



Board of Directors Meeting

A G E N D A

April 15, 2021

2:00 p.m.

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. First Nations Acknowledgement | |
| 2. Call to Order | |
| 3. Adoption of Agenda | |
| 4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest | |
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1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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 Remote Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2021



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held remotely via Zoom at 1:15 P.M. on Thursday, February 25, 2021. The following directors were in attendance: L. McKinlay, T. Thompson, M. Hentz, C. Cowell, S. Hipple, R. Leatham, J. Wright, P. Tiessen and S. Emons. A. Finn sent her regrets.

Prior to the meeting at 1 P.M. the LTVCA Volunteer Heroes Awards were presented to:

Pat Lavin – for his donation of 3 acres to the Big O Conservation Area

Murray Hebblethwaite – for his continue support of the Imagine McGregor Creek Project

Janet Taylor representing the London Canoe Club – 11 year partnership at Sharon Creek Conservation Area

Environmental Award - Michael Smith – for his ongoing commitment to forestry initiatives in Chatham-Kent

1. First Nations Acknowledgement

M. Peacock read the First Nations Acknowledgement to the Board of Directors.

Roll Call

In attendance:

Linda McKinlay, Town of Lakeshore

Trevor Thompson, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Mike Hentz, Municipality of Dutton Dunwich

Sandi Hipple, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

Christa Cowell, Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

Richard Leatham, Municipality of West Elgin

John Wright, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Paul Tiessen, Municipality of Leamington

Sarah Emons, Township of Southwold

Regrets sent:

Amy Finn, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: AGM-2021-01

1. R. Leatham – C. Cowell

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

DRAFT MINUTES

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, Linda McKinlay, provided remarks on accomplishments and challenges in 2020.

6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: AGM-2021-02

2. S. Hipple – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors minutes for the December 10, 2020 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

None Declared.

8. Presentations

8.1) 2020 Annual Report, presented by M. Peacock

M. Peacock provided a Power Point Presentation on the 2020 LTVCA programs and events to the Board of Directors.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) 2020 Annual Report

Motion: AGM-2021-03

3. T. Thompson – R. Leatham

Moved that the LTVCA's 2020 Annual Report be approved as presented.

CARRIED

9.2) 2020 Audited Financial Statements, presented by Ms. Laura Poland

Ms. Laura Poland, representative of Baker Tilly CK, presented the 2020 Audited Financial Statements to the Board of Directors.

Motion: AGM-2021-04

4. S. Emons – M. Hentz

Moved that the LTVCA's 2020 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

CARRIED

9.3) Election of Officers

Motion: AGM-2021-05

5. S. Hipple – P. Tiessen

Moved that Mark Peacock chair the LTVCA's 2021 elections.

CARRIED

Mr. Mark Peacock assumed the chair for the elections, declared all elected offices, positions and appointments vacant, and outlined the voting procedures to the Board of Directors.

Mr. Peacock requested a motion to appoint Neil Pothier as scrutineer.

Motion: AGM-2021-06

6. S. Hipple – C. Cowell

Moved that Neil Pothier be appointed as scrutineer for the purpose of the elections.

CARRIED

a) Chair

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for Chair of the LTVCA for 2021.

L. McKinlay nominated T. Thompson

Mr. Peacock called twice more for nominations. T. Thompson accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations,

Motion: AGM-2021-07

7. P. Tiessen – M. Hentz

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

T. Thompson was declared to be elected as Chair.

b) Vice-Chair

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the LTVCA for 2021.

S. Emons nominated L. McKinlay

Mr. Peacock called twice more for nominations. L. McKinlay accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations,

Motion: AGM-2021-08

8. R. Leatham – T. Thompson

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

L. McKinlay was declared to be elected as Vice-Chair.

c) Executive Committee (3 members to be elected)

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the Executive Committee for 2021.

M. Hentz nominated R. Leatham, P. Tiessen and C. Cowell

Mr. Peacock called twice more for nominations. All nominees are willing the stand. There being no further nominations,

Motion: AGM-2021-09

9. C. Cowell – S. Emons

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

R. Leatham, P. Tiessen & C. Cowell were declared members of the Executive Committee.

d) Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee (3 members to be elected)

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee for 2021.

C. Cowell nominated S. Hipple, S. Emons and M. Hentz

Mr. Peacock called twice more for nominations. All nominees are willing the stand. There being no further nominations,

Motion: AGM-2021-10

10. T. Thompson – L. McKinlay

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

S. Hipple, S. Emons & M. Hentz were declared members of the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee.

e) Ice Management Committee (2 members to be appointed from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, plus the member from the Town of Lakeshore). Chair and Vice-Chair are ex-officio.

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for the Ice Management Committee of the LTVCA for 2021.

S. Hipple nominated J. Wright, L. McKinlay and T. Thompson

Mr. Peacock called twice more for nominations. All nominees are willing the stand. There being no further nominations,

Motion: AGM-2021-11

11. M. Hentz – C. Cowell

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

J. Wright, L. McKinlay & T. Thompson declared members of the Ice Management Committee.

Mr. Peacock congratulated those elected and turned the chair over to T. Thompson, the Chair for 2021, to continue with the rest of the meeting.

9.4) 2021 Budget and Levy

T. Casier presented the 2021 Budget and Levy.

Motion: AGM-2021-12

12. S. Emons – L. McKinlay

That the non-matching levy of \$1,395,615 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the levy apportionment table. (weighted vote)

A recorded weighted vote followed with all members voting in favour of the motion.

CARRIED

Motion: AGM-2021-13

13. P. Tiessen – R. Leatham

That the 2021 proposed budget totalling \$3,319,396 be adopted as presented, and that the matching levy of \$81,467 and the Chatham-Kent Greening, Natural Heritage and Flood Control Levy of \$205,000 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the table accompanying the budget

CARRIED

9.5) Appointment of Auditor

Motion: AGM-2021-14

14. C. Cowell – S. Emons

Moved that the firm of Baker, Tilly CK, LP be appointed as the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's auditor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2022.

CARRIED

9.6) Appointment of Bank

Motion: AGM-2021-15

15. L. McKinlay – S. Hipple

Moved that the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce be appointed as the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's bank until the next Annual Meeting in February 2022.

CARRIED

9.7) Appointment of Solicitor

Motion: AGM-2021-16

16. S. Emons – P. Tiessen

Moved that the firm of Mr. James D. Wickett be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's solicitor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2022.

CARRIED

9.8) Authorization to Borrow

Motion: AGM-2021-17

17. R. Leatham – M. Hentz

Moved that the Authority Chair or Vice-Chair and the CAO/Secretary Treasurer be authorized to borrow from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce a sum not to exceed \$300,000 for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed the member municipalities and self-generated revenues.

CARRIED

9.9) Appointment to Conservation Ontario

Motion: AGM-2021-18

18. L. McKinlay – C. Cowell

Moved that the Chair be appointed as Voting Representative; and CAO as first Alternative.

CARRIED

9.10) 2021 Board of Directors Meeting and 2022 Annual General Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 15, 2021 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, June 17, 2021 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, August 19, 2021 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, October 21, 2021 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, December 16, 2021 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, February 17, 2022 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Motion: AGM-2021-19

19. P. Tiessen – S. Hipple

Moved that the meeting schedule for 2021 and the Annual General Meeting for 2022 be endorsed.

CARRIED

9.11) Thames River Clearwater Revival

The Board of Directors were provided with a detailed presentation and full report at the December 2020 Board Meeting.

Motion: AGM-2021-20

20. M. Hentz – C. Cowell

Moved that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors endorses the Thames River (Deshkan Zibi) Shared Waters Approach to Water Quality and Quantity (SWA)

And that this endorsement be forwarded to the Thames River Clear Water Revival (TRCWR) project steering committee.

CARRIED

10. Business for Information

10.1) CAO's Report

Motion: AGM-2021-21

21. S. Emons – R. Leatham

Moved that the C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer Report be received for information.

CARRIED

10.2) Water Management

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.4) Conservation Area Lands

10.5) Conservation Services

10.6) Communications, Outreach and Education

10.7) Joint Health and Safety Committee Inspection Minutes – November 6, 2020 and November 18, 2020

10.8) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2020

Motion: AGM-2021-22

22. S. Emons – M. Hentz

Moved that the Business for Information from 10.2) through to 10.8) be received for information as presented.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

11.1) County of Elgin Official Plan Review

11.2) Christian Farmers - Commentary Bill 229: A Watershed Moment for Conservation Authorities

11.3) Christian Farmers - Working Together for a Healthy Future

11.4) Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Proposed implementation of provisions in the Planning Act that provide the Minister enhanced authority to address certain matters as part of a zoning order"

11.5) Proclamation of Provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act

11.6) Ashton Land Donation

11.7) Guidance on submitting requests for Minister 'exceptions' under the Conservation Authorities Act

Motion: AGM-2021-23

23. P. Tiessen – C. Cowell

Moved that Correspondence items from 11.1) through to 11.7) be received for information as presented.

CARRIED

12. Other Business

M. Peacock reported that the CA's tree suppliers were affected by the provincial lock down restrictions. As a result, suppliers may have some difficulty in filling tree orders. 2021 is a transition year for funding of the tree program, thereby potentially affecting the program 2021. Stewardship staff will work with landowners regarding the deadline for tree orders to be in to the LTVCA.

13. Adjournment

Motion: AGM-2021-24

24. S. Emons – R. Leatham

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Trevor Thompson
Chair

Mark Peacock, P.Eng.
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

7. Presentation

7.1) Boundary Adjustment between UTRCA and LTVCA

Mark Peacock will provide a power point presentation on a boundary adjustment between UTRCA and LTVCA.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2021

Date: April 15, 2021

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2021**

From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

Background:

Review the 2021 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 2 months ended February 28, 2021.

| REVENUE | 2021 BUDGET | 2021 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED | 2021 ACTUAL TO FEB 28 | \$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| GRANTS | 1,128,824 | 188,137 * | 264,944 | 76,807 |
| GENERAL LEVY | 1,477,082 | 1,477,082 ^ | 1,163,193 | (313,889) |
| DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT | 205,000 | 205,000 ^ | 205,000 | 0 |
| GENERAL REVENUES | 508,490 | 84,748 * | 50,279 | (34,469) |
| FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES | 0 | 0 * | 0 | 0 |
| RESERVES | 0 | 0 * | 0 | 0 |
| CASH FUNDING | 3,319,396 | 1,954,967 | 1,683,416 | (271,551) |
| OTHER | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL FUNDING | 3,319,396 | 1,954,967 | 1,683,416 | (271,551) |

*-based on a 2 of 12 month proration of the budget

^-based on cash received to date

Grant income is greater than budgeted due to the reversal of deferred revenue for ongoing programs and the timing of grants invoiced.

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. The following municipalities are paid in full as of April 7th, 2020: Chatham-Kent, Dutton/Dunwich, Lakeshore, Middlesex Centre, Southwold and Southwest Middlesex.

General Revenue is below budget due to the following factors:

- Conservation Areas, Conservation Services and Chatham-Kent Greening are below budget as most activities and income are received later in the spring and into summer. This is partially offset by an increase in Planning & Regulations income compared to budget.

Foundation Grants and Revenues budget are zero because of the uncertainty of funds available. The amount recorded is due to the payment on an invoice by the Foundation.

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

| EXPENSES | 2021 BUDGET | 2021 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED | 2021 ACTUAL TO FEB 28 | \$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| WATER MANAGEMENT | | | | |
| FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES | 194,441 | 32,407 | 16,437 | (15,970) |
| EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING | 200,602 | 33,434 | 19,287 | (14,147) |
| TECHNICAL STUDIES | 126,250 | 21,042 | 11,337 | (9,705) |
| PLANNING & REGULATIONS | 279,822 | 46,637 | 38,318 | (8,319) |
| WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN) | 93,441 | 15,574 | 17,788 | 2,214 |
| SOURCE PROTECTION | 32,481 | 5,413 | 7,108 | 1,695 |
| THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Water Management Subtotal | 927,046 | 154,508 | 110,280 | (44,228) |
| CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES | | | | |
| CONSERVATION AREAS | 631,238 | 105,206 | 98,098 | (7,108) |
| COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION | | | | |
| COMMUNITY RELATIONS | 188,262 | 31,377 | 23,901 | (7,476) |
| CONSERVATION EDUCATION | 84,669 | 14,112 | 10,790 | (3,322) |
| SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE | 114,813 | 19,136 | 14,854 | (4,282) |
| Community Relations & Education Subtotal | 387,744 | 64,625 | 49,545 | (15,080) |
| CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP | | | | |
| CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY) | 99,995 | 16,666 | 9,732 | (6,934) |
| CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT | 446,513 | 74,419 | 38,756 | (35,663) |
| PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION | 599,579 | 99,930 | 75,874 | (24,056) |
| SPECIES AT RISK | 227,281 | 37,880 | 19,235 | (18,645) |
| Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal | 1,373,368 | 228,895 | 143,597 | (85,298) |
| 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 | 3,319,396 | 553,234 | 401,520 | (151,714) |

Water Management

Flood Control Structures are below budget as most large projects are performed during the summer months.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are below budget due several large annual invoices received later in the year and no flood event on the Thames River this year.

Technical Studies are below budget due to the time of the Technical Studies staff being used by other programs.

Planning and Regulations are below budget due some larger expenses incurred later in the year.

Watershed Monitoring is comparable to budget.

Source Protection is comparable to budget.

Conservation Areas

Conservation area expenses are below budget as most large projects, operation of the campgrounds and other large operational costs are incurred during the summer months.

Community Relations and Education

Community Relations, Conservation Education and SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village are below budget due to the seasonal nature of large activities in these programs.

Conservation Services/Stewardship

Conservation Services (Forestry) and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are below budget as most activities and related expenses are completed during the spring and summer months.

Phosphorous Reduction is below budget as most activities and related expenses are completed during the spring and summer months.

Species at Risk is below budget as most activities and related expenses are completed during the spring and summer months.

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Summary:

| | 2021 BUDGET | 2021 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED | 2021 ACTUAL TO FEB 28 | \$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED |
|---|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| TOTAL CASH FUNDING | 3,319,396 | 1,954,967 | 1,683,416 | (271,551) |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 3,319,396 | 553,234 | 401,520 | (151,714) |
| OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | 0 | 1,401,733 | 1,281,896 | (119,837) |
| LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | 0 | 1,401,733 | 1,281,896 | (119,837) |

At February 28, 2021, LTVCA's operating surplus is not favourable mostly due to the outstanding General Levy payments not received as of April 7, 2021 and not due until April 30th. This is slightly offset by less expenditures compared to budget due to the seasonal nature of a large amount of the Conservation Authorities expenses.

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.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended February 28, 2021.

The reports align with the following objectives of the LTVCA's Strategic Plan:

4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

Respectfully Submitted

Todd Casier, CPA, CA
Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

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

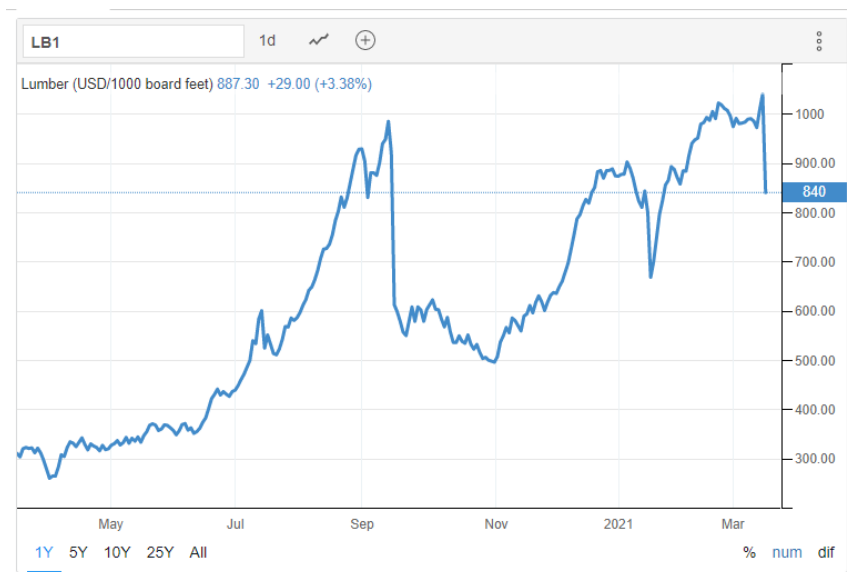
9.2) Mill Stream Trail Boardwalk Construction and Contract Increased Cost

Background

The LTVCA has been working with Millworks Custom Carpentry and Stone to make the new Mill Stream Trail Boardwalk a reality. We are well underway, and expect to be substantially complete (the finished boardwalk surface) by mid-April 2021. When Millworks Custom Carpentry and Stone agreed to take on this project last March, no one could have anticipated what was to happen over the next 12 months. The unavailability of pressure treated lumber, and staggering price increases have created some real challenges. We are continuing to work with the contractor to make this project a success but some significant financial issues persist.

The following chart shows how the price of lumber has changed since the start of the contract.

Chart of increases in lumber prices. (Since this charts creation, prices have begun increasing again)



The contractor has requested a further revision to the contract and is proposing changes to the contract as follows; (the prices are detailed in emails from the contractor and represent contractor prices for materials)

| | |
|---|-------------|
| -Budgeted cost of materials when contractor took on this project: | \$33 500.00 |
| -Current material cost: | \$61 000.00 |
| -Material cost increase: | \$27 500.00 |
| -LTVCA completing removal of existing structure (value): | -\$5000.00 |
| -Shortfall: | \$22 250.00 |
| Requested additional funds (50% of shortfall) | \$11,125.00 |

The LTVCA and the contractor has been in negotiations and are working at addressing the shortfall. Through the support of a work program the LTVCA took on the task of removing the existing decking thereby reducing the tender costs by approx. \$5,000. Staff believe the contractor is being reasonable in accepting 50% of the shortfall at his cost.

Impact on Budget

Understanding that the prices of lumber were continuing to rise, LTVCA staff put an additional \$10,000 aside in the 2021 budget to address additional impacts to the boardwalk project. Staff believe that the funding request from the contractor is reasonable and recommend that the requested additional funds be provided. The extra \$1,250 is available from the Conservation Areas Maintenance budget and can be accommodated without significant impact on the budget.

Recommended Resolution:

That the LTVCA Board of Directors directs staff to provide additional funding in the amount of \$11,125.00 for completion of the Mill Stream Trail Boardwalk Construction to Millworks Custom Carpentry and Stone.

The reports align with the following objectives of the LTVCA's Strategic Plan:

4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

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

10. Business for Information

10.1) CAO's Report

New Requirements – COVID 19

On the 1st of April, the Premier announced that an Ontario-wide "shutdown" will be put in place to combat an "alarming" surge in COVID-19 infections. The shutdown was expanded to a stay at home order earlier this week. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority will adhere to all new restrictions created by these changes. Given the new restrictions, staff being asked to limit going into LTVCA building as much as possible and continue working from home. However, necessary access will be allowed with approval of site managers. The Pandemic Management Committee continues to meet 3 mornings of each week to review all new requirements and then engage with staff should we feel new restrictions impact LTVCA services, events or programs.

One example is that restrictions will mean that bookings for E.M. Warwick CA have been cancelled for the duration of the lockdown.

Staff are continuing to discuss issues with myself or managers to ensure decisions are being made that best address everyone's concerns.

CA Act Changes

Background

With the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act ("CAA") in Bill 229, the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020, now passed by the Legislature, the government has made a series of substantive amendments to the CAA in 2017, 2019 and in 2020, resulting in a number of un-proclaimed provisions in the CAA.

On February 2, 2021, some specific provisions in the CAA were proclaimed to initiate changes to conservation authority governance, for consistency in administration, transparency and financial accountability, as well as increased municipal and provincial oversight of conservation authority operations. These provisions are not tied to any specific regulations, and relate only to provisions from the 2019 and 2020 CAA amendments. Specifically, these include:

- Government requirements (e.g. Non-derogation provision clarifying that nothing in the CAA is intended to affect constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights);
- Provisions related to conservation authority governance (e.g. changes to the conservation authority municipal membership);
- Minister's powers (e.g., enabling the Minister to issue a binding directive to a conservation authority following an investigation); and
- Housekeeping amendments.

A number of Questions regarding provisions proclaimed have been forwarded to me and I will provide some clarity – to the extent possible at this time. Each Board of Directors meeting will provide information regarding changes to the Conservation Authority procedures as the LTVCA moves forward with implementation of Bill 229 provisions. Should you have additional questions, please forward them and I will try to provide answers.

Question: Are we expected to update our by-laws after each proclamation of relevant sections to ensure we are in compliance with the legislation? Note that sections are being proclaimed over time with little notification.

First of all, the Act prevails over the by-laws so we will continue to follow the proclaimed sections of the Act regardless of the status of the by-law.

The LTVCA should continually review by-laws as required under the Conservation Authorities Act Section 19.3 which requires by-law reviews to ensure compliance with any act. Our last review and revision was last year (1 year ago). Review is necessary and we will be revising the by-laws this year with many changes included. Conservation Ontario will be updating the template model by-laws for June 2021. The LTVCA will be using this tool to guide our revisions. We will be working to bring an update to our by-laws for the August Board of Director's meeting. Due to the Minister's Zoning Orders, there will be additional housekeeping items as well. This includes updating hearing guidelines.

Question: Who is responsible for liability when a Ministers Zoning Order (MZO) is issued? And, How do CAs best position themselves to limit liability associated with the issuance of MZO permits?

This has been an issue and we did request a statutory indemnity clause be added to the Act in comments given during debates on Bill 229 - which we did not receive. An example of trying to address this lack of indemnification is that Toronto Region Conservation Authority recently requested indemnity statements from the province, the municipality requesting the MZO and the developer but there are no requirements for parties to provide these under the Act.

As part of the MZO process the CA is required to enter into an agreement with or without conditions to allow the works. If conditions cannot be put in the agreement that address the hazards, it will be hard to believe that liability is not in place. The conditions put in an agreement would be our responsibility and therefore potentially our liability.

The experience of other CAs to date with MZOs is that they will be pushed forward very quickly. Staff will have to put some effort into developing an understanding of these processes so that, should we be given a MZO, we are properly prepared. Staff have requested versions of documented processes and agreements from CAs that have completed negotiations to date.

Staff will be ensuring detailed documentation of all steps taken if a MZO is requested and a permit is required. Staff will bring all MZO issues to the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors as policies are not in place to address issues that might be created by approving a permit for activities not permitted under the Regulation.

Legal advice has stressed documentation of all steps taken during the process as the best way to address future potential legal action. Many issues still continue with the requirements under the act to issue permits for MZOs.

Additionally, Conservation Ontario is in discussions with our insurer regarding how our insurance covers us should we be taken to court over MZOs.

Additional Issue: The Toronto Region Conservation Authority charged a significant fee for the review of the Amazon site MZO. The review was extensive and needed to have extensive technical review to determine proper compensation. LTVCA staff will be developing a fee schedule for potential MZOs for the board to review.

Recommendation:

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

The report aligns with the following objectives of the LTVCA's Strategic Plan:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

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

10.2) Water Management

10.2.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

Flood Messaging

There have been 10 flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors. Two of these were standing message issued for Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie shoreline flooding and intended to cover the months of March and April. There were 5 other messages related to shoreline flooding. There were two Flood Outlooks; one for just Lake Erie and one for both Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. There were also three Flood Watches; one for just Lake Erie and two for Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie including Rondeau Bay. The three other messages were related to the spring freshet on the Thames River watershed; two Safety Bulletins and one Flood Outlook.

Great Lakes Shoreline Flood Events

Not all of the flood messages issued actually turned into flooding events. On most occasions, the wind came in lower than predicted and the ice accumulation along the shoreline provided some protection from wave spray. The most significant flooding event during this period occurred along Erie Shore Drive, in Chatham-Kent on March 11th. Wind speeds made it up to 35 km/hr and there was enough flood waters that accumulated on people's properties that water started flowing across the road.

There was no flooding observed by LTVCA staff or reported in Lighthouse Cove during this period.

Thames River Spring Freshet

The spring freshet on the Thames River this year did not produce any significant flooding. The Thames River froze over during the last week of January and accumulated around 20 cm of ice by the third week of February. However, increased sunshine and a warm-up in the last week of February led to the river having all melted out by March 4th, before the spring freshet occurred, and as a result there was no risk of an ice jam this year. By this time, much of the snow had melted out of the Lower Thames watershed and the Upper Thames watershed had around 40 mm of water stored in the snowpack. Average daily temperatures rose above freezing on March 8th, which began the spring melt. But without any rain it was a gradual melt. Flows on the Thames River peaked in Byron on March 12th at 330 m³/s, at Dutton on March 13th at 325 m³/s, and in Thamesville on March 14th at 290 m³/s. This flooded only the most low-lying areas along the river. Typically, flood messages aren't even issued for flows on the Thames River below 350 m³/s. Unfortunately, the gauge in Chatham was vandalized during the spring freshet this year and there is no record of exactly how high the water got in the city. Without an ice jam, there was no flooding in Lighthouse Cove from the Thames River spring freshet.

The McGregor Creek Diversion Channel has not had to be operated this spring yet either.

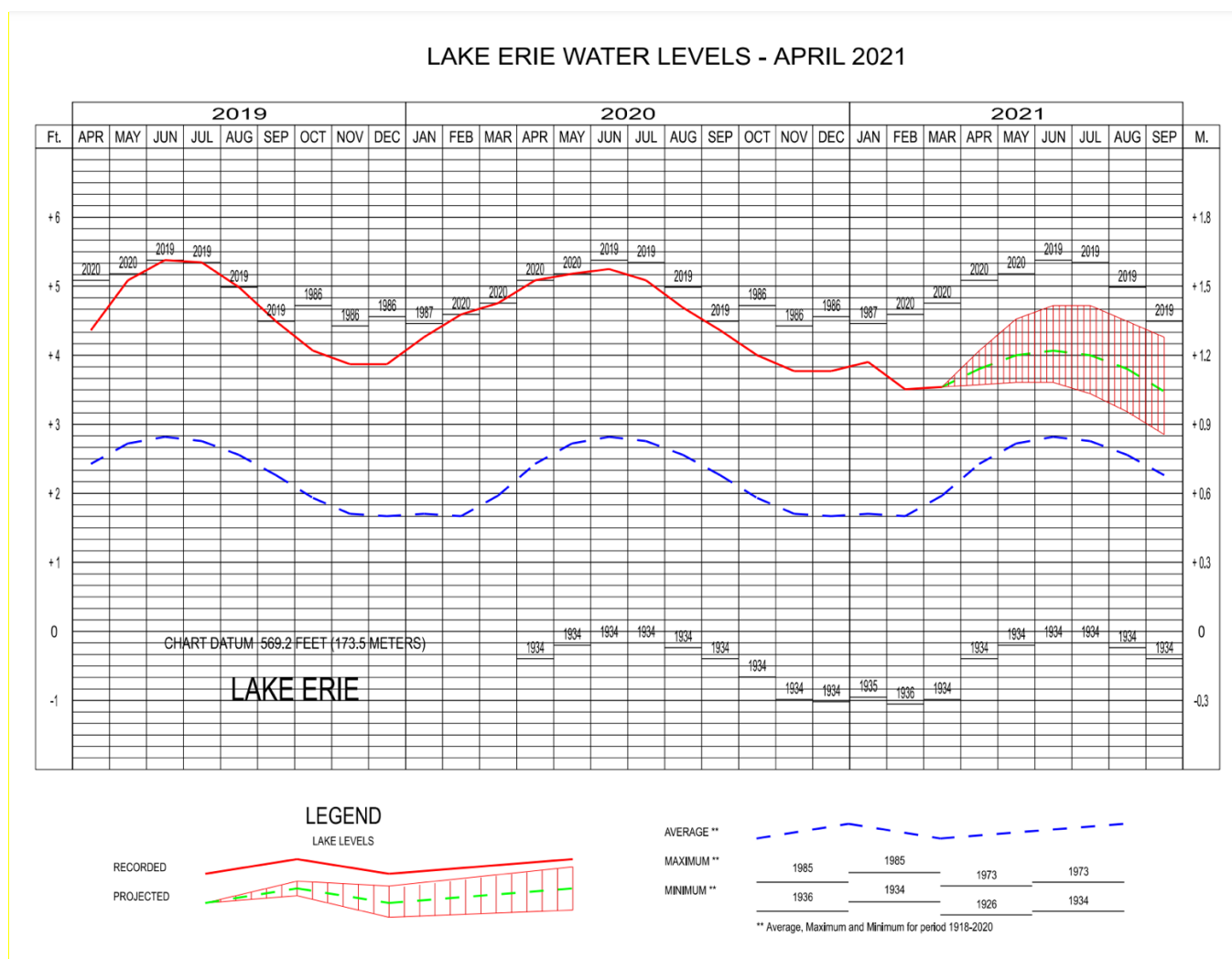
Report on Lake Conditions

Lake Erie's daily average water level on April 1st was around 174.62 m (I.G.L.D.). This is down about 52 cm from last year's peak daily average water level record set at the end of May. It is also 44 cm lower than it was on April 1st, 2020. The all-time record high monthly average for April was 175.05 m, set last year. Water levels on April 1st were still 38 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of April. Water levels have started their seasonal rise and water level forecasts are predicting water levels to climb around 10 cm over then next month.

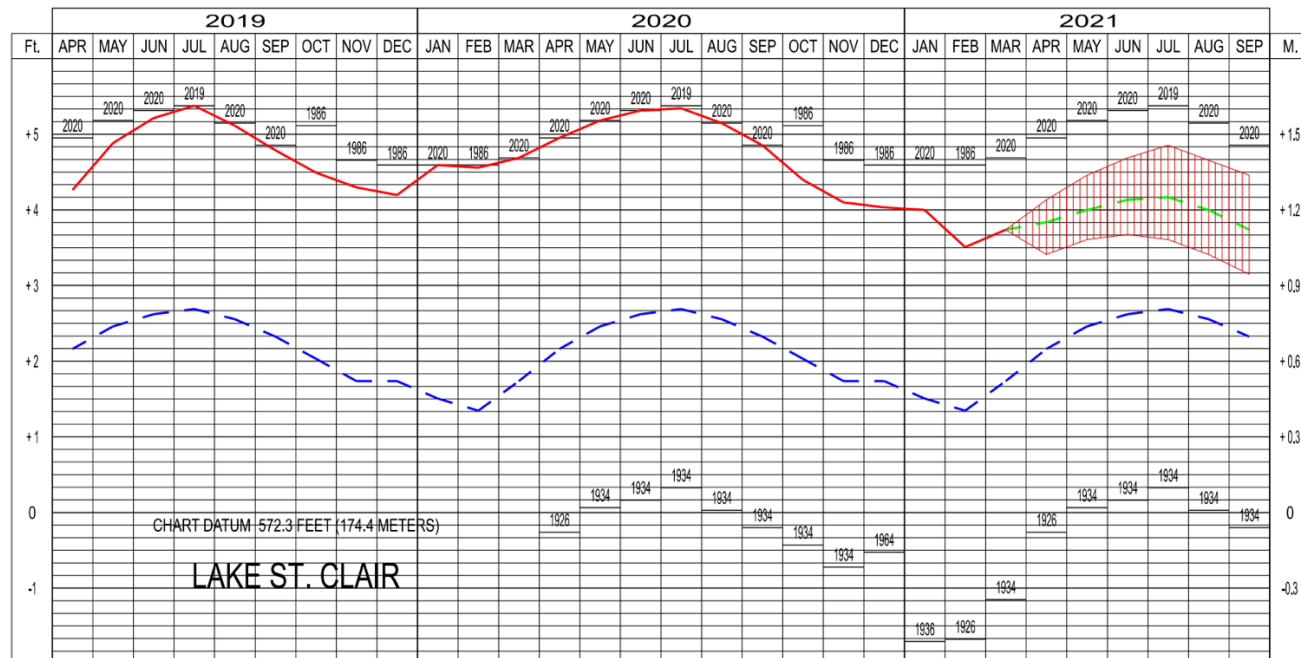
Lake St. Clair's daily average water level on April 1st was around 175.58 m (I.G.L.D.). This is down about 50 cm from last year's peak daily average water level record set during the third week of May. It is also 38 cm lower than it was on April 1st, 2020. The all-time record high monthly average for April was 175.91, set last year. Water levels on April 1st were 52 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of April. Water levels have started their seasonal rise and water level forecasts are predicting water levels to climb around 8 cm over then next month.

It has been a fairly dry spring thus far and water levels did not rise substantially from February into March as is the typical seasonal trend. Although the spring seasonal rise has now begun, forecasts do not predict that the summer peaks will reach as high as previously forecast. Peak summer water levels are now predicted to remain well below the all-time record highs seen in 2019 and 2020. However, water levels will still remain well above average and shoreline issues such as flooding should be expected to continue throughout 2021 as well.

The figures below are published by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and graph the monthly average water levels and water level forecast over the next 6 months. These versions were published at the beginning of February.



LAKE ST. CLAIR WATER LEVELS - APRIL 2021



10.2.2) Flood Control Structures

Regular seasonal maintenance continues on all the LTVCA's flood control structures, including Sharon Dam, the 6th St. Backwater Dam and Pumping Station, and the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel. The clearing of brush and debris from the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel continues as well. In addition to the manual clearing of woody vegetation, a controlled burn was conducted by qualified LTVCA staff on March 23rd.

The water level gauge at 300-340 Grand Ave E. in Chatham is also a significant piece of infrastructure for the LTVCA, given that it is used for operations of the 6th St. Dam. An agreement was finalized with the property owner that altered the LTVCA's easement over the property for access to the gauge and allows the developer to move forward with their plans for the property. However, on March 12th, the gauge station was broken into and equipment was stolen. As a result, the gauge was not functional as the spring freshet passed through the city. Fortunately, this year's spring freshet did not cause any substantial flooding and it was not necessary to operate the 6th St. Dam. The gauge is maintained under a partnership between Water Survey of Canada, the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry and the LTVCA. Water Survey of Canada replaced the equipment on March 24th. Through the easement agreement, the station will get a more secure housing and hopefully can avoid further vandalism until that time.

A small grant of \$5,105 was received from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) fund. The money was provided to cover some of the costs for repairing the cable and replacing electrical connector for one of the large backup diesel generators that powers the 6th St. Dam in case of a power outage.

The cable had been vandalised and the connector stolen back in 2018 when on-site during dam operations. The repair had been completed last summer and part of the reason the repair took so long was the specialized nature of the equipment.

10.2.3) Low Water Response Program

During the spring, summer and autumn, brief reports outlining the watershed conditions as they relate to the Provincial Low Water Response Program are created by LTVCA staff. As this program is concerned with river and stream type water usage (not Great Lakes), and that type of water usage is primarily agricultural in the LTVCA, these reports are not drafted during the winter. However, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry does broad screening throughout the province all year long for the program. While the April screening was not released in time for this agenda, the March screening suggested the Lower Thames may be entering a Low Water Condition. The LTVCA will resume their own analysis in May before the growing season begins, and if the region continues to receive lower than average amounts of rainfall, a Low Water Condition may need to be declared. Further information on the Provincial Low Water Response Program can be found at <https://www.livapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/low-water-response/>

10.2.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide, surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. The sampling was being conducted under two programs, the Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN) and a special grant under Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

The COA grant in particular is to assist with meeting federal, provincial and local obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and other associated agreements regarding phosphorus reductions for Lake Erie. After considerable delays at the provincial level, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has at last finalized the COA grant. The grant provides \$195,000 to cover expenditures for the last half of the 2020-2021 fiscal year and the full 2021-2022 fiscal year. This COA grant will also fund a full time Watershed Monitoring Technician for 12 months to assist with the program. At the time this report was drafted, a candidate has been selected, and an offer made, with a target start date of April 20th. The LTVCA greatly appreciates the hard work MECP staff put into assisting us in obtaining this grant.

10.2.5) Information Technology

Recent changes to our insurance are requiring us to implement some new Information Technology procedures in order to retain the IT-related portion of our coverage. In particular, we are required to have off-site encrypted backups and two-factor authentication for remote access to our computing resources. Our current system has backups stored separately at both the Administration office in Chatham and at the Resource Centre at Longwoods Road C.A. However, this does not meet their criteria for off-site. In order to come into compliance we will either have to begin having staff take physical backups home with them, or pay for some kind of subscription service for cloud-based backups. Implementing two-factor authentication will be slightly more complicated. Even though there are currently multiple layers of security for remote access into our computer systems, they don't meet the insurance company's criteria for two-factor authentication. The most accessible solution seems to be one based on authenticating using a code sent to people's cell phones. There are several possible implementations of this, almost all of which involve paying a monthly, per-user service fee. As almost all Conservation Authorities use the same insurance company, there are many IT staff at various CAs looking into the most economical, easy, and practical implementation. However, we may still need to hire an IT consultant to help us implement this. These procedures need to be in place by July.

The reports align with the following objectives of the LTVCA's Strategic Plan:

2. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
3. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship
4. Improve Capital Asset Review

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.3.1) Planning

From February 1st to the end of March 31st, there have been 83 planning submissions reviewed by staff with respect to the Provincial Policy Statement, Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. On average it takes roughly 5 days to respond to submissions, ranging from same day response to 15 days for more involved planning submissions. There have also been 66 phone calls that have been dealt with in that time frame, with more proponents reaching out to staff via email (numbers not tracked).

| Planning Numbers | 2019 Totals | 2020 Totals | Jan totals | Feb-Mar totals | 2021 Totals |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Chatham-Kent | 150 | 259 | 13 | 55 | 68 |
| Elgin | 76 | 67 | 6 | 13 | 19 |
| Essex | 16 | 46 | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Middlesex | 48 | 35 | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| Total Numbers | 290 | 407 | 27 | 83 | 110 |

**OP, ZBL, OPA, ZBLA, Consents, Minor Variances, Plans of Subdivision, Legal Inquiries*

Staff involved in plan review activities are working from home, with COVID 19 Standard Operating Procedures in place as well as work from home plans. Several conference call / zoom meetings have taken place with proponents / consultants / agencies / member municipalities and counties around planning matters. Several site inspections have also taken place, keeping in mind COVID protocols. Planning services continue to be used / accessed by the public, our member municipalities and other agencies via telephone and email communication at this time.

Policies for Fixed/Permanent Docks

Staff have been receiving permit applications from landowners downstream of Chatham for the permanent placement of docks along the shoreline. There is nothing currently in our guidelines that speak directly to docks along the Thames River. Historically, staff have approved removeable docks (removed from the floodway during winter months) when applications have been submitted in the past.

Staff are not aware of any studies or other information pertaining to the potential impacts of having permanent docks along the river, and in particular during the winter and spring when the ice breaks up and moves downstream. Staff have concerns with fixed structures along the Thames River as the velocity of flows and/or ice movement through the Thames River could be impeded by permanent structures along the shoreline. The existence of a permanent dock could result in damage to the structure and shoreline from flooding as a result of their installation, or they could become anchors for ice and could end up causing an impediment to free ice movement along the shoreline.

As a result of staff concerns, an Ice Engineer, George Comfort, has been retained to review the Thames River and appropriateness for permanent dock installations. He will in turn provide information to aid in policy development moving forward. Further policy discussions will be undertaken with the Board of Directors once information has been received from the engineer.

10.3.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

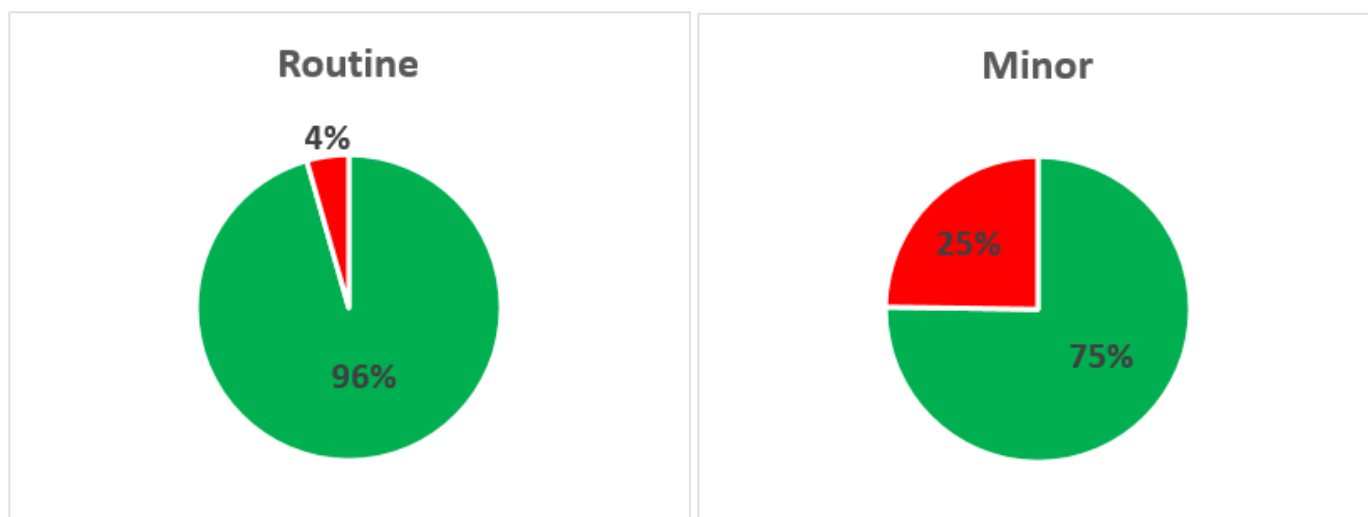
Since the last board update and up to the end of March, staff received an additional 109 permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. Of the 179 permit applications received in the first three months of 2021, all but 29 had been approved by staff. Three applications require hearings (not yet scheduled) and the remaining 26 were in the queue to be reviewed by staff as of the end of March. In addition, a hearing was held on March 04, 2021 in regards to an application received in 2020 which was refused by the Executive Committee.

The regulations program continues to see very strong demand for resources. As of the end of March, the number of permit applications received in the first three months of the year was only 14 short of the total number of applications received for the entire year of 2015. To better support the program, the Resource Technician and the Water Resources Engineer have continued to help processing permits to improve turnaround times. Training of the Water Resources Engineer is on-going in this matter.

\$38,000 has been collected thus far this year (as of the end of March) in application and hearing fees.

Permit Processing Timelines:

For applications issued since the last board report and up to the end of March, the charts and table below indicate that 96% of “routine” and 75% of “minor” permit applications met their applicable turnaround time goal. No permits were issued for “major” permit applications, however, the three “major” permit applications that have been received will all be well beyond their applicable turnaround time goal by the time they will be processed.



| Complexity of Application | # of Days to Review Permit Applications | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| | 0 - 14 Days | 15 - 21 Days | 21 - 28 Days | 29 - 90 Days | > 90 Days |
| Routine | 43 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Minor | 55 | 24 | 25 | 1 | 0 |
| Major | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

At the time of the writing of this report, the current average processing time for a routine permit application is one day (ranges between 0 and 3 days). The current average processing time for a minor permit application is 18 days (ranges between 5 and 24 days).

Property Inquiries:

Up to the end of March, 411 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Technician which is 291 more since the last board report. As of the time of the writing of this report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is approximately 5 to 10 business days.

LTVCA Development Policies:

Given the on-going increased workloads, staff haven't been able to work on drafting the updated watershed-wide policies which was an initiative first started in 2016. There is an on-going need to update the policies to provide clarity and consistency in the policies across the watershed, close loopholes in policy, and to ensure that all policies are based on sound science/engineering with direction from provincial technical guidance and local input.

LTVCA Regulated Area Mapping:

The need to update and publish regulatory screening mapping online is still present. This was identified as a need under Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative from 2019. Updates to floodplain mapping, shoreline hazard mapping, and watercourse mapping are required prior to publishing the mapping online for the public and consultants. The GIS Technician has updated the mapping for Southwold and Dutton Dunwich at the request of those municipalities as part of their Official Plan updates and is currently working on updating the mapping for West Elgin (when time allows). However, much of the GIS Technician's time has been dedicated to IT issues since the pandemic began to keep LTVCA staff working and the infrastructure supported/upgraded. Updated mapping will also help reduce the amount of time Planning and Regulations spend creating custom regulatory screening mapping for project proponents. It continues to be a common request from the public, consultants, utilities, and municipal staff to have our mapping available online.

Section 28 Enforcement:

In the first three months of 2021, 16 complaints / tips were received from the public about possible Section 28 enforcement issues. 11 of the 16 issues are violations or potential violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. Two of the confirmed violations have been resolved.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

2. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
3. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship

10.3.3) O. Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications

Staff Report

O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications
(Up to March 31, 2021)

B.D. 04/15/2021

| App No. | Location | Community/ Township | Municipality | Decision | Processing Time (days) |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2020 Permits | | | | | |
| 409-2020 | 852, 854, and 856 Hiawatha Beach Road | Wheatley | Chatham-Kent | Refused: Mar 04, 2021 | 148 |
| 2021 Permits | | | | | |
| 023-2021 | Thames Grove - 34 Kingsway Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 01, 2021 | 14 |
| 024-2021 | Edgewood Subdivision - Parkhouse Drive | Mount Brydges | Strathroy-Caradoc | Granted: Feb 09, 2021 | 22 |
| 025-2021 | 5121 Tecumseh Line | Tilbury East | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 1 |
| 026-2021 | Parkhouse Drive | Mount Brydges | Strathroy-Caradoc | Granted: Feb 01, 2021 | 13 |
| 028-2021 | 24907 Winterline Road | Dover | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 01, 2021 | 12 |
| 030-2021 | Adelaide Street @ McGregor Creek | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 19, 2021 | 29 |
| 032-2021 | 750 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 033-2021 | 754 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 034-2021 | 758 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 035-2021 | 762 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 036-2021 | 766 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 037-2021 | 770 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 038-2021 | 774 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 039-2021 | 778 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 040-2021 | 782 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 041-2021 | 786 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 03, 2021 | 12 |
| 042-2021 | 790 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 05, 2021 | 14 |
| 043-2021 | 794 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 05, 2021 | 14 |
| 044-2021 | 798 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 11, 2021 | 21 |
| 045-2021 | 802 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 11, 2021 | 21 |
| 046-2021 | 806 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 11, 2021 | 21 |
| 047-2021 | 810 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 11, 2021 | 21 |
| 048-2021 | 814 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 16, 2021 | 25 |
| 049-2021 | 818 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 17, 2021 | 26 |
| 051-2021 | 813 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 11, 2021 | 21 |
| 052-2021 | 809 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 11, 2021 | 21 |
| 053-2021 | 803 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 11, 2021 | 21 |
| 054-2021 | 799 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 16, 2021 | 25 |
| 055-2021 | 795 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 16, 2021 | 25 |
| 056-2021 | 791 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 16, 2021 | 25 |
| 057-2021 | 787 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 16, 2021 | 25 |
| 058-2021 | 783 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 16, 2021 | 25 |
| 059-2021 | 779 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 16, 2021 | 25 |
| 060-2021 | 775 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 16, 2021 | 25 |
| 061-2021 | 771 Keil Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 16, 2021 | 25 |
| 062-2021 | 19070 Haven Avenue | Lighthouse Cove | Lakeshore | Granted: Feb 19, 2021 | 28 |
| 064-2021 | 540 Park Avenue East | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 19, 2021 | 24 |
| 065-2021 | 33 Talbot Street | Shrewsbury | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 19, 2021 | 23 |

| App No. | Location | Community/ Township | Municipality | Decision | Processing Time (days) |
|----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 066-2021 | 12 Sienna Court | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 19, 2021 | 25 |
| 069-2021 | 10 Dundee Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 19, 2021 | 22 |
| 070-2021 | 730 Quenneville Drive | Lighthouse Cove | Lakeshore | Granted: Feb 19, 2021 | 19 |
| 071-2021 | McKay Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 02, 2021 | 1 |
| 072-2021 | McGregor's Creek Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 02, 2021 | 1 |
| 073-2021 | Bentley Drain | Raleigh | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 02, 2021 | 1 |
| 074-2021 | Littlejohn Road over Thames River | Orford | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 19, 2021 | 20 |
| 075-2021 | 165 Emma Street | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 23, 2021 | 25 |
| 076-2021 | 32785 Thomas Line | Dunwich | Dutton Dunwich | Granted: Feb 23, 2021 | 20 |
| 077-2021 | Flook and Hinton Drain | Raleigh | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 04, 2021 | 1 |
| 078-2021 | 229 Island Crescent | Lighthouse Cove | Lakeshore | Granted: Feb 04, 2021 | 1 |
| 079-2021 | 8577 Furnival Road | Port Glasgow | West Elgin | Granted: Feb 05, 2021 | 2 |
| 080-2021 | 225 Towanda Boulevard | Erie Beach | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 05, 2021 | 0 |
| 081-2021 | Gregory Drain | Raleigh | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 09 2021 | 4 |
| 082-2021 | 835 Duplessis Drive | Lighthouse Cove | Lakeshore | Granted: Feb 22, 2021 | 16 |
| 083-2021 | Macklem Creek Cut-off Drain | Tilbury North | Lakeshore | Granted: Feb 09 2021 | 0 |
| 084-2021 | Taff Creek Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 09 2021 | 0 |
| 085-2021 | 10845 River Line | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 25, 2021 | 15 |
| 086-2021 | 12067 River Line | Howard | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 11, 2021 | 1 |
| 087-2021 | 18506 Antrim Road | Howard | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 25, 2021 | 7 |
| 088-2021 | 277 Chatham Street South | Blenheim | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 089-2021 | 313 Chatham Street South | Blenheim | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 090-2021 | 337 Chatham Street South | Blenheim | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 091-2021 | 369 Chatham Street South | Blenheim | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 092-2021 | Archie Campbell Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 093-2021 | Simmons Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 094-2021 | Clendenning Drain East Branch | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 095-2021 | Coleman Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 096-2021 | Cumming Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 097-2021 | McArthur East Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 098-2021 | Shewburg Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 099-2021 | Nesbitt Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 100-2021 | Neve Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 101-2021 | Rowe Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 102-2021 | Willow Creek Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 103-2021 | Woodlife Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 104-2021 | East Branch Bell or Crawford Drain | Howard | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 105-2021 | Millar Drain | Howard | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 106-2021 | 31044 Duff Line | Dunwich | Dutton Dunwich | Granted: Feb 25, 2021 | 8 |
| 107-2021 | Lighthouse Road / County Road 39 | Tilbury West | Lakeshore | Granted: Feb 25, 2021 | 6 |

| App No. | Location | Community/ Township | Municipality | Decision | Processing Time (days) |
|----------|--|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 108-2021 | Shaw Branch of the Facey East Drain | Zone | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 25, 2021 | 3 |
| 109-2021 | 20040 Admiral Drive | Lighthouse Cove | Lakeshore | Granted: Feb 25, 2021 | 2 |
| 110-2021 | South Middle Road | Tilbury West | Lakeshore | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 23 |
| 111-2021 | New Scotland Line over Ross Drain | Howard | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 25, 2021 | 0 |
| 112-2021 | McDougall Drain at Queen's Line | Tilbury East | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 03, 2021 | 6 |
| 113-2021 | Tecumseh Road @ Big Creek | Tilbury West | Lakeshore | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 21 |
| 114-2021 | 220 Detroit Line | Wheatley | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Feb 25, 2021 | 0 |
| 115-2021 | 26530 Dymock Line | Aldborough | West Elgin | Granted: Feb 26, 2021 | 1 |
| 116-2021 | 15 Dundee Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 18 |
| 117-2021 | 14 Dundee Drive | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 23, 2021 | 22 |
| 118-2021 | 23602 Dew Drop Line | Camden | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 02, 2021 | 0 |
| 119-2021 | 17 McIntosh Avenue | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 17 |
| 120-2021 | 19 McIntosh Avenue | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 17 |
| 121-2021 | 21 McIntosh Avenue | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 17 |
| 122-2021 | 178 Victoria Street | Rodney | West Elgin | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 16 |
| 123-2021 | 22499 Gray Line | Aldborough | West Elgin | Granted: Mar 02, 2021 | 0 |
| 124-2021 | 26093 Marsh Line | Aldborough | West Elgin | Granted: Mar 17, 2021 | 15 |
| 125-2021 | 7 McGregor Place | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 23, 2021 | 21 |
| 126-2021 | Bear Line Road to Baldoon Road | Dover | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 14 |
| 127-2021 | 420 Bayview Avenue | Erieau | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 09, 2021 | 5 |
| 128-2021 | Government Drain #6 | Mosa | Southwest Middlesex | Granted: Mar 09, 2021 | 4 |
| 129-2021 | Webel Drain | Zone | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 09, 2021 | 4 |
| 130-2021 | 5173 Tecumseh Line | Tilbury East | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 26, 2021 | 23 |
| 131-2021 | 20700 Frontier Line | Tilbury North | Lakeshore | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 9 |
| 132-2021 | Eddie Drain | Ekfrid | Southwest Middlesex | Granted: Mar 29, 2021 | 14 |
| 133-2021 | Devlin-McTaggart Drain | Ekfrid | Southwest Middlesex | Granted: Mar 29, 2021 | 14 |
| 134-2021 | Newbiggen Creek / Mikkelsen Drain | Ekfrid | Southwest Middlesex | Granted: Mar 29, 2021 | 14 |
| 135-2021 | 34 Willcox Street | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 11 |
| 139-2021 | 5694 Talbot Trail | Raleigh | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 11, 2021 | 7 |
| 140-2021 | Mennie Drain | Dunwich | Dutton Dunwich | Granted: Mar 11, 2021 | 0 |
| 141-2021 | 24 Sienna Court | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 9 |
| 142-2021 | West Galbraith Drain | Dunwich | Dutton Dunwich | Granted: Mar 11, 2021 | 0 |
| 145-2021 | 23 Judith Place | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 18, 2021 | 9 |
| 146-2021 | Moody and Early Drain | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 16, 2021 | 1 |
| 147-2021 | Young Branch of the Rushton Drain | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 16, 2021 | 1 |
| 148-2021 | Culnan Drain | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 16, 2021 | 1 |
| 149-2021 | West Drain Outlet | Chatham | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 16, 2021 | 1 |
| 150-2021 | 8260 Middle Line | Raleigh | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 16, 2021 | 5 |

| App No. | Location | Community/ Township | Municipality | Decision | Processing Time (days) |
|----------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 156-2021 | Melody Drive | Lighthouse Cove | Lakeshore | Granted: Mar 30, 2021 | 14 |
| 157-2021 | 9331 Union Road | Shedden | Southwold | Granted: Mar 30, 2021 | 12 |
| 168-2021 | 10 Brock Street | Shrewsbury | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 26, 2021 | 1 |
| 172-2021 | 10537 Kerr Road | Aldborough | West Elgin | Granted: Mar 26, 2021 | 0 |
| 173-2021 | 8545 Havens Lake Road | Port Glasgow | West Elgin | Granted: Mar 26, 2021 | 2 |
| 174-2021 | Taff Creek Drain | Harwich | Chatham-Kent | Granted: Mar 30, 2021 | 0 |

10.4) Conservation Area Lands

10.4.1) Conservation Area Visitation / Camping Stats, February 1 – March 31, 2021

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – 1671 people (1235 in 2020) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 816 vehicles (486 in 2020)

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – 0 people (80 in 2020)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – 616 people (116 in 2020) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 308 vehicles (58 in 2020)

Sharon Creek Conservation Area – 73 Day Use Transactions on MacKay Pay (61 transactions in 2020)

2021 Parking Passes – 59 sold in Feb/Mar 2021 (25 sold Feb/Mar 2020)

10.4.2) Conservation Areas

Big Bend and C.M. Wilson CA's - both campgrounds are gearing up for a new season of camping. Like last year we are already seeing strong interest in seasonal sites, with over 47 booked for CM Wilson, and many River Sites pre booked on our "Let's Camp" online system for Big Bend CA. Staff have added in a new trail that can be accessed from the boat launch on the river through the forest to the main campground area.



CM Wilson Barn This historic barn has been renovated to allow access to the second floor loft.



Ash from Longwoods Road CA was milled for flooring, new stair case installed with new lighting and local artist Jen Goodall putting the final touches with some beautiful wildlife art. This will be a great addition for family reunions, weddings and gatherings.

Big "O" CA - the new land donated last year will be planted in the next few weeks with Tall Grass Prairie and Black and Burr Oak trees that will make for an improved visitor experience and improved habitat for this important bird resting area.

Ontario Job Creation Program (OJCP) - two successful applications (east and west), resulted in 4 OJCP candidates. The LTVCA is in the midst of reapplying to this program for 2021. We are happy to report that OJCP candidate Matt Laprise has accepted the Western District Lead Hand position.

Oneida First Nation Employment Program - has been a great help to Eastern District staff, assisting with trail upgrades at Mosa Forest, Big Bend, and Longwoods. Pictured here is DJ Cornelius with her handy router work.



Rowsom CA - a successful grant from Evolugen will see 3 new educational signs installed this spring, featuring QR codes that touch on: Wetlands, Carolinian Forests and Watershed education. These signs were designed by our Education Department and will add to the improvements in the Western District.



Diversion Channel - ongoing brushing and herbicide applications continue, along with a prescribed burning of the floodway. This is important to keep the channel free from debris and woody stems that may impede flow.

A burn was conducted by LTVCA staff in early March 2021. This promotes native plant growth, eliminates woody stems and promotes habitat for the Eastern Meadowlark and other grassland species.

Sharon Creek CA – the north parking lot area is being upgraded to provide more parking space as this property continues to be a busy and popular spot. Three large stumps are being removed, area graded and new gravel brought in. New signage will be installed in the next few weeks.



Ashton Forest CA - a newly acquired 25 acre Carolinian Forest has been officially transferred to the LTVCA. Many Tulip Tree, Shagbark Hickory and Burr Oak make for a diverse forest, that provides a link to the nearby Delaware First Nation land.

Graciously donated by Mr. Kenneth Ashton, LTVCA will be conducting an Earth Day ribbon cutting event on April 22nd.

Longwoods Road CA - thanks to the extra help provided by OJCP and the Oneida First Nation, many of the trails at Longwoods Road CA have been graded, mulched and brushed. Barriers to direct visitors away from the roads and provide a safer use have been installed by our staff.

The Millstream Boardwalk nears completion, as contractor -“Millworks” puts the finishing touches on this project. Once complete it will provide safe access to the ravine system.



The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

2. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
3. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship

10.5) Conservation Services

10.5.1) Stewardship Report

West Update

Due to COVID our outreach events have been cancelled. Coordination of projects for the spring and summer continue with 3 to 5 requests per day for new tree, wetland, prairie/buffer stewardship projects. Finalizing stock demands and shipment dates are under way. Cold storage and equipment rentals are confirmed. Seasonal staffing interviews are in process.

Tree Planting Events

There are a few things planned despite Covid that adhere to the rules. West Elgin will be holding a tree give away through the Roads Department. Dutton Dunwich will also hold a give away through their Roads Department. Chatham-Kent Real Estate Board has partnered with LTVCA to offer new home owners a tree for their new property.

Current Partner Contributions:

Grasslands Ontario has awarded Alus Middlesex and Chatham-Kent with funds to complete tall grass projects this spring.

Tree Planting

This year's tree planting will be another busy one. Close to 90,000 seedlings on order and 1,000 large stock. The months of April and May we will be planting many of these trees in our 10-member municipalities.

ALUS Chatham-Kent Update

The ALUS Chatham-Kent program is shaping up to be a busy one. Many projects have been approved to start in Spring. We have received a preliminary budget of \$80,965 from ALUS Canada for establishment, annual payments, salary and administration of the program. Our target acreage this year is 30 acres which will increase with funding.

East Update

The majority of March was spent working in collaboration with landowners, project partners, and funders, to plan these projects and ensure there is necessary funding, land preparation, and supplies, for successful project implementation. The eastern district was fortunate to receive a grant from Tree Canada to support large-scale tree planting projects, totaling \$24,725 in funding.

The Elgin Clean Water Program project review meeting was held in March; with wetland, prairie, erosion control, buffers, and tree projects seeking funding. LTVCA was able to secure the requested funding amount for 10 projects, totaling in \$36,228.97 in funding for projects in Elgin county.

ALUS Middlesex Update

ALUS Middlesex received its first 2021 funding allocation from ALUS Canada, detailing targets and deliverables for the year. The acre target for 2021 is 60 acres.

There are over 80 acres of projects from interested farmers for 2021 in Middlesex. The majority of March was spent working in collaboration with landowners, project partners, and funders, to plan these projects and ensure there is necessary funding, land preparation, and supplies, for successful project implementation. ALUS Middlesex was able to

apply for the government of Canada EcoAction Community Funding Program in effort to support program needs (awaiting funding decision).

March also marked the end of the ALUS Middlesex social media marketing campaign. London marketing firm, 44 North, provided marketing and branding services to ALUS Middlesex and two months of social media posts. This venture resulted in the creation of ALUS Middlesex LinkedIn and Facebook pages, and strong follower growth on all platforms.

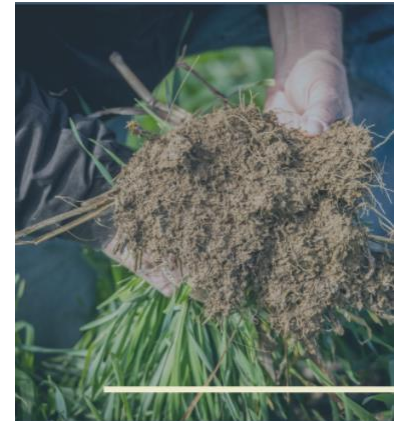
10.5.2) Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives

LTVCA: Soil Health Program

The LTVCA Soil Health Program officially launched on February 3rd of 2021. The program will offer financial incentives to farmers throughout the entire LTVCA jurisdiction to implement the following BMPs:

1. Plant Cover Crops
2. Conduct Grid or Zone Soil Sampling

The LTVCA Agricultural Program Coordinator and Outreach Specialist have been actively contacting regional farm businesses, agronomists, agricultural retailers, and agricultural community groups to raise awareness about the program. Media releases and social media posts have also been shared regularly to promote the new program. The response and feedback from watershed farmers has been very positive to date. As of April 7th, the LTVCA has received 58 project applications from farm businesses and more inquiries. The LTVCA is confident that the budget will be allocated to 2021 projects by May. Once the 2021 budget is allocated, LTVCA project staff will shift their focus towards raising funds to sustain the program in future years.



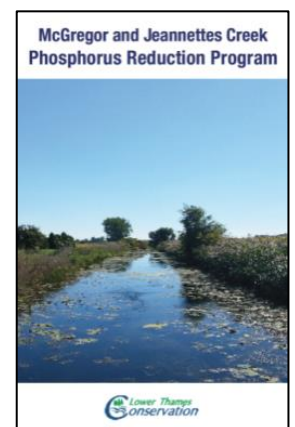
The Soil Health program is funded by an Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Great Lakes Protection Initiative contribution agreement.

CAP and ECCC: McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction Program **Best Management Practice (BMP) Incentive Program**

On February 15th of 2021, the LTVCA relaunched the McGregor & Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction BMP Incentive program for 2021. The program offers financial incentives to farmers to implement the following BMPs to improve soil health and regional water quality in McGregor and Jeannettes Creek:

- Cover Crops
- 4R Nutrient Management Planning Services
- Alternative Phosphorus Application Practices
- Erosion Control Projects
- Marginal Land Restoration Projects

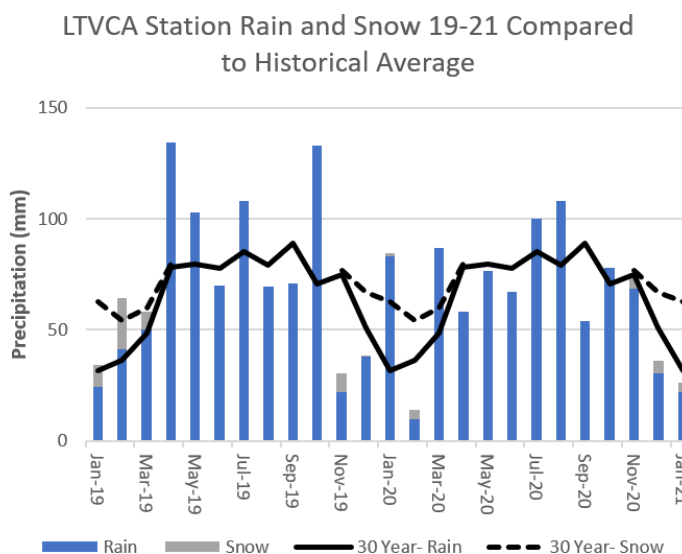
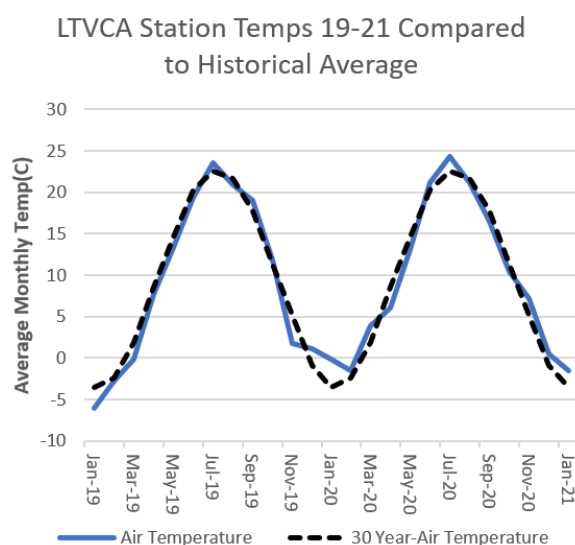
Since the launch, the LTVCA has received a significant amount of interest from regional farmers and agricultural businesses regarding the program. As of April 7th, a total of 40 farmer applications have been received. This is the third consecutive year the program has been offered in these subwatershed to local farmers.



The BMP incentive program is solely funded by an Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Great Lakes Protection Initiative contribution agreement. This agreement will conclude on March 31st of 2022. In the future the LTVCA will need to assess if the BMP incentive program will be offered beyond 2021 and how it could be funded.

McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Subwatershed Monitoring & Modeling

LTVCA project staff continued to collect water quality samples and flow data at monitoring stations in the McGregor and Jeannettes Creek subwatershed during the period of January of 2021 – April of 2021. Monthly precipitation levels during the period have been relatively low when compared to 30 year monthly averages. Due to the low levels of precipitation, few significant flow events have occurred during the 2021 Winter and Spring. From January-March of 2021, 3 significant flow events were monitored by the LTVCA in the subwatersheds. Water samples and water quantity data was collected during each event by LTVCA staff.



All collected water quality data will be used to calculate nutrient loads. Furthermore, the University of Guelph Water Resource Engineers will use the collected data to configure the subwatershed Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) models. The SWAT models will be used to estimate the phosphorus reductions that result from the implementation of agricultural BMPs. A preliminary modeling results report will be released during the Spring of 2021.

Sampling, monitoring, and modeling activities are funded in part by the following agencies and organizations:

1. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC): Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI)
2. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) – Canadian Agricultural Partnership
3. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) – Canadian Agricultural Partnership
4. Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) – Administer the ONFARM project

On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program

The ONFARM Program was launched during December of 2019, with the goal of to support the agricultural sector to strengthen environmental stewardship, enhance water quality, and improve soil health. The project is being administered by the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) and is funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The LTVCA is one of five Conservation Authorities that is conducting high intensity environmental monitoring in the former Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) priority subwatersheds. The LTVCA project is occurring in a 20km² area of the Jeannettes Creek subwatershed, where the LTVCA has been collecting water quality, water quantity, soil health, climate, and crop management data since 2016.



The first ONFARM Forum was hosted on February 10th of 2021. The purpose of the annual ONFARM Forum is to share results from the project with the broader agricultural sector. Over 180 people registered for the first Forum that was hosted via a Zoom webinar. Mari Veliz, from ABCA, presented results from the 5 CA study subwatersheds during the event. Preliminary data from the LTVCA Merlin Edge of Field BMP verification sites were shared during the presentation. To learn more about the speakers and to view a recording of the event visit the below webpage:

<https://www.osciaresearch.org/onfarm-applied-research/onfarm-forum/>

A technical report that summarizes the activities that occurred during the 2020-2021 fiscal year can also be downloaded via the below link:

https://www.osciaresearch.org/uploads/source/ONFARM/TechnicalReport_2020_ONFARM_20210331.pdf

Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative (TRPRC)

The LTVCA continues to monitor the carboxymethyl cellulose-iron (CMC-Fe) hydrogel beads Phosphorus Sorption Material (PSM) that is installed at the Roesch phosphorus filter tank pilot site.

Since January of 2021, 3 flow events have occurred, and water samples were collected. In total, 38 samples have been shipped to Caduceon Environmental Laboratories for chemistry analysis since the CMC-Fe PSM was installed. Water quality monitoring will continue during 2021, until the PSM is removed from the tanks. A report will be released during 2021 that evaluates the efficacy of the PSM at reducing agriculturally sourced P.



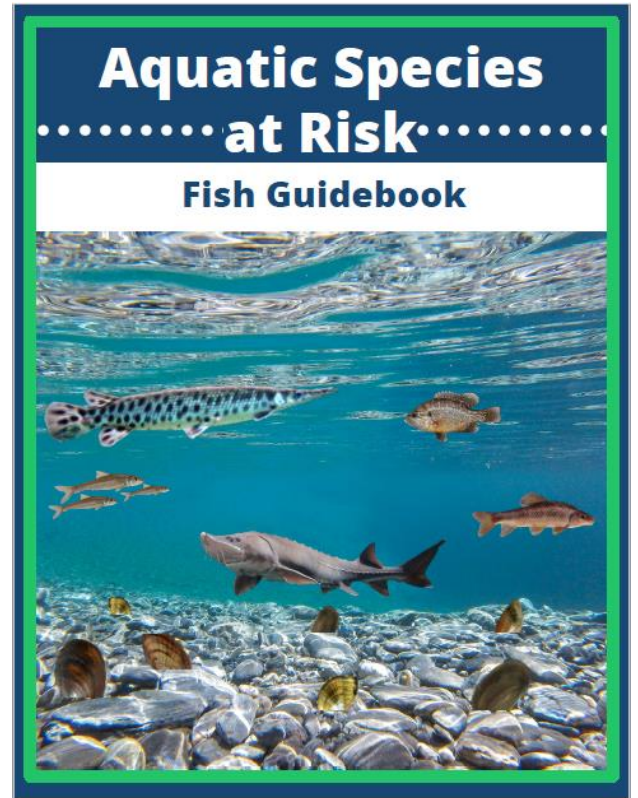
10.5.3) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

Brooke Ciuman was hired on a short-term contract to develop a Species at Risk (SAR) webpage (<https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/conservation-services/species-at-risk/>) for the LTVCA. In addition to the website, Brooke has developed four downloadable guidebooks to accompany the website that will be posted shortly: Aquatic Species at Risk Fish, Mussels, Monitoring and Threats. In addition, she is developing a flyer, targeted at Rondeau Bay anglers, to assist them in identifying species at risk fish from common look-alikes. She will continue working until mid-May on sign designs for a number of conservation areas.

Dan Nydam has been extended until mid-May to assist with reporting on 2020/21 deliverables and preparing for the coming field season.

Interviews have been held to fill one or more Aquatic Biology Technician positions to assist with SAR monitoring in the 2021 field season. Approved positions are expected to be announced in late April or early May once Canada Summer Jobs funding is announced. The field season is expected to start in mid-May.

A proposal has been submitted to Chatham-Kent's South Kent Wind Community Foundation to initiate a bat and bird monitoring program in five LTVCA Conservation Areas in South Kent. Funded projects are expected to be announced in late May or early June. Similarly, a funding proposal is being developed for submission to Wildlife Acoustics to obtain acoustic monitoring equipment.



10.6) Communications, Outreach and Education

10.6.1) Website Updates

Our website alerts visitors of the current status of COVID-19 Pandemic health unit and government guidelines that affect our conservation area usage. During the pandemic the LTVCA website is updated to inform the public about the procedures we are using to respond to inquiries and requests to purchase items from the Conservation Authority as offices remain closed to the public. Ongoing are the postings of watershed and shoreline conditions, Minutes and Agendas of Board Reports, changes in fees, updates regarding programs and services of the LTVCA and virtual/onsite events and activities. The website design is being refreshed and will have a new look hopefully in 2021.

10.6.2) Social Media

Since the February 25th AGM of the Board of Directors, daily social media posts on the LTVCA's social media platforms have been issued: (**Facebook** – 2,578 followers for an increase of 73 followers; **Twitter** – 1,176 followers for an increase of 13 followers; **Instagram** – 700 followers for an increase of 38 followers), **YouTube** 68 subscribers. Posts focus on the LTVCA's ongoing programs and services, following environmental issues across our watershed, how we are social distancing/adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic and keeping public informed. The Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook page currently has 2,186 followers for an increase of 58 followers.

Posts are regularly circulated to Directors of the LTVCA and Foundation, First Nations Communities, Municipal Councils/Clerks/CAO's, MP's and MPP's, Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee, all staff, Conservation Ontario, and watershed media (as needed).

We have reinforced the importance of all the COVID-19 protocols including messaging about social distancing, removal of garbage and pet waste, and have encouraged visitors to support our conservation areas through payment of parking fees or purchase of 2021 parking passes.

Daily Social Media Post Topics – February 10, 2021 – April 6, 2021

- **Water Management Mondays**

- Happy Family Day – Feb 5
- Iced Over – Thames River, Lakes Erie & St. Clair – Feb 22
- Mild Temps, Ice Breakup, Water Levels May Rise – Mar 1
- River Ice Gone but Spring Freshets Possible – Mar 8
- Thames River Spring Freshet Has Passed – Mar 15
- Prescribed Burn Planned for Diversion Channel – Mar 22
- Water Level Monitoring Equipment Stolen – Mar 29
- Canoeing Lower Thames? Delaware to L. St. Clair – Apr 5



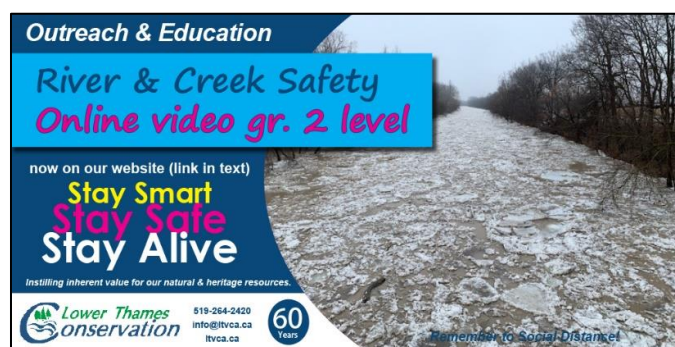
- **Stewardship Tuesdays**



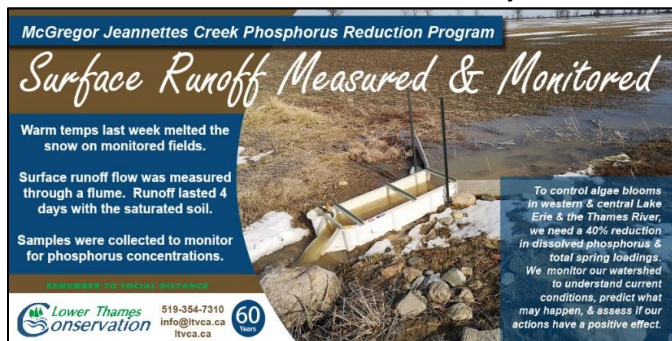
- Have you ordered your spring trees? Deadline Mar 1 – use online order form – Feb 16
- LTVCA Municipalities – Thanks for your tree orders!- Feb 23
- Thanks for the Community Effort in our 2021 Tree Program – Mar 2
- Check out our Employment Webpage – Mar 9
- Thank You Erieau Wind – Donates \$10,000 – Mar 16
- Want to help Environment - Create a Buffer Strip, Tallgrass Prairie, Wetland? – Mar 23
- ‘ribbit’ – We can Help You Create Tallgrass Prairies and Wetlands – Mar 30
- It’s Earth Month at LTVCA! – Apr 6

- **Conservation Area Wednesdays**

- Explore Conservation Areas – Feb 10
- Visiting Sharon Creek CA – Use MacKay Pay! – Feb 17
- Visit Rowsom’s Tilbury West CA – Feb 24
- LTVCA’s Online Camping Reservations Are Open – Mar 3
- Longwoods Boardwalk Update – Mar 10
- Longwoods Boardwalk Update – Mar 17
- Watershed Businesses Highlighted in CA Guidebook – Mar 24
- Accessible Boardwalk Nears Completion at Longwoods – Mar 31



- **Outreach and Education Thursdays**



- Gifts in the Woods – Thoughtfulness – Feb 11
- Everyone is Making Tracks to our Conservation Areas! – Feb 18
- River and Creek Safety – Online Video – Feb 25
- Blending Beautifully – Mar 4
- Welcome Back Carlyn - Mar 11
- ‘Spring’ into Outdoor Education Programming at Longwoods – Mar 18
- Sparks and Brownies Journey at Longwoods – Mar 25
- Native Plants Feed Bees and Other Pollinators – Apr 1

- **Phosphorus / Water Quality Fridays**

- Welcome to the ONFARM Annual Forum – Feb 12
- Another Program Launch – McGregor Jeannettes Cr Phosphorus Reduction Program – Feb 19
- How Much Water is in the Snow? – Feb 26
- Surface Runoff Measured and Monitored – Mar 5
- ONFARM Interactive Map – Mar 12
- Crops and Conservation Webinar Series – Mar 19
- Equipment Sheds Protect Sampling Equipment ONFARM – Mar 26
- Examples of 4 Runoff Samples After Heavy Rain – Apr 2



- encourage people to use our conservation areas safely during the COVID-19 pandemic - physical distancing, reminders
- articles of public interest from local media regarding ecosystems and the environment, and local environmental issues (erosion, flooding, emergency preparedness, wetlands, grasslands, pollinators)
- watershed community based environmental initiatives including reposting municipal posts; sharing London Canoe Club posts (for Sharon Creek Conservation Area); August Tree Giveaway campaign
- cool facts about nature – local plants, birds, trees, animals and thing families can do with their children to engage with nature in their own back yards or in a conservation area during the pandemic – helping people to reconnect with nature
- supporting Conservation Ontario's social media campaigns re: World Wetlands Day, Drinking Water Source Protection
- Salting Shift Campaign
- sharing of neighbouring Conservation Authorities' information
- sharing of municipal public health information – CK Public Health, London Middlesex Health, St. Thomas Elgin Health, Windsor Essex

New Interpretive Signage Designed for Rowsom's Conservation Area

3 new pedestal square signs have been designed for this conservation area to highlight its Carolinian forest, wetland and Big Creek watershed.

The Carolinian Life Zone

The Carolinian Life Zone, stretching Toronto to Windsor, is the most diverse, fragile Canadian ecoregion. Here, our climate supports ecosystems found nowhere else in Canada. 50% of federally listed species at risk occur in this zone. Rowsom's Tilbury West Conservation Area has a Carolinian Forest.

LEAF BARK

Black Cherry

Sugar Maple

Shagbark Hickory

White Oak

Ecological functions of Carolinian forests

These biologically diverse forests are home to more migratory and resident animal and plant species than any other ecosystem in Canada.

Carolinian forests help reduce floods and soil erosion, and sequester carbon dioxide, helping to reduce global climate change.

"Carolinian" is a name used by early botanists, who observed that hardwood forests in southwestern Ontario share characteristics with forests as far south as North and South Carolina in the United States!

Carolinian forests are characterized by lush, deciduous (broad-leaf) tree species of oak, hickory, ash, chestnut, walnut, maple, sassafras, tulip, and beech. Walk through the forest here and spot Shagbark Hickory, Sugar Maple, Black Cherry and White Oak. These trees provide seasonal beauty, as well as food and shelter for many animals. Carolinian forests are threatened by development in Ontario.

You Can Help this Carolinian Forest Stay Healthy!

- Respect conservation areas and follow regulations
- Invite an expert to talk about why the area is special
- Learn about wildlife here
- Identify a tree or shrub species and learn how to help it
- Create a presentation on Carolinian Forests
- Share knowledge of this area and why it's important to protect
- Scan the code to find out more about

Carolinian Canada

Lower Thames Conservation Evolugen

Balanced and Healthy Watersheds

A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Conservation Authorities (CAs) are organized on watersheds.

Scan code for the 36 CAs in Ontario.

Conservation Authority programs help ensure healthy ecosystems.

Everyone lives downstream! What we do on the land upstream, affects the land downstream. Big Creek flows through Rowsom's Tilbury West Conservation Area. Its watershed basin drains into the Thames River.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA)

The LTVCA's jurisdiction covers the watersheds of all streams draining into the Thames River from Delaware, to Lake St. Clair. Its southern boundary includes the watersheds of all streams which drain into Lake Erie, from the Talbot Creek in the east, to Two Creeks in the west.

Scan code to visit our website!

Benefits of a healthy watershed

- Human Health**—a healthy watershed provides safe drinking water, food, enables us to adapt to the impacts of climate change more easily by cooling the air and absorbing greenhouse gas emissions, and provides natural areas for people to enjoy and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle.
- Ecological Health**—a healthy watershed conserves water, promotes streamflow, supports sustainable streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater sources, enables healthy soil for crops and livestock, and provides habitat for wildlife and plants.
- Economic Health**—a healthy watershed produces energy and supplies water for agriculture, industry and households. Forests and wetlands help to prevent or reduce costly climate change and flooding impacts, manage drought, contribute to tourism, fisheries, forestry, agriculture and other industries.

LTVCA stewardship programs help landowners restore and protect the land to keep soil in place and out of watercourses. Cover crops, windbreaks and grass buffer strips control soil erosion to improve the health of the waters in the lower Thames River watershed.

Check here for stewardship project grants.

Lower Thames Conservation Evolugen

The Wonders of Wetlands

Wetlands are the most diverse ecosystem, formed over millions of years. Marshes, bogs, fens, swamps and open waters such as lakes, rivers, ponds and streams are all wetlands! But they are declining. 70% of wetlands have been destroyed or degraded in Canada from pollution, infilling, farmland drainage, urban development, and resource extraction like logging and mining.

Sustainable practices are needed to balance food production and development with healthy, functioning wetland ecosystems. A part of Rowsom's Tilbury West Conservation Area is a Provincially Significant Wetland. Enjoy!

Volunteer in a Marsh Monitoring Program and survey marsh birds and amphibians! Information collected in spring and summer tracks long-term trends in species diversity, and guides conservation, restoration, and management programs for marshes and their inhabitants.

Scan the code to find out how to volunteer!

Benefits of wetlands

Wetlands...

- function as natural defense systems
- provide homes and food for wildlife
- filter and clean water as it runs off the land
- act like sponges soaking up excess flood waters, and slowly releasing water back into the watershed in times of drought
- offer destinations for hiking, fishing, hunting, canoeing, photography
- protect shorelines and reduce erosion
- present natural places to play, learn, explore
- protect us from climate change by reducing greenhouse gases

Invasive Species found in wetlands are almost impossible to remove. They put native fish, plants and habitats at risk with their aggressive spreading. Watch for *Phragmites australis*, European water chestnut and Parrot feather.

Stop their spread!

- manage invasive plants on your property
- clean your gear and pets
- garden responsibly
- dispose of invaders properly
- use local firewood

Invasive Species Centre

This wetland was created in 2014 in partnership with Essex County Stewardship Council and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC).

"The need for wetland conservation to support a healthy and prosperous Ontario has never been greater. Wetlands are part of Ontario's watersheds, connecting across the province in a natural mosaic that sustains plants, animals and people alike."

Scan code for more DUC information

Lower Thames Conservation Evolugen

10.6.3) Education Programming Developments / Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

The Community Conservation Educator has narrated Species At Risk reptile videos produced for East and West portions of LTVCA watershed. As well, connecting to watershed schools is ongoing through the **Western Lake Erie Student Summit** through a Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) grant. The summit is a partnership with UTRCA, SCRCA, CCCA, KCCA and ERCA to provide a virtual experience for participating secondary school students that will raise their awareness of current challenges facing Lake Erie, encourage and promote their research and problem-solving skills to address these challenges. Current LTVCA projects and actions will be shared with students allowing them to be informed stewards and hopefully future participants in solving environmental problems. Another project, the **Great Lakes Virtual Field** trip is being developed in partnership with SCRCA and ERCA through a second MECP grant that has a focus on the Huron-Erie corridor. This will result in a virtual experience where eventually all students can access watershed and sub-watershed maps, locate and find out about designated spots where past and current research and stewardship projects are occurring. The two grant budgets will help to cover the costs of our staff time contributed to these 2 projects.

Staff were able to conduct 2 weekend tours with Brownies and Guides as restrictions were lifted in March. Now that April arrives, we are back to a shut-down. We are again looking for alternate forms of communication with teachers and community groups.

Education staff invited a few friends to tape “Fireside Chat”. The first theme is an introduction to Wampum Belts and Storytelling. This video is being offered to schools involved in The Heritage Fair hosted by Fanshawe Pioneer Village. Like most events, this one is virtual and participating museums will have their submissions available to participating schools until the end of April. It will be a good test to gauge teacher interest and Fireside Chat #1, has already been well received. We are inspired to create more in this series.

A Water video was also filmed, edited and produced for World Water Day. This video features Carlyn Johnston and Karen Mattila sharing Indigenous connections to this amazing resource. Thanks go to Community Conservation Educator, Jerry De Zwart for being so creative with taping and editing the video on borrowed equipment, learning on the go, and having a lot of patience with these 2 video productions!

Community contacts have been collected from all First Nation communities within the Lower Thames Valley Watershed. These contacts will be provided with LTVCA program updates and information. The education team has done research and will provide an overview of First Nation community history and traditions for LTVCA staff and board members. This research and relationship building will be helpful in looking at future education programming that meets the needs and interests of the Indigenous population within the LTVCA watershed.

Grant applications have been successful! We received \$4,782 from Ontario’s Digital Capacity Grant towards the “Education Video Project”. This funding allows us to purchase photographic equipment and digital editing packages to produce higher quality video productions for educational purposes. As we move from on-site to virtual teaching, this equipment will help us stay competitive with our peers as teachers look for alternative learning options.

We will also receive \$10,000 towards re-opening through Tourism Adaption Funding facilitated by Southwestern Ontario Tourism (SWOTC). This funding allows us to purchase PPE and sanitizers as well as accessible door openers, plexiglass and display barriers to keep both staff and visitors safe. By the time we can safely open, the museum and conservation displays will be less hands-on and still provide an informative experience to our customers.

We are wrapping up the 2020-2021 Ontario Job Creation Partnership (OJCP). The Artifact Case Project is slightly behind schedule but we should be able to deliver the cases to select schools soon. We have completed all the Ska-Nah-Doht Village re-builds plus added a few extra features. Out of the 3 candidates hired, one has new employment and the other 2 have interviews which we all hope leads to new employment. This will certainly help support our next OJCP application which we hope to submit very soon. We are hoping to continue the great work through the Eastern District Maintenance shop especially since day use of our conservation areas has increased and the camping season begins.

Staff are preparing for the upcoming changes as job descriptions shift with a pending retirement of Curator, Karen Mattila 'passing the torch' to Carlyn Johnston who steps into the role May 4, 2021. Carlyn brings a new enthusiasm along with her love of teaching in nature. Her willingness to share her Anishnabee culture while embracing all Indigenous approaches will be an asset to the Education team!

10.6.4) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

A meeting of the Directors of the Foundation was held via Zoom on March 17, 2021. The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation is scheduled for May 19, 2021.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

2. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
3. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship

10.7) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2021

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee was held on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at the Authority's Administration Building at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, Ontario at the hour of 1:00 PM. A roll call was held with the following committee members present: T. Thompson (at Admin Building) L. McKinlay (at Admin Building), C. Cowell (via remote), P. Tiessen (via remote), & R. Leatham (via remote).

Also present were the following staff members: M. Peacock (at Admin Building), J. Homewood (via remote) & V. Towsley (minutes recorder, at Admin Building).

1. Call to Order

Chair, Trevor Thompson called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 1:00 PM.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

E-2021-01 L. McKinlay – R. Leatham

Moved that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

4. Motion to sit as a Hearing Board

E-2021-02 P. Tiessen – C. Cowell

Moved that the Executive Committee sit as the Authority's Hearing Board.

CARRIED

5. Hearing #1/2021 – CA Application No. 409-2020

The Chair introduced the Hearing Board members and the CAO to the applicant. The applicant was in attendance remotely for the hearing. Jason Homewood, Water Resources and Regulations Technician provided the Hearing Board with the staff report which was previously provided to the applicant and to the Executive Committee, and also provided a power point presentation regarding this application and Lake Erie processes. The applicant was provided an opportunity to be heard.

The applicant provided the Board with clarification on the proposal as submitted for approval.

The Hearing Board had questions for staff and the applicant regarding the proposal.

The Chair requested that the applicant, Mr. Homewood, and Mrs. Towsley leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.

E-2021-03 C. Cowell – L. McKinlay
Moved that the Hearing Board meet 'in camera'.

CARRIED

E-2021-04 L. McKinlay – P. Tiessen
Moved that the Hearing Board move out of the 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

E-2021-05 P. Tiessen – C. Cowell
Be it resolved that in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority provides the following Decision:

Moved that on March 4, 2021 the Hearing Board / Executive Committee refuse the application. This decision is based on the following reasons:

- That sufficient evidence was not provided that would support the application in terms of how it would not have been impacted by the shoreline hazards (erosion and slope failures).
- That the proposed structure and its septic system will be impacted by the eroding shoreline within 10-60 years.
- That the proposed development will impact the stability of the bluff within 10-60 years.
- That the existing access road to the property may be impacted by the eroding shoreline in the next 50 years, cutting off access to the property.
- That both LTVCA policies and provincial technical guidance do not support a new residential structure in this location.

CARRIED

The Chair advised the committee that LTVCA staff will provide the applicant the Hearing Board's decision. The Power Point Presentation on this item is appended to these minutes.

Resolution Number E-2021-05 – The decision is appended to these minutes.

E-2021-06 R. Leatham – L. McKinlay
Moved that the Hearing Board sit as the Executive Committee.

CARRIED

6. Regulation Item for Discussion – CA Application #021-2021

J. Homewood provided the Executive Committee information on our Policies, and neighbouring CA's around the permitting of a pool, lakeward of the existing residential structure, within the Regulated Area.

Staff recommend that the pool be permitted in the location shown on the proponent's application.

L. McKinlay recommended that the Authority will need a clear definition of what an above ground pool is, as opposed to an inground pool or on-ground pool. The current proposal is for an on-ground pool.

E-2021-07 R. Leatham – L. McKinlay

Moved that the Executive Committee allow staff to approve the application for the proposed on-ground pool, in the location noted in the application, with any draw down required for the regular maintenance of the pool being directed to an existing catch basin, and with the condition that the base be no lower than 1 foot into the existing grade, and that the permit issued be consistent with Provincial Policy.

CARRIED

7. Bill 229 – LTVCA Admin By-law 2018-01 – updates

Mr. Peacock provided the Executive Committee with an update regarding the February 2, 2021 Proclamation of Sections of the Conservation Authorities Act and how this Bill will impact our By-laws, municipal representation and day-to-day regulatory processes. LTVCA is seeking further input from the Province on this matter. The Power Point Presentation on these items is appended to these minutes.

L. McKinlay recommended that the presentation be sent out to the full Board of Directors.

E-2021-08 R. Leatham – P. Tiessen

Moved that the presentation be received for information and provided to the full Board of Directors for review.

CARRIED

8. Other Business

None noted.

9. Adjournment

E-2021-09 L. McKinlay – C. Cowell

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Trevor Thompson
Chair

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

10.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2021

Health & Safety Committee Minutes March 2, 2021

M. Peacock
A. Blain

T. Casier
V. Towsley

A. Vriends

i. Minutes

November 30, 2020
No issues noted.

ii. 2020 Action Plan – review

No issues noted.

iii. 2021 Work Plan

2021 work plan draft done.

iv. 2021 Training Plan

a. Training at Heights – who needs it for the Water Department? Dan, Ryan, Collin?

Adam

Matt Laprise

Michael - expires April 2, 2021 – would need refresher

- In person courses are offered
- Vance currently has it but will expire next year
- Mark has it (no expiry)
- Move forward with training
- May need to look at confined space entry training
- Will first need to determine all areas application to the definition of ‘confined space’ under the act

b. First Aid - Training Expiring in 2021

Training Expiring between March 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021 extended to June 30, 2021

1. Bonnie – April 12 – NEEDS 1 day renewal – Standard with CPR C -no extension
2. Vicki – April 17 - NEEDS 1 day renewal – Standard with CPR C – March 31 Windsor if no room - May 19 Chatham
3. Mark – Feb 6 – NEEDS 1 day renewal – Standard with CPR C – May 19 Chatham
4. Todd – Feb 27 – NEEDS 2 day – Standard with CPR C
5. Colin – July 25 – NEEDS 2 day – Standard with CPR C
6. Carlyn – Oct 16 – NEEDS 1 day renewal – Standard with CPR C Red Cross
7. Matt Laprise – check to see if he needs first aid training and book if he doesn’t
8. Elizabeth Philip – will arrange training when we open back up more

- Agnes to contact staff who need training
- c. Any updated HR Download training required
 - Didn't note any further H&S training that would be required by staff
- d. Training for use of the Authority's boat
 - Find out if Adam, Neil and Dan have their boating licence / and if not if they'd be willing to get training
- e. Pleasure craft training/licence
 - See above
- f. ATV training – who needs it? Adam, Greg, Vance, others?
 - Need to find out who would provide the training
 - Canada Safety Council Off-road Vehicle Training Course
 - 1-day course - \$1,000 / person
 - Train the trainer course
- g. Cold water immersion training – who needs it? Jason(s), Adam, others
 - Adam does have the training
 - Can look into what fire departments will be doing the training to tag along
- h. Chainsaw training

Adam is looking into the 'Chainsaw Train the Trainer' course. Usually offered by Workplace Safety North but website currently states not available at this time - \$660 pp

v. Incidents / Accidents

Claire Soles – December 8, 2020
 No WSIB form submitted
 No injury only an incident
 No time taken off - no medical treatment sought by employee

vi. Unfinished Business from prior meetings

- a. CA Inspection Forms

Two Uses of the form

 1. Original Form

Purpose of trip to a CA is to perform general maintenance or a specific task e.g.

 - a. cut grass
 - b. investigate a report of vandalism

Form to be completed indicating staff was at the CA. Record any issue that was discovered, if there were none, the form can indicate this.
 2. CA Specific Version of Form

Sole purpose of trip to CA is to complete inspection of the CA. This form includes all areas/items that need to be inspected/viewed by staff. As there may be various staff completing these inspections this form ensures consistency i.e. the same areas/items are inspected/viewed each time a complete inspection is conducted.

Both versions of the form may be used as long as the original intent of the form is not altered.

- Chart is to identify where / what they did cover
- If a hazard was missed where they didn't do, they would not be responsible if a hazard occurred in an area not inspected
- Protect the inspector
- Record that an inspection took place, and what hazards/areas were inspected
- First sheet must accompany the second sheet
- First sheet where inspected and what was inspected
- What they did and where they did it
- Consistent across all CA's

b. Vehicles / Forms

1. Confirm who is the 'staff responsible' for Administration Office vehicles

Email from Randall – December 4, 2019

Hi All- just to clarify, our vehicle fleet is split into three groups, based on our geography, the following areas and the staff responsible for the repairs and general maintenance at those sites are as follows:

1. Administration office in Chatham – Todd
2. Longwoods Road – VANCE
3. CM Wilson- Paul – ADAM

This means oil changes, wiper blades, dealing with warning lights and sensors, handling other staff's feedback on vehicle issues and setting up appointments for repairs with dealers/mechanics/Macko etc

- Vance and Adam will be responsible for the yearly CVOR form being filled out and submitted
- And that all daily MTO log books are filled out
- Mark and Randall to meet up with the District Supervisors to discuss which vehicles are CVOR applicable
- Determine if applicability is just for the truck weight or truck with tongue weight
- Total gross weight of all components, truck, trailer, whatever is being hauled
- Also to discuss which trailers require a breaking package or which trailers need to be used with which trucks

2. Notice of Maintenance Requirement – to be used for all LTVCA vehicles

Delete last two columns of Randall's version

Add Todd to the Admin Office for main contact

3. Light Vehicle Monthly Circle Check

Form complete

4. Daily Vehicle Check_2018 revised

- file name be changed to: Light Vehicle LOG - Daily Circle Check

5. LTVCA Vehicle Daily Circle Check 2021

- revised the form now includes:

no major or minor defects found *

* If defects are found please complete a Notice of Maintenance Requirement Form ASAP

- 'vehicle is safe to use' instead of 'no major or minor defects found' – last column
- Add to items 4 and 5 'vehicle is safe to use'

6. Vehicle Maintenance Log

- Can delete this form, no longer serves a function

Items b. 1 – 6, when completed, need to be reviewed with staff.

- Hold review at the March 2021 staff meeting

vii. Other business

2021 JHSCommittee Representatives

To be included in the March 2021 staff meeting agenda.

**2021 Joint Health and Safety Committee
Meeting and Site Inspection Tour Schedule**

- Meeting – Admin – Tuesday, March 2, 2021
- Meeting – Wednesday, June 2, 2021
- Meeting – Wednesday, September 1, 2021
- Meeting – Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Add new property to inspection map for Area 4 when its official.

- AREA 2 Inspection – May 5
- AREA 4 Inspection -- May 12
- AREA 3 Inspection – June 9
- AREA 5 Inspection – TBA
- AREA 1 Inspection – TBA

*Inspections to continue to be done individually until pandemic has passed.

11. Correspondence

11.1) Statement on Bill 257 regarding legislation to exempt MZOs from planning laws and policy - Ontario Nature

Ontario Nature - Statement on Bill 257 regarding legislation to exempt MZOs from planning laws and policy

Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature and Ecojustice: New law would allow environmentally destructive projects to go forward even if they contravene basic planning rules

Ottawa area farmland © Justin S Campbell CC_BY-NC-ND_2.0

Toronto, Ont., March 04, 2021 – Today, the Government of Ontario placed provincially protected wetlands, farmland and forests across Ontario in line for development, as the Province launched yet another sneak legislative attack on environmental protection and public participation rules.

Hidden within a Bill entitled “Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, Bill 257” are proposed changes to the *Planning Act* that will allow Minister’s Zoning Orders (MZOs) to override key provisions of the *Planning Act*. If this legislation becomes law, when a MZO is used to permit development, it will no longer have to be consistent with Ontario’s fundamental planning principles – set out in the Provincial Policy Statement (the “PPS”). Except within the Greenbelt, lands currently protected under the PPS will become vulnerable to development at the whim of the Province, as the law will allow MZOs to be issued to fast-track development projects that destroy protected farmland, wetlands and natural features.

These proposals, found in Schedule 3 of the Bill, appear designed to retroactively legitimize the unlawful decision by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to allow the destruction of a large part of the provincially significant Lower Duffins Creek coastal wetland complex in Pickering. This 50-acre wetland is slated to be bulldozed to accommodate a proposed warehouse, authorized through a MZO. Environmental Defence and Ontario Nature, represented by Ecojustice, are challenging this MZO in Divisional Court. The parties assert the Minister unlawfully issued the MZO, which ignores protections for provincially significant wetlands under the PPS and the *Planning Act*. Faced with this lawsuit, the government is changing the law retroactively to override our right to seek redress in the Courts.

Bill 257 illustrates the Ontario government’s willingness to go to great lengths to ensure developers can destroy even the most environmentally sensitive lands and do so without public consultation or comment. It represents an attack on the public’s constitutional right to seek judicial review of unlawful decisions. Moreover, the government is using the pandemic as a cover for its environmentally destructive actions, hiding this legislative amendment in a bill unrelated to the environment or land use planning, and without announcing it on the Environmental Registry or any other mechanism as required.

Today’s attack on Ontario’s most fundamental planning principles is the latest in a broader drive by the government to pave over large swathes of Ontario’s countryside and protected lands. That agenda also includes running an unneeded

suburban highway through the Greenbelt, forcing municipalities to lock in 30 years of sprawl by expanding settlement boundaries, and the unprecedented misuse of Minister's Zoning Orders to force through sprawl developments in the interim.

About ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE: [Environmental Defence](#) is a leading Canadian environmental advocacy organization that works with government, industry and individuals to defend clean water, a safe climate and healthy communities

About ONTARIO NATURE: [Ontario Nature](#) protects wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education and public engagement. Ontario Nature is a charitable organization representing more than 30,000 members and supporters, and more than 150 member groups across Ontario.

About ECOJUSTICE: [Ecojustice](#) uses the power of the law to defend nature, combat climate change, and fight for a healthy environment. Its strategic, public interest lawsuits and advocacy lead to precedent-setting court decisions and law and policy that deliver lasting solutions to Canada's most urgent environmental problems. As Canada's largest environmental law charity, Ecojustice operates offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, and Halifax.

-30-

For more information on past legislation exempting Minister's Zoning Orders from Ontario's planning and environmental laws, see: environmentaldefence.ca/2020/12/04/another-twist-knife-conservation-authorities-ontario-government

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

- Allen Braude, Environmental Defence, abraude@environmentaldefence.ca
- Sean O'Shea, Ecojustice, soshea@ecojustice.ca
- John Hassell, Ontario Nature, johnh@ontarionature.org

11.2) Sydenham Field Naturalists Re: Removal of Forest Habitat in Chatham-Kent



Sydenham Field Naturalists

February 8, 2021

Re: Removal of Forest Habitat in Chatham-Kent

The Sydenham Field Naturalists views the destruction of Carolinian forest habitat in Chatham-Kent as extremely alarming considering the state of the environment locally, nationally, and globally. The outright removal of significant woodlands and the subsequent killing of rare and endangered flora and fauna needs to stop.

This destruction goes against the municipal official plan and Provincial Policy Statement to protect remaining woodlands and increase the forest and other habitat cover locally. The SFN supports the efforts of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the C-K Woodlot Preservation Group to address this environmental travesty. The SFN is committed to working with local municipal officials, the LTVCA and the C-K WP group to address the situation through considered policy. Let's all work together and find a solution.

Larry Cornelis

President Sydenham Field Naturalists
sydenhamfn@hotmail.com

11.3) City of London Re: Climate Action Plan



City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue,
London, ON
N6B 1Z2

Re: Climate Action Plan

Dear Sir/ Madam:

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is providing this letter in support of the City of London's development of a Climate Action Plan. The LTVCA is committed to partnering with and assisting the municipality in this initiative to improve resilience in the face of climate change impacts.

The LTVCA has many programs that support municipal Climate Action Plans across our watershed and will be updating and adaption these program as the Climate Action Plan development proceeds.

The LTVCA works to protect people and property, and support safe development, in addressing Natural Heritage. Not only is increased flooding and erosion being predicted with Climate Change but also increased drought conditions creating reduced river flows. As precipitation patterns change addressing watershed causal and buffering elements through sound watershed planning will be even more important.

The LTVCA also takes concrete action addressing Climate Change by assisting landowners in many stewardship projects aimed to address many of the factors that will support resilience in a changing climate. These projects include construction of wetlands, and planting of tall grass prairies and trees.

The LTVCA in partnership with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority will continue to protect the people of the Thames watershed from natural hazards. In this and the work we do to create and protect the watershed's natural heritage, the LTVCA supports the development of the City of London's Climate Action Plan. We look forward to increased involvement with plan development in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Trevor Thompson'.

Trevor Thompson
Chair
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

100 Thames Street, Chatham, ON N7L2Y8 • www.ltvca.ca
Phone: 519-354-7310 • Fax: 519-352-3435 • E-mail: admin@ltvca.ca

11.4) Letter to Minister Yurek regarding compliance of Section 14 of the CA Act



Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Floor,
777 Bay St,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

April 6, 2021

Re: Municipal Agreements and appointments under Section 14 of the Conservation Authorities Act

Dear Minister Yurek,

I am writing with respect to new requirements under Sections 14(2.2) and 14(2.3) of the Conservation Authorities Act. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has no agreements amongst participating municipalities affecting the number of members. Membership on the board is currently consistent with the population formula found under the Section 2(2) of the Conservation Authorities Act.

Nine of ten municipalities of the LTVCA represented on the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors have a population less than 10,000 and therefore appoint 1 (one) member. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has between 50,000 and 100,000 people within our watershed and therefore has 3 (three) members on the board.

Currently, all sitting members of our board are municipal councilors. The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and the City of London seats are vacant. These municipalities have been sent information regarding requirements to appoint elected officials when these seats are filled.

Additionally, a boundary adjustment is being sought between the LTVCA and the UTRCA to correctly represent drainage in the municipality. This letter includes a LTVCA's Board report containing resolutions from both UTRCA and LTVCA and the resolution of Strathroy-Caradoc requesting the boundary to be amended. Changes to the CA Act have resulted in delays in proceeding with finalizing the boundary adjustments. These boundary adjustments will not change the municipal representation from the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc on the LTVCA board. It will remain consistent with the population formula with one representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Peacock', is written over a faint, larger signature.

CAO/Secretary Treasurer
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
519-354-7310 ext. 224
Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca

Encl.

7.2) Boundary Adjustment, Proposed Changes to LTVCA Eastern Boundary

Date: November 25, 2016

Memo to: Chair and Members, LTVCA Board of Directors

From: Don Pearson, General Manager

Subject: Proposed changes to LTVCA Eastern Boundary

Background:

The Upper Thames River (UTRCA) and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities (LTVCA) are seeking to clarify their mutual boundary within the Municipalities of Strathroy-Caradoc and Middlesex Centre. The precise division between the jurisdiction of the two Conservation Authorities has been less than clear historically, due in part to the language of the Order in Council, OC-1699/47 that created the UTRCA:

"...The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority was established, including thirty municipalities wholly or partly within the watershed of the Thames River above the confluence of Dingman's Creek with the Thames River, but not including the Townships of Caradoc..."

Additionally, the easterly boundary of the LTVCA has historically been represented on official mapping produced and published by the Province of Ontario, as being consistent with the watershed of the Thames River below the confluence of Dingman's Creek. As a further complication the mapped boundaries reflect an historical confluence of Dingman's Creek with the Thames River, which no longer exists. Consequently, that portion of the former Township of Caradoc, above the confluence has been treated as being outside of the jurisdiction of both Conservation Authorities. Similarly, portions of the municipality of Middlesex Centre have been treated as being practically within both Authorities, resulting in joint letters being written in regard to certain property based issues.

Present situation:

Conservation Authority staff met with the CAO and Staff of the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc to discuss options for resolving the discrepancies in jurisdiction. As a result of these discussions, it was recommended to extend the UTRCA jurisdiction into Strathroy-Caradoc in accordance with the original description of its watershed. It was also recommended to define the boundary between the Upper and Lower Thames watersheds within the Municipality of Middlesex Centre through the Village of Delaware according to a distinct cultural feature (Longwoods Road). This process was initiated at the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc Council meeting on November 21, 2016, with the adoption of the following motion:

THAT: Council approves of the proposed boundary adjustment and directs the Conservation Authorities to initiate the process to amend the boundary between the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The Council Report with associated mapping has been attached for your information and reference. UTRCA Staff are in discussion with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to confirm the process for moving forward.

Discussion:

There is no impact on the LTVCA from the expansion of UTRCA into Strathroy-Caradoc. With respect to Middlesex Centre, there would be a slight reduction in municipal area within the jurisdiction of LTVCA which will have the effect of

reducing its Current Value Assessment (CVA) apportionment. The impact of this adjustment will likely not be felt until 2018 once the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry completes a recalculation of each municipalities' CVA.

The advantage of this adjustment is to provide greater clarity on the location of each Conservation Authority's jurisdiction and regulatory authority.

It is anticipated that a joint meeting of the UTRCA and appointed municipal representatives or other suitable process will occur early in the New Year. As the easterly LTVCA boundary is effectively defined by the westerly UTRCA boundary, there is no role for LTVCA member municipalities outside of those who are also members of the UTRCA. It would be useful, however to pass a supporting resolution of the LTVCA Board to facilitate the successful outcome of this process.

Recommendation:

That the LTVCA Board supports the expansion of the UTRCA into the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, and further supports the location of the Authority Boundary division within Middlesex Centre as being Longwoods Road from the Thames River Bridge, easterly to the watershed divide between Dingman and Sharon Creeks.

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox
Date: November 25, 2016
Subject: Watershed Boundary Adjustment

Agenda #: 8 (b) For Information
Filename: \\ODMA\GRPWISE\UT_MAIN
.UTRCA_PO.ENVP\4104.1

BACKGROUND

The Upper Thames River, Lower Thames Valley and St. Clair Region Conservation Authorities are seeking to clarify our watershed boundaries within the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc. Both the UTRCA and the LTVCA have historically relied on the language of the Order in Council, OC-1699/47 that created the former:

"...The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority was established, including thirty municipalities wholly or partly within the watershed of the Thames River above the confluence of Dingman's Creek with the Thames River, but not including the Townships of Caradoc,..."

Further, the easterly boundary of the LTVCA has historically been represented, on official mapping produced and published by the Province of Ontario, as being consistent with the watershed of the Thames River below the confluence of Dingman's Creek. To further complicate the matter the mapped boundaries reflect a historical confluence of the Dingman's Creek with the Thames River, which no longer exists. Consequently, that portion of the former Township of Caradoc, above the confluence has been treated as being outside of the jurisdiction of both Conservation Authorities.

DISCUSSION

The CA's met with the CAO and Staff at the Municipality Strathroy-Caradoc to discuss options. As a result of these discussions, it was also recommended to formalize the boundary used to distinguish between the Upper and Lower Thames watershed through the Village of Delaware in the Municipality of Middlesex Centre. This process was initiated at the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc Council meeting on November 21, 2016. Council approved the recommendation:

THAT: Council approves of the proposed boundary adjustment and directs the Conservation Authorities to initiate the process to amend the boundary between the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The Council Report has been attached for your information that includes mapping of the area.

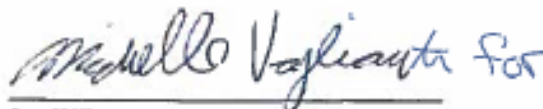
Staff will discuss the process with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and inform the Board of progress in the new year.

PREPARED BY:

RECOMMENDED BY:



Tracy Annett, MCIP, RPP, Manager
Environmental Planning and Regulations.



Ian Wilcox,
General Manager



COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting date: November 21, 2016
Department: Chief Administrative Office
Prepared by: Ralph Coe, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Conservation Authorities Boundary Adjustment

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT: Council approves of the proposed boundary adjustment and directs the Conservation Authorities to initiate the process to amend the boundary between the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

BACKGROUND

Both the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) have historically relied on the language of the Order in Council, OC-1699/47 that created the former: "...The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority was established, including thirty municipalities wholly or partly within the watershed of the Thames River above the confluence of Dingman's Creek with the Thames River, but not including the Townships of Caradoc,...". Further, the easterly boundary of the LTVCA has historically been represented, on official mapping produced and published by the Province of Ontario, as being consistent with the watershed of the Thames River below the confluence of Dingman's Creek. Consequently, that portion of the former Township of Caradoc, above the confluence has been treated as being outside of the jurisdiction of both Conservation Authorities.

A boundary adjustment is required to; provide clarity regarding the area of jurisdiction of UTRCA and the LTVCA for regulatory purposes under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, provide extension services to landowners, and apportion municipal levies that are calculated according to geographic area of a municipality.

The enclosed mapping illustrates the proposed boundary expansion and ensures the riverine flooding and erosion hazards associated with the Thames River remain within the jurisdiction of one Conservation Authority. It is proposed to adjust the westerly boundary of the UTRCA to a point which is defined by a more obvious feature. A cultural feature which would include Longwoods Road and Highway 402 is easily defined, more visible and capable of being better understood by the public. We note that LTVCA and UTRCA staff have utilized Longwoods Road as an identifiable/operational watershed divide for more than 25 years. This proposed boundary adjustment has the added advantage of maintaining the integrity of the Komoka Creek and River Bend Sub watersheds within the jurisdiction of the UTRCA.

The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc would be provided the following services from the UTRCA;

1. Monitoring of environmental information regarding; surface water quality, fisheries and benthic invertebrate data collection, and woodland conditions through the Watershed Report Card program for the Komoka Creek and River Bend Sub watersheds. The Report Cards can be found on-line at: <http://thamesriver.on.ca/watershed-health/watershed-report-cards/> .
2. Delivery of environmental programs and services through the completion of projects under the Clean Water Program, provision of extension services for the Waters-Arnold and Van-Hecke Drains, and offering landowner stewardship projects.
3. Extensive reptile research and habitat improvements have occurred along this reach of the Thames River which forms the boundary between the Municipalities of Strathroy-Caradoc and Middlesex Centre.
4. In addition, the UTRCA now owns land within Strathroy-Caradoc. A project to develop a land management plan to enhance this significant natural heritage feature within the Municipality is also now underway.

The implications for Strathroy-Caradoc include becoming a participating municipality within the UTRCA and therefore having entitlement to membership through an appointed representative. An alternative for membership would be to share an appointment with Middlesex Centre to the UTRCA. (Potentially, S-C and MC could share an appointment to the LTVCA in the future if desired.)

COMMENTS

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority have discussed the proposed boundary adjustment and support this change that will provide enhanced services to the Municipality.

CONSULTATION

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Conservation Authority Levy Apportionments will shift from St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the financial implications are in the order of a net increase of \$6000.00.

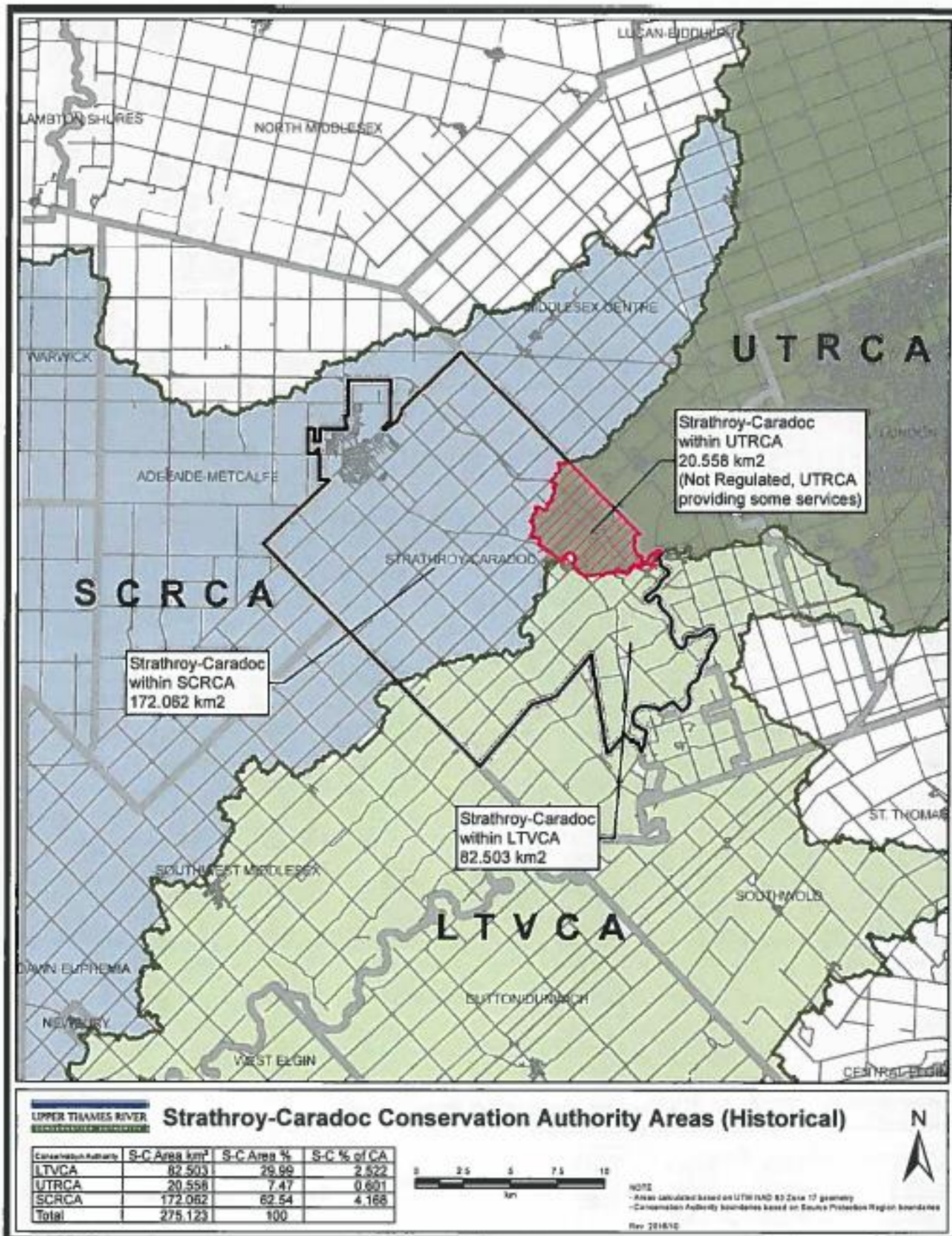
NEXT STEPS

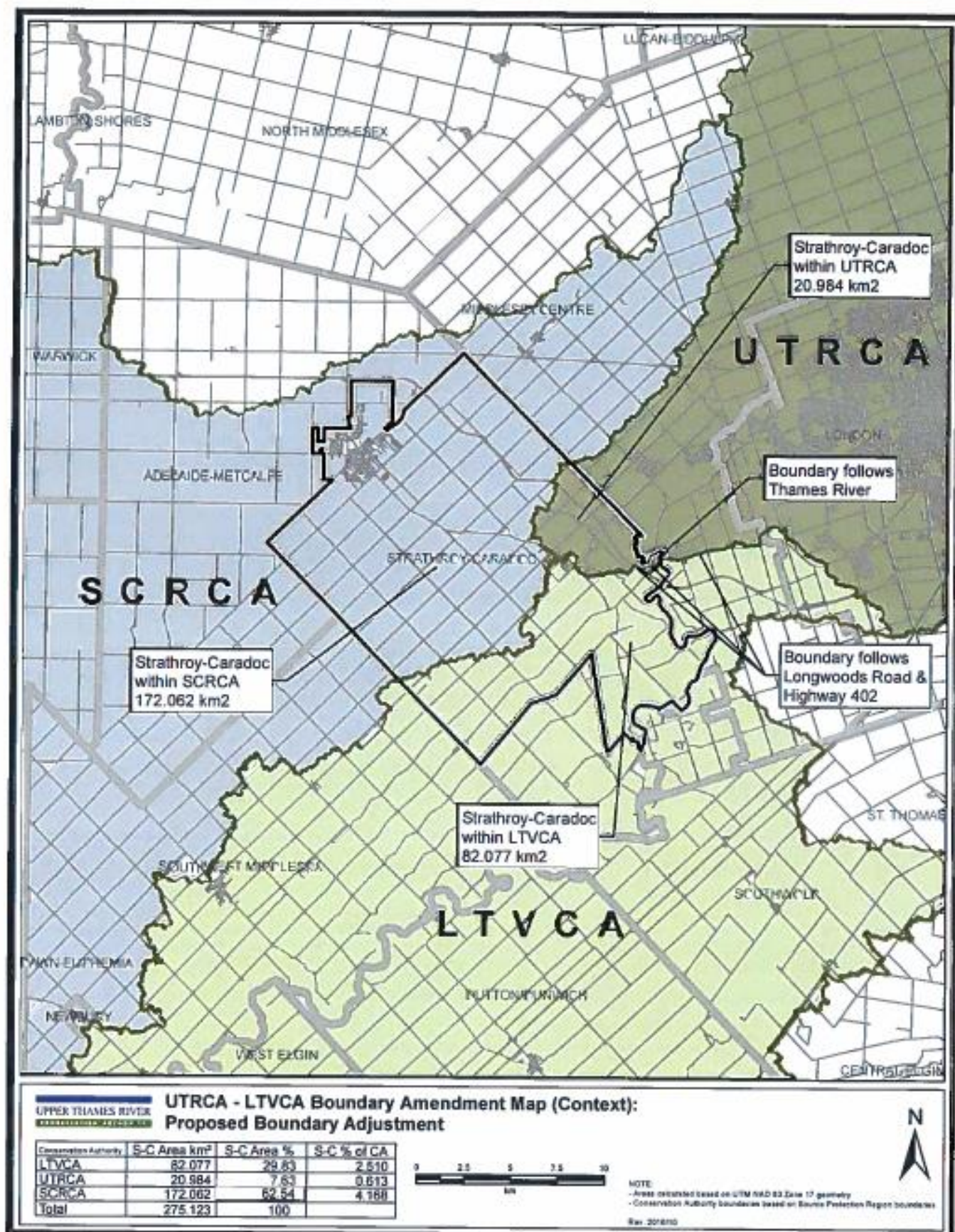
The process to obtain approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources involves several steps.

- Council approval of this report is the first step;
- The Board of Directors for both the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority notify their member municipalities of the proposed boundary adjustment
- The UTRCA convenes a meeting of its member municipalities to request approval of the boundary adjustment;
- Resolutions from each Conservation Authority carries the approval; and
- Submissions are made to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

ATTACHMENTS

Mapping







UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

UTRCA - LTVCA Boundary Amendment Map (Detail): Proposed Boundary Adjustment

| Conservation Authority | S-C Area km ² | S-C Area % | S-C % of CA |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------|
| UTVCA | 82.077 | 29.83 | 2.510 |
| UTRCA | 20.884 | 7.63 | 0.613 |
| SCRCA | 172.062 | 62.54 | 4.168 |
| Total | 275.123 | 100 | |



NOTE:
 - Areas calculated based on UTM NAD 83 Zone 17 geometry
 - Conservation Authority boundaries based on Source Protection Region boundaries
 - 2010 Imagery Copyright © Queen's Printer for Ontario
 Rev: 2018/10

MEMO

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox
Date: January 10, 2016
Subject: Watershed Boundary Adjustment

Agenda #: 8 (d) For Approval
Filename: P:\Users\lannett\Documents\GroupWise\4200-1.doc

RECOMMENDATION

That the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board supports the proposed boundary adjustment between the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the UTRCA into the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, and further supports the location of the Authority Boundary division within Middlesex Centre as being Longwoods Road from the Thames River Bridge, easterly to the watershed divide between Dingman and Sharon Creeks. It is recognized that this adjustment will result in the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc becoming a formal member of the UTRCA with representation on the Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND:

Item 8b) of the December Board of Directors meeting outlined the Council recommendation by the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc to initiate the process to amend the watershed boundaries between the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA). On December 15th, 2016 the LTVCA passed a resolution supporting the boundary adjustment. The LTVCA Board Report (item 7.2) has been attached for information.

DISCUSSION:

It is anticipated that the financial impact of the boundary adjustment will be a redistribution of approximately \$10,500 in municipal levy costs from current member municipalities to the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc. The impact of this adjustment will likely not be realized until 2018 once the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry completes a recalculation of each municipalities' CVA.

The advantage of this boundary adjustment is to provide greater clarity regarding each Conservation Authority's jurisdiction and regulatory authority.

Staff will review the required process with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and inform the Board of progress. It is anticipated that a joint meeting of the UTRCA and appointed municipal representatives will be required and occur early this year. As the easterly LTVCA boundary is effectively defined by the westerly UTRCA boundary, there is no role for LTVCA member municipalities outside of those who are also members of the UTRCA.

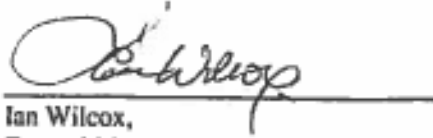
To facilitate a successful outcome to this process it would be useful for the UTRCA Board to also pass the supporting resolution presented above.

PREPARED BY:



Tracy Annett, MCIP, RPP, Manager
Environmental Planning and Regulations

RECOMMENDED BY:



Ian Wilcox,
General Manager

Attachment: The LTVCA Board Report (item 7.2)

12. In Camera Session

12.1 A matter addressing one of the following:

- a) The security of the property of the Authority;
- b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including employees of the Authority;
- c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Authority;
- d) Labour relations or employee negotiations;
- e) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals (e.g. Local Planning Appeal Tribunal), affecting the Authority;
- f) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege;
- g) A matter in respect of which the General Membership, Executive Committee, Advisory Board or committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another act;
- h) Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the Authority by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- i) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the Authority, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- j) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the Authority and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- k) A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority.

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| Moved that the Board of Directors meet 'in camera'. |
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CARRIED

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| Moved that the Board of Directors move out of the 'in camera' session. |
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CARRIED

13. Other Business

14. Adjournment
