



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: June 22, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

SCRCA Administration Office/Remote via Zoom

Directors Present: John Brennan, Pat Brown, Terry Burrell, Greg Grimes, Aaron Hall, Frank Kennes, Emery Huszka, Don McCabe, Don McCallum; Mary Lynne McCallum, Steve Miller, Kristen Rodrigues, Jerry Westgate

Remote: Al Broad, Anne Marie Gillis (left at 10:55 a.m.); Adam Kilner

Regrets: Sue Cates, Rhonda Jubenville, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Ross O'Hara, Lorie Scott

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Ken Phillips, General Manager; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Lands

Guests Present: Marg Abra, Donna Barrett, Val Goodin, Gordon McAuslan, Heather Ricard, Julie Welker (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.

BD-23-48

Miller – Burrell

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

CARRIED

Mr. Gordon McAuslan gave a presentation regarding his concern for the seasonal campground ruled surrounding the construction of decks and deck roofing. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period, with clarifications on SCRCA policy provided by Manager of Conservation Areas, Greg Wilcox. Accompanying correspondence between SCRCA staff and Mr. McAuslan was also reviewed.

Mr. McAuslan provided the Board of Directors with a petition against the requirement to remove or modify seasonal campsite decking/ deck roof structures signed by 227 seasonal campers.

BD-23-49

Grimes – Brennan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence and delegation from Mr. Gordon McAuslan.”

CARRIED

Current Status of the Source Protection Program

The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Plan, approved in September 2015, came into effect on December 31, 2015 and implementation of the plan policies is now well underway. For the past eight years Conservation Authority staff from the Thames-Sydenham and Region have been supporting implementation of the local source protection plan and are monitoring local implementation progress. Additionally, UTRCA has signed agreements with seven municipalities in the Region to provide risk management services and implement plan policies on their behalf.

Local Progress Updates

New Source Protection Committee Chair Re-Appointed

On March 22, 2023 the Source Protection Programs Branch re-confirmed that Mr. Dean Edwardson had been appointed by the Minister of the Environment and Conservation And Parks as the re-appointed Chair of the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Committee. We are pleased to have Mr. Edwardson, a long-standing industry representative on the committee, to continue as the leader for the Committee.

Source Protection Committee (re) appointments

In May 2023, the Striking Committee (made up of Chairs and Vice Chairs of each of the three Conservation Authority Boards of Directors) met to review and select members for the SPC for the positions whose terms end June 1, 2023. According to the Act, it is the responsibility of each Striking Committee member to report back to their respective Source Protection Authorities (in this case Upper Thames River Source Protection Authority) on the results of the selection. The following are the results of this process:

Jason Migchels, representing Lambton County – Appointment (term expires June 2027)

Matthew Jauernig, representing Oxford County – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

Johnny Bowes, representing Perth County, Huron County, Stratford, St. Marys – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

Carl Kennes, representing the Golf Industry – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

George Marr, representing the public – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

Gary Eagleson, representing the public – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

We still are searching for an Agricultural representative.

2022-2024 Budget and Work Plan

MECP approved a new funding agreement for the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region which runs from April 1st, 2022 to March 31st, 2024. The objective of this grant funding agreement is to enable the Conservation Authorities to continue to support implementing bodies and maintain local awareness of source protection.

Risk Management Services Renewal

UTRCA has established a regional Risk Management Office on behalf of seven municipalities, including the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, LAWSS and St. Clair. SCRCA employee, Steve Clarke is acting as the Risk Management Official for these municipalities under an agreement between SCRCA and UTRCA. The service agreement with the seven municipalities was for an initial period of two and a half years (June 1, 2021 to December 1, 2023). UTRCA has proposed an option for renewing the service agreement for an additional three years. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent, LAWSS, St. Clair, the Township of Perth East, the Township of West Perth, the Town of St. Marys, and the Town of Stratford have formally approved the agreement renewal.

Section 36 Work Plan

At the time that the Thames Sydenham and Region Source Protection Plan was approved in September 2015, the Minister ordered the Source Protection Authorities to prepare and submit a work plan under Section 36 of the Clean Water Act and submit it to the ministry by November 30, 2018. The work plan is a comprehensive overview of the program along with any new system changes that need to be incorporated as part of amendments to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan. The work plan must be developed in consultation with the Source Protection Committee, participating municipalities, and the MECP. This work plan was submitted last July 2022. We are still waiting to hear final approvals.

Section 34 Amendments

The Source Protection Committee is expecting to go through multiple amendments to the Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plans as systems are aging out, communities are growing and new science emerges.

2021 Director Technical Rules

In December 2021, MECP released an amended version of the Technical Rules with the aim to clarify terminology; clarify the information needed to conduct a water quality climate change risk assessment; clarify situations where a surface-water-based WHPA-E is to be delineated; and update the Tables of Drinking Water Quality Threats. These changes has led to multiple draft new and amended policies proposed by the Source

Protection Committee. These are expected to be submitted to the province for approvals in September, 2023.

A presentation providing an overview of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Drinking Water Source Protection Authority was provided by Source Protection Coordinator, Julie Welker, followed by a question and answer period.

Directors Comments:

It is requested that a copy of the presentation slides be provided to directors for discussion with their respective councils.

Director Terry Burrell pointed out that elected officials carry personal liability related to municipal or other drinking water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, and therefore recommended that all councilors consider attending an educational session at the Walkerton Clean Water Centre.

BD-23-50

Westgate – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update report dated June 5, 2023 regarding the Thames-Sydenham and Region Drinking Water Source Protection Authority and further acknowledges the presentation from Julie Welker, Source Protection Coordinator providing an overview of the Source Protection program.”

CARRIED

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held April 20, 2023 were reviewed.

BD-23-51

Grimes – Kennes

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, held April 20, 2023, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

Operations

- The General Manager attended via Zoom General Managers/CAO meetings with Conservation Ontario on April 17 and May 1, 2023 to discuss issues around the Category of Services and budgetary changes implemented by the Province of Ontario. There was also a general discussion pertaining to the lack of resources for natural heritage review from the private sector.
- The General Manager attended a meeting to discuss changes to provincial funding of the Healthy Lake Huron Program on April 25, 2023. The SCRCA has participated in this program since its inception. However, changes to the funding mechanism by the Province has prohibited conservation authorities from receiving funding directly or through third parties. Conservation authorities are also unable to

be contracted to do work. The meeting centered on strategies to reinstitute funding for stewardship initiatives along Lake Huron.

- The General Manager met with representatives of the Bluewater Association for Safety, Environment and Sustainability (BASES) on May 2, 2023 to discuss adding SCRCA flood messaging to the Everbridge warning notification system. SCRCA staff will meet with BASES staff in the fall to receive training on the system.
- The General Manager attended a meeting with Sarnia developers to discuss issues with the SCRCA and its processes on May 2, 2023. The meeting was facilitated by the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce. The GM has subsequently been invited to attend a local meeting of realtors as well as a builder's association meeting.

Community/Partnership Outreach

- The General Manager attended an Earth Day event on April 22, 2023 with SCRCA staff Jeff Sharp and Emily Febrey, hosted by the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce at Wawanosh Wetlands. Imperial Oil sponsored a seedling giveaway and SCRCA provided planting tips to those that arrived.
- The General Manager attended the Lambton County Rural Game Protective Association Annual Banquet on April 13, 2023. He met local hunters and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry staff.
- The General Manager was invited to speak at Wallaceburg District Secondary School on May 4 and 31, 2023 to provide information on the SCRCA and careers in conservation.
- The General Manager attended a restoration event at the Enbridge property in Ivan on May 6, 2023. SCRCA staff assisted with volunteers from Enbridge to plant trees on a recently retired farm parcel owned by Enbridge. Thanks to Donna Blue, Jeff Sharp and Emily Febrey for assisting with the event.
- On June 6, 2023, the General Manger participated in a community event as part of the Green Committee of the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce at Canatara Beach in Sarnia. Several local elementary schools participated in the event.

Federal/Provincial/Municipal Meetings

- The General Manager attended Middlesex Day on May 2, 2023 and met with various staff from Middlesex County area municipalities.
- The General Manager provided a presentation at the request of the Town of Petrolia on May 10, 2023 entitled "Weathering the Storm, Useful Tips to Protect Your Home from Severe Weather". Members of the community and town staff attended. The presentation centered around how property owners could prevent storm damage to their home and properties in an affordable manner
- The General Manager attended a meeting with Environment Canada and Climate Change staff to discuss potential funding for initiatives in 2024 on May 3, 2023. Recently, SCRCA monitoring and restoration programs have been affected by the

discontinuation of longstanding federal funding programs. The meeting provided details on new opportunities to be provided to conservation authorities in 2024.

Verbal update on the Provincial Planning Statement

The Province released a portion of the proposed amendments to the Provincial Planning Statement on Friday, June 16 which included updates to the parameters surrounding natural heritage commenting. Consultation closes on August 4, 2023

BD-23-52

McCallum, Mary Lynne – Brennan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated June 5, 2023.”

CARRIED

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has maintained the Tony Stranak Conservation Area under lease for many years. Municipal staff have requested permission to construct an off-leash dog park within the Tony Stranak CA. Construction of a fenced, off-leash dog park is within the parameters of the existing lease agreement and staff have no objections to this project. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has conducted public consultation to address potential concerns with the project.

During review of this request, staff at both organizations felt that this would be an appropriate time to update the lease agreement. The proposed lease agreement, for a term of 5 years with two 5-year renewal periods, was reviewed. Following the second renewal period, the lease would transition to a month-by-month lease. Under the Conservation Authorities Act, the Authority can enter a maximum lease term of 5 years.

Financial Impact:

The Municipality has drafted this lease agreement at their expense. Consistent with other municipal lease agreements, there is no revenue generated. All management and maintenance expenses are the responsibility of the Municipality.

BD-23-53

Miller – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated May 30, 2023 on the new lease agreement for the Tony Stranak Conservation Area in Dresden and approve the draft lease agreement with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, leasing the Tony Stanak Conservation Area and Dresden Floodplain Acquisition properties to the Municipality.”

CARRIED

The Charles J. McEwen Conservation Area is located at 4318 Lakeshore Road, in the Town of Plympton-Wyoming. The 5.5ha 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. The Board approved the following 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 two parcels: One in 1976 and the other in 1977, to provide public access to the Lake Huron shoreline. Located in Plympton-Wyoming, approximately 10km west of the Town of Forest, on the Lake Huron Shoreline, The Highland Glen CA is comprised of approximately 26 acres of predominantly wooded land. 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 of the 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.”

Draft Purchase Agreements with Conservation Easements:

Authority staff have been working with staff at Plympton-Wyoming, as well as consulting

with legal counsel to develop draft purchase agreements. To ensure the protection of natural features and the land's conservation values, conservation easements have been developed for each property. Entering into the conservation easements are a condition of the draft purchase agreements.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement, registered on title, between a landowner and a qualified organization (conservation organization, land trust, government agency) that protects the property long into the future. It creates a partnership whereby the landowner (Plympton-Wyoming) owns and manage the property within a set of mutually agreed upon restrictions monitored by a qualified organization (SCRCA).

Additionally, each property would include a right of first refusal (ROFR) that would be registered on title. This would provide the Authority the opportunity to re-acquire the Conservation Areas, should the municipality choose to dispose of them in the future.

The C.J. McKewen CA and Highland Glen CA draft purchase agreements and draft conservation easements were reviewed.

Additional Comments:

Clarification was provided regarding the draft agreement clauses relating to prohibition of logging. Manager of Conservation Areas, Greg Wilcox explained that such clauses pertains to commercial logging only and that lands within the conservation easement would remain subject to SCRCA woodlot management. It was reiterated that the agreements are in draft form, for which any updates following public consultation will be provided to the Board of Directors.

Directors requested clarification on the draft agreement clauses on right of first refusal, in which it is stated to be registered on title for *'the maximum term allowed by law'*. Manager of Conservation Areas, Greg Wilcox agreed to request this information from the Authority's legal service and report back.

BD-23-54

Rodrigues – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated May 25, 2023 on the C.J. McEwen and Highland Glen Conservation Area draft purchase agreements, and provides preliminary approval of the draft purchase agreements and conservation easements for the disposition of the C.J. McEwen and Highland Glen Conservation Areas. Further, the Board of Directors direct staff to begin the 45-day public consultation period, upon the preliminary approval of the draft purchase agreements by the municipality.”

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 several 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.”

CARRIED

- 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
- In October of 2022, VDP Engineering provided a Structural Condition Assessment for the AW Campbell House (attached)

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 viewpoint, 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.

If 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.

Structural Condition Assessment:

The Assessment completed by VDP Engineering is attached to this report. The following are excerpts from the “Conclusions and Recommendations” within the report:

“Based on the observations during our site review, we concluded that the structural system of the A.W. Campbell house at the present time does not have the required strength, stability, and durability to continue to fulfill its intended use and be able to adequately resist all the loads to which it is exposed unless the observed deficiencies and defects are eliminated in the near future. The ability of the system to absorb any local failures without potential widespread collapse of the system has also been significantly reduced.”

“Leaving the house in the current condition is not an option. It will inevitably lead to further gradual deterioration and eventual collapse of the structure. The collapse, partial or overall, will likely happen abruptly and without a warning once the remaining residual strength, or the integrity, or the stability of the system are exhausted.”

“... significant parts of the structural system like, foundation walls and roof structure need to be completely replaced”

“... walls and floors need to be repaired and strengthened. The existing exterior and interior finishes have to be completely removed before the existing walls’ and floors’ structural elements can be exposed, examined in detail and based on that determine whether they can be repaired and strengthen or need to be replaced as well. If they can be saved, mold remediation will likely be needed as well.”

“The complete and substantial restoration of the house structure may eventually prove to be difficult, even maybe impossible, and if it is possible, it may prove to be financially not viable.”

Financial Impact of Building a Replica or Restoration:

Preliminary estimate for demolition and construction of a replica:

Construction of a 1600 sq ft. replica at estimated \$300 per sq ft	\$480,000
Demolition including careful salvage of components that may be used in replica	\$25,000
Design and consulting	\$15,000
Total Estimated Cost	\$520,000

Based on the required work to restore the existing building, it is anticipated that costs could exceed that of building a replica.

Alternative Options:

1. Request the heritage designation be repealed.

Section 32 of the Ontario Heritage Act states:

32 (1) *An owner of property designated under this Part may apply to the council of the municipality in which the property is situate to repeal the by-law or part thereof designating the property. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 32 (1).*

Under section 32 of the Act, the municipality would be required to publish notice of the application and persons would have 30 days to serve notice of objection. Municipal council would make a decision on whether or not to repeal the designation. Decisions are subject to an appeal process.

2. Request a demolition permit for the Campbell house.

Section 34 of the Ontario Heritage Act states:

34 (1) *No owner of property designated under section 29 shall do either of the following, unless the owner applies to the council of the municipality in which the property is situate and receives consent in writing to the demolition or removal:*

1. *Demolish or remove, or permit the demolition or removal of, any of the property's heritage attributes, as set out in the description of the property's heritage attributes in the by-law that was required to be registered under clause 29 (12) (b) or subsection 29 (19), as the case may be.*

2. *Demolish or remove a building or structure on the property or permit the demolition or removal of a building or structure on the property, whether or not the demolition or removal would affect the property's heritage attributes, as set out in the description of the property's heritage attributes in the by-law that was required to be registered under clause 29 (12) (b) or subsection 29 (19), as the case may be. 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 12.*

Decision of council

(4.2) *The council, after consultation with its municipal heritage committee, if one is established, and within the time period determined under subsection (4.3),*

(a) *shall,*

(i) *consent to the application,*

(ii) *consent to the application, subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by the council, or*

(iii) *refuse the application;*

Staff Recommendation:

Due to the current condition of the Campbell house, staff recommend applying to council for a demolition permit. The building has no current or future planned use and the cost of restoration or constructing a replica is not feasible for the Authority.

The structural engineering report, prepared by VDP Engineering and the Corporation of the Township of Brooke By-Law number 17 of 1991 were reviewed.

Director Comments:

Director Don McCabe declared pecuniary interest and refrained from commenting or voting on motion BD-23-55.

Directors request that the building be photographed and video recorded for the purpose of providing the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston with a historical resource.

BD-23-55

Miller – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated May 24, 2023 on the A.W. Campbell House and further approve the recommendation to apply to the Council of Brooke-Alvinston for a demolition permit for the A.W. Campbell house.”

CARRIED

On Monday, December 6, 2021, Marsh Advisory Consulting Solutions (Marsh Canada Limited – SCRCA Insurance Provider) provided a memo with numerous recommendations to reduce risk on Authority owned lands. The memo resulted from a risk control visit in November of 2021, where a risk consultant walked 3 Authority properties (Coldstream CA, Highland Glen CA, and Warwick CA).

Staff have been working through the recommendations since that time, including:

- Development of the Risk Management and Land Classification Guideline
- Development of the Signage Guideline
- Development of an inspection process for all Authority lands and associated infrastructure
- Completion of risk assessments for Authority owned and managed lands
- Updating signage as needed and budget permits
- Utilizing 3rd party playground inspection services
- Training staff as Provincial Offences Officers
- Adding speed bumps within campgrounds
- Reviewing the need and pricing railing upgrades throughout Conservation Areas.

In the fall of 2022, staff started to investigate recommendation OFI-21-8 as stated below:

A formal review process should be developed to ensure that all decks and associated steps, guards, railings, etc. constructed by individual trailer park renters meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code (Part 9). At the time of this visit, it was noted that numerous steps and decks constructed by trailer park renters did not include railings and guards as required by the Ontario Building Code. Legal counsel should also be consulted regarding development of a formal waiver or legal agreement (e.g. hold harmless / indemnification clause) between the individual trailer park renters and the SCRCA to reduce the overall liability exposure to SCRCA.

Through consultation with local building departments, it was discovered that decks over 24” high and constructed roofs require building permits. It is staff’s understanding that no permits have been issued. These structures do not meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code.

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

Generally, 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.

Motion Passed at March AGM:

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

Process Update:

- Staff have inspected each campsite and identified sites with decks greater than 24” high and/or constructed roofs
- Letters have been provided to each campsite occupant deemed out of compliance

- Staff have gone site by site at each Conservation Area to discuss the issue with individual campsite occupants (May 6/7 at LCH, May 13/14 at WWK, and May 27/28 at AWC)
- Each campsite deemed out of compliance has been provided a letter and waiver. Waivers can be signed and returned by August 15, 2023 to receive a grace period until October 1, 2025 to become compliant
- At this time, compliance means lowering decks below 24" above grade, (in some instances this can be accomplished by modifying the surrounding grade), and removing roof structures.

Number of Sites out of Compliance:

A.W. Campbell CA

Deck Only	16
Roof Only	26
Deck and Roof	11
Total Campsites out of Compliance	53
Total Number of Seasonal Campsites at AWC	112

L.C. Henderson CA

Deck Only	11
Roof Only	26
Deck and Roof	41
Total Campsites out of Compliance	78
Total Number of Seasonal Campsites at LCH	123

Warwick CA

Deck Only	26
Roof Only	41
Deck and Roof	31
Total Campsites out of Compliance	98
Total Number of Seasonal Campsites at WWK	191

Comments/Concerns Provided by Campers During Site Visits:

- Decks slippery when wet, roof keeps the deck dry, safety concern
- Older campers move back and forth from deck into trailer often, safer without a step
- Trailer awnings are prone to damage from wind, roofs are stronger
- Roofs provide protection from falling limbs during wind events, have protected trailer and campers from falling limbs in past storms
- Campers are going to incur a cost to modify/remove, feel they should be compensated
- Would like a formal process for requesting compensation

- Many campers have purchased their trailer on site, including structures (they didn't construct them), feel it's unfair that they are going to take financial loss
- Existing structures should be grandfathered (some indicated indefinitely, some indicated for the existing occupant) (discussed below)
- Could campers be grandfathered if they sign waiver annually and carry higher liability insurance? (discussed below)
- Can campers make modifications and get a permit to be grandfathered? (discussed below)
- Higher deck needed for accessibility, wheelchair or other requirement
- Can Authority assist with modifications in any way (suggested providing a dumpster each season for a period for campers to use for construction waste)

Concerns with Grandfathering Structures as Built:

As no building permits were obtained, construction quality varies considerably. SCRCA contracted a certified designer (with Building Code Identification Number – BCIN) to visit one of our campgrounds and review the construction of approximately 20-25 roof structures. Aside from the fact that structures are on deck blocks, the designer noted additional building code deficiencies with most structures. Our insurance provider has advised against grandfathering structures that are not building code compliant other than for accessibility.

Concerns with Grandfathering Structures on Sites that Carry Higher Liability Insurance and Sign Waivers

SCRCA's insurance provider has advised against this. The Authority would need to ensure that each individual campsite occupant's insurance provider is aware that existing structures are not building code compliant. Our advisor does not believe many insurance providers would supply a letter confirming coverage of non-compliant structures. Additionally, there is concern that the Authority would not know the qualifications of individuals sent to make assessments on behalf of the camper's insurance provider.

Permit Requirements and After-the-fact Permit Availability by Campground

AW Campbell CA

- After-the-fact permit **not available** without structural engineer's report
- Gazebos up to 15 sq. m (162 sq. ft) exempt from permit requirements if not supported by deck
- Decks greater than 24" high require a permit
- Porch roof up to 15 sq. m exempt from permit
- Pergolas do not require a permit

LC Henderson and Warwick CA's

- After-the-fact permit an option if structure is OBC compliant
- Gazebos up to 15 sq. m (162 sq. ft) exempt from permit requirements if not supported by deck
- Decks greater than 24" high require a permit
- Porch roof requires a permit
- Pergolas do not require a permit

Building Code for Deck Blocks:

Most decks and porch roofs on Authority lands are constructed on pre-cast deck blocks. Deck blocks can be used for freestanding decks up to 23.5" from grade to the underside of floor joist. This means that some decks constructed on deck blocks may be able to obtain an after-the-fact permit. The Authority can provide authorization for a camper to apply for an after-the-fact permit (LCH and WWK only) if the deck meets the above criteria. If the deck passes inspection, it would no longer be viewed as out of compliance with the building code.

The building code does not permit deck blocks to support a roof.

Aluminum Roof Systems Installed by a Sunroom /Awning Company:

Aluminum roof systems have been installed on approximately 20 sites by a professional installer. They are designed to be connected to the trailer on one side and supported by posts on top of the deck on the other. The engineering for these systems has been reviewed by the building department. The engineering is not sufficient to issue a permit, as it doesn't specifically detail that they can be supported by a deck that is constructed on deck blocks (and deck blocks can't support a roof under the Ontario Building Code). If engineering was to be provided that satisfies the Building Department, after-the-fact permits may be an option for these structures.

24" Deep, Screw in Deck Anchors:

Campers have requested the use of a screw-in anchoring system that is only 24" long to anchor existing structures. A 24" anchor would be ideal, as it should not be deep enough to impact existing buried services. Specs were provided to the building department to determine if the product could be used to apply for after-the-fact permits. Unfortunately, this product did not satisfy building permit requirements.

Minimum Requirements to Achieve Compliance When Removing a Constructed Roof

A roof structure requires a building permit. A pergola does not require a permit to be issued. At minimum, a constructed roof would require the roofing material (steel roofing, plywood and shingles, polycarbonate panels, etc.) be removed. Remaining framing structure would constitute a pergola and could be grandfathered and remain on site. There are products that could be added to a pergola, without a permit required, to provide shade to the deck. Products such as lattice or sun sails could be added to existing pergolas. This would provide campers a use for most of the structure and reduce the financial loss associated with complete removal.

Staff may not be able to approve the addition of shade products to some structures. If staff have concerns over the remaining structure's safety, some products may not be permitted, or some structures may require complete removal. It may be necessary to consult/contract the building department to assess remaining structures.

Staff Recommendations for Implementation:

- Grandfather existing decks that are greater than 24” high, without modification or permit, only if the current height is required for accessibility. (accessibility determined by wheelchair requirement or camper has been issued an accessible parking permit for a health condition impacting their ability to navigate steps) These decks would be grandfathered for the current occupant only and would require modification/removal when the occupant no longer camps on the site.
- Grandfather existing decks greater than 24” high upon successful completion of an after-the-fact building permit. (LCH and WWK only) Decks would need to pass inspection on deck blocks. These decks would be grandfathered for the life of the structure.
- Permit the sale of a trailer when the site is not in compliance. The potential purchaser must be made aware of the compliance issue before approval. New site occupants would have one year to become compliant or October 1, 2025, whichever is sooner.
- If aluminum sunroom style roofs can get engineering that satisfies building permit requirements, they would be grandfathered following successful completion of an after-the-fact permit. These roofs would be grandfathered for the life of the structure.
- A constructed roof would be deemed compliant when, at minimum, the roofing material is removed (roofing steel, polycarbonate panels, plywood and shingles, etc.). Remaining “pergola” structures do not require permits and would be grandfathered for the life of the structure if remaining structure deemed safe. Staff would be required to approve any additions to the structure such as lattice, sun sails, etc. to ensure the product would not be considered a roof.
- Constructed gazebos that are not supported by a deck, and less than 162 sq. ft do not require a permit and would be deemed compliant and grandfathered for the life of the structure.
- SCRCA to provide a construction dumpster at each campground for the month of September in each of 2023, 2024, and 2025 to provide campers with a convenient and free location to dispose of construction materials specifically related to the modifications required to make decks and roofs compliant.

The following documents were reviewed:

Memo dated December 6, 2021 from Marsh Advisory Consulting Solutions
Letter and waiver sent to seasonal campers regarding non-compliance
Seasonal camping construction and alteration request form
Maps of SCRCA campgrounds

Financial Impact:

Estimated dumpster cost: \$6,000 to \$10,000 each year depending on use

Manager of Conservation Areas, Greg Wilcox provided a verbal overview of the above

report, followed by a question and answer period.

Director Comments:

Directors discussed the magnitude of hazard presented by the number of affected sites and stressed the liability involved with roof structures not properly secured to the ground. Directors noted that while the Board does not wish to upset its seasonal campers, it is their responsibility to act as a community service, ensuring safety for all. Director Emery Huszka thanked staff for the efforts to provide reasonable, practical and cost effective options to seasonal campers where possible.

Directors discussed the criteria for determining which sites require an exemption based upon accessibility needs. Currently, this is determined by the use of wheelchair and/or province-issued accessible parking permit.

BD-23-56

Brennan – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated May 25, 2023 on seasonal campsite structure building code compliance and further approve the recommendations outlined within the report.”

CARRIED

Seagar Park

The property is located between Oil Springs Line and Bickford Line and is owned by the Township of St. Clair. Seagar Park shoreline stretches approximately 250 meters along the St. Clair River.

The park is protected by a steel sheet pile wall with two pocket beach cells with gently sloping sand. The wall has a steel cap and has a timber boardwalk on the inland side. At the south end, cobble has been placed in front of the steel sheet pile wall for additional protection.

The shoreline protection has been showing signs of failure with minor backfill losses behind the wall and at several locations along the board walk with a number of broken timber boardwalk sections. Figure 1 shows the location of Seagar Park.

This project is to complete the shoreline design work for rehabilitation of the failing shore protection along Seagar Park. The preferred shoreline protection structure is to include armour stone/rip rap revetment with aquatic planting and gravel beds, incorporated along parts of the shoreline, where possible.

SCRCA forwarded a selective RFP to consulting firms to provide a well-considered proposal for design services.

- SCRCA received two submissions for this design project.

Shoreplan Engineering Ltd	\$32,500 + HST
TRUE Consulting	\$37,827 + HST

- Staff recommend the acceptance of low tender submitted by Shoreplan Engineering Ltd for design services.

BD-23-57

Burrell – McCallum, Mary Lynne

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 2, 2023 on the 2023-2024 WECl projects and further approves the proposal from Shoreplan Engineering Ltd for design of new shore protection structure along Seagar Park.”

CARRIED

As staff continue to implement the Authority’s Risk Management and Land Classification Guideline, permitted uses of some Authority lands need to be identified and communicated to the public. The guideline classifies land into four general categories:

1. Leased Properties – Leased Conservation Lands
2. Minimal Liability – No Public Access, and Restricted Access, Resource Management Areas
3. Moderate Liability – Moderate Use Conservation Lands
4. High Liability – High-Use Conservation Lands

As part of the Authority’s risk management program, all lands are to be inspected, and properly signed, including permitted uses among other essential information.

Most of the McKeough upstream lands are classified as “minimal liability”. At this time, permitted uses are not identified for the McKeough lands. Staff recommend no public access for the McKeough upstream lands due to a lack of available facilities/infrastructure and concerns over compatibility with other existing uses. These lands were acquired for the purpose of flood mitigation in the construction of the Darcy McKeough Dam. Due to the location of these lands and their topography, they flood to some extent annually. Generally, there are no public facilities, such as parking lots, maintained trails, etc. Many of the lands contain agricultural fields, which are leased to tenants for this purpose. This in turn requires farming practices with heavy equipment during different times of the day and year. In many instances, members of the public would have to cross agricultural fields to access natural areas. Staff have concerns that tenant crops may be damaged and/or members of the public shouldn’t be in fields with large farm machinery. The SCRCA also has a hunting program that issues hunting permits for these lands. No public access should be permitted on these lands to reduce conflict with existing uses.

Access to these lands will be limited to the agriculture tenants, bee yard tenants, hunters with valid permits, SCRCA staff, and any other person(s) issued a permit to access the land for scientific research.

Staff feel that the majority of the McKeough Upstream lands identified as minimal liability, should be posted with no public access. The following McKeough upstream lands will continue to offer public access for identified permitted uses:

- Property 56 (Nicol's Memorial)
- Property 55 (Boat Launch)
- Property 2, 3 (McKeough Dam parking lot and public area)

The SCRCA Risk Management and Land Classification Guideline was reviewed.

Strategic Objectives(s):

Goal 4.1 - Conservation Lands

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and its Foundation own more than 2,100 hectares of land including campgrounds, day use parks, wetlands, and forests. Moving forward, the SCRCA must ensure that these properties remain valuable assets for the community and are able to withstand the pressures of growth and climate change.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact.

Additional Comments:

Staff clarified that leasers of agricultural land are informed of permitted use within their lease agreement. No public use or trespassing signage does not impede regular farm operations.

BD-23-58

Burrell – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 6, 2023 on conservation land use and approves the posting of permitted use signage on all properties, based on the Authority’s Risk Management and Land Classification Guidelines and further that the Board of Directors approve signage for the McKeough Upstream Lands reflecting no public access.”

CARRIED

A letter from Municipality of Chatham-Kent Chief Financial Officer, Gord Quinton, dated May 16, 2023 regarding considerations for the 2024 SCRCA budget was reviewed. Director Aaron Hall noted that the municipality is aiming to provide this prompt notice, as this will be their first time engaging in a multi-year budgetary process.

BD-23-59

Burrell – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the correspondence from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, dated May 16, 2023 regarding considerations for the 2024 SCRCA budget.”

CARRIED

8.1 (a) Business Arising

The report on business arising was reviewed.

8.1 (b) Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Projects

- SCRCA had submitted 7 WECI projects for the 2023-2024 program
- All applications have been reviewed by a committee of Provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives
- SCRCA was **successful** in receiving WECI funding for 5 projects
- SCRCA repair projects scored between 100 and 120 points respectively
- Total WECI funding received - **\$885,000**

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested (\$)
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Penhuron to Kenwick Street)	Carry out construction of shoreline protection as per the design	\$800,000	\$400,000
Seagar Park	Seagar Park Shoreline Restoration	Design and Construction of Shoreline restoration at Seagar park	\$500,000	\$250,000
W. Darcy McKeough Floodway	Drainage improvement and fence repairs	Repair ruts, potholes and improve drainage at the top of the berm	\$50,000	\$25,000
A.W. Campbell Walkway	Walkway Decommissioning	Decommission the walkway to the drop tube structure. Walkway is deteriorated and is in poor condition	\$20,000	\$10,000
Lambton Area Water Supply System	LAWSS Shoreline Repair	Carry out construction of shoreline protection as per the design (ongoing)	\$400,000	\$200,000

Director Comments:

Director Terry Burrell wished to congratulate staff on the successful application for funds.

8.1 (c) Regulations Activity

The regulations activity report covering the period from April 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023 was reviewed.

Director Comments:

Director Don McCabe enquired regarding the 55 time frame for the issue of permits for bridge repair in Brooke-Alvinston. Director of Planning and Regulations, Melissa Deisley offered to look into the specifics of the permits in question and report to Mr. McCabe directly.

8.1 (d) Planning Activity

The planning activity report covering the period from April 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023 was reviewed.

8.1 (e) Revenue and Expenditures

The revenue and expenditures report as at April 30, 2023 was reviewed.

8.1 (f) Disbursements

The list of disbursements for the period of March 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023 was reviewed.

8.1 (g) 2023 General Levy

The general levy report to May 31, 2023 was reviewed.

8.1 (h) Investments

The investment reports to April 30, 2023 were reviewed.

8.1 (i) Communications

Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race

As a result of the amount and duration of rainfall expected in the days leading up to the 2023 Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race scheduled for Sunday, April 30th, and the expected conditions at the start and finish lines, the Authority and St. Clair Region

Conservation Foundation made the difficult decision to cancel the 2023 event.

This marks the race's fifth cancellation in six years (three due to weather/water levels, two due to COVID-19). Participants have suggested arranging to have a rain date scheduled for future races. Discussions on if a rain date can be accommodated will occur between staff and the municipality prior to the 2024 race.

The Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race is recognized by the Ontario Marathon Canoe and Kayak Racing Association and serves as a fundraiser to support conservation education programs delivered by the SCRCA. Despite the cancellation, \$785.00 in pledges were received for the 2023 race.

2023 Tomorrow's Greener Schools Today – Lambton

The SCRCA and Lambton Public Health were excited to revive the Tomorrow's Greener Schools Today – Lambton program this spring, which sees Authority and Health Unit staff and students from County elementary schools plant trees to increase greenspace and shade in their schoolyards. The program was cancelled in April of 2020 due to the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through funding provided by Lambton Public Health and the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation, 59 trees were planted at six school yards located in Petrolia, Sarnia, Bright's Grove, Forest, and Corunna throughout the month of May 2023. Over 110 students participated in the 2023 initiative which includes an educational component that introduces students to the benefits of trees from both a health (e.g., sun protection) and environmental (e.g., wildlife habitat) perspective.

