



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 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, Frank Kennes, Brad Loosley, Don McCabe, Steve Miller, Kristen Rodrigues, Ian Veen, Jerry Westgate, Brian White

Directors Remote: Al Broad, Pat Brown, Rhonda Jubenville

Directors Regrets: Aaron Hall, Adam Kilner, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Lorie Scott

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations, Chris Durand, Manager of IT and GIS; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant and Board Coordinator; Chunng 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.

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-26-44

White – Loosley

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

CARRIED

5. Presentations (none)

6. Minutes

6.1 Minutes of the April, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting

BD-26-45

Burrell – Westgate

“That the draft minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held June 25, 2026 be received for information.”

CARRIED

7. Reports

7.1 Proposed Governance Regulations for CAs and OPCA

BD-26-46

Brown – Cates

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the report dated September 8, 2026 regarding the proposed governance regulations for regional Conservation Authorities and the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency.”

CARRIED

7.2 SCRCA Transition to WLERCA

Comments: Directors are reminded that appointments to the SCRCA Board of Directors remain active until the Annual General Meeting regardless of their status on municipal council. Directors not running for election or not on council are asked to inform staff of any updates to contact details.

BD-26-47

Burrell – Loosley

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the report dated September 8, 2026 regarding the amalgamation of the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority.”

CARRIED

7.3 2027 Budget

A weighted vote was conducted, resulting in a unanimous pass.

Municipal Funding Summary		2027 Budget Total CVA	2027 Budget CVA	Representative	y/n
Municipality	Apport.%	Apport.%			Vote
Adelaide Metcalfe	1.9409%	1.9409%	Betty Ann MacKinnon		-
Brooke-Alvinston	1.7244%	1.7244%	Don McCabe		y
Chatham-Kent		6.5632%	Aaron Hall		-
Chatham-Kent	13.1264%	6.5632%	Rhonda Jubenville		y
Dawn-Euphemia	2.5255%	2.5255%	Alan Broad		y
Enniskillen	1.8533%	1.8533%	Ian Veen		y
Lambton Shores	5.1140%	5.1140%	Lorie Scott		-
Middlesex Centre	2.4316%	2.4316%	Sue Cates		y
Newbury	0.1561%	0.1561%	Diane Brewer		y
Oil Springs	0.2105%	0.2105%	Ian Veen		y
Petrolia	2.5793%	2.5793%	Brad Loosley		y
Plympton-Wyoming	5.8317%	5.8317%	Kristen Rodrigues		y
Point Edward	2.0975%	2.0975%	Greg Grimes		y
Sarnia		12.1019%	Terry Burrell		y
Sarnia		12.1019%	Brian White		y
Sarnia	36.3057%	12.1019%	Adam Kilner		-
Southwest Middlesex	1.1981%	1.1981%	Diane Brewer		y
St. Clair		5.6913%	Pat Brown		y
St. Clair	11.3826%	5.6913%	Steve Miller		y
Strathroy - Caradoc		4.6473%	Frank Kennes		y
Strathroy - Caradoc	9.2947%	4.6473%	John Brennan		y
Warwick	2.2277%	2.2277%	Jerry Westgate		y
	100.00%	100%			
			Yes	74.280%	
			No	0.000%	
			Total	74.280%	
			Vote Passed By	100.000%	

BD-26-48

Miller – Loosley

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2027 General Levy of \$1,812,345.00 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-26-49

Rodrigues – Cates

“That the Board of Directors approves the 2027 Budget of \$10,531,683.00 including finalized general levy, updates to specific projects and municipal agreements and comments received to date.”

CARRIED

7.4 Use of Reserves for Capital Projects

Comments: Directors request a projection of 2026 interest.

BD-26-50

Burrell - Rodrigues

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the report dated September 10, 2026 regarding the use of reserves and further allocate the 2025 and 2026 interest earned from current reserve investments into a dedicated reserve for future capital expenditures for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority administration office”

CARRIED

8. Information Items

- (a) Business Arising (none)
- (b) Current Watershed Conditions
- (c) Regulations Report
- (d) Planning Report
- (e) Revenue and Expenditure Report
- (f) Disbursements
- (g) General Levy Update
- (h) Investments
- (i) Communications Update
- (j) AOC Report
- (k) AWC House Commemorative Sign
- (l) Strathroy CA Boardwalk Replacement
- (m) Head Street (Strathroy) and Coldstream Dams Update

BD-26-51

Veen – White

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

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

9.1 Letter from MECP re Ministers Direction under S. 1.14 of CA Act

BD-26-52

Loosley – Miller

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the letter dated June 26, 2026 from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding the Minister’s direction under section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act, with respect to budget and apportionment matters”

CARRIED

9.2 Letter from OPCA re Apportionment of Project Executives

BD-26-53

Burrell – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the letter dated July 15, 2026 from the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency regarding the appointment of Project Executives for regional Conservation Authorities.”

CARRIED

9.3 Letter from OPCA re Members of the Transition Committee

BD-26-54

Broad – Brown

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the letter dated July 30, 2026 from the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency announcing the members of the transition committees to support the implementation of regional Conservation Authority consolidation.”

CARRIED

9.4 Letter from OPCA re SCRCA Governance post 2026 Municipal Election

BD-26-55

Veen – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the letter dated September 9, 2026 regarding governance of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority following the 2026 Municipal election.”

CARRIED

10. In Camera

BD-26-56

Loosley – Cates

“That the Board of Directors move in camera at 10:39 a.m. to discuss matters related to SCRCA-owned property.”

CARRIED

BD-26-57

Miller – Brown

“That the Board of Directors rise at 11:23a.m. and return to regular business.”

CARRIED

A verbal report of the discussions held in-camera was provided by Chair Greg Grimes.

- Directors were updated on MECPs approval for the disposal of a parcel of land within the Darcy McKeough diversion channel
- Correspondence regarding the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency’s (OPCA) request for confidentiality was reviewed and discussed.
 - Directors express concern regarding the draft terms of reference and request for confidentiality noting the lack of transparency and duty to inform stakeholders.
 - Staff are directed to seek legal counsel and draft a formal response, to be reviewed and endorsed at the October Board of Directors meeting.
 - Directors request an assessment of the legality of OPCA’s requests in relation to the Municipal Act.
 - Staff are directed to distribute the following motion and approved response letter to member municipalities and media.

BD-26-58

Rodrigues – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the Regional CA Transition Committee Terms of Reference and Confidentiality Undertaking - Transition Committees WLERCA, received from the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency on Friday, September 11th, And further that staff be directed to seek a legal opinion on the Regional CA Transition Committee Terms of Reference and Confidentiality Undertaking - Transition Committees WLERCA with regard to its content in relation to the Municipal Act, And further that staff prepare a letter in support of the recommendations provided by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to be reviewed at the October 29th 2026 Board of Directors meeting.”

CARRIED

10. New Business

The Board of Directors meeting, originally scheduled for Thursday, October 22 has been cancelled and rescheduled as a special meeting on Thursday, October 29th. A regular Board of Directors meeting is to be scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2026.

Director Don McCabe gave thanks to SCRCA staff for their presence at the recent Lambton Farm Safety event in Forest, ON and for attending the Agriculture in the Classroom event held as part of the Plympton Wyoming Fall Fair.

12. Adjournment

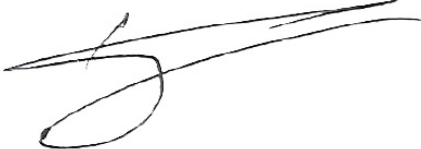
BD-26-

Veen – Cates

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

Greg Grimes
Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager