



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: June 23, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Warwick Community Centre – 7074 Egremont Rd, Watford

Directors Present: Diane Brewer, Pat Brown, Bill Dennis, Joe Faas, Greg Grimes, Emery Huszka, Frank Kennes, Brad Loosley, Kevin Marriott, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Chair; Mike Stark, Jerry Westgate

Directors Present (Remote): John Brennan, Al Broad, Terry Burrell, Aaron Hall, Debbie Heffernan, Lorie Scott

Regrets: Tim Wilkins

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Resources; Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Sarah Hodgkiss, Manager of Planning and Natural Heritage; Kate Jamieson, Payroll/Accounting Clerk; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Ken Phillips, General Manager; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

Guests: Jonathan Batch, BMO Wealth Management; Cathy Johnson, Dawn McNally, Liana Russworm, Kathryn Shailer, Friends of Campbell Park; Tracy Price (remote)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and 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. The Chair welcomed the meeting's guests and acknowledged new directors, Emery Huszka, representing the agricultural sector and Debbie Heffernan, representing the Municipality of Middlesex Centre

BD-22-51

Loosley - Kennes

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

CARRIED

A presentation was given by Jonathan Batch, of BMO Wealth Management, followed by questions and answers, clarifying the investment strategy and options.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Batch was thanked for his presentation and efforts.

BD-22-52

Marriott – Brewer

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation provided by BMO Wealth Management reviewing their investment strategy and options.”

CARRIED

A presentation was provided by Dawn McNally, representing the Friends of Campbell Park, followed by question and answer period.

Director’s Comments:

Directors thanked Ms. McNally for her presentation and wished to clarify the nature of the request being made by the Friends of Campbell Park, which is to rescind any motion or permit to demolish A.W. Campbell House, refrain from the use of fencing around the building and to retain the hydro panel inside the building. Directors called upon the Manager of Conservation Lands, Greg Wilcox to confirm that the references to perform a structural engineering report, erection of security fencing and the relocation of the hydro panel are all recommendations of the Lambton County building inspector and relate to liability concerns. It was explained that a structural engineering report will help to determine the structural integrity of the building, and will reveal the necessary next steps to ensure public safety, whether it is for building occupancy or exterior viewing only. Manager, Greg Wilcox was also able to confirm that that the relocation of the hydro panel, currently located in the building, is intended for staff health and safety, as physical access to the panel is required from time to time. It was assured that in the event of the A.W. Campbell House being made open to the public, limited hydro can be routed in to the building using a separate, smaller panel.

The Friends of A.W. Campbell Park state that over \$2,700 in conditional funding from community members has been committed, however they will not consent to donations being used to contribute to the cost of a structural engineering report, and that they should only be used to fund repairs needed to retain the building. Directors enquired what level of support the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston is prepared to commit and the personal donation from Mayor, Dave Ferguson was referenced to be a strong indicator of future support. It was further noted by Director, Frank Nemcek that the Municipality is willing to consider contributing to repairs under their 2023 budget.

After a lengthy discussion, it was generally agreed that a structural engineering report is necessary to determine whether the demolition permit can be rescinded.

BD-22-53

Loosley – Brown

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation on the A.W. Campbell House, provided by delegate(s) of the Friends of Campbell Park.”

CARRIED

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held April 21, 2022 were reviewed.

BD-22-54

Marriott – MacKinnon

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, held April 21, 2022, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The minutes of the Conservation Ontario Council meeting, held April 11, 2022 were reviewed.

BD-22-55

Faas – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the Conservation Ontario Council meeting, held April 11, 2022.”

CARRIED

A verbal update was provided by Chair, Mike Stark; Vice Chair, Pat Brown and General Manager, Ken Phillips on the Conservation Ontario meeting, held June 20, 2022. The following points were discussed:

- Conservation Ontario Chief Administration Officer (CAO), Kim Gavine has announced her retirement
 - Price Waterhouse Coopers has been retained in the search for her replacement
 - Interim Conservation Ontario CAO is Bonnie Fox
- Bill 109, More Homes for Everyone Act
 - Conservation Ontario providing comments
 - Reconsideration of several points, such as the Minister’s ability to override Conservation Authority decisions
- Client Service & Streamlining Initiative
 - Will provide a provincial standard quality of service, dealing with matters such as accountability and response times
 - Further information will be brought to the September, 2022 Board of Directors meeting
- <http://www.Ontarioconservationareas.ca>
 - Recognized as an excellent resource to discover different Conservation Areas and the different features and activities available at each of them

BD-22-56

Miller - Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal update regarding the Conservation Ontario Council meeting, held June 20, 2022.”

CARRIED

A verbal update was provide by General Manager, Ken Phillips. New hires in the Administration department were welcomed:

- Kate Jamieson, Payroll/Accounting Clerk
- Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services (starting July 4th, 2022)

Operations

- Staff continue to work on a hybrid rotating schedule between the Administrative Office and home. The General Manager will be re-examining the status of the pandemic and modify the full return to office accordingly.
- On May 6, the General Manager provided an orientation for 3 newly appointed members of the Board of Directors regarding the programs and services of the SCRCA.

Community/Partnership Outreach

- On April 23, SCRCA participated in the Strathroy Rotary Club Earth Day Community Clean-up. SCRCA provided two staff and a vehicle to help with the event.
- The General Manager attended the BASES Emergency Preparedness Debrief on May 3. The event provided a good networking opportunity with local stakeholders.
- The General Manager attended the annual SCRCA Canoe and Kayak Race and assisted with the day's events. The event provided an excellent opportunity to meet many members of the community.
- The General Manager attended the Sarnia-Lambton Energy Summit on May 17. It provided another excellent networking opportunity.

Federal/Provincial/Municipal Meetings

- The General Manager attended a Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Zoom meeting on April 26 regarding the appointment of an agricultural sector representative to the Board of Directors. The SCRCA was one the first 5 conservation authorities to get an agricultural sector representative.
- The Chair and several SCRCA staff attended a MECP Program Inventory Workshop on May 2 via Zoom. MECP staff provided feedback on the inventories received to date.
- On May 11, the General Manager attended a MECP orientation session for the newly appointed agricultural sector representatives. MECP and Conservation Authority staff answered questions for the new appointees.
- The General Manager attended the May 12 meeting of Brooke-Alvinston Council to answer questions on the AW Campbell House.
- The General Manager had a meeting with Lambton County staff with regard to SCRCA-Lambton County relations. He will be doing a presentation for County Council in July.

Conservation Ontario

- The General Manager attended a session on April 25 via Zoom with regard to the Phase 2 Regulations release by the Province of Ontario. A detailed report on these regulations is included within this meeting's agenda.
- The General Manager attended a session on May 16 via Zoom concerning updates to the MOU process. There was a discussion on utilizing the Provincial "stop the clock" method when it came to incomplete permits. This method stops the review time if there is a need for the proponent to revise their application. It recommences once the application has been resubmitted.

BD-22-57

Loosley – Grimes

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager's report, dated June 3, 2022.

CARRIED

The Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016 outlined many changes that effect this fall's municipal election as well as future elections.

In 2018, one of the specific changes is the duration of the Restricted Acts or "Lame Duck" period for municipal councils and subsequently for Conservation Authority Boards based on the municipal council's members that comprise many Boards.

There are two potential Restricted Acts or "Lame Duck" periods as follows:

1. Between August 19, 2022 to October 24, 2022 (Nomination Day to Election Day).
2. Between October 25, 2022 and December 1, 2022 (The day after the election to the end of the term of Council).

When is a Council in a "Lame Duck" Situation?

A municipal council can be in a "Lame Duck" situation if it is determined that there is the potential or certainty that less than three-quarters (75%) of the existing council members will not be returning to office as determined on:

1. Nomination Day – August 19, 2022
2. Voting Day – October 24, 2022

The Authority Board of Directors is comprised of 20* elected representatives and 1 appointed representative. Appointments for 2022 commenced at the 2022 Annual Meeting on February 22, 2022 and continue to the 2023 Annual Meeting scheduled for February 23, 2023.

As of this date, 20 of 21 Board members have appointments expiring on February 23, 2023 (date of the Annual General Meeting), or sooner, depending upon the outcome of Municipal Elections on October 24, 2022. Therefore, the Authority Board of Directors fall

under the Restricted Acts or “Lame Duck” classification as of August 19, 2022 as less than 75% (a maximum of 16 out of 21, as of this date, equalling 70%) are confirmed to be returning.

