



Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

June 15, 2023

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 Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation, Delaware Nation, and Caldwell Nation. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America). We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 20, 2023



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held in person and remotely via the LTVCA's Administration Office at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 20, 2023. The following directors were in attendance: S. Emons, K. Loveland, P. Tiessen, L. Vogler, H. Aerts, M. Vink, R. Leatham, A. Finn, S. Hipple and M. Blosch. T. Thompson and M. Bondy sent their regrets.

1. First Nations Acknowledgment

Mark Peacock read the First Nations acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

To facilitate the guest speakers, items 9.1) 2022 Audited Statements and 7.3) Revitalization of the Skanah-Doht Museum and Creation of an Indigenous Community Education Centre are moved to 7.1) and 7.2) respectively. Items 7.1) and 7.2) will now be 7.3) and 7.4).

BD-2023-1 L. Vogler – R. Leatham

Moved that the agenda be adopted with the proposed changes.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2023-2 K. Loveland – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of March 2, 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

7. Presentations

7.1) 2022 Audited Financial Statements

BD-2023-3 R. Leatham – P. Tiessen

Moved that the LTVCA's 2022 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

CARRIED

7.2) Revitalization of the Ska-Nah-Doht Museum and Creation of an Indigenous Community Education Centre

BD-2023-4 S. Hipple – A. Finn

Moved that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority provide a loan to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation and that This loan will be for the purposes of raising funds for the Phase 1 Indigenous Community Education Centre and Resource Centre Revitalization and the Phase 2 Longwood Rd Resource Center Experiential Learning Expansion, Accessibility, Artifact Storage Area, and Staff Facilities Capital Projects.

CARRIED

7.3) Flood Review April 2023

Jason Wintermute provided a Power Point presentation on the April 2023 Flood Event.

7.4) Draft Categories of Programs and Services Agreement and Planning MOU's

Mark Peacock provided a review and update on the status of the Draft Categories of Programs and Services Agreement and Planning MOU's.

BD-2023-5 M. Vink – K. Loveland

Moved that the Board of Directors receive presentations 7.2) through to 7.4).

CARRIED

8. New Business

None noted.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) 2022 Audited Financial Statements

Moved to Item 7.1).

9.2) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2023

BD-2023-6 P. Tiessen – H. Aerts

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended February 28, 2023.

CARRIED

9.3) Update to the Administration By-law 2023-02 2nd Reading

BD-2023-7 R. Leatham – S. Hipple

Moved that the Board of Directors approves the second reading of the revised Administrative By-law and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Procedure for Election of Officers Policy – 2023-02; and That the By-law continue to be posted on the Authority’s website for public consultation and feedback.

CARRIED

9.4) Draft Categories or Programs and Services Agreement and Planning MOU’s

BD-2023-8 K. Loveland – L. Vogler

Moved that the Board of Directors approves the attached draft Categories or Programs and Services Agreement and the steps taken by Authority staff to circulate it to our member Municipalities for their review and eventual signing, and that the Board of Directors endorses staff to continue working with our Municipal planning partners around the Planning MOU process.

CARRIED

9.5) Request of Fundraising Loan

Moved to Item 7.2).

10. New Business

10.1) Housing Supply Bill 97 and PPS ERP posting

BD-2023-9 P. Tiessen – M. Vink

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the report for information purposes.

CARRIED

10.2) C.A.O.’s Report

BD-2023-10 H. Aerts – K. Loveland

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

CARRIED

10.3) Water Management

10.4) Planning and Regulations

- 10.5) Conservation Area Lands
- 10.6) Conservation Services
- 10.7) Communications, Outreach and Education
- 10.8) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee - March 23, 2023
- 10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – February 2, 2023
- 10.10) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – March 2, 2023

BD-2023-11 K. Loveland – P. Tiessen

Moved that New Business items 10.3) to 10.10) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

- 11.1) Who should pay when development causes floods?
- 11.2) Cities push Ontario to roll back environmental cuts, commit to truly affordable housing in new budget

BD-2023-12 R. Leatham – L. Vogler

Moved that Correspondence items 11.1) to 11.2) be received for information.

CARRIED

12. In Camera Session

BD-2023-13 L. Vogler – P. Tiessen

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

CARRIED

BD-2023-14 P. Tiessen – M. Vink

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

CARRIED

BD-2023-15 R. Leatham – K. Loveland

Moved that the LTVCA Board of Directors endorses the use of the following conditions for lands being donated:

1. The property must be marked and named as the donor directs (example, Smith Farms Conservation Area)
2. The property must NEVER be sold for development or private ownership.
3. The farmer who is currently renting the land be allowed to continue to do so in planting and harvesting crops thereby providing revenue for taxes and upkeep. (as long as is mutually agreeable)
4. That NO HUNTING be allowed on the property.
5. That in the future, efforts be made to reforest/restore portions of the land as defined by a map that the donor has approved.

CARRIED

13. Other Business

None noted.

14. Adjournment

BD-2023-16 P. Tiessen – H. Aerts

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Sarah Emons
Chair

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

7. Presentation

7.1) Strategic Planning Process

Mark Peacock and Valerie Towsley will provide a presentation on the Strategic Planning Process.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to April 30, 2023

Date: June 15, 2023
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to April 30, 2023**
 From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

Background:

Review the 2023 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 4 months ended April 30, 2023.

REVENUE	2023 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET APR PROJECTED		2023 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	1,665,079	555,026	*	916,139	361,113
GENERAL LEVY	1,581,955	1,581,955	^	1,484,080	(97,875)
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000	^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	748,450	249,483	*	253,201	3,718
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0	*	0	0
RESERVES	0	0	*	0	0
CASH FUNDING	4,200,484	2,591,464		2,858,420	266,956
OTHER	0	0		0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	4,200,484	2,591,464		2,858,420	266,956

*-based on a 4 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, the timing of grants invoiced and increased or new grants including a grant for a Resource Centre Elevator.

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, spent funds for grant programs not invoiced are set-up as receivables and added to grant income, 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 June 8th, 2023: Chatham-Kent, Dutton/Dunwich, Lakeshore, Leamington, London, Middlesex Centre, Southwold, Southwest Middlesex and West Elgin.

General Revenue is comparable to budget.

Foundation Grants and Revenues budget are zero because of the uncertainty of funds available.

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

EXPENSES	2023 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2023 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	187,142	62,381	74,019	11,638
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	3	7	4
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	132,280	44,093	33,976	(10,117)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	179,707	59,902	51,599	(8,303)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	485,409	161,803	157,747	(4,056)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	205,315	68,438	38,411	(30,027)
SOURCE PROTECTION	30,519	10,173	7,907	(2,266)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
Water Management Subtotal	1,220,381	406,793	363,666	(43,127)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	712,741	237,580	189,529	(48,051)
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	185,449	61,816	29,466	(32,350)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	33,941	11,314	24,678	13,364
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	145,817	48,606	33,021	(15,585)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	365,207	121,736	87,165	(34,571)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	174,493	58,164	21,695	(36,469)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	522,336	174,112	164,937	(9,175)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	1,077,985	359,328	316,107	(43,221)
SPECIES AT RISK	127,341	42,447	148,819	106,372
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	1,902,155	634,051	651,558	17,507
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	4,200,484	1,400,160	1,291,918	(108,242)

Water Management

Flood Control Structures is above budget due to a flood event this spring and the costs incurred for the event.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are below budget due to several large annual invoices received later in the year.

Technical Studies are below budget to staff only starting part way into the year.

Planning and Regulations is comparable to budget.

Watershed Monitoring is below budget due to not receiving a Provincial Water Quality Grant in the current year and the offsetting reduction in expenses.

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 and SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village are below budget due to the seasonal nature of large activities in these programs. Conservation Education due to the establishment of the CM Wilson Learning Centre.

Conservation Services/Stewardship

Conservation Services (Forestry) and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are below budget due to the seasonal nature of the expenses and most of the large expenses not being incurred.

Phosphorous Reduction is below budget mostly due to the Environment Canada-Lower Thames Cover Crop Program support payments (\$140K) not being paid until year-end.

Species at Risk is above budget due to large March 31 year-end budget expenditures for the Federal Government 2022-2023 year funding.

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Summary:

	2023 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2023 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	4,200,484	2,591,464	2,858,420	266,956
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,200,484	1,400,160	1,291,918	(108,242)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,191,304	1,566,502	375,198
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,191,304	1,566,502	375,198

At April 30, 2023, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable mostly due to increased grant revenue and under budget expenditures due to their seasonal nature.

Note: The difference between the projected budget funding and projected budget expenditures is due to the recognition of the annual 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 April 30, 2023.

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) Update to the Administration By-law 2023-02 3rd and Final Reading

Date: June 15, 2023
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner
Subject: Update to the Administration By-law – 2023-02 – 3rd and Final Reading

Background

As a result of proclamation of governance-related clauses under Section 19.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, changes to the current Administrative By-law and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Procedure for Election of Officers Policy is required. This policy update was directed by information provided by Conservation Ontario (CO) through their development of the ‘Conservation Authority Best Management Practices (BMP) and Administrative By-Law Model’ which guided the content of our policy. The goal was to ensure a high level of consistency between conservation authorities with respect to governance issues, based on a single model.

By-laws are considered a legal governing document. In the spirit of best management practices of transparency and accountability, the approach to the language and layout of the Administrative By-law is to ensure it is understandable to all who wish to review the document.

Changes to the 2018-01 Policy consist of either added/removed text, complete repeals of sections due to changes in the Act, and general word smithing. The following sections had amendments undertaken to them: Section II, Introduction, Section A: definitions, Section B: Governance [subsections 1a), 1b), 1c). 4, 6, 10, 13, 19, 21], Section C: Meeting Procedures [subsections 1 a & b, 2, 4, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18], Appendix E [11], and Sections III, IV, V, VI which are new to this policy. As directed at the February AGM, staff sent the Board a copy of the By-law with the changes noted on the document for comparison purposes. No further changes since the posting of the Admin By-law have taken place, as noted above, other than minor corrections e.g. spelling, spacing, etc.

The draft Policy has been posted to the LTVCA’s website under our ‘Public Consultation’ section for any feedback from the public (https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Administration-By-law-2023-02_Draft-Final-Policy.pdf). At the writing of this third and final report, no comments from the public have been submitted to this office.

The By-law requires three readings, with posting to the Authority’s website for public review and commenting. The first reading was undertaken at the March 2nd AGM, the second undertaken on April 20th, with this being the third and final reading at the June 15th meeting.

Recommendation: That the Board of Directors approves the third and final reading of the Administrative By-law and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Procedure for Election of Officers Policy – 2023-02, to take effect on June 15, 2023; and

That By-law 2018-01 be repealed on June 15, 2023; and

That a copy of the By-law be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and posted publicly on the LTVCA’s website.

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

- 7) Improve Internal Communications
- 9) Improve Internal Understanding of Roles & Responsibilities

Respectfully Submitted
Valerie Towsley
Watershed Resource Planner

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

9.3) Draft Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee Accessibility Policy

The Policy Sub-Committee of the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee has conducted a review of all Village policies. The Accessibility Policy is being put forward by the Advisory Committee for approval at the June 15, 2023, LTVCA Board of Directors meeting. An updated version of the Accessibility Policy is to be submitted with Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum’s Community Museum Operating Grant at the end of June 2023.

Recommendation: That the Accessibility Policy for Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum approved as provided.

SUBJECT: Policy #12: Accessibility	PRESENTED BY: CAO/Secretary-Treasurer	ORIGINAL DRAFT: January 1, 2013
AUTHOR(S): Policy Sub-Committee: A. Klages / W. Bruinink / M. Peacock	ADOPTED BY: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors	CERTIFIED BY: Mark Peacock Chief Administrative Officer/ /Secretary-Treasurer, LTVCA
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	REVISED EFFECTIVE: May 2023	DATE: December , 2019



**Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum
Policy # 12: Accessibility Standard**

OUR MISSION

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is an interactive museum that engages the public in the preservation and presentation of local Indigenous history, through experiences both on-site and in the community.

OUR VISION

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is a community leader in collecting and preserving local history, while faithfully interpreting the heritage of the Haudenosaunee - People of the Longhouse, and other local Nations.

1. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is dedicated to providing assistance to all employees, volunteers, clients and persons with and without a disability. If there is an emergency situation at an LTVCA building, event or conservation area, employees are to be trained and ready to provide assistance to all visitors but are specially trained to provide any extra assistance, upon request, necessary to those with disabilities. Every LTVCA employee will provide this public safety information to all visitors upon request. All LTVCA employees are trained to assist disabled persons in understanding the public safety notices and information.

2. Accessibility Emergency and Public Safety Planning

Emergency situations, especially to those with a disability can range very widely and have different effects depending on the severity of a disability. All employees are trained to recognize an emergency situation and upon request assist those with a disability according to their needs. Employees shall remember the steps to diffusing an emergency situation and shall remember that not all persons with the same disability require the same assistance. All employees shall assist those who request assistance with a disability in realizing and understanding public safety information.

3. The Law

According to the Ministry of Community and Social Services:

- i. Upon request, make your emergency and public safety information available to people with disabilities in an AODA compliant manner.
- ii. Work with the person requesting the information to figure out how you can meet their needs, as soon as possible.

4. Achieving the Law

Each LTVCA employee will help create communication support, to help disabled persons better understand public safety and emergency procedure information. This will be achieved by:

- i. Providing verbal or pictorial descriptions of emergency or public safety information upon request.
- ii. Providing captioning of any video associated with emergency situation or public safety information upon request.
- iii. Providing AODA compliant signage or alternatives where employees are not present to give verbal descriptions of an emergency or public safety concern upon request.

5. Each LTVCA employee will work with and assist people with a disability who request assistance in hearing, seeing and understanding the emergency procedures and public safety information.

- i. Each employee will, to the best of their ability, assist any disabled person who requests their help.
- ii. In any situation where an employee cannot fulfill the request for emergency procedures or public safety information, they will work together with another employee and the disabled person and any support people to provide the procedures and information in a timely fashion.

6. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority will progressively work with persons who have a disability to meet their needs and requests. The accessibility of all persons is valued and requests for emergency procedures and public safety information will be processed quickly between an employee and the requestor.

9.4) Longwoods Road Resource Centre Revitalization and Indigenous Education Centre Tender Award

Tender Report and Presentation to be walked into the meeting.

10. Business for Information

10.1) Strategic Planning Process

Date: June 15, 2023
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner
Subject: Draft Strategic Planning Process

The LTVCA's current Strategic Plan, September 11, 2015, has served the LTVCA well over the last seven to eight years. However, the CA had committed to reviewing the plan every five years. This review was pushed back as a result of COVID and regulations and bills being brought forward that impacted the CA Act. An updated Strategic Plan is also key to the LTVCA moving forward with a new Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy, as required by the Province under O. Reg. 686/21, Mandatory Programs and Services.

A questionnaire was sent out to staff to gain input into the programs and services that the LTVCA currently provides, with follow-up sessions during staff meetings. We are currently at the stage of determining strategies for the outcomes from the five focus areas, which are:

Watershed Management Areas

1. Healthy and Climate Resilient Watersheds
2. Supporting Sustainable Growth
3. Connecting People to Nature

Organizational Areas

4. Partner of Choice
5. Organizational Excellence

When the strategies have been determined, a rough draft of the Strategic Plan will be ready for review by the Board of Directors.

Recommendation: That the report be received for information.

The report aligns with the following objectives of the LTVCA's 2015 Strategic Plan:

- 1) Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
- 2) Increase Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship
- 4) Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements
- 6) Strengthen Staff Stability (financial stability, attraction & retention)
- 7) Improve Internal Communications
- 8) Improve Conservation Areas Operations
- 9) Improve Internal Understanding of Roles & Responsibilities

Respectfully Submitted
Valerie Towsley
Watershed Resource Planner

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

10.2) C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: June 15, 2023
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: C.A.O.'s Report
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

Bill 29 – Working to get Municipal Approvals of Non-Mandatory Levy

Val Towsley and I have spent a considerable amount of time in the last 2 months working with municipal staff and councils to get approvals of the agreement that was passed by the board in our last meeting. In May we attended the municipalities of Dutton-Dunwich and West Elgin and were well received. We have had meetings with municipal staff of many other municipalities and hope to have agreements in place by September of this year. We have been working with the City of London and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent on their multi-year budget process. The City of London has told Conservation Authorities to bring forward draft budgets with all services included which is a positive step.

Longwoods Road Resource Centre Revitalization and Indigenous Learning Centre

Work is proceeding with this project. The tender results are being walked into the meeting tonight. Staff have been busy with project management of many elements of the rebuild. During the replacement of windows in the Resource Centre it was found that the posts between the windows were in bad shape and will have to be replaced. Quotes have been requested for this work and it is hoped that the work will be completed in the next month. Additionally, replacement of the existing furnaces is moving forward and should be completed prior to the main project moving forward. Staff have been working with planning and building staff at the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and both the site plan and the building permit are near completion.

Staff Turnover

Significant staff turnover has occurred in the past months and supervisors and managers are working to interview new candidates for the vacant positions. I want to thank staff for filling in the gaps during this time of transition and making sure that programs are moving forward and service is not being interrupted. It will be important that administration reviews the exit interviews with departing staff to consider new ways of staff retention moving forward.

Caldwell First Nation Events

The Caldwell First Nation has been very gracious in inviting the LTVCA to be part of events as they develop their community after 230 years. In May I attended the opening ceremony for the Caldwell Gas Bar. The event and ceremony was an important step for the nation.

The band recently announced that the first parcel of land in a new reserve — 201 acres at Seacliff Drive and Bevel Line Road in Leamington — has been approved by the federal government. On Saturday, June 10th at 1pm the community will usher in a new era for the Caldwell First Nation. This includes a special ceremony and ground breaking to mark this historic moment celebrating the nations return to the territory of their ancestors and the beginning of the creation of the first urban reserve in Southwestern, Ontario. I will be attending that event on behalf of the LTVCA.

Recommended Resolution:

That 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

10.3) Water Management

10.3.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

Flood Messaging and Flood Events

There have only been 2 flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors in April. Both were Shoreline Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages for potential flooding along Erie Shore Drive in Chatham-Kent. They were issued on April 16th and April 30th. For both these events, wind forecasts had predicted the possibility of 35-45 km/h sustained wind speeds down on the lakeshore. Recent changes to the shoreline (discussed in the last Board Report) had made the shoreline in that area more vulnerable and these wind speeds would have caused flooding in that stretch. Winds have been relatively calm since and there haven't been any substantial rainfalls to trigger flood messages for the watershed.

Report on Lake Conditions

Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of June were around 174.61 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for June was 175.14 m, set in 2019. Water levels at the beginning of June were still 24 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of June. While Lake Erie water levels had dropped more than normal during the latter half of last year due to dry conditions, they began an early rise in January and had risen back above 2021 or 2022 levels by April. However, near normal rainfall conditions in April and dry conditions throughout May have kept lake levels relatively stable since. Forecasts suggest water levels will drop around 2 or 3 cm by the beginning of July.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of June were around 175.44 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for June was 176.02, set in 2020. Water levels at the beginning of June were 24 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of June. Water levels on Lake St. Clair had been steadily rising since February with several boosts and drops related to high rainfall events. Near normal rainfall in April and dry conditions in May have allowed lake levels to rise only slightly since the beginning of April. Forecasts suggest water levels will rise around 2 or 3 cm by the beginning of July.

Stronger wind events (most likely gale force wind events lasting several hours in duration) are now required to cause minor flooding along the LTVCA's Lake St. Clair shoreline and along most of its Lake Erie shoreline. However, the damage caused by high lake levels over the last few years along Erie Shore Drive means it's likely still more vulnerable at lower wind speeds. In addition, some recent changes to the shoreline mentioned in the last Board Report have also made the road more vulnerable in one location. LTVCA staff will be monitoring wind events to determine what the new thresholds for flooding might be.

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 June.

LEGEND

LAKE LEVELS

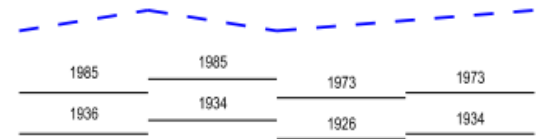
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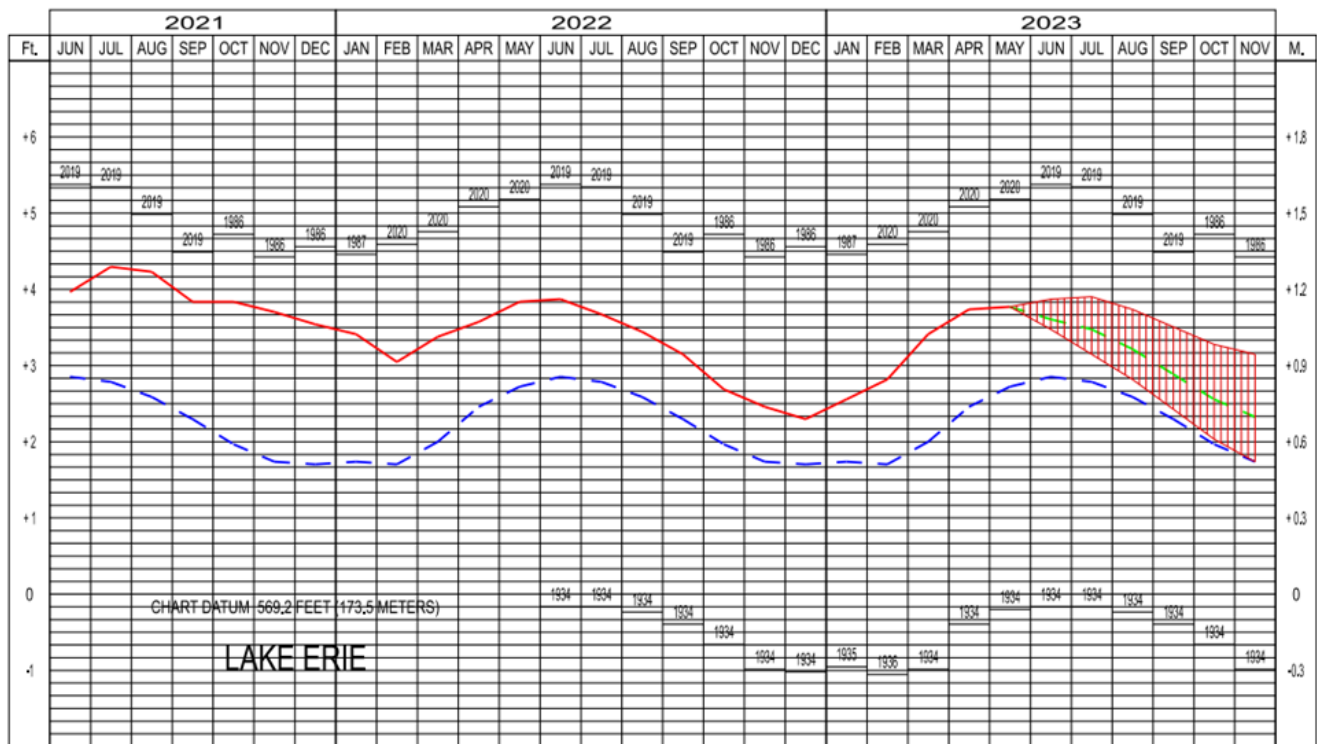
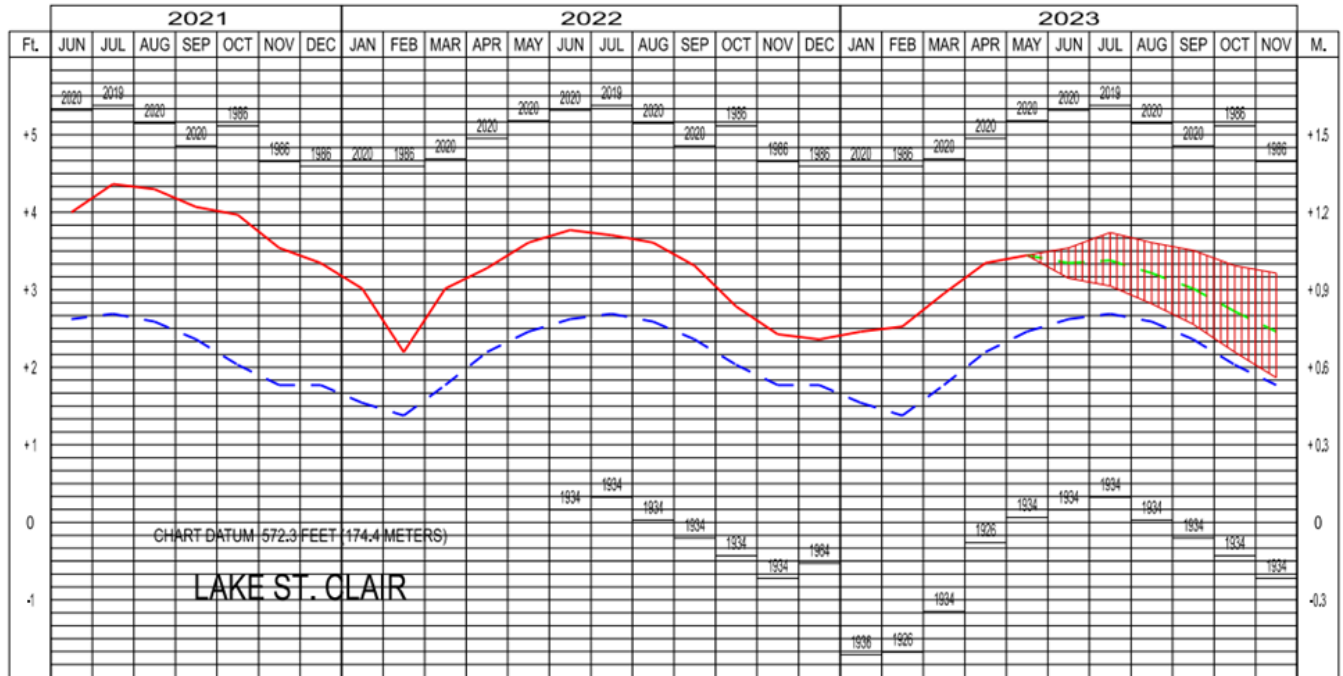
AVERAGE **

MAXIMUM **

MINIMUM **



** Average, Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2021



10.3.2) Flood Control Structures

With no significant rainfall events over the last two months, there has been little activity around the LTVCA flood control structures. Activity has mostly been routine maintenance. A sump pump failed in the crawl space under the 6th St. Dam and Pumping Station control building leading to 10-15 cm of water accumulating in the crawl space after several days. The sump pump has since been replaced and there have been no issues since.

A significant inspection project is currently being undertaken for the pumps at the 6th St. Backwater Dam and Pumping Station. The three very large Flygt pumps that pump water from McGregor Creek into the Thames River when the dam is in operation are being inspected. Due to the relatively infrequent usage of the pumps in relation to their hourly-usage maintenance schedule, the pumps had never been pulled and inspected. Schepens Ltd. of Wallaceburg has been retained to pull and inspect the pumps. The pumps will be pulled one at a time and inspected. Any required maintenance will be determined during the inspections. The first pump was pulled on the morning of June 6th. Subsequent pump inspections will occur once the prior pump is reinstalled. How long the process may take will depend on the condition of the pumps and availability of any required parts.



Given the dry conditions since the last Board of Director's meeting, there haven't been any significant flows on Indian or McGregor Creeks and the structures have remained clear of debris over the last few months, especially in relation to the debris management issued seen earlier in the year.

10.3.3) Low Water Response Program

The Low Water Response Program looks at both precipitation and flow in local watercourses in determining whether there is a Low Water Condition. For precipitation, both 18-month and 3-month rainfall totals are examined and the program thresholds are: Level 1, 80% of average; Level 2, 60% of average; and Level 3, 40% of average. For flows, the average flow over the last month is examined and the spring thresholds are: Level 1, 100% lowest average summer flow (LASF); Level 2, 70% LASF; and Level 3, 50% LASF.

When looking at the rainfall over the last three months, March saw rainfall well above normal. For example, Ridgeway saw double the normal amount of rain in March. April saw normal to slightly above normal rainfall. However, May has seen very little rainfall. Areas around the watershed only saw between 25 and 40% of normal rainfall in May. For the rain gauges examined in the 3-month rainfall calculation, three of eight stations showed Level 1 Low Water Conditions. However, two stations had missing data readings on days when there had been rain, and that could have pushed these values up out of a Low Water Condition. The final station seems to have been at odds with other nearby stations so its also possible there is an issue with the instrument.

The average monthly flow indicator from May would suggest that there isn't a Low Water Condition in the watershed. However, the high flows were all observed at the beginning of the month. The lack of rain caused flows on the Thames River to drop throughout the rest of the month. During the last week, flow on the Thames River around Dutton had fallen below the lower quartile and below the LASF. Around Thamesville, flow had fallen below the median but not quite down to the lower quartile or LASF. A similar pattern was seen on McGregor Creek where the high flows were seen at the beginning of the month and by mid-month, flow had fallen below the median values and below the median LASF. By the end of the month, flows on McGregor Creek had fallen down near the lower quartile.

Given that the indicators are still mostly showing conditions above the Low Water Level 1 Condition thresholds, the current recommendation has been to not yet declare a Low Water Conditions. However, unless the watershed sees significant rainfall in June, there is a very good chance that both rainfall and flows will indicate a Low Water Level Condition next month.

Further information on the Provincial Low Water Response Program can be found at <https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/low-water-response/>

10.3.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. Since it is PWQMN program season, 8 of these sites per month are being covered by the PWQMN program. MECP has found additional lab allocation under a separate program to cover the remaining 14 samples. This sampling is required to be able to determine nutrient loadings related to the phosphorous reduction targets under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. However, bacterial analyses are being sent to Ontario Water Testing Centre (Chatham) and Total Suspended Solids are being sent to the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research at the University of Windsor, with these costs still being covered by the LTVCA. An additional sampling run was taken with an algae sensor to see whether there were any concerns yet regarding blue-green algae blooms. It turned up no concerns.

Benthic sampling was also conducted last month. Benthic organisms are small animals that live on the bed or in the surficial sediments of the bed of our waterbodies. The abundance and type of organisms found in a sample can be used as an indicator of ecosystem health. The data is used for Watershed Report Cards and by partner agencies. Samples were collected at 12 stations this year, over 4 days between May 8th and May 19th. Most of these sites were new site that had not been sampled in the past. Sampling was led by Alyssa Broeders and Randy Kirby with Amanda Blain helping one day. Staff and students from the lab of Dr. Catherine Febria at the University of Windsor came out for 3 out of the 4 days as a teaching and learning opportunity to assist with the sampling. A partnership with the University of Windsor will continue this year where they identify and enumerate the benthic organisms found in the samples.



10.3.5) Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)

Lake Erie Blooms

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issues Western Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Early Season Projections in May and June leading up to their Seasonal Lake Erie HAB Forecast in early July. The Seasonal Lake Erie HAB Forecast gives coastal managers and drinking water facility operators a general sense of how “bad” the upcoming bloom season has the potential to be. The seasonal forecast is an ensemble of models based largely upon phosphorus discharge from the Maumee River. The Early Season Projection from June 1st is included in this agenda.

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

Western Lake Erie HAB Early Season Projection

Projection 05 - 2023-06-01

Summary:

The Western Lake Erie HAB Early Season Projection provides an estimate of potential cyanobacterial harmful algal bloom (HAB) severity. The projected severity depends on input of total bioavailable phosphorus (TBP) from the Maumee River during the loading season (March 1-July 31), and uses a combination of measurements and forecasts of Maumee River discharge from the National Weather Service - Ohio River Forecast Center (through July) and phosphorus loads measured by the Heidelberg University National Center for Water Quality Research.

With observations through May 30th, we see little change in the forecast from previous weeks and continue to predict a small to moderate bloom with a severity between 2.5-5.5. A smaller bloom (severity: 2.5-3.5), is expected if precipitation remains at or below average for the rest of the loading season (June-July). The range in forecasted severity reflects the uncertainty in forecasting precipitation, particularly for late June and July. We will continue to update the early season projection weekly and will issue a comprehensive seasonal forecast on June 29th. Any bloom that does develop will change throughout the summer and move with the wind and currents; we will provide information on the presence and location of the bloom throughout the summer.

- A. Hounshell, R. Stumpf, J. Noel (NOAA), & L. Johnson (Heidelberg University)

Predicted Bloom Severity

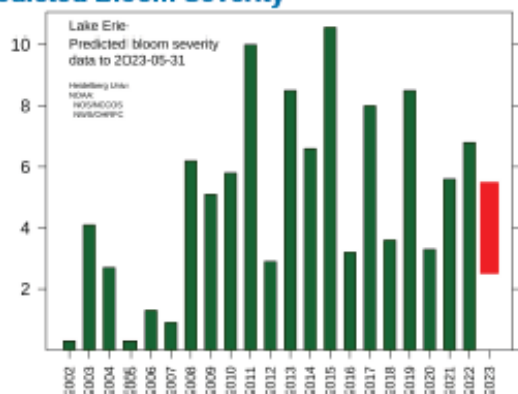


Fig. 1. Predicted bloom severity as compared to previous years. The wide red bar is the likely range of severity based on the limits of the forecast uncertainty. There is uncertainty in the bloom severity due to the river forecast and estimated TBP loads over the two month period.

Total Bioavailable Phosphorus

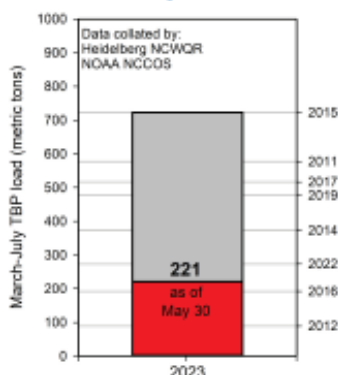


Fig. 3. Total bioavailable phosphorus (TBP) load accumulated from the Maumee River near Waterville, OH to date. The right axis denotes the TBP load from selected previous years. Loads to date are above average due to high discharge in March.

For more information visit: coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/habs/hab-forecasts/lake-erie/ or ncwqr.org/

Cumulative Total Bioavailable Phosphorus

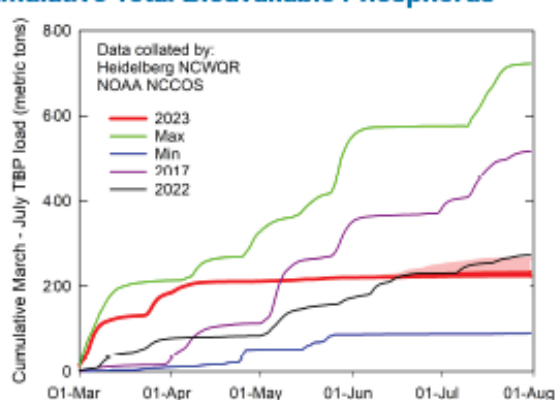


Fig. 2. Cumulative TBP loads for the Maumee River (Waterville, OH). Each line denotes a different year or the min/max cumulative load since 2002. 2023 is in red; the solid line is the measured load to May 30th; the red area shows the likely range for the remainder of the loading season; and the light red shows the possible range.

Satellite Image - True Color



Fig. 4. True color image for 30 May 2023 derived from the Copernicus Sentinel-3a satellite. Discolored water in the southern part of the western Lake Erie basin is caused by the spring diatom bloom (olive color) and sediments stirred up by a strong wind event last week (tan color).

Questions? Contact: hab@noaa.gov

1305 East West Hwy, Rm 8110

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

240.533.0300 | coastalscience.noaa.gov

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10.4) Planning and Regulations

10.4.1) Planning

From the end of March 2023 through to the end of May 2023, there were 103 planning submissions reviewed by staff for this reporting season 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 64 phone calls and over 161 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2022 Totals	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	Mar Totals	Apr Totals	May Totals	2023 Totals
Chatham-Kent	204	21	17	37	26	44	145
Elgin	92	14	7	18	10	12	61
Essex	32	4	0	2	0	3	9
Middlesex	44	5	5	3	6	2	21
Total Numbers	372	44	29	60	42	61	236

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

10.4.2) Planning Fees

Planning fees generated from the signing of three of our Municipal MOU's in 2022 resulted in \$0 from Southwold, \$800 from Dutton Dunwich, and \$6435 from West Elgin between April 1st through to May 31st.

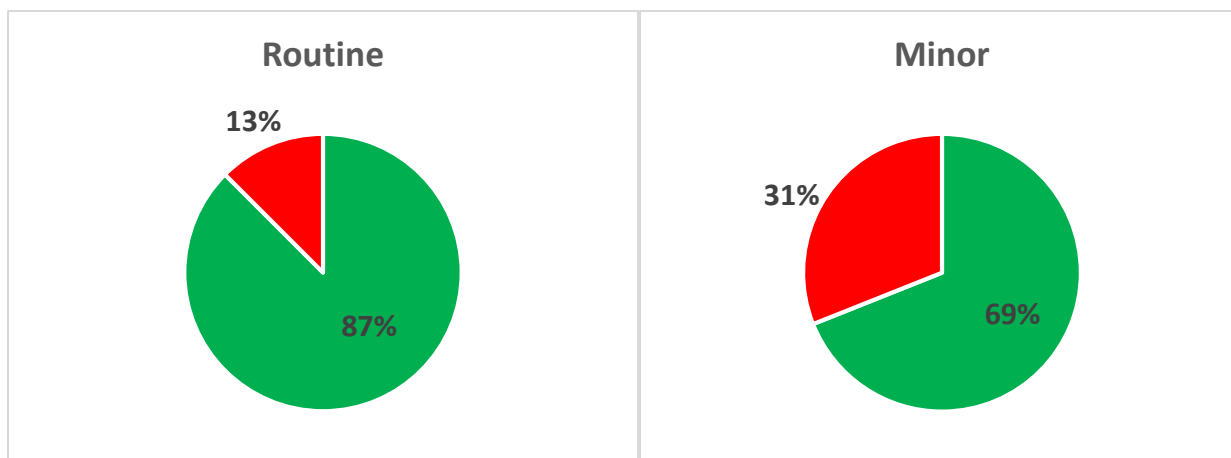
10.4.3) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

In the months of April and May, the LTVCA received 65 new permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. Of the 152 permit applications received in the first five months of 2023, all but seven had been approved by staff by the end of May. Six of those seven applications were in the queue to be reviewed by staff and a single application was put on hold by the applicant.

\$30,275 in permit application fees has been collected thus far this year (as of the end of May).

10.4.4) Permit Processing Timelines

For applications issued in April and May, the charts and table below indicate that 87% of "routine" and 69% of "minor" permit applications met their applicable customer service standard for turnaround time.



Complexity of Application	# of Days to Review Permit Applications				
	0 - 14 Days	15 - 21 Days	21 - 28 Days	29 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	14	2	0	0	0
Minor	33	7	6	12	0
Major	0	0	0	0	0

For the months of April and May, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was two days (ranged between 0 and 15 days). The customer service standard for routine permits is a turnaround within 14 days. For the most part, the processing time for routine permit continues to meet customer service targets. This improvement is largely due to the Water Resources Engineer that was hired near the end of 2020 taking on the task of processing most of the applications identified as being “routine” in complexity.

For the months of April and May, the average turnaround time for a minor permit application was 16 days (ranged between 0 and 47 days). For private property minor complexity permits, the average turnaround time was 22 days. The customer service standard for minor complexity permits is a turnaround within 21 days. Due to shifting of staffing resources in April related to the Thames River flood event, the processing time for minor permit applications was impacted leading to delays. Staffing resources within the department were temporarily re-allocated in May to catch up on the backlog of permit applications.

10.4.5) Property Inquiries

Up to the end of May, 518 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Program which is 109 more since the last board report. At the time of writing of this staff report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is up to 5 business days for e-mails and up to 7 business days for phone calls.

10.4.6) Section 28 Enforcement

In the first five months of 2023, 11 complaints / tips were received from the public about possible Section 28 enforcement issues. Nine of eleven issues are confirmed violations or potential violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. One of the issues has 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

Staff Report

O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in Apr 2023 and May 2023)

B.D. 06/15/2023

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
064-2023	1225 Kerr Avenue	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	33
065-2023	38 New Scotland Line	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	29
069-2023	1515 Kerr Avenue	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	26
070-2023	4335 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 05, 2023	46
073-2023	Dunwich Dutton School Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	19
074-2023	Eastlawn Road at Wolfe Creek Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	19
075-2023	Indian Creek Line at Downie Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	19
076-2023	7361 Fairview Drive	Duttona Beach	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	22
077-2023	267 Colborne Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 19, 2023	26
079-2023	Thames River @ Stanley Ave	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	14
081-2023	1918 Longwoods Road	Wardsville	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	13
082-2023	980 Grand Ave W	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 19, 2023	40
084-2023	4576 Tecumseh Line	Jeannettes Creek	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	12
085-2023	5612 and 5465 Riverside Drive	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: May 03, 2023	34
086-2023	5111 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2023	39
087-2023	19115 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 03, 2023	33
088-2023	Bolton Drain at 22575 Howard Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 13, 2023	10
089-2023	McGregor Internal Drain at 4488 Mint Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 13, 2023	10
090-2023	W Smyth Drain at 20635 Lakeshore Road 303	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Apr 13, 2023	10
091-2023	Richardson Sideroad Branch Smyth Drain near Lakeshore Road 303 & Edgefield Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Apr 13, 2023	10
092-2023	11 Dundee Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 05, 2023	31
093-2023	Melbourne Road to Appin	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Apr 19, 2023	14
094-2023	5862 Parkerhouse Drive to Switzer Drive	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Apr 19, 2023	14
095-2023	13504 Jane Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 05, 2023	32
096-2023	390 Colborne Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2023	37
097-2023	164 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2023	30
098-2023	10959 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	0
099-2023	855 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 11, 2023	0
100-2023	Towanda Blvd Drain	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 17, 2023	4
101-2023	1225 Kerr Ave	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 17, 2023	4
102-2023	20846 Cemetery Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2023	26
103-2023	Dashwheel Road Bridge over Forbes Internal Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 20, 2023	6
104-2023	34466 Second Line	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: May 10, 2023	26
105-2023	18246 Erie Shore Drive	Erie Shore Drive	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2023	22
106-2023	Base Road over Morgan Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 03, 2023	13
107-2023	12969 Longwoods Road	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 20, 2023	0
108-2023	9267 Colborne Street East	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 24, 2023	0
109-2023	13932 Norton Line	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2023	16

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
110-2023	1525 Carpenter Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 11, 2023	16
111-2023	899 Lefaive Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 15, 2023	20
112-2023	19050 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 03, 2023	47
113-2023	18032 Erie Shore Drive	Erie Shore Drive	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2023	15
115-2023	12097 Rose Beach line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Apr 28, 2023	1
116-2023	88 Ann Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2023	14
117-2023	20854 Cemetery Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 11, 2023	10
118-2023	11496 Lagonda Way	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 01, 2023	0
119-2023	20900 Morris Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: May 11, 2023	8
120-2023	3000 Gracey Side Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: May 03, 2023	0
121-2023	24665 Pioneer Line	West Lorne	West Elgin	Granted: May 12, 2023	11
122-2023	8009 Iona Road	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: May 04, 2023	1
123-2023	5522 & 5528 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 04, 2023	15
124-2023	62 Wallace Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 17, 2023	9
125-2023	75 Island Crescent	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 11, 2023	3
126-2023	952 Hiawatha Beach Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 12, 2023	8
127-2023	Clachan Rd. between Austin Line and Walnut Dr.	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2023	0
128-2023	East Ogle Drain	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: May 16, 2023	0
129-2023	Allan McCallum Drain and Gordon Little Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: May 11, 2023	1
130-2023	46 Tuscan Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 11, 2023	1
131-2023	24 Ferguson Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 30, 2023	20
132-2023	Walnut Dr. between Longwoods and Clachan	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: May 16, 2023	0
133-2023	Fleming Line between Clachan Road to Black Road	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: May 16, 2023	0
134-2023	46 Houston Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 29, 2023	12
135-2023	9340 Sharon Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 16, 2023	1
136-2023	20986 Pier Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 30, 2023	14
137-2023	2117 Mersea Road	Wheatley	Leamington	Granted: May 16, 2023	0
138-2023	Longwoods Rd between Peter Rd to Clachan Rd	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 18, 2023	0
139-2023	Longwoods Rd between Walnut Dr to Cashmere Rd	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: May 18, 2023	0
140-2023	18056 Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 16, 2023	0
141-2023	11506 Rondeau Drive	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 23, 2023	6
142-2023	5202 Talbot Trail	Merlin	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 24, 2023	0
143-2023	50 Talbot Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 30, 2023	11
144-2023	Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 29, 2023	5
146-2023	240 Moonstone Cresnet	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 25, 2023	0
149-2023	Longwoods Rd between Bothwell Rd to Zone Rd 9	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 31, 2023	1

10.5) Conservation Services

10.5.1) General Update

The conservation services team has been hard at work the last two months getting trees in the ground and out to land owners. 1,182 large stock were unloaded in April going to private landowners, volunteer events and in local parks. On April 19, 2023 the first shipment of seedlings arrived from Somerville Nursey, over 51,000 of both conifers and deciduous. The second shipment from Pine Needle Nursery, almost 20,000 seedlings came on April 26.

The team started sorting over the counter orders and delivered to landowners by the first week of May. Planting started the early May, 30,600 of trees were planted by our crew through the month of May. We welcomed back TriTree, a contracting services to hand plant trees, they hand planted 7,200 trees.

Two radio advertisements were aired on Blackburn through our campaign with Heuvelmans Chevrolet. April's ad featured the wetland restoration program and May's ad featured a new event on eco-psychology at C.M Wilson Conservation Area.



ALUS Middlesex

April showers brought May...trees? ALUS participants, staff, volunteers and partners worked together through the hot weather and were able to plant 15,000 trees across the county, as part of Canada's Two Billion Tree Program. Tree planting was wide-spread throughout Middlesex, with plantings happening in all of the five watersheds.

In addition to trees, other field operations including wetland excavation and tall grass prairie establishment occurred in May, with Lands and Forests Consulting conducting a prescribed burn on a mature 11-acre tall grass prairie site.



Figure 1: Prescribed burn being carried on mature tall grass prairie, as part of an ALUS prairie enhancement project.

In mid-May, students from SDCI returned to help plant a newly created wetland project with native plants. A BIG thanks to all the student volunteers and teachers!



Figure 2: Students from SDCI stand helped to plant native seedlings around newly created wetland.

ALUS Elgin

As we get well into spring, ALUS Elgin has been working hard to get projects established. To date ALUS Elgin with help from our partners and Elgin County farmers has put in nearly 21,000 trees over 35 acres. We have also established 65 acres of native grasslands and pollinator habitat throughout Elgin County. To date a total of 100 new project acres consisting of trees and shrubs and grassland projects have been put in the ground. Heading into June more than 15 addition acres of projects are still pending establishment. In May this year all 4 of our Elgin Clean Water grant applications were approved and we saw over \$11,000 dollars of funding added to our project establishment budget for the year. As we enter wetland season, we plan to seek further grant opportunities with Ducks Unlimited and the Elgin Stewardship Council.

ALUS Elgin hosted our first community planting event of the year on Roberts Line, Port Stanley, where we were joined by 30 grade 8 students from the Port Stanley Public School to plant a 2-acre cool season grassland and over 150 trees for a new windbreak. During this event not only did the students get to learn about how to plant a grassland and trees but also got to enjoy a nature walk.

On April 25th ALUS Elgin hosted our second PAC meeting of 2023 at the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority Office. During the meeting over 45 acres of new projects were approved to be established in 2023. During the meeting we also decided to create a committee to create a new strategic plan and review our terms of references. Our next meeting is to take place in the final week of June or the first week of July. As of June 5th, Stephanie Cullen joined our ALUS Elgin team as the new program coordinator.



Figure 3: Grade 8 students from Port Stanley Public school planting a 2-acre grassland site.



Figure 4: LTVCA tree planting crew planting a 5.5-acre ALUS Elgin project site.

ALUS Chatham-Kent Update

ALUS CK is still searching for a Coordinator. Shauna Taylor has moved on and another round of interviews are set for June. Projects continue to flow in and are being wait listed.

As planning for tree and buffer projects winds down, focus will now shift to wetland projects. Interested landowners have already been in contact and a number of site visits have taken place. As the weather warms and the land dries up, more interested is anticipated.

Urban Stewardship

The Imagine McGregor program has had a strong start to 2023, partnering with several community groups to practice urban stewardship throughout the community.

The season began with a native carolinian tree giveaway to celebrate Earth Day, where 90 trees were given away to members of the public. This event was sponsored by the Chatham Club of Rotary Sunrise, who also provided volunteers to assist with the “rainy: giveaway. The giveaway enabled residents of the watershed to practice urban stewardship in their own backyard, and contribute to greening up their communities.



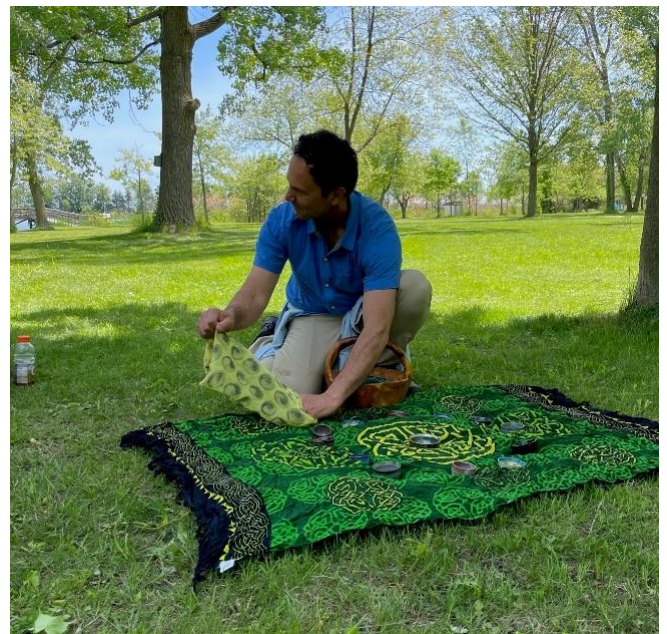
Several community tree plantings occurred in April and May, the first of which was at Pain Court High School. Students from the school approached LTVCA staff to facilitate a project to help meet Global Sustainability Goal 11; Sustainable Cities and Communities, and eagerly participated in the planting of 10 large stock trees. A Chatham Scouts group also participated in a tree planting at the Chatham Dog Park, where an additional 10 trees were planted in the community. The Hindu Community of Chatham Kent sponsored and planted 25 trees at Lark Park in Chatham, which will provide shade for the path in the park as well as food and habitat for wildlife.





Students from Ursuline College Chatham also got their hands dirty in May by participating in an invasive species removal at the tallgrass prairie at the water works in Chatham. Woody invasives such as Callery Pear and Siberian Elm were threatening to overtake the prairie, which was implemented by LTVCA almost a decade ago.

A new LTVCA event was put on at the end of May; Discover Ecopsychology & Urban Stewardship. This event was funded by TD Friends of the Environment, and involved 20 members of the public coming out to C.M. Wilson Conservation Area to engage in guided forest therapy day and to plant trees onsite. The day revolved around raising awareness of the impact of nature on mental health, and the importance of giving back to nature by practicing stewardship.



10.5.2) Agricultural Initiatives

On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program

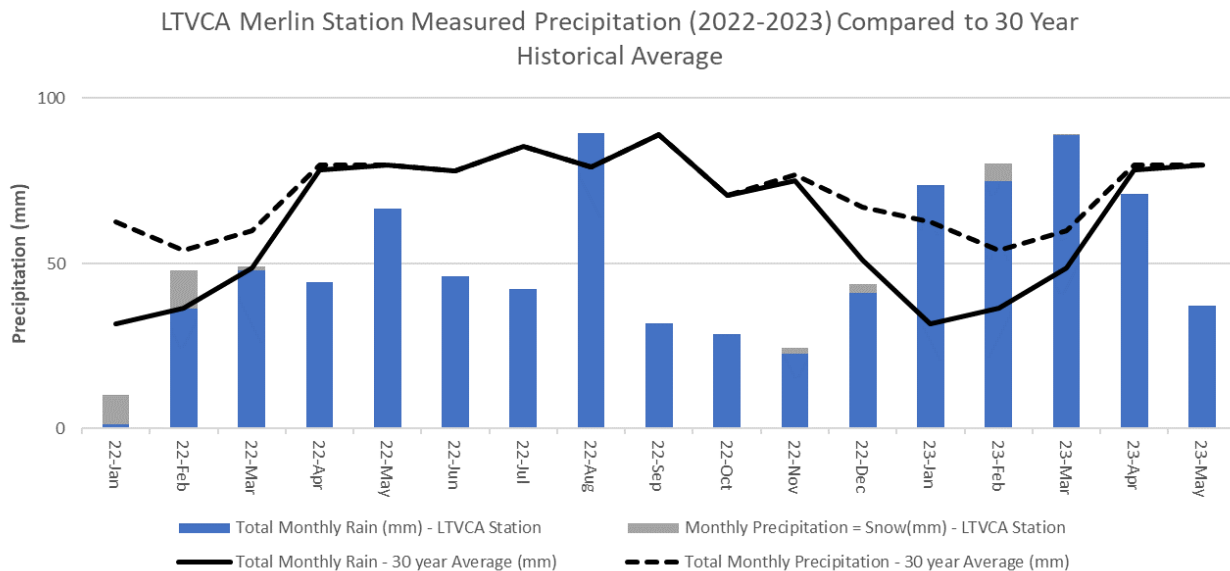


Although, the ONFARM agreement expired during February of 2023, the LTVCA has continued to maintain monitoring operations in the 20km² Jeannettes Creek study subwatershed. The scale of monitoring and data collection activities have been reduced to mitigate operational costs in a period where limited funds are available. The LTVCA has stopped sampling operations at 3 subwatershed stations and has reduced the intensity of sampling at 3 other key stations.

The LTVCA has continued to maintain sampling operations at the two Merlin Edge-of-Field beneficial management practice (BMP) verification sites. The sites are key components of a NSERC project led by Dr. Merrin Macrae evaluating the efficacy of 4R Nutrient Stewardship practices at reducing nutrient loads across the Great Lakes region. In-kind funding and services are being provided through the agreement to offset the cost of water chemistry, data, and statistical analysis.



From April to May of 2023, approximately 108mm of precipitation was recorded at the Merlin edge of field sites (51mm below the 30 yr average precipitation). 2 significant flow events occurred in the study subwatershed during this period. After observing drought conditions during 2022, dry conditions have returned to the subwatershed, as very little precipitation.



New Soil & Water Quality Technician – Donna Small

The LTVCA recently hired a new Soil & Water Quality Technician, Donna Small. Donna has recently graduated from the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus, where she focused her studies on Environmental Management and Agriculture. Last summer Donna was a member of the LTVCA's Species at Risk team where she contributed to fish and mussel studies in the Lower Thames Valley watershed. As part of her new role Donna will be conducting a variety of monitoring and data collection activities to support agricultural programs. Donna is excited to make connections with rural landowners and farmers to work towards improving soil health and water quality in the Thames River and Lake Erie watershed.



LTVCA: Soil Health Program 2022-24 – Update

The objective of the Soil Health Program is to provide financial support to farmers who are planting cover crops to sequester carbon, improve soil health, and to reduce agriculturally sourced phosphorus loads.

LTVCA project staff are currently focused on collecting 2023 cover crop planting information from the farm businesses that were approved for 2 years of funding through the program. 54 of the approved applicants have indicated they will be proceeding with cover crop plantings during 2023. Of the 54 approved applicants, 36 have submitted project information forms. The LTVCA anticipates the remaining forms will be submitted during June once planting season has concluded. If all 2023 projects proceed as planned, a total of 9,300 acres of cover crops will be planted. This could equate to a total financial contribution \$140,000.00 to watershed farm businesses.



This project is undertaken with the financial support of the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, a Government of Canada Department of Environment and Climate Change program, in partnership with Conservation Ontario. The LTVCA has been approved for \$423,000.00 in funding to administer the program from 2022-2024. The majority of the funding will be allocated to provide incentives to farm businesses to plant cover crops during 2022 and 2023. The LTVCA will also receive funds to offset the cost of administering the program.

10.5.3) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)



Figure 3: PME miniDOT Oxygen loggers for sampling dissolved oxygen and temperature conditions in aquatic environments.

The LTVCA's *Targeted Lower Thames Valley & Lake Erie Subwatershed Improvements for Aquatic SAR* multi-year, Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR)-funded project has come to a close. Final reports on the 2022 aquatic surveys, HOBO data loggers, restoration initiatives, the SAR outreach program, road surveys and a technical document describing the LTVCA's Aquatic SAR threat assessment process and have been submitted along with a year-end report. New funding in the amount of \$78,685 in 2023/24 and \$45,000 in each of 2024/25 and 2025/26 has been approved through DFO's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) to continue the LTVCA's aquatic SAR program. Staff are gearing up to deploy temperature data loggers for a third year in the Thames River and Baptiste Creek. This year, dissolved oxygen data loggers will be added to further quantify the health of the environment in these locations for fish and mussel SAR. Funding will also be allocated to habitat improvement, human impact mitigation and outreach activities.

10.5.4) Terrestrial Species at Risk (SAR)



Figure 24: Madison McKnight, Environmental Technician.

The final *Habitat Stewardship Program* report for the *Habitat Identification, Species Distribution and Management Planning for Avian and Bat Species at Risk in the Mosa Forest CA* has been submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). An additional \$50,678 has been received from the same source for a project entitled *Species at Risk Management Planning and Recovery Implementation in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority*. Funding will support Ecological Land Classification (ELC, habitat mapping) and species surveys at Big Bend Conservation Area. If time permits, this work will also be conducted at E. M Warwick and Feasby Conservation Areas. Madison McKnight has been hired on an eight-week Canada Summer Jobs contract to assist with this work. Matching contributions from the LTVCA include habitat restoration work (installation of vernal pools) in the Mosa Forest Conservation Area to block ATV traffic and the development of Management Plans for Mosa Forest and Ashton Forest Conservation Areas.

10.6) Communications, Education and Outreach

10.6.1) Social Media

As of June 5, 2023 the **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Facebook** page has 3,341 Followers, the **Instagram page for the Authority** has 1,176 Followers, and the Authority has 1,252 Followers on **Twitter**.

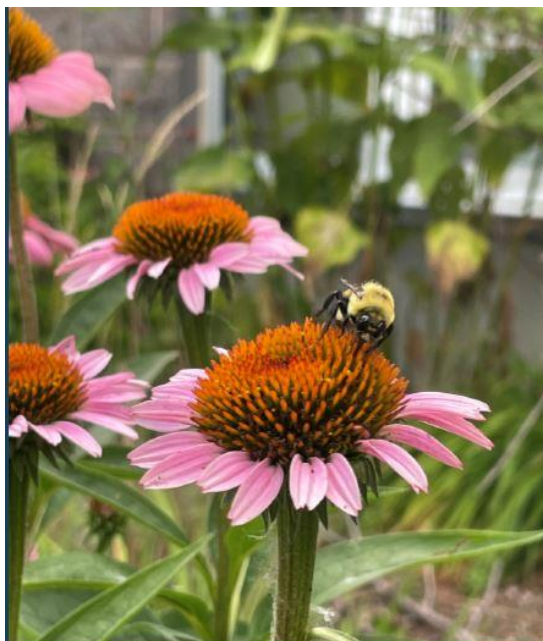
10.6.2) Communications Media Releases

One media release was distributed:

Battle of Longwoods, War of 1812 Re-enactment

10.6.3) Conservation Area Guidebook

The LTVCA 2023-2024 Guidebook is ready for distribution. The guidebook promotes all the conservation areas in our watershed. It lets people know what types of environments, activities, and rentals are available at each site. Many local businesses throughout the watershed have bought advertising space to promote themselves. This is also a great way for people to explore the area around the conservation area and support local businesses.



Relax, Refresh, Return.

**Explore LTVCA
CONSERVATION AREAS**

 **2023-2024**



DELAWARE Conservation Area

Delaware remains one of the few natural areas subjected to the natural flooding of the Thames River. Catch a glimpse of one of the largest known Swamp White Oaks still standing in the floodplain.

Facilities and Services

- day use, trail, tallgrass prairie, fishing 'hot spot' for pickerel
- canoeing and kayaking access to this Canadian Heritage River



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ANTIQUES
& RESTAURANT**

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For 2023/2024 the guide book will cover a two year span. Following this, the guide book may return to an annual publication with creation taking place in the fall of the year before issue.

10.6.4) Recent and Upcoming Public Events and Opportunities at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village

Battle of Longwoods

The Battle of Longwoods took place at Longwoods Road Conservation Area on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday May 7, 2023. This event is presented through a partnership between the Royal Scots – Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society (UTMRS). We were visited by approximately 693 people, including reenactors and Scouts, over the weekend.



Red Coats fire at the Battle of Longwoods

Longwoods ‘Spring Tidy’

The Longwoods ‘Spring Tidy,’ originally scheduled for April 30, 2023 was postponed because of weather. The event took place on May 13, 2023. This is a public volunteer opportunity, which invites the local community to help tidy up the grounds around Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum, the Heritage Log Cabins, and Longwoods Road Conservation Area. While attendance was low because of the change in date much of the anticipated work was still completed.

Twilight Tuesdays and **Artifact Day** will return in July and August.

10.6.5) Education Programming

Battle of Longwoods Education Day

On May 5, 2023 the Battle of Longwoods Education Day took place. During this event 663 students participated in stations related to the history of the War of 1812, as well as a station led by the Education Team related to local plant and animal species, as well as the importance of the Carolinian Zone as a habitable location.

Standing Stone / Lambeth / Delaware Transition Program

On May 10, 2023, 115 students from Standing Stone School, Lambeth Public School, and Delaware Central Public School joined the Education Team for programming. This was an opportunity from the Grade 6s from these schools to meet as the students from Standing Stone stream into the public school system for Grade 7 and 8.

10.6.6) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of June 5, 2023 the **Ska-Nah-Doht Village’s Facebook** page has 3215 Followers. The **Instagram page for the Village** has 571 Followers.

Policy Review

A review of all Ska-Nah-Doht policies is being undertaken by the Village Advisory Committee. The Accessibility Policy is seeking approval at the June 15, 2023 LTVCA Board of Directors Meeting. The remaining policies will be seeking approval at a subsequent Board of Directors Meeting.

50th Anniversary

Plans for the commemoration of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum's 50th Anniversary continue to be made. A temporary exhibit has been installed at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum.

Local Support

In December of 2022 the Curator applied for Develop to Market support from Ontario's Southwest. This program allowed tourism operators who spent funds on eligible projects in the areas of sustainability, accessibility, and the visitor's journey to receive \$1,000 (inclusive of taxes) worth of marketing services. The Ska-Nah-Doht campaign took place in the spring of 2023.

An application to Visit Middlesex's Tourism Initiative Sponsorship was submitted, and \$1300 in support has been received. The application requested support for the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary and updates to exhibits. Leveraging funds were required. Leveraging was provided through the purchase of new display case tops for the forthcoming exhibits at the Heritage Log Cabins.

Middlesex Tourism Symposium

The Curator participated as a sector expert on a panel at the Middlesex Tourism Symposium on May 10, 2023.

Three Sister Teachings at the Strathroy Library

On May 24, 2023 the Community Educator travelled to the Strathroy Public Library to share teachings about the Three Sisters (Corn, Squash, and Beans), how and why these teachings survived Colonization, while also making cultural connections to the modern world. Each participant had the opportunity to put together their own bean seedling after the presentation.

Wampum Belt Teaching for Chatham Sunrise Rotary Club: Building an Understanding to Create a Land Acknowledgement

On May 30, 2023, 19 members of the Chatham Sunrise Rotary Club were joined by the Community Educator to learn about relationship building and treaties, such as the One Dish, One Spoon Wampum Belt philosophy, the Hiawatha Wampum Belt, the Two Row Wampum Belt, and the Oneidas Wampum Belt which accepted the Tuscarora's of the Carolinas into the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

10.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes April 6, 2023

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

General meeting held on April 6 2023 held at the Wheatley Friendship Club

Attendance: Pauline Sample, Roger Dundas, Lorna Bell, Rick & Forest Taves, Bob Niven, Gerry Soulliere, Lee & Linda Pearce, Vicki & Erin Haley, Ken Hatt, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Mark Peacock, Joe Dama, Pat Matier.

Agenda: Moved by Rick, sec. by Roger agenda be accepted as outlined (Carried)

Minutes: Moved by Phil, sec by Rick minutes be accepted as read (Carried)

Memorial Groves: Branches from the ice storm need to be removed.

Prop. & Equip. : A hitch is going to be added to the UTV. Most of the trails except for some on the McIntosh trail have been cleared. Tilbury grade school wants store some totes with us, Gerry will ask them to contact the Early On group to see if they have room. We received a \$5000.00 grant to help pay for the electricity and sidewalk for the Chapel. The table frames stored at Rick's will be removed this Sat. and stored in our shed. Mark will look at the Willow bridge to see what repairs are needed.

Concerts: We received a \$5000.00 grant to help us pay for the concerts. All bills have been paid. Rick will look into putting an ad in the local paper.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of Feb. 28 was \$36,742.86. The Account balance as of March 31 was \$35,287.87. Moved by Roger, sec. by Linda report be accepted as given

Correspondence: None

Old Business: Kevin Getty will continue to cut our grass.

New Business: Joe Dama asked us if we would be interested in helping them organize once a month winter concerts at the Wheatley Baptist and/or United church. We informed them that they should meet with Chatham-Kent about receiving grants to pay for them. Rick motioned and Lee sec. (Carried) We would like to welcome new members Joe Dama and Pat Matier.

Adjournment: Bob moved for adjournment at 7:05 pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes May 4, 2023

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

General meeting held on May 4 2023 at the Wheatley Friendship Club.

Attendance: Mark Peacock, Genevieve Campagne, Mike Diesbourg, Ken Hatt, Gerry Soulliere, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Rick & Forest Taves, Lorna Bell, Pauline Sample, Linda & Lee Pearce, Joe Pinsonneault, Roger Dundas, Bob Niven, Vicki Haley.

Agenda: Moved by Rick, sec. by Joe agenda be accepted as outlined (Carried).

Minutes: Moved by Phil, sec. by Roger minutes be accepted as read (Carried).

Mem. Groves: Bob cut up the fallen branches from the ice storm which need to be put in the woods so the grass can be cut. Lisa Derbyshire proposed installing a wind phone in the woods, she would spend up to \$200.00. Rick moved, Joe sec. (Carried)

Prop. & Equip. : The sidewalk to the Chapel has been poured, we are now waiting for the electrical installation. Some trees near the stage and others need to be removed. Lights need to be put up in the large and small pavilions as well as the rope down to the stage in time for the concerts. L.T.V.C.A. and others will look at what can be done to replace the culvert on the west side. David Light volunteered to take care of the garbage this year. 2 tables and 2 garbage cans will be needed for the chapel. Pavilion has been rented for May 13, the portajohns will be delivered by then. Gerry proposed putting Two Creeks signs on the service signs coming into Wheatley, Roger moved Lee sec. (Carried)

Concerts: All concert dates have been booked, Rick will do the promotion. Stairs to the stage need to be replaced. Beer will be sold again this year. Posters and lineups will be available in the shed for distribution.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of March 31 was \$35,287.87. Account balance as of April 30 was \$37,363.84. Moved by Roger, sec. by Linda report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Our next meeting will be at Two Creeks, we will be having a pizza party to thank Sheila for her contributions to Two Creeks before she moves out west.

Adjournment: Roger moved for adjournment at 6:45pm

Phil Humphries, secretary.

11. Correspondence

11.1) City of London Member Representative

Ministry of Natural Resources
and Forestry

Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

99 Wellesley Street West
Room 6630, Whitney Block
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tel: 416-314-2301

99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Bureau 6630, Édifice Whitney
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416 314-2301



May 30, 2023

Mayor Josh Morgan
Barb Westlake-Power, Deputy City Clerk
City of London
bwestlak@london.ca

Dear Mayor Morgan and Ms. Westlake-Power:

Thank you for your application on behalf of the City of London seeking Minister's exceptions under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) from the requirement in subsection 14 (1.1) for at least 70 per cent of municipal appointments to a conservation authority to be selected from among members of municipal council.

After carefully considering your application regarding the appointment of one non-elected member to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) and two non-elected members to the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA), I have decided to not grant the City of London exceptions to subsection 14 (1.1) of the CAA pursuant to my authority under subsection 14 (1.2).

Allowing the City of London appoint one non-elected member as the only member to the LTVCA and two non-elected members and one council member to the KCCA, thereby avoiding the requirement for at least 70 per cent of a participating municipality's appointees to be selected from among members of municipal council, does not meet the intent of section 14 of the CAA which is to ensure greater elected council representation in conservation authorities. In this instance, I think it is important for the City of London to comply with this requirement and it is not appropriate to grant these exceptions. As a result, I would request that the City of London ensure that the necessary steps are taken during the 2023 recruitment process to ensure members of council are appointed to the LTVCA and the KCCA in compliance with the requirements of subsection 14 (1.1) of the CAA.

I would ask that once council members have been appointed to the LTVCA and the KCCA, that you confirm in writing via email to my Ministry (ca.office@ontario.ca) that the City of London has taken the necessary steps to comply with this provision with respect to both conservation authorities.

Please share this correspondence with municipal council as well as the LTVCA and the KCCA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graydon Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "S".

The Honourable Graydon Smith
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Jennifer Keyes, Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch,
MNRF
Conservation Authority Office (via ca.office@ontario.ca)

11.2 Source Water Protection



Report to Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors

Cc SP Management Committee

Date June 5, 2023

From Julie Welker, Source Protection Coordinator

Re: Drinking Water Source Protection Program Update

Purpose

To provide information to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors on the most recent activities and progress of the Drinking Water Source Protection program.

Current Status of the Source Protection Program

The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Plan, approved in September 2015, came into effect on December 31st, 2015 and implementation of the plan policies is now well underway. For the past eight years Conservation Authority staff from the Thames-Sydenham and Region have been supporting implementation of the local source protection plan and are monitoring local implementation progress. Additionally, UTRCA has signed agreements with seven municipalities in the Region to provide risk management services and implement plan policies on their behalf.

Local Progress Updates

New Source Protection Committee Chair Re-Appointed

On March 22nd, the Source Protection Programs Branch re-confirmed that Mr. Dean Edwardson had been appointed by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks as the re-appointed Chair of the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Committee. We are pleased to have Mr. Edwardson, a long-standing industry representative on the committee, to continue as the leader for the Committee.

Source Protection Committee (re) appointments

In May 2023 the Striking Committee (made up of Chairs and Vice Chairs of each of the three Conservation Authority Boards of Directors) met to review and select members for the SPC for the positions whose terms end June 1, 2023. According to the Act, it is the responsibility of each Striking Committee member to report back to their respective Source Protection Authorities (in this case Upper Thames River Source Protection Authority) on the results of the selection. The following are the results of this process:

Jason Migchels, representing Lambton County – Appointment (term expires June 2027)

Matthew Jauernig, representing Oxford County – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

Johnny Bowes, representing Perth County, Huron County, Stratford, St. Marys – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

Carl Kennes, representing the Golf Industry – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

George Marr, representing the public – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

Gary Eagleson, representing the public – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

We still are searching for an Agricultural representative.

2022-2024 Budget and Work Plan

MECP approved a new funding agreement for the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region which runs from April 1st, 2022 to March 31st, 2024. The objective of this grant funding agreement is to enable the Conservation Authorities to continue to support implementing bodies and maintain local awareness of source protection.

Risk Management Services Renewal

UTRCA has established a regional Risk Management Office on behalf of seven municipalities, including the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, LAWSS and St. Clair. SCRCA employee, Steve Clarke is acting as the Risk Management Official for these municipalities under an agreement between SCRCA and UTRCA. The service agreement with the seven municipalities was for an initial period of two and a half years (June 1, 2021 to December 1, 2023). UTRCA has proposed an option for renewing the service agreement for an additional three years. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent, LAWSS, St. Clair, the Township of Perth East, the Township of West Perth, the Town of St. Marys, and the Town of Stratford have formally approved the agreement renewal.

Section 36 Work Plan

At the time that the Thames Sydenham and Region Source Protection Plan was approved in September 2015, the Minister ordered the Source Protection Authorities to prepare and submit a work plan under Section 36 of the Clean Water Act and submit it to the ministry by November 30, 2018. The work plan is a comprehensive overview of the program along with any new system changes that need to be incorporated as part of amendments to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan. The work plan must be developed in consultation with the Source Protection Committee, participating municipalities, and the MECP. This work plan was submitted last July 2022. We are still waiting to hear final approvals.

Section 34 Amendments

The Source Protection Committee is expecting to go through multiple amendments to the Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plans as systems are aging out, communities are growing and new science emerges.

2021 Director Technical Rules

In December 2021, MECP released an amended version of the Technical Rules with the aim to clarify terminology; clarify the information needed to conduct a water quality climate change risk assessment; clarify situations where a surface-water-based WHPA-E is to be delineated; and update the Tables of Drinking Water Quality Threats. These changes have led to multiple draft new and amended policies proposed by the Source Protection Committee. These are expected to be submitted to the province for approvals in September, 2023.

Prepared by:

Julie Welker
Source Protection Coordinator

Thames-Sydenham and Region Drinking Water Source Protection Source Protection Committee Report

Report #:

Report to: Upper Thames River Source Protection Authority

CC: Management Committee

Prepared by: Julie Welker on behalf of Sandy Levin

Date: June 20, 2023

Re: Striking Committee Update

THAT the SPA receives the following report as information.

Summary

- **Overview of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and the Source Protection Committee**
- **Role of Striking Committee Member**
- **Source Protection Committee recruitment update**

Discussion

The *Clean Water Act, 2006* (Act) was created in response to the tragedy that occurred in Walkerton when their local municipal drinking water system became contaminated and several people died and left thousands ill. The purpose of the Act is to protect existing and future sources of drinking water.

The Act and associated regulations requires the Source Protection Authorities (Upper Thames, Lower Thames, St. Clair CAs) to form a Source Protection Committee (SPC). This committee is a multi-stakeholder committee made up of municipal staff, private sectors, and members of the public whose purpose is to develop and maintain policies within the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Plans. These policies use a variety of tools to ensure activities ceases to become a threat to municipal drinking water.

Now that the SPC has been established, the responsibilities of the Source Protection Authorities are to maintain the SPC. To support this process a Striking Committee was created which includes one board member from each of the Source Protection Authorities with the support of source protection staff.

In order to maintain the SPC, Striking Committee members must ensure the selection process is in accordance with the Act and its Regulations, which includes notices on the

website, interviews and selections. This could result in appointments of new members or re(appointment) of current members.

The Striking Committee has currently met to review and select members for the SPC for the positions whose terms end June 1, 2023. According to the Act, it is the responsibility of each Striking Committee member to report back to their respective Source Protection Authorities (in this case Upper Thames River Source Protection Authority) on the results of the selection. The following are the results of this process:

Jason Migchels, representing Lambton County – Appointment (term expires June 2027)

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Carl Kennes, representing the Golf Industry – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

George Marr, representing the public – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

Gary Eagleson, representing the public – Re-appointment (term expires June 2027)

We still are searching for an Agricultural representative.

Recommendations

THAT the SPA receives the report as information.

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.

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

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

13. Other Business

14. Adjournment
