled due to violation – works completed without SCRCA Permit) ;

Total of \$1430.00

The following is an excerpt from the SCRCA Fee Schedule:

SCRCA Fee Appeal Process

To appeal a fee which has been charged, the applicant must submit a written request to the Authority's Board of Directors via the General Manager outlining their concerns with the fee charged. Written concerns should be submitted to stclair@scrca.on.ca. The decision to revise the fee will be made by the Authority's Board of Directors via an impartial review by the General Manager and Director of Finance. This is in accordance with the MNR/CO Policies and Procedures for Charging of CA Fees, 1997 and the SCRCA Fee Administration Guidelines.

<https://www.scrca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/planning-regs-Fees.pdf>

SCRCA Staff Understanding of Chronology of Events Related to Fees:

- June 15, 2020 – SCRCA staff spoke to landowner on the phone. He has plans into the Municipality, would like to build a new foundation and second storey. Staff sent Roman an email to send plans for SCRCA review. Note: works had already been completed.
- September 15, 2020 – SCRCA staff were circulated on a minor variance application regarding front and side yard encroachments. SCRCA has no concern provided a permit is obtained.
- November 24, 2020 – Minor variance deferred to December 10 meeting. SCRCA comments remain unchanged. Variance related to the balcony of the house;
- December 11, 2020 – SCRCA Staff collected payment
- December 11, 2020 – SCRCA staff issued a permit for the works. Works are already completed. Condition of permit is to have certification from an Ontario Land Surveyor that lowest openings of 177.7m GSC are met. Flood proofing requirements were included on drawings submitted with application;
- December 15, 2020 – Received notice from landowner that they would like to appeal the fee, SCRCA Staff advised of fee appeal procedure.
- January 11, 2021 – SCRCA staff received survey showing the finished floor elevation at 176.89m
- February 18, 2021 – changes to the plans to show a hobby shop on the first floor, and living quarters on the second floor;
- May 20, 2021 – SCRCA staff reviewed changes, if lowest opening cannot be met, then further engineering will be required to ensure that the building is able to withstand hydrostatic pressure, etc. Living space above garage requires the structure itself to be engineered to ensure no loss to property or life during flood event.

SCRCA Application Fee

The attached map shows the areas affected by SCRCA regulations. The subject property is located entirely within the estimated engineered floodplain and within the meander belt (erosion hazard) of an Unnamed Drain. Development is permitted in this area provided the lowest opening into the dwelling is raised to 177.7m GSC. If this cannot be obtained, further engineering is required to ensure that the building can

withstand hydrostatic pressure and that the electrical/mechanical/heating is appropriately flood proofed.

SCRCA Review and Approval

When reviewing an application at the subject location, staff of the SCRCA can approve the proposed works if the dwelling is appropriately flood proofed to 177.7m GSC. It was a requirement that this is included on construction drawings and details. The condition of the permit was that lowest openings are verified by an Ontario Land Surveyor. SCRCA regulations staff completed a detailed review of all available information, which included; past files/documentation in the area, detailed SCRCA Hazard Mapping, and the submitted application and detailed plans. Upon completion of this review it was determined the proposed works met the SCRCA flood proofing requirements, as plans showed lowest openings into the dwelling would meet 177.7m GSC. Formal written permission documentation was finalized and sent to the landowner and the internal database management system was updated. Staff of the SCRCA applied the Minor Permit B fee doubled – definition: medium scale, primary structures and/or consistent with policy - from the 2021 Board Approved Fee Schedule for the project size/scale, level of risk, and location in relation to the hazards and doubled due to works having been completed without SCRCA permission. Upon getting the works verified by an Ontario Land Surveyor, the lowest openings (i.e. condition of permit) could not be met and the landowner did not want to obtain further engineering to support the dwelling, therefore the landowner sold the property ‘as is’ and would like a refund on the fee.

A recorded vote was requested.

In reference to Motion: BD-21-87

Director’s Name	For	Against
Brennan, John	-	-
Broad, Alan		✓
Brown, Pat	✓	
Burrell, Terry	✓	
Dennis, Bill	✓	
Gordon, Larry		✓
Hall, Aaron	✓	
Kennes, Frank	-	-
Loosley, Brad		✓
MacKinnon, Betty Ann		✓
Marriott, Kevin		✓
McGill, Mark		✓
McMillan, Dan		✓
Miller, Steve	✓	
Nemcek, Frank		✓
Scott, Lorie	✓	
Stark, Mike	-	-

Westgate, Jerry		✓
Wilkins, Tim		✓
Faas, Joe	✓	
TOTAL	7	10

BD-21-87

Burrell – Scott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 2, 2021 regarding a request for appeal of fees, for a reduction in costs regarding 26456 Richmond Road, Dover Centre and further that the penalty portion of fees in the amount of \$660 be waived.”