What are the Restricted Acts (Section 275 (3)) of the Municipal Act?

1. The appointment or removal from office of any officer of the municipality;
2. The hiring or dismissal of any employee of the municipality;
3. The disposition of any real or personal property of the municipality which has a value exceeding \$50,000.00 at the time of disposal; and
4. Making any expenditures or incurring any other liability, which exceeds \$50,000.00.

Act 4, as underlined above, is the only act that the Board of Directors would be in contravention of in the normal course of proceedings for the Authority Board.

Funding applications, agreements and the Authority’s annual budget are believed to be the only traditional business exceeding \$50,000.00 that would be transacted during the period from August 19, 2022 – December 1, 2022.

Staff proposed to continue with the traditional budget process for the development and communication of the draft 2023 Budget, save endorsement of a set of guidelines to be used by staff in the preparation of the draft 2023 budget.

The following guidelines have been drafted for the Board’s review and support:

- Inflation: Annual Consumer Price Index for Ontario as per Statistics Canada
- General Levy Increase
- Interest Income Surplus directed to Reserves
- Balance increased fees and general levy per board direction

Further, in order to maintain business continuity, it is recommended that the Board of Directors delegate the General Manager to act on their behalf in submitting applications and executing agreements in the Authority’s best interest during the period from August 19 – December 1, 2022. All actions undertaken under this temporary delegation will be reported to the Board of Directors, during the period of “Lame Duck”.

BD-22-58

Marriott – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated May 2, 2022, regarding Restricted Acts (Section 275) of the Municipal Act, and endorses the proposed 2023 budget development guidelines as presented and further approves a temporary increase in the General Manager’s signing Authority to \$500,000 for the period from August 19, 2022 – December 1, 2022.”

CARRIED

In November 2016, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) approved the implementation of a 5-year strategic plan entitled **Our Future to Shape - A Way Forward**. The plan included 4 main goals that the SCRCA would try and achieve between years 2017-2022. The goals as outlined in the current plan are:

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

The current plan is due for review/renewal/revision to assist the Board of Directors in guiding staff to help accomplish the goals and missions of the SCRCA. Staff are proposing the following work plan in order to have a new strategic plan in place for the 2023-2028 period:

- **June – July, 2022** – Management Team and Staff to review current plan to determine success and shortcomings of current plan
- **August, 2022** – Staff to develop a draft concept to present to the board for discussion and input
- **September, 2022** – Board of Directors to review and provide input on the draft plan and approve a draft for public comment
- **October, 2022** – Undertake public consultation and receive comments on draft plan
- **November, 2022** – Present final draft to Board of Directors for feedback and input
- **December, 2022** – Approve new Strategic Plan for 2023-2028

Strategic Objectives(s):

Build a stronger and more valued organization through business excellence

Financial Impact:

none

BD-22-59

Faas – Scott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the report dated June 2, 2022 on the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan and approve the work plan listed within the report and further that the Strategic Plan be finalized and approved by December of 2022.”

CARRIED

In 2021, the Province of Ontario began to release new regulations to assist Conservation Authorities (CAs) with the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. Phase 1 consisted of the need for CAs to establish a transition plan and an inventory of services and

programs to be completed by February of 2022. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) has completed the requirements of the Phase 1 regulations.

On April 22, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) release Phase 2 Regulations and Policies in regard to:

- **O. Reg. 402/22:** Budget and Apportionment
- **O. Reg. 401/22:** Determination of Amounts Under Subsection 27.2 (2) of The Act
- **O. Reg. 400/22:** Information Requirements
- **O. Reg. 399/22:** Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services under Section 21.1.2 of the Act
- **Policy:** Minister's List of Classes of Programs and services in respect of which CAs may charge a Fee

Conservation Ontario staff provided the following synopsis and current understanding of the regulations and the policy. This information may be subject to change further to clarification from the MECP. As summarized in the MECP Environmental Registry of Ontario decision posting: Requirements to increase transparency of CA operations and those related to fees that CAs may charge will be in place by January 1, 2023, while those related to budget and municipal levy apportionment processes will be in place by July 1, 2023, to align timing with CA 2024 budgets.

Budget and Apportionment Regulation

This regulation incorporates two previous levy regulations with references to the 3 categories of programs and services that CAs deliver and includes detailed requirements for the CA budget and apportionment processes. The regulation retains the two existing voting methods and the three current methods of apportioning expenses/costs. For the budget process, the current process and practices including those for voting are detailed. As part of the budget process, and as per current practice, CAs are required to consider the use of self-generated revenue. Draft and final budgets must be posted on the CA's Governance webpage and a copy of the final budget provided to the Minister (MECP). As per the legislation, CAs are able to apportion costs for all category 1 (mandatory) programs and services and can only apportion costs for category 2 and 3 programs and services with agreements in place with the municipality. General operating expenses or capital costs (formerly referred to as 'corporate administrative costs') can be levied without agreement and must be identified in the CAs' budget as such. It is understood that CAs can continue to use the minimum levy provisions in the Act [both the current ss. 27 (4) and un-proclaimed provisions set out in the new ss. 27 (2)] without reference in the regulation.

Regulation for Determining Amounts Owed by Specified Municipalities

This regulation enables CAs that have 'specified' municipalities designated under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and/or the Lake Simcoe Protection Act (LSPA) to determine amounts owed by those 'specified' municipalities. Specified municipalities are municipalities that are not a 'participating municipality' of a CA under the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) but are designated under the regulations made under the CWA or

LSPA. Therefore, this regulation will not apply to all CAs. It applies to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority as part of the LSPA and for some Source Protection Authorities that extend beyond or outside of the CA boundary. For the apportionment of costs to specified municipalities, any of the three existing apportionment methods are eligible to be used.

Information Requirements Regulation

This regulation requires CAs to maintain a Governance webpage and to give notice to the Minister by January 1, 2023 that the requirements have been met. While still meeting Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) requirements, this webpage must include: CA membership (i.e., individual's name, contact information and the appointing participating municipality); annual meeting schedule; full meeting minutes and agendas; category 2 (municipal) agreements and category 3 (other) cost apportioning agreements between the CA and municipalities; CA bylaws; the annual auditor's report (see S. 38 of the CAA); and, any other documents the CA considers appropriate. Also, CAs are required to include a notice on their website and notify the Minister when it amends or enters into a new agreement with municipalities. The regulation provides an exception for CA/municipal agreements that relate to procurement processes or portions of agreements that contain information referred to in section 10 'Third party information' and/or section 11 'Economic and other interests' of MFIPPA. New or amended agreements must be posted within 30 days.

Amending O.Reg 687/21 re: establishment of fees for programs and services delivered under a cost apportioning agreement

This regulation makes a complementary amendment to the Transition Plans and Agreements Regulation to enable fees for category 3 (other) programs and services that are delivered under a cost apportioning agreement. It requires a CA and participating municipalities to include provisions in such agreements to establish user fees for those programs and services.

Policy: Minister's List of Classes of Programs and Services for which a Conservation Authority may Charge a Fee

Upon proclamation of Section 21.2 'Fees for programs and services' of the CAA, this policy publishes the Minister's list of classes of programs and services for which a CA may charge a fee. The list is organized according to all three types of programs and services a CA can deliver and enables a fee to be charged for all three types where the user fee principle is appropriate. The list of classes of programs and services will replace the 1997 policy which listed specific activities for which a CA could charge a fee. In addition, all CAs are required to create a fee policy and fee schedule.

SCRCA staff will work to ensure that all requirements and provisions in the new regulations are completed in required time frame.

BD-22-60

Huszka – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the report concerning Phase 2 Regulations and Policies as brought into effect on April 22, 2022 and further that staff be directed to ensure that all requirements concerning the posting of information on the SCRCA website is completed by July 31, 2022 and that the MECF is notified accordingly.”

CARRIED

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on April 14, a discussion involved the potential of increasing the number of staff by 3 during 2022 rather than the current 1.5 full-time staff that was provided for in the 2022 Budget. The Tim Dobbie and Associates report recommended that 3 additional staff be hired for the Planning and Regulations Department, in order to improve service delivery for the group in the face of the increase in volume of applications. The Board of Directors approved the implementation of the report commencing with 1.5 new staff in 2022 and 1.5 staff to be hired in 2023.

The Executive Committee was cautioned by staff that it may be challenging to get a projected increase of 10% for staffing in the 2023 budget as a result of the pending municipal election in October of 2022. Committee members then inquired as to the amount it would take to hire all 3 of the staff in 2022, transferring the unbudgeted amount from reserves to offset the additional costs.

Staff estimate that the total amount needed for hiring the 1.5 staff for the remainder of 2022 to be approximately \$72,000. This amount includes wages, benefits, pension and equipment. It should be noted that the Planning reserve as of December 31, 2021 does not have adequate funds for such a transfer. For 2023, a minimum levy increase of 10% would be required to sustain these positions going forward. An alternative would be to spread out the hiring over 2023-24, with the 0.5 position funded by levy for 2023 and the 1.0 position funded by levy in 2024.

Strategic Objectives(s):

Goal 1 – Develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion

Goal 4 – Build a stronger and more valued organization through business excellence

Financial Impact:

As of the December 31, 2021 audited financial statement, the Planning reserve stood at approximately \$9,000. There are not adequate funds to cover the cost of the new staff from reserves at this time.

Director’s Comments:

Directors called upon General Manager, Ken Phillips and Director of Planning and Regulations, Melissa Deisley to confirm the current status of the Planning and

Regulations department. It was confirmed that staffing levels have returned to full complement and while there is an increase of permit requests, staff are tracking ahead of cases and have improved their response times. Director Joe Faas made the suggestion for staff to investigate the possibility of offering internships/co-operative opportunities to students in related programs to assist in filling service gaps during busier seasons.

BD-22-61

Kennes – Brennan

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the report dated June 3, 2022 on the costs associated with increasing the number of planning staff to comply with recommendations made in the 2021 Tim Dobbie and Associates report in the year 2022, rather than 2022-2023.”

CARRIED

During the 1970’s the Campbell House 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.

In September of 2021, the Board of Directors approved a staff recommendation to remove the building due to safety concerns. Following this approval, a group of community members expressed disapproval with the removal of the building. The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston sent correspondence requesting the Authority reconsider the decision. At the Authority’s November Board of Director’s meeting, the original motion was amended to read:

BD-21-120

Nemcek – Burrell

“That the following previously adopted motion be amended to now read 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 that staff be directed to postpone any action relating to the building until May 1, 2022 in order to allow the community to fundraise and for staff to investigate further options and further that any repairs or restorations to the A.W. Campbell House Museum be done so at no cost to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.”

Update:

- October 29, 2021, Brooke-Alvinston sent a letter to the Authority requesting a reversal of the decision to tear down the Campbell House

- December 15, 2021, the Authority received correspondence from the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston that by-law number 17 from 1991 designates the building as being of historical value or interest under the Ontario Heritage Act.
- On February 9, 2022, Authority staff met on site with building department staff from Lambton County to inspect the building. County staff will provide additional information.
- February 23, 2022, a roofer contracted by the “Friends of Campbell Park” completed repairs to patch holes in the roof
- On April 20, 2022, Thor Dingman, an Ontario Registered Designer (PreservationWorks Consultant) visited the site at the request of the “Friends of Campbell Park” (report to be completed)
- On May 12, 2022, Ken Phillips (Authority GM) attended Brooke-Alvinston Council meeting to answer questions regarding the Campbell house

County of Lambton Building Department Comments:

The following building deficiencies were noted:

- Outward deflection of at least two exterior walls.
- Two broken windows.
- Foundation is missing or damaged in various areas surrounding the building.
- Front door frame has separated from the rest of the wall.
- Roof has a large hole and several small holes throughout the entire roof.
- Evidence of water ingress can be found in various areas throughout the structure.
- At least one heavily rotted floor joist or beam.
- Peeling paint.
- Mould appears to be present.
- Improper grading directing water beneath the structure.

From a Property Standards view point, if this structure is to remain for **exterior observations only** the following would be required:

- A full Structural Professional Engineer Assessment
- Repair Roof.
- Board windows and ensure all exterior entrances are secured.
- Alter grading.

In order for this structure to be **occupied**, the following is required:

- A full Structural Professional Engineer Assessment.
- Mould analysis/remediation
- Possible lead paint analysis/remediation
- Potential asbestos concerns, none evident at time of inspection
- Alter grading.
- Repair roof.
- Repair windows.
- Smoke/CO
- Electrical

- Emergency Lighting

As for accessibility and washrooms, Building Services advised that septic would be required if a full time use is established. Accessibility to the upstairs would be an issue for persons with restricted mobility.

In the event that a decision is made to undergo a full renovation, building, plumbing, and septic permits will be required along with full Ontario Building Code upgrades, including accessibility, etc. and if cooking equipment is proposed, there will be additional requirements.

For public safety, a security fence needs be installed around the house until such time that a structural inspection has been completed and deficiencies addressed or the building is removed. (From discussions with Lambton County Building Department)

Friends of Campbell Park

The group is continuing to meet and discuss opportunities to restore the Campbell house. Staff have advised that the next step is to determine structural needs of the building.

This volunteer group has requested the opportunity to fundraise for the completion of structural engineer assessment, estimated at \$5000. This inspection will not include cost estimates for repair; this would be an additional expense. Staff have advised the group to inform all donors that funds will be used for an inspection of the building to assist in decision-making; the Authority has not committed to a restoration at this time.

Next Steps

- Install security fencing around the building to limit public access (lead time up to 4 months); this was requested by the Lambton County Building Department during discussions following the County site visit.
- Proceed with relocation of hydro to a location outside the building when the camping season is over
- With the exception of hydro relocation, staff and volunteers will no longer enter the building until a structural engineer assessment has been completed
- Complete structural engineer assessment when funds have been raised and donated to the Authority

Financial Impact:

- Security fence installation
 - Commercial grade chain link fence
 - 7' high
 - 10' gate installed
 - \$9,000
 - Recommend re-allocation of surplus Highland Glen Conservation Area budget, resulting from reduced operating costs due to the Highland Glen lease agreement with Plympton-Wyoming to cover this expense

- Relocation of hydro
 - Hydro panel moved outside the fenced in area to allow staff access without entering the building
 - The building is not wired, this hydro panel services the group camping area across from the Campbell house
 - \$6,000
 - This was previously approved when the building was scheduled for removal
- Professional Structural Engineer Assessment
 - To be completed when the Friends of Campbell Park have raised and donated \$5,000 to cover the associated costs

Director's Comments:

The following topics were discussed:

- **The request to relocate the hydro panel from within the building to an outside area**
 - Staff have confirmed that the existing hydro panel only services the group camping sites and does not provide power to the A.W. Campbell house. The request to relocate the panel is in response to the Lambton County building inspector's recommendations to ensure staff safety. In the event that the A.W. Campbell house remains, a smaller panel could be routed to the building to provide limited hydro.
- **The recommendation of security fencing**
 - Staff confirmed that the recommendation for security fencing was made by the Lambton County building inspector, due to the unsafe conditions of the building
 - Directors discussed whether there was a need for security fencing and shared concerns for the high quoted cost
 - Director Frank Nemcek enquired whether community members will be able to take family photos in front of the building before fencing is installed. Director of Conservation Lands was not able to confirm a time-frame, as installation is dependent upon availability of the supplier, however delays are expected
 - Directors requested that staff investigate cheaper options, such as snow fencing, and that local municipalities and counties be approached to determine if they have materials that can be borrowed or obtained at a lower rate
- **Costs associated with the report recommendations**
 - Staff confirmed that monies have been allocated for the demolition of the building, as well the \$6,000 for the relocation of the hydro panel has been budgeted. Staff are also able to access the savings from the Highland Glen Conservation Area operating budget, which is now under operation by the Town of Plympton-Wyoming.
 - Staff estimate that the balance of the conservation area campground reserve is over \$900,000.00

- **Liability**

- Directors were explicitly cautioned by General Manager, Ken Phillips that failure to respond to the building inspector’s recommendation to install fencing may result in the Board of Directors assuming liability for any injuries occurring as a result of the unsafe conditions of the A.W. Campbell house. It is suggested that at minimum, a temporary fence is erected immediately
- Director Frank Kennes raised concerns regarding insurance liability and director’s liability

Director Terry Burrell requested an amendment to the motion to include that a structural engineering report be arranged for the A.W. Campbell house (estimated at \$5000), with allocated to the conservation land reserve.

