Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: June 25, 2026 Time: 10:00 a.m.
SCRCA Administration Office
205 Millpond Cres., Strathroy

**Directors Present:** John Brennan, Diane Brewer, Terry Burrell, Sue Cates, Greg Grimes, Adam Kilner, Brad Loosley, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Don McCabe, Steve Miller, Kristen Rodrigues, Jerry Westgate, Brian White

**Directors Remote:** Al Broad, Pat Brown

**Directors Regrets:** Aaron Hall, Rhonda Jubenville, Frank Kennes, Lorie Scott, Ian Veen

**Staff Present:** Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations (arrived at 10:40 a.m.); Chris Durand, Manager of IT and GIS; 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; 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 informed of the passing of Cindy Brown, wife of Vice-Chair Pat Brown, following a brief illness. A tree will be planted in honour of Cindy's memory and thoughts are with the Brown family during this difficult time.

## 3. Pecuniary Interests

It was requested that each Director declare a conflict of interest at the appropriate time, on any item within the agenda in that a Director may have pecuniary interest.

**4. Adoption of the Agenda**

**BD-26-34**
**Burrell – Loosley**
**“That the Board of Directors accepts the agenda for the meeting as presented.”**
**CARRIED**

**5. Minutes**

**5.1 Minutes of the April 16, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting**

**BD-26-35**
**MacKinnon – Westgate**
**“That the draft minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held April 16, 2026 be received for information.”**

**CARRIED**

**6. Reports**

**6.1 General Manager’s Report**

**BD-26-36**
**Kilner – Miller**
**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated June 12, 2026.”**

**CARRIED**

**6.2 Western Lake Erie Region Conservation Authority Guiding Principles**

**BD-26-37**
**Kilner – Brennan**
**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 12, 2026 on the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles for Transition be received and approved, as presented.”**
**CARRIED**

**6.3 Draft Fees**

**BD-26-38**
**Miller – Kilner**
**“That the Board of Directors acknowledge this report regarding the 2027 draft fee schedule further accept the recommended changes, approving the draft fee schedule as presented.”**

**CARRIED**

**6.4 Draft Budget**

**BD-26-39**
**Loosley – Rodrigues**
**“That the Board of Directors move to limit the increase to the 2027 general levy to 3%, with an additional 1% to come from interest earned on reserves.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-26-40**
**McCabe – Brennan**
**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2027 Draft Budget of $10,531,683 with a proposed municipal general operating levy of $1,796,567 and general capital levy of $33,382 (from reserves), 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. Consent Items

### 7.1 Approval of Consent Agenda Items

#### 7.1 (a) Business Arising

The item referencing BD-24-62 regarding electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at campgrounds is requested to be removed from business arising. Campground properties and activities are already utilizing the maximum available electric utility services and therefore, cannot support the use of EV charging stations. Further, the space required to do so would require the use of income generating

#### 7.1 (b) Current Watershed Conditions and Great Lakes Levels

#### 7.1 (c) Regulations Activity Summary

Address corrections were noted on several entries within the summary.

**7.1 (d) Planning Activity Summary**

**7.1 (e) Revenue & Expense Summary**

**7.1 (f) Disbursements**

**7.1 (g) 2026 General Levy Update**

**7.1 (h) Investments**

**7.1 (i) Communications Update**

**7.1 (j) Education Report**

**7.1 (k) Scholarships**

**7.1 (l) AOC Report**

**BD-26-41**
**Brown – White**
**"That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and endorses the recommendations accompanying Items 8.1 (a) - 8.1 (l)."**
**CARRIED**

**8. Correspondence**

**8.1 Correspondence from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks**

**BD-26-42**
**Burrell – Cates**
**"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence from the Ministry of Conservation, Education and Parks, dated May 1, 2026 giving direction to Conservation Authorities under section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act."**
**CARRIED**

**9. In Camera**

**10. New Business**

Directors expressed their hope for the future of Conservation Authorities and for the continuation of input provided at the local, municipal level. It is hoped that the new watershed councils will recognize the good work that has been done and hold the new Provincial agency accountable and responsible for effective governance and the protection of lands.

Concerns were shared regarding the holding of reserves and General Manager, Ken Philips is requested to bring forth a list of high-priority capital projects for consideration.

Directors and staff are wished a happy and safe summer.

Upcoming Events:

- The Lambton Farm Safety Day is on July 2nd – All are welcome to attend
- The next SCRCA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept 17, 2026
- The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation memorial tree dedication ceremony is tentatively booked for Sunday, September 27

**11. Adjournment**

**BD-26-43**
**Kilner – Brennan**
**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**

**CARRIED**

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|---|---|
| **Greg Grimes** | **Ken Phillips** |
| **Chair** | **General Manager** |