



Board of Directors Meeting

A G E N D A

February 21, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Rudy Brown Building, Room 110, Ridgetown Campus, U of G

1. First Nations Acknowledgement	
2. Call to Order	
3. Adoption of Agenda	
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest	
5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	3
5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2018 (Previously circulated).....	3
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	
7. Presentations.....	8
7.1) Strategic Plan Update.....	8
7.2) Seasonal Ice Management Update.....	9
7.3) 6 th Street Dam Repairs.....	9
8. Business for Approval.....	10
8.1) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ending Nov 30 th , 2018.....	10
8.2) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposal of land by the Authority, In Camera Session	13
9. Business for Information.....	14
9.1) Water Management.....	14
9.2) Regulations and Planning.....	16
9.3) Conservation Areas.....	21
9.4) Conservation Services.....	25
9.5) Community Relations.....	30
9.6) Conservation Authority Education.....	33
9.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes.....	36
9.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes.....	42
9.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes	46
9.10) GM's Report.....	48
10. Correspondence.....	50
10.1) Johnson, Feduk, King Chartered Professional Accountants correspondence to the LTVCA..	50
10.2) New Provincial Environment Plan Commits to Working with Conservation Authorities: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.....	51
10.3) Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.....	53
10.4) CO Comments on the "Consultation: Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario"	58
10.5) Chatham This Week: New home builds pushing into historic floodplain.....	65
10.6) Chatham This Week: Chatham-Kent must take lead on building soil health.....	67

10.7) Chatham Daily News: Lake Erie shoreline erosion under investigation.....	70
10.8) Chatham Daily News: Climate change impact part of Lake Erie shoreline study.....	71
11. Events Calendar.....	72
12. Other Business.....	72
12.1) Review of Board Committees	
13. Adjournment	

We will begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of First Nations people who have longstanding relationships to the land, water and region of southwestern Ontario. We also acknowledge the local lower Thames River watershed communities of this area which include Chippewa’s of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation and Delaware Nation at Moraviantown. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America). We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2018



Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at the LTVCA Administration Building in Chatham at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 18, 2018. The following directors were in attendance: L. McKinlay, H. MacDonald, D. McKillop, G. Bogart, M. Bodnar, T. Thompson, J. Kavelaars, R. Doane and S. Caveney. M. Smibert and L. Leclair sent their regrets. S. Pinsonneault was absent.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement
2. Call to Order
3. Adoption of Agenda

1. H. MacDonald – J. Kavelaars

Moved that the agenda be adopted as amended, with two additional items to be added under Section 12. Other Business: 12.1) 6th Street Dam repairs noted by T. Thomson; and, 12.2) implications of legalization of marijuana in our conservation areas noted by D. McKillop.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Previously circulated)

2. G. Bogart – M. Bodnar

Moved that the minutes of the meeting of August 23, 2018 be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising From the Minutes

None declared.

7. Presentations

7.1) Jason Wintermute provided a Power Point Presentation to the Board of Directors on the Ingress / Egress Issues & Mitigation project at Lighthouse Cove and how CA staff were working with the Municipality to come up with solutions.

7.2) Bonnie Carey provided the Board of Directors with a Power Point Presentation on the CA Tent at the International Plowing Match.

3. D. McKillop – M. Bodnar

Moved that the presentations provided by J. Wintermute and B. Carey be receive for information.

CARRIED

8. Business for Approval

8.1) Administrative By-law, Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Procedure for Election of Officers

The third and final reading of the LTVCA's Administrative By-law, Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Procedure for Election of Officers was reviewed at the meeting and subsequently passed by the Board of Directors on October 18th, 2018 and will be known as By-law number 2018-01.

4. R. Doane – H. MacDonald

Moved that By-law 2018-01 as amended and dated October 2018 be read for a third time; and that all previous policies and by-laws referring to items found within this by-law are hereby repealed; and that By-law 2018-01, dated October 2018 be approved, By-law number 2018-01 shall come into force on the 18th day of October, 2018.

CARRIED

5. S. Caveney – G. Bogart

Moved that, the Code of Conduct, dated October 18, 2018, the Conflict of Interest Guidelines, dated October 18, 2018, and the Procedure for Election of Officers, dated October 18, 2018 be approved.

CARRIED

8.2) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ending August 31st, 2018

T. Casier presented the budget vs revenue and expenditures for the period ending on August 31st, 2018 to the Board of Directors.

6. R. Doane – S. Caveney

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended August 31st, 2018.

CARRIED

8.3) 2019 Preliminary Budget

T. Casier presented the 2019 preliminary budget guidelines to the Board of Directors. Errors in the staff report were noted and the report will be amended for the official record.

7. R. Doane – S. Caveney

Moved that the 2019 preliminary budget totalling \$3,205,524 be adopted, and that the member municipalities be advised of the budget and their share of the proposed levy as calculated; it being noted that the Authority is required to provide 30 days' notice of its intention to adopt a final budget and levy.

CARRIED

8.4) Risk Management Plan

Mark Peacock gave a presentation to the Board of Directors on the Risk Management Plan for the LTVCA. The goal will be to help keep costs down with our insurance provider and providing the Authority with a valuable risk management tool. D McKillop asked if a copy will be made available on-line. A copy will be available via the Authority's webpage.

8. G. Bogart – M. Bodnar

Moved that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Risk Management Plan be approved and used as a tool for planning and budgeting purposes.

CARRIED

8.5) 2019 Fee Schedule

9. D. McKillop – G. Bogart

Moved that the LTVCA Board of Directors approve the 2019 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule; and that Board of Directors approves the 2019 Regulation and Planning Fee Schedule increases.

CARRIED

9. Business for Information

- 9.1) Water Management
- 9.2) Regulations and Planning
- 9.3) Conservation Areas
- 9.4) Conservation Services
- 9.5) Community Relations
- 9.6) Conservation Authority Education
- 9.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes
- 9.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
- 9.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes
- 9.10) GM's Report

10. H. MacDonald – S. Caveney

Moved that report items 9.1) through to 9.10) be received for information.

CARRIED

10. Correspondence

10.1) Special Audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Auditor General's Report

10.2) New method to remove phosphorus from wastewater

11. R. Doane – S. Caveney

Moved that correspondence items 10.1) through to 10.2) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Events Calendar

12. J. Kavelaars – G. Bogart

Moved that the Events Calendar items be received for information.

CARRIED

12. Other Business

12.1) 6th Street Dam Repairs

T. Thomson asked what was being done around the issues at the 6th Street Dam. J. Wintermute and M. Peacock filled the Board in on discussions that have occurred with CK's Municipal Drainage Department as well as the former site supervisor for the project. There is a water seepage issue on the south side of the structure behind the sheet steel pile wall. After the February 2018 flood event passed, the ground around the area where seepage was noted resulted in a subsidence of the ground. An investigation is needed to see what is happening to ensure the structural integrity of the dam and future operations.

13. T. Thompson – S. Caveney

Moved that staff move forward with the investigation process and potential repairs to the 6th Street Dam, with assistance from the Chatham-Kent Drainage Department, and that a budget of \$30,000.00 be endorsed subject to staff review of proposed works and approval by the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer.

CARRIED

12.2) Legalization of Marijuana and Conservation Areas

D. McKillop inquired as to the status of the Authority's policies around use of cannabis, particularly within the conservation areas. M. Peacock is reviewing our current policy for Drug and Alcohol use as it relates to personnel and will be reviewing other CA's policies on how to deal with it within the conservation areas. The government has noted that cannabis can be utilized anywhere cigarettes are, but there is the concern that cannabis has affects similar to alcohol (i.e. impairment). Each conservation area will be reviewed against what each municipality is doing within their jurisdiction so that conflicts do not arise.


13. Adjournment

14. R. Doane – J. Kaveiaars

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Linda McKinlay
Chair



Mark Peacock
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

7. Presentations

7.1) Strategic Plan Update

Mark Peacock will be providing a power point presentation with the following report and attached table to the agenda package on the progress of the LTVCA's Strategic Plan.

Date: December 13, 2018
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: Progress Report – LTVCA Strategic Plan
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

Strategy Purpose: The Purpose of the LTVCA Strategic Plan was to create a 5 year plan that provides clear direction for staff, board and watershed residents for the years 2016-2021. The Plan identified 12 Objectives and further initiatives to address those objectives. The Objectives are as follows:

Strategic Objectives: The following strategic objectives were developed to meet the LTVCA strategic themes. Each of these Objectives have a number of measurable deliverables.

Customer/Stakeholder Objectives

- 1) Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
- 2) Increase Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship
- 3) Strengthen Brand Recognition

Financial Objectives

- 4) Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements
- 5) Improve Capital Asset Management
- 6) Strengthen Staff Stability (financial stability, attraction & retention)

Internal Processes Objectives

- 7) Improve Internal Communications
- 8) Improve Internal Understanding of Roles & Responsibilities
- 9) Improve Conservation Areas Operations

Capacity Building Objectives

- 10) Improve Human Resources
- 11) Improve Training Opportunities for Staff
- 12) Strengthen Program Review Policy(s)

The attached tables detail how progress is being made on all initiatives recommended in the plan. The LTVCA is on track to complete all recommendations by the end of 2020.

Recommendation:

The LTVCA Strategic Plan Progress Report be received for information.

Respectfully Submitted
Mark Peacock, P. Eng.
C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

7.2) Seasonal Ice Management Update

Jason Wintermute will be providing the Board of Directors a power point presentation on the seasonal ice potential at the mouth of the Thames River.

7.3) 6th Street Dam Repairs

Mark Peacock / Jason Wintermute will be providing a power point presentation on the 6th Street Dam Repairs.

8. Business for Approval

8.1) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ending November 30th, 2018

Background:

Review the 2018 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 11 months ended November 30th, 2018.

Current Situation and Discussion:

REVENUE	2018 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET NOV PROJECTED		2018 ACTUAL TO NOV 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	893,663	819,191	*	1,226,041	406,850
GENERAL LEVY	1,405,668	1,405,668	^	1,405,668	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000	^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	656,902	602,160	*	638,883	36,723
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	7,000	6,417	*	0	(6,417)
RESERVES	11,204	10,270	*	0	(10,270)
CASH FUNDING	3,179,437	3,048,706		3,475,592	426,886
OTHER	0	0		147,375	147,375
TOTAL FUNDING	3,179,437	3,048,706		3,622,967	574,261

*-based on a 11 of 12 month proration of the budget

^-based on cash received to date

Grant income is greater than budget due to the reversal of deferred revenue for on-going programs, the timing of grants invoiced, including several large grants for Wetland projects and several new and increased grants like an increase in the Source Water Protection grant and an Environment & Climate Change Canada and Rondeau Bay Student Conference grant not included in the budget.

Note: Grant income is based on funds received/invoiced and not matched to expenses, meaning there may be expenses outstanding and not recognized in the attached expense statement. At year-end, each grant is reviewed individually and unspent funds are reduced from grant income and deferred for future expenditures.

Levy revenue is shown on a cash basis. All municipalities are paid in full.

General Revenue is above budget due to the following factors:

- Planning and Regulations fees is above budget due to increased demand; and Conservation Services and the Chatham Kent Greening Project are above budget as tree sales have been completed and the income received.

Foundation Grants and Revenues are below budget as there is normally a settlement for the memorial tree programs at the end of the year.

Reserves are zero as this account is used to balance the accounts at year-end if expenses are greater than revenues.

The 'Other' revenue item is due to the donation of a parcel of land.

EXPENSES	2018 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET NOV PROJECTED	2018 ACTUAL TO NOV 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	190,674	174,785	127,809	(46,976)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	0	0	2,297	2,297
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	156,754	143,690	192,522	48,832
TECHNICAL STUDIES	72,120	66,110	8,538	(57,572)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	225,526	206,732	174,191	(32,541)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	102,760	94,197	89,704	(4,493)
SOURCE PROTECTION	24,664	22,609	29,974	7,365
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	1,204	1,104	1,234	130
Water Management Subtotal	773,702	709,227	626,269	(82,958)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	638,084	584,910	653,548	68,638
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	172,730	158,336	161,321	2,985
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	114,257	104,736	113,917	9,181
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	229,094	210,003	172,931	(37,072)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	516,081	473,075	448,169	(24,906)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	161,243	147,806	95,894	(51,912)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	673,159	617,062	345,241	(271,821)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	323,678	296,705	403,191	106,486
SPECIES AT RISK	93,490	85,699	99,250	13,551
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	1,251,570	1,147,272	943,576	(203,696)
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	0	0	0	0
REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,179,437	2,914,484	2,671,562	(242,922)

Water Management

Flood Control Structures are below budget mostly due to the human resources required in Flood Forecasting for the February Flood, some large projects not having taken place and is slightly offset due to the increase electricity expenses incurred from the February flood.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are above budget due to the costs and human resources required for the February flood.

Technical Studies and Planning and Regulations are below budget due to the February flood event and not having a GIS co-op student for most of the year.

Watershed Monitoring is below budget due to a water quality grant not being renewed as anticipated and reduced costs associated with that grant.

Source Protection is above budget due to the increased funding after the budget was completed.

Conservation Areas

Conservation area expenses are above budget due to the costs of opening and operation of the campgrounds, plus increased one time expenditures on signs for the conservation areas and increased expenditures at Sharon Creek to increase 2018 annual day use sales.

Note: There are \$19,000 of costs related to the donation of a conservation property that will be capitalized with the property and \$9,000 of capital asset expenditures that will be capitalized and amortized over the useful life of the assets.

Community Relations and Education

Community Relations is comparable to budget. Conservation Education is above budget mostly due to the Rondeau Bay Student Conference hosted by LTVCA. SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village is below budget due to less staff time and large costs for the rebuild being incurred in the prior year with less expenditures required in the current year.

Conservation Services/Stewardship

Conservation Services (Forestry) and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are below budget due to less large tree planting projects and less Rondeau Bay and Wetland projects. Rondeau Bay and Wetland projects and expenses will increase until all projects are complete, work can no longer be performed or all funds have been expended depending on the year.

Phosphorous Reduction is above budget due to several large purchases to fully utilize funds for programs ended Mar 31 and the costs related to the Environment & Climate Change Canada Grant not included in the budget.

Note: There are \$41,000 of capital asset expenditures for the GLASI program not included in this amount. They will be capitalized and amortized over the useful life of the assets.

Species at Risk is above budget due to several large purchases to fully utilize funds for programs ended Mar 31 and increased grants for summer student wages.

Administration

Administration building is comparable to budget.

Summary:

OPERATING SUMMARY

	2018 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET NOV PROJECTED	2018 ACTUAL TO NOV 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	3,179,437	3,048,706	3,475,592	426,886
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,179,437	2,914,484	2,671,562	(242,922)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	134,222	804,030	669,808
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0	(257,047)	(257,047)
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	134,222	546,983	412,761

Note: The difference between the projected budget funding and projected budget expenditures is due to the recognition of the full General Levy and Special Levy versus all other income and expenses are prorated for the period.

At November 30th, 2018, LTVCA's operating surplus is quite favourable; however, there are several things to consider. A significant portion of the income for the year has been accounted for, there is potential for

outstanding expenses and deferred revenue in the grant income and there is still one month of wages and benefits and regular operating expenses until the end of the year.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended November 30th, 2018.

**8.2) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposal of land by the Authority,
In Camera Session**

9. Business for Information

9.1) Water Management

9.1.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

There have been nineteen Watershed Condition Statements issued since the last Board of Directors Agenda was drafted. Ten of these messages were Safety Bulletins for the Lake Erie shoreline. Five of these were Flood Outlooks for the Lake Erie shoreline. Two messages were Flood Outlooks for high water on local watercourses and the potential for having to operate the Indian-McGregor Creek Diversion Channel. Two messages were combined Flood Outlook messages for both the shoreline and local watercourses.

The Watershed Condition Statements for the shoreline were all targeted at Erie Shore Drive in Chatham-Kent, but areas all along the shoreline were also at risk from wave damage and erosion. Generally speaking, this year has not seen as severe flooding along Erie Shore Drive as last year. Although many messages are going out, the events seem to affect few properties. In some cases, it appears that measures private landowners have taken are helping with the flooding issue. There have also been increased concerns around the Rose Beach Line area in Chatham-Kent. In this area, the road has been closed due to shoreline erosion adjacent to the roadway. There have also been issues with sand being pushed up into the drains, blocking them and causing backup flooding. However, such issues are not limited to Rose Beach Line.

The messages issued for potential flooding on local watercourses including Indian and McGregor Creeks were issued on November 1st, December 1st, December 31st, and January 22nd. For the first event, the dam at the inlet of the Indian-McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated on the evening of November 1st until the morning of November 4th. Water levels at the gauge on Indian Creek at Hwy 40 reached around 85 cm above the threshold when the Diversion is to be operated. In the case of the early December event, the weather forecasts were very off on their rainfall predictions, with the watershed only receiving 5-10 of the 30-35 mm predicted and as a result the Diversion Channel was not operated. Similarly, for the New Years Eve and January events, the region only received around 15 and 20 mm of precipitation respectively when up to 30 and 35 mm had been predicted. While the Diversion Channel was not operated for these events either, water levels on McGregor Creek came within 10 cm of the triggering criteria.

9.1.2) Flood Control Structures

The crucial water level gauge for Chatham at 300 Grand Ave E. has now been replaced by Water Survey of Canada with assistance from staff at the LTVCA. The work was completed on November 27th. Installation of the associated rain gauge across the street at 315 Grand Ave. E. is still pending.

9.1.3) Low Water Response Program

During the spring, summer and autumn, brief reports outlining the watershed conditions as they relate to the Low Water Response Program are created by LTVCA staff. During the winter, as

demand for water across the watershed is significantly less, these reports are not created. However, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry does broad screening throughout the province all year long for the program. Based on that screening, the Lower Thames watershed was not in any type of low water condition.

9.1.4) Watershed Monitoring

Surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. The automated water quality monitoring station at McGregor Creek and Hwy 40 that was recently completed is also now being used for agricultural stewardship and phosphorous reduction projects.

Water quality sampling as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program has also been completed for the year. This fall, 8 of the 9 wells were sampled for water quality as chosen by the MECP.

Now that the provincial budget and Ontario's Environment Plan have been released, provincial granting agencies are starting to look at program funding. Hopefully the LTVCA will hear back soon with regards to some of the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health grant programs that have been assisting in funding watershed monitoring.

9.2) Regulations and Planning

9.2.1) Section 28 Regulations /Permitting

Planning

From the first of October through to the end of December, there have been 64 planning submissions reviewed by staff with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06.

Planning Numbers	2017 totals	2018 year to date totals	2018 Oct-Dec totals
Chatham-Kent	227	159	26
Elgin	86	77	17
Essex	29	47	11
Middlesex	57	45	10
Total Numbers	399	328	64

Permitting

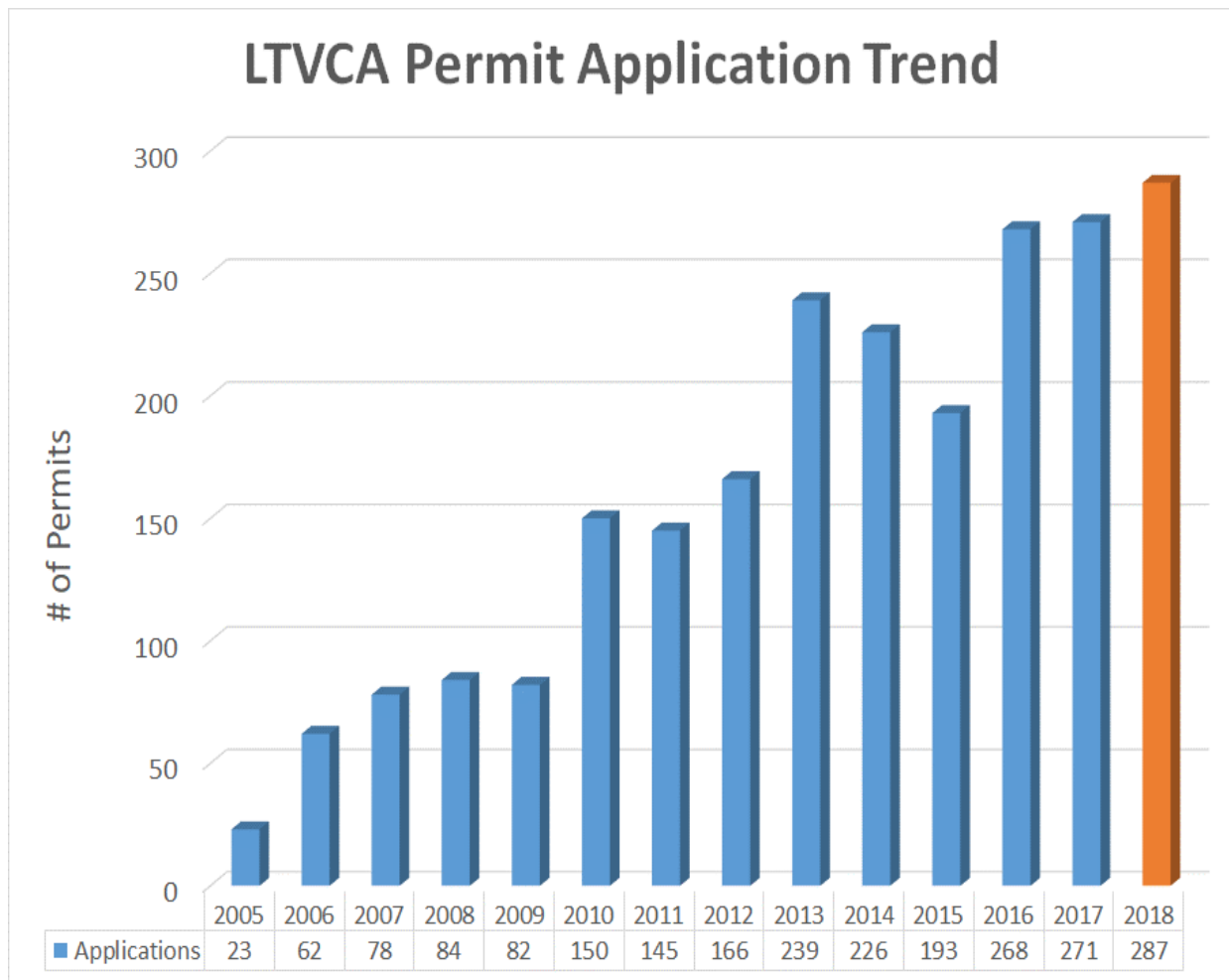
Since the last board update on 18 October 2018 and up to and including 31 December 2018, staff had received an additional 77 permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. For the entire 2018 year, staff received a total of 287 permit applications. Of the 287 permit applications, all were able to be approved by staff without a need for any hearings in front of the Executive Committee.

Historically, January tends to be a slower period for permitting which allows staff to catch up on filing from the previous year, dedicate time to create educational materials, complete policy updates and other items on the department's work plan for the year. Typically, the number of incoming permit applications ranges between 10 and 20 for the month. In January 2019, staff received and processed 80 permit applications. Of the 81 permit applications, 63 of the properties required surveying services from the LTVCA for flood proofing requirements.

The table below summarizes the municipality of origin for Section 28 permit applications over the last four years:

Municipality	Year				January 2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Chatham-Kent	128	160	179	190	71
Dutton Dunwich	15	27	8	16	1
Lakeshore	16	40	45	32	6
Leamington	3	3	6	6	0
London	0	0	0	0	0
Middlesex Centre	0	4	7	2	0
Southwest Middlesex	10	7	6	14	1
Southwold	10	6	5	7	1
Strathroy-Caradoc	3	3	3	2	0
West Elgin	9	18	12	18	1
Totals	194	268	271	287	81

Following two consecutive record breaking years, the number of permit applications to develop or alter within or adjacent to hazardous lands set a new record for 2018. The below figure illustrates the rising number of development applications in hazardous areas since 2005.



Due to the increasing number of permit applications being received by the LTVCA, supplemental revenue from permit application fees is increasing – it is already higher than it has been in the past with one more month left in the year. The table below summarizes fees collected from Section 28 permit applications over the last eight years:

Year	Total Permit Fees Collected	Difference from 2018
2010	\$20,810	- \$40,990
2011	\$21,765	- \$40,035
2012	\$20,330	- \$41,470
2013	\$27,770	- \$34,030
2014	\$43,200	- \$18,600
2015	\$41,875	- \$19,925
2016	\$48,400	- \$13,400
2017	\$57,375	- \$4,425
2018	\$61,800	\$0

Below are some Section 28 Permitting statistics for 2018:

- 15 habitat/stewardship projects in regulated areas had been received and approved with their fees waived;
- 61 properties were surveyed for permit and official plan flood proofing requirements;
- 66% of all applications were within Chatham-Kent and 11% were within Lakeshore;
- 52% of the applications were for private property owners for projects such as construction or modification of structures, shoreline protection repairs, and/or bank alterations;
- 36% of applications were for municipal projects (drainage or infrastructure); and,
- Total of permit application fees = \$61,800.00 (average of \$215.33 per permit).

Property Inquiries

In 2018, 1,914 property inquiries were received and responded to. During the first month of 2019, 157 property inquiries have been received. Some of the reasons that staff receive property inquiries include:

- Realtors looking to sell a property and wanting to know any potential restrictions for future buyers.
- People purchasing property who want to know more about the site-specific hazards and regulations.
- Landowners wanting to learn about best management practices specific to their property.
- Landowners wanting specific information on what is permitted in regulated areas.
- Insurance companies looking for floodplain information.
- Municipal staff or utility companies planning future projects.

9.2.2) Section 28 Enforcement

In 2018, 35 new complaints / tips were received which resulted in two notices of violation being issued so far with multiple investigations on-going with the goal to obtain compliance or future compliance. 22 of the 35 complaints / tips were violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and six of those files have been closed without prosecution. Of the 35 complaints/violations received in 2018, 26 were in Chatham-Kent, two were in each of Lakeshore, Southwold, and West Elgin, and one each in Southwest Middlesex, Strathroy-Caradoc, and Dutton Dunwich. On-going enforcement issues from 2016 and 2017 were also monitored and continue to be dealt with. LTVCA staff continued to work towards the rehabilitation of the wetland involved in the 2016 court case with multiple meetings with the defendant's lawyer, agent, and consultants.

As of 31 January 2019, no new complaints / tips have been received from the public.

9.2.3) O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications

Staff Report

O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications (Up to January 31, 2019)

B.D. 02/21/19

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
2018 Permits					
120-2018	27801 Marsh Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: Aug 02, 2018
125-2018	335 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 10, 2018
126-2018	345 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 10, 2018
129-2018	415 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 10, 2018
130-2018	425 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 10, 2018
145-2018	6608 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 21, 2018
211-2018	21 Renaissance Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 05, 2018
212-2018	22 Renaissance Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 05, 2018
213-2018	49 Tuscany Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 05, 2018
214-2018	13580 Talbot Trail	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 10, 2018
215-2018	6570 Thompson Drive	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Construction	Granted: Oct 10, 2018
216-2018	Simcoe Lane	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 10, 2018
217-2018	8373 Middle Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 10, 2018
218-2018	35 Detroit Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 10, 2018
219-2018	48 Albert Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 11, 2018
220-2018	11535 Lagonda Way	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 11, 2018
221-2018	32 William Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 12, 2018
222-2018	4341 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 12, 2018
223-2018	23186 Dillon Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 19, 2018
224-2018	McKenzie Drain TW	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 24, 2018
225-2018	5th Concession Road Drain Extension TN	Tilbury North	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 24, 2018
226-2018	Bert Pulley Drain	Mersea	Leamington	Alteration	Granted: Oct 12, 2018
227-2018	Stevenson Drain	Mersea	Leamington	Alteration	Granted: Oct 12, 2018
228-2018	Gardiner Drain	Ekfrid	Leamington	Alteration	Granted: Oct 16, 2018
229-2018	Hunt Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: Oct 23, 2018
230-2018	70 Albert Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 30, 2018
231-2018	19015 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Oct 25, 2018
232-2018	3514 Talbot Trail	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 30, 2018
233-2018	Charing Cross Road by Highway 401	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 26, 2018
234-2018	138 Peel Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 30, 2018
235-2018	5425 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2018
236-2018	Currie Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2018
237-2018	Mahon Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2018
238-2018	Craford Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2018
239-2018	Fojtik Drain & Pump Station	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2018
240-2018	25222 Graham Road	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: Oct 31, 2018
241-2018	11461 Rondeau Drive	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 31, 2018
242-2018	Yauch Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: Oct 31, 2018
243-2018	Drake Road / 14th Line at Eltervoog Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 31, 2018
244-2018	Bragg Drain	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2018
245-2018	12991 Longwods Road	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 07, 2018
246-2018	Admiral Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Nov 08, 2018
247-2018	Balmer Routledge Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 21, 2018

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
2018 Permits					
248-2018	Robertson Cornell Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 21, 2018
249-2018	Reeder Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 21, 2018
250-2018	Galbraith Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 23, 2018
251-2018	Martin Drain	Chatham and Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 13, 2018
252-2018	Bisnett Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 13, 2018
253-2018	Internal Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 13, 2018
254-2018	Ramsdale Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 22, 2018
255-2018	North Cadotte Pumping Works	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 26, 2018
256-2018	Mull Drain Branch	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 07, 2018
257-2018	Campbell Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 22, 2018
258-2018	Kelly Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 23, 2018
259-2018	2436 Talbot Trail	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 08, 2018
260-2018	41 Tuscany Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 08, 2018
261-2018	Homestead Road over Talbot Creek	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: Nov 23, 2018
262-2018	132 Sherman Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 07, 2018
263-2018	30 Tuscany Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 23, 2018
264-2018	38 Tuscany Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 23, 2018
265-2018	24793 Pioneer Line	West Lorne	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: Nov 28, 2018
266-2018	Wheatley Road over Campbell Sideroad Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 28, 2018
267-2018	Labadie Drain	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 29, 2018
268-2018	6544 Krista Lane	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Construction	Granted: Dec 06, 2018
269-2018	Fields Creek Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 07, 2018
270-2018	17420 Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Dec 07, 2018
271-2018	515 Mariners Road	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 11, 2018
272-2018	20600 County Road 42	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Dec 11, 2018
273-2018	Mudd Creek	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 11, 2018
274-2018	Murdock Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 11, 2018
275-2018	Hamilton Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: Dec 12, 2018
276-2018	Albert E. Metcalf Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
277-2018	Cottingham Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
278-2018	Gahan Drain East	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
279-2018	Gahan Drain West	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
280-2018	Gahan Drain West	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
281-2018	Gahan Drain West	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
282-2018	Holland Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
283-2018	Two Creeks Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
284-2018	Jenner Sheeler Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 12, 2018
285-2018	131 Braemar Boulevard	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
286-2018	139 Braemar Boulevard	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 13, 2018
287-2018	Eddie Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: Dec 20, 2018

9.3) Conservation Areas

9.3.1) October 1 – December 31 Visitation / Camping Stats (3 month period)

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – 6,948 people (6,904 in 2017) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits - 507 vehicles (462 in 2017)

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – 382 people (370 in 2017)

Big Bend Conservation Area – 717 people (578 in 2017)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – 1,253 people (3,212 in 2017) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 117 vehicles (153 in 2017)

Sharon Creek Conservation Area – 96 people (*signif. seasonal pass, visitation not included*)

Season's Day Use Permits:

2018 SUMMARY (12 months)

- 36 Staff/company vehicles
- 18 Directors, Village Committee
- 58 sold MACKAY
- 19 sold at Admin Office
 - 5 2nd vehicle permit for above
- 48 sold at Longwoods
 - 1 2nd vehicle permit for above
- 43 Wilson Seasonal
- 0 Big Bend Seasonal
- 3 tenants - Wilson/Longwoods
- 13 Donated/Free/Giveaways

244 PERMITS Issued in 2018
(195 PERMITS Issued in 2017)

PERMITS Issued include permits sold, donated and no charge.

9.3.2) Conservation Areas

2019 Day Use Permits now available - photo taken by local professional photographer: Chad Barry

EM Warwick CA- new steel has been purchased to install on the Community Hall and the cabins. Hydro One has supplied wood chips for the trail. Staff are looking into the certification of the woodstove in the mess hall, along with installation of firewall. All new signage is complete throughout the Conservation Area.

Big Bend CA- hosted well over 100 hunters this fall which helped generate some dollars; staff delineated campsites with new numbered posts, campground map created for “Let’s Camp” software to allow for a more streamlined reservation system.

Ward CA- property successfully donated to LTVCA. Memorial boulder to be placed on site acknowledging the donation of land. Successful grant application to Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) for \$10,696 for associated legal costs.

Longwoods Road CA- staff are working on installing an automated gate that will use the current pay and display machine as a means of controlling the entrance into the property.

CM Wilson CA- hydro upgrades to the campground are continuing, which will allow for more seasonal campers. Old trail safety hazards removed and trail redesigned, graded and signed. Campground washroom floors painted.

Signage- Middlesex County to install 8 new signs along Longwoods Road, for Big Bend, Sharon Creek and Longwoods Road CA’s. 2 new road signs for Two Creeks in Wheatley will for the most part complete the road sign upgrades.

9.3.3) Conservation Area Events

“Season’s Greetings” at Longwoods Road Conservation Area

We had a good turn out of over 140 visitors to the Season’s Greetings event at Longwoods on Sunday, November 25, our last event for 2018. The event went from noon until 4 p.m. We have 8 volunteers helping us out. As well there were 8 craft vendors in the Resource Centre, the Mount Brydges Lions Club sold hot food from the pavilion, the “Imagine That” *a cappella quartet sang throughout the park*, Bar H Ranch from Melbourne supplied the horse drawn wagon ride, nature hikes were led and birdfeeder station information was available throughout the day, crafts for kids took place in the Resource Centre, and a ‘trim trees for the birds’ workshop was held in the cabin. Here are some pictures from the event:





9.3.4) Enforcement – Section 29

Municipal Enforcement Unit (MEU)- patrolled Big Bend CA to ensure that the hunting groups were following our regulations. Social media assisted with the identification of an ATV violation at Skunk's Misery; warnings were issued.

9.4) Conservation Services

9.4.1) Conservation Services

New Hire

Peter Moddle has accepted the position of *Land Stewardship Technician*, for the Eastern District of our watershed. Similar to Amanda Blain, will have a dual role of LTVCA/ALUS Middlesex, and will be mainly working out of Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

1. Recent Wetland Restorations:

Buis Beef

LTVCA leading wetland project funded by LEADS (Ontario Soil and Crop) and the Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI); 2 acre cattle pasture near sensitive and marginal land. The area was flooded most the year and did not produce an efficient crop therefore it was transformed into wetland and grassland. The cattle will be fenced off from the wetland.



2. Tree projects

- a. The 2019 tree order form is now available and will be on the website shortly.
- b. Tree orders are coming in. We are up to 44 seedling orders in addition to approximately 40 reforestation projects which are set for 2019.

3. Recent Grant Opportunities

a. Eco Action

Objective is to create wetland habitat in marginal and sensitive areas.

b. HSP- Terrestrial

Objective is for funds to help support a grassland habitat program for Monarchs, Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks.

c. WWF- Go Wild Community Grant

Objective is to help fund a tree giveaway in partnership with Tilbury District High School that would educate citizens about urban forest and backyard conservation.

d. Wildlife Habitat Canada

The stewardship department was successful on receiving a \$40,000 grant from Wildlife Habitat Canada for wetland rehabilitation.

e. Green Jobs was applied to for four summer positions

f. Canada Summer Jobs was applied to for one seasonal position.

4. Alternative Land Use Service (ALUS)

- a. The First ALUS Chatham-Kent PAC meeting was held on November 15, 2018, there were 10 PAC members present, LTVCA and ALUS Canada representatives.
- b. The PAC consists of over 50% farmers and the remaining members are active in the agriculture industry.
- c. ALUS Chatham-Kent launch event will be held on February 28, 2019 at 7:45 am at Country View Golf Course. Breakfast will be served.
- d. Two ALUS CK information nights are planned. One in the East of CK at Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph at 7pm on March 4, 2019. The second in the West of CK at St-Peter's Church Hall at 7 pm on March 13, 2019.
- e. Expressions of interest are now being accepted from landowners.



5. First Nations Partnerships

- a. Staff presented on Phragmites Australis to the Oneida, Muncey-Delaware and Chippewa of the Thames at the Environmental Committee Meeting.
- b. Staff attended a meeting by Carolinian Canada at the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation as part of discussions around what is known as the Middlesex Investment Pilot that aims to foster partnerships on land stewardship with First Nations.
- c. Meesingw of Delaware Moravian continues to complete seed collection and germination workshops, fund raise, and search out new opportunities. Plans for 5 acres of savanna habitat are slated to be restored in the spring of 2019.

6. Educational events

- a. Presentation was made to the Wheatley Horticultural Society at their monthly meeting.
- b. Presentation to the Sydenham Field Naturalist was made on December 5, 2018.
- c. Outdoor classroom was created by LTVCA staff at Harwich Raleigh Public School.
- d. Video series that was funded through Environment Canada is now complete, finished product will be available in early 2019.





9.4.2) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

1) *Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)*

A Section 11 Conservation Agreement under the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* was signed with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). It ensures a coordinated and focused approach to the implementation of measures for aquatic species at risk (SAR) conservation, survival and recovery in the LTVCA. Facebook postings began in November 2018 to introduce readers to the fish and mussel species at risk in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. The posts identify threats to the species and encourage readers to take specific steps to help conserve and recover species at risk in our area. Watch for “Mussel Mondays” and “Fish Fridays” from now until March. Final reporting for the Drain Classification Project has been submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Funding is currently being sought to continue the aquatic SAR program into future years.

9.4.3) Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives

Phosphorus Reduction Updates

1) ***New LTVCA Soil & Water Quality Technician – Ryan Carlow***

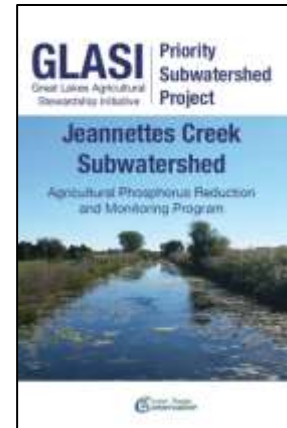
Ryan Carlow was hired to fill the new LTVCA Soil & Water Quality Technician contract position. Ryan Carlow grew up in Mitchell ON, part of rural Perth County. He has a degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Guelph and is in the process of writing his thesis for a Master’s of Science in Agricultural Water Quality from the University of Waterloo. He has previously worked in the conservation industry for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) and at the Hullet Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area in Huron County. Furthermore, he has agricultural industry experience, working at DuPont Pioneer and BASF Canada Inc. on their respective research farms. He is most interested in Best Management Practices (BMPs) that benefit the environment and farmers in an effort to improve water quality and sustainability in agriculture. As the LTVCA Soil & Water Quality Technician, Ryan will be



actively involved with maintaining the operations of the Jeanettes and McGregor Creek water quality monitoring stations. He will assist the water quality team at LTVCA with the collection of water samples, will analyze data and communicate knowledge and results to watershed stakeholders. He looks forward to working with all the staff at LTVCA and the community members of our watershed.

2) AAC and ECCC: McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction Program

The LTVCA application to the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Program for the proposed McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction was approved. Through the “Soil Health and Water Quality – Innovation Pilots and Applied Research” program category, the LTVCA is eligible to receive \$284,962.00 to cover project monitoring expenses over the duration of October 3rd of 2018 to November 30th of 2020. This is in addition to the \$600,000.00 in funding that the LTVCA has been approved for from Environment and Climate Change Canada’s (ECCC) Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI).



The approved grant funding from ECCC and AAC will be used to extend the monitoring and research activities that began through the GLASI Jeannettes Creek Priority Subwatershed Project from 2015-2018. The new project will be geographically expanded and will offer financial contributions to agricultural producers within the entire catchment areas of McGregor and Jeannettes Creek to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs). Some additional monitoring activities will also occur within McGregor Creek over the duration of the project. The main goal of the project is to improve soil health and reduce the amount of agriculturally sourced phosphorus entering the Thames River, Lake St. Clair and ultimately the Western Basin of Lake Erie. The LTVCA intends to launch the Jeannettes and McGregor Creek BMP incentive program by April of 2019.

The combination of the two funding agreements has provided the LTVCA with the capacity to create a new Soil & Water Quality Technician contract position. The hiring and interview process for the 23 month contract position began in November. Interviews were complete by December 7th and the successful applicant was selected thereafter.



The LTVCA Agricultural Program Coordinator and Water Quality specialist have continued to maintain the Jeannettes Creek study area monitoring network and BMP verification sites during this time period. The LTVCA has observed and collected water quality data during flow events at the Jeannettes Creek pump stations during the period of October 2018 to January of 2019. Multiple significant flow events have been observed at the subwatershed and edge of field monitoring sites during this time period. Project staff are actively maintaining LTVCA monitoring stations throughout the Winter and Spring, when the vast majority of agricultural runoff will occur.

3) Phosphorus Reduction Initiative – Research Reports

1. Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Model – Jeannettes Creek Study Area

- All data collected from the Jeannettes Creek study area during the GLASI-Priority Subwatershed Project has been submitted to the University of Guelph Water Resources Engineering team. The data is being used to configure and calibrate the SWAT model that is being developed for the Jeannettes Creek study area. The SWAT model will simulate baseline nutrient loads from the study area pump schemes and will quantify nutrient

reductions that resulted from the implementation of agricultural BMPs. The report should be complete and published during the Winter of 2019.

2. **BMP Verification Sites – Preliminary Results Report**

- Dr. Merrin MacRae and Dr. Janina Plach from the University of Waterloo have received all of the LTVCA collected data from the Merlin BMP edge of field verification research sites. A preliminary results report has been drafted to assess the effectiveness of the two different cropping systems at retaining nutrients on the two Brookston Clay fields. The Initial draft report was completed on January 31st of 2019. The draft report is currently being review by the various participating members of the research team. We do not expect to have conclusive findings at this time, as only 18 months of data has been collected from the sites. However the report will provide an update on preliminary research findings from the sites. The report will be released on the LTVCA's website by March of 2019.



4) **Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative (TRPRC)**

During 2018, the LTVCA performed water quality monitoring services for the TRPRC at the phosphorus filter tank pilot site, located southwest of Chatham. The LTVCA is monitoring the technology to determine its efficacy at reducing phosphorus loads sourced from agricultural subsurface tile drainage systems. The LTVCA has agreed to conduct water quality monitoring services at the site throughout the period of 2018 to 2022. The TRPRC has agreed to provide the LTVCA with \$60,000.00 over the duration for these monitoring services. The TRPRC strategy is aimed at raising awareness and providing extension services to reduce the surface and subsurface transportation of phosphorus off agricultural land, either directly into waterways or via municipal drainage systems. The TRPRC steering committee has representation from a variety of local stakeholders, including: farm organizations, municipalities, ENGOs, the LTVCA, Chatham-Kent Drainage, various academics, and First Nations.

9.5) Community Relations

9.5.1) Media releases

Media releases are written as needed to focus attention on 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 (Clerks, Councils, CAO's), Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee, LTVCA staff, neighbouring Conservation Authorities, watershed First Nations communities and Conservation Ontario. They are also emailed to over 200 individuals (day use permit holders, people requesting LTVCA information).

Five media releases were written / distributed in October and November, 2018.

1. (October 16) "Union Gas Supports an Interactive Computer generated Learning Experience! \$2,000 Donation Towards a Virtual Reality 3-D Sandbox"
2. (November 6 – through Foundation) "Feasibility Study Will Examine Broadening Investment in Longwoods Road Conservation Area - \$72,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation 'Seed' Grant Awarded to Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation."
3. (November 7) "Enjoy An Afternoon Full of Family Activities that will Leave You in the Winter Spirit! 'Season's Greetings' from Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum!"
4. (November 15) "Now Available! – LTVCA 2019 Day Use Permits on Sale! Gift Certificates Available!"
5. (November 30) "New Provincial Environment Plan Commits to Working with CA"

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

9.5.2) Displays and Exhibits

Displays and Exhibits are created to update programs and information for the public.

At the Longwoods Road Resource Centre, a donation of taxidermy wildlife (juvenile black bear, deer etc.) valued at over \$11,000 prompted a redesign of the main floor exhibit area. Jerry and Karen have been working on the finished product over the past several months. Here is a glimpse of the final product as it comes together.



9.5.3) Presentations

Presentations are provided to community groups upon request. Support is offered to staff for official openings, funder recognition ceremonies and community events.

9.5.4) Committees and Meetings

Staff attended the Carolinian Canada Workshop held at the Chippewa's of the Thames First Nation on November 27. The theme of the workshop was Rising Together: Collaborating to Protect Nature in the Carolinian Zone – Big Picture Protected Areas Initiative – Workshop 1.

Topics included:

- Shared values, vision, goals for nature protection
 - o Indigenous perspectives on land protection and healthy landscapes
 - o Global, national, provincial and local protected area approaches
 - o The Big Picture: Reversing the trend of habitat loss in the Carolinian Zone
- Appropriate conservation targets for a healthy Carolinian Zone: What do we need to conserve and enhance?
- Opportunities and challenges for a Protected Areas strategy
- Case study: Assessing a candidate protected area
- Inclusive and transparent process for moving forward in the spirit and practice of reconciliation.

9.5.5) LTVCA Website and Social Media (YouTube, Twitter and Facebook)

The LTVCA's website and social media (YouTube, Twitter and Facebook) are updated several times 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.

The LTVCA's Twitter account currently has 818 followers. LTVCA's Facebook page has 1,344 followers and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Facebook page has 1,024 followers. All continue to grow in numbers of followers!

9.5.6) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

With regards to the Trillium Steering Committee (comprised of Foundation Directors, LTVCA Directors and LTVCA staff), a teleconference was held on October 12th and a Committee meeting was held on October 24th. The last meeting of this Committee was held on November 21st immediately prior to the Foundation's Directors meeting.

Reminder of Roles and Responsibilities:

LTVCA Authority

Support the project

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Administer and account for funds

Meet grant requirements

Report to funder

Trillium Grant Steering Committee

Hold meetings with minutes

Approve payments
Appoint the consultant
Appoint project manager

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation has received \$64,800 of the \$72,000 Trillium grant to be used for the Longwoods Feasibility Study in 2018-2019. Sheila Simpson has been contracted as Project Manager for the Study on a short term contract through the Conservation Authority (funded through the Trillium grant budget). She has produced a work plan that will commence in the new year. The next meeting of the Foundation Directors will be set following the establishment of the next Trillium Steering Committee Meeting.

9.5.7) Publications

Community Relations staff assist Conservation Authority staff with publications as needed. Publications are posted on our website for downloading. The 2019 Longwoods Event Card is being printed. As well, work has begun on a new LTVCA Directors' Handbook.

9.5.8) Applications

Community Relations staff apply for project funding as grants become available.

9.5.9) Volunteers

Our volunteers continue to play a huge role with the LTVCA. From helping with special events to trail work, we are very grateful for their support.

Our volunteers continue to play a huge role with the LTVCA. From helping with special events to trail work, we are very grateful for their support.

December 14 is the deadline to receive nominations for the LTVCA's Volunteer Heroes Award. So far 4 LTVCA watershed individuals have been nominated. Successful nominees will receive a pin and certificate and special recognition at the LTVCA's Annual General Meeting in February 2019. Volunteer activities may include work with:

- environmental education
- special events
- Board and Committee work

Information about this award and nomination form may be found on the LTVCA website at this link or under the About Us tab: <https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/About-and-Nomination-Form-LTVCA-Awards-for-Volunteer-Heroes-final.pdf>

A Big thanks to our many volunteers that helped out at the "Season's Greetings" event at Ska-Nah-Doht and Longwoods on November 25, highlighted in pictures under our Events section of the agenda. A record is kept of all volunteers, their number of hours, projects in which they were involved over the year. In 2018, the 700 dedicated volunteers gave 4,000 hours of their time towards LTVCA projects and services!

9.6) Conservation Authority Education

9.6.1) Conservation Youth Group Workshops

Workshops are held at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and LTVCA outreach locations to youth and their leaders. Youth groups work towards badges for various outdoor activities. There were 15 participants from Sept 1 – November 30. (0 in 2017)

9.6.2) Conservation Field Trips for Students and More!

School program statistics for October and November - 489 students in 2018 . (585 in 2017)

October was a busy month with many visiting students learning about habitat and human impacts on ecosystems while playing the Predator Prey game. High school groups experienced hands on the current climate change, nutrient loading and invasive species threats facing our aquatic ecosystems. Longwoods provides such a great learning space with its natural features and accessibility. So much can be internalized and taken away from a single visit, and there's always the hope that some of these students may hold great answers to the problems of today.

November allowed some catch-up (as opposed to ketchup) time, for public presentations regarding watershed reptile Species At Risk and flood awareness. Last February's flooding of Thamesville prompted Lambton Kent District School Board staff to request a presentation that the LTVCA could deliver to Thamesville Area Central Public School. This presentation will explain and reassure elementary students of all ages should another flood event occur, and will be available for any schools requesting a flood presentation.

The education staff is also busy tweaking school and public programming in order to combine a strong environmental focus with First Nations historic and current regard for nature. These themes go hand-in-hand and have proven to be a great combination for teachers who have experienced our new Balance and Biodiversity program.

9.6.3) Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival

Volunteer Coordinator Don Hector is already busy with outreach and education for the water festival, beginning with a membership drive to revitalize the planning committee. A special celebration during National Volunteer Week (April 7-13) is being planned as part of the water festival's gearing up to its 10th Anniversary in the fall of 2019.

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

School program statistics for October and November – 1,137 students . (1,135 in 2017)

On October 16, 2018 we received confirmation on the success of our 2018-19 CMOG application. The amount is \$22,992 which includes museum pay equity funding in the amount of \$240.

The process has begun to fill the new Community Educator position at Longwoods. The response was overwhelming. Over 100 applications were received from across Canada including all 4 First Nations communities in the watershed but also the world – 1 from Africa, 1 from UK. We chose 5 candidates to interview and hope to have the position filled before the end of the year.

Bookings have been steady for the start of this school year. It is shaping up to be a busy 2018-19. Teachers are happy with the choices of programs combining both First Nations Studies with

Environmental issues. We are currently reviewing all existing programs as a transition to the next school year (2019-20).

On a sad note, Ron Watts passed away October 22. He was one of the founding members responsible for creating the village. A condolence message and flowers were sent on behalf of the LTVCA and the Village Advisory Committee. His contributions will be recognized in 2019 as part of the Recognition Program currently being developed by the Advisory Committee.

The Turtle Gift Shop has been on the road to UWO Pow Wow and many seasonal events. Our original stained glass designs of “The Creation Legend” and feathers continue to be popular sellers especially at this time of the year. We have also made connection with staff at the university and locally who are buying them as corporate gifts. This is an opportunity that we will try to pursue in 2019.



Rose and Karen attend the UWO Pow Wow in November.

February 2019 Update:

We welcomed Carlyn Johnston as the new Community Educator on January 7th. Carlyn is Anishnaabe Kwe from the Chippewa of the Thames First Nations. She brings an amazing energy and passion for the environment, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and recreation. Her resume includes Southwest Regional Coordinator for Indigenous Sport and Wellness Ontario, First Nations Archaeological/Environmental Monitor and locally, she was team leader for the Antler River Guardians from the 4 Directions. Carlyn is also a competitive marathon canoer, certified Mood Walk leader and a bee keeper! We look forward to her shares with staff, students and visitors alike.

Summer staff applications are currently underway. We hope to have 2-4 staff working out of Longwoods. They will assist with annual events; Twilight Tuesdays (July and August) and Artifact Day (July) but they will be ready to hit the road assisting staff with presentations and events throughout the watershed. Planning is underway for a new series of events at Sharon Creek involving canoeing with local youth.

Education staff is working on the new Conservation and First Nations curriculum programming blending Traditional Ecological Knowledge with western science. Test-marketing is underway until June and the launch is scheduled for this September.

9.6.5) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Group Workshops and Group Self-guided Tours

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.

A total of 30 participants and their leaders took part in Ska-Nah-Doht Village tours and workshops during October and November. (0 in 2017)

9.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes: September & November



Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee MINUTES

A meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held at the Resource Centre in Longwoods Road Conservation area at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 20, 2018. The following members were in attendance: Don Fairbairn, Bill Bruinink, Darcy Fallon, Gayle Bogart, Stan Caveney, Ron Doane and Mark Peacock. Also in attendance: Karen Mattila and Agnes Vriend.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. S. Caveney - G. Bogart

Moved that the amended minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

2.1) 2018 Budget Recommendations
2017 Expenses were reviewed.

2.2) Policy Review
Policy Sub-Committee will make recommendations on all policies at the November meeting.

2.3) Village 3-5 Year Build Plan
Village Build Sub-Committee presented the Ska-Nah-Doht Build Plan 2018-2022.

2. D. Fallon - R. Doane

Moved that the Ska-Nah-Doht Build Plan 2018-2022 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Fund - Review 2017 and Update 2018
Expenses and Revenue for the Canada 150 grant were reviewed. The fund currently stands at \$12,411.04. Payment of \$691.60 for 52 palisade poles purchased in August is not reflected in this total.

3. G. Bogart – S. Caveney

Moved that 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4 be received for information.

CARRIED

3. Business for Information

3.1) Education Programs

2017-2018 education program stats were reviewed. Outdoor Education Funding continues to help boost bookings but bussing costs continue to be an issue.

3.2) Summer Student Employment Review

A successful summer with two positions funded through Canada Summer Jobs – Mila Costello (London, Environmental Law) was the Cultural Outreach Assistant and Eddie Merks (Dutton, Environmental Studies) was the Environmental Outreach Assistant. Both positions were for 8 weeks.

3.3) Community Museum Operation Grant (CMOG) 2018/2019

A request for clarification on the CMOG application pertaining to the Ska-Nah-Doht Cataloguing System was answered in a phone conversation to the satisfaction of the Museum Advisor. The application is still under review.

3.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Recognition Program

The following are to be recognized for their contributions - Glenn Stott, Andy Chisholm, Ron Watts, Don Fairbairn and the Forest City Checkers.

4. D. Fallon - S. Caveney

Moved that 3.1 -3.4 be received for information.

CARRIED

3.5) New Job Posting Update

A job description needs to be written for the position that will be replacing the Village Education Technician. Staff will conduct job fairs in the First Nations communities within our watershed to find suitable candidates.

3.6) Upcoming 2018 Events

- 1) Spirit of the Harvest - Sunday, September 30 - 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 2) Season's Greetings - Sunday, November 25 - noon – 4 p.m.

5. S. Caveney - G. Bogart

Moved that 3.5 -3.6 be received for information.

CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1) Feasibility Study Update

The application submitted to Trillium by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF) in partnership with the LTVCA for funds to conduct a Feasibility Study for Longwoods/Ska-Nah-Doht was successful! The study will begin soon.

APTN will be filming in the Village on September 28.

There are still two seats available on the Committee for Community Members

5. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, November 22 at 2 p.m.

6. D. Fallon - R. Doane

Moved that 4 and 5 be received for information.

CARRIED

6. Adjournment

7. S. Caveney – D. Fallon

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED



Don Fairbairn
Chair

Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held at the Resource Centre in Longwoods Road Conservation Area at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 22, 2018. The following members were in attendance: Don Fairbairn, Bill Bruinink, Darcy Fallon, Gayle Bogart, Ron Doane, Stanley Caveney and Mark Peacock. Also in attendance: K. Mattila, B. Carey and A. Vriends.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. D. Fallon - B. Bruinink

Moved that the minutes of the September 20, 2018 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

2.1) Ska-Nah-Doht Fund

The total in the Ska-Nah-Doht Fund is \$12579.18.

2. G. Bogart - S. Caveney

Moved that the committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED

2.2) Annual Policy Review

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport has not yet indicated what will be tested in the 2019-20 application. The subcommittee will research and make recommendations on the existing policies and if necessary write a new policy or plan.

3. R. Doane - D. Fallon

Moved that the committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED

3. Business for Information

3.1) New Job Posting Update

Over 100 applications have been received for the Community Educator position. Staff will be conducting interviews next week.

3.2) Education Programs

Bookings have been steady this fall. Teachers are happy with the choices of programs combining both First Nations Studies with Environmental issues. We are currently reviewing all existing programs as a transition to the next school year (2019-20). We are hoping to offer fewer but more precise choices in our curriculum-based programming which will be adaptable to all ages and grades.

3.3) Community Museum Operation Grant (CMOG) 2018/2019

On October 16, 2018 we received confirmation on the success of our 2018-19 CMOG application. The amount is \$22,992 which includes museum pay equity funding in the amount of \$240.

3.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Recognition Program

There are now 4 ash benches located at the Recognition sitting area. A sign will be installed in the new year.

3.5) Nominations for Ontario Volunteer Awards Program

4. S. Caveney - G. Bogart

Moved that the following names be submitted for the 2019 Awards - Don Fairbairn (40 year), Darcy Fallon (5 year), Catherine Simmons (20 year), Mala Murty (10 year) and Doug Nixon (5 year).
--

CARRIED

3.6) Longwoods Feasibility Study Update

Sheila Simpson has been hired as project manager. A power point presentation was viewed which outlined the steps which will be taken to complete the study.

3.7) Upcoming 2018 Events

Season's Greetings - Sunday, November 25 - noon – 4 p.m

5. B. Bruinink - R. Doane

Moved that the committee receive 3.1 - 3.4 and 3.6, 3.7 for information.
--

CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1) Virtual Tour Project - Oneida Nation

Ray John Jr., an elder from Oneida and employee of the London District Catholic School Board (LDCSB) is looking to organize a group to complete a virtual tour of their history. The working group would consist of members from Standing Stone School, LDCSB and the community. Staff has offered to host the meetings at Longwoods.

4.2) LTVCA Volunteer Heroes Award 2019

Up to four people can receive this award each year.

6. S. Caveney - R. Doane

Moved that an application be submitted nominating Ron Watts - posthumously, for this award.

CARRIED

4.3) LTVCA Preliminary Budget

Preliminary budget has not changed since it was reviewed at the September meeting. The Provincial Government is not announcing grants at this time; the impact on the budget is unknown.

7. G. Bogart - D. Fallon

Moved that the committee receive 4.1 and 4.3 for information.

CARRIED

5. 2019 Meeting Dates

The LTVCA AGM is being held on February 21, 2019. The next committee meeting will be after this date.

S. Caveney wished the Committee well - after 13 years as a LTVCA Director, this is his last meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee.

G. Bogart stated that she wishes to stay on the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee as a Community Member, now that she will no longer be an LTVCA Director.

6. Adjournment

8. D. Fallon

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Don Fairbairn
Chair

9.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Minutes

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) was held November 7, 2018. Present were: P. Kominek, A. Blain, V. Towsley and A. Vriends.

Review of supplies needed for all locations/machinery/vehicles. Winter kits should now be put into vehicles - replace water bottles with new ones.

Task Hazard Analysis for safety tours was reviewed.

To be reviewed at staff meeting

Supervisors at the beginning of a task are to review with employees:

- if you do not feel like you are well or after a period of time the job is too taxing or environmental conditions are extreme, speak up - safety starts with all staff, you have a voice. If warranted, employees may take more frequent breaks or can call off a task for that day.
- under Occupational Health and Safety it states, employees have an obligation to tell their supervisors if they do not feel safe, well, etc.
- make sure your employees are comfortable with speaking up
- Supervisors are to constantly check in with your employee on their condition, working conditions, etc.

To be referred to HR:

- Electrofishing during the summer if employees have allergies (plant pollen) and take i.e. Benadryl, etc. their reflexes are slower and may result in a delayed reaction time to operate the kill switch
- Can questions be asked of potential applicants?
 - 'do you take med's that may reduce their reaction time'
 - 'Is there anything cognitatively that may prohibit you from being able to fulfill assigned duties'
 - 'is there anything that would prevent you from having a rapid response time'

Working in Hot Weather Task Procedure to be reviewed ensuring it is up to date.

Tick Spray for clothing available in the US - lasts up to 3 months.

Site inspections of the Administration Building, Dam and Pumping Station, Colborne, Miller and the Diversion Channel, 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: November 7, 2018

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
LOCATION	Administration Building - none noted	9 a.m.				
LOCATION - old office chair - first aid kit - emergency light - railing north side of walkway - pump chamber	Dam & Pumping Station - 4 legs not 5 - there isn't one - not working - missing spindle has sharp cutting edges at the top - blocks are missing mortar	10 a.m. - dispose of chair - put one in - fix - remove completely or cut flush until replaced - repoint				
LOCATION - all over property	Colborne - trees down - garbage	10:17 a.m. - clean-up site				
LOCATION	Miller - none noted	10:30 a.m.				

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: see below

Date/Time of Inspection: November 7, 2018

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	DC Colborne Street - 4 posts rotted - gate down - neighbour disposing yard waste along bank of river and diversion channel	- replace posts - send a letter requesting that they stop this practice				
NW side	- north end of gate, posts rotted	- replace posts				
LOCATION NE side	DC Park Street - erosion around 2 road pipe outlets	11 a.m. - contact municipality to repair erosion/install splash pads and/or adjust pipe outlets				
LOCATION	Disposal Site - none noted	11:27 a.m.				
LOCATION NW side	DC Indian Creek Rd - gate posts rotted	- replace posts				
LOCATION NW side	<u>Rivards</u> - 2 rotted posts	- replace posts				

9.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held **October 4th 2018** at the Wheatley Legion

Attendance: Mark Peacock, Randall Van Wagner, Gerry Soulliere, Joe Pinsonneault, Lorna Bell, Mike Diesbourg, Linda & Lee Pearce, Pauline Sample, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Don Haggith.

Minutes: With the amendment that 3 trees instead of 4 were removed from in front of the stage I moved the minutes, Joe sec. that the minutes be accepted as read. (Carried)

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

Memorial Groves: 6 trees have been dedicated as well as 4 plaques installed. 3 plaques need to be installed as well as 1 post. It was decided that native trees can be planted near the creek. The Groves needs to be cut once more, Gerry will contact Kevin Getty.

Prop. & Equip.: Mark said that the new signs for the road have been ordered. They will also replace the signs on the Small Pavillion as well as providing an aerial photo showing all the trails. It would be preferable to replace the North bridge with steel, possibly used I beams or an old flat bed truck. The Stage roof needs to be replaced as soon as possible with the same steel matching the other buildings. We have a used auger but it needs some repair work. The dealer will deliver the Bushhog back to us , Bruce suggested that because of the age of the mower that it would be too costly to continue with repairing it, decision pending.

Concerts: There will be a meeting at Rick's in the near future to decide on the music for next year. It was decided to paint the edges of the platform's in the Large Pavillion for safety. 5 posts have been cemented in down the hill in front of the stage, a rope or chain will connect them all.

Financial Report: Since Ron was not present, the report will be deferred till the next meeting.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Linda proposed supplying a table or tables adapted for wheelchairs in the Pavillion. They could be made without seats or existing ones adapted so that there would just be the tabletop. Randall stated that he could get the specs. for them.

Adjournment: Joe motioned for adjournment at 8:15pm

Phil Humphries, Secretary

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on **November 1st 2018** at the Wheatley Legion

Attendance: Rick & Forest Taves, Bruce & Marjorie Jackson, Gerry Soulliere, Mike Diesbourg, Lorna Bell, Joe & Ginette Pinsonneault, Pauline Sample, Ron Haley, Lee & Linda Pearce.

Minutes: Moved by Phil sec. by Mike the minutes be accepted as read (Carried).

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

Memorial Groves: Kevin Getty will be asked to cut the Groves for the last time this year. All the posts and plaques have been installed.

Property & Equip. : Rick suggested that we could possibly sink 2 posts into the west bank of the North bridge and also construct a cradle on top of them to make that end more stable. Adam Stein wants to replace any rotten plywood on the Stage roof and then cover it with tarpaper before the winter. Joe is also waiting for a quote from Peter's Roofing. Up to \$2000.00 was allocated to spend on replacing the roof, Rick motioned, Linda seconded. It was decided to not fix the Bushhog but will try to sell it online as is. Joe will paint a barrel and then fill it with gravel to accept a post with a sign warning people not to drive up the hill. Instead of applying each year for the Grant Rick suggested we become a Line Item on the L.T.V.C.A budget. It was brought up that we could possibly construct some tables for the disabled made from steel left over from the Pearce bridge. Lee will check that the tractor is properly maintained. Linda will her daughter-in-law if she could paint the logo on the Dance Pad.

Concerts: 8 groups have been booked so far for next year- working on booking the remaining 6 weeks.

Financial Report: Ron presented the 2018 Budget, Rick moved, Phil sec. Linda moved, Mike sec. that the Budget be approved. The Account Balance as of August 31st 2018 was \$32,093.79. The Account Balance as of October 31st 2018 was \$32,144.64.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: It was decided to enter our float in this year's Xmas parade just as was last year.

It was decided to move the start time of our next meeting on Dec. 6th to 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Rick motioned for adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

Phil Humphries, Secretary

9.10) GMs Report

C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: February 21, 2019

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer's Report

From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

Performance Management Program

The performance management program is being implemented to address item 8 Improve Internal Understanding of Roles & Responsibilities of the strategic plan. Staff have been working to develop and implement the plan over the last year. Steps to develop the Program have included:

1. Review of Corporate strategy and deliverables – mission, values, and strategic actions, include other plans such as risk management plan, – 2015 strategic plan, 2018 risk management plan
2. Define role of department in achieving that strategy – 2015 strategic plan – limited departmental directions statements available
3. Define role of individual in achieving that strategy – job description 2018 update
4. Define individual year work to achieve strategy – annual action plans – first in 2018
5. Define corporate expectations of organization regarding values sought in supervisors and employees – Nov 2018 staff meeting
6. Look Forward – Define departmental roles – Staff meeting December 2018 and January 2019
7. Conduct performance management review and plan performance – starting end of February 2019 ending end of March 2019
8. Conduct mid-year performance check-in – July/Aug 2019
9. Evaluate system after first years implementation – December 2019

In early 2019, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority staff will be preparing new individual Performance Management Plans. These Plans primarily consist of each staff member reviewing the following with the supervisor/manager of their area on an annual basis (2018 year completed) and planning for the next year. The idea is for the employee and the supervisor to have a performance conversation. It is composed of:

- Employee information as well as position description
- Areas of strength and improvement
- Major Targets and action plans for the upcoming year
- Training, development and coaching needs, and
- Comments, conclusions and recommendations

This planning process consists of the following:

- (1) In February of each year, starting in 2019, supervisors/managers will request staff to enter into performance management discussions regarding the year's work performance.
- (2) Staff members will be requested to complete a performance appraisal form and return it to their supervisor/manager within a specific timeframe. At the same time the supervisor/manager will also fill out a performance appraisal form for the staff member.
- (3) The supervisor/manager will review the employee's performance management plan and their own comments and set a meeting date to discuss the performance management plan with the staff member. The supervisor and staff member will discuss the two reviews to determine if they have the same understanding regarding how things are going. As a result of this meeting, a final performance form will be completed and signed by the staff member, manager and

CAO/Secretary-Treasurer. Tools to support and improve performance will be developed working with the strengths and opportunities of individuals.

(4) Mid-year a follow up, less formal meeting will be held to review items of the plan.

The plan is intended to be staff driven commencing with the completion of the performance management plan by the staff member. The ultimate result is to have a continuous and positive dialogue regarding the performance of both staff members and supervisors/managers to ensure overall Authority efficiency and informed, satisfied employees. Another objective of the Performance Management Plan is to ensure a positive and rewarding work environment for all staff members.

2018 and 2019 Annual Audit

During the 2018 Annual General Meeting, the Board of the LTVCA appointed the firm of Johnston Feduk King Professional Chartered Accountants as the LTVCA 2018 fiscal year auditor. Effective February 11, 2019, the firm of Johnston Feduk King Professional Chartered Accountants has merged with the Chatham office of Collins Barrow (refer to Item 10.1 under Correspondence). The firm will operate under the name of Baker Tilly, LLP with the principals of the former firm continuing as partners in the new firm. Under the guidance of the former partners, the 2018 audit will be undertaken by the new firm, thereby allowing the audited statements to be completed in a timely manner and be presented at the Annual General Meeting. The new firm is completing the audit for the same cost as the appointed auditors.

During the Annual General Meeting it is usually the practice to appoint the auditor for the following year. Due the change in firms, staff will be recommending that the board direct staff to call for bids for these services and that the auditor would then be appointed at a subsequent board meeting.

Recommendation:

The C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer Report be received for information.

Respectfully Submitted
Mark Peacock, P. Eng.
C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

Recommendation: That the above reports, 9.1) through to 9.10) be received for information.

10. Correspondence

10.1) Johnson, Feduk, King Chartered Professional Accountants correspondence to the LTVCA

As referenced in Item 9.10, GM's Report.



Chartered Professional Accountants

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PH 519-354-0150
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45 James Street
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Allan Johnson Professional Corporation · Jeffrey Feduk Professional Corporation · Geraldine Marie King Professional Corporation

January 31, 2019

RECEIVED
FEB 05 2019
TOWN OF THAMES VALLEY

Dear Valued Client:

The partners of Johnson Feduk King Chartered Professional Accountants are pleased to announce that the firm has merged with the Chatham office of Collins Barrow. The firm will operate under the name of Baker Tilly CK, LLP with Allan Johnson, Jeff Feduk and Geraldine King continuing on as partners in the firm.

Effective February 11, 2019 the Chatham office, including all Chatham staff will be relocating to the Chatham Baker Tilly office. The Blenheim and Dresden office will continue to operate from their respective locations with no interruption of services and no changes in personnel.

The new contact information for the Chatham office will be:

Baker Tilly CK, LLP
62 Keil Drive South
Chatham, ON
N7M 3G8
Phone #: 519-351-2024
Fax #: 519-351-8831

We will still personally manage your account and maintain the servicing of your accounting and income tax requirements.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Yours truly,

JOHNSON FEDUK KING
Chartered Professional Accountants

Johnson Feduk King

10.2) New Provincial Environment Plan Commits to Working with Conservation Authorities: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Provincial Environment Plan Commits to Working With Conservation Authorities

NEWMARKET, ON - November 30, 2018 - Through its new '[Made in Ontario Environment Plan](#)', the Government of Ontario commits to continue to work with Conservation Authorities on many different initiatives in order to help ensure the health of our lakes, rivers and greenspaces.

The Plan praises the effective partnership between provincially supported source protection committees, municipalities and conservation authorities in protecting important sources of drinking water and also commits to continuing to implement the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

It recognizes and commits support for the important role of conservation authorities in protecting people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and conserving natural resources. And, as part of their objective to promote parks and increase recreational opportunities, the plan outlines the need for many agencies, including conservation authorities, to share the responsibility of conserving Ontario's protected lands.

"Conservation Authorities are a cost effective foundation on which to address many of the issues identified in the new objectives of the Environmental Plan," said Kim Gavine, General Manager of Conservation Ontario, the organization that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities.

"We're pleased to see the Government will address climate change impacts and continue to work to restore and protect our Great lakes. Conservation Authorities are key partners, along with many other agencies, in planning and implementing many of these initiatives."

-30-

For more information:

Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario
kgavine@conservationontario.ca
905-895-0716 ext. 231

Jane Lewington, Marketing & Communications Specialist
jlewington@conservationontario.ca
905-895-0716 ext. 222

A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan



10.3) Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan



News Release

Ontario Releases Plan to Protect the Environment Includes a Balanced, Made-in-Ontario Climate Change Solution to Preserve and Protect the Environment for Future Generations

November 29, 2018 1:40 P.M. - [Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

Today, Ontario's Government for the People released a new made-in-Ontario environment plan to protect our air, land and water and reduce litter and waste while lowering greenhouse gas emissions and helping communities protect themselves from climate change.

"This plan strikes the right balance between a healthy environment and a healthy economy," said Rod Phillips, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "It contains solutions that will protect our air, land and water, reduce waste, address litter, increase our resilience to climate change and help us all do our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Most importantly, it does all of this without imposing an ineffective, regressive carbon tax on hard-working Ontario families."

[Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#) (https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4208?_ga=2.50377577.1359906771.1543948940-1606870137.1457013389) will help protect the Ontario we know and love, ensuring its pristine beauty and strong communities can be enjoyed now and in the future. The new plan is posted on the Environmental Registry for public input for 60 days.

This government will hold polluters accountable with stronger enforcement and tougher penalties for breaking environmental laws. These made-in-Ontario emission standards will also consider factors such as trade-exposure, competitiveness and process-emissions and will include the authority to introduce exemptions for Ontario's auto sector and other exposed industries as needed.

The plan additionally includes robust transparency measures that will ensure the public has real-time information about monitoring, incidents and enforcement activities.

Ontario will also enable others to be environmental leaders and do their part in developing environmental solutions. This includes helping unleash the resourcefulness and creativity of the private sector while freeing them from burdensome taxes and red tape that make them less profitable and hinder their growth.

It will also encourage meaningful local environmental action through initiatives such as a new province-wide day of action to fight litter, alongside meaningful partnerships with organizations like Ducks Unlimited and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to fight invasive species and encourage conservation.

"Our plan will encourage individuals, families, governments and businesses to take greater ownership of our shared environmental challenges through real actions, big and small," said Phillips. "We promised the people of Ontario we are serious about addressing environmental challenges of our day while respecting hard-working taxpayers - and we are keeping that promise."

Media Contacts

Andrew Brander

Minister's Office

416-314-6790

Gary Wheeler

Communications Branch, MECP

416-314-6666

Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan

Description of policy

The people of Ontario have already made significant and meaningful investments in climate action. In 2001, the government of the day announced the closure of the Lakeview Generating Station, which started a phase out of coal-fired electricity that remains the largest greenhouse gas reduction in Canadian history. By moving to a combination of sustainable hydroelectric and nuclear generating capacity, Ontario has avoided up to 30 megatonnes of annual greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to taking seven million vehicles off our roads. Today, our electricity is virtually emissions-free.

Measured against the same base year of Canada's target under the Paris Agreement (2005), the province's total greenhouse gas emissions have dropped by 22%— even while the rest of Canada saw emissions increase by 3% during that same time.

But doing Canada's heavy lifting on greenhouse gas emission reductions has come at a substantial cost to Ontario families.

We will continue to do our share to address climate change and protect our environment. We will do so in a way that protects our economy and respects the people.

Ontario's proposed Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan presents new directions for addressing the pressing challenges we face to protect our air, land and water, reduce litter and waste, build resiliency and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The plan will help people and businesses across Ontario take environmental action in ways that will also save them money, enhance their communities, create new jobs and grow the economy.

Actions in the plan are measured against the following guiding principles to ensure we address environmental challenges in the most responsible, effective, measurable and balanced way.

- **Clear rules - strong enforcement:** We will ensure that polluters are held accountable with tougher penalties, while reducing regulatory burden for responsible businesses
- **Trust and transparency:** We will provide Ontarians with the information and tools required – with a particular focus on real-time monitoring – to understand the current environmental challenges we face and how these challenges impact individuals, businesses and communities across the province
- **Resilient communities and local solutions:** We recognize that environmental impacts faced by communities across Ontario may be very different. We will work with these communities and use best scientific practices and other evidence-based methods to develop unique solutions to their challenges

The proposed Environment Plan will ensure that polluters are held accountable with stronger enforcement and tougher penalties for breaking environmental laws. We will do this in a transparent way, making real-time information about monitoring, incidents and enforcement available to the public.

The plan will also enable others to be environmental leaders and do their part in developing environmental solutions. This includes tapping into the resourcefulness and creativity of our diverse and thriving private sector by helping them invest in and develop clean solutions to today's environmental challenges.

It offers integrated, tangible environmental solutions that save people and businesses money, address local priorities, and support our communities in doing their part for the environment.

Purpose of policy

The proposed Environment Plan aims to address four key environmental challenges facing Ontario:

1. Protecting our air, lakes and rivers

Ontario's water and air are life support systems for nature and people. Pollution in our air and water increases healthcare costs, reduces enjoyment of the great outdoors and contributes to lost economic opportunity. We will protect these critical systems by using water more sustainably and keeping our water and air clean while growing our economy. We will also improve municipal wastewater and stormwater management and work with municipalities to increase reporting to protect the public and our lakes and rivers.

2. Addressing climate change

The climate is changing. Severe rain, ice and wind storms, prolonged heat waves and milder winters are much more common. Forests, waters and wildlife across the province are and will continue to be significantly impacted by these changes. People across the province – especially Northern communities – and all sectors of the economy are feeling the impacts of climate change and paying more and more for the costs associated with those impacts.

The *Cap and Trade Cancellation Act, 2018* requires the establishment of targets for reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario and the preparation of a climate change plan and progress reports in respect of the plan. This chapter of the proposed Environment Plan addresses the government's legislative obligations.

3. Reducing litter and waste in our communities and keeping our land and soil clean

Ontario needs to reduce the amount of waste we generate and divert more waste from landfill through proven methods like Ontario's curbside Blue Box Program, existing and emerging municipal Green Bin programs and other waste recovery options. Existing and emerging technologies are increasingly allowing us to recover and recycle materials back into our economy rather than sending them to landfills. This is helping us to better protect our communities and keep our air, land and water clean and healthy.

To keep our land and water clean, we will also take strong enforcement action to ensure waste, including hazardous waste, is properly stored, transported, recycled, recovered or disposed.

We are looking at proposed ways to:

- reduce the amount of waste going to landfills or becoming litter
- increase opportunities for Ontarians to participate in efforts to reduce waste
- manage excess soil and hauled sewage
- increase opportunities to use technologies, such as thermal treatment, to recover valuable resources in waste
- redevelop brownfield sites to better protect human health and the environment.

4. Conserving land and greenspace

People travel from around the world to experience the natural wonders that we often take for granted in the Province of Ontario. The natural spaces across Ontario, such as forests, wetlands and parks purify our air and water, protect biodiversity and natural heritage, provide recreational opportunities and support Indigenous traditional practices.

We as Ontarians have a long history of putting a strong focus on expanding Ontario's parks and protected areas. In 1999, Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy was announced. A clear and major goal of this plan was to complete Ontario's system of parks and protected areas. Our government remains dedicated to maintaining the natural beauty of our province.

We know that climate change poses a serious threat to Ontario's natural areas and that conservation of these areas can play an important role in mitigating and adapting to climate change. We will protect and enhance our natural areas, support conservation efforts, continue to conserve species at risk, develop adaptation strategies, and promote the importance of healthy natural spaces for future generations to use and enjoy.

Other public consultation opportunities

Ontario's proposed Environment Plan integrates both new actions and continued actions across government to address pressing environmental issues. Comments received on proposed new actions will be considered during the finalization and implementation of the plan. Comments received on continued actions will be incorporated into future program reviews. Prior to release of this plan, the ministry met with more than 200 stakeholders from across the province, and we have received more than 8,000 ideas through Ontario.ca public portal.

Throughout the proposed Environment Plan, we have identified areas of potential action where we are engaging with the public, stakeholders, Indigenous communities, municipalities and our partners to develop new approaches that support our common goals for environmental and climate leadership.

Our consultations and engagement with various stakeholders, Indigenous organizations and communities and the public will help refine our environment and climate change initiatives, incorporating valuable insights to ensure the actions we adopt reflect the needs of Ontarians.

10.4) Conservation Ontario Comments on the “Consultation: Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario”

January 29, 2019



Director
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Housing Division, Market Housing Branch
777 Bay Street, Floor 14
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5
housingsupply@ontario.ca

Re: Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Consultation: Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario"
(ERO #013-4190)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on the "Consultation: Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario" (ERO#013-4190). Conservation Ontario appreciated the opportunity to participate in the 'Consultation on the Planning Act and Provincial Policy Statement' workshop on January 14, 2019. Conservation Ontario is the network of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities (CAs). In addition to these comments provided through the Environmental Registry, Conservation Ontario has produced a blog entitled, [Putting Growth in the Right Spot – Ensuring Public Health and Safety: A Response to the Housing Supply Consultation](#). These comments as well as the blog post are not intended to limit consideration of comments shared individually by CAs through the consultation process.

The purpose of the blog post (attached) is to respond directly to the questions posed in the "Consultation Document: Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario". The purpose of this letter is to respond to the questions posed as part of the January 14th workshop, as it relates to the implementation of the *Planning Act* and Provincial Policy Statement (PPS).

Background

Conservation authorities have considerable expertise in land use planning. Conservation authority roles in land use planning include: as a regulator under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*; as a public commenting body under the *Planning Act* and *Environmental Assessment Act*; as source protection authorities under the *Clean Water Act* supporting policy implementation; as resource management agencies operating on a local watershed basis; as a body with delegated authority in plan review to represent the provincial interest for natural hazards; and as the province's second largest landowners who may become involved in the planning and development process, either as an adjacent landowner or a proponent. In these roles, CAs endeavour to provide the best guidance to their municipal partners regarding how to balance multiple provincial and watershed priorities.

Conservation authorities are solution-oriented agencies, who represent aspects of the provincial interest in protecting public health and safety and work closely with their municipal partners to ensure development proposals uphold these interests. CAs continue to be committed to streamlining planning processes and to providing the best guidance to their municipal partners in a timely and cost-effective

manner. Conservation authorities are prepared to assist the Province with identifying those streamlining opportunities as well.

Review of the Provincial Approvals Process

We understand from the invitation to the 'Consultation on the Planning Act and Provincial Policy Statement' workshop on January 14, 2019 that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is "undertaking a fundamental review of all aspects of the development approvals process". The reviews of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and the *Planning Act* are intended to identify barriers and unnecessary steps in the process; focused on transformative change. Conservation Ontario very much appreciates the opportunity to participate in this initial workshop and respectfully requests an opportunity to provide further input into proposed changes to the PPS and *Planning Act* moving forward.

A limitation associated with the January 14, 2019 workshop was that it was single industry specific. It is recommended that future workshops should be arranged to provide opportunity for multi-sector dialogue that can contribute to solution-oriented recommendations. In order to assist the government in realizing their one year service delivery guarantee, there is a need to understand all aspects of the development approvals process and to identify any bottlenecks in that process. The review should look both at speed, as well as the purpose of the planning process in place, in order to make the best planning decisions. Changes to the development approval process should reflect the public interest, while looking at ways to remove bottlenecks, improve service and deliver on the important purposes of the planning process.

In order to identify barriers within the development approvals process, it is recommended that, in addition to multi-sector dialogue, a series of representative design charrettes be undertaken across the province. These charrettes will go a long way to identifying bottlenecks in the process, understanding the purpose of different approvals, and identifying opportunities for streamlining these approvals. This work should be undertaken to improve the development approvals process in Ontario however the province should acknowledge and account for all factors that are impacting housing affordability in their *Housing Supply Action Plan*. There is opportunity beyond the *Planning Act* and the PPS to assist the province in meeting its objectives for improving housing supply and reducing costs, and CAs are prepared to assist in identifying those opportunities as part of a multi-sector approach.

Planning Act – Placemat Questions from the January 14th Workshop

The following comments are designed to address the questions from the January 14th workshop. Generally, Conservation Ontario is supportive of the "Guiding Principles to Shape Opportunities for Improvement" including:

- safeguarding public health and safety;
- continuing to protect provincial land use interests that are important to long-term economic, environmental and social well-being including protecting the Greenbelt and the environment;
- clarity of rules and flexibility for implementation are important elements of an efficient and effective land use system;
- potential solutions should consider the needs of different communities; and

- potential solutions should be practical and workable; and some matters may be best addressed by another mechanism.

Speed: Faster Decisions/Streamlining

Conservation Ontario is very supportive of undertaking changes to the complete application requirements. CAs identify that incomplete applications are a major delay to the approvals process. These incomplete applications are often not supported by technical studies that conform to industry and professional standards. Updating provincial Technical Guidelines (for example, those which support the implementation of the natural hazards portion of the PPS and reconciling them with permissions issued under the *Conservation Authorities Act*) would allow CAs to focus on resolving technical or policy issues with the proponent, rather than debating technical standards. It is appreciated that Ontario's Environment Plan commits to "update technical guidance to protect people and property from flooding and water-related hazards".

In terms of the planning appeal process, Conservation Ontario is supportive of limiting appeals on matters of public interest, including with respect to natural hazards and source water. Under the Ontario Municipal Board system, in CA experience, many appeals were based on a failure to make a decision, rather than the decision itself. In this case, the appeal tends to take place before all parties have had an opportunity to discuss their interests and seek resolution outside of a tribunal setting.

Finally, Conservation Ontario is highly supportive of having municipalities regularly update their Official Plans to take advantage of the best available information and newest provincial direction. In our comments on the Coordinated Land Use Planning Review, Conservation Ontario recommended that municipal conformity amendments to incorporate the updated provincial plan criteria should be shielded from appeal.

Costs: Certainty of Costs

The provision of parkland is important from a public health perspective. In southern Ontario, where the bulk of Ontarians are located, quality recreational space is provided in large part by CAs. Conservation areas offer a unique outdoor experience due to their proximity to highly populated areas that are not offered by other parks. The number of visitors to conservation areas continues to grow significantly and this places stresses on the ecological value of our land holdings and on the infrastructure and management of these areas. In municipalities where the land has become too valuable to purchase additional parkland, thought should be given to directing cash-in-lieu of parkland dedications to the local conservation areas to support infrastructure improvements.

Mix and Innovation: Increasing Housing Options

Conservation Ontario is supportive of increasing housing options to improve the affordability of housing. Secondary units and coach houses should only be permitted in areas outside of natural hazards and where there is sufficient infrastructure to support the increased density (for example, as it relates to stormwater management). Most conservation authorities have hazard mapping available which can help to direct secondary units to areas in the province with the least amount of risk to public safety.

Provincial Policy Statement – Placemat Questions from the January 14th Workshop

Increasing Housing Supply and Mix

Generally, CAs feel that the current Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is functioning well and that new PPS policies would likely not facilitate an increase in housing supply. Further efficiencies and clarity of requirements could be realized through updating provincial guidelines under the PPS which provide direction for implementing provincial policies (e.g., Stormwater Management Guidelines, Watershed Planning Guidelines, Flood and Erosion Hazard Management, etc.).

Supporting Certainty and Economic Growth

Conservation Ontario believes that the province and municipalities can support certainty and economic growth by identifying any constraints to development early on in the process. The completion of comprehensive, long-range technical studies (e.g., watershed plans, floodplain mapping, subwatershed studies) prior to advancing planning or development applications will support this certainty. These studies are not intended to delay applications that are already in the approval process but would enable municipalities and conservation authorities moving forward to make more informed decisions about the allocation of growth and land use, stormwater management, conservation and restoration of the natural heritage system, and the protection of new development from natural hazards. The studies also clarify expectations and requirements for development prior to detailed design.

Rural and Northern Communities

Conservation Ontario recognizes that many rural and northern communities are facing low or no growth scenarios. This, coupled with a smaller tax base, makes it more difficult to complete complex studies to facilitate growth. In these cases, the studies could be completed at a watershed, rather than subwatershed level. It is recommended that the Province best support the protection of water resources through a watershed management approach which recognizes the integrated nature of hydrological and ecological systems across Ontario. CAs have considerable expertise in applying a watershed management approach and can partner with the Province, municipalities, and other stakeholders to effectively protect public health and safety, including through protecting water quality.

Reducing Barriers/Costs

Conservation Ontario has the following suggestions to help improve the planning system to facilitate development:

- Require pre-consultation with approval agencies such as conservation authorities so that submission requirements are clear.
- Develop user-friendly guidance materials for approval authorities which could simplify the approval process and requirements for approvals for developers.
- Better define what makes up a complete application, including enabling approval authorities to determine the sufficiency of a submission and the accompanying studies prior to deeming an application complete.

- Update and simplify the technical guidelines which support the implementation of the planning system. For greater efficiency and certainty for proponents, in addition to supporting land use planning decisions under the PPS, the updated technical guidance for hazard management should also serve as technical guidance for permit decisions under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- Look at opportunities to consolidate technical and environmental reviews to agencies with local expertise rather than having multiple agencies undertake similar reviews.
- Undertake representative design charrettes across the province to understand bottlenecks in the approval process.
- Consider provincially-led environmental assessments to establish servicing in areas of high growth.
- Ensure the costs of growth are shared; new development needs to be able to help address current aging infrastructure and contribute to the building of new infrastructure – both of which are needed to support additional housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the “Consultation: Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario” and for enabling our participation in the ‘Consultation on the Planning Act and Provincial Policy Statement’ workshop on January 14, 2019. Conservation Ontario looks forward to continuing to assist the Province with identifying streamlining opportunities and would appreciate being engaged in further discussions about proposed changes to the *Planning Act* and/or the Provincial Policy Statement. Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at extension 226.

Sincerely,



Leslie Rich, RPP
Policy and Planning Liaison

c.c.: All CA CAOs/GMs

Encl.

Conservation Ontario
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www.conservationontario.ca

Putting Growth in the Right Spot Ensures Public Health and Safety: A Response to the Housing Supply Consultation

January 2019

There's nothing like a powerful rainstorm or rapid snowmelt to make us thankful for the work that conservation authorities do. Without Ontario's progressive land use policies and conservation authority regulations which protect people and prevent costly damages and business disruptions, things could be much worse.

Conservation authorities are legislated by the Province to direct development outside of natural hazards such as flood-prone areas and to conserve critical natural resources and systems such as drinking water sources.



Conservation authorities also support growth in Ontario.

We recognize that our province is an economic engine for the country and is home to a large and widely diverse *growing* population. The Planning Act, the Provincial Policy Statement and Provincial Plans provide critical protections that are important to long-term economic, environmental, and social well-being. Conservation authority planning processes and permitting approvals help to guide development so that it takes place in appropriate areas.

We agree with the development sector that we need 'evidence-based decision-making' to determine how and where growth should occur.

Through their watershed management programs such as watershed planning and monitoring, conservation authorities are able to track and report on conditions across the province. This watershed

knowledge is then used as evidence to provide input to planning processes which help to guide decision-making so that it considers the condition of the environment in which Ontarians want to live and work.

Conservation authorities are committed to providing expert advice, through strong watershed-based science. We recognize, and agree, that there is a need for some improvements that will support growth while still maintaining the health and safety of our residents. These could include:

- Require pre-consultation with approval agencies such as conservation authorities and government
- Develop user-friendly guidance materials for approval authorities which could simplify the approval process and requirements for approvals for developers
- Better define what makes up a complete application
- Update and simplify technical guidelines
- Ensure the costs of growth are shared; new development needs to be able to help address current aging infrastructure and contribute to the building of new infrastructure – both of which are needed to support additional housing

Planning for growth is not an easy process that's done in a day and conservation authorities are very aware that time is money.

In order to ensure we are as efficient as possible, conservation authorities work with partners in the private and public sectors to fine tune the approvals process. As a result of changes made to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Conservation Ontario and the Conservation Authorities have been participating in a provincial multi-sector committee, including the development sector, to figure out how we can improve our approval processes.

As well, Conservation authorities are working right now, with Conservation Ontario, to streamline their own approvals processes to create greater consistency and efficiencies.

We are committed to continuing this work.



By Conservation Ontario Staff (Leslie Rich, Policy and Planning Liaison; Bonnie Fox, Manager of Policy & Planning; Jane Lewington, Marketing & Communications Specialist)

New home builds pushing into historic floodplain



Tom Morrison

[More from Tom Morrison](#)

Published on: January 29, 2019 | Last Updated: January 29, 2019 1:47 PM EST



Jason Homewood, water resources and regulations technician for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, left, and Jason Wintermute, water management supervisor with the authority, look over maps showing the floodplain areas of the community of Chatham inside the conservation authority offices on Thames Street in Chatham Jan. 24, 2019. T O M

A need for new homes has drawn developers towards the southwest corner of Chatham, an area within a floodplain but open for new builds under certain restrictions.

Jason Wintermute, water management supervisor for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, said normally they oppose development within a floodplain, but this part of Chatham has been designated as what is called a Special Policy Area since 1985.

That status means new construction is allowed, but homes must be raised to levels above the water seen in the historic floods of 1937 and 1947, he said.

“As part of that Special Policy Area assessment, there are special rules around what needs to be done in those areas around flood proofing, what kind of building materials (are used) in order to develop in those areas, even though following standard policies we wouldn’t allow that,” he said.

Wintermute said the reasoning behind the policy decision was because Chatham is a historical community and it may require new homes, plus amenities like gas stations, in order to survive as a community.

He said multiple Ontario ministers would have had to sign off on the plan in order for development to be allowed.

Jason Homewood, water resources and regulations technician for the conservation authority, said he recently surveyed lands in the area where 22 townhouse-style buildings are planned.

He said his job was to make sure all openings into the new structures are above potential water levels of 0.35 metres or 14 inches, which is the benchmark set by those historic floods.

“They want the flood proofing on the homes themselves, but then making sure the land around the homes are above the flood level so if the streets are flooding, the home itself will be fine,” said Homewood.

“Not a lot” of development had happened in the southwest after the special policy came into effect in 1985, said Homewood, but new homes have started coming into the area recently.

He said part of the reason is people from areas like the Greater Toronto Area moving to the community.

“They need to build out because people want to live here,” said Homewood. “It’s really only been in the last couple of years, ever since the housing market has changed, that the subdivisions have been coming online and the developers are actually putting in the streets and infrastructure.”

Before he surveyed for these townhouses, Homewood said he did the same for about 50 homes on Renaissance Place and Tuscany Trail a few years ago and they should be finished this year.

Bruce McAllister, director of planning services for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, said council actually approved plans for development in Chatham’s southwest in 2007 or 2008, before his time with the municipality.

However, developers have just recently started moving forward with their plans, he said.

“Just in the last couple of years, there has been a few phases that have been built out or currently being constructed,” he said. “You may have noticed there’s a new road extending from the roundabout now at Keil Drive, so that subdivision will begin construction probably in the next few months.”

McAllister said subdivision activity in general within the municipality was greater in the last year than the few years before it. He said he has also heard anecdotally this is happening because of people moving from outside the community.

The southwest corner of Chatham is seeing this activity simply because it is a planned growth area, he said.

“It’s logically moving as services extend westerly,” he said. “I would suggest the north (part of Chatham) has probably had more activity versus the southside, but there’s a little more balance over the last few years.”

Wintermute said some people may think the flood protection infrastructure built within the last 30 years – such as the Sixth Street Dam and the diversion channel at McGregor Creek – defeats the need to floodproof these homes.

But these projects would not protect the area from a flood at the level of 1937 or 1947, which hasn’t occurred since those events, he said.

“In this case, it’s not really the fault of the infrastructure, it’s just the land is low-lying and flat,” he said. “Eventually you’re going to get something big enough that it’s just going to flow around it.”

Chatham-Kent must take lead on building soil health



Bob Kerr

[More from Bob Kerr](#)

Published on: January 23, 2019 | Last Updated: January 23, 2019 10:54 AM EST



The accompanying photo, taken in mid-December, shows the Forks of the Thames at Tecumseh Park in Chatham, its junction with McGregor Creek. The McGregor Creek watershed starts on the ridge near Highgate, and includes 54,000 total acres and 48,000 acres of Chatham-Kent farmland. Bob Kerr photo

The McGregor Creek water is extremely muddy, even compared to the water in the Thames River.

This is an example of what happens when it rains, and the soil is not covered with living plants to anchor it down. This was a minor rain event. Lots of storms are much more severe.

According to Gordon McBean, professor emeritus at Western University, who represented Canada on the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “We’re dealing with a warmer climate which means more heavy rain events, more risk of high wind events, and more flooding. We should be taking action to reduce our vulnerability to those things.”

The suspended soil particles carry phosphorus attached to them. The runoff water also contains dissolved phosphorus. Both of these are on their way to Lake St. Clair, then to Lake Erie by way of the Detroit River, increasing the risk of a toxic algae bloom. A lot of the municipal water in Chatham-Kent comes from Lake Erie, so we have a vested interest in its health.

The structure and health of our soils also contribute to this erosion. Since farming began here, the organic matter content of our soils has fallen to much less than half of what it once was. This loss contributes to the decline of good soil structure, or “tilth”.

Soil with tilth does not pack hard and tight. It can breathe, letting air in, which supports vigorous root and crop growth. It is absorbent and lets more water soak in. With less run off, more is retained to help the crop thrive through the next dry spell. The rest is filtered clean.

This muddy water is easily overlooked. We are so used to this, we see it as normal. It is the built-in result of the way we farm today. When suspended particles silt out, the mouth of the Thames silts up and so do the drainage ditches that farmers rely on to remove excess. Maintenance costs accumulate.

The loss of topsoil is very gradual and is also easily overlooked. It does not affect farming next year or even for decades. We do not have many steep slopes in Chatham Kent, but I can show you spots where the sandy topsoil has been completely eroded away, exposing the clay subsoil below.

On her own, nature builds topsoil at the rate of about one inch in 1,000 years. It has been estimated that sandy loam soil, farmed conventionally, could erode at the rate of one millimetre per year. At this rate we lose one inch in 25 years. Our generation will not be affected, but our grandchildren inherit a diminished resource.

Now you may be wondering, is there a better way? Yes, there is.

The answer is deceptively simple, though changing practices requires planning and investment.

First, reduce or eliminate tillage. Tillage, like plowing or cultivating, dramatically disrupts the soil and its community of microbial life. It causes the oxidation and loss of organic matter. The remedy is the practise of no till, or strip tillage, both of which leave the soil between the rows of crop undisturbed.

Second, microbes in the soil play an essential role in making nutrition available to the crop. Different communities of microbes thrive when it is wet, dry, hot and cold. Different species support different communities. Research shows that diversity supports better crops. Therefore, grow a rotation of three or more crops, and cover crops with multiple species after the main crop has been harvested.

Third, keep the soil covered at all times. This can be the residue from last year’s crop. Or, plant a multispecies cover crop after harvesting this year’s crop of wheat, tomatoes or soybeans. Another technique practised by some seed corn growers is to plant cover crop between the rows of growing corn, and the cover crop thrives after the crop is harvested.

All green plants can be thought of as a giant solar panel which captures energy, and uses carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to build new soil organic matter. Employing cover crops extends the season for photosynthesis later toward winter, and begins it earlier in the spring. More CO₂ is used and more organic matter is made, which feeds and stimulates the microbial communities in the soil. They make nutrition available for the next crop and transform organic matter into humus, a stable and long-lasting carbon leading to an upward spiral of soil building and crop production. Changing farming practices in this way protects the soil, cleans up our fresh water, removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and rebuilds soil organic matter. The result is meaningful carbon sequestration.

Some progressive farmers are moving in this direction. But the pace of change is slow, even though with these changes the food producing ecosystem will work better and better over time. Global warming threatens, and the

window for effective corrective action is short. The way our economic system works, there is no penalty for allowing topsoil to lose organic matter, or wash away. There is no quick reward for the effort and expense to cover it and restore it.

Could this not be changed?

With incentives, could not agriculture be mobilized for this important transition?

Would not the public financially support such initiative?

After all, in the long run, everyone benefits from clean water and sustainable food production.

Chatham-Kent could lead.

—

Bob Kerr has farmed near Chatham for 48 seasons. He was recently inducted into the Kent Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Lake Erie shoreline erosion under investigation

What the Lake Erie shoreline could look like in the coming years remains to be seen, but there definitely will be an impact based on a number of factors, says a consultant conducting a study.



Trevor Terfloth

Published on: January 22, 2019 | Last Updated: January 22, 2019 2:59 PM EST



Shown is an estimate of the 50 and 100-year top-of-bank position along Lake Erie without structural intervention. A consultant is currently studying the impact of erosion along the shoreline. (Handout)

What the Lake Erie shoreline could look like in the coming years remains to be seen, but there definitely will be an impact based on a number of factors, says a consultant conducting a study.

Speaking to Chatham-Kent council on Monday, Peter Zuzek said the study will investigate the effect climate change and erosion are having on the Great Lakes.

He said warming trends and increases in storm intensity are being looked at, although the magnitude of each is still to be determined.

“We don’t know where the future is going,” Zuzek said, adding there is more warming happening in the winter, which results in less ice cover.

In turn, less ice on the lake exposes the shoreline to more coastal storms and higher erosion rates.

Increases in storm intensity may result in more frequent and severe flooding along Lake Erie and Rondeau Bay, Zuzek said, calling Erie “a very big lake – a very dynamic lake.”

The study will also review historical flooding and estimate conditions in the coming years, along with developing management approaches.

The shoreline study is produced through Canada’s Climate Change Adaptation Platform, with support from Natural Resources Canada.

There are matching funds and in-kind support from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, Province of Ontario, the federal government, and the International Joint Commission.

“Using existing knowledge of natural hazards and projected effects of climate change, the study will develop information to reduce coastal risks, increase the resilience of the shoreline, and protect natural assets such as beaches and coastal wetlands,” stated a municipal staff report.

“Both short and long-term solutions will be co-developed with stakeholders during the study.”

A community engagement session is planned for this March, while a vulnerability assessment will be presented in June.

Study recommendations are expected in December, with the final report expected by March 2020.

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[Twitter.com/DailyNewsTT](https://twitter.com/DailyNewsTT)

10.8) Chatham Daily News: Climate change impact part of Lake Erie shoreline study

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Climate change impact part of Lake Erie shoreline study

TREVOR TERFLOTH
Postmedia Network

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“We don’t know where the future is going,” Zuzek said, adding there is more warming happening in the winter, which results in less ice cover.

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“Both short and long-term solutions will be co-developed with stakeholders during the study.”

A community engagement session is planned for this March, while a vulnerability assessment will be presented in June.

Study recommendations are expected in December, with the final report expected by March 2020.

11.Events Calendar

Feb 2, 2019	Chatham-Kent Wedding Show – Bradley Center, Richmond St. Chatham; CA booth, 11 am – 5 pm
Feb 8, 2019	Forests Ontario Annual Conference, Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston ON
Feb 12, 2019	West Lorne Horticultural Society meeting, 160 Main Street, West Lorne
Feb 18, 2019	Family Day Snowshoe – Longwoods Road Conservation Area, noon – 4 pm
Feb 19, 2019	Stewardship Night/ Open House, The Harvest Table, Melbourne, 7 – 9 pm RSVP required to Greg Van Every
Feb 21, 2019	LTVCA AGM, 12 – 3 pm
Feb 23, 2019	Pre-register for Moonlight Winter Family Hike – Longwoods Road Conservation Area (519) 264-2420
Feb 28, 2019	ALUS Chatham-Kent Launch Event, Country View Golf Course
March 4, 2019	ALUS Information Night, Ridgeway Campus RDC 110, 7 – 9 pm
March 6-8, 2019	London Farm Show, Western Fair District; CA booth, Wed & Thurs 9 am – 5 pm, Fri 9 am – 4 pm
March 13, 2019	ALUS Information Night, St-Peter's Church Hall, 7 – 9 pm
April 6, 2019	Go Wild Grow Wild, Western Fair Complex - Metroland Agriplex; CA booth

Ongoing Events

First Thursday of the month 7:30 pm	Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meetings Royal Canadian Legion, Erie Street N., Wheatley
7 days a week 9:00 am – 4:30 pm	Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum Longwoods Road Conservation Area

For more information contact:
 LTVCA Administration Office: 519-354-7310
 Longwoods Road Conservation Area: 519-264-2420
 C.M. Wilson Conservation Area: 519-354-8184
www.ltvca.ca

12.Other Business

12.1) Review of Board Committees