DEFEATED

September/October 2016 – SCRCA staff attended site along Bluepoint Drive, seawall works were being completed by [REDACTED] without prior written approval from the SCRCA.

July 31, 2018 – follow up letter to defendants, confirming that SCRCA will be initiating legal proceedings by September 16, 2018;

Main concerns:

- 1) Concern with ownership of subject lands the unauthorized shoreline protection works occupy. SCRCA solicitor deemed the works were constructed on an “Area of user common to all owners of subdivision” and that the title remains with the original subdividers.
- 2) Concern with steel sheet pile seawall and gabion stone basket shoreline protection at subject location. Steel sheetwalls and gabion baskets are not recommended for erosion protection. Shoreline protection must meet established professional engineered standards and procedures.

March 21, 2019 – court appearance. [REDACTED] waived any claim of a breach of their charter rights. [REDACTED] did not waive any claim. Plan for a meeting for all parties to see what steps might be taken to come to a resolution of the charges and over what period of time, since there is some question of whether the removal of the offending developments along the shoreline could actually worsen erosion. The plan was to try to have the defendants retain a coastal engineer to provide them with advice about how to best address the issue of the removal or management of the offending structures that they have erected.

October 22, 2019 – SCRCA Solicitor met with defendant solicitor, asked that they provide a coastal engineering report confirming that it is more beneficial to leave the walls in place;

January 25, 2021 – Received Coastal Engineering Assessment for [REDACTED] (4178 and 4184 Bluepoint Drive) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (4162 Bluepoint Drive) [REDACTED]

CONCLUSION FROM THESE REPORTS: the seawalls that were installed are suitable and proper for this shoreline area. Therefore, it is the Coastal Engineer's recommendation that this seawall remain in place, since the benefits far exceed the negative effects, as its removal would place the existing house closer to the stable slope and erosion hazards.

It is not anticipated that there will be any significant negative effects to the sediment transport rate or any negative effects to adjacent properties since this shorewall was installed along the original toe of existing bluff which has experienced significant erosion and will continue to erode. The seawall is located inland of the beach processes and waves will only reach this shorewall during storm wave events combined with a high water level.

June 4, 2021 – Received letter from our solicitor, Grant Inglis of Scot Petrie LLP.

Further to our earlier email, please find another copy of the report on the above noted property prepared by Chal Eng. Consulting Engineers which in essence, provides the engineering opinion that it is more beneficial to leave the work in place rather than remove it.

BD-21-88

Marriott – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September That the Board acknowledges the letter received from Grant Inglis, Scott Petrie LLP, dated June 4, 2021, and agrees to withdraw charges against [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].”

CARRIED

Further to the special Board Meeting August 20, 2021, to discuss the Service Delivery Review Report, the Board passed a motion as follows:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation of the Planning Department Service Delivery Review Report provided by Tim Dobbie Consultants Ltd. And further that staff be directed to include the report recommendations in the draft 2022 budget.

Recommendations from Tim Dobbie Consultants Ltd. report pertaining to the budget include:

5.2 – That the Board of Directors of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority support increasing the capacity of the complement of staff from the current six to nine. The timing of these three staff joining the SCRCA would be subject to the appropriate funding.

5.3 – That the Board of Directors of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority direct staff to consider the cost associated with the addition of 3 new technical employees and other corporate priorities to be funded by increases in both the levy and fees in the draft 2022 and 2023 budget.

The estimated cost of three new staff positions is a minimum of \$280,000 which can be funded with a combined increase in fees and levy. The Tim Dobbie Report suggested looking at a 10% increase in levy and a 10% increase in fees for both 2022 and 2023.

An increase in levy by 10% would result in a dollar amount of approximately \$117,000.

The Planning & Regulations Department is proposing to increase permit application, Planning Act application and technical report review fees by a minimum of 10% for those fees generally incurred by private landowners, and up to 20% for those fees generally incurred by developers for major development. This would generate approximately \$35,000 in additional revenue.

These proposed increases in both levy and fees would allow for a staged approach in hiring new staff. This would allow us to hire a minimum of 1 new staff member in the Planning & Regulations Department in 2022.

BD-21-89

Dennis – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the proposed increases for Planning and Regulations fees, as recommended by Tim Dobbie Consultants Ltd., and further direct staff to prepare a report to the Board of Directors for the November meeting outlining the proposed fee schedule for 2022.”

CARRIED

Conservation Area Fee Increases

Fee increases are a result of increasing staffing costs, maintenance, park upgrades, and general cost increases. Fee increases are also required to ensure financial reserves are maintained at levels sufficient to undertake large capitals expenditures (septic system updates, road improvements, etc.) when required. With the proposed increases our rates remain at or below most local private and regional Conservation Authority campgrounds.

Fee Comparison:

A comparison of seasonal and transient camping fees of other Conservation Authorities, the Provincial Parks, and some local private campgrounds was reviewed.

The draft 2022 conservation area fees were reviewed.

BD-21-90

McMillan – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated July 7, 2021 on the proposed 2022 Conservation Area fees and concurs with staff recommendations, as presented.”

CARRIED

Schedule ‘B’ outlining the preliminary draft 2022 General Levy Assessment was reviewed.

Directors Comments:

Directors request further details and justifications for the increase in levy. A special meeting to present this information was suggested.

BD-21-91

Scott – Broad

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2022 preliminary draft budget of \$9,600,000 with a proposed municipal general levy of \$1,356,512.00 and further that this preliminary budget will be circulated to member municipalities for information and input based on our budget review process.”

DEFERRED

The Government of Canada launched the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF), a national merit-based program that will invest \$1.375 billion to support wildfire mitigation activities, rehabilitation of storm water systems, and restoration of wetlands and shorelines. DMAF projects will support the Government of Canada's objectives laid out in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

Over the past 3 decades, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has completed numerous shoreline protection and erosion control Projects along the Lake Huron and St. Clair River.

Several reaches of the existing shoreline appear in a state of disrepair. High winds, ice jams and significant rain events continue to pose a threat to the condition of shoreline. In the last few years, a number of shoreline failures have occurred along Lake Huron and St. Clair River, and this is threatening the existing public and private infrastructure (School, Roads and Parks). In addition, the torn pieces of the existing retaining wall is a safety concern to children, pets and the users of the shoreline.

This project is geared to provide shoreline protection for select locations along Lake Huron and St. Clair River. This shoreline protection will protect critical Municipal Infrastructure of the City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township.

Shoreline rehabilitation work to protect public infrastructure, thereby building resilience to climate change, natural hazards and extreme weather events.

- 1) Review priority areas of shoreline failure
- 2) Design effective shoreline protection measures
- 3) Prioritize shoreline implementation based on severity of shoreline damages and proximity to Municipal infrastructure
- 4) Implement shoreline protection measures
- 5) Inspect and Monitor construction of shoreline works

Financial Impact:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$20,000,000.

The funding distribution is 40 - 60%, with 60% of the costs to be matched by the Municipality. If SCRCA is successful in receiving the funds, we will require matching funds from municipalities in the magnitude of \$12 million dollars over 10 years or 1.2 million every year. SCRCA will apply for other shoreline grants to assist with Municipal contributions.

- 1) City of Sarnia
- 2) St. Clair Township

SCRCA staff will continue to work with the Municipal staff.

The main benefits of the undertaking are:

- Prevention of further erosion and river sedimentation
- Improvements to aquatic habitats in the river
- Improvement of the general appearance of the area
- Control of loss of land in this area
- Elimination of hazards associated with existing dilapidated structures
- Improvement of public access to the waterfront

BD-21-92

Gordon – Brown

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 27, 2021, on the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) intake 2 for shoreline restoration along Lake Huron and St. Clair River and the Board directs staff to work with the City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township to submit the application.”

CARRIED

Under New Business

Director Tim Wilkins expressed concern regarding the level of customer service and delays in communication. Acting General Manager, Girish Sankar gave assurance to

the Board of Directors that SCRCA staff are working to improve this. Director Brad Loosley made a suggestion to consider creating policy around timelines for communication.

BD-21-93

Scott – Dennis

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Joe Faas
Chair



Girish Sankar
Acting General Manager