Director John Brennan requested a division of question, including the addendum. This was seconded by Director Lorie Scott.

The Chair called for a recorded vote on each of the 3 components

In Reference to: Component 1 - Security fencing (estimated at \$9,000)

Defeated

Director’s Name	For	Against
Brennan, John		1
Brewer, Diane		1
Broad, Alan		1
Brown, Pat		1
Burrell, Terry	1	
Dennis, Bill		1
Faas, Joe	1	
Grimes, Greg		1
Hall, Aaron	1	
Heffernan, Debbie		1
Huszka, Emery*	-	-
Kennes, Frank	1	
Loosley, Brad		1
Mackinnon, Betty Ann		1
Marriott, Kevin		1
Miller, Steve	1	
Nemcek, Frank		1
Scott, Lorie		1
Stark, Mike	1	
Westgate, Jerry		1
Wilkins, Tim	(not present)	

TOTALS

6

13

* Cannot vote on budgetary items

**In Reference to: Component 2 - Relocation of the Hydro Panel (estimated at \$6,000)
Carried**

Director's Name	For	Against
Brennan, John	1	
Brewer, Diane	1	
Broad, Alan		1
Brown, Pat	1	
Burrell, Terry	1	
Dennis, Bill	1	
Faas, Joe	1	
Grimes, Greg	1	
Hall, Aaron	1	
Heffernan, Debbie	1	
Huszka, Emery*		
Kennes, Frank	1	
Loosley, Brad	1	
MacKinnon, Betty Ann	1	
Marriott, Kevin	1	
Miller, Steve	1	
Nemcek, Frank	1	
Scott, Lorie	1	
Stark, Mike	1	
Westgate, Jerry	1	
Wilkins, Tim	(not present)	
TOTALS	18	1

* Cannot vote on budgetary items

**In Reference to: Component 3 - Structural Engineering Report (estimated at \$5,000)
Carried**

Director's Name	For	Against
Brennan, John		1
Brewer, Diane	1	
Broad, Alan	1	
Brown, Pat	1	
Burrell, Terry	1	

Dennis, Bill	1	
Faas, Joe	1	
Grimes, Greg	1	
Hall, Aaron		1
Heffernan, Debbie	1	
Huszka, Emery*		
Kennes, Frank	1	
Loosley, Brad	1	
MacKinnon, Betty Ann	1	
Marriott, Kevin	1	
Miller, Steve	1	
Nemcek, Frank	1	
Scott, Lorie	1	
Stark, Mike		1
Westgate, Jerry	1	
Wilkins, Tim	(not present)	
TOTALS	16	3

* Cannot vote on budgetary items

BD-22-62

Burrell – Dennis

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update report dated May 16, 2022 on the A.W. Campbell House and further approve the recommendations made within the report, including the installation of security fencing (estimated at \$9,000) around the building and relocation of the Group C hydro panel (estimated at \$6,000) to a location outside the building, and a structural engineering report (estimated at \$5,000) with funds being drawn from the Conservation Area Reserve.”

Component 1 (security fencing) DEFEATED

Component 2 (relocation of hydro panel) CARRIED

Component 3 (structural engineering report) CARRIED

All SCRCA seasonal campers wishing to return the following season are required to pay a \$200 deposit to reserve their site. This deposit is due by the end of the current camping season (October 16).

This reservation allows staff to better plan for the following season and fill any vacant sites well in advance of the beginning of the next camping season. This reduces the number of last minute vacancies that require site repairs, which can delay occupancy for new campers.

Approving the seasonal site fee in June allows existing campers time to make an informed decision as to whether or not they wish to return the following season.

An additional report will be provided later in the season when the full 2023 Conservation Area fee schedule is proposed.

2022 Seasonal Fees:

Campground	2022 Fee (HST included)	Services Included
SCRCA Campgrounds	\$2500	30 amp site, water, and winter storage
Upper Thames River CA	\$3100 - \$3350	30 amp site, water (plus administration fee)
Maitland Valley CA	\$3500	30 amp site, water (plus winter storage)
Kettle Creek CA	\$2700	30 amp site, water
Catfish Creek CA	\$2840	30 amp site, water (plus winter storage)
St. Clair Township	\$2447.50	30 amp site, water
Private Campground (Appin)	\$3277	30 amp site, water, and sewer (hydro metered, extra)
Private Campground (Parkhill)	\$2666.80	30 amp site, water (hydro metered, extra)
Private Campground (Plympton-Wyoming)	\$2665.50 - \$3051	30 amp site, water, sewer (hydro metered, extra)
Private Campground (Ipperwash)	\$3056.65	Hydro and water metered, extra

Financial Impact:

A proposed increase of 5% (\$125) is required to offset rising costs to operate the campgrounds. This would bring 2023 seasonal fees to \$2625 including HST.

Director's Comments:

Chair, Mike Stark noted that the proposed increase to seasonal camping was not substantial enough to bring our fees in line with competitors. Director of Lands, Greg Wilcox provided reasoning for the suggested increase and shared plans to make further increases over the next 5 years. Director Pat Brown suggested that staff consider charging an off-season storage fee. Staff explained that it is to the conservation area's benefit that trailers remain on-site during the off-season, as the moving in and out of trailers can cause significant property damage, often affecting multiple sites.

BD-22-63

Miller – Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report dated May 31, 2022 and approves the 2023 proposed seasonal camping fee.”

CARRIED

In December, 2021, the Board of Directors accepted the recommendation of the Highland Glen Committee to change the designation of Highland Glen Conservation Area to a local/rural CA and directed staff to begin discussions with the Town of Plympton-Wyoming regarding the transition of ownership of Highland Glen to the Municipality.

The Committee recommendations were as follows:

Stark – Loosley

“That the Committee recommends to the SCRCA Board of Directors the re-designation of the Highland Glen Conservation Area from a Regional to Local Conservation Area and that the property ownership and maintenance be ceded to the Municipality of Plympton-Wyoming through steps as recommended by Administration using the McEwen property as a model, under the same condition that the lands remain a public domain and further, that no funding, beyond the approved 2022 budget, be provided by the Authority to rehabilitate the boat launch.”

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by both parties and the Town of Plympton-Wyoming commenced management of Highland Glen Conservation Area on June 1, 2022.

Plympton-Wyoming Request:

On April 28, 2022, the following request was received from Carolyn Tripp, CAO for the Town of Plympton-Wyoming.

“Ken,

As previously discussed, the Town has agreed to take on the operation and maintenance of Highland Glen Conservations Area until such time the lands are transferred to the Town permanently as supported by motions from Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council and St. Clair Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors. It is my understanding a temporary lease agreement will be in place shortly.

With the SCRCA permission, the Town would like to immediately commence preparation to carry out a shoreline restoration project to facilitate access to the beach and reopening of the boat launch at the facility. As the proposed restoration project by the Town will include the works identified in the SCRCA 2022 budget for the facility, the Town asks that those funds be re-allocated to the Town to help facilitates the planned shoreline restoration project. Additional the Town kindly requests that any reduction in expenses resulting from the execution of the temporary lease agreement in 2022 also be reallocated to the Town to help offset any capital works or the operations and maintenance of the facility.

Thank you for your time and help.

Carolyn”

(C. Tripp, personal communication, April 28, 2022)

Financial Impact:

At SCRCA’s April 21, 2022 Board of Directors meeting, \$31,000 was approved for re-allocation from the Highland Glen budget to the Municipality for facility upgrades approved by the Authority.

A lease agreement commencing June 1, 2022, would reduce the expenses incurred by the Authority by an anticipated \$9,220 in 2022. These expenses would be the responsibility of the Municipality. Plympton-Wyoming has requested re-allocating these savings to the Municipality to be used for facility repairs at Highland Glen Conservation Area.

When the 2022 budget was approved, the Highland Glen CA was designated as a regional CA; therefore, the budget was funded through general levy. These savings could be used to fund the security fence required at A.W. Campbell to secure the Campbell House and reduce the risk to public safety. A.W. Campbell Conservation Area is also designated a regional CA.

Director’s Comments:

Chair, Mike Stark reminded the Board of Directors that a motion was carried, limiting the Authority’s expenditure on the repairs to the Highland Glen Conservation Area to \$31,000. It was also suggested that an amendment be made to remove reference to the installation of a security fence around the A.W. Campbell house, as this was previously defeated. Director Terry Burrell moved to table the motion.

BD-22-64

Burrell – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 1, 2022 on the Highland Glen Conservation Area request for funding and further approves the re-allocation of surplus funds from the 2022 Highland Glen Conservation Area budget to the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area budget for the purpose of installing a security fence around the Campbell House.”

TABLED

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) accepted applications for funding in the fall of 2021 for their Community Building Fund – Capital Stream program. This funding program is intended to help organizations repair, renovate, or retrofit existing sport and recreation facilities to help strengthen communities.

SCRCA submitted an application to extend the life of facilities and improve accessibility of recreational trails at four Conservation Areas. OTF has approved \$246,500 in funding to

complete the four trail upgrades.

Strathroy Conservation Area Trail Upgrade:

This project will upgrade an existing narrow chip and dust trail loop that varies in width to a minimum 2m wide chip and dust trail surface, improving accessibility for users. The upgraded trail section will be 1050m long.

Wawanosh Conservation Area Trail Upgrade:

This project will upgrade 1225m of existing grass/bare soil trail to 2m wide chip and dust. The upgraded trail route is very level and will make an excellent location for improved accessibility.

Coldstream Conservation Area Boardwalk Replacement:

This project will rebuild approximately 200m of aging boardwalk to extend the life of the trail system and improve accessibility. The new boardwalk will be wider, have gradual slopes, and include edge protection. The existing boardwalk has aging lumber that contains significant rot, and requires regular repairs to remain operational. The total boardwalk is approximately 365m long; 165m was replaced in 2021.

Clark Wright Conservation Area Boardwalk Replacement:

This project will rebuild all 44 sections of aging boardwalk to extend the life of the trail system and improve accessibility. The new boardwalk will be wider, have gradual slopes, and include edge protection. The existing boardwalk has aging lumber that contains significant rot, and requires regular repairs to remain operational.

Request For Quote:

A request for quote (RFQ) document was created for each project and distributed to local contractors. In total, seven contractors were provided the RFQ for boardwalk projects and 12 contractors for the chip and dust trail projects.

Recommended Contractors:

1. Strathroy Conservation Area Chip and Dust Trail

- Falconer Transport Ltd.
- Quote of \$39.25/T (plus HST) for supply, delivery, installation, and compaction

2. Wawanosh Conservation Area Chip and Dust Trail

- KT Excavating Inc.
- Quote of \$66,250 plus HST

3. Coldstream Conservation Area Boardwalk Replacement

- Only one quote received by the deadline (\$89,250 + HST). Quote is \$10,250 over budget.
- Van Gorp Construction Inc. had visited the site, expressed interest in providing a quote, but was out of country and missed the deadline.

Submitted quote a couple days following the deadline for \$54,691.60 + HST.

- Recommend awarding to Van Gorp Construction Inc.

4. Clark Wright Conservation Area Boardwalk Replacement

- Campground staff to complete
- 2 week contract extension for 6 staff
- Total cost estimated at \$45,000 including material and labour

Financial Impact:

Anticipated project costs are within budget. Ontario Trillium Foundation funding will cover all anticipated costs.

BD-22-65

Loosley – Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 1, 2022 on the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant and further directs staff to proceed with hiring the recommended contractors for each project.”

CARRIED

BD-22-66

Kennes – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors approves Kate Jamieson, Payroll/Accounting Clerk as a signing officer for cheques up to \$5000, and Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services as signing officer on cheques up to \$50,000.00, as well as signing authority in the absence of the General Manager along with the Chair or Vice-Chair and further requests the removal of Sarah Hume and Tracy Prince as signing officers.”

CARRIED

Chair, Mike Stark called for a 5 minute recess at 12:06p.m.

The meeting resumed at 12:13 p.m.

A presentation was provided by Director of Water Resources, Girish Sankar and Water Resources Specialist, Emily De Cloet on the work of the Water Resources department.

Director’s Comments:

Directors thanked staff for the presentation and noted the importance of educating the board. The hard work of the Water Resources department was acknowledged and is appreciated.

BD-22-67

Loosley - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the staff presentation provided by Director of Water Resources, Girish Sankar on the Water Resources Department.”

CARRIED

Director Terry Burrell requested to pull item 9.1 (d) from the consent agenda.

Director Betty Ann MacKinnon requested to pull item 9.1 (k) from the consent agenda.

Item 9.1 (a) – Business Arising

The report on business arising was reviewed.

Item 9.1 (b) – Current Watershed Conditions

Report Highlights:

- Flood threat is low as water levels remain well below bankfull volumes throughout the watershed
- Precipitation amounts over the past three and six months remain below normal while twelve-month amounts are normal
- Water levels on Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie remain above long-term average levels by an average of 31cm, however levels are well below both the 2020 record highs and the May 2021 average
- Water level projections for Lakes Huron and St. Clair predict levels will remain above average but stay well below levels seen over the past few years

Watershed Conditions

Flood Threat

Water levels on the surrounding Great Lakes are well below their 2020 all-time record high, averaging a drop of 53cm between Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie. Water levels are forecast to continue above their respective long-term average however remain below record highs. Lower water levels on the lakes provide shorelines with greater capacity from the effects of wave action and surge.

As of this report, water levels on the Sydenham River remain well below bankfull volumes and no major flooding concerns are present within the watershed. Reduced precipitation over the last few months and lower water levels on the Great Lakes are resulting in approximately 46cm of freeboard in Wallaceburg.

Precipitation

- Precipitation amounts for the past three and six months are well below normal across the region, with the exception of Sarnia where precipitation amounts are near normal
- Precipitation amounts across the region are on par with normal averages for the past twelve months

Lake Levels

- Average water levels in May were below the 2021 levels, with Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie having dropped 28 cm, 14 cm and 4 cm respectively
- All lakes remain above the long-term average level; 26 cm, 33 cm and 34 cm respectively
- On average, the surrounding lakes are 53 cm below the 2020 record high levels for May
- On average, the surrounding lakes are 112 cm above the all-time low record for May
- Despite below-average regional precipitation amounts net basin* supplies for Lakes Superior, Huron-Michigan and St. Clair are a net-positive compared to average
 - * net basin supply is calculated using evaporation, precipitation and runoff amounts
- Net basin, precipitation and evaporation amounts for Lake Superior can be indicators of conditions for Michigan-Huron for the following year

Item 9.1 (C) – Shoreline Projects

Old Lakeshore Road near Penhuron Drive Shoreline Improvements

Contract was awarded to Van Bree drainage and Bulldozing

- Shoreline work started mid-January
- Construction stymied by armourstone supply
- 90% of construction work is complete
- Project is on budget
- Expected date of completion – July 2022
- Restoration work will involve removing asphalt from road, regrading and preparation of base layer and paving with asphalt.

Port Lambton Park Shoreline project

- Construction work started beginning of February 2022
- Shoreline work is completed as of May 2022.
- Minor deficiencies noted with establishing grass, contractor has been notified
- All minor deficiencies will be fixed

Upcoming Shoreline projects (2022- 2023)

Groyne only Project:

- 2 Groynes are proposed - one near Penhuron Drive and another near Kenwick Street
- Design work is complete
- Permit process ongoing
- Expected start date – Fall, 2022

Penhuron Drive to Kenwick Street:

- 220 meters of shoreline restoration
- Design work underway
- Expected start date – Fall, 2022

Item 9.1 (e) – Conservation Areas Update

Camping Update:

For the first time since 2019, SCRCA campgrounds are operating without occupancy restrictions due to COVID-19. Seasonal camping continues to operate at 100% capacity and each campground maintains a wait list for new seasonal campers. Transient camping reservations were delayed in 2022, with the online reservation system going live on March 21. Transient campsites continue to be in high demand and site availability is limited.

- Campground payments of approximately 1.28M have been received by the first of June
- Camper volunteers are able to offer a wider range of events due to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions
- Canada Day fireworks will be offered at all three campgrounds in 2022 due to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions (will be held on Saturday, July 2)
- Warwick Township is continuing the partnership with Warwick Conservation Area; they are contributing funds towards the fireworks display and local residents are invited to attend the Conservation Area for fireworks
- A security company has been contracted to provide campground security from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Thursday to Saturday (and Sunday of long weekends) throughout the camping season

Pools are all planned to open in late June, however we are anticipating reduced pool availability due to a shortage of available lifeguards. This has been a challenge for a number of years and is likely to continue in future years.

Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area:

The condition of the south trail loop at the Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area has deteriorated significantly over the past couple years. Usage increased during COVID-19

and the trail condition has continued to worsen. As a result, we have closed that trail loop for a period of time to allow it to be levelled, dry up, and be seeded.

- Media release sent out to inform the public, including social media update
- Signs and barricades installed at access points to restrict use
- Anticipating an approximate 8 week closure to allow grass to establish
- Will be installing 2 or 3 small boardwalk sections (10' or less)
- North trail loop remains open for use

Coldstream Conservation Area:

- 1.6km North woodlot trail restored with funding from Canada Nature Fund
- Three ATV river crossings blocked and signed
- All access points signed "No Motorized Vehicles"
- Some trail sections closed for natural restoration
- Interpretive signage developed highlighting Species at Risk in the Sydenham and the impacts of ATVs crossing rivers
- New trail mapping developed
- Spring tree planting complete (approximately 1600 seedlings were planted)
- Preparation has begin for planting 2 areas for pollinator habitat

Strathroy Park Lands:

- Staff were contacted by Strathroy-Caradoc with a request to install a Frisbee golf course at Centennial Park funded by the local Lions Club
- This property is leased by Strathroy-Caradoc
- Staff expressed concern over the proposed concrete "tee decks", all parties agree that stone dust and chip is the preferred alternative
- Municipal staff were going to take to Council for approval

Grant Proposals:

Canada Summer Jobs

- Canada Summer Jobs proposal was approved for 4 positions (8 weeks each)
- Total funding approved is \$19,360
- 2 campground worker positions
- 2 conservation forestry technician positions

Nature London Eco Grant

- \$6,000 approved for expansion and improvements to the Coldstream Conservation Area parking lot located at the north woodlot (Coldstream Road)
- Expansion of the parking lot is intended to encourage hiking traffic and through increased use, discourage ATV traffic

Item 9.1 (f) – Biology Department Update

To encourage uptake and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) and to

promote conservation within our watershed, SCRCA provides relevant information regarding the building of soil health, conservation, and water quality through workshops, conferences, newsletters, and social media.

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

- Species at Risk Art Contest summary
The Grand Prize winner was Michael Robert from Stoney Point with the entry “Mishiikenh Waasechigan (Turtle window)”
 - 64 Colouring Contest entries, 7 General Contest entries
 - Reached out to 21 diverse groups and organizations.
 - 2 entries from foreign countries (Germany and Bangladesh). Within Ontario 13 different towns.
 - Before the Winners Announcement, we reached 6,698 people through Social Media posts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter).
 - The winner’s announcement posts on Instagram and Facebook brought in a further:
 - Instagram: 56 likes, 7 comments - 320 interactions altogether (that’s a really good amount of likes and comments for us)
 - Facebook: 609 interactions, 28 post engagements (likes, clicks, shares)
 - Visit www.sydenhamriver.on.ca/2022-art to view the art contest entries
- On Thursday April 21, Erin Carroll gave a talk on *Bowen’s Creek Restoration* for the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Committee, St. Clair River Area of Concern. About 30 community members attended. This event was recorded and can be access here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxiSmpVv0FA>
- On Thursday April 21 & 22 a *Day in the Life of a Biologist* virtual electrofishing demonstration was held for elementary students. About 1700 student attended.
- On Wednesday April 27, SCRCA hosted Soil Health and Beneficial Insects: Beyond Bees and Butterflies presentation by Stephanie Frischie (Xerces Society), the diversity of soil invertebrates, their role in soil health, and gardening and farming practices that support soil life (via Zoom). Over 300 people registered for the event. The talk was recorded and can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/lpMXUqi-XL0>
- In collaboration with OMAFRA and OSICA SCRCA co-organized the *Bio Strip till Tailgate Tour Series* throughout the month of April. This series will visit farms that have been practicing bio strip till or similar strip tilling practices over the course of the year to see how the plants grow, the pros and cons of this best management practice and how we can learn from each other. The first series of visits to ten different farms and research stations were successful with over 60 farmers and agricultural extension professionals joining in on the tours. More information on the tours can be found here: <https://fieldcropnews.com/2022/04/2022-ontario-bio-strip-till-tailgate-tour/>
- On May 15, SCRCA staff attended and hosted a booth at Ontario Nature’s Sydenham River Nature Reserve Celebration. Over 110 people were in attendance

to learn more about the Sydenham, Species at Risk in the area and about the watershed.

- On May 18, SCRCA assisted Forests Ontario in hosting a planting event in the City of Sarnia for Imperial Oil's 125-year anniversary of being in Sarnia. The group planted 125 native tree species along a roadway that the City of Sarnia had wanted to naturalize. This area will now provide more green space to the city, a noise break to the neighbouring residents and habitat for local wildlife.
- Rogers TV London was on site with *Learn with Ranger Em* featuring SCRCA's own Emily Febrey (Stewardship Communications Technician), at the Strathroy Conservation Area to film a short 3-minute segment. The segment will be a brief overview of SCRCA programs and a highlight of the Sydenham River and some Species at Risk that call it home.
- It's been a very busy season for turtle nesting! Soft-shell turtles started to nest on Sunday, May 29. As of Wednesday June 1, 440 turtle eggs and turtle 30 nests that were in immediate danger were collected and put in an incubator to be released as hatchling turtles about two months from now. Nesting doesn't usually start to ramp up until early June, so all this activity came as a bit of a surprise.

The Endangered Eastern Spiny Softshell turtle is the focus of this project which aims to improve the likelihood of this species' persistence in the wild. All eight species of turtles are classified as at-risk in Canada as determined by the Committee on Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada or 'COSEWIC'. In addition to soft-shells, SCRCA staff and local volunteers have given a helping hand to Common Snapping, Painted, and Northern Map turtles as well. Financial support for this project is provided by Enbridge Gas and the Species at Risk Stewardship Program.

- On June 1, 2022 CTV news covered the Eastern Spiny Softshell turtle captive hatch and release efforts: <https://london.ctvnews.ca/conservation-authority-works-to-save-endangered-spiny-soft-shell-turtle-1.5928566>
- For the month of May, Craig Paterson, Conservation Biologist, in collaboration with SCRCA FishCast Intern /University of Toronto Master's candidate, Dominique Rumball studied the Rondeau Bay population of Endangered Spotted Gar. In Canada, Spotted Gar is found in only a few wetlands on the north shore of Lake Erie and in East Lake off of Eastern Lake Ontario. The project involves monitoring existing aquatic plants, GPS and PIT tagging adult fish, and larval fish surveys. The objective of this year is to capture data on the population prior to a planned coastal wetland construction project at the Keith McLean Conservation Lands. From 2023 to 2025, new wetlands will be monitored post-construction, with the hopes of showing direct benefit to Spotted Gar. This project is funded by Canada Nature Fund.

Staff continue to work on projects that aim to improve the health of the watershed by engaging the local community and experts in identifying and addressing environmental issues. These projects include:

- Sydenham Watershed Phosphorus Management Plan being undertaken with financial support from Environment and Climate Change Canada as well as the

Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks Great Lakes Program

- Sydenham River Aquatic Species at Risk Threat Inventory being undertaken with funding from the DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk.

Funding Applications Updates:

The Biology department is self-funded from several grants and contracts with Provincial, Federal, and municipal governments.

Grant	Project Description	Amount Funded	Status
Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk	Sydenham River Aquatic Species at Risk Threat Inventory	Requested \$42,500	Application submitted December 2021 for 2022/23 funding; approved May 2022
Environment and Climate Change Canada - EcoAction	On the ground phosphorus reduction projects and outreach programs	Requested \$100,000 over 2022-2024	Submitted January 2022
Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk	Captive Hatch and Release Program for Spiny Softshell turtle	Requested \$95,000 over three years from 2022/23 to 2024/25	Submitted Jan 22, 2022
Habitat Stewardship Program for Terrestrial Species at Risk	St. Clair Region Terrestrial Species at Risk Habitat Threats abatement tool; review and digitization of species records for mapping and prioritizing management actions on authority owned lands	\$53,250	Project completed March 31, 2022; Final Report submitted. 16, 872 species occurrence records entered into the database from 128 individual reports at 107 sites in the SCRCA watershed, ~4100 of the total records were terrestrial species at risk. Database is working well will be built up to include aquatic species as well as terrestrial for a more fulsome dataset.

Grant	Project Description	Amount Funded	Status
Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks - Great Lakes Program	Sydenham River Watershed Phosphorus Management Plan, monitoring, stewardship projects, and outreach from January 2022 - March 2023	\$115,000	Approved
Fisheries and Ocean Canada - Canada Nature Fund of Aquatic Species at Risk	The construction of Spotted Gar habitat at the Keith McLean property near Rondeau Bay 2022/33 – 2025/26	Requested \$172,000	We are working on a revised agreement.
Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks - Great Lakes Local Action Fund	Spotted Gar habitat at the Keith McLean property near Rondeau Bay for 2022/23	Requested \$47,000	Application submitted.
Fisheries and Ocean Canada – Canada Nature Fund of Aquatic Species at Risk	Ecosystem approach for recovery of Species at Risk in the Sydenham River in Canada 2019-2023	\$318,000	Final Report Submitted for Year 3.
Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks – COA	Healthy Lake Huron - Lambton Shores Watershed Implementation 2022/23	\$60,000	Approved.
Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs – COA	Agricultural Landowner Stewardship and Rural Drainage Community Engagement 2022-2024	\$190,000	Application Submitted April 25, 2022.
Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks – Ontario Community Environment Fund	Project will increase forest and wetland coverage in the St. Clair Region, while completing outreach to the public and completing water quality monitoring. 2022-23	\$56,643.65	Approved.

Grant	Project Description	Amount Funded	Status
TD Tree Days	A community event that will plant 100 trees and shrubs at Coldstream Conservation Area to fill in some open spaced and repair some riparian habitat. September 21, 2022.	\$2,885	Application sent May 31, 2022.

Strategic Objective(s):

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

Item 9.1 (g) – Regulations Activity Summary Report

The regulations activity summary report for the period from April 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022 was reviewed.

Item 9.1 (h) – Planning Activity Summary Report

The planning activity summary report for the period from April 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022 was reviewed.

Item 9.1 (i) – Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

The statement of revenue and expenditures to April 30, 2022 were reviewed.

Item 9.1 (j) – Disbursements

The disbursements for April and May, 2022 were reviewed.

Item 9.1 (l) – Investment Reports

The investment reports were reviewed.

Item 9. 1 (m) – Communications Update

Strategic Objectives(s):

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

Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race:

After four years of cancellations, the Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race was successfully held on May 1, 2022. Over 70 paddlers participated in the race that featured 11 different classes and three different race lengths. Traditionally, the race has been held in April, but was pushed back to May 1 in 2022 in hopes that water level challenges experienced in 2018 and 2019 would not impact the ability to host the event.

The race serves as a fundraiser for the Authority's Conservation Education program. In total, \$5,053 was raised through registration fees, donations, and tee-shirt sales. The top fundraiser award was presented to Emery Huszka and Jerry Fiddler for their fundraising efforts.

Race results are available on the SCRCA website at <https://www.scrca.on.ca/results-available-sydenham-river-canoe-and-kayak-race-may-1-2022/>.

Participant feedback has been very positive. Below are some of the comments we received after the race, along with two links to videos made by two of the paddlers who participated.

Participant Feedback:

"Hi Melissa,

I just wanted to say thanks for all the efforts you and your fellow SCRCA staff put into organising and running the canoe race. My son Craig and I had a great time. It was a new experience for both of us and we enjoyed seeing all the different canoes, people and canoe racing techniques. I know these sorts of events involve a lot of time and effort, so we felt compelled to let you know it was appreciated."

- Ian Johnston, Rec Tandem Men (12 km)

"Hi Donna

It was nice to meet you at the end of the race. The race was well organized and a lot of fun. (as usual). We see the results have been posted. Our time is correct at 1:21:42. We time our training and racing with a timer within the canoe. We will be back again next year!"

- Gail Bailey and John Liversage, Rec Tandem Mixed (12 km)

"Ok, we didn't win the race, but we didn't flip the canoe, we weren't last, & apparently we raised the most money for an awesome cause (environmental education programs for youth. Thanks to St. Clair Conservation Authority for an amazing race day!"

- Emery Huszka, Recreation Competitive (7 km), via Twitter

Race Videos:

- Channel – Pray for Nathan Nature Show
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgpfYFU8lxg>
- Channel – The Outdoor Seeker
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7g0E3XGfdeI>

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 April 1, 2022, to May 31, 2022.

Media Relations

Activity	2022 (April – May)	2021 (April – May)
Media Releases	9	5
News Article Mentions	351	45

Social Media

Facebook

Activity	Total	2022 (April – May)	2021 (April – May)
Post Reach*	--	18,174	24,545
Page Visits	--	785	649
New Likes/Followers	2,310	44	47
Posts	--	30	67

***Post Reach** – The number of people who saw any content from your Page or about your Page, including posts, stories, ads, social information from people who interact with your Page, etc.

Twitter

Activity	Total	2022 (April – May)	2021 (April – May)
Tweets	--	36	66

Retweets	--	42	23
New Followers	839	8	14
Engagements*	--	595	592

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

SCRCA Website

Activity	2022 (April – May)	2021 (April – May)
Website Views	31,487	39,320
Website Visitors	10,215	11,693

Item 9.1 (n) – Education Report

Spring Education Program Summary

St. Clair Conservation’s Education Team is happy to welcome students back to Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area. For schools unable to attend traditional field trips, “Nature in Your Neighbourhood” and ‘Live Stream with a Naturalist’ programs are still being offered. Approximately 2,700 students are expected to participate in these programs during the months of May and June, 2022. For a full list of our current programs check www.scrca.on.ca/govirtual.

Spring Water Awareness Program

The Spring Water Awareness Program was re-developed for the Spring of 2022, as an in-person school yard program. This adaptation featured games and activities designed to teach students about how to stay safe around cold, fast, and dangerous waters. Demand for this program was high, with over 1,100 students from 12 different schools participating during the month of April. This important safety program was sponsored by Plains Midstream Canada.

Webinar Programs

The LKDSB and SCCDSB continue to contract St. Clair Conservation Education to deliver a monthly webinar series (four webinars per month). These curriculum-connected live-stream sessions are available for all teachers and students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

April: “A Day in the Life of a Biologist” – ‘Live’ from Coldstream Conservation Area, Education Staff were joined by the SCRCA Biology Department to provide students with ‘A Day in the Life of a Biologist’ webinar. Approximately 1,470

students joined over four sessions to learn about the Sydenham River and the fish species that live there.

May: “Live Stream for the Birds”: Approximately 1,500 Students received a tour of the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation (BCRR) to learn about birds of prey, wild bird rehabilitation, and how to help the birds and their environment. Special thanks to Linn Eves (owner of BCRR) for hosting St. Clair at her centre, and for being a special guest in May’s webinar series.

June: “Live Stream from the Canoe”: Students will learn all about life on the pond with this summer-themed live stream.

Kettle and Stony Point First Nation – Canadian Nature Fund, Year 4

St. Clair Staff continue working closely with the staff at Hillside School to assist with development and delivery of the Land-Based Ed initiative this school year (Sept. 2021-June 2022). Education Staff continue to visit the school weekly to take ‘bushwalks’ with each grade in the school (Kindergarten-Grade 8). Outdoor Education ‘bushwalks’ involve a walking field trip to a local woodlot to participate in various Conservation Education programs.

Strategic Objectives(s):

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

Item 9.1 (o) – 2022 Conservation Scholarships

SCRCA Conservation Scholarship Program 2022:

Every year, four scholarships are available to graduating high school students who are pursuing post-secondary studies in an environmental field (e.g., biology, ecology, agriculture, etc.). Eligible students must live in or attend a secondary school within the SCRCA boundary.

The applications are scored based on marks; interest and activities as they relate to conservation and the environment; future studies as they relate to conservation and the environment; reference letter(s); and other comments offered by the applicant.

Applications for the 2022 SCRCA scholarships were due on May 31, 2022. In total, 4 applications were received. The applications were reviewed by a committee established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation consisting of Norm Giffen, Archie Kerr, Lorie Scott, Ken Phillips, and Donna Blue. The Foundation Board of Directors approved the recommended scholarship recipients at their meeting on June 2, 2022.

The following awards will be presented in the coming weeks:

A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship (\$1000):

- Tesni Greig-Clarke, Strathroy District Collegiate Institute, Strathroy
- Kiersten Denning, Strathroy District Collegiate Institute, Strathroy

Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship (\$500):

- Clark Dunn, Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Sarnia

Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship (\$500):

- Heather Scott, Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Sarnia

Item 9.1 (p) – St. Clair River AOC Report

RAP Coordination

BUI 1- Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption

In the Spring of 2021, a community survey was launched to gather insight on the habits of recreational and sports anglers that fish in the St. Clair River. This survey remains underway and is collecting information from the community to advance the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan. To date, 133 survey responses have been received. The survey remains available for completion online at friendsofstclair.ca/fish survey or by phone. Opportunities are being identified to collect additional survey responses, in person, through the summer months.

**BUI 9- Restrictions on drinking water consumption or taste and odour problems
BUI**

At the January 20, 2022 meeting of the Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC), the Draft Assessment Report for the restrictions on drinking water consumption or taste and odour problems BUI was approved to enter the process to have it redesignated as Not Impaired. Engagement activities are now underway, which includes seeking support from Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Walpole Island First Nation, and the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC).

Administration

The 2020-2022 Agreement between the SCRCA and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks to support RAP Coordination expired and a new 2-year agreement was signed to support the work from March 1, 2022 – February 28, 2024. In accordance with the agreement, the SCRCA will be providing periodic updates to MECP on the status of the project work and allocation of project funds.

The first set of deliverables identified in the contract between the SCRCA and Environment and Climate Change Canada have been completed. This work included the

development of a project work plan and call schedule, a draft status recommendation report for the *loss of fish and wildlife habitat* BUI, an interim report and presentation on the community fish consumption survey, and a report summarizing public and indigenous engagement.

Meetings

Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC)

- January 20, 2022
- Next Meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2022

Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)

- December 8, 2021 (AGM)
- February 15, 2022
- May 10, 2022
- Next Meeting: TBD

Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

- January 27, 2022
- March 24, 2022
- Next Meeting: June 23, 2022

Outreach and Engagement

Mike Moroney, RAP Coordinator, made a presentation to Aamjiwnaang Chief and Council on May 30, 2022 on the *Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems Beneficial Use Impairment* and the recommendation of the Canadian RAP Implementation Committee that the BUI be redesignated to Not Impaired. Feedback received primarily focused on ensuring that those that rely on the St. Clair River for drinking water, and are located downstream of the industrial area, are also engaged on the recommendation to redesignate this BUI.

During the information session, participants were taken on a ‘tour’ of several projects adjacent to the river that provide valuable habitat to local fish and wildlife, including the wetland creation at Bowens Creek, pike spawning habitat at Branton Cundick Park, and marsh restoration at Swan Lake. A biologist with Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Canadian Wildlife Service also shared results from extensive wetland health monitoring. The session recording is available at www.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.

Link to the most recent Newsletter:

- [May E-Newsletter](#)

St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan Coordinator

With the departure of Natasha Pozega on March 25, 2022, the RAP Coordinator position was advertised through the SCRCA website, Conservation Ontario, and social media, and interviews subsequently held. Mike Moroney was identified as the successful candidate and started in the position on May 9, 2022. Mike had a long career with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and more recently worked with the SCRCA overseeing the development of a Detailed Engineering and Design Plan for contaminated sediment in the St. Clair River. We are happy to welcome him back and are confident he will continue to help move the St. Clair River towards being delisted as a Great Lakes Area of Concern.

BD-22-68

Scott – Marriott

“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and receives the accompanying items 9.1 (a) through 9.1 (p), excluding items 9.1 (d) and 9.1 (k) as information.”

CARRIED

Item 9.1 (d) Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Projects 2022- 2023

WECI 2022-2023 Projects:

- SCRCA had submitted four projects for WECI 2022 – 2023 program
- A total of 98 projects have been submitted from 27 CA's
- All applications have been reviewed by a committee of Provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives
- All submitted projects are scored based on established WECI scoring guidelines.
- SCRCA was **successful** in receiving WECI funding for 3 projects
- SCRCA repair projects scored between 100 and 120 points respectively
- All projects over 75 points were awarded funding
- Total WECI funding received - \$520,000

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested (\$)
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Pine St to Penhuron Avenue)	Carry out construction of shoreline protection as per the design	\$600,000	\$300,000
Port Lambton Park	Port Lambton Park Shoreline Restoration	Construction of Shoreline restoration at Port Lambton Park	\$400,000	\$200,000

W. Darcy McKeough Floodway	Channel floor repair	Perform Channel repairs on the McKeough Floodway as identified in the Engineering reports.	\$40,000	\$20,000
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Table 1: List of Approved projects for 2022- 2023

Director’s Comments:

Director Terry Burrell congratulated the Water Resources Department on the successful applications for funding

Regarding Item 9.1 (k) – General Levy Update

The report on general levy received to date was reviewed.

Director’s Comments:

Director Betty Ann MacKinnon enquired whether penalty charges were issued for outstanding municipal levy fees. The General Manager, Ken Phillips explained that late fees were not applied, and that as per the Conservation Authorities Act, municipalities are only required to pay by the end of the calendar year.

BD-22-69

MacKinnon – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors receives items 9.1 (d) and 9.1 (k) as information.”

CARRIED

Under New Business

A recorded vote was taken to reconsider the previously adopted motion from the November 4, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting:

BD-21-120

Nemcek – Burrell

“That the following previously adopted motion be amended to now read 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 that staff be directed to postpone any action relating to the building until May 1, 2022 in order to allow the community to fundraise and for staff to investigate further options and further that any repairs or restorations to the A.W. Campbell House Museum be done so at no cost to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.”

In Reference To: BD-22-69

Director's Name	For	Against
Brennan, John		1
Brewer, Diane	1	
Broad, Alan	(not present at vote)	
Brown, Pat	1	
Burrell, Terry	1	
Dennis, Bill	1	
Faas, Joe	1	
Grimes, Greg	1	
Hall, Aaron	(not present at vote)	
Heffernan, Debbie	1	
Huszka, Emery*	1	
Kennes, Frank	1	
Loosley, Brad		1
MacKinnon, Betty Ann	1	
Marriott, Kevin	1	
Miller, Steve		1
Nemcek, Frank	1	
Scott, Lorie	1	
Stark, Mike		1
Westgate, Jerry	1	
Wilkins, Tim	(Not present)	
TOTALS	14	4

* Cannot vote on budgetary items

BD-22-70

Nemcek – Scott

“That the Board of Directors reconsider the previous motion to demolish the A.W. Campbell house, and allow the Friends of Campbell Park to move ahead to secure funds to restore the building for future use.”

CARRIED

BD-22-71

Nemcek - Scott

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, in partnership with the Friends of Campbell Park, Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston and the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex collaborate in order to determine funding for the repairs and restoration of the A.W. Campbell house.”

TABLED

Director Emery Huszka thanked the Board of Directors for his placement on board as an agricultural representative. Mr. Huszka also provided a notice of motion to the September, 2022 Board of Directors meeting which will request that the SCRCA investigate potential investment avenues/options for secured funds through the provincial government, which may potentially offer higher interest rates.

Director Brad Loosley made mention of the year 2000 Municipal Act, which gave municipalities greater flexibility in investing through avenues outside of GICs. It is suggested that this could be explored in relation to the notice of motion.

General Manager, Ken Phillips informed board members that it is now a requirement under the Conservation Authorities Act that Conservation Authorities post director names and contact details (phone and e-mail) on our public website. A communication will come from the Administrative Assistant/Board Coordinator, Ashley Fletcher with further details, requesting your preferred contacts. Questions or concerns should be directed to Ashley Fletcher and further clarification will be sought from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks if necessary.

The SCRCA Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on Thursday, September 15th, 2022.

BD-22-72

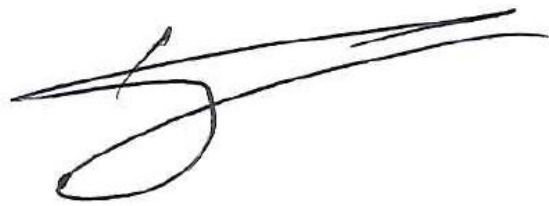
Loosley – Faas

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Mike Stark
Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager