



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: October 23, 2025 Time: 10:00 a.m.
SCRCA Administration Office
205 Millpond Cres., Strathroy

Directors Present: John Brennan, Terry Burrell, Sue Cates, Greg Grimes, Chair; Aaron Hall, Frank Kennes, Brad Loosley, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Don McCabe, Don McCallum, Steve Miller, Kristen Rodrigues, Vice-Chair; Ian Veen, Jerry Westgate

Directors Remote: Al Broad, Pat Brown, Rhonda Jubenville (arrived at 10:29 a.m.), Lorie Scott (arrived at 10:10 a.m.), Brian White (arrived at 10:23 a.m.)

Directors Regrets: Aaron Hall, Adam Kilner

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Emily De Cloet, Coordinator of Flood Forecasting and Warning; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations; Chris Durand, Manager of IT and GIS; Emily Febrey, Communication and Outreach Specialist; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant and Board Coordinator; Kate Jamieson, Payroll/Accounting Clerk; Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services; Tim Payne, Manager of Conservation Lands; Ken Phillips, General Manager; Kelli Smith, Lands Technician; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

1. Land Acknowledgement

A land acknowledgment was read by Chair, Greg Grimes, 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, Greg Grimes, who, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Board was reminded of the evening's Honouring the St. Clair River event and informed of the SCRCA's declaration of a level 1 low water condition.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

BD-25-67

Kennes - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors accepts 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 September 18, 2025

BD-25-68

Burrell – Brennan

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held September 18, 2025, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

6. Presentations (none)

7. Staff Reports

7.1 General Manager’s Report

A verbal report was provided by General Manager(GM), Ken Phillips.

The September 22, 2025 Conservation Ontario Council meeting was attended by the GM and Chair, Greg Grimes. The Minister of Conservation, Environment and Parks was expected to provide remarks and answer questions, however the Minister, nor any Ministry representatives were in attendance.

The first reading of the Ontario omnibus Bill 56, *Building a More Competitive Economy Act*, 2025 took place on October 20, 2025. To date, no mention has been made of changes to Conservation Authorities.

BD-25-69

Brown – Broad

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal report from the General Manager.”

CARRIED

7.2 2026 Nominating Committee

BD-25-70

Burrell – Kennes

“That the 2026 Nominating Committee consisting of the following four directors representing the four districts of the Authority being Sarnia, Lambton, Chatham-Kent, and Middlesex be: Terry Burrell, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Pat Brown, Rhonda Jubenville and further that the Nominating Committee’s recommendation for the 2026 committee membership be presented at the Annual General Meeting.”

CARRIED

7.3 2026 Meeting Dates

BD-25-71

Miller – Cates

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2026 tentative schedule of meetings for the Board of Directors and Committees, dated September 24, 2025.”

CARRIED

7.4 2026 Draft Budget

General Manager, Ken Phillips provided a verbal reminder that he is available upon request to attend upcoming municipal council meetings to discuss the SCRCA draft budget.

BD-25-72

Kennes – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2026 Draft Budget of \$9,034,753 with a proposed municipal general operating levy of \$1,743,739 and general capital levy of \$16,691, and further that the Board of Directors direct staff to circulate the draft budget booklet to member municipalities for information and input, and to post on the Governance section of the SCRCA’s website in accordance with Ontario Regulation.”

CARRIED

7.5 Hearing Committee Training

General Manager, Ken Phillips reminded Directors to forward any questions related to hearings and guidelines in advance so that they may be addressed during the presentation. Directors are also reminded that the training session is open to all directors,

but is deemed mandatory for Hearing Committee members.

BD-25-73

Burrell – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 24, 2025 giving notice of the mandatory training for all Hearing Committee members on Thursday, December 4, 2025.”

CARRIED

7.6 A.W. Campbell Conservation Area Septic/Sewer Upgrade

Director’s request a report to the board with expected timelines for the replenishment of land reserves and further that future budgets consider and reflect the potential failure of septic systems at all 3 campgrounds.

BD-25-74

Cates – Broad

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 1, 2025 regarding the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area septic/sewer upgrade and further, approves option 1, a raised bed absorption trench septic system with gravity sewers, for application to the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks for an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA).”

CARRIED

7.7 Coldstream Conservation Area Master Plan

BD-25-75

Veen – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report regarding the updated Master Plan for Coldstream Conservation Area; and further directs staff to proceed with stakeholder and public consultation.”

CARRIED

8. Informational Items

- 8.1 (a) Business Arising**
- (b) Current Watershed Conditions**
- (c) Regulations Activity Summary**
- (d) Planning Activity Summary**
- (e) Revenue and Expenditures**
- (f) Disbursements**
- (g) General Levy Update**
- (h) Communications Update**

(i) AOC Report

BD-25-76

MacKinnon – Burrell

“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

9.1 Letter from Plympton-Wyoming Re: 2026 Budget

BD-25-77

Jubenville – Scott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the letter from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming regarding the SCRCA 2026 budget.

CARRIED

9.2 Letter of Support from Jessica Jessome

BD-25-78

Kennes – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the e-mail received on October 6, 2025 from Jessica Jessome supporting Conservation Authority funding and fair hearing guidelines.”

CARRIED

10. New Business (none)

Director Kristin Rodrigues brought forth concerns regarding the condition of trails and maintenance at the Esli Dodge Conservation Area. Manager of Conservation Areas, Greg Wilcox will contact the Municipality of Lambton Shores, who currently lease and maintain the land.

Director Don McCabe requests an update report on the Sydenham Phosphorus Reduction Initiative program.

Director Pat Brown requested information regarding the Water Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) and Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation funds (DMAF) and whether plans are in place to address shoreline projects along the St. Clair River. Staff informed that these grants have moved to a multi-year grant funding model and therefore are not

available to apply for at this time. Staff will provide further updates when these funds are open for applications again.

Director Brad Loosley provided thanks to staff for reducing the draft 2026 budget from 8% to 5%.

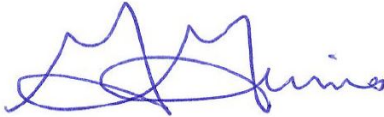
11. Adjournment

BD-25-79

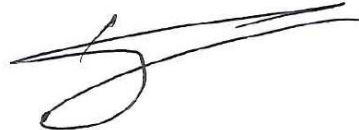
Veen – Cates

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Greg Grimes
Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager