



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: March 10, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Remote

Directors Present: Diane Brewer (remote), Al Broad (remote), Pat Brown, Terry Burrell, Bill Dennis, Joe Faas, Aaron Hall (remote), Emery Huszka (remote), Frank Kennes, Adam Kilner, Brad Loosley (remote), Betty Ann MacKinnon (remote), Steve Miller, Lorie Scott (remote), Mike Stark, Jerry Westgate, Tim Wilkins

Directors Regrets: John Brennan, Greg Grimes, Debbie Heffernan, Kevin Marriott, Frank Nemcek

Staff Present: Glenn Baxter, Superintendent of Warwick Conservation Area; Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Kate Jamieson, Payroll/Accounting Clerk; Melissa Levi, Conservation Education Coordinator; Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services; Craig Paterson, Manager of Biology; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Ken Phillips, General Manager; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Don Skinner, Superintendent of A.W. Campbell Conservation Area; Kelli Smith, Conservation Lands Specialist; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Lands

Guests Present:

Gary Atkinson, Mayor of Plympton-Wyoming; Sue Cates, 2023 Director (remote); Jason Cole, Lambton County; Chis and Vivian Crump, Conservation Award Recipients; Ashley Didone, MNP Chartered Professional Accountants; Dean Edwardson, Source Protection; Ian Forster, Plains Midstream; Holly Foster, St. Clair Township; Anne Marie Gillis, 2023 Director; Marilyn Gladu, MP Sarnia-Lambton; Bev Hand, Mayor of Point Edward; Jill Jackson, Kettle & Stony Point Hillside School; Rhonda Jubenville, 2023 Director (remote); Archie Kerr, St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation; Adam Kilner, 2023 Director; Dave Marsh, Lambton Shores; Don McCabe, 2023 Director; Don McCallum, 2023 Director (remote); Mary Lynne McCallum, 2023 Director; Chrissy McRoberts, City of Sarnia; Kenneth Melanson, Lambton County; Nicole Monague, Kettle & Stony Point Hillside School; Kristen Rodrigues, 2023 Director; Bonnie Stevenson, Media; Bob Woolvett, Plympton-Wyoming

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mike Stark, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority, welcomed everyone to the annual meeting and went on to present some of the challenges faced by the Conservation Authority this past year, as well highlighted its many accomplishments.

2022 Highlights:

- Conservation Areas and campgrounds continued to be a popular destination

among local residents and visitors and our campgrounds were able to run at full capacity for the first time since 2020.

- Thanks to generous donations and funding programs, several upgrades to our most popular trail systems and amenities were completed. These upgrades extend the life of our trails, parking lots, and campsites, and create more accessible environments for everyone to enjoy and connect with the outdoors.
- The Biology department continued their important work to protect and monitor the diversity of species that call our watershed home. This past summer, over 4,000 individual fish and 3,600 individual mussels were collected and identified, before being released back into the wild. They also released a record breaking 2,800 turtle hatchlings into the Sydenham River as part of the Authority's Captive Hatch and Release Program; a program developed to give turtles a helping hand towards boosting their populations.
- Staff continued to provide both technical and financial support to local landowners and municipalities interested in implementing stewardship projects on their properties. Staff planted nearly 55,000 trees and supported 36 stewardship projects throughout the watershed.
- The Planning and Regulations department remained busy and issued close to 300 permits, and provided comments on 250 Planning Act applications to support local development in our region.
- Thanks to offering both in-person and virtual program options, our Conservation Education department was able to reach over 20,000 students this past year.
- The SCRCA approved a new Strategic Plan that outlines the Authority's strategic direction and objectives over the next five years.

Special guests were introduced and the following collaborators and partners in attendance were recognized:

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation Environment Department
- Kettle and Stony Point Hillside School
- Lambton County
- Plains Midstream
- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation

The Honourable Marilyn Gladu, MP of Sarnia-Lambton; as well as her Worship Bev Hand, Mayor of the Village of Point Edward brought greetings and expressed appreciation of the collaborative efforts of the SCRCA on various initiatives and projects.

It was then 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-23-01

Burrell – Faas

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

CARRIED

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held on December 8, 2022 were reviewed.

BD-23-02

Burrell – Westgate

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held December 8, 2022, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, held on February 9, 2023 were reviewed.

BD-23-03

Loosley – Kennes

“That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held February 9, 2023, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

BD-23-04

Burrell – Wilkins

“That the Board of Directors receive for information, a verbal report on the activities of the Conservation Ontario Council.”

CARRIED

Recommendations from the Executive Committee and report from the Authority’s Auditors were considered. A copy of the Draft Audit Findings and Draft Audited statements will be forwarded to all directors following the meeting.

BD-23-05

Kennes – Wilkins

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and report from the Authority’s auditors, MNP Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, and further approves the 2022 Audited Financial Statements.”

CARRIED

Vice Chair Pat Brown presented the following Conservation Awards:

Bob Walsh

To help support the population of Endangered Spiny Softshell Turtles in the Sydenham River, biologists at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority work with the Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, and private landowners to rescue nests that are under imminent threat.

Bob Walsh is one of those dedicated landowners. Since 2019, Bob has donated an insurmountable number of hours helping SCRCA biologists in turtle conservation and preservation.

From dawn until dusk, throughout the month of June, Bob helps locate at-risk nests and alerts biologists when the nests are threatened by predation or destruction.

Bob's altruistic nature and passion towards safeguarding biodiversity and endangered species are what makes him an ideal recipient of a 2023 Conservation Award.

Mary Tizzard

For the past two summer seasons, the SCRCA has been fortunate to have Mary Tizzard volunteer with our Conservation Areas department and assist with maintenance and project work at conservation areas throughout the St. Clair Region.

Mary has contributed almost 1,000 volunteer hours and during that time has helped staff with the maintenance of the Authority's trail system, general site clean-up, and tree, shrub, and pollinator habitat planting.

She also helped construct new boardwalks at both Coldstream and Clark Wright Conservation Areas.

Our Authority and properties have benefitted tremendously from Mary's hard work and commitment and from what I have been told, she will be back this year to volunteer for another season!

Chris and Vivian Crump

Chris and Vivian Crump own and operate the Crump Family Farm on Egremont Drive in Ilderton.

They are passionate about the environment and over the course of just a couple of years have completely reworked their family farm.

In 2019, they installed a grassed waterway, a rock chute, and a series of wetlands to improve habitat and prevent soil and nutrients from entering local waterways.

And since then, they have planted over 3,000 trees on their property, and have adopted rotational grazing and cover crop practices.

While Vivian runs the farm and their local retail market, Chris, who is also an Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs certified soil erosion contractor, works with several local Conservation Authorities, Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), and Ducks

Unlimited Canada to help create habitat across Southwestern Ontario by constructing wetlands and soil erosion control structures.

Champion landowners like Chris and Vivian Crump contribute to the sustainability and environmental health in the St. Clair Region watershed and we are thankful for their commitment to conservation.

Chris and Vivian, would you please come forward to accept your award.

Conservation Award Recipients Chris and Vivian Crump wished to thank Director Debbie Heffernan for the nomination. Mr. Crump provided a summary of the Crump family farm and their efforts to use non-invasive, sustainable farming practices. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was thanked for their collaborative partnership and support in conservation.

BD-23-06

Miller – Scott

“That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2023 Conservation Award Winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.”

CARRIED

The following 2022 Service Awards were presented:

Five Years of Service

- Diane Brewer, Director representing Southwest Middlesex/Newbury
- Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist
- Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/Board Coordinator

Ten Years of Service

- Kelli Smith, Conservation Lands Specialist

Twenty Years of Service

- Glenn Baxter, Superintendent of Warwick Conservation Area;
- Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry;
- Don Skinner, Superintendent of A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

Twenty-Five Years of Service

- Terry Barrie, Superintendent of Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

BD-23-07

MacKinnon – Loosley

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

CARRIED

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority wishes to welcome the following Directors: Sue Cates, Middlesex Centre; Anne Marie Gillis, City of Sarnia; Rhonda Jubenville, Chatham-Kent (Dresden); Adam Kilner, City of Sarnia; Don McCabe, Brooke-Alvinston; Don McCallum, Southwest Middlesex/Newbury; Mary Lynne McCallum, Enniskillen/Oil Springs; and Kristen Rodrigues, Plympton-Wyoming.

Thanks and well wishes were extended to former board members Diane Brewer, Bill Dennis, Joe Faas, Debbie Heffernan, Kevin Marriott, Frank Nemcek, Mike Stark and Tim Wilkins. Appreciation was expressed for their years of service on the Board.

Directors Comments:

Directors Joe Faas and Tim Wilkins wished to thank staff for their dedication and commitment, and General Manager, Ken Phillips for his leadership. Both Directors expressed having enjoyed their time on the Board of Directors, which entailed a great deal of learning along the way.

BD-23-08

Loosley – Scott

“That the Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge and thank all outgoing Directors of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for their commitment and efforts and welcome those who are joining in 2023.”

CARRIED

The Chair announced the conclusion of 2022 business and called for a break

BD-23-09

Faas – Burrell

That the Board of Directors concludes the 2022 portion of the annual general meeting.”

CARRIED

The meeting resumed to conduct 2023 business at 10:53 a.m.

Directors Present: Al Broad (remote), Pat Brown, Terry Burrell, Sue Cates (remote); Aaron Hall (remote), Emery Huszka (remote), Frank Kennes, Rhonda Jubenville (remote); Adam Kilner, Brad Loosley (remote), Anne Marie Gillis, Adam Kilner, Betty Ann

MacKinnon (remote), Don McCabe, Don McCallum (remote); Mary Lynne McCallum, Steve Miller, Kristen Rodrigues, Lorie Scott (remote), Jerry Westgate

Directors Regrets: John Brennan, Greg Grimes

Staff Present: Glenn Baxter, Superintendent of Warwick Conservation Area; Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Kate Jamieson, Payroll/Accounting Clerk; Melissa Levi, Conservation Education Coordinator; Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services; Craig Paterson, Manager of Biology; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Ken Phillips, General Manager; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Don Skinner, Superintendent of A.W. Campbell Conservation Area; Kelli Smith, Conservation Lands Specialist; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Lands.

Guests Present:

Gary Atkinson, Mayor of Plympton-Wyoming; Diane Brewer, Former Director; Jason Cole, Lambton County; Chris and Vivian Crump, Conservation Award Recipients; Bill Dennis, Former Director; Ashley Didone, MNP Chartered Professional Accountants; Dean Edwardson, Source Protection; Joe Faas, Former Director; Ian Forster, Plains Midstream; Holly Foster, St. Clair Township; Marilyn Gladu, MP Sarnia-Lambton; Bev Hand, Mayor of Point Edward; Jill Jackson, Kettle & Stony Point Hillside School; Archie Kerr, St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation; Dave Marsh, Lambton Shores; Chrissy McRoberts, City of Sarnia; Kenneth Melanson, Lambton County; Nicole Monague, Kettle & Stony Point Hillside School; Mike Stark, Former Director; Bonnie Stevenson, Media; Tim Wilkins, Former Director; Bob Woolvett, Plympton-Wyoming

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's Code of Conduct and Administrative By-Laws were acknowledged and signed by directors in attendance.

BD-23-10

Burrell – Miller

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

CARRIED

BD-23-11

Loosley – Kennes

“That Ken Phillips be appointed chair for the election of the 2023 Chair and Vice Chair.”

CARRIED

BD-23-12

Kennes – Huszka

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

CARRIED

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant and nominations were called for the office of Chairperson for 2023.

Steve Miller nominated Pat Brown for the position of Chair.

Lorie Scott nominated Brad Loosley for the position of Chair.

BD-23-13

Burrell – Miller

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

CARRIED

Pat Brown confirmed his willingness to stand for the position of Chair.

Brad Loosley respectfully declined the opportunity to stand for the position of Chair at this time.

Pat Brown was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2023, by acclamation, and addressed the Board of Directors.

Anne Marie Gillis nominated Terry Burrell for the position of Vice Chair.

Betty Ann MacKinnon nominated Lorie Scott for the position of Vice Chair.

BD-23-14

Kennes – Kilner

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

CARRIED

Both Terry Burrell and Lorie Scott confirmed their willingness to stand for the position of Vice Chair and an opportunity to address the Board was provided. Both gave a brief overview of their background and experience as it relates to matters of the Conservation Authority.

A ballot vote was conducted by scrutineers of the election.

Lorie Scott was declared Vice Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2023.

BD-23-15

M. McCallum – Kennes

“That the ballots be destroyed and/or deleted.”

CARRIED

Nominations were requested from the floor to complete membership of the Executive and Planning Procedural Manual and Technical Guidelines Committees.

BD-23-16

Scott – Burrell

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2022 Nominating Committee's Report, fulfilling the SCRCA committee needs in 2023.”

CARRIED

BD-23-17

Kennes – Gillis

“That the 2023 Executive Committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be: Pat Brown, Chair; Lorie Scott, Vice Chair; Terry Burrell, Al Broad, Aaron Hall, Frank Kennes, Brad Loosley, Betty Ann MacKinnon and Steve Miller”

CARRIED

BD-23-18

Burrell – Westgate

“That the Authority Chair or the Vice-Chair and the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or Director of Finance be authorized to borrow from the Libro Credit Union, Strathroy for the general operations and capital program of the Authority, a sum not to exceed \$2,042,600 to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed to the member municipalities and general revenue.”

CARRIED

BD-23-19

Hall – M. McCallum

“That MNP Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2023.”

CARRIED

BD-23-20

Burrell – Miller

“That the Authority's 2023 representative to Conservation Ontario will be the Authority Chair, the Vice-Chair will be the first alternate and the General Manager be the second alternate.”

CARRIED

A presentation was provided by General Manager, Ken Phillips.

Conservation Authorities in Ontario

- Established under the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act) passed in 1946. Created geographically based organizations to combat the environmental degradation in the province
- Hurricane Hazel – 1954
 - Resulted in 81 fatalities, left 4000 homeless and caused \$138 million in damages (\$1.5 billion in 2023)
- Conservation Ontario (CO) is the umbrella organization for the 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs)
- CO has a Board of Directors, Chair, 2 Vice Chairs, Executive Committee and is funded by grants and levies charged to each CA
- CO has evolved into the conduit between the Province and CAs
- CO has working groups and committees that provide technical support for all CAs

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

- Established in 1961 as the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority
- Became St. Clair with expansion in 1974
- Last expansion occurred in 2005 with Lambton Shores joining
- 4,130 sq./km
- 17 Member Municipalities
- 21 Members of SCRCA Board of Directors (20 Municipal, 1 Provincial)
- 2022 Budget \$9,596,597 (37% Municipal levy, 63% self-generated)

Missions and Goals

- Our Mission: The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has as its mission, to provide leadership through coordination of watershed planning implementation of resource management programs, and promotion of conservation awareness, in cooperation with others.
- Our Goals:
 1. Strengthen and raise the profile of the SCRCA through business excellence
 2. Develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion
 3. Protect, manage and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways and lakes
 4. Provide recreation and education opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn from our natural environment

2023 Budget

- Total Budget 2022 \$9,596,597
- Total Budget (proposed) 2023 \$9,046,878
- Municipal Revenues
 - Total General Levy 2022 \$1,378,513
 - Proposed General Levy 2023 \$1,549,010
 - Special Benefitting Levy 2022 \$198,550
 - Proposed Special Benefitting Levy 2023 \$187,190
 - WECI/DMAF Special Levy 2022 \$1,983,300
 - WECI/DMAF Special Levy 2023 \$1,550,000
- Self-Generated Revenues
 - Fees/grants/donations/contracts 2022 \$6,036,224
 - Fees/grants/donations/contracts 2023 \$5,760,678
- 64% self-generated in 2023 vs. 63% in 2022

Roles and Duties as a Board Member

- Attending all meetings of the Authority
- Understanding the purpose, function and responsibility of the Authority
- Being familiar with the Authority's statutory and other legal obligations
- With the administration, setting strategic direction for the Authority
- Provide governance for the SCRCA by providing input and approval of policies and procedures
- Participate on committees as designated by SCRCA by-laws
- Represent the interests of the SCRCA to your local municipality
- Provide oversight of the SCRCA budgeting and audited year end financials
- Act as a member of the Hearing Board for matters under Section 28
- Receive delegations on matters brought before the Board

Departments

- 8 Departments
 - Planning and Regulations
 - Water Resources
 - Biology
 - Conservation Services
 - Communications
 - Financial Services
 - GIS/IT
 - Conservation Areas

Planning and Regulations

- **Why?**
Reduce the risk to public safety and minimize property damage caused by natural hazards and flooding and promote the natural environment

- **How?**
Regulate development in flood-prone areas utilizing Ontario Regulation 171/06 – *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*
Comment on municipal planning matters (applications under the Planning Act) regarding natural hazards

Water Resources

- **Major Responsibilities**
 - **Flood Warning**
 - 11 stream gauges
 - 5 snow sampling sites
 - Ice monitoring
 - Meteorological information
 - Issue bulletins based on watershed conditions
 - **McKeough Floodway**
 - Constructed in 1984
 - Held reduce the risk of flooding in Wallaceburg
 - Dam located on the North Branch of the Sydenham River
 - Operated 10 times since its construction

Conservation Services

- **Reforestation Services**
 - 4 million trees planted since 1980
 - Spring planting – very small window
 - Approximately 65,000 trees annually on average
 - Mostly private land tree planting and smaller sites
 - County lands and industry – larger scale projects
- **Forestry**
 - Forest management plans
 - Timber marking service
 - Lambton County Woodlot By-Law Officer
- **Stewardship**
 - **Projects**
 - Wetland creation
 - Cover crops
 - Buffer strips
 - Stream bank protection
 - Windbreaks
 - Fencing

Biology

- **Water Quality Monitoring**
 - 38 sites (Benthic, PGMN, PSWQMN)

- **Fish Monitoring**
 - Watershed home to 82 of 160 freshwater species found in Ontario
- **Species at Risk (SAR) Monitoring**
 - Greatest diversity of freshwater mussel in Canada – 34 of 41 species found in Ontario are in the Sydenham River
 - Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle population preservation

Conservation Areas

- 2,100 hectares of property owned by SCRCA
- Types
 - Day use
 - Management Areas
 - Campgrounds

A brief overview of Source Water Protection was also provided.

BD-23-21

Scott – Rodrigues

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the presentation provided by General Manager, Ken Phillips giving an overview of SCRCA programs and services, as well as a general Director orientation.”

CARRIED

Operations

- General Manager attended the General Managers/CAO meeting with Conservation Ontario via Zoom to discuss forthcoming changes to regulations and policies concerning services offered by Conservation Authorities (CAs).
- General Manager and the Director of Planning and Regulations attended Zoom sessions on January 3rd and 30th hosted by Conservation Ontario (CO) focusing on Regulation 686/21 (finalized December 28, 2022, enacted January 1, 2023) and resulting changes to CA services.
- General Manager attended Zoom meeting with 4 other Southwestern CAs on January 9, 2023 to discuss strategies to ensure a smooth transition away from natural heritage commenting duties. Each CA would reach out to designated municipalities in order to avoid confusion and overlap of information.

Community/Partnership Outreach

- The General Manager attended the January 17, 2022 meeting of the Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce Green Committee. The SCRCA, in conjunction with the Chamber, will participate in a breakfast speakers’ series about the roles and environmental programs of the SCRCA. The first session is slated for early March.

- The General Manager and Conservation Services staff attended the Grain Growers of Ontario District AGM on January 19, 2023. Staff set up a display and answered questions from attendees.
- The General Manager attended and spoke on behalf of the SCRCA at the Dresden Rotary Club's celebration of outgoing Board Member Joe Faas on January 20, 2023. Joe was awarded the Paul Harris Award that evening.
- The General Manager attended a Land Acknowledgment Webinar on January 25, 2023 and will be bring forward a land acknowledgement statement for approval at the April 20, 2023 Board of Directors meeting.

Federal/Provincial/Municipal Meetings

- The General Manager attended a Town Hall meeting with Sarnia MPP Bob Bailey on January 12, 2023 via Zoom. Items concerning the Green Belt and changes to the Provincial Policy Statement were addressed.
- The General Manager did overview presentations and answered questions from council members for the City of Sarnia on January 16, 2023 and Middlesex Centre on February 1, 2023. He is slated as a delegation in Chatham-Kent (February 6), Brooke-Alvinston (February 9), Petrolia (February 13), St. Clair Township (February 21), Plympton-Wyoming (February 22), Southwest Middlesex (March 8) and Aldelaide-Metcalf (TBD).
- The General Manager attended a Zoom meeting on January 19 co-ordinated by Middlesex Centre to discuss the implications of Regulation 686/21. The 5 CAs covering the municipality as well as Middlesex County staff, were in attendance.
- The General Manager met with County of Lambton staff on January 24 to discuss Regulation 686/21 and implications for service delivery and a transition plan.
- An overview of the 2023 Budget will be held for municipal staff and interested councillors and Board members February 10, 2023 via Zoom.

BD-23-22

Miller – Huszka

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 2, 2023.”

CARRIED

On December 28, 2022, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNRF) sent notification to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) that a number of changes had been enacted that were to come into effect January 1, 2023. The changes include:

- Updates to Section 21 of the Act so that a disposition of land in respect of which the Minister has made a grant under section 39 requires authorities to provide a notice of the proposed disposition to the Minister instead of requiring the Minister’s approval. Authorities will also be required to conduct public consultations before disposing of lands that meet certain criteria.

- Sections 21.1.1 and 21.1.2 of the Act which provide that authorities may not provide a program or service related to reviewing and commenting on proposals, applications, or other matters under prescribed Acts.
- A new section 21.3 that enables the Minister to issue temporary direction to a conservation authority preventing the authority from changing the amount of a fee it charges under subsection 21.2 (10) of the Act.

Fees are to be frozen from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

New Regulatory Requirements

Following the passing of these legislative amendments, the government has proceeded with making two regulations, both of which will come into effect on January 1, 2023.

Amendments were made to **Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services** to require conservation authorities to identify conservation authority lands suitable for housing. This requirement is part of the preparation of the land inventory required to be completed by conservation authorities by December 31, 2024, and certain considerations for identifying whether or not lands are suitable for housing are listed.

Ontario Regulation 596/22: Prescribed Acts – Subsections 21.1.1 (1.1) and 21.1.2 (1.1) of the Act was also made to focus conservation authorities' role when reviewing and commenting on proposals, applications, or other matters related to development and land use planning. Under this regulation, conservation authorities are no longer able to provide a municipal (Category 2) or other (Category 3) program or service related to reviewing and commenting on a proposal, application, or other matter made under the following Acts:

- *The Aggregate Resources Act*
- *The Condominium Act, 1998*
- *The Drainage Act*
- *The Endangered Species Act, 2007*
- *The Environmental Assessment Act*
- *The Environmental Protection Act*
- *The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*
- *The Ontario Heritage Act*
- *The Ontario Water Resources Act*
- *The Planning Act*

These changes reflect the inability of the SCRCA to comment on natural heritage matters (woodlots, wetlands, species at risk) as it pertains to development activities. Natural heritage matters are now the responsibility of municipalities as per the Provincial Policy Statement. This regulation does not affect the SCRCA's provision of mandatory programs

or services (Category 1 Natural Hazards) related to reviewing and commenting on a proposal, application, or other matter made under those Acts.

Financial Impact:

The changes to the SCRCA's ability to raise fees for 2024 will have an impact on the ability of the organization to achieve a 50/50 cost recovery model by 2026.

BD-23-23

Kennes – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors accepts for information the report dated February 7, 2023 providing an update on Bill 23 - More Homes Built Faster Act.”

CARRIED

Amendments were made to the *Employment Standards Act, 2000* (ESA) on April 11, 2022, requiring employers with 25 or more employees to provide a written policy on the electronic monitoring of employees in place. As the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) values trust, discretion, and transparency, this policy is intended to provide transparency about the means and circumstances, which may be used to electronically monitor staff. Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Policy is required by March 1, 2023.

Strategic Objectives(s):

Goal 4: Build a Stronger and More Valued Workplace Through Business Excellence.

Financial Impact:

None.

BD-23-24

Scott – Burrell

“The Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated February 2, 2023 on the Electronic Monitoring Policy and approve the policy, as presented, in order to bring the SCRCA into compliance with requirements of the Employment Standards Act and further direct staff to update all applicable manuals and procedures accordingly.”

CARRIED

SCRCA operates three campgrounds including A.W. Campbell CA, L.C. Henderson CA, and Warwick CA. All campgrounds provide both seasonal and overnight camping opportunities. Of the approximately 540 campsites, more than 425 are seasonal.

Over the years, structures have been constructed on seasonal campsites including decks, sheds, porch roofs, gazebos, etc. Some of these structures align with current rules and others do not. It is not clear which structures were constructed with staff approval and

which were not. Campers who built structures without approval have not typically been forced to remove those structures.

Through a risk assessment review, staff have determined that a significant number of structures existing on Authority property would have required building permits to construct. The Lambton County Building Department was contacted, and they could not recall any permits issued for SCRCA campsites.

There are two main categories of structures that require permit and are not compliant with current building codes:

- Decks over 24" high
- Constructed porch or gazebo roofs

Staff have investigated the option to acquire "after-the-fact" permits, however permits cannot be issued for these structures as constructed.