In total, the program has resulted in 227 trees planted at 26 Lambton schools by 561 students. Staff are currently working with Lambton Public Health to seek grant funding to support the Tomorrow's Greener Schools Today – Lambton program for the 2023-2024 school year.

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, 2023, to May 31, 2023:

Media Relations

Activity	2023 (April – May)	2022 (April – May)
Media Releases	6	8
News Article Mentions	219	334

Social Media

Facebook

Activity	Total	2023 (April – May)	2022 (April – May)
Post Reach*	--	15,990	18,174
Page Visits	--	842	2022
New Likes/Followers	2,433	24	44
Posts	--	38	30

*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	2023 (April – May)	2022 (April – May)
Tweets	--	28	36
Retweets	--	31	42
New Followers	912	5	8
Engagements*	--	215	157

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

SCRCA Website

Activity	2023 (April – May)	2022 (April – May)
Website Views	29,249	31,487
Website Visitors	9,779	10,215

Strategic Objectives(s):

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

8.1 (j) Education

Spring Education Program Summary

St. Clair Conservation's Education Team is happy to welcome students to Henderson Conservation Area for spring field trips. Programs are almost fully booked to the end of June; 2,500 students will have attended by the end of the school year. Bussing has been an issue for many schools this spring, so "Nature in Your Neighbourhood" schoolyard programs were promoted, and 480 students will have the chance to participate in outdoor education activities in their own schoolyards. For a full list of our current programs visit www.scrca.on.ca/govirtual.

LKDSB and SCCDSB Webinars

The LKDSB and SCCDSB have continued to sponsor well-received monthly webinars this spring, allowing SCRCA Education Staff to engage Grade K-12 students with local, relevant content. To date, over 5,000 students have participated in the 2023 school board funded webinars.

April: "The Life Cycle of a Forest" – Approximately 1,000 students joined to learn all about forests at Henderson Conservation Area, and all of the exciting things that happen at the beginning of Spring.

May: "A Day in the Life of a Biologist, Part 2: Endangered Species and Wetland Rehabilitation": Approximately 1,000 students joined us to interview Biologist Craig and PhD student Dominique as they studied the fish and turtles who have moved into a recently restored wetland at the Keith McLean Conservation Lands.

June: "Farming for the Future": Agriculture is the biggest land use in our watershed, and the Education Team is so excited to introduce students to one of SCRCA's champion Farmers who will demonstrate how to grow food while also protecting the environment.

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

Education staff continue weekly visits to Hillside School in Kettle and Stony Point First Nation to assist with the Land-based Education Program. Staff are currently seeking new funding to enable this program to continue into the 2023-2024 school year.

Spring Water Awareness Program

Thanks to a sponsorship from Plains Midstream, the Spring Water Awareness Program (SWAP) was once again delivered as an in-person schoolyard program, featuring games and experiments to teach students about how to stay safe around cold, fast, dangerous waters by Staying Away From the Edge in the springtime. This year, 1,250 students from 11 different schools participated in this program, including all five French schools in our watershed.

(NEW) Spring Days at Canatara Animal Farm

St. Clair Education is looking forward to teaching Grade 4 students about Species at Risk that live on and around farms in our watershed at the new Canatara “Spring Days” event starting June 12th. About 250 students are expected to attend.

Strategic Objectives(s):

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

8.1 (k) Scholarships

SCRCA Conservation Scholarship Program 2023:

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 2023 SCRCA scholarships were due on May 31, 2023. The applications will be reviewed by a committee established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation consisting of Norm Giffen, Archie Kerr, Mike Stark, Ken Phillips, and Donna Blue.

The following awards will be presented to the successful applicants:

- **A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000):** Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to the top two candidates.
- **Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship (\$500):** The third-place candidate will receive a \$500 scholarship.

- **Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship (\$500):** Of the remaining applications submitted by women, one applicant will receive a \$500 scholarship.

8.1 (I) Area of Concern (AOC)

Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption – BUI #1

A presentation was made to the Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee (CRIC) on May 11, 2023, on the outcome of the angler survey that was launched in Spring 2021 and closed in December 2022. The presentation included summary information on the most commonly consumed fish, meal size, meal frequency, preferred fishing locations, and key concerns about the consumption of fish from the St. Clair River. The findings will be incorporated into the assessment of the status of this BUI.

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

Engagement efforts remain underway to communicate the findings of the 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. Staff are waiting for confirmation on timing to be able to present the information to Walpole Island First Nation Chief and Council. A presentation to the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) will follow.

Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat – BUI #14

The CRIC Habitat Subcommittee team continues with their work on reviewing and providing input on the draft status assessment report for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat. With seven delisting criteria to be considered as part of the assessment, the report has required substantial effort to compile information on efforts over the past 30 years to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat in the St. Clair River Area of Concern. The draft report includes a recommendation that this BUI be redesignated to not impaired.

Recent and Scheduled Meetings

Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC)

- November 8, 2022
- May 11, 2023
- Next meeting to be scheduled in Fall 2023.

Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)

- February 2, 2023
- April 11, 2023
- June 21, 2023

Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

- November 1, 2022

- February 16, 2023
- April 19, 2023
- To be scheduled for July 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: [May 2023 Newsletter](#)

Canadian RAP Implementation Outreach Subcommittee

Discussions are underway with respect to holding an annual event to provide a community update on the status of the St. Clair River Area of Concern, with the first event potentially occurring in Fall 2023. More detailed discussions will occur at the next meeting scheduled for June 15, 2023.

Bluewater Anglers Kids Training Day

The Friends of the St. Clair River have arranged to have a display booth at the Kids Training Day event scheduled for Saturday May 27, 2023, at the hatchery located in the Village of Point Edward.

Management of Contaminated Sediment

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP), with assistance from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), will take the lead on outreach activities associated with the implementation phase of this project. Outreach will commence once timing for implementation has been confirmed. Dow will be leading the implementation work and covering costs associated with it.

Strategic Objectives(s):

Goal 3 – Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes.

Financial Impact:

Funding for the RAP Coordinator position is provided by MECP and ECCC. The current agreement with MECP is in place until February 28, 2024. The funding agreement with ECCC had two funding periods. The first funding period ended on March 31, 2023. The option to extend it for the second period until March 31, 2024, was then implemented. The SCRCA is providing monthly updates to MECP and ECCC on the status of the project work.

BD-23-60

Grimes – Brennan

“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and receives the accompanying items 8.1 (a) through 8.1 (l) as information.”

CARRIED

BD-23-61

Burrell – Huszka

“That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 11:35 a.m. with only the General Manager, Board Coordinator and Manager of Conservation Lands present, in order to discuss SCRCA property and legal matter.”

CARRIED

BD-23-62

Grimes - Westgate

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 11:50 a.m. and return to regular business.”

CARRIED

BD-23-63

Burrell – Miller

“That the Board of Directors approve the acquisition of unopened road allowance, PIN 00557 0118, Wallaceburg, Municipality of Chatham-Kent and direct staff to proceed with negotiations with Chatham-Kent for the transfer of ownership for the cost of \$1.00 and associated legal costs and further, that the Board of Directors accept the donation of Plan 133 N Pt Lot 26 in the Town of Dresden, Municipality of Chatham-Kent and direct staff to the donation of Plan 133 N Pt Lot 26 in the Town of Dresden, Municipality of Chatham-Kent.”

CARRIED

On October 4, 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) released the Phase 1 regulations to implement amendments to the CA Act. The following regulations were included in the Phase 1 release:

- Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services
- Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services
- Ontario Regulation 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas.

Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services, required the SCRCA to develop an inventory of programs and services. The inventory must include sources of funding, costing and categorization of all programs and services

into one of three specific categories:

- Category 1: Mandatory programs and services as identified in Ontario Regulation 686/21. These programs are eligible to be funded through general municipal levy. (e.g., Flood Forecast and Warning)
- Category 2: Municipal programs and services that are provided at the request of the municipality. These programs can be funded through self-generated revenue, government and other agency grants and/or municipal funding under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or agreement with the municipality. (e.g., Operation of Local Conservation Areas)
- Category 3: Other programs and services that an Authority (Board) determines are advisable. These programs can be funded through self-generated revenue, user fees, government and other agency grants, donations, etc. Any use of municipal funding will require an agreement and would be subject to cost apportioning (e.g., Environmental Education)

The Board of Directors approved the first version of Inventory of Programs and Services at the Feb. 24, 2022 Board meeting. This inventory list must be viewed as a living and evolving document that will change during the transition period.

SCRCA staff have updated the Inventory of Programs and Services with the most recent program and cost information as attached. The duplicated and expired programs have been removed, and the cost and funding sources % have been updated. The conservation and management of lands should fall under Category 1 – Mandatory programs and services in CA Act. But the current SCRCA policy breaks conservation areas into regional, rural, and in town conservation areas, and most municipalities pay special levy for the conservation areas within their region. Therefore, local conservation areas are put in Category 2 in the inventory.

Category 1 mandatory programs and services are eligible to be funded through general municipal levy. The total cost of Category 1 programs, excluding Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) projects, is \$2,352,870. \$910,600 of the aforementioned amount is funded through self-generated revenue (fees) and internal charges to revenue producing activities. With recent reductions in the eligibility of CAs to apply for provincial grants and freezing of fee schedules, it has become more challenging to support Category 1 programs outside of the general levy.

Recommendations:

Staff recommend designating an increase of \$30,980 (2%) to the general levy as part of the 2024 budget to fund Category 1 mandatory programs and services that have previously been funded through self-generated revenue or internal charges in order to comply with Ontario Regulation 686/21. Note that the above increase does not represent

the total potential increase that may be required for the 2024 budget.

A listing of SCRCA programs, services and subservices was reviewed.

Director Emery Huszka noted his inability to comment or vote on budgetary matters due to the limitations of his appointment to the Board of Directors.

Director Comments:

Director Don McCabe expressed his opposition with motion BD-23-64 and the acceptance of any figure without further supporting information. It was clarified by General Manager, Ken Phillips that the proposed increase represents a 2% increase in general levy, to be calculated and incorporated annually to address the shortfall for category 1 (mandatory) programs, for which we have previously relied on grants. It was also noted that this figure is to be incorporated into the draft budget, which will come to the Board of Directors for approval in the fall of 2023.

BD-23-64

Burrell – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors approve the updated Inventory of Programs and Services, and further that the amount of \$30,980, representing a 2% increase in general levy, be incorporated into the 2024 and subsequent budget discussions for the purpose of funding Category 1 mandatory programs that have traditionally been funded solely through self-generated revenue or internal charges.”

CARRIED

Under New Business

Chair Pat Brown updated the Board of Directors on Mayor Brad Loosley’s extended leave from Council and the SCRCA. He is wished ‘get well soon’ from all Board members and staff.

The Chair highlighted the Tomorrow’s Greener Schools Today program, of which he participated in at the Sir John Moore Public School in Corunna.

Directors and staff are wished a happy and safe summer. The next scheduled SCRCA meeting is September 14, 2023.

BD-23-65

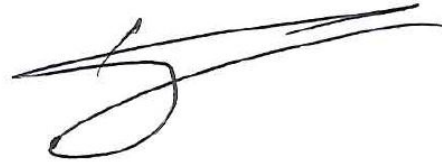
Grimes – Rodrigues

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:00 p.m.”

CARRIED



Pat Brown
Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager