



Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

June 30th, 2016

2:00 p.m.

Board Room, Administration Building

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10. Other Business	
10.1) August Meeting	
11. Adjournment	

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

4.1) Board of Directors Meeting – April 21, 2016



Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at the Administration Building of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority commencing at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 21, 2016. The following directors were in attendance: J. Kavelaars, L. McKinlay, R. Doane, H. McDonald, M. Smibert, D. McKillop, S. Caveney, L. LeClair, and J. Wolf.

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of Agenda

1. D. McKillop – L. LeClair

Moved that the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

None Declared.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (Previously circulated)

An omission regarding the motions affecting the 2016 budget and levy was noted and corrected.

2. L. McKinlay – M. Smibert

Moved that the minutes of the Board of Directors Annual Meeting on February 18, 2016 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. D. McKillop – H. McDonald

Moved that the recommendations arising from the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Meeting on March 24, 2016 be accepted.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising From the Minutes

None.

6. Business for Approval

7.1) Provincial Offences Officer Training

4. M. Smibert - D. McKillop

Moved that Jason Homewood, Water Resources and Regulations Technician, and Valerie Towsley, Resource Technician be appointed as Provincial Offences Officers to enforce Section 28 and/or Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, on behalf of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

CARRIED

8. Business for Information

8.1) Water Management

In addition to the written reports, presentations were made by staff outlining the responsibilities of the Water Management Department, including highlights of the spring runoff event, and the GLASI program within the Jeannette's Creek watershed.

8.2) Regulations and Planning

8.3) Conservation Areas

8.4) Conservation Services

8.5) Community Relations

8.6) Conservation Authority Education

8.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association

8.8) GM's Report

5. L. LeClair - L. McKinlay

Moved that the agenda items 8.1 through 8.8 be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

9.1) Letter from the City of London approving its 2016 levy allocation.

9.2) Letter from Employment & Social Development Canada acknowledging successful completion of the accessible washroom and ramp under the Enabling Accessibility Fund Program.

9.3) Letter from Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, Parliamentary Assistant Eleanor McMahon regarding the status of the Conservation Authorities Act Review.

6. J. Wolf – H. McDonald

Moved that the agenda items 9.1 through 9.3 be received for information.

CARRIED

10. Other Business

10.1) Property Matter

7. R. Doane– S. Caveney

Moved that the Board of Directors move into a closed session to deal with a property matter.

CARRIED

8. R. Doane – M. Smibert

Moved that the regular session of the Board meeting reconvene.

CARRIED

9. D. McKillop – L. McKinlay

Moved that option number 1 in a report dated April 21, 2016 be adopted and that no further action be taken at this time.

CARRIED


11. Adjournment

10. J. Wolf – H. McDonald

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

John Kavelaars
Chair



Don Pearson
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

7. Business for Approval

7.1) Appointment of Agent for Regulations Enforcement

Undertaking investigations of complaints under either Section 28 (Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation RSO 152/06) or Section 29 (Conservation Areas Regulations RSO 115/1990) of the Conservation Authorities Act is time consuming for Authority staff. As a result, regular work schedules are back logged until the complaint is dealt with, or if the matter goes before the court system, staffs ability to perform their regular duties in a timely fashion can be severely hampered.

Staff have been in discussion with Mr. Bill Menzie, Chief of Operations of Municipal Enforcement Unit that provides services to several municipalities within the LTVCA's jurisdiction. A meeting was held on April 7th, 2016 with Mr. Menzie, Don Pearson, Jason Wintermute, Jason Homewood and Valerie Towsley present to discuss what Mr. Menzie's company can provide to the Authority around enforcement issues. Of particular concern to CA staff was Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses regulation related complaints as well as on-going issues at some of our more remote parks under the Conservation Areas Regulation. Regulation complaints are more often than not dealt with via mediation with the individual landowner for the issue at hand, and in most cases can be resolved. In relation to issues at the parks, staff do not attend the more isolated/less utilized sites on a regular basis due to a lack of infrastructure associated with the park e.g. Skunk's Misery, Sharon Creek, Rowsom. The concerns range from unauthorized ATV/4 wheel drive vehicular use damaging trail systems and natural areas, unauthorized hunting within the parks, off-leash dog complaints/issues, dumping of garbage and unauthorized assembly after daylight hours - all of which are on-going issues for these areas.

A contract with the Municipal Enforcement Unit will hopefully deal with timely enforcement of complaints and issues around both Section 28 and 29 of the Authority Regulations with cost savings realized for staff time, equipment, resources and overtime. They provide reporting of any occurrences that take place, with video/photographic evidence if the occurrence leads to charges and they attend court on behalf of the CA. Their staff are fully bonded, have WSIB coverage and CPR training and are up on all other legislation that would be applicable to working with both Regulations e.g. Trespass to Property Act, Provincial Offenses Act, etc.. They also have a 24 hour dispatch service.

Basic Terms & Costing of Services:

- 3 to 5 Year contract Term is the norm but willing to work on other terms
- Contract could be set up on call/call out set up if required there is a monthly fee for on call services of \$50.00 to \$100.00 per month.
- One officer \$45.00 per hour and this is all inclusive – car/fuel/phones/and any other expense
- Two officers \$ 67.50 per hour and this is all inclusive – car/fuel/phones/and any other expense
- \$25.00 per hour – for officer to attend court if needed (Minimum 3 Hours) - this rate also applies to administration duties
- Call Outs - Minimum 3 hour Call Out (Officer will check other hot spots in the CA)
- Holiday rate – time and half on hourly rate only.

It is believed that more of a 'presence' out in the watershed for infractions under Section 28 of the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation and under Section 29 of the Conservation Areas Regulations for concerns may discourage the unauthorized activities.

It was discussed with MEU that they be hired on for a one year contract to see if it's a good fit with the CA operations, both for park enforcement issues under Section 29 Conservation Areas and Section 28 Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses regulation compliance issues.

Recommendation

That the Municipal Enforcement Unit be appointed to assist Authority staff in enforcement of Section 28 (Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation) and Section 29 (Conservation Areas) infractions of the *Conservation Authorities Act* on behalf of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority on an as needed basis;

And that assigned staff members from MEU be appointed as Provincial Offences Officers under Section 10, RSO 152/06 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.



Standard Basic Costing & Terms to supply By-law Enforcement Services

Request for Services Costing:

MEU would like to supply a basic costing for supplying By-law Enforcement Services to your municipality. The municipality should keep in mind that we will work with you to develop a plan that will meet your needs. This is a basic overview with costing information.

MEU officers will enforce all by-laws for a municipality and this is the service overview for officials:

- *One or Two uniformed officers and patrol car for enforcement calls for the Township*
- *Video evidence and photo (digital) evidence and Video evidence*
- *Training and equipment for officers*
- *Administration Services (help with making of by-laws and set fine scheduling and any other administration needs for courts etc.)*
- *Attendance at court for prosecution if needed*
- *Written reports for occurrences*
- *24 hrs dispatch service /Toll Free Number 1-855-900-9119*
- *Contact on web with e-mail for public and administration needs*
- *Liaison between police and other emergency services in municipalities.*
- *Officers can also be available for meetings with public for education purposes*
- *Meetings with Staff and council when needed*
- *Public education programs for by-laws and enforcement*

- 5 million dollar liability Insurance Policy

- Current WSIB coverage for all employees

- It should be noted that my agency has a good working relationship with OPP and the Provincial Courts.

Basic Terms & Costing of Services:

- 3 to 5 Year contract Term is the norm but we can work on other terms
- Contract could be set up on call/call out set up if required there is a monthly fee for on call services of \$50.00 to \$100.00 per month.
- One officer \$45.00 per hour and this is all inclusive – car/fuel/phones/and any other expense
- Two officers \$ 67.50 per hour and this is all inclusive – car/fuel/phones/and any other expense
- \$25.00 per hour – for officer to attend court if needed (Minimum 3 Hours) - this rate also applies to administration duties
- Call Outs - Minimum 3 hour Call Out (Officer will check other hot spots in Municipality)
- Holiday rate – time and half on hourly rate only.

New Services – The MEU can also offer the services of a Chief Building Official we have on staff and a Prosecutor for prosecution of court cases. (Rates to be determined)

William (Bill) Menzie
Chief of Operations
MEU
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Chief's E-mail – menzie10@cogeco.ca
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7.2) Review of the Conservation Authorities Act – Phase 2

Background:

In July of 2015, the province posted a “Discussion Paper – Conservation Authorities Act – A review of the roles, responsibilities, funding and governance of conservation authorities under the Conservation Authorities Act” on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry, EBR Registry number 012-4509. The Discussion Paper presented a series of specific questions, organized under three themes: Governance; Funding Mechanisms; and Roles and Responsibilities. These themes were consistent with a number of issues raised in the Conservation Ontario whitepaper, released in October of 2013 as a catalyst to engage the provincial government and other key stakeholders including municipalities in important discussions surrounding the future of environmental management in Ontario. Conservation Ontario provided a comprehensive response to this Discussion Paper on September 29, 2015 on behalf of its 36 member Conservation Authorities. Individual Conservation Authorities were encouraged to provide their own input in regard to particular local interests.

At its meeting on August 27, 2015, the LTVCA Board adopted the following resolution: *“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.”*

Following the discussion paper’s posting, the government hosted a series of stakeholder consultations throughout Ontario and, based on that input as well as comments received through the environmental registry, prepared a Summary of Environmental Registry Feedback. This summary report can be found at (<http://apps.mnr.gov.on.ca/public/files/er/ca-act-review-er-feedback-summary-report.pdf>).

Current Situation:

In May of 2016, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) provided a progress report addressed to all Conservation Authorities ([copy attached](#)) and outlined the next steps in a second phase of the review process. A new consultation document has been posted to the Environmental Registry: <https://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTI4NTQz&statusId=MTk0MzY1&language=en>. The posting will be open for comment for 120 days until September 9, 2016.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the document was created to help generate additional discussion related to the priorities as identified by the Ministry:

1. Strengthen oversight and accountability in decision-making.
2. Increase clarity and consistency in roles and responsibilities, processes and requirements.
3. Improve collaboration and engagement among all parties involved in resource management.
4. Modernize funding mechanisms to support conservation authority operations.
5. Enhance flexibility for the Province to update the Conservation Authorities Act in the future.

Discussion:

Given that many of the comments provided through the EBR process and stakeholder input sessions focussed on perceived (and real) issues, it is not surprising that the overall tone of the recent consultation document is somewhat negative. The identified priorities appear to reinforce that there are systemic issues that are somehow the fault of the Conservation Authorities themselves. No doubt there are legitimate issues within these identified priority areas that need to be addressed. However, this focus tends to obscure the fundamental problem that the Conservation Authorities are experiencing first hand: the challenging and growing impacts of climate change, rapid development, intensification of agricultural practices, invasive species, pollution, habitat loss and other stressors on the environment. If our purpose is to enhance the resiliency of our land and water resources and achieve sustainability, we may be losing the battle.

Accordingly, a new first priority has been identified which recognizes the importance of planning and managing natural resources and human impact on those resources through an integrated watershed management approach: Confirm Integrated Watershed Management as the Mandate of Conservation Authorities. Each of the aforementioned priorities remain, however the first step of confirming an integrated, collaborative approach facilitated by Conservation Authorities as a basis for addressing an appropriate accountability, legislative and funding framework is critical. The attached Update on the CA Act Review responds to the discussion paper and elaborates on each priority, and provides specific actions for addressing each of the priority areas.

During the June 9 public consultation session in London, Ontario it was clear that a number of the concerns expressed by some stakeholders were less about issues of governance and accountability, and more about a general lack of understanding of the CA role and existing legislative and regulatory framework. This is not to say there is no merit in pursuing discussions to improve and fine tune the system; however, it must be kept in mind that the status quo is not completely broken!

With that in mind, it is suggested that there are several main themes that could assist in defining a path forward:

1. There should be an acknowledgement that the need for an integrated watershed management framework is greater at this point in time than it has ever been. Managing the impact of human activities on, and creating increased capacity for resilience of our natural resources, demands an integrated approach whereby the system is considered rather than individual pieces. This does not mean CAs are in charge of everything, rather, the CAs are facilitators of a process that includes the stakeholders – provincial, municipal and civil society.
2. Leading logically from the first theme is the question of a modern, responsive and effective governance framework, which recognizes that the business of integrated watershed management is broader than the scope of individual ministries. It is suggested that many of the issues identified have resulted from the narrowly defined mandate from the CA program being viewed through the MNR lens. It is time to move past this circular debate and acknowledge that a formal, multi-ministry engagement framework would facilitate policy direction, oversight, accountability, and funding while demonstrating a substantial shift back toward the balanced partnership of local-provincial interests envisaged by what was a very progressive piece of legislation seventy years ago! No single ministry has the scope of contemporary CA program!
3. Much of the angst expressed over many years by stakeholders relates to the regulatory responsibilities of the CAs under Section 28. The result is often, if you don't like the regulation or the policy, attack the institution that administers it! CAs would be the first to admit there is much room for improvement of this regulation, evidenced by a current case under appeal (NVCA vs Gilmor) and the confusion around its application and effectiveness for protecting wetlands, or the conservation of land. Moreover, the administration of the regulation itself, the role of the CA Board in permitting or denying permission, the appeal mechanism and so on

need an overhaul. The needs of the Section 28 regulation should not, however, drive the overhaul of the governance and accountability needs of the corporation.

Given these major theme areas, it might be useful to parse the process rather than have the timetable set by the most complicated issue (theme 3 in my opinion). While there is some interdependency of these three areas, Section 28 regulations have the potential to hold the resolution of themes one and two hostage.

There are some obvious details such as financing, capacity, reorganization that remain on the table but these are details best discussed when there is some agreement about the validity of the broader brush strokes presented above.

Conclusion:

The current review of the Conservation Authorities Act provides a rare opportunity for implementing some fundamental improvements to the system for managing natural resources within a modern, responsive, collaborative, transparent, accountable and adequately financed provincial and local partnership, building on the success and experience of the past seven decades.

Recommendation:

That the LTVCA Board of Directors endorse the submission of Conservation Ontario as it relates to the Review of the Conservation Authorities Act; and that it seek the support of the member municipalities in making the recommended legislative, administrative and policy amendments to the Conservation Authorities program.

MNRF Progress Report

Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry

Parliamentary Assistant

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MNR5805MC-2016-454

To all Conservation Authorities:

I am writing to update you on our progress regarding the *Conservation Authorities Act* review. In doing so, I would like to express my appreciation for all Conservation Authorities who participated in the first phase of the review. Your input helped identify common themes and priority areas for the next step in our review process.

For nearly 70 years Ontario and its Conservation Authorities have enjoyed a rich and productive relationship. Conservation Authorities have an impressive record of protecting people, property and communities from water-related weather events and hazards. Our Government appreciates that record and values the achievements of Conservation Authorities in protecting and managing water and other natural resources in the province.

I am pleased to share that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will be starting its second phase of the review process which will include further engagement and input on options for strengthening Conservation Authorities. This next step will build on the initial consultation where we identified five priority areas for improvement:

- Stronger oversight and accountability in decision-making;
- Increased clarity and consistency in roles and responsibilities, processes and requirements;
- Modern funding mechanisms to support conservation authority operations;
- Improved collaboration and engagement among all parties involved in resource management; and
- Enhanced flexibility for the Province to update the *Conservation Authorities Act* framework in the future.

These priority areas were identified through the review as a result of the responses to the Ministry's discussion paper.

In taking this next step we look forward to working closely with you to develop options for changes in these areas. Now that we have heard from you on what our priorities should be, this next step will assist in providing options for how we should proceed.

Our next step will include securing feedback via a discussion paper which will capture the aforementioned priority areas. This paper will be posted to the Environmental Registry in the coming weeks. We will also be announcing a working group, comprised of relevant stakeholders, including Conservation Authorities. This working group will provide us with the opportunity to take a detailed look at possible solutions, and

together with the Registry feedback will allow us to have the kind of comprehensive overview which can lead to constructive options for change.

If you have further questions regarding the *Conservation Authorities Act* review, please contact Jennifer Keyes, Manager, Water Resources Section, at (705) 755-5244 or jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca.

In the meantime, please stay tuned. I look forward to working with all of you, as together we work to modernize and strengthen Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor McMahon', written in a cursive style.

Eleanor McMahon
Parliamentary Assistant

c: Jennifer Keyes



Update on the CA Act Review

Information for Conservation Authorities Participating in June
Consultation Meetings
June 2, 2016

This report provides an update to Conservation Authority (CA) staff and members on the progress of the review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. As well, it provides information and messaging for Conservation Authorities to use at upcoming Provincial multi-stakeholder engagement sessions scheduled to be held in June throughout the province.

Five key messages have been prepared in addition to suggested Conservation Ontario (CO) / Conservation Authority comments on each Provincial priority and actions being suggested by the Province.

During the consultations, participants will be reviewing the Province's suggested priorities in detail. This information is intended to help you participate in these discussions.

Background and Update

- The Province of Ontario has initiated a review of the [Conservation Authorities Act](#), which addresses the roles, responsibilities and governance of Conservation Authorities in resource management and environmental protection.
- On May 13, 2016, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry released their suggested priorities for renewal of the CA Act: [Conserving Our Future. Proposed Priorities for Renewal](#). The province's priorities are based on [feedback](#) received through a 2015 consultation on an earlier [Discussion Paper](#).
- As well, the province has established a [stakeholder advisory group](#) to provide initial feedback to the proposed priorities. Conservation Ontario and the Conservation Authorities are represented by Kim Gavine (CO), Gayle Wood (NVCA), Brian Denney (TRCA), Cliff Evanitski (LPCA), Mervi Henttonen (LRCA), and Hassaan Basit (CH). Along with several other stakeholder agencies, they met on May 16 and 17 with Eleanor McMahon and MNRF staff to provide initial feedback to the proposed priorities.
- It is noted that in addition to the above individuals, a small CA Act Working Group including Rob Messervey (KRCA), Don Pearson (LTVCA), Joe Farwell (Grand River CA), Sommer Casgrain-Roberston (RVCA), and Brian Tayler (NBMCA) was convened on May 12, 2016 to provide advice/positioning for this new phase of the CAA Review.
- The document is [online](#) as an EBR posting for public feedback until September 9, 2016.
- Conservation Ontario will be providing draft collective positioning for Council review and approval at the June 27th meeting. This positioning will be finalized in September and submitted to the EBR posting in response to the government's report.

- Each Conservation Authority is requested to submit their own comments by September 9th using the collective positioning as a basis, or by submitting a letter of support for Conservation Ontario's collective response.

Five Key Messages

Following the two day meeting held with the stakeholder advisory panel on May 16 & 17, CO and CA participants recommend that there are five key messages that Conservation Authorities need to continue to clearly promote:

1. **Conservation Authorities do not have a 'core mandate' solely focused on natural hazards management.** The CA Act (Sections 20 and 21) enable a very broad mandate for Conservation Authorities to undertake watershed-based programs and activities deemed to be vital to the "conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources".
2. **Conservation Authorities are the delivery agents for Integrated Watershed Management (IWM).** IWM is a watershed-based approach that assesses and manages the impacts of human activities on important natural resources in order to protect them and to ensure their sustainability.
3. **Conservation Authorities need to work at an 'inter-ministerial' table rather than just one ministry.** This recognizes that Conservation Authorities' programs and services benefit many ministries and help to address multiple provincial priorities through integrated watershed management. Ongoing sustainable funding needs to come from multiple ministries.
4. **Multiple options such as shared CA services or CA restructuring should be looked at in order to improve the capacity and consistency of Conservation Authorities.** Varying financial capacity among Conservation Authorities impacts the programs and services that are available on a province-wide basis.
5. **Conservation Authorities are committed to improving service delivery standards with appropriate resources.**

Provincial Priorities and Actions

During the multi-stakeholder engagement sessions, the Province will be hosting individual tables examining each recommended priority and complementary actions. This section of the report provides a summary of the priorities, the actions the Province is recommending and suggested comments that Conservation Authorities could make on those actions and priorities.

The Province's priorities include:

Priority #1: Strengthening Oversight and Accountability in Decision-making

Priority #2: Increasing Clarity and Consistency in Roles and Responsibilities, Processes and Requirements

Priority #3: Improving Collaboration and Engagement Among all Parties Involved in Resource Management

Priority #4: Modernizing Funding Mechanisms to Support CA Operations

Priority #5: Enhancing Flexibility for the Province to Update the CAA Framework in the Future

The Province has indicated that their objectives for the consultation are to obtain feedback on the priorities for updating the CA Act and to identify actions for the Ministry to take to achieve these priorities.

The Province is asking three main questions in the Priorities Paper:

1. What do you think of these priorities? Which are the most important and/or least important to you? Are there other priorities that should be considered?

Conservation Ontario recommends adding a new priority specifically confirming an integrated watershed management approach in order to boldly address current and emerging issues around Ontario's natural resources.

Conservation Ontario and the Conservation Authorities see the modernization of the CA Act as an opportunity for the Province to leverage the outcomes and benefits of Conservation Authorities cost effective programs and services.

Conservation Authorities and their partners (including municipalities) already deliver many programs and services that help to address significant challenges such as the impacts of climate change and rapid growth.

Updating the CA Act provides the Province with a chance to forge a new relationship with Conservation Authorities to expand and ensure the protection, restoration and conservation of natural resources that we need today and into the future.

Conservation Ontario Priority #1: Confirm Integrated Watershed Management Mandate/Purpose of Conservation Authorities.

Planning and managing our resources and the impact of our activities on those resources through an integrated watershed management approach can effectively address the uncertain and escalating environmental conditions which impact important water and land resources. We rely on these resources every day for ecosystem health, a vibrant economy, food security and our own health and well-being.

Conservation Ontario's suggested REVISED priorities include:

Priority #1: Confirm Integrated Watershed Management Mandate of Conservation Authorities

Priority #2: Strengthening Oversight and Accountability in Decision-making

Priority #3: Increasing Clarity and Consistency in Roles and Responsibilities, Processes and Requirements

Priority #4: Improving Collaboration and Engagement Among all Parties Involved in Resource Management

Priority #5: Modernizing Funding Mechanisms to Support CA Operations

Priority #6: Enhancing Flexibility for the Province to Update the CAA Framework in the Future

2. What actions would you recommend the Province to take to help achieve these priorities?

- This is addressed in each priority area further in this document

3. What do you see as some of the key challenges in achieving improvements under any or all of these priority areas?

- Legislating additional administrative burdens without addressing the provincial funding shortfall to support the basic operational capacity of a watershed management agency will

result in further widening of gaps in capacity and service delivery among Conservation Authorities. It will result in a reduced focus on addressing our critical environmental management issues of today; climate change and Great Lakes water protection.

Conservation Ontario's comments on each specific provincial priority and suggested actions

These comments are to assist Conservation Authorities to participate in consultation discussions.

Priority #1 (Added by Conservation Ontario) NOTE: This positioning is reinforced throughout the CO comments on MNR's Priorities that follow	
Confirm Integrated Watershed Management Mandate of Conservation Authorities	
Intention: to provide a framework for the Province, municipalities, Conservation Authorities and others to protect, restore and conserve Ontario's natural resources using a more integrated and collaborative approach.	
Suggested Actions	Conservation Ontario Comments
Update the Act to add a purpose statement which explicitly confirms the Integrated Watershed Management mandate of Conservation Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More explicit wording in the CA Act to support the watershed approach would help to formally acknowledge and advance integrated watershed management more broadly
Convene a multi-ministry table with Conservation Authorities to maximize the use of Integrated Watershed Management to address today's environmental challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Authorities need to work at an 'inter-ministerial' table rather than just one ministry. This recognizes that Conservation Authorities' programs and services benefit many ministries and help to address multiple provincial priorities through integrated watershed management. Ongoing sustainable funding needs to come from multiple ministries.

Priority #2	
Strengthening Oversight & Accountability in Decision-making	
Intention: update or enhance accountability mechanisms in the Act including support for more transparency and oversight of CA decision-making and reflect best management practices for CA board operations	
Actions	Conservation Ontario Comments
Update the Act to reflect modern legislative structures and accountabilities including adding a purpose statement to the Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need the Province to fully recognize and support the significant integrated watershed management role that conservation authorities play in keeping Ontarians and their communities safe and healthy • Update the Act to add a purpose statement which explicitly

	<p>confirms the Integrated Watershed Management mandate of Conservation Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More explicit wording in the CA Act to support the roles expressed in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities (2010)
Ensure governance and accountability mechanisms with recognized governance BMPs for public sector organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align the CA Act with proposed Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) and other legislation practices (e.g. Municipal Conflict of Interest Act)
Enhance ability of Minister to ensure CA operations, programs and services are consistent with provincial policy direction and legislative requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This oversight makes sense for those operations, programs and services that benefit from provincial funding and MNRF could undertake CA audits/reviews where complaints are most prevalent • Post on websites the Memorandums of Understanding with municipalities that outline municipal/CA technical service agreements
Clarify the role of municipalities and the CA Boards in determining funding, directing and overseeing CA programs and services; require greater transparency of CA operations, programs and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing flexibility should be retained for CA Board approved programs that support local watershed needs • Maintain that CA Board members have fiduciary responsibility for the watershed as first priority
Develop or update processes and requirements for the establishment, amalgamation, enlargement and dissolution of a CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAs are open to shared services and/or amalgamation but there are costs to implementing such changes. Consideration should also be given to a one-time allocation of funding to support CAs to examine feasibility and options

Priority #3	
Increasing Clarity and Consistency in Roles and Responsibilities, Processes and Requirements	
Intention: To provide all parties with greater certainty on the roles and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities that they are expected to carry out on behalf of the Province and partner municipalities, and where appropriate, promote greater consistency in the delivery of these programs and services.	
Actions	Conservation Ontario Comments
Clearly delineate between the provincially mandated programs and services that all CAs are expected to deliver on behalf of the Province and any optional programs under the approval of municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, need more explicit wording in the CA Act to support the watershed approach. This would help to formally acknowledge and advance integrated watershed management more broadly • CAs via CO endorsed representatives would need to work with a multi-ministry body in a formalized relationship in order to capture the full range of CA programs and services that contribute to provincial priorities • Fund provincially mandated programs appropriately so that there

	<p>are consistent standards, training and stakeholder communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over time, the Province has severely reduced its funding and policy support for CA programs in areas outside of natural hazards (with the exception of source protection) • The specific benefits from CA programs and services serve a wide range of provincial priorities and this is not well recognized or financially supported by the Province.
<p>Establish a Provincial Policy Directive that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provides clear policy direction on the roles & responsibilities of CAs re: activities carried out on behalf of the Province - defines the roles & responsibilities of provincial ministries in the development & delivery of these roles & responsibilities - provides the basis for developing an integrated policy framework across the province 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, Integrated Watershed Management needs to be confirmed as the frame of reference • Establish a multi-ministry body in a formalized relationship with participation of CAs via CO endorsed representatives in order to capture the full range of benefits provided to provincial priorities by CA programs and services • Identify and confirm priority programs that would be supported by a sustainable funding formula enabling greater consistency across the province • Coordinated communication by the Province, municipalities and CAs that clarifies roles and responsibilities of CAs • Need to recognize and acknowledge the role of CAs entrenched in other pieces of legislation (e.g. Clean Water Act)
<p>Provide clarity and consistency in the application of the <i>Development and Interference regulations</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consistent technical and appropriate financial support to CAs to implement CA regulatory responsibilities on behalf of the Province • More explicit wording in the CA Act to support the roles expressed in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities (2010) • Require annual multi-stakeholder meetings and training on the MMRF (2010) Policies and Procedures • Additional policy and technical guidelines and tools are needed to support the natural hazards programs (including wetlands component) for greater consistency and modernization (e.g. climate change, green infrastructure) • Clarify definitions in order to effectively and efficiently uphold CA regulatory responsibilities
<p>Ensure there are sufficient tools and penalties to enable implementation and compliance of the <i>Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses</i> regulations. Align with other pieces of legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consistent technical and financial support to CAs to consistently implement CA regulatory responsibilities • For example, enforcement of regulations is compromised by not having the ability to issue stop work orders to address non-compliance • Penalties need to be increased significantly in order to be an effective deterrent. Increased funding should be provided to CAs in order to prosecute offenders more effectively

<p>Streamline planning and permitting requirements and associated processes.</p> <p>Adoption of a risk-based approach to the issuance of approvals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Ontario and the CAs have a shared commitment to improving client services and implementing best management practices in the MNRF 2010 <i>Policies & Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities</i>. CAs support a review and update of these in order to address streamlining and consistency concerns. Consider re-creating the 2010 multi-stakeholder CA Liaison Committee (CALC) to address, on a regular basis, streamlining and other issues relating to service standards; support clarification of a 'complete' application • Support additional outreach and education initiatives, annual multi-stakeholder meetings and training • Shared responsibility for coordinated communication by the Province, Municipalities and Conservation Authorities • EBR posting of permits would create significant delays • Need additional resources in order to meet any additional legislative administrative responsibilities as well as BMPs to ensure consistent approach • Agree that CAs should follow biosecurity protocols and have provided training and resources to CA staff in this regard • Need to address gaps within current policy directions regarding the application of CA regulations in order to adopt a broader risk-based approach. Need a consistent and relevant frame of reference. • A CA permit is a technical review/assessment and the regulation covers a range of natural hazards. The natural hazards in a CA jurisdiction and the extent of the activities (i.e. scale and scope) contribute to the assessment of risk and the ability to be flexible. A risk management framework should be applied on a watershed jurisdiction basis and resultant outcomes will vary accordingly.
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<p>Priority #4</p>	
<p>Improving Collaboration and Engagement Among All Parties Involved in Resource Management</p>	
<p>Intention: To support CAs in their efforts to coordinate programs and services among themselves and with the Province and where appropriate, to formalize best management practices for engaging Indigenous Peoples, other stakeholders and members of the public.</p>	
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Conservation Ontario Comments</p>
<p>Establish a provincial one-window, led by MNRF, for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing, coordinating and reviewing programs and services undertaken by CAs - multi-ministry coordination of provincially delegated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer a formalized multi-ministry table (could be a watershed governance body, secretariat or steering committee) to support an integrated watershed management approach • Partnering with the CAs on environment and natural resource management programs best delivered on a watershed basis, could serve as the basis for a 'one window' service delivery model.

<p>programs and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collection/sharing of science & information among ministries, municipalities, CAs and others 	
<p>Develop an enhanced business relationship with Conservation Ontario and individual CAs to promote greater communication and coordination of policies, programs and services, and for the collection/sharing of science & information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business relationships could be an outcome from more formalized relationships between the Province and Conservation Ontario or individual CAs. • Business relationships would require longer term, formal commitments with appropriate sustainable financial compensation or incentives in order to ensure ongoing outcomes supporting provincial priorities. MOUs may be mechanisms that could be explored. • As well, to ensure consistent returns, initial one-time investments may be required in order to enable all / some CAs to meet province-wide commitments on a long term basis.
<p>Enhance Indigenous Peoples' participation in the development & delivery of stewardship, science & educational initiatives</p> <p>Clarify process for Indigenous People to join or establish a CA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from Band Councils and other organizations have participated in some Source Protection committees which are responsible for the development and tracking of local source protection plans. Similar opportunities could be explored for other programs and/or activities within CAs. • CAs and MOECC are currently exploring the opportunities for CAs to act as technical advisors for First Nations in order to help identify threats, incorporate traditional knowledge, and explore how to establish and implement First Nations Source Protection Plans.
<p>Ensure CA Board decisions are informed by an appropriate diversity of views and perspectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAs prefer the current arrangement where a wide variety of watershed stakeholders and special interest groups including the general public, industry and agencies participate in the development and implementation of local watershed management projects on committees and working groups outside of the CA Board of Directors structure (e.g. Watershed Advisory Councils/Committees, Source Protection Committees, etc.). As such they share decision-making responsibilities helping to direct priorities and then track progress. • CAs defer to Indigenous Peoples to propose the solution that they would find to be most amenable and we would participate with the province in review and response to it
<p>Support current CA efforts to promote program delivery efficiency and effectiveness (common policies & procedures, service specializations, sharing of resources)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAs are committed to improving information sharing, networking and corporate effectiveness through best management practices training, templates and guidelines.

Priority #5	
Modernizing Funding Mechanisms to Support CA Operations	
Intention: Put measures in place to promote and enhance CA clarity, consistency, efficiency and effectiveness and put measures in place to ensure fiscal accountability.	
Actions	Conservation Ontario Comments
Define eligibility criteria for municipal levies, reviewing apportionment and defining how CAs will monitor and report on use of public funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAs rely on a long term municipal funding formula and tool that is supported by municipalities. • Municipal levy is the only long term and secure source of sustainable funding for CAs • Language could be developed to clarify variances in interpretation between the CA Act and the levy regulation • Could update definitions for types of costs (e.g. administration, maintenance, operations, capital) • Report back mechanisms are in place for municipalities, however, these could be reviewed and information could easily be more publicly accessible as per public sector best management practices
Ensure fees are established in an open and transparent manner, are consistent with provincial direction and adequately support the effective delivery of CA operations, programs and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAs follow the MNRF's Policies and Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities as developed by multi-stakeholder CA Liaison Committee (CALC) comprised of government and nongovernment agencies in 2010 • CAs are committed to consulting on their fee schedules • CAs recommend that another similar CA Liaison Committee could be re-created to periodically review guidelines for plan review and permitting activities
Improve fiscal oversight and transparency by clarifying the role of municipalities in overseeing CA budgets and, where appropriate, tracking and reporting processes, ensuring information is publicly accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAs conduct annual financial audits. These are publicly accessible through CA Board meetings and minutes, along with annual reports on CA programs and services, as per public sector best management practices • CAs would support being a 'line item' on municipal property tax bills
Provide CAs with greater clarity in eligibility criteria in the use of provincial funding processes and review the efficiency and effectiveness of these processes. Update requirements for reporting back on the use of provincial funds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, CAs follow expenditure and report back practices as required by the Province for program funding • CAs receive annual, ongoing funding for natural hazards (MNRF) and source protection activities (MOECC). There is a shortfall in natural hazard funding and the source protection funding is being reduced annually • Other short-term, project-based funding is provided by the Province to CAs for some additional activities (e.g. Great Lakes, stewardship, etc.) • CAs recommend that a new funding arrangement be established across multi-ministries in order to better reflect the multiple

	<p>outcomes being provided to the Province</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This inter-ministerial approach to transfer payments supports the broader role of CAs in delivering integrated watershed management. CAs suggest that the Province provide additional sustainable funding for CA programs and services which would recognize the broader provincial benefits being accrued and would assist in cost sharing with municipalities. • The cost-sharing formula should include at least 50% provincial funding (unless Federal funding reduces each level of government's share) and must take into account inflation and the local ability to pay.
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Priority #6	
Enhancing Flexibility for the Province to Update the CA Act Framework in the Future	
Intention: To build greater flexibility within the CA Act to formally delegate the delivery of programs and services to CAs or other groups in the future. And to also enable the Province to provide additional clarity, consistency and accountability in the delivery of programs and services in the future.	
Actions	Conservation Ontario Comments
Give the Province the authority to act to develop additional natural resource conservation and management programs and services in the future throughout the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister already has these abilities under Section 13.1 (1) of the Ministry of Natural Resources Act and it is considered irrelevant to the CA Act review.
Allow the Province to formally delegate the delivery of current and additional natural resource conservation and management programs and services to CAs in the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to avoid additional financial burden to current municipal funders, delegation of additional programs and services to conservation authorities should be accompanied with financial resources
Allow the Province to formally delegate the delivery of current and additional natural resource conservation and management programs and services to other public bodies, not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and/or ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the current concerns around consistency, clarity, and transparency, CAs feel this may create even more inconsistencies around conservation and natural resource management in the province • CAs provide an experienced and trusted province-wide delivery mechanism and currently work with a wide variety of partners including all levels of government • To ensure consistent, long-term and reliable outcomes, regular funding would need to be provided
Allow the Province to deliver additional natural resource conservation and management programs and services throughout the province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister already has these abilities under section 13.1(1) of the Ministry of Natural Resources Act and it is considered irrelevant to the CA Act Review

Other Actions being Considered by MNRF	
<i>MNRF Proposed Actions</i>	<i>CO Key Messages</i>
Reduced administrative burdens associated with appointing and replacing board members and obtaining approval of board per diems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal appointment of representatives (elected or citizen) • Meet current best practices of and requirements for any not-for-profit corporation Board • Approval of per diems from the OMB is not supported
Aligning board terms with the municipal elections cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonize the term of Board Members with the 4-year municipal election cycle
Developing an orientation and training program for board members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that municipal representatives should be better educated as it pertains to their role and the 'roles and responsibilities' of CAs (e.g. Policies and Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities)
Developing a coordinated communications plan outlining any changes to CA operations, programs and services resulting from the review in partnership with municipalities and CAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Province, Municipalities and CAs should develop a coordinated communication plan to inform the public and stakeholders about the role of CAs in Ontario

Prepared by Conservation Ontario in consultation with Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities

For more information or comments, Contact:

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7.3) Budget vs. Expenditures for the period ending May 31, 2016

Background:

Review of the 2016 Budget to the expenditures for the five months ended May 31st, 2016.

Current Situation:

	2016 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET MAY PRORATION	2016 ACTUAL TO MAY 31
WATER MANAGEMENT			
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	152,044	63,352	69,945
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	31,438	13,099	4,661
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	267,026	111,261	67,095
TECHNICAL STUDIES	37,689	15,704	12,118
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	207,139	86,308	86,339
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	64,162	26,734	5,409
SOURCE PROTECTION	24,900	10,375	19,113
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	20,000	8,333	592
Water Management Subtotal	804,398	335,166	265,272
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES			
CONSERVATION AREAS	488,532	203,555	172,332
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION			
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	166,047	69,186	46,683
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	90,578	37,741	20,646
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	172,223	71,760	68,792
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	428,848	178,687	136,121
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP			
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	39,268	16,362	9,854
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	849,124	353,802	459,883
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	315,852	131,605	160,840
COMMUNITY TREES INITIATIVE	0	0	0
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	1,204,244	501,769	630,577
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS			
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING REPAIRS/UPGRADES	100,000	41,667	6,225
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0
Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal	100,000	41,667	6,225
	3,026,022	1,260,844	1,210,527

Discussion:

Water Management expenses are below budget as most large projects and expenses are completed during the summer months.

Conservation area expenses are similar to Water Management, in that, most large projects, activities and related expenses are completed during the summer months.

Community Relations and Education are below budget consistent with the two categories above and the summer months being their peak seasons but there was also a McGregor Creek Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) Program run by individuals in this program. That portion of their wages and expenses are included in the Conservation Services - Phosphorus Reduction area.

Conservation Services are above budget due to several factors. The first is higher tree sales and planting with most of the expenses being incurred in the spring. The second is due to the front loaded costs of the purchase and installation of the equipment for the Jeanette's Creek GLASI program. The third is an additional grant toward the Jeanette's Creek GLASI Program and the costs related to that grant. The last factor is the McGregor Creek GLASI Program noted in Community Relations and Education above.

Note: There is \$143,000 of capital asset expenditures for the Jeanette's Creek GLASI Program not included in this amount that are being capitalized and amortized over the life of the assets.

Capital/Miscellaneous is below budget as \$75,000 of the expenditures for the Administration Building are being capitalized and amortized over the life of the assets.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receive the Budget vs Expenditures for the period ending May 31, 2016 report.

7.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes – June 23, 2016

The minutes of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee were not available at the time of printing of the agenda package. Copies of the minutes will be available at the time of the meeting. Approval of recommendations from the Ska-Nah-Doht meeting will be required to access / receive grant dollars for the Village.

8. Business for Information

8.1) Water Management

Flood Forecasting and Operations

There have been no significant events from a Flood Forecasting and Operations perspective since the last Board of Directors meeting in April.

Construction around Highway 401 and Communication Road has caused some disruptions to normal operating procedures around the joint Water Survey of Canada / Lower Thames water level and rain gauge station at this location. The rain gauge has already been removed and investigations are being conducted to determine a new location. It seems likely at this point that the LTVCA will be asking Chatham-Kent for permission to relocate the rain gauge onto its property on the new cul-de-sac of Pinehurst Line. The water level gauge is still operational but it is anticipated that it will need to be removed later this year. Water Survey Canada is proposing to install a temporary gauge within the next month. The permanent water level gauge will be reinstalled after construction close to its former location near the bridge on the provincial road allowance.

Flood Control Structures

The Joint Health and Safety Committee has been looking into the flood control structures. It is recommended by the Canadian Dam Association that Dam Safety Reviews be conducted every 10 years. The dams in the LTVCA have not been reviewed since 1995 when the LTVCA, SCRCA and UTRCA conducted a joint program. Typically, the high cost of Dam Safety Reviews suggests that Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) grant funding would be required. At this point cost estimates have not been obtained. Grant applications for the program are submitted in the Fall of every year and require a commitment of a municipal cost share.

Staff are also in the process of obtaining estimates to remove trees and other woody vegetation that has grown up in the Diversion Channel. This work needs to be conducted periodically as the vegetation can impede flows.

Low Water Response Program

The LTVCA participates in the Provincial Low Water Response Program as part of a team made up of local stakeholders and agency staff charged with managing the local response to drought conditions. Low Water Conditions are determined based on several indicators including; 3 month rainfall, 18 month rainfall and monthly flows in the watercourses. Under the program, a Low Water Condition is considered to exist when any one of the indicators meets the threshold values. From October until March the region was in a Low Water Level One condition. Since then Thames River flows have been high enough to not trigger any conditions. The amount of rainfall data available is quite limited at this time, but the three month and 18 month rainfall indicators do not suggest region-wide low water conditions. The Environment Canada rain gauge at Ridgetown still suggests a Level 1 Condition based on the 18-month rainfall indicator; however, a single gauge on one indicator was determined not to be indicative of the entire watershed. May rainfall was

quite low throughout the region and it is anticipated that should the rainfall deficit continue, the region will easily return to a Low Water Condition. A report of local watershed conditions as they relate to the program is generated on an as needed basis, typically at the beginning of every month during the summer and fall. Those reports are not currently posted online but are available upon request. Of note is that the Province is no longer funding staff time for the program.

Regulations Enforcement

There has been little activity with regards to Regulations Enforcement. Two Notices of Violation were issued and one site inspection in relation to a prior conviction was conducted since the last Board of Directors meeting.

Planning and Regulations Policies and Operation Guidelines

Significant progress has been made in updating the LTVCA's Policies and Operational Guidelines. A draft of the Policies has been completed and work has begun on the Operational Guidelines. LTVCA staff will be looking to schedule public consultations for late July or early August so that comments can be consolidated while Laura Brown is still with us.

Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)

As discussed in the Freshwater Research 2015 report "Gap analysis for Nutrients in the LTVCA", the PWQMN sampling program has significant shortcomings for the data to be useful for assessing the proposed 40% reduction in phosphorous loading. Earlier this year a proposal has been submitted to the MOECC for additional funding to supplement this program. Grant funding of \$95,500 for one year of improved water quality sampling has been approved for the LTVCA by the MOECC. This will allow for nearly doubling of the LTVCA's current sampling program as well as allow for sampling during those important late winter / early spring runoff events.

Thames River Clearwater Revival

Work on the Thames River Water Management Plan is proceeding. Technical Working Groups are in the process of drafting Recommendations. Recent discussions with Environment Canada suggest that they may be looking towards the Water Management Plan for guidance/suggestions on how to meet the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement's 40% Phosphorus reduction target. As such it would be beneficial to get broader municipal and public support of the document. For further information speak with Jason Wintermute (LTVCA) or Tara Tchir (Clearwater Revival Project Manager - UTRCA).

8.2) Regulations and Planning

Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses

Staff Report

LTVCA Regulation Log Book 2016

B.D. 06/30/16

APP#	APPLICANT	TOWN/CITY	MUNICIPALITY	APPLICATION TYPE	DECISION
001-2016	Fathers, Wesley & Beverly Clarke	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 12, 2016
054-2016	11765 Longwoods Road	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 08, 2016
055-2016	11518 Rondeau Drive	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 13, 2016
056-2016	6216 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 13, 2016
057-2016	8728 Iona Road	Southwold	Southwold	Construction	Granted: April 13, 2016
058-2016	18132 Erie Shore Drive	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 18, 2016
059-2016	Chinnick Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 20, 2016
060-2016	26360 Dymock Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: April 21, 2016
061-2016	Inish Drive over Gentleman Creek	Exfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: May 06, 2016
062-2016	Lighthouse Cove	Tilbury North	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: April 27, 2016
063-2016	24328 Marsh Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: April 27, 2016
064-2016	Halliday Drain (Trudell Bridge)	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: June 02, 2016
065-2016	262 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 28, 2016
066-2016	6800 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 28, 2016
067-2016	7124 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 27, 2016
068-2016	1320 Bluff Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 28, 2016
069-2016	8119 Union Road	Southwold	Southwold	Construction	Granted: April 28, 2016
070-2016	9217 Middle Line (Walker Drain)	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 02, 2016
071-2016	Axford Drain Extension	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: May 02, 2016
072-2016	Branch "A" of the McDonald Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: May 02, 2016
073-2016	Mudd Creek	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 03, 2016
074-2016	Duke Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 03, 2016
075-2016	Switzer Drain & McLean Switzer Drain	Exfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: May 04, 2016
076-2016	915 Markham Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: May 05, 2016
077-2016	1305 Kerr Avenue	Erleau	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 06, 2016
078-2016	Opposite 21071 Gray Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: May 11, 2016
079-2016	1230 Bluff Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 13, 2016
080-2016	545/555 Bayview Avenue	Erleau	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 12, 2016
081-2016	285 Towanda Boulevard	Erle Beach	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 20, 2016
082-2016	Hoover Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 16, 2016
083-2016	A.D. Turner Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: May 13, 2016
084-2016	Ian McKillop Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: May 13, 2016
085-2016	3564 Talbot Trail	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 16, 2016
087-2016	28970 Ash Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: May 20, 2016
088-2016	19170 Crest River Avenue, Lighthouse Cove	Tilbury North	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: June 05, 2016
089-2016	Trothen Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: May 19, 2016
090-2016	Centre Side Road South Drain	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 20, 2016
091-2016	27730 Marsh Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Construction	Granted: May 20, 2016
092-2016	Graves Drain	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 24, 2016
093-2016	McEachran-Hopkins Drain	Camden / Zone	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 24, 2016
094-2016	9307 Colborne Street	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 25, 2016
097-2016	11738 Rose Beach Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 27, 2016
096-2016	898 Charing Cross Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 02, 2016
099-2016	East Malden Road Drain	Tilbury West	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 02, 2016
100-2016	Drake Road (Jeannette's Creek)	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 02, 2016

101-2016	Highgate Drain North	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 08, 2016
102-2016	20924 Pickerel Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 08, 2016
103-2016	11523 Rondeau Drive, Rondeau Bay Estates	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 08, 2016
104-2016	Wiebenga Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 08, 2016
105-2016	Julien Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 08, 2016
106-2016	Mervin Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 08, 2016
107-2016	Shaw Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: June 08, 2016

Recommendation:	That applications 001-2016, 054-2016 to 085-2016, 087-2016 to 094-2016 and 097-2016 to 107-2016 be ratified.
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8.3) Conservation Areas

2016 April 1 – May 31 Visitation / Camping Stats

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – 4,598 people (4,230 in 2015)

(Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction))

Pay and Display Permits - 288 vehicles (305 in 2015)

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – 290 (112 in 2015)

Big Bend Conservation Area – 69 people (246 in 2015)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – 1,470 (1,962 in 2015)

(Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction))

Pay and Display Permits – 135 vehicles (197 in 2015)

2016 Annual Season's Passes - 21 have been sold at time of writing. Note: Additional Season's Passes have also been distributed free of charge to Directors, staff, seasonal campers and draw winners from the Go Wild Grow Wild event in April. The \$60 passes are for sale at the Administration Building, C.M. Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Areas. They are good for free dayuse at Longwoods, C.M. Wilson and Big Bend Conservation Areas.

Conservation Areas

CM Wilson CA

To date \$40,000 has been earmarked for improvements to the 6 acre pond. Naturalizing of the shoreline, improving water and aquatic health, and removal and replacement of boardwalk are the main features that this project will address. Several other applications are pending as we look for more funding.

Seasonal staff member *Paul Kominek* started the week of April 4 in preparation for the campground opening. Hazard tree removal, painting the inside of the gatehouse, branch clean up and equipment servicing are all underway.

Big "O" CA

May 15th approximately 30 people attended the 2nd annual Birding Day in Comber. Area naturalist Paul Pratt guided visitors around the property, a live Falcon demonstration with lunch at the Iron Kettle Bed and Breakfast and the releasing of a wild Screech Owl made for a great outing.

LTVCA administration office- Parking lot has been completed, as well as office renovations inside and out. A big thanks to volunteers on the landscaping include: Royal Bank of Canada, Dillon Consulting and the Chatham Sunrise Rotary Club.

Skakel Land Donation

A lease agreement has been signed by Paul Cameron to farm the 40 acres of farm land that is associated with this parcel. No signage will be installed at the property as there will be no Day use available to public, instead a memorial rock has been engraved and placed at one of the back ponds to acknowledge the donation. Private family ceremony scheduled for July, 2016.

Longwoods Road CA

New signage to be installed this summer at the park entrance, following new logo and consistency with the rest of our watershed properties.

8.4) Conservation Services

Grants

There are multiple landowner projects in process funded by various successful grant applications.

1. **Ridgetown Wetland and Biodiversity Improvement Project**, funded by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. The overall project value is \$61,125 while the funder has awarded \$25,000.
2. **Lower Thames River Restoration**, funded by Environment Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program. The overall project value is \$456,200 while the funder has awarded \$93,000.
3. **Wetland Restoration Program**, funded by Wildlife Habitat Canada. The overall project value is \$370,800 while the funder has awarded \$30,000.
4. **Species at Risk Drainage Biologist**, funded by Species at Risk. The funder has awarded LTVCA \$41,000 for communications and human resources.
5. **Rondeau Bay Watershed Inland Riparian Improvement Program**, funded by Eco-Action. The funder has awarded LTVCA \$99,000 over 3 years.
6. **GLASI Priority Subwatershed Project (PSP)**: Jeannettes Creek Agricultural Phosphorus Reduction and Monitoring Program, funded by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). The overall project value is \$856,099.07 while the funder is providing LTVCA with \$375,000 over 3 years.

7. **OMAFRA BMP Verification and Demonstration Grant**, funded by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). The overall project value is \$503,971.36 while the funder is providing LTVCA with 95,000 over 3 years.

General Program Funds from consistent annual Partnerships

1. Forests Ontario 50 Million Trees Program subsidy for reforestation 2016 amounted to \$137,165.75.
2. Forest Ontario Forest Recovery Program subsidy for reforestation 2016 amounted to 2200.00.
3. Ontario Power Generation subsidy for reforestation 2016 amounted to \$108,000.00.

Natural Heritage Implementation Strategy

Partnerships and Public Areas:

Enbridge hosted an appreciation ground breaking ceremony.

Your Roots are Always in CK is an initiative sponsored by the Health Unit of Chatham-Kent and accomplished by the Greening Partnership and Community Attraction & Promotion Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The program sponsors a graduating class to plant a tree in their name within the community. This year the strategy was to plant the trees along many of our public trails.

1. Blenheim B-Fit Trail
2. Mud Creek Trail (x2)
3. The Landings Trail
4. Pain Court Pathway
5. Dresden Trillium Trail
6. TREES Memorial Trail (x2)
7. Kingston Park Trail
8. Odette & Memorial Parkway
9. Community Services Pathway
10. MacDonald Park Trail

This year 14 classes planted a tree in their graduating year.

The Greening Partnership along with the Chatham Horticulture Society had successful “Tree of the Year” program. We gave out 1000 sugar maples to very happy landowners across CK. There was great interest to continue this program next year.

800 Carolinian species were planted in April in public green space, cemeteries, and roadsides. Partners and donors include:

1. ***Union Gas***
2. ***Scribendi Editing***
3. ***Community Volunteers***
4. ***TD Friends of the Environment***
5. ***Truly Green Farms (Cedarline Greenhouses)***
6. ***Ontario Parks***
7. ***Waste and recycling services – Municipality of Chatham-Kent***

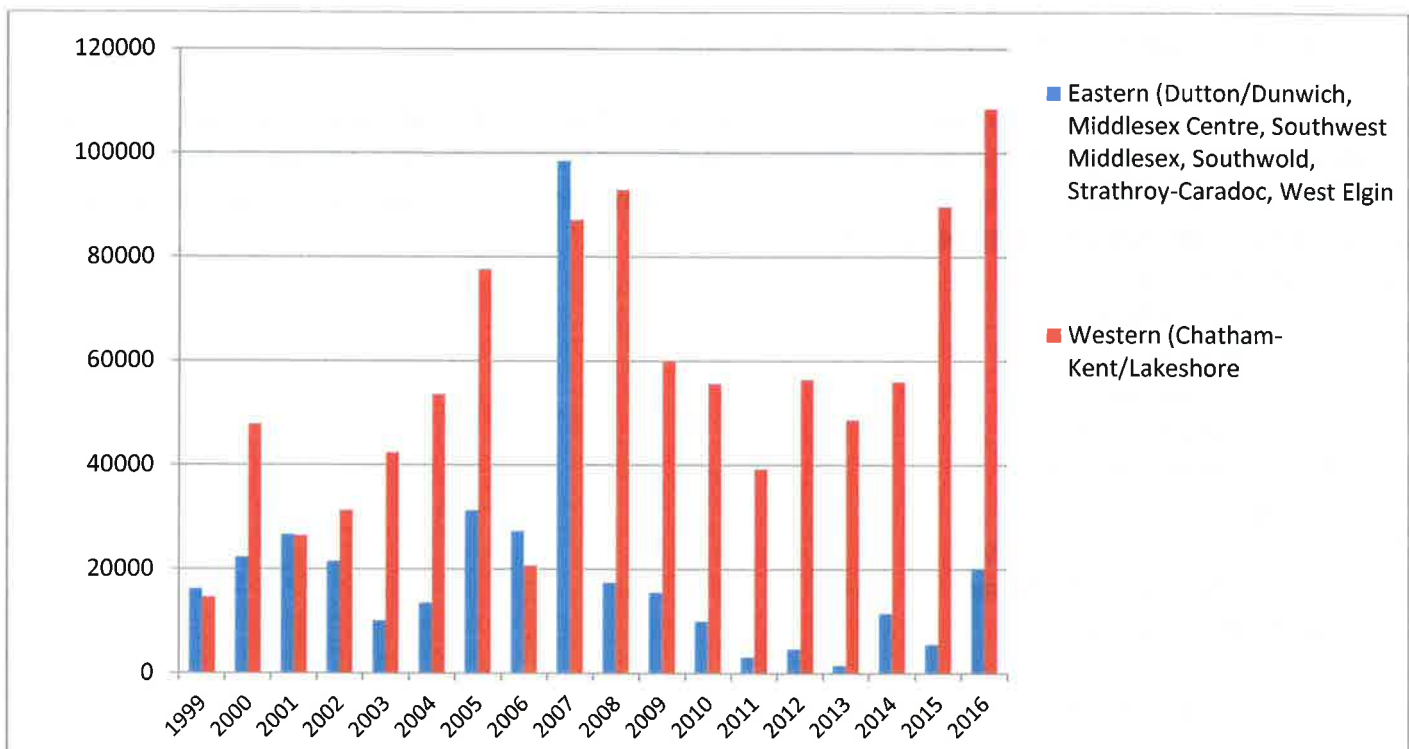
8. Public Works – Municipality of Chatham-Kent

9. Parks and Open Spaces – Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Private Lands

Tree Planting:

The planting season was successful and finished on time with the help of good organizational skills from Amanda Blain, weather, and despite the larger than average number of trees. This year we rented a tractor from Furlan Bros. which was more efficient for site to site planting. We did not have to involve the dump truck with float, which saved considerable wear and tear. We gained staff time by not having to attach, detach, load, transport and unload the tractor daily. Special thanks to those who participated and assisted with getting the trees in the ground... Paul, Ben, Brandon, Jen, Kirsten, Emily, Amanda, Colin, Randall, Mike, Greg.



Wetlands:

With the end of tree planting season and dry weather, wetland excavations have resumed with additional funding from Wildlife Habitat Canada \$30,000.

Species at Risk Drainage Biologist

Proposal for Species at Risk mitigation measures as they relate to municipal drains and clean outs has been drafted and submitted to CK Drainage Superintendents for final review and submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Unfavourable weather conditions caused delays in Phragmites control program earlier in 2016, herbicide applications should commence during the summer months.

Tallgrass prairie planting was complete on June 14 and 15, 2016 using a private contractor. Approximately 30 acres were seeded on 8 properties and an additional 4 acres were planted using hydroseeding methods along drainage ditches. Focus for the summer will include increasing drainage buffer numbers for the second year of Eco Action funding, wetland restoration and SAR research along drainage ditches.

OMAFRA

GLASI Jeannettes Creek Update:

The GLASI Jeannette's Creek Agricultural Phosphorus Reduction and Monitoring Program is still in the monitoring implementation phase. ISCO auto-samplers and flow meters have been installed and are operational at the Deary, Dauphin, and Boudreau pump houses. Auto-motivated water quality sampling and flow data collection is now underway.

The next step will be to install monitoring equipment at the edge of field sites. In partnership with two farmers in Jeannettes Creek, eight tile drainage plots will be installed and designed to collect water quality samples and flow data from two fields. There will be four replicated plots on each field. Subsurface water quality from each tile header will be analyzed and compared to determine how different types of land use practices affect annual phosphorus loads.

Compared Agronomic Systems:

1. Long term cash crop rotation with cover crops and no-tillage
2. Long term cash crop rotation with no cover crops and conservation tillage

This edge of field study will be conducted in partnership with OMAFRA, the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus and the University of Waterloo.

Cost-shares for Cover Crops, Alternative Phosphorus Application Practices, and Nutrient Management Plans remain available to subwatershed farmers.

Keith McLean Conservation Lands: Water Quality Monitoring Project

Installation of monitoring equipment at the Keith McLean Conservation Lands in Rondeau is now complete. This June, the ISCO auto-sampler and flow meter were installed at a pump house on the property farm. With all the monitoring equipment now installed and operational, the LTVCA will be collecting data and monitoring the following metrics:

- Precipitation
- Soil temperature and moisture
- Wind speed and direction
- Relative humidity
- Auto-motivated pump house water quality sampling
- Pump flow
- Agricultural Land Use Practices

The plan is to collect baseline data and in the future evaluate the effectiveness of agricultural best management practices at reducing phosphorus loss in partnership with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Elgin GLASI Project:

Betsy McClure, Stewardship Program Supervisor for KCCA submitted the annual report for the end of March. Because the work plan had been adjusted from the original proposal/approved agreement, a number of the activities and associated budget dollars were not completed / utilized during that time frame. Clarification was sought from OSCIA whether there was flexibility in the budget in January and was under the impression that the timelines and budget were flexible. However, when the annual report was submitted with the actual wages/materials and supplies spent, staff was informed that OSCIA was unable to carry forward unspent funds to the next fiscal, regardless if that funding was designated for upcoming deliverables. The work plan and budget were modified to accommodate this loss. Two major changes were the removal of the live forum on social media as well as removing one of the water festival activities.

1. Farmer Survey – Have only received 20 responses to the survey that was sent out to date. The survey has been distributed to all EFA members via email and a newsletter and to ESCIA members through email. Staff are looking for other suggestions on how to get it out to more people. There is a request to continue to promote the opportunity through other agencies websites, social media accounts and to report to Betsy so she can keep track for reporting purposes.
2. ECWP Twitter Account – A twitter account for the ECWP has been set up. Please follow us on twitter!
3. Upcoming Events – please let staff know of any relevant upcoming ag events that ECWP could have a display at. A rainfall simulator demonstration unit has been purchased for use at these types of events that shows run off / infiltration on bare soil vs. soil with cover etc. Once the unit is up and running, it can be borrowed for any events other members may be having.
4. ESCIA Tour – will be partnering with Margaret May and ESCIA to help contribute to the Tour. Mark the date in your calendar – it is August 11th.

8.5) Community Relations

- **Media releases** are written as needed for Conservation Authority programs and services. They are emailed to local print and radio media, watershed politicians, LTVCA and LTVCF Directors, member municipalities of the LTVCA, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee, LTVCA staff, neighbouring Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario.

Since April 21, 2016, eight media releases have been written and circulated (attached)

- Campground Openings – April 25
- Big O Birding Event- May 2
- Stewardship Programs – May 4
- Clear Creek Opening – May 6
- Longwoods Opening – May 12
- Regulations –May 25

- Merlin Memorial Forest Dedication Service – May 31
- RBC Donation to Water Festival – June 1

All Directors were emailed a copy of the above media releases and as well, they were posted on our website, Facebook and Twitter. Local watershed media contacts (daily and weekly print, television and radio stations) database update is ongoing.



Media Release
For Immediate Release
April 25, 2018

**"Plan a Camping Get-Away" in Lower Thames Valley Country!"
Conservation Areas Open Mid-May for Camping Season**



Nearby and natural LTVCA conservation areas offer family and group camping in a variety of settings. Experience Carolinian forests and wooded ravines, the Lake Erie shoreline, a heritage river and cultural sites. Four conservation areas located throughout the lower Thames watershed and region are open with family, group or seasonal camping depending on the site. May 20 until October 10. Our campgrounds offer great value and an opportunity to experience Southwestern Ontario's unique natural and cultural settings. For our 2018 Conservation Area Fee Schedule please visit www.ltvca.ca - About Us - Fees and Publications. Note alcohol ban May 20-23.

CAMPING:
Chatham-Kent - C.M. Wilson Conservation Area campground is open for family, group or seasonal camping until Thanksgiving Monday. Camp with nature at your door at one of over 100 tread trails at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. Just minutes south of Chatham, Wilson is ideal for tent and trailer camps with most sites serviced with hydro (15 and 30 amp) and water. Washrooms are fully serviced with showers and a trailer dumping station is on site. Soft drinks and snack foods are available at the gatehouse over the summer. Discover the adventure playgrounds, fishing nature trails, memorial forest and much more! Information: Gatehouse 519-351-3910 (spring/summer season) or LTVCA Administration Building 519-354-7310 (off-season).

Southwest Middlesex - Big Bird Conservation Area campground is also open for family, group, or seasonal camping until Thanksgiving Monday. Situated just outside of Wainville on the Thames River - a Canadian Heritage River, this conservation area is more remote, with 26 untracked wooded sites as well as limited water and hydro hook-ups. Washrooms are fully serviced with showers. Other features include a boat launch to the Thames River, a picnic shelter with tables, open space for sports and games, hiking and fishing. Information: 519-264-1500.

GROUP CAMPING:
In addition to C.M. Wilson and Big Bird Conservation Areas, we have 2 other conservation areas in the Lower Thames watershed designed strictly for group camping.

- **West Egan - E.M. Warwick Conservation Area** is near Eagle on Lake Erie. Information: LTVCA Administration Building 519-354-7310.
- **Strathroy-Carleton Place - Lewisport Road Conservation Area / The Nash Pond Village and Museum** is near Mount Brydges (organized Conservation Groups only such as Scouts, Girl Guides) Information: 519-264-2420

For conservation area directions, all fees and facilities please visit our website www.ltvca.ca

For Further Information Contact:
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, 100 Thames St., Chatham, ON N7L 2Y6
info@ltvca.ca www.ltvca.ca



To download a Guide to Conservation Areas in Ontario please visit <http://www.ontarioconservationareas.ca/>

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Media Release
For Immediate Release
May 2, 2018

**"Experience some of the best birding in SW Ontario!"
"Step into Nature" For The Big O Birding "Healthy Hike"**



Comber - "Step Into Nature" on May 15th, at 10 am to Big O Conservation Area in Comber and experience some of the best birding Southwestern Ontario has to offer. A "Healthy Hike" will be led by Paul Pratt, a retired Naturalist from the Oxbow Nature Reserve in Windsor. Free Admission!

A live falconry demo by Predator Bird Services and BBQ will follow at the Iron Kettle B&B in Comber where the birding log book is available for all birdwatchers to document bird species they encounter.

Please RSVP by Friday May 9th! 519-354-7310 x230 or email Randall.VanWagner@ltvca.ca

Big O Conservation Area is located on Highway 77, also known as Main Street in the Village of Comber.

For Further Information Contact:

Randall VanWagner
Manager of Conservation Lands and Services
519-354-7310 ext. 230
Email: Randall.VanWagner@ltvca.ca

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, 100 Thames St., Chatham, ON N7L 2Y6
www.ltvca.ca



To download a Guide to Conservation Areas in Ontario please visit <http://www.ontarioconservationareas.ca/>

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Media Release
For Immediate Release
May 4, 2016

**"Stewardship Programs Provide Grants"
LTVCA Works with Landowners to Enhance and Protect the Environment**



Across LTVCA Watershed - The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) mission is to lead by example in environmental protection in partnership with the community. Our stewardship programs offered to local landowners provide financial incentives to create a balanced and healthy watershed.

We focus our efforts on reducing nutrients and soil entering waterways and ultimately the Great Lakes. Staff apply for special funding which provides opportunities for local projects that will protect and restore species and habitats, encourage a sense of ownership of environmental rehabilitation efforts, and protect our source water resources. Below is a listing of what we offer:

Planting Trees

Annually, a mid-March deadline for ordering tree seedlings and large stock trees results in over 100,000 trees planted across the watershed. We are in the height of our tree planting season right now! Site visits can be conducted year round, so don't hesitate to call! There are different grants available to help offset the costs of planting depending on location and planting site size through Forests Ontario, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ontario Power Generation, and the LTVCA. The Chatham-Kent Tree of the Year Program offers a free tree to residents in early April and features a different tree each year!

Creating Wetlands

Creating wetlands is one way to enhance your property and natural habitat. Landowners can contact us for funding which usually comes from Ducks Unlimited and the National Wetland Conservation Fund.

Erp Clean Water Program

This program is available for farmers in Erp County for erosion control, watershed protection, well decommissioning, wetland and riparian habitat enhancement, recreational protection, clean water diversion, livestock access restriction to watercourses and other projects.

OLASI: Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction and Monitoring Program

The Jeannettes Creek Priority Subwatershed Project will evaluate the effectiveness of a focused stewardship approach on achieving measurable improvements to soil health and water quality. Reductions in edge-of-field losses of soil and nutrients, with a focus on phosphorus will be measured. This will be achieved by implementing several highly targeted agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Jeannettes Creek Subwatershed. The goal is to observe cumulative reductions in soil and nutrient loss from the field's edge as a direct result of the implemented BMPs. The program will offer grant funding to eligible farmers within Jeannettes Creek to implement the following agriculture best

management practices: Cover Crops, Alternative Tillage or Conservation Tillage, and Crop and Field Margin Management.

The Agriculture Improvement Plan

This is a grant available to all farmers across the Lower Thames Watershed. Its focus is to assist farmers with implementing best management practices on their land such as buffer strips, windbreaks, cover crops and rock chutes.

The Species at Risk Farm Improvement Plan

This is a grant available to all farmers across the Lower Thames Watershed who have completed Environmental Farm Plan training and have known species at risk on their property. This program is administered by Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and provides funding to enhance and sustain natural areas and habitats. It provides funding to landowners for stewardship practices that directly benefit Species at Risk.

Greening Forward

This is a grant available to all farmers across the Lower Thames Watershed. Although not mandatory Environmental Farm Plan training will boost an applicant's chance for funding. The program is administered by Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and provides funding to various farm related improvements.

We encourage landowners to visit our website at www.ltvca.ca for further information and application forms. Please contact us for details! Together we can make a difference across our watershed!

For Further Information Contact:

Greg Van Every
Environmental Project Manager
519-354-7310 ext. 230
Email: Greg.VanEvery@ltvca.ca

Amanda Blain
Land Stewardship Technician
519-354-7310 ext. 230
Email: A.Blain@ltvca.ca

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, 100 Thames St., Chatham, ON N7L 2Y6
www.ltvca.ca



Media Release
For Immediate Release
May 6, 2016

**"Clear Creek Grand Opening!"
Five-Year Chatham-Kent Conservation Project Breaks Ground**



Chatham, ON – Join us, on Friday, May 13th at 11 a.m. as we, The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) and Enbridge Inc. host a joint grand opening to celebrate the start of a wetland conservation project.

In 2015, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) partnered with Enbridge Inc. on a five-year \$75,000 conservation project in Chatham-Kent. The investment will see the construction of and conservation of a wetland on a 140-acre farm field north of Lake Erie, along the Point Pelee and Rondou Bay bird migration corridors. As part of the initiative, more than 70,000 trees will be planted on site through a partnership with Forests Ontario.

"By creating wetlands we can help purify water and absorb excess nutrients before they reach the Great Lakes system. It's a perfect example of simple, effective green infrastructure," said Randal Van Wagner, Manager of Conservation Lands and Services. "It's rare for us to identify a piece of available land of this size in an important migratory route."

"We're proud to partner with Enbridge, an ongoing supporter of the LTVCA, on this project which allows us to invest in the future of our community and the environment in the Lower Thames watershed. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future," continued Mr. Van Wagner.

Event Details

Date: Friday, May 13, 2016
Time: 11 a.m.
Location: 19084 Clearvale Rd., Muirhuk, NOL 1X0

Media representatives are invited to join a tour of the Clear Creek site after the formal program.

For information contact:

Randal Van Wagner
Manager of Conservation Lands and Services
100 Thames St., Chatham, Ontario N7L 2Y6
519-354-7310 ext. 230



Media Release
For Immediate Release
May 12, 2016

**"To Open 7 Days A Week for the Tourist Season!"
Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum At Longwoods Road Conservation Area**



Mount Brydges – "Step Into Nature" at Longwoods Road Conservation Area this spring! The Resource Centre and Ska-Nah-Doht Village will open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. beginning May 20 through to October 10. Gates remain open with picnic grounds and nature trails till sunset daily. Longwoods is a 156-acre conservation area owned and operated by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

Admissions:

Day use admission features a pay and display machine at our entrance. Purchase a ticket (cash or credit card only) from display at our vehicle dashboard. Maximum daily entrance fees are \$17.00 per vehicle. Other fees apply for reserved facilities and pre-booked school and group programs, so please call us for details. Motor coach bus hours are welcome! Alternatively, an annual Season's Day Use Pass may be purchased for \$60 at the Longwoods Road and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas (Blenheim), and the Conservation Authority Administration Building in Chatham (not valid for camping, allows the entrance to special events). Our Season's Pass may be used at Longwoods Road, Big Bend and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas only.

Features:

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is a recreated longhouse village of 1,000 years ago. Find your way through the palisade maze, explore a longhouse and take time to think about the life of the Haudenosaunee people. A museum displays archaeological artifacts from our collection in the Resource Centre, along with nature exhibits and hands-on activities for everyone! Audiovisual presentations are shown in the theatre. Visit the Turtle Trail Gift Shop with authentic, one of a kind local native crafts and stained glass.

Five nature trails and bridges, two of which are wheelchair accessible, wind through Carolinian woodlands and fields. Don't miss the Carver Carolinian Arboretum and Trail and Native Gardens! Enjoy the wildflowers and birds as you stroll the woodlands, meadows, and wetlands of Longwoods.

Bring a picnic lunch and stay for the whole day! There are lots of picnic tables and a pavilion with a barbecue may be used for family reunions and special gatherings. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides can book their camps out on one of free large group camping grounds. Our staff are available to teach popular badge workshops!

Plan a day trip and come visit us soon! Call (519) 294-2478 to reserve your group's activity. We are located a half hour west of London (6.5 km west of Delaware) and an hour east of Chatham at 3548 Longwoods Road (Middlesex County Road 7) Mount Brydges. For conservation area directions, fees and facilities please visit our website www.ltvca.ca and click on the Conservation Areas tab.

For Further Information Contact:
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
info@ltvca.ca www.ltvca.ca



To download a Guide to Conservation Areas in Ontario please visit <http://www.ontarioconservationareas.ca/>

Media Release
 For Immediate Release
 May 25, 2016

**"Local landowner fined \$15,000"
 Violations of Conservation Authority Act Can Be Costly!**



LTVCA Watershed - A healthy environment is key to healthy and vibrant communities. To maintain the vitality of our watersheds and to prevent loss of life and property due to natural hazards such as flooding and erosion, Ontario's 39 Conservation Authorities are charged with administering Regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C21.

The recent completion of a West Lorne area landowner and drainage contractor for violations of Regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act, has generated numerous inquiries of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) from the public regarding wetland protection and agricultural land drainage. This case involved the clearing of wetland area to create additional agricultural land as well as the installation of field tile adjacent to the wetland within a distance specified in the regulation. While the regulation does not prevent the continuation of normal farming activities on existing agricultural land bordering a wetland, attempting to claim additional agricultural land from the wetland, even "soaring up" of the field, is an activity that requires permission from the Conservation Authority. The installation of agricultural field tile adjoining a wetland is also a regulated activity but in most cases can be approved by the Conservation Authority as long as it is properly designed so as not to impact the wetland. Other activities within the wetland or neighbouring lands such as land regrading or the placement of fill, also require permission of the Conservation Authority.

Violations of the legislation can be costly. While there are no stop work orders under the legislation, additional charges can be laid for each day the work continues or the development remains in place. The maximum fines are \$10,000 per charge. The court can also order the development removed or the wetland/watercourse rehabilitated. There is no dollar value cap on such rehabilitations which can often cost far more than the set fines or even the development themselves. In the case of the West Lorne conviction, the defendant was fined \$5,000 for each of three charges, ordered to remove the field tile he had installed, and to rehabilitate those portions of the wetland that he had destroyed.

Background on the Act and Regulations:
 In 2006, the Minister of Natural Resources approved the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations for all Conservation Authorities (Ontario Regulations 42/06 and 148/06 to 162/06). Through these updated regulations, Conservation Authorities are empowered to regulate development and activities on or adjacent to river or stream valleys, Great Lakes, and large inland lakes, shorelines, watercourses, hazardous lands and wetlands.

This "second generation" of regulations replace the previous "Fill, Construction and Alteration to Waterways Regulations" administered by all Conservation Authorities, in some cases since the mid-1950s. Ontario Regulation 97/04 expanded upon the previous regulations' responsibilities and specified the content for the current regulations ensuring conformity of wording across all Conservation Authorities and complementing provincial hazard lands and wetlands policies administered by municipalities under the Planning Act. Development taking place on regulated lands requires permission from the Conservation Authority to confirm that the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the

conservation of land are not affected. The siting, lighting, changing, diverting or blocking a driveway with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse (which includes agricultural drains) is also regulated as is changing or interfering in any way with a wetland.

What Areas Are Regulated?

- river or stream valleys including the flood plain, meadows, wetlands, and other riparian lands up to 100 years with large rivers
- Great Lakes and large inland lake shorelines including their dynamic beaches, near upwash zones, flood plain areas, and flood banks for a 100 year return period and 100 years with or without erosion
- watercourses of any kind including agricultural and municipal drains
- wetlands including adjacent lands within 120 metres of all Provincially Significant Wetlands and 30 metres of other wetlands
- other hazardous lands

What Activities Are Regulated?

- the removal of any tree near a wetland
- the release of any liquids into a watercourse
- development which a contractor:
 - construction, reconstruction, creation or placing of a building or structure of any kind
 - any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the level of the building, its height or increasing the number of storey levels in the building or structure
 - site grading
 - temporary piling, dumping or removal of any material, including a watercourse, in the field

- Typical activities banned by the regulation include, but are not limited to:
- construction of all above ground additions including most forms of permanent foundations for support of buildings
 - construction and major repairs of ditches, creeks, channels
 - construction and major repairs of in-ground and above-ground pools
 - construction and major repairs of retaining walls
 - construction and major repairs of levees, embankments, ditches, gullies, gutters, etc.
 - large scale removal or grading
 - construction and major repairs of docks, boat ramps, boat storage structures
 - dredging
 - necessary or permitted placement of filling, erosion control or other soil stabilization
 - placement of stumps and mobile homes
 - construction and major repairs on bridges, crossings, roads and paths
 - work on watercourse including municipal and agricultural drains

Section 20(2b) of the Conservation Authorities Act, The Conservation Authorities Act and associated Regulations can be found at www.ltvca.gov.on.ca

For Further Information Contact:

1801 Waverley Ave.
 Water Management Supervisor
 51 Dundas St. West, 22nd Floor
 Email: jean.walsh@ltvca.ca
 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, 100 Thames St., Chatham, ON N7H 1Y8
www.ltvca.ca



Media Release
 For Immediate Release
 May 31, 2016

**"Annual Dedication Service to be Held in June"
 McKinley Memorial Forest at Merlin Conservation Area**



Merlin - Memorial trees grow in the McKinley Memorial Forest at the Merlin Conservation Area in memory of loved ones. Please join us on Sunday, June 12, 2016 for an outdoor tree dedication service. All are welcome. Gather at 1:30 in the Conservation Area for the Service which will begin at 2 p.m. Merlin Conservation Area is located at 128 Wilson Street in Merlin.

Each spring a memorial forest service is held at the Merlin Conservation Area in memory of loved ones passing. This year's service is in memory of those passing between May 1, 2015 through to April 30, 2016. Families and most of all we will be invited to help plant one memorial tree seedling at the end of the service. Twenty-one memorial forest seedlings will be planted at the Merlin Memorial Forest for this period.

The McKinley Funeral Homes Ltd. also supports a memorial forest at the G.M. Wilson Conservation Area. For nearly 20 years this Funeral Home has been involved in local reforestation efforts and the memorial forest program in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation, and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. The McKinley Funeral Home dedicates thousands of trees for each funeral in memory of loved ones. With over 5,000 trees have been planted through this program.

The public can also dedicate memorial trees with a \$40 donation to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation towards the Memorial Forest Program. Information about the Program can be found at <http://www.lowerthamesconservation.ca/conservation/conservation-foundation/memorial-forest-program>. Tax receipts are available. There are 7 memorial forests located throughout the Lower Thames watershed. A living tree is symbolic of ongoing memories of your loved one. By planting a tree, you preserve those precious memories and encourage the preservation of nature for our future generations.

For further information about the Memorial Forest Dedication Service or the Memorial Forest Program please contact:

Nathan McKinley
 McKinley Funeral Homes Ltd.
 518-351-2040
 Email: n.mckinley@mcfl.com

Ronnie Carey
 Community Relations Coordinator
 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
 519-264-2420
 Email: Ronnie.Carey@ltvca.ca
www.ltvca.ca



Media Release
 For Immediate Release
 June 1, 2016

**"June 2 is RBC Blue Water Day!"
 \$5,000 RBC Blue Water Project donation to Local Children's Water Festival**



Chatham - Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival organizers are thrilled to partner with **RBC Blue Water** to further efforts to educate local children about water protection and conservation. "We are very grateful to receive this much needed funding for our Annual Festival. As support for water projects and connections with the opportunity is a perfect fit for some of the things we are trying to achieve," says Don Hector - Festival Coordinator. The \$5,000 cheque presentation to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the RBC Branch at 190 King St. West in Chatham on June 2. RBC staff-volunteers will also be welcomed volunteers at the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival!

The RBC Blue Water Project is a wide-ranging program dedicated to protecting the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. RBC supports initiatives that help protect water in our growing towns and cities. The centerpiece of the RBC Blue Water Project is a \$50 million charitable commitment to support organizations that are working to protect water in our growing towns and cities. RBC provides grants in regions where they have a business footprint.

Clean water and a healthy environment provide many ecological, social and economic benefits. The Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival helps to improve our quality of life while promoting sustainability in our community by fostering respect for water and encouraging environmental stewardship. The 8th Annual "Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival" will take place on Oct. 4 to 6, 2016 at the GM Wilson Conservation area. Registrations for all elementary schools (Grade 4 & 5 level) were distributed to all school boards in mid April. If you are a teacher interested in registering and have not received any information please contact Don Hector - Festival Coordinator below.

For further information please contact:

Don Hector
 Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival
 Coordinator
 call/text 226-861-2453 (local Chatham number)
don@waterfestival.com
www.waterfestival.com

Follow RBC
<http://www.rbc.com/bluewater>
RBC Blue Water

www.ltvca.ca



- **Displays and Exhibits** are created to update programs and information for the public. Interpretive signs for the outside of the kiosk at explain about the native gardens and arboretum trail system at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. As well, donor boards complement the arboretum signage and recognize all donations towards the Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail Project since its beginnings.





Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail - Kiosk Signage June 2016

- **Paid Advertisements** are taken out in the local tourist guides for Chatham-Kent, Middlesex and Elgin for C.M. Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Area for 2016. Staff also take out advertisements in the local print media to inform the public about workshops and seminars. Ads are purchased in the Strathroy-Caradoc “Keeping in Local” and the Middlesex “Business Matters”. As well, the Chatham-Kent Not-for-profit Network featured the LTVCA on their home page for a period of time.
- **Presentations** are given to community groups upon request. Support is provided to staff for official openings, funder recognition ceremonies and community events upon request.



On May 13th, we presented with Enbridge at the Clear Creek Conservation Project Grand Opening.

- **Committees and Meetings:** Staff attended meetings of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region’s communications team as they develop communication products for the Source Protection Plan development. As well, staff attend Source Protection Committee meetings as needed. Staff participate on planning committees which meet regularly for the Children’s Water Festival – Chatham-Kent and Lambton and the Communications Subcommittee for the Thames River Clearwater Revival. April 21 staff attended the Spring Conference of the CKNN in Chatham about social marketing

and volunteerism. On May 26 staff attended MFIPPA training at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority office. (Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) (Canada).



On April 21st, staff attended the Spring Conference of Chatham Kent Not for Profit Network (CKNN) – social media and community volunteerism workshops.

- **The LTVCA’s website and social media (YouTube, Twitter and Facebook)** are updated daily with current/relevant Conservation Authority information and events. The website address is www.ltvca.ca. We encourage you to check in with us daily and share with your friends! Updates highlighting LTVCA projects, events and current conservation activities relating to the watershed are posted. Photos and video clips of programs and projects are taken regularly.
- **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation Directors** fund-raising meeting is July 12, 2016.
- **Events in conservation areas:**
 - April 24th – Native Plants Workshop at Longwoods Road Conservation Area



Approximately 30 people attended this spring’s Native Plant Workshop and Hike at Longwoods.

- April 30 – May 1 – Longwoods Heritage Weekend (Battle of Longwoods)



1,250 students participated in Friday's Education Day hosted by the Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society at Longwoods the day before the Heritage Weekend.



Nearly 800 public and re-enactors took part in the events of the Heritage Weekend.

- May 15 – Birding Hike at Big 'O' Conservation Area



Another great turnout at Big O Conservation Area for the annual Birding Hike

Upcoming summer events at Longwoods include Twilight Tuesdays beginning July 5th through to August 23rd at 7:30 p.m. and Artifact Day on July 17 at 1 p.m.

- **Publications:** Community Relations staff assist Conservation Authority staff with publications as needed.
- **Applications:** Staff apply for project funding as grants become available. For Longwoods Road Conservation Area and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village, applications were successful to hire 2 summer student programs for 3 positions: Young Canada Works in Heritage (YCW) - 1 position for an Exhibit Design Assistant. Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) - 1 position for a Community Outreach Coordinator and 1 position for a Community Outreach Assistant.
- **Courses/Certification:** Staff keep current by attending appropriate courses as needed.

8.6) Conservation Authority Education

Conservation Youth Group Workshops

Workshops are performed at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and LTVCA outreach locations to youth and their leaders. Youth groups work towards badges for various outdoor activities.

Total number from Apr. 1 – May 31, 2016 - 20 (11 in 2015)

Conservation Field Trips for Students

Total number from Apr. 1 – May 31, 2016, 355 students and 49 adult supervisors participated in field trips to Longwoods Road Conservation Area. (376 students and 74 adults in 2015) . June's numbers will be way up from 2015.

Conservation Classroom Programs and Outreach

From Apr. 1 – May 31, 2016 – 250 students took part in the River and Creek Safety Program as part of the Middlesex Farm Safety Day at Ekcoe School. Ten presentations were given at the event.



River and Creek Safety Programs were offered to the Grade 2's in the east end of the watershed during March.

Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival

Funding is rolling in for the 2016 Festival! Don Hector is doing a great job marketing and promoting the event. He has gained much community support for the October 4-6 event this year. Funding includes: RBC Bluewater Fund \$5,000, TD Friends of the Environment \$3,000, CK Community Foundation \$3,000, Chatham Kiwanis Club \$1,000, Captain Garnet Brackin IODE \$1,000, CK Community Partnership Fund \$4,500 for a total of \$17,500. We expect another \$4,000 to come in and approximately \$4,000 carryover from last year.

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Field Trips for Students

Total number from Apr. 1 to May 31, 2016 – 923 students and 230 adult supervisors participated in field trips to Ska-Nah-Doht. (1037 students and 224 adults in 2015). Bookings are way up for June compared to last year.

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Group Workshops

Workshops are performed at Ska-Nah-Doht and LTVCA outreach locations for youth and their leaders. Youth groups work towards badges for various outdoor activities.

Total number from Apr. 1 – May 31, 2016 – 12 (31 in 2015)

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Activities

Staff continue to research grant opportunities for the Heritage Build Project in order to make the new longhouse a reality by 2017. The GreenLane Community Fund and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation have committed \$20,000 each to the project.

In looking towards a successful 2016, staff are investigating new programs and services that could increase attendance to Longwoods and Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. Staff have met on 4 occasions since Jan. 1, 2016. Some of the suggestions for new sources of revenue generation at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum include:

- Yurts investigation – a new camping option at Longwoods Road. Calculating optimum sizes and the business case.
- CAP Program – A paragraph will be drafted for website.
- Aim to sell more Seasons' passes this year.

- Investigate the use of the cabins for camping.
- Burwell House possibilities along with rejuvenation of the Resource Centre.

8.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association

Minutes of regular meeting held **April 7th 2016** at Wheatley Legion

Attendance: Rick Taves, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Lorna Bell, Gerry Soulliere, Pauline Sample, Craig Willett, Linda & Lee Pearce, Ron Haley, Larry McDonald, David Light, Randall Van Wagoner, Heather Vannieuwenburg, Dale Widdon, Mariette Preyde, Phil Humphries.

Agenda: Moved by Gerry, sec. by Lorna agenda be accepted as outlined (Carried)

Minutes: Moved by Rick, sec. by Ron Minutes be accepted as printed (Carried)

Memorial Groves: Rules for planting trees and placing benches were passed. Moved by Phil, sec. by Larry. The cost for a bench would be \$90.00 with a \$45.00 tax receipt. A proposal was made to digitally map out the trees. Randall would contact a co-op student to do this in the summer.

Prop & Equip: Pembina Bridge has been moved because of flood, needs to be jacked up and reinforced, other bridges also have some damage. Trails will need to dry out before repairs are done. Mowers are ready. Eavestroughs have been installed on barn. Outhouse will need a new roof in near future.

Concerts: All concerts have been booked, Brien Cobby will be in charge of the sound. New larger buttons will be for sale at \$100.00 apiece with a tax receipt. Moved by Gerry sec. by Phil (Carried)

Financial Report: Ron presented his monthly financial report. It was moved by Gerry sec. by Larry report be accepted as presented. (Carried)

Correspondence: None

Old Business: None

New Business: New permanent Handicapped Parking signs were proposed for parking on North side of Pavillion. Moved by Gerry sec. by Larry.

Adjournment: Craig moved for adjournment at 8:25 P.M.

Phil humphries
Secretary

Minutes of regular meeting held **May 5th 2016** at Wheatley Legion

Attendance: Rick & Forest Taves, Mike Diesbourg, Gerry & Muggs Soulliere, Joe & Ginette Pinsonneault, Lindsay Bennett, Bruce & Marjorie Jackson, Linda Pearce, Lorna Bell, Pauline Sample, David & Sheila Light, Larry McDonald, Craig Willett, Mariette Preyde, Phil Humphries.

Minutes: Moved by Larry, sec. by Mike minutes be accepted as printed (Carried)

Memorial Groves: There are 2 trees ready for planting. 1 bench has been installed.

Prop. & Equip.: 1) We welcomed Lindsay Bennett from the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, she proposed planting a Wildflower and Tall Grass Prairie initially behind the Stage and then on sides of Hill in the future. Moved by Larry sec. by Joe (Carried).2) The Southwest Outdoors Club will pull cut wood and clean up area behind stage to prepare for planting, wood will be burned on small hill when appropriate.3) 2000 trees are ready for planting the week of May 9th, the following schools are participating : East Mersea & Wheatley Area Public Schools, Old Colony Mennonite School. 3) Materials are ready for bridge repairs when dry enough.

Concerts: All concerts have been booked for the season.

Financial Report: Phil moved, Gerry sec. report be accepted as printed (Carried)

Correspondence: None

Old Business: Larry proposed kicking off the "**Adopt a Metre**" Trails project, \$ 300.00 has been raised so far. Will contact Newspaper to promote it.

New Business: None

Adjournment: Pauline moved for adjournment at 8:20

Phil Humphries
Secretary

8.8) GMs Report

As covered in various staff reports, the field season has been busy and productive, with record numbers of trees being planted; real-time water quality monitoring equipment installed; IT upgrades constantly underway; completion of the parking lot and landscaping and preparations for the open house; and a host of other activities and events planned and executed. Much staff time has been spent participating with a variety of stakeholders in developing a program to respond to the Lake Erie phosphorus challenge. Led by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; the collaboration will hopefully establish a demonstration sub-watershed that can become a pilot for innovation and for monitoring the effectiveness of various Best Management Practices (BMP's) in reducing nutrient loading to the Thames River. Other discussions involving the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and senior governments in understanding the scope and nature of the issue and the range of actions required have and will continue to evolve. What is clear is the impact of Thames River sources on Lake St. Clair and the north shore of Lake Erie – in other words, the resolution of water quality impairment in the nearshore of Canadian waters will require a Canadian solution.

A separate report regarding the review of the Conservation Authorities Act has been provided and a further consultation phase to consider the various comments that were received on the Discussion Paper is underway. Further information will be provided to the Board as it becomes available.

8.9) Joint Health & Safety Committee

(i) Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2016

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 20, 2016]

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) was held Wednesday, April 20, 2016. Committee members present were: R. Dysarz, V. Towsley, T. Casier, C. Little and A. Vriends.

1. JHSC Certification

New Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification Standards became effective March 1, 2016. Valerie Towsley and Todd Casier completed Part One and Part Two of the Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification Program under the 1996 Standards. Members certified under the 1996 Standards are not subject to additional requirements to maintain their certifications, including refresher training.

2. Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training

Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training packages for Workers and Supervisors have been updated. Training will now include courses offered through HRDownloads.

3. WHMIS 1988 Refresher and WHMIS 2015

All staff will be required to take the two WHMIS courses through HRDownloads.

4. 2015 Minutes

2015 Minutes were reviewed and updated as necessary.

Site inspections of the Diversion Channel, Colborne, Miller and the Administration Building were conducted. See completed Workplace Inspection Records for details.

ITEMS NOTED IN RED and BOLD are considered to need immediate attention.

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: see below Date/Time of Inspection: April 20, 2016

Item, location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	G/M Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
LOCATION - 2 old office chairs - SE side of the walkway - Question	Dam & Pumping Station - 4 legs not 5 - hole - is there an inspection schedule for the dams?	9:07 a.m. - dispose of chairs - fill in with gravel Jason Wintermute to confirm; they are subject to Dam Safety Regulations under LRIA	June 15/16 Russ D June 15/16 JW		Replace with suitable relic from Admin Bldg - filled with gravel Confirm to JHSC	April 20/16 - RD
LOCATION - bank of creek	Colborne - pile of concrete blocks on bank - stability issues	9:40 a.m. - check property line - if on our property address dumping issue with neighbour at 144 Colborne - install new fence	June 15/16 VT		Valery Towsley	
LOCATION gabion stone at mouth	Mouth of Diversion - stones have moved	- push stones back to steel wall	June 30 JW		Jason Wintermute	Public safety, or maintenance issue?

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: see below Date/Time of Inspection: April 20, 2016

Item/ Location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
LOCATION - NE side of bridge	DC Park Street - large holes - gas line exposed	10:04 a.m. - determine what is causing the holes - Val to contact Union Gas and Municipality, replace / repair municipal drainage pipe and rebury exposed tile and UG pipeline, taking all precautions not to nick or damage the coating on the pipeline	June 30/16 JW		Inspect Contact Union Gas	
			June 15/16 VT			
			June 30/16 JW			
- SE side of bridge - NE side	- drain pipe eroding out face of gabion basket - fence post is down	- extend pipe so it's on top of gabion basket - fix	June 30/16 RD		- fixed	- April 21/16 - RD
LOCATION NW corner - parking area	Miller - fence/posts - loose - fence on ground	10:30 a.m. - fix - remove	June 30/16 RD		- fixed	- April 21/16 - RD
			June 30/16 RD		- removed	- April 21/16 - RD
LOCATION	DC Indian Creek Road - none noted	10:45 a.m.				

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: see below

Date/Time of Inspection: April 20, 2016

Item Location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
LOCATION	Rivards	- revisit this spring				
LOCATION	Disposal Site - none noted	11:20 a.m.				
LOCATION	Administration Building	1 p.m.				
- bank area	- height of tree stumps	- cut flush to ground	June 30/16 RWV		Area not accessible to public, is this necessary?	

(ii) Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2016

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

May 4, 2016

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) was held Wednesday, May 4, 2016. Committee members present were: C. Little, R. Dysarz, V. Towsley, T. Casier and A. Vriends.

1. Working at Heights Training

Public Services Health and Safety Association has cancelled the course that was scheduled for our area. No indication they will be offering the course this spring/summer in our area. Possibility of having a session run out of the safety village, Russ will look into this. Val to send emails to local CA's to see if they have any employees who need the training.

Colin to investigate if there are any grants available for the installation of a contained concrete pad system for the two workshops fuel tanks.

Site inspections of the Longwoods Road, Delaware, Sharon Creek and Millstream were conducted. See completed Workplace Inspection Records for details.

ITEMS NOTED IN RED and BOLD are considered to need immediate attention.

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Longwood's Road Date/Time of Inspection: May 4, 2016

Item/Location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/Initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Workshop Interior	- clutter	- continue housekeeping	July 31/16 ML			
Workshop Storage Shed	- clutter	- continue housekeeping	August 31/16 ML			
Tractor Shed	- storage of bark	- for future reference storing a flammable material in the shed that houses the gas tanks is not advised		Storage is temporary. location will not be used for storage of flammables in the future		
Workshop Grounds	- fridge with doors attached	- remove both doors	June 15/16 ML			
Pump House	- clutter	- continue housekeeping	August 31/16 ML			
Livermore's residence	- hole in small wood door	- replace with a metal door	July 31/16 BC			
Tree line on west side of driveway at Irish Drive Entrance	- ashes from house put around base of conifer, if still hot fire hazard and/or smother roots killing tree	- no more dumping of ashes next to tree	ML to follow up with Earl to make sure he stops practice.	If on tenant's property, this is a "request".		
Hydro line from road to transformer and to house	- 2nd and 6th tree from the road are dead	- remove	July 31/16 ML			
	- cedars growing into line	- trim cedars	July 31/16 ML			

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
 Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Longwoods Road

Date/Time of Inspection: May 4, 2016

Item/ Location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Irish Drive from entrance to the east – along property line	- ash tree along road allowance	- remove its on CA property	July 31/16 ML			
	- mesh covered 2 x 4 garden box	- remove	July 31/16 ML			
	- gate – wires broken on both gates	- fix/repair or remove and fence off and plant trees	July 31/16 ML			
	- trees along roadway dead/dying	- call municipality to remove – on road allowance	July 31/16 ML			
Gatehouse	- wet around base of toilet	- check for leak	July 31/16 ML			
	- nails protruding on outside walls	- pound in or pull out	July 31/16 ML			
Picnic Area	- wear and tear on o- rings of swing set	- repair/remove	July 31/16 ML			
	- sagging has increased since JHSC inspection on October 29, 2014	- look into replacement - contact drainage superintendent for opinion	July 31/16 ML			
Culvert at bottom of hill	- trail not blocked off	- place several trees across path	June 15/16 ML			
	- inadequate sign posted – should only state "TRAIL CLOSED"	- install new sign				

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Longwoods Road Date/Time of inspection: May 4, 2016

Item/Location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Question regarding the Bridges (Carey trail and suspension)	- is there an inspection schedule for bridges? Last inspection was 2009.	By Engineer? Please specify. Last report should indicate when next inspection is recommended	June 30/16 VT	Review 2009 report		
Carey Trail Bridge	- trees under structure are coming up underneath platform - rotted deck boards	- remove - replace	July 31/16 ML June 15/16 ML			
railway tie stairs	- some are rotted - large drop to ground from bottom stair	- replace - install another rail tie	June 15/16 ML June 15/16 ML			
boardwalk across stream	- railing not along entire structure - no middle rail	- install - install	June 30/16 ML June 30/16 ML			
orientteering marker # 10	- off trail - trip hazards to get to marker	- install along trail	June 30/16 ML			
Tree Line dividing cabin area and birch grove	- topped trees still standing	- any topped tree should come down in their entirety	August 31/16 ML			

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Longwoods Road Date/Time of Inspection: May 4, 2016

Item/Location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/Initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Millstream Trail - Wheelchair boardwalk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many deck boards are rotted - pole supports have rotted insides, some to the level of the deck - if a rebuild is necessary, the width of the second part of the boardwalk should be checked - nails protruding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - replace - check all for stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 30/16 ML June 30/16 ML 			
Ska-Nah-Dohht Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - leaning walls (meaning Palisade?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pound in or remove - replacement needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 15/16 ML July 31/16 			
Cabins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - none noted 					
Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - none noted 					
				Consider permanent removal? What is usage? ML, RVW, BC to review		

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Millstream and Delaware Date/Time of Inspection: May 4, 2016 - 10:05 and 11 a.m.

Item/Location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/Initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
MILLSTREAM						
- steps from parking lot to CA	- two rotted railway ties for steps - needs a 3rd step	- install a staircase or remove ties and plant trees	June 30/16 ML	Preferred to remove		
- spruce tree	- tipped /windblown	- remove	June 15/16 ML			
- west side of property - broken tile from field down bank	- who's property? - tile is separated in several places causing erosion	- contact the drainage superintendent to follow up	June 15/16 ML			
- bridge	- eroding sides - rotting boards	- place gravel - replace boards	June 15/16 ML June 15/16 ML			
- bank behind barn/pavilion	- massive bank erosion - compromising stream flow and bank stability - dish erosion	- cut down trees on south bank - pull tops to north bank - should be completed in 2016	Oct 15/16 ML Oct 15/16 ML			
Maple Tree at end of driveway	- limb on east side of tree may fall on house	- remove	June 15/16 ML			
LOCATION						
	DELAWARE - none noted					

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Sharon Creek

Date/Time of Inspection: May 4, 2016 - 11:17 a.m.

Item, location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/Initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
- ravine north side of laneway	- dead ash	- remove	June 15/16 ML			
- viewing platform	- missing cross pieces - steel protruding from posts	- are cross pieces necessary? - remove rest of cross pieces and steel leaving only posts	June 30/16 ML/BC			
- north bank to the east of former swing	- rope swing attached to tree - boards attached to tree to make ladder	- remove tree	June 15/16 ML	Is tree healthy? What about bank and root zone? Can we remove rope and boards and place a warning sign? I don't want to get called bad names on social media again!		
- trail from swing to prairie	- dead tree	remove				
- trail along water east of prairie	- sumac stumps	- cut flush to ground	June 15/16 ML			
- spillway	- no signage "DANGER"	- install warning signs	June 15/16 ML			

(iii) Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2016

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

May 11, 2016

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) was held May 11, 2016. Committee members present were: C. Little, R. Dysarz, V. Towsley and A. Vriends.

Site inspections of C.M. Wilson, McGeachy Pond, Rondeau Bay Marshes, Sinclairs Bush, Stirling and Devereux were conducted. See completed Workplace Inspection Records for details.

ITEMS NOTED IN RED and BOLD are considered to need immediate attention.

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: C. M. Wilson Date/Time of Inspection: May 11, 2016 8:30 a.m.

Item, location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/Initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Workshop Pump Barn	- none noted					
	- ATV helmet in its original box is it being utilized?	- confirm that ATV operators are using a helmet	June 15/16 RD		- moved	June 6 - RD
	- styrofoam planter boxes piled unevenly on high shelves - fall hazard	- store in another location and stack appropriately	June 15/16 RD			
	- electrical panel - items too close to panel	- items to be no closer than 1 inch to the panel - mark a line on the floor with red paint/tape to indicate the restricted area	June 15/16 RD		- painted lines	May 21 - RD
Chemical Shed Campground washroom	- none noted					
	- electrical panel restricted area not marked	- mark a line on the floor with red paint/tape to indicate the restricted area	June 15/16 RD		- painted lines	May 21 RD
Campground playground Barn	- red osier dogwood growing into roof line	- trim	June 15/16 RD		- trimmed	May 21 RD
	- swing set bolts extremely long	- out as flush as possible	June 15/16 RD		- cut flush	May 17 RD
	- large nails on door	- remove	June 15/16 RD		- removed	May 17 RD
	- screws stick out	- remove	June 15/16 RD		- removed	May 17 RD
	- exterior holes	- cover or replace sections	June 15/16 RD			

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: C. M. Wilson Date/Time of Inspection: May 11, 2016 9:30 a.m.

Item, location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Day Use playground	- rope swing attached to tree	- remove	June 15/16 RD		- removed	May 19 RD
Trail around pond	- several large animal holes	- fill in	June 15/16 RD		- filled in	June 6 - RD
Floating dock - south side of pond	- not attached on one side	- replace chain	June 15/16 RD		- chain replaced	June 6 - RD
Trail behind barn	- rotted boards	- replace	June 15/16 RD		- no action taken	bdg. not rotted
	- dead trees	- remove	June 15/16 RD		- trees removed	June 6 - RD
	- several rebar posts along walkway sticking up past boards	- pound in	June 15/16 RD		- completed	June 6 - RD
Wetland boardwalk	- bottom rail missing on one side	- replace	June 15/16 RD		- replaced	June 6 - RD

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
 Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: see below Date/Time of Inspection: May 11, 2016 / see below

Item/ Location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/Initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
LOCATION	McGeachy - none noted	11:20 a.m.				
LOCATION	Rondeau Bay Marshes - none noted	1:27 p.m.				
LOCATION	Sinclair's Bush - none noted	1:42 p.m.				
LOCATION	Stirling - none noted	1:58 p.m.				
LOCATION	Devereux - none noted					

Recommendation
 That the above reports be received for information.

9. Correspondence

9.1) Correspondence from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change

Office of the Minister

77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tel.: 416-314-8790
Fax: 416-314-8748

Ministère de l'Environnement
et de l'Action en matière de
changement climatique

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Wellesley Ouest
11^e étage, édifice Ferguson
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tél. : 416-314-8790
Téléco. : 416-314-8748



JUN 02 2016

To: Conservation Authority General Managers and Chief Administrative Officers
Severn Sound Environmental Association
Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
Conservation Ontario

I want to congratulate Ontario's 38 source protection authorities on the historical milestone we reached last November when we worked together to ensure the source protection plans were approved.

I would like to thank all of you, especially your source protection staff, for your significant contribution to the program. The commitment of these dedicated staff has been critical to fulfilling Justice O'Connor's recommendations for locally based source protection. Your support for the source protection committee, technical expertise, knowledge of your watersheds and management of public consultation is invaluable in ensuring the success of this program.

Now that the plans are approved, I am pleased to see that implementation is underway. Your ongoing support for implementing bodies is integral to ensuring their success. We also need you to continue to work with your local source protection committees to keep the plans current and to monitor progress during implementation.

These watershed-based source protection plans, based on sound science, are an important step in protecting public health and safety in Ontario over the long-term.

Thank you for your support in strengthening the safety net that helps make Ontario's drinking water among the best protected in the world.

Sincerely,

Glen Murray
Minister