Decks over 24" high and constructed roofs require some form of footing in the ground (concrete pier, concrete footing with buried posts, helical pier, etc.). All structures have been constructed on either deck blocks or patio stones, as the Authority does not permit excavations within the conservation areas. Due to the short-term nature of seasonal camping permits, it is not desirable to permit excavations. SCRCA campgrounds do not have the resources to remove buried concrete when seasonal campsites become vacant. In addition, buried services (water and hydro) are not well mapped, and would present risk if excavations were permitted.

Permitting structures to remain in use long-term that are not building code compliant exposes the Authority to liability risk. Requiring immediate removal or modification of non-compliant structures would not provide campers adequate time to modify decks or remove structures.

Summary of Recommendations:

- Staff will inspect each seasonal campsite prior to the 2023 season
- Letters will be provided to each campsite occupant deemed out of compliance, early in the camping season
- All campsites will be required to be compliant by the end of the 2025 camping season or when the site changes occupants (whichever is first)
- All campers wishing to use the 3 year grace period will be required to sign a waiver
- Decks may be modified to be compliant (lower than 24" height)
- Constructed roofs will need to be removed
- Manufactured steel gazebos attached to the deck or patio will be permitted moving forward, no constructed roofs
- A new "SCRCA Seasonal Camping Construction and Alteration Request Form" will be used moving forward. All site alterations must be approved by both the Superintendent and Senior Manager prior to construction.

Financial Impact:

Seasonal camping accounts for approximately 70% (~\$1,000,000) of revenues at A.W. Campbell, L.C. Henderson, and Warwick Conservation Areas. This decision will not be popular among affected seasonal campers (more than 150 sites). Campers have spent money to build these structures and will be frustrated that they must modify or remove them. Some seasonal campers may choose not to continue camping with SCRCA.

A recorded vote was held in reference to motion BD-23-25

Director's Name	For	Against
Brennan, John		
Broad, Alan		✓
Brown, Pat	✓	
Burrell, Terry	✓	
Cates, Sue		✓
Gillis, Anne Marie	✓	
Grimes, Greg		
Hall, Aaron	✓	
Huszka, Emery		✓
Jubenville, Rhonda		
Kennes, Frank	✓	
Kilner, Adam	✓	
Loosley, Brad	✓	
MacKinnon, Betty Ann	✓	
McCabe, Don		✓
McCallum, Don		
McCallum, Mary Lynne	✓	
Miller, Steve	✓	
Rodrigues, Kristen		✓
Scott, Lorie		✓
Westgate, Jerry	✓	
TOTALS	11	6

BD-23-25

Miller – MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated February 1, 2023 on the Building Code Compliance for Seasonal Campsites and directs staff to inform all seasonal campsite occupants deemed out of compliance with a request that they comply by the end of the 2025 camping season or upon vacancy of the site, whichever is to occur first.”

CARRIED

The Charles J. McEwen Conservation Area is located at 4318 Lakeshore Road, in the Town of Plympton-Wyoming. The 5.5 ha property boasts a 200m beach which lies at the base of a 50ft tall shoreline bluff along Lake Huron. The recreational area of this property includes mowed grass, mature shade trees, picnic tables, a washroom facility, and an earthen ramp access to the beach. The remainder of the site is a mixed forest plantation.

In May of 2019, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming reached out to the SCRCA with a motion from council, requesting the Conservation Authority transfer ownership of C.J. McEwen Conservation Area back to the town and eliminate the special levy in the 2020 budget. Board approval was received in a motion on September 19, 2019

BD-19-122

Schenk – Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 10, 2019 regarding C.J. McEwen Conservation Area and a request from Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council dated May 3, 2019 that the Conservation Area be transferred back to the Town’s ownership and further that the land be maintained as public recreational park land with beach access.”

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 the Town of Forest. The Conservation Area contains an access roadway, parking lot, pavilion, and boat ramp with seawall and groyne protection.

In October of 2021, the Highland Glen Boat Ramp Committee was formed to evaluate the Authority’s options including review of the funding model, review of AECOM’s report, and to develop recommendations for the full Board’s review.

The Highland Glen Boat Ramp Committee recommended that ownership Highland Glen Conservation Area should be transitioned to Plympton-Wyoming and the following resolution was passed by the Board of Directors on December 9, 2021.

BD-21-142

Stark – Loosley

“That the Board of Directors accepts the recommendation of the Highland Glen Committee and directs staff to begin discussions with the Town of Plympton-Wyoming regarding the transition of ownership of the Highland Glen Conservation Area to the Municipality.”

Update:

Authority staff have been working with staff at Plympton-Wyoming to complete the submission packages required to request Minister’s approval for disposition of both

Conservation Areas. Under the Conservation Authorities Act, Minister's approval was required under certain circumstances for disposition of land.

Following recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, Minister's approval is no longer required. The process for disposition of Authority owned lands has changed and the following is required:

- Conduct a public consultation and post notice of the consultation on the Authority website (CA Act s.21(4))
- Public consultation shall last at least 45 days (CA Act s.21(5))
- Provide written notice of the proposed disposition to the Minister at least 90 days before the disposition (CA Act s.21(2))
- In the written notice, describe how the comments received during the public consultation, if any, were considered by the authority prior to disposition (CA Act s.21(3))

Directors Comments:

Director Brad Loosley expressed his desire to see the process of the land transfers to Plympton-Wyoming be expedited, and further, that staff consider other properties for disposition.

Director Emery Huszka informed the Board of Directors that he would refrain from voting in favour or against motion BD-23-26, due to the limitations of his appointment as an agricultural representative.

BD-23-26

Gillis – Rodrigues

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge this report dated February 1, 2023 and direct staff to continue discussions with Plympton-Wyoming for the purpose of the disposition of C.J. McEwen Conservation Area and Highland Glen Conservation Area, and further direct staff to follow the new land disposition process including public consultation.”

CARRIED

For the purpose of enforcing the regulations made by the SCRCA, pursuant to Section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act, it is necessary for the Authority to appoint personnel as Enforcement Officers. This appointment pertains to Ontario Regulation R.R.O 1990 Regulation 131 Conservation Areas, made under Section 29 of the Act. It is also necessary to have the staff Enforcement Officers designated as Provincial Offences Officers in order that they may commence proceedings under the Provincial Offences Act.

Greg Wilcox and Lucas Derks successfully completed the CA Level 1 – Provincial Offences Officer Course, provided by Conservation Ontario, on February 3, 2023.

BD-23-27**Broad – Miller**

“That Greg Wilcox and Lucas Derks be appointed as Provincial Offences Officers for the purpose of enforcing regulations made by the SCRCA, pursuant to Section 29 R.R.O. 1990 Regulation 131 of the Conservation Authorities Act and the Trespass to Properties Act, in order to carry out the responsibility of administration and enforcement of this Act.”

CARRIED

The 2023 draft budget was reviewed.

Directors Comments:

Director Emery Huszka informed the Board of Directors that he would refrain from voting in favour or against motion BD-23-28, due to the limitations of his appointment as an agricultural representative.

A recorded weighted vote was administered in relation to BD-23-28.

Municipal Funding Summary

	2023 Budget	2023 Budget		y/n
	Total CVA	CVA	Representative	Vote
Municipality	Apport.%	Apport.%		
Adelaide Metcalfe Tp	1.9375%	1.9375%	Betty Ann MacKinnon	y
Brooke-Alvinston Tp	1.7716%	1.7716%	Don McCabe	n
Chatham-Kent M		6.5107%	Aaron Hall	y
Chatham-Kent M	13.0214%	6.5107%	Rhonda Jubenville	y
Dawn-Euphemia Tp	2.5363%	2.5363%	Alan Broad	y
Enniskillen Tp	1.9340%	1.9340%	Mary Lynne McCallum	y
Lambton Shores M	5.0225%	5.0225%	Lorie Scott	y
Middlesex Centre M	2.3038%	2.3038%	Sue Cates	y
Newbury V	0.1580%	0.1580%	Don McCallum	n
Oil Springs V	0.2000%	0.2000%	Mary Lynne McCallum	y
Petrolia T	2.6196%	2.6196%	Brad Loosley	n
Plympton-Wyoming T	5.5812%	5.5812%	Kristen Rodrigues	y
Point Edward V	2.1388%	2.1388%	Greg Grimes	
Sarnia C		12.3989%	Terry Burrell	y
Sarnia C		12.3989%	Anne Marie Gillis	y
Sarnia C	37.1966%	12.3989%	Adam Kilner	y
Southwest Middlesex M	1.1880%	1.1880%	Don McCallum	n
St. Clair Tp		5.5793%	Pat Brown	y
St. Clair Tp	11.1586%	5.5793%	Steve Miller	y
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp		4.4841%	Frank Kennes	y

Strathroy - Caradoc Tp	8.9683%	4.4841%	John Brennan	
Warwick Tp	2.2638%	2.2638%	Jerry Westgate	y
	100%	100%		
				87.640% Yes
				5.737% No
Total of CVA Levy Apportionment Present				93.377% Total
			Vote Passed By	93.856%

BD-23-28

Kennes – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2023 budget of \$9,046,879 with a non-matching general levy of \$1,388,010 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the modified current value assessment of each municipality within the Authority’s area of jurisdiction.”

CARRIED

BD-23-29

Miller – MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2023 budget of \$9,046,879 with a municipal matching general levy of \$161,000 including finalized modified current value assessment values, updates to specific projects and municipal comments received to date.”

CARRIED

Item 17. 1(a) Business Arising

The report on business arising from the December 8, 2022 meeting was reviewed.

Item 17. 1(b) Watershed Conditions and Water Levels

Highlights:

- Long-term precipitation trends indicate below-normal conditions across the watershed
- Water levels on the surrounding Great Lakes are projected to remain above average over the next six months
- The current flood threat is low to moderate owing to lower water levels and frozen, snow-covered ground

Precipitation

- Monthly precipitation values were predominately below normal for the past twelve months, however long-term trends (18 months) show amounts near normal
- Stations on the north branch of the Sydenham River reported 30% less rain compared to the east branch
- Intense localized storms resulted in significant disparities between areas, e.g. in August 2022, Sarnia received 168% of normal precipitation whereas Strathroy received 88% that same month

Lake Levels

- Water levels are down an average of 30 cm from the previous year but remain above average by 11 cm and 18 cm respectively
- Levels are well below the 1986 high water level records by 70-80 cm but remain above the record lows
- Six month projections indicate water levels are likely to remain above average but may be lower compared to the previous year

Flood Threat

- The flood threat is currently low to moderate
- Reduced precipitation and lower water levels on the Great Lakes have resulted in a greater storage capacity in the watershed
- As temperatures fluctuate and Spring nears, rainfall on top of snow and frozen ground could contribute to increased runoff and high water levels

Item 17. 1(c) Shoreline Projects

LAWSS Shoreline Repair:

- Construction along the shoreline started on January 23, 2023
- Vanbree contracting is performing the shoreline revetment work with Shoreplan Inc providing consulting and site monitoring services.
- This site is near the Rotary Plaza and care is being taken to protect the plaza while performing repairs

Penhuron avenue - Groyne only Project:

- Construction along the shoreline started in December 2022
- All in-water work has been completed.
- Contractor to resume work in April 2023
- Expected completion for this project is June 2023

Penhuron Drive to Kenwick Street shoreline restoration:

- 220 meters of shoreline restoration
- Design work completed
- Draft Tender being Prepared
- Expected start date – late Fall 2022

Item 17. 1(d) 2022 Conservation Area Projects

SCRCA operates three regional Conservation Areas (campgrounds) and another six day-use Conservation Areas. Additionally, eight Conservation Areas are leased to our Municipal partners. Conservation Area maintenance at Authority managed sites is funded through a combination of revenues and special levies.

In 2022, several grants and donations were received, and numerous Conservation Area upgrades were completed with those funds.

Summary of 2022 Projects:

Coldstream Conservation Area:

- Replaced 200m of boardwalk (Ontario Trillium Foundation/Ontario)
- Replaced bridge (SCRCF, Enviro-Friends of Coldstream, Poplar Hill Lions Club)
- 1.5km trail restoration in northeast woodlot (Canada Nature Fund)
- Parking lot improvements and new signage at northeast woodlot (Canada Nature Fund and Nature London)
- Tree planting in retired soccer field and retired campground areas (Canada Nature Smart, TD Tree Days, SAR Stewardship Fund, 50 Million Tree Program)
- Pollinator planting in retired soccer field and adjacent to retired campground area (Canada Nature Smart)
- New trail mapping (Ontario Trillium Foundation/Ontario)

Clark Wright Conservation Area:

- Replaced 130m of boardwalk (Ontario Trillium Foundation/Ontario)
- Parking lot upgrades (SCRCF)
- Treads replaced on bridge
- New trail mapping (Ontario Trillium Foundation/Ontario)

Strathroy Conservation Area:

- 1300m of 2m wide stone dust trail installed (Ontario Trillium Foundation/Ontario)
- Replaced 75m of boardwalk (Ontario Trillium Foundation/Ontario, SCRCF)

Peers Wetland Conservation Area:

- Re-established trail loop connection following high water years (flooded trail area)

Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area:

- 1500m of 2m wide stone dust trail installed (Ontario Trillium Foundation/Ontario)
- New trail mapping (Ontario Trillium Foundation/Ontario)

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:

- Gravel parking pad installed on 18 transient campsites (Southwest Tourism/FedDev Ontario)

- 6 new picnic tables
- 180m of new 2m wide stone dust trail – spring completion (SCRCF)
- 300m of stone dust trail resurfacing – spring completion (SCRCF)
- One new swing set purchased to replace old equipment – spring installation

L.C. Henderson Conservation Area:

- Gravel parking pads installed on 6 transient campsites (Southwest Tourism/FedDev Ontario)
- 6 new picnic tables
- 1050m of 2m wide stone dust trail installed (Southwest Tourism/FedDev Ontario)

Warwick Conservation Area:

- Gravel parking pads installed on 39 transient campsites (Southwest Tourism/FedDev Ontario)
- 10 new picnic tables
- 2 locations planted to pollinator habitat (Canada Nature Smart)
- Two new swing sets purchased to replace old equipment – spring installation
- New drainage installed to reduce standing water on campsites

Financial Impact:

Total grants and donations received for 2022 Conservation Area projects was more than \$440,000.

Item 17. 1(e) Great Lakes Local Action Fund

In late 2022, SCRCA received approval for \$50,000 in funding from the Great Lakes Local Action Fund. This funding is for improvements at the Peers Wetland Conservation Area. The work will be completed in 2023.

The Sydenham Field Naturalists are a partner organization for this project and volunteers will assist with some project activities.

Project Objectives:

1. Restore habitat at Peers Wetland by treating and removing Phragmites and cleaning up litter/debris.
2. Improve public access to Peers Wetland for exercise, nature appreciation, and birdwatching by upgrading the trail loop for improved year-round use. Approximately 600m of stone dust trail will be installed.
3. Protect the habitat at Peers Wetland by installing an outdoor electrical panel, which is necessary to run an existing pump system during drought conditions, to deter Phragmites regrowth.

4. Build community awareness of the importance of Peers Wetland to the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem, through communications, interpretive signage, and volunteer involvement in habitat restoration.

Financial Impact:

It is anticipated that \$50,000 will cover the project expenses.

Item 17. 1(f) Planning Activity Summary Report

The planning activity summary report to January, 2023 was reviewed.

Item 17. 1(g) Regulations Activity Summary Report

The Regulations activity summary report to January, 2023 was reviewed.

Item 17. 1(h) Conservation Education

Fall Education Program Summary

In the Fall of 2022, St. Clair Conservation's Education Team was able to resume a full schedule of Field Trip bookings. However, the Nature in your Neighbourhood programs continued to be a popular choice for some schools. Many special events also resumed during this time.

Traditional Field Trips at LC Henderson Conservation Area: All local School Boards resumed normal field trip access as of September 2022. SCRCA saw a return of students to the Conservation Area; approximately 2,000 students visited between September and December.

Nature In Your Neighbourhood: St. Clair continues to offer schoolyard programming for schools preferring this option. This program choice was delivered to nearly 500 students, including 150 students participating in French.

Live-Stream with a Naturalist: With the return to in-person Field Trips, live-stream programming is no longer being requested. SCRCA Education Staff continue to offer this type of programming, to ensure a barrier free option for watershed schools.

Winter Education Program Summary:

In-Class Sponsored Programs: SCRCA staff are excited to be back in the classroom during the winter of 2023. This season, staff are offering a total of 3 in-class program options for Elementary and Secondary students.

Aquatic Species at Risk: Funded by Canada Nature Fund, this program focuses on the Aquatic Species at Risk found in the St Clair Region watershed. This

program is fully booked; a total of 1,925 students are expected to participate. In an effort to meet the needs of the teachers who SCRCA was not able to accommodate, Education Staff also offered two Aquatic Species at Risk Webinars. A total of 1,275 students participated live, and the recording of the webinar will be available for teachers to share with classes who were unable to attend.

Phosphorus 101: Sponsored by Friends of the St. Clair River and EcoAction Canada, this program introduces students from Grades 8-12 to the issue of phosphorus loading into our watershed and Lake Erie. This program, also fully booked for winter 2023, will be delivered to 400 students.

River RAP: Also sponsored by Friends of the St. Clair River, this program once again returns to the classroom. Demand is high and the program is fully booked. An anticipated 475 students are expected to participate between January and March 2023.

Spring Water Awareness Schoolyard Program: Negotiations continue with Plains Midstream Canada to secure funding for this popular program. Teachers have already asked to join a waiting list for if the program becomes available.

Bluewater Association for Safety, Environment and Sustainability (BASES – formerly SLEA) Programming: Negotiations continue with BASES to secure funding for this popular program. In the meantime, the “My Environment” program is being booked as a paid program; to date, three classes have participated.

Outdoor Winter Education Programming: SCRCA staff encourage outdoor experiences for students during the winter; due to the school’s hesitancy to travel, schoolyard programs are being promoted.

Field Trips at Henderson Conservation Area: SCRCA continues to offer winter field trips. Attendance continues to be occasional, but valuable. Two highlights for Winter 2023: a new ‘Winter Tracking’ program, and the recruitment of a new French school for winter programming.

Nature in your Neighbourhood Schoolyard Programs:

Schools are still booking schoolyard programs this winter, approximately 200 students are expected to participate.

***New – Climate Change Program:** The Education Team’s Co-op Student, Raphael Carriel-Moreault, assisted in creating a new climate-themed program for Grades 5-12 to learn about why climate change is happening, how it affects us, and what we can do about it.

Maple Syrup Program: This fee-based program is being offered in two formats for March 2022. Students can participate in the schoolyard, or in-person for a Traditional Field Trip at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area.

Webinar Programs – Spring 2023:

St. Clair Education continues to offer fee-based webinars to our local school boards. Lambton Kent District School Board and St Clair Catholic District Schoolboard have partnered to book 15 webinars for the winter/spring 2023 season.

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

St Clair Staff continue working closely with the Principal, Ojibwe Language program, and Hillside teachers to assist with development and delivery of the Land-Based Ed initiative this school year (Sept. 2022-June 2023). Staff have been visiting the school weekly to take 'bushwalks' with each grade in the school (Kindergarten-Gr 8). Outdoor Education 'bushwalks' involve a walking field trip to a local woodlot to participate in various Conservation Education programs. Additional funding is being pursued to continue this program into the future.

***NEW: Programming for Newcomers to Canada**

SCRCA will be partnering with the YMCA to provide presentations, Nature in Your Neighbourhood programs, and field trips to the L.C. Henderson Conservation Area for New Canadians and Refugees. These programs will aim to build relationships between people and the environment in Canada, to help them care for nature, and feel at home in their new country.

Community Partnerships:

Education Staff continue to participate in the following committees: Arbour Week Committee, Lambton County Trails Committee, and Rekindle the Sparks Workshop Planning Committee (for CA Educators across ON).

Strategic Objectives(s):

Goal 4 – Provide recreation and education opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn from our natural environment.

Item 17. 1(i) AOC Report

Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption – BUI #1

To assist in gathering insight on the habits of recreational and sports anglers, a community fish survey was launched on March 13, 2021 through the Friends of the St. Clair River monthly E-Newsletter. Through the use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the assistance of Walpole Island First Nation, additional efforts were made to promote completion of the survey. When the survey closed on December 31, 2022, a total of 171 responses had been received. The information collected will be compiled into a report and will assist in the assessment of this Beneficial Use Impairment.

Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems – BUI #9

Engagement efforts remain underway to communicate the findings of a draft assessment report that was completed in January 2022 on the restrictions on drinking water consumption or taste and odour problems. The report recommended that this BUI be redesignated to no longer being impaired. Presentations have been made to Aamjiwnaang First Nation Chief and Council, and the Walpole Island First Nation community and Infrastructure Committee. A presentation to the newly elected Walpole Island First Nation Chief and Council is tentatively scheduled for February 14, 2023. A presentation to the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) will follow. Questions and comments raised during the sessions are documented and responses are provided and tracked for reporting purposes.

Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat – BUI #14

In accordance with a key deliverable in the contract agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada, all technical information/data from the habitat working group partners was compiled, organized, and assessed against each of the seven-specific habitat restoration targets to evaluate if each target had been met, and provided evidence to support it. The information was presented in a draft report completed in January 2023. The report includes maps, tables and figures to support the nature of the assessment work conducted and the outcome of the restoration projects, and includes a recommendation that this BUI be redesignated to no longer being impaired. The RAP Coordinator will be seeking input from the habitat working group on the report before engaging stakeholders, Indigenous communities, and the public.

Workplan

Development of the 2022-2027 Workplan for the St. Clair River Area of Concern remains underway as input from stakeholders and Indigenous communities is sought on the draft plan. The focus of the plan is on key actions that need to be completed over the next five years to be able to redesignate the five remaining Beneficial Use Impairments to a Not Impaired status.

Recent and Scheduled Meetings

Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC)

- November 8, 2022
- Next meeting to be scheduled

Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)

- December 5, 2022
- February 2, 2023

Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

- November 1, 2022

- February 16, 2023

Outreach and Engagement

Newsletter

Friends of the 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: [January E-Newsletter](#)

Canadian RAP Implementation Committee:

Outreach Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for February 23, 2023

Strategic Objectives(s):

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

Financial Impact:

Funding for the RAP Coordinator position is provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The current agreement with MECP is in place until February 28, 2024. The agreement with ECCC is in place until March 31, 2023 and has an option to be extended until March 31, 2024. Steps are underway to confirm implementation of the extension option. The SCRCA is providing monthly updates to MECP and ECCC on the status of the project work. An invoice was submitted on January 31, 2023 to ECCC in the amount of \$25,251.55 (includes HST) for the completion of the draft BUI #14 draft assessment report.

Item 17. 1(j) 2023 Special Events

A.W. Campbell Maple Syrup Festival

Date: Saturday, March 18 to Sunday, March 19, 2023

Time: 10 am to 3 pm

Location: A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race

Date: Sunday, April 30, 2023

Start Location: Mossie Line at Sydenham River

End Location: Shetland Conservation Area

Denning's Memorial Walk to Remember

Date: To Be Determined

Time: To Be Determined

Location(s): To be Determined

Ipperwash Beach Shoreline Clean-up

Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023

Time: 9 am to 11 am

Location: Centre Ipperwash Beach Boat Launch

A Geocaching Adventure

Date: Sunday, September 10, 2023

Time: 9 am

Location: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication

Date - Sunday, September 24, 2023

Time: 2 pm

Location: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

BD-23-30

Westgate – Scott

“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and endorses the recommendations accompanying Items 17.1 a - 17.1 j.”

CARRIED

Under New Business

Director Kristen Rodrigues enquired regarding the updated floodplain mapping project and whether a reduction in floodplain areas can be anticipated. Director of Water Resources, Girish Sankar provided a verbal progress update to the Board of Directors. A preliminary draft of the project is currently under review and currently shows a general reduction of floodplain areas, but also includes the creation of new floodplains in some regions. The final product of the project is expected by the end of 2023.

Director Al Broad made an enquiry regarding the defeated motion to transfer ownership of the Shetland Conservation Area to the Township of Dawn-Euphemia given that the Town of Plympton-Wyoming was approved to move forward with the transfer of the C.J. McEwen and Highland Glen Conservation Areas. A report is requested to be brought forth to a future Board of Directors meeting.

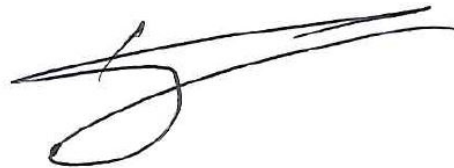
Director Emery Huszka highlighted the upcoming Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race on April 30, 2023. Emery challenges Directors of the Authority to participate in the race in support of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation.

Director Don McCabe clarified that the Brooke-Alvinston Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast, which is held annually in concert with the A.W. Campbell Maple Syrup Festival activities, will be occurring the following weekend March 24-25th, 2023. All are encouraged to attend and enjoy both weekends.

BD-23-31
Kilner – Burrell
“That the meeting be adjourned.”
CARRIED



Pat Brown
Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager