



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: December 12, 2024 Time: 10:07 a.m.
SCRCA Administration Office
205 Millpond Cres., Strathroy, ON N7G 3P9

Directors Present: John Brennan, Pat Brown, Chair; Terry Burrell, Greg Grimes, Sue Cates, Frank Kennes, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Don McCabe, Don McCallum, Steve Miller (left at 11:03 a.m.), Ross O’Hara, Kristen Rodrigues, Jerry Westgate

Directors Remote: Alan Broad, Aaron Hall, Adam Kilner, Mary Lynne McCallum

Directors Regrets: Anne Marie Gillis, Rhonda Jubenville, Lorie Scott, Vice-Chair

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Emily De Cloet, Interim Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations; Chris Durand, Manager of IT and GIS; Emily Febrey, Communication and Education Technician; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant and Board Coordinator; Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services; Craig Paterson, Manager of Biology; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Ken Phillips, General Manager; Jeff Sharp, Conservation Services Technician; Kelli Smith, Lands Technician; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Lands;

1. Land Acknowledgement

A land acknowledgment was read by Chair, Pat Brown which recognized the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority watershed as part of the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, who have a sacred responsibility to preserve the land and water of southwestern Ontario. Also acknowledged are the Treaties that allow the SCRCA to work alongside the First Nation Communities of Kettle and Stony Point, Aamjiwnaang and Bkejwanong to ensure we share the responsibility of preserving the land and water.

2. Call to Order and Chair’s Remarks

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Pat Brown, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-24-88

Burrell – Grimes

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

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

The Chair 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.

5. Minutes

5.1 Board of Directors October 24, 2024 Minutes

BD-24-89

Miller – Brennan

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held October 24, 2024, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

6. Presentation

A presentation was provided by Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations regarding the hearing guidelines and procedures.

6.1 Hearing Procedures

BD-24-90

Miller – Brennan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation from General Manager, Ken Phillips and Director of Planning & Regulations, Melissa Deisley regarding hearing meeting guidelines and procedures.

CARRIED

7. Reports

7.1 General Manager’s Report

Comments:

The General Manager attended a Conservation Ontario (CO) Council meeting on December 9, 2024. Topics discussed include:

- Insurance market and possible rate reductions
- Updates to CO Hearing Guidelines
- Upcoming changes to Conservation Authorities Act which will necessitate changes to CA administrative by-laws (to be announced February, 2025)
- Updates to the framework for ministerial appeals. Updates to working include the notion that decisions may be made as per the benefit to Provincial interest

BD-24-91**Cates – McCallum, Mary Lynne****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated December 4, 2024.”****CARRIED****7.2 2025 Budget and Levy**

Municipality	2025 Budget Total CVA Apport. %	2025 Budget CVA Apport. %	Representative	y/n vote
Adelaide Metcalfe	1.9548%	1.9548%	Betty Ann MacKinnon	y
Brooke-Alvinston	1.7332%	1.7332%	Don McCabe	y
Chatham-Kent		6.5380%	Aaron Hall	y
Chatham-Kent	13.0760%	6.5380%	Rhonda Jubenville	-
Dawn-Euphemia	2.6130%	2.6130%	Alan Broad	y
Enniskillen	1.8776%	1.8776%	Mary Lynne McCallum	y
Lambton Shores	5.1465%	5.1465%	Lorie Scott	-
Middlesex Centre	2.3972%	2.3972%	Sue Cates	y
Newbury	0.1575%	0.1575%	Don McCallum	y
Oil Springs	0.2086%	0.2086%	Mary Lynne McCallum	y
Petrolia	2.6114%	2.6114%	Ross O'Hara	y
Plympton-Wyoming	5.7677%	5.7677%	Kristen Rodrigues	y
Point Edward	2.0921%	2.0921%	Greg Grimes	y
Sarnia		12.2572%	Terry Burrell	y
Sarnia		12.2572%	Anne Marie Gillis	-
Sarnia	36.7715%	12.2572%	Adam Kilner	-
Southwest Middlesex	1.1602%	1.1602%	Don McCallum	y
St. Clair		5.5118%	Pat Brown	y
St. Clair	11.0237%	5.5118%	Steve Miller	y
Strathroy-Caradoc		4.5757%	Frank Kennes	y
Strathroy-Caradoc	9.1513%	4.5757%	John Brennan	y
Warwick	2.2578%	2.2578%	Jerry Westgate	y
	100%	100%		
			Yes	63.801%
			No	0.000%

BD-24-92

Kennes – Brennan

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2025 General Levy of \$1,675,950 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-24-93

Burrell – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2025 Budget of \$11,179,180 including finalized general levy, updates to specific projects and municipal agreements and comments received to date.”

CARRIED

7.2 Asset Management Plan

BD-24-94

Miller – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated December 2, 2024 and approves the draft SCRCA Asset Management Plan, as presented, and;

That the Board endorses in principle, the recommendation for a dedicated capital levy increase by \$16,691(1.04%) annually over 5-year phase-in period for Mandatory and General Capital Programs and Services except for Water Control Structures, to be apportioned to all member municipalities by the latest CVA, and that staff be directed to engage the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to consider an increase to a maximum of \$51,050 (24.29%) annually over 20-year period for Water Control Structures (McKeough Dam), to be apportioned beginning in 2026,and

That the Board directs staff to circulate the plan to member municipalities for information and consultation to determine financial capacity for establishing a capital levy in 2026, and;

That the Board directs staff to implement recommendations within the plan, as practically feasible.”

CARRIED

7.4 Destruction of Documents

BD-24-95

Cates – Grimes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 20, 2024 regarding document retention and approves the destruction of the identified documents as per the SCRCA Document Retention Policy.”

CARRIED

7.5 Lease Agreement – Olde Czech Hall

BD-24-96

MacKinnon – Kilner

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report dated November 14, 2024, and approves entering into the attached lease agreement with the Tenant (Municipality of Chatham-Kent) and the Sub-Tenant (Olde Czech Hall Committee).”

CARRIED

7.6 Conservation Lands Strategy

BD-24-97

Burrell – Kilner

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 21, 2024 regarding the Conservation Lands Strategy and further approves the final draft document, developed as part of the recent changes to the Mandatory Programs and Services regulation under the Conservation Authorities Act, with integration of comments from Indigenous engagement and public consultations.”

CARRIED

7.7 Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy

BD-24-98

Brennan – Rodrigues

“That the board of directors acknowledge the report dated December 2, 2024 on the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy and approves the final document, developed to comply with the changes to the Mandatory Programs and Services regulation under the Conservation Authorities Act, with integration of comments from Indigenous engagement and public consultations.”

CARRIED

8. Consent Items

8.1 (a) Business Arising

(b) Current Watershed Conditions

(c) Planning Activity Summary Report

- (d) Regulations Activity Summary Report**
- (e) Revenue and Expenditure Report**
- (f) Disbursements**
- (g) 2024 General Levy Update**
- (h) Investment Reports**
- (i) St. Clair River AOC**

BD-24-99

Burrell – O’Hara

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

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

10. In-Camera

BD-24-100

Cates – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 11:20 a.m. to discuss conservation awards and personnel information with the General Manager, Manager of Communications, Director of Finance, Manager of IT and Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator remaining.”

CARRIED

BD-24-101

Brennan – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 11:27 a.m.”

CARRIED

11. New Business

Director Mary-Lynne McCallum has resigned from council with Enniskillen Township. She is thanked for her service to the SCRCA Board of Directors and is wished well in her future endeavours.

SCRCA Manager of Conservation Services, Steve Shaw will be retiring at the end of December after 36 years of service. Steve is thanked for his hard work and commitment to the organization over the years.

Directors are reminded that vacancies for the position of Chair and Vice Chair will be brought to the February 27, 2024 annual general meeting of the Authority. The CA Act restricts the appointment of officers to 2 consecutive terms. Therefore, the current Chair, Pat Brown and Vice-Chair, Lorie Scott will not be eligible to run in their existing positions.

Directors are encouraged to inform their peers if they have an interest in being nominated.

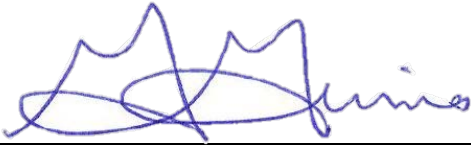
12. Adjournment

BD-24-102

Grimes – Rodrigues

“That the Board of Directors Meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Greg Grimes
2025 Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager