

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at the Administration Building in Chatham at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 27, 2015. The following directors were in attendance:- J. Kavelaars, L. McKinlay, T. Thompson, L. LeClair, S. Pinsonneault, D. McKillop, H. MacDonald, S. Caveney, G. Bogart, R. Doane and J. Wolfe.

### 1. **Adoption of Agenda**

1. H. MacDonald – S. Caveney

Moved that the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

### 2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

None declared.

### 3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting (Previously Circulated)**

2. R. Doane – D. McKillop

Moved that the minutes of the meeting of June 25, 2015 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

### 4. **Business Arising From the Minutes**

(a) Building Renovation

Don Pearson gave a brief update on the progress of the renovations being undertaken on the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Administration Building.

### 5. **Committee Meetings**

(a) Board of Directors Minutes, June 25, 2015

(b) Personnel & Finance / Executive Committee Minutes, June 25, 2015

(c) Ska-Nah-Doht Committee Minutes, July 2, 2015

- (d) Personnel & Finance / Executive Committee Minutes, August 20, 2015

3. D. McKillop – G. Bogart

Moved that the committee meeting agenda items 5 (a) through to 5 (d) be received for information.

CARRIED

6. **Correspondence**

- (a) MNR review of the Conservation Authorities Act, meeting the needs of Ontarians in a modern context, discussion paper
- (b) Phosphorus Reduction Target
- (c) Lake Erie's Toxic Algae Bloom is Back and It's Spreading, The Weather Network News

4. L. McKinlay – D. McKillop

Moved that correspondence items 6 (a) through to 6 (c) be received for information.

CARRIED

7. **Business for Information**

- (a) Water Related Issues, Initiatives & Activities
- i. Flood Events – Power Point Presentation
  - ii. Watershed planning
    - a. Thames Clearwater Revival
    - b. Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan
    - c. New website on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia

5. L. McKinlay – T. Thompson

Moved that CA staff work with Chatham-Kent municipal building and planning staff to put forward a recommendation to council to undertake a comprehensive Lake Erie shoreline management study.

CARRIED

- (b) Biannual Lake St. Clair Conference, Update
- (c) Authority Regulations
- i. Development of an Agricultural Guide to Conservation Authority Permits in the Greenbelt and Beyond – Staff Report
  - ii. Applications for Permission under Ontario Regulation 152/06 (CA Act) – Staff Report
- (d) Conservation Services
- i. Grants
  - ii. Prairie

- iii. Wetlands
  - iv. Greenhouse
  - v. Natural Heritage Implementation Strategy
  - vi. OMAFRA Research Project Update, McLean Conservation Area
  - vii. Agricultural Specialist – Stewardship Projects
  - viii. Agricultural Specialist – Community Outreach and Education
  - ix. Species At Risk job posting
- (e) Conservation Areas
    - i. 2015 June 1 – July 31 Visitation / Camping Stats
    - ii. Administration Building – Office Renovation
    - iii. Stewardship Rangers – Big ‘O’ and Rowsom CA’s
    - iv. Sharon Creek, Tree Removal / Swing
    - v. Sharon Creek, Dog Bite Incident
  - (f) Community Relations
  - (g) Conservation Authority Education
  - (h) Wheatley Two Creeks Association
  - (i) GM’s Report

6. S. Caveney – R. Doane

Moved that agenda items 7 (a) through to 7 (i) be received for information.

CARRIED

**8. Business for Approval**

- (a) MNRF review of the Conservation Authorities Act, meeting the needs of Ontarians in a modern context , discussion paper

7. D. McKillop – H. MacDonald

Moved that the LTVCA Board support the need for the Province of Ontario to amend Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act to remove ambiguities concerning wetlands and to enable the issuance of “stop work orders” to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulation; and that the province restore a funding mechanism which addresses the current inequities in CA financial capacity; and that the provincial government consider the establishment of an appropriate accountability framework at the provincial level which recognizes the multi-ministry nature of the Authorities’ program and provides adequate legislative, policy and financial support for this essential program; and that these points be circulated to the member municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED

(b) 2016 Budget Outlook

8. L. McKinlay – H. MacDonald

Moved that the preliminary budget for 2016 support the creation of 3 new positions (water management; ecology/biology; conservation areas manager. It is further recommended that these positions be financed by a targeted levy increase which would seek to move all municipalities closer to their ratio of the Current Value Assessment of each within the watershed. At the present time, Chatham-Kent is contributing an additional \$120,000 annually in direct benefiting levy for flood control (Indian and McGregor Creek system operations); plus \$308,000 toward the Greening Partnership. It is proposed that an equivalent "greening partnership" levy be collected from all municipalities except C-K, which would yield an additional \$218,859 annually. The attached tables and graphs illustrate this imbalance and the impact of implementing a supplementary levy on these nine municipalities.

CARRIED

**9. Other Business**

Chatham-Kent member, Trevor Thompson provided the Board of Directors with a Power Point Presentation and commentary of his trip down the Thames River from Delaware to Thamesgrove Park in the city of Chatham this summer.

9. R. Doane – D. McKillop

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

  
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John Kavelaars  
Chair

  
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Don Pearson  
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer