



Board of Directors Meeting

A G E N D A

Annual General Meeting 2024
February 22, 2024
1:30 p.m. Guest Speaker
1:50 p.m. Awards/Recognitions followed by
Annual General Meeting
Willson Hall, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

1.	First Nations Acknowledgement	
2.	Call to Order	
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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 First 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. Chair's Remarks

2023 was a year of growth and success for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. We welcomed new faces to the board, all of whom have worked to support their municipalities and the LTVCA with thoughtful questions and insights around issues brought to the board. Thank you to Ken Loveland, Larissa Vogler, Martin Vink and Paul Van Meerbergen for embracing the positive spirit of our board and helping us to make decisions in the best interests of our communities and the watershed. Board members often attend our events on evenings and weekends, demonstrating their commitment to our watershed and supporting the LTVCA's contributions to the community.

There are so many accomplishments which deserve celebration in 2023. At our last AGM, we entered into a peace and friendship agreement with the Caldwell First Nation under Chief Mary Duckworth. The One Dish, One Spoon Wampum Belt reminds us that we live on shared land and that we should take only what we need, so that there is enough for others.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum, with a day-long event supported by so many in our community. As well as being an important example of Carolinian forest, Ska-Nah-Doht has played a pivotal role in regional student education and has been practicing land-based education for decades. The success of our event demonstrates the multi-generational impact and the relationship to land that this education has fostered. In 2023, we broke ground on the ambitious Indigenous Learning Centre project, which will provide a venue for community engagement in Indigenous cultural heritage and land based learning. The aging Learning Centre has been reimagined, improving structure, accessibility and learning opportunities.

The LTVCA is also working with local First Nations to reimagine the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, making it a site where two-eyed-seeing and traditional ecological knowledge can be shared. We continue to support the Children's Water Festival, tree planting programs, camping, as well as critical flood forecasting and monitoring to ensure community safety. The LTVCA continues to pursue land based stewardship initiatives, partnering with local landowners to create healthier ecosystems across the watershed.

And finally, I will speak from a personal note. As someone who loves the land and my community with equal passion, being entrusted in the role of Chair of the LTVCA means a great deal to me. I believe in our community, our staff, and our partners to deliver high quality services, management and protection to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Watershed.

Miigwetch and thank you to everyone who has been a part of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's successes this year.

7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes



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, December 14, 2023. The following directors were in attendance: S. Emons, K. Loveland, P. Tiessen, L. Vogler, H. Aerts, R. Leatham, A. Finn, T. Thompson, S. Hipple and P. Van Meerbergen. M. Vink 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

BD-2023-61 R. Leatham – S. Hipple

Moved that the agenda be adopted, with the addition of a new correspondence item, 11.2 from the MNRF around Fee Changes Associated with Planning, Development and Permitting.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2023-62 L. Vogler – T. Thompson

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of October 26, 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

7. Presentations

7.1) Ska-Nah-Doht Revitalization and Indigenous Learning Centre Capital Project Update

G. Champagne provided the Board of Directors with an update on the status of the revitalization of the Indigenous Learning Centre build project.

7.3) Point Pelee Littoral Cells Resilience Plan

M. Peacock provided the Board of Directors information on the Point Pelee Coastal Resilience Plan around developing coastal resiliency on the Great Lakes, using ECCC's framework, with the goal to protect our great lakes shorelines. Government of Canada will be providing 75% of the funding, with other agencies providing the remaining 25%. Climate Resilient Coastal Communicates Programs (CRCC) funding will be provided to achieve these studies, with minor funding input sought from municipalities, Essex County, Essex Region Conservation Authority and other agencies.

7.2) Lake St. Clair Coastal Resilience Plan Proposal

M. Peacock provided the Board of Directors information on the Lake St. Clair Coastal Resilience Plan proposal that is being submitted to NRCan, with the goal to protect our great lakes shorelines and to assess flood hazards and sediment processes. Government of Canada will be providing 75% of the funding, with other agencies providing the remaining 25% (Essex County, Chatham-Kent, Lakeshore, Tecumseh, Windsor, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority & St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, as well as working with ICLEI). Generate both flood and erosion mapping for the communities.

BD-2023-63 K. Loveland – S. Hipple

Moved that the Board of Directors receive presentation 7.1) through 7.3).

CARRIED

8. New Business

None noted.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Draft Categories of Programs and Services Agreements

BD-2023-64 T. Thompson – L. Vogler

Moved that the Board of Directors approve the Chair and CAO signing all of the remaining Category Agreements as they come in; and that the Agreements be posted on the LTVCA's website when all parties have signed the Agreement.

CARRIED

9.2) 2024 CA Fee Schedule – Update

BD-2023-65 P. Tiessen – L. Vogler

Moved that the Board approve the 2024 Fee Schedule as amended.

CARRIED

9.3) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Policies 5, 6, 7 and 8

BD-2023-66 K. Loveland – R. Leatham

Moved that the Board of Directors approve the Interpretation and Education, Research, Conservation, and Physical Plant Policies for Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum as provided.

CARRIED

9.4) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to November 30, 2023

BD-2023-67 P. Van Meerbergen – S. Hipple

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended November 30, 2023.

CARRIED

10. Business for Information

- 10.1) C.A.O./Secretary-Treasurer Report
- 10.2) Lake St. Clair Coastal Resilience Plan Report
- 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) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – October 5, 2023

BD-2023-68 H. Aerts – T. Thompson

Moved that New Business items 10.1) to 10.8) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

- 11.1) Conservation Ontario: Province-wide education blitz – Salt Responsibly to help protect drinking water sources
- 11.2) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry: Extension of Minister's Direction for Conservation Authorities Regarding Fee Changes Associated with Planning, Development and Permitting Fees

BD-2023-69 P. Tiessen – L. Vogler

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

CARRIED

12. Other Business

None noted.

13. Adjournment

BD-2023-70 P. Van Meerbergen – R. Leatham

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Sarah Emons
Chair

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

9. Presentations

9.1) 2023 Annual Report

Amanda Blain will be providing a Power Point Presentation of the LTVCA's 2023 Annual Report.

10. Business for Approval - Annual General Meeting

10.1) 2023 Annual Report

Recommendation: That the LTVCA's 2023 Annual Report be approved as presented.

10.2) Election of Officers and Appointments to Committees

Before the election, the current Chair will vacate the position and Mr. Mark Peacock will assume the Chair for the purposes of the elections and declare all elected offices, positions and appointments vacant. Additional motions may be necessary should appointment of scrutineers be required in the event of an election.

Recommendation: That Mark Peacock, CAO / Secretary-Treasurer be appointed to chair the elections.

a) Chair

Recommendation: That the nominations be closed.

b) Vice-Chairs (2)

Recommendation: That the nominations be closed.

c) Executive Committee (3 members (maximum) to be elected + Chair & Vice-Chairs)

Recommendation: That the nominations be closed.

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

Recommendation: That the nominations be closed.

e) C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee (2 members maximum to be elected)

Recommendation: That the nominations be closed.

f) Ice Management Committee (2 members from Chatham-Kent, member from Lakeshore + Chair)

Recommendation: That the nominations be closed.

10.3) 2024 Budget and Levy

Date: February 22, 2024
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **2024 Budget and Levy**
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

Background

The LTVCA Board adopted the Preliminary 2024 Budget and levy at its meeting on October 26, 2023, in accordance with the following resolution:

“That the 2024 preliminary budget totalling \$4,356,094 be approved and that the member municipalities be advised of the budget and their share of the proposed levy as calculated; it being noted that the Authority is required to provide 30 days’ notice of its intention to adopt a final budget and levy.

And that the final 2024 Budget be brought to the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2024 for approval.”

Terms:

Category 1

Provincially defined mandatory programs (programs required by the province) are services provided by section 21.1 of the Act Category 1 - includes services addressing flooding, erosion, flood forecasting, administration, community relations, provincial monitoring programs, holding of lands, and source water protection.

Category 2

Municipal programs and services provided under section 21.1.1 of the Act. This category includes services that would have been considered “special levy” for specific work requested by a municipality. In the past a number of municipalities have had these levies. Currently the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is the only member with services provided under this category.

Category 3

Other programs and services of the conservation authority provided under section 21.1.2 of the Act

Services offered under category 3 are as follows:

Conservation Education, Elements of monitoring, Species at Risk, Stewardship, and Campgrounds – Active use of Conservation Areas

Current Situation

As per legal requirements the Preliminary Budget was circulated to all member municipalities on January 19, 2024 with an invitation to meet with each municipalities Executive Management Team or Council. This preliminary budget was also posted to the LTVCA web site shortly after its approval on October 26, 2023

Several minor adjustments have since been incorporated into the 2024 Budget, with no additional impact on municipal levy.

Discussion

The 2024 Final Draft Budget of \$4,356,094 represents an increase of \$155,610 or 3.7% in overall spending in comparison to the 2023 approved budget of \$4,200,484. The greatest variances from 2023 to 2024 include:

- An increase in Conservation Education due to the opening of the Learning Centre at CM Wilson;
- An increase in Stewardship and Species at Risk programs;
- An increase in Administration expenses;
- And off-set by decreases in Technical Studies, Planning and Regs and Watershed monitoring.

The corresponding increase in the municipal levy is \$79,098 or 4.43%. As in previous years, annual adjustments to each municipality's assessment within the watershed vary, ranging from 3.88% for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to 6.65% for the Municipality of Leamington, as shown in the last column of the table accompanying the budget on page 19 of the agenda package.

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 402/22, whereby, should the LTVCA wish to levy municipalities for Category 2 and 3 funds, an agreement must be signed between the LTVCA and the municipality. All 10 municipalities have signed these agreements. Further, the agreements specify that the levies will be approved by a recorded, "weighted" vote (based on Modified Current Value Assessment) of the Authority, the levy is shown broken out as per requirements of that regulation:

- Category 1 Levy: \$1,525,260
- Category 3 Levy: \$135,793
- Special Levy: \$205,000 (Category 1 & 2, Chatham-Kent)
- Total Municipal Levy, \$1,866,053.

Resolution to set the stage for the Municipal Apportionment Vote

Recommendation:

Be it Resolved that:

To provide conformity with legislation (Bill 23) and regulations (Ont. Reg 40/22 and 402/22) governing approval of municipal apportionments the LTVCA has followed and will follow the following process:

1. The proposed Year 2024 Municipal Apportionment was posted to LTVCA's web site shortly after its approval on October 26, 2023, and circulated directly to municipalities on January 19, 2024 in order to provide a minimum 30-day notice to approval on February 22, 2024. There is an overall increase of \$79,098 over the 2023 apportionment.
2. The LTVCA has signed memoranda of understanding with all 10 municipalities confirming that LTVCA can continue to levy for all categories of services defined in regulation.
3. A recorded vote will be taken, with each member responding either "For" or "Against" the motion. The motion carries or is lost, according to the total of weighted votes assigned to each board member. This weighted vote is based upon the Modified Current Value Assessment apportioned to that portion of each municipality within the jurisdiction of the LTVCA watershed.
4. The 2024 Municipal Apportionment approved by the Board will be circulated to participating municipalities on February 23, 2024, who if not satisfied with the approval process may appeal to the Ontario Lands Tribunal in 30 days of receiving the notice. Thereafter, no appeals are allowed and the 2024 Municipal Apportionment will be final.

Recommendation:

That the 2024 Municipal Apportionment be approved;

And That the participating municipalities be assessed for payment of \$1,866,053 which is comprised of Category 1 expenses of \$1,525,260; Category 3 expenses of \$135,793 and Special Levy of \$205,000 (Category 1 & 2, Chatham-Kent);

And That each participating municipality's share of the 2024 Total municipal apportionment be calculated using "Modified Current Value Assessment." As shown in the table appended to this motion.

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

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
2024 DRAFT FINAL BUDGET

Object	COMBINED		CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Expenditures								
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	164,093	173,809	164,093	173,809	-	-	-	-
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	8	10	8	10	-	-	-	-
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	115,987	106,545	115,987	106,545	-	-	-	-
TECHNICAL STUDIES	157,574	102,687	157,574	102,687	-	-	-	-
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	425,625	386,983	425,625	386,983	-	-	-	-
WATERSHED MONITORING	180,027	123,621	175,019	118,571	-	-	5,008	5,050
SOURCE PROTECTION	26,780	23,882	26,780	23,882	-	-	-	-
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSERVATION AREAS	624,957	674,081	485,693	510,591	-	-	139,264	163,490
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	162,608	142,735	162,608	142,735	-	-	-	-
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	29,780	113,297	-	-	-	-	29,780	113,297
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	127,858	124,702	-	-	-	-	127,858	124,702
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	153,002	172,398	-	-	-	-	153,002	172,398
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	458,003	517,898	-	-	80,000	80,000	378,003	437,898
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	945,217	923,336	-	-	-	-	945,217	923,336
SPECIES AT RISK	111,658	171,028	-	-	-	-	111,658	171,028
ADMINISTRATION	517,347	599,082	517,347	599,082	-	-	-	-
ASSET MANAGEMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recovered Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	4,200,484	4,356,094	2,230,714	2,164,895	80,000	80,000	1,889,770	2,111,199
Revenues								
Other Taxation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government Grants & Subsidies	(1,665,079)	(1,468,581)	(329,467)	(217,485)	-	-	(1,335,612)	(1,251,096)
User Fees	(748,450)	(1,021,480)	(309,400)	(297,150)	-	-	(439,050)	(724,310)
Other Municipal Revenues	(205,000)	(205,000)	(125,000)	(125,000)	(80,000)	(80,000)	-	-
Total Revenues	(2,618,529)	(2,695,041)	(763,867)	(639,635)	(80,000)	(80,000)	(1,774,662)	(1,975,406)
Total Net Budget	1,581,955	1,661,053	1,466,847	1,525,260	-	-	115,108	135,793
Net Inc. / (Dec.) \$		79,098						
Net Inc. / (Dec.) %	0	5.0%						

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2024 DRAFT FINAL BUDGET

	2023 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>WATER MANAGEMENT</u>					
<u>FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	119,465	130,766	130,766		
OPERATIONS	33,733	29,998	29,998		
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	5,545	6,945	6,945		
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE	5,350	6,100	6,100		
TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	164,093	173,809	173,809	0	0
 <u>EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS					
OPERATIONS	8	10	10		
TOTAL EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	8	10	10	0	0
 <u>FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	90,118	88,955	88,955		
DATA COLLECTIONS	13,997	12,176	12,176		
FLOOD FORECASTING	2,650	1,850	1,850		
COMMUNICATIONS	2,400	1,400	1,400		
OPERATIONS CENTRE (RENT)	2,430	550	550		
FLOOD RESPONSE AND MONITORING	4,392	1,614	1,614		
TOTAL FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING	115,987	106,545	106,545	0	0

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2024 DRAFT FINAL BUDGET

	2023 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>TECHNICAL STUDIES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	140,574	98,237	98,237		
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY & MAPPING	0	0	0		
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	17,000	4,450	4,450		
TOTAL TECHNICAL STUDIES	157,574	102,687	102,687	0	0
<u>REGULATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	381,906	343,349	343,349		
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	43,719	43,634	43,634		
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	425,625	386,983	386,983	0	0
<u>WATERSHED MONITORING</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	131,496	74,239	73,589		650
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	48,531	49,382	44,982		4,400
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	180,027	123,621	118,571	0	5,050
<u>SOURCE PROTECTION</u>					
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0		

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2024 DRAFT FINAL BUDGET

	2023 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	332,561	360,065	291,734		68,331
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	292,396	314,016	218,857		95,159
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	624,957	674,081	510,591	0	163,490
<u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</u>					
<u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	150,758	133,135	133,135		
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	11,850	9,600	9,600		
TOTAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS	162,608	142,735	142,735	0	0
<u>CONSERVATION EDUCATION</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	26,891	106,035			106,035
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	2,869	7,262			7,262
TOTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION	29,760	113,297	0	0	113,297
<u>SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	120,508	116,632			116,632
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	7,350	8,070			8,070
TOTAL SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	127,858	124,702	0	0	124,702

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2024 DRAFT FINAL BUDGET**

	2023 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</u>					
<u>CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	107,852	126,008			126,008
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	45,150	46,390			46,390
TOTAL FORESTRY	153,002	172,398	0	0	172,398
<u>CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	176,485	244,380		80,000	164,380
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	281,518	273,518			273,518
TOTAL CHATHAM-KENT GREENING	458,003	517,898	0	80,000	437,898
<u>PHOSPHORUS</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	510,041	476,200			476,200
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	435,176	447,136			447,136
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS	945,217	923,336	0	0	923,336

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2024 DRAFT FINAL BUDGET**

	2023 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>SPECIES AT RISK</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	105,171	162,028			162,028
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	6,487	9,000			9,000
TOTAL CONS. SERVICES	111,658	171,028	0	0	171,028
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	368,821	423,856	423,856		
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	148,526	175,226	175,226		
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	517,347	599,082	599,082	0	0

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Levy for 2024 using Modified CVA

	Current Value Assessment (Modified CVA)	% of Levy	C-K Flood Control, Greening Levy 2024	Total General Levy 2024	Total Municipal Levy 2024	Total Municipal Levy 2023	\$ Change from 2023 Levy	% Change from 2023
Dutton-Dunwich M	570,238,759	3.7152%	0	61,711	61,711	58,265	3,446	5.91%
Southwold Tp	177,920,143	1.1592%	0	19,254	19,254	18,092	1,162	6.42%
West Elgin M	653,492,509	4.2576%	0	70,721	70,721	68,007	2,714	3.99%
Lakeshore M	1,471,508,816	9.5871%	0	159,246	159,246	150,805	8,441	5.60%
Leamington M	369,585,206	2.4079%	0	39,996	39,996	37,502	2,494	6.65%
Chatham-Kent M	8,654,499,337	56.3852%	205,000	936,587	1,141,587	1,098,971	42,616	3.88%
London C	1,777,974,361	11.5837%	0	192,412	192,412	183,026	9,386	5.13%
Middlesex Centre M	264,738,740	1.7248%	0	28,650	28,650	26,910	1,740	6.47%
Southwest Middlesex M	453,045,768	2.9517%	0	49,029	49,029	47,577	1,452	3.05%
Strathroy - Caradoc M	955,893,713	6.2278%	0	103,447	103,447	97,800	5,647	5.77%
TOTAL	15,348,897,352	100%	\$205,000	\$1,661,053	\$1,866,053	\$1,786,955	\$79,098	4.43%

10.4) Appointment of Auditor

Recommendation: That the Board of Directors direct staff to undertake a competitive bidding process to obtain Auditing services for the 2024 fiscal year and provide results of the bids to the Board for its decision at a subsequent Board meeting.

10.5) Appointment of Bank

Recommendation: That the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's bank until the next Annual Meeting in February 2025.

10.6) Appointment of Solicitor

Recommendation: That the firm of M. Gordnerlaw Professional Corporation be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's solicitor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2025.

10.7) Authorization to Borrow

Recommendation: 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.

10.8) Appointments to Conservation Ontario

Voting representative; 1st alternative; 2nd alternative.

Recommendation: That the "Chair" be appointed as Voting Representative; and the CAO as 1st Alternative.

10.9) 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 18, 2024 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, June 20, 2024 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, August 22, 2024 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, October 17, 2024 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, December 19, 2024 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, February 20, 2025 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Recommendation: That the meeting schedule for 2024 and the Annual General Meeting for 2025 be endorsed.

11. Business for Information

11.1) CAO's Report

For over 63 years the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has worked with the local communities of the lower Thames River to improve their watershed. This work continued in 2023. Once again community members came to support the many different programs we offer. The LTVCA appreciates the support and dedication of individuals, businesses, community groups, municipalities and a huge variety of organizations. Without this support we could not do our work.

We are excited about new opportunities to apply for federal funding for phosphorus reduction, Lake St. Clair resiliency planning and restoration of the Rondeau Bay Barrier Beach. These opportunities, provided by the federal government, will allow us to move forward with communities to address outstanding issues that affect us all.

In 2023 we began the construction of the Indigenous Community Learning Centre and the revitalization of the Longwoods Road Resource Centre. This project (funded through grants, donations and reserves) involves a modernization of the existing building (new fire alarm system, windows, insulation, furnaces, roofing and siding) and the construction of a new hall, kitchen and accessible washroom (Indigenous Community Learning Centre). The LTVCA thanks the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation for moving forward with a major fundraising campaign to fund this work and a second phase. The second phase will move forward once funds are raised. This phase will include construction of an accessible elevator (funds already received to complete the elevator), a new gallery, new offices to allow conversion of current offices into an additional gallery and the provision of proper storage of the large number of artifacts collected from the site.

In 2023 we also moved forward with the revitalization of the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre (previously known as the Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village). A significant amount of funding has been received from a number of grants to allow this to occur. We thank the Municipality of Chatham-Kent for its support in making this happen. We are excited as we start seeing increasing interest in programs and use of the revitalized building.

The LTVCA continues its work with Indigenous Nations in flood plain mapping, agricultural land stewardship, land restoration, education and events. Staff are thankful for the opportunities to work and learn from Indigenous community members as we move projects forward that improve our environment.

Bill 23 has had a significant impact on staff tasks in 2023. During this year, LTVCA staff have worked with member municipal staff and councils to complete cost apportionment agreements. Agreements are in place for all 10 municipalities. We are thankful that our municipalities support the work we do and we will continue to ensure this support through provision of cost effective programming. This would not have happened without the support of board members who championed our agreement requests. For this and all the other support that Board members provided the LTVCA during 2023, we are grateful.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for all their hard work and dedication. The success of our programs would not be possible without the talents and efforts of staff. We look forward to working with you all for a successful 2023.

11.2) Categories of Programs and Services Agreement and Planning MOU's

Date: February 22, 2024
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner
 Subject: Categories of Programs and Services Agreement and Planning MOU's - Update

Categories of Programs and Services Agreements - Update

All municipal council meetings have been held, with all Category Agreements signed by our ten-member municipalities. See spreadsheet for status of Agreements.

CATEGORY AGREEMENTS – MEETINGS BEFORE COUNCIL

MUNICIPALITY	DATE AND TIME BEFORE COUNCIL	DATE AND TIME WITH MUNICIPAL STAFF
Chatham-Kent	December 4, 2023 – signed	September 18, 2023
Lakeshore	November 7, 2023 – signed	July 12, 2023
Strathroy-Caradoc	October 16, 2023 – signed	September 26, 2023 – 2:00 pm
London	November 7, 2023 – signed	Multiple emails by MVP
Southwest Middlesex	October 11, 2023 – signed	September 28, 2023 – 1:00 pm
Dutton Dunwich	June 15, 2023 – signed	May 24, 2023
West Elgin	June 22, 2023 – signed	May 5, 2023
Southwold	July 10, 2023 – signed	n/a
Middlesex Centre	August 16, 2023 – signed	January 19, 2023
Leamington	January 1, 2024 – signed	August 30, 2023 – 1:00 pm

Planning Fee Schedule

Three municipalities are collecting on behalf of the Authority, with a fourth referring proponents to the CA to collect the fee. A fifth municipality has recently approved a report to council on the LTVCA's fees. We are still in discussions with our other members around the CA's planning fees.

For the collection of fees by the CA, the Municipality will direct proponents to the LTVCA to pay the fee, prior to an application being submitted to the Municipality by the proponent. The Municipality is to provide the proponents name, address and applicable planning instrument to the CA for the application (e.g. zoning amendment, severance, etc.) for the fee to be assessed properly. A receipt of payment from the CA will be

required by the proponent when submitting the planning application to the Municipality in order for it to be considered a complete application. At that point, the municipality will consider the application as being complete, and start the review processes under the Planning Act. Fees collected from planning submissions will be tracked by the CA.

Recommendation: That the Board of Directors receive this report for information.

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

Customer/Stakeholder Objectives

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

Financial Objectives

- 4) Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

Capacity Building Objectives

- 12) Strengthen Program Review Policy(s)

Respectfully Submitted:

Valerie Towsley

Watershed Resource Planner

Reviewed By:

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.

C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

11.3) Water Management

11.3.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

Flood Messaging and Flood Events

There have been nine flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors in December.

One message was a Shoreline Condition Statement – Flood Outlook, particularly for the Lake Erie shoreline and Erie Shore Drive in particular, and it was issued on January 11th. The weather station at Cedar Springs recorded wind speeds over 45 km/hr on the 12th, once from the southeast and once from the south, but the strong winds only lasted a couple of hours before dropping back down. No significant flooding was reported.

The other eight flood messages were related to watershed wide conditions that led up to a high-water event and the operation of flood control structures. Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages were issued on January 8th, 11th, and 24th. These messages were issued for potential rainfall that would melt snow or set the watershed up for the high-water event at the end of the month. The McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated from the evening of the 9th through the evening of the 11th. It was operated again on January 13th at around 1:30 am until the evening of the 14th. It was operated for a third time from the evening of January 25th until the Thames River high water event passed and was reopened on the morning of February 1st.

The remaining five messages, two being Flood Watches and three being Flood Warnings, were related to a high-water event on the Thames River. They were issued between January 26th and the 30th. The event was somewhat unusual. While the event had the characteristics of a typical spring freshet – with warm temperatures and rain on snow which released the stored water and lead to even more runoff – it occurred at the end of January rather than in the spring. It was also unusual in the sense that runoff from the local tributaries contributed almost as much water as that coming from the upper watershed.

The Flood Watch message issued the morning of the 26th noted that 60 mm of rain had been seen over the entire lower Thames watershed in the last three days and that 25 to 30 mm of that had fallen the previous evening. But, the Thames River through the lower watershed was already flowing at around 100 m³/s when this rainfall occurred. The Thames River at Byron peaked at just over 500 m³/s at around noon on the 27th, and about 40 hours later in the early morning of the 29th around Dutton at a just over 450 m³/s. These are fairly typical spring type flows and timing for areas upstream of Thamesville. Typically, the river spills out of the channel into its adjacent flood flats at around 350 m³/s and bridge crossings tend not to get impacted until around 700 m³/s.

Thamesville had already reached 500 m³/s by the morning of the 27th, before the peak had even occurred in the upper watershed at the Byron gauge. Although Thamesville flows dropped back slightly to just under 450 m³/s overnight on the 27th into the 28th, it rose again as the water from the upper watershed came down, peaking at around 525 m³/s overnight on the 29th into the 30th. This presented a challenge for flood forecasting and potential dam operations.

With the current Lake St. Clair water levels, the 6th Street Backwater Dam and Pumping Station could be expected to require operation at a flow between 450 and 550 m³/s, depending on ice conditions. On top of that, any downstream ice jams would have required the 6th Street flood control structure to be operated. But, on the 27th of January as the 500 m³/s flow was passing through Chatham, the river ice was breaking up and moving downstream. Early on in the morning of the 27th, LTVCA staff prepared for the operation of the 6th Street Dam in order to protect the south side of Chatham upstream on McGregor Creek from flooding. As weather forecasts came in on the 27th, another 10 to 15 mm of rain was being forecast by The Weather Network for the overnight and the next morning. It was therefore decided to operate 6th Street and the dam was closed on the evening of the 27th and pumping operations began. Pumping operations ceased and the dam gates were re-opened on the evening of the 30th.

Water levels on the Thames River in Chatham peaked at an elevation of 178.55 m (Canadian Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1928, revised 1978) on the morning of the 30th, within 5 cm of the threshold for operating the 6th Street Dam and Pumping Station. In Chatham, flooded areas were fairly typical. The sidewalks along the river in the downtown were flooded over. Simcoe Lane under the 5th Street Bridge was flooded and Chatham-Kent Emergency Services staff had to remove a vehicle from the floodwaters. Other low-lying areas along the river such as municipal parking lots were also flooded, but floodwaters never made it up into residential areas to impact homes.



Photo: 6th Street Dam and Pumping Station in operation on the evening of January 28th.



Photo: Simcoe Lane under the 5th Street Bridge on the evening of January 28th.



Photo: 6th Street Dam and Pumping Station on January 29th, Thames River side left, upstream McGregor Creek right.

Risk for Spring Freshet Flooding and Ice Jams

Every year the LTVCA undertakes several monitoring programs to help determine the risk of ice jam flooding in the lower reaches of the river, together with monitoring of general watershed conditions for an indication of how large a spring freshet the watershed may see.

Bathymetry work at the mouth of the Thames River in Lake St. Clair is conducted to determine whether the offshore sandbar may impede river ice as it pushes out into the lake, thereby causing an ice jam. Previous studies noted that the river generally maintains a passage through the sandbar with a depth around 1.8 m. It has been noted that should the depth over the sandbar become any shallower, it may present a concern for ice jamming. Bathymetry work conducted on December 16th, 2023 indicated that the passage over the sandbar was deeper than 1.8 m and lake levels have risen since those measurements were taken.

Regardless of the lake depth at the outlet of the river, it is extremely unlikely there will be an ice jam at the mouth this spring. Satellite imagery of Lake St. Clair and visual inspections of the river suggested that the mouth of the river would have frozen in around January 15th. However, some areas of the river were still open a week later. The mid-winter melt event which caused high water on the Thames River at the end of January had pushed most of the ice out into the lake on January 27th and the river was clear of ice on the 28th. Theoretical calculations predicting ice thickness suggested that the ice was only about 11 to 12 cm thick when it broke up and flushed out, and this aligns with what was visually observed when the ice broke up. Historically, it was suggested that around 30 cm of ice was needed to allow for ice jams. However, there have been a couple more recent events when around 20 cm of ice caused a jam. Looking at long range weather forecasts, should the river freeze over again, it is unlikely to accumulate more than 6 cm of ice before the end of winter.

When the river ice flushed out into Lake St. Clair on January 27th, the LTVCA did receive an email from a concerned resident suggesting that ice had blocked up the river and that water levels were rising. The email was received at noon and was sent to a general information email account. By the time LTVCA staff made it down to the mouth of the river at 2:30 pm, there was no apparent jam and ice seemed to be flowing out into the lake by passing under the lake ice.



Photo: Ice at Lighthouse Cove, 2:40 p.m. on January 27th.

A typical spring freshet flood is caused by a combination of warm temperatures and rain on snow causing additional runoff. At this time, all of the snowpack has melted out of the lower Thames watershed and the majority has melted out of the upper Thames watershed as well. As of February 1st, only small amounts of snow were left in the headwaters of the upper Thames, with no more than 15 mm of snow water equivalent. Weather forecasts suggest that we could see up to 15 mm of precipitation, falling mostly as snow over the next week. So, if weather conditions are right, the watershed could still accumulate enough snowpack to generate a second spring freshet type event.

Report on Lake Conditions

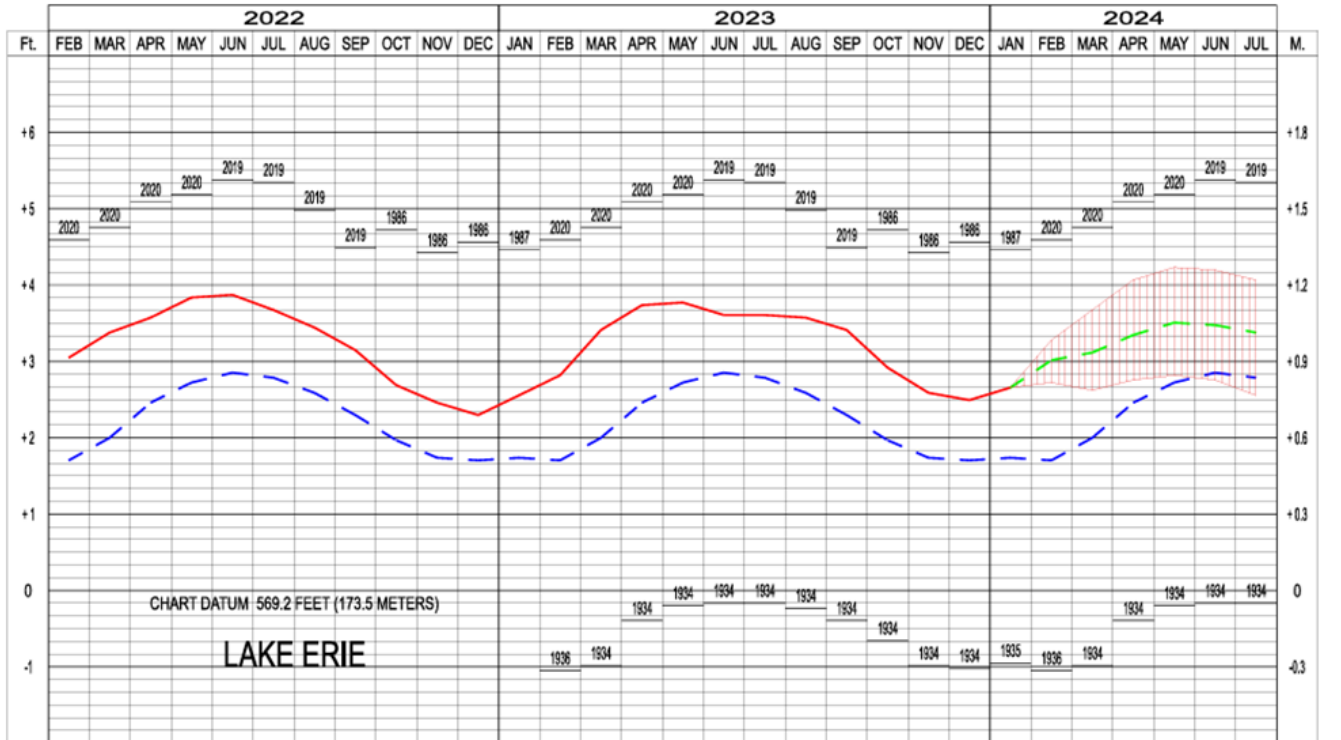
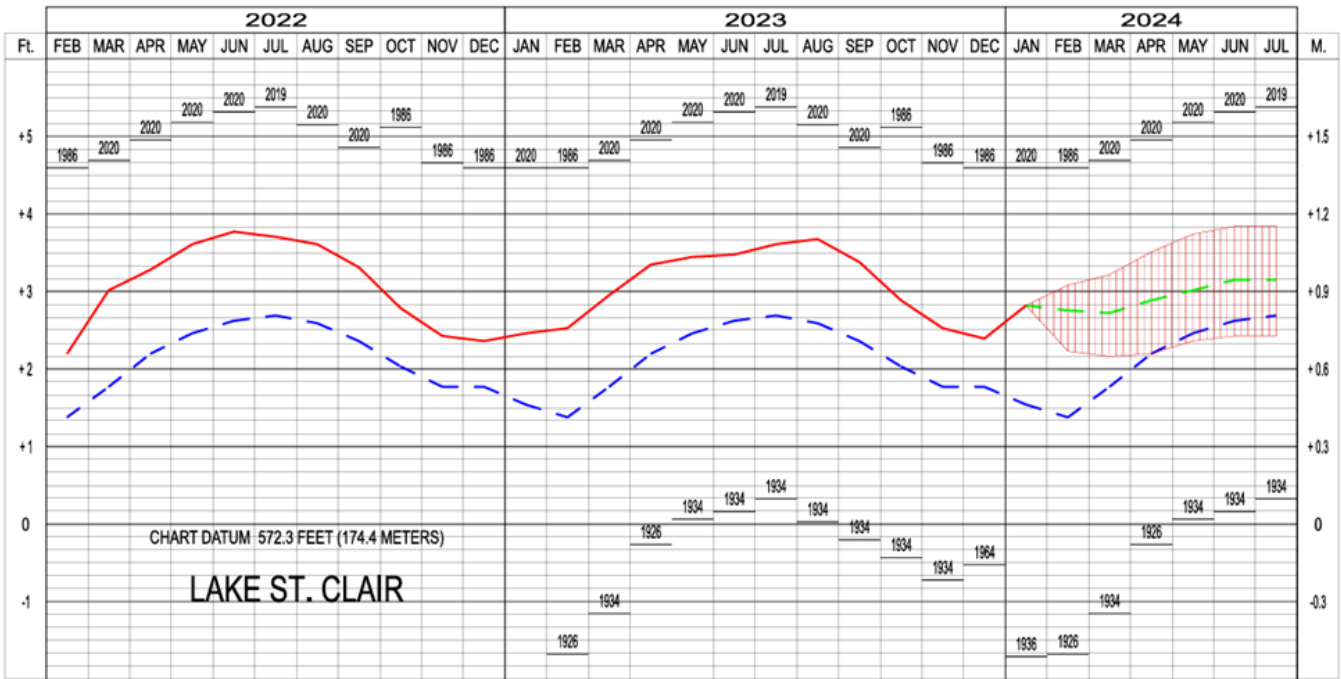
Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of February were around 174.44 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for February was 174.90 m, set in 2020. Water levels at the beginning of February were 42 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of February. Lake levels are predicted to be roughly at the same level by the beginning of March.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of February were around 175.35 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for February was 175.80, set in 1986. Water levels at the beginning of February were 53 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of February. Lake levels are predicted to be roughly at the same level by the beginning of March.

Throughout 2023, water levels on both Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair have been tracking fairly close to the water levels seen in 2022. Typically, in January, Lake St. Clair is still in its seasonal decline and Lake Erie water levels would have flattened out. However, both lakes saw a sudden significant rise in January this year. Lake St Clair rose 40 cm between January 14th and the 25th. Lake Erie rose 27 cm between January 13th and February 5th. Water levels on both lakes have been dropping back since. It looks like water levels may not be stabilizing slightly above where they were at this time last year. Longer range forecasts suggest that water levels on both lakes will continue to track above average through 2024.

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. At this time last year, only minor flooding was seen along the road with sustained wind speeds in the 45 km/h range. LTVCA staff will be monitoring wind events to determine what the new thresholds for flooding are. Unfortunately, any lake ice that had previously formed has now melted out and is no longer providing protection to the shoreline from winter storm events.

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.



11.3.2) Flood Control Structures

Both the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel and the 6th Street Dam were operated this January. Details on the operations can be found in the Flood Messaging and Flood Events section above.

As part of regular operations and maintenance, divers are brought in every year just before McGregor Creek freezes over to clean the gates of the 6th Street Dam. This is required as the dam was designed with the gates lying flat on the bottom of the creek. Any debris that accumulates on the gates, or garbage that is thrown off the walkway onto the gates, could prevent the gates from being properly closed when operations are required. By doing this just before the creek freezes over, the hope is that the ice will limit the amount of debris and garbage that can accumulate on the gates in case divers can't perform a cleaning immediately before operations area required. This year, rather than performing this work just before the holidays, the cleaning of the gates was put off until January. Divers from Watech Services out of London cleaned the gates on January 9th.

As a result of the recent high-water event in late January when the diversion channel was operated, there has been a significant buildup of debris within the channel at the railway bridge crossing. This large of a debris jam is not something that has been seen for at least the last 15 years. The challenge in clearing the debris jam is that it sits in about 50 cm of water and is against the railway bridge which LTVCA staff are not able to access. Since 2017, Lake St. Clair water levels have been higher than normal which has kept water levels high all the way up the Thames into the downstream end of the diversion channel. This has created a challenge with maintenance for the last few years now.



Regular maintenance, such as minor repairs related to vandalism, and vegetation management also continue for the structures.

11.3.3) 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 summer/autumn/winter thresholds are: Level 1, 70% lowest average summer flow (LASF); Level 2, 50% LASF; and Level 3, 30% LASF. During the growing season, LTVCA staff create a brief report summarizing conditions around the watershed, which is available by request. Outside of the growing season, the LTVCA relies on provincial level summary reports provided by the MNRF to keep up-to-date. In the second week of January, the MNRF notified the LTVCA of a potential Low Water Condition. As a result, a summary report was completed at the beginning of February.

The region saw a significant amount of rain in the later part of January. Analysis done at the beginning of February calculated 3-month rainfall totals around the watershed above the 80% threshold specified for the program. November and December had been dryer than usual, but the January rain made up for that deficit. For the 18-month indicator, the six gauges examined showed 18-month rainfall totals all above 80% as well. The warm temperatures and rains in the later part of January also trigger a high-water event. As a result, calculated flows for the Thames River and McGregor Creek were around 10 times the program threshold for a Low Water Condition. Therefore, it has been determined that the LTVCA is not in a Low Water Condition.

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/>

11.3.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. Winter sampling has moved to being analysed entirely at a private lab, with the MECP winter sample allocation being used during the year to keep a monthly schedule at all 11 PWQMN sites. In addition to regularly scheduled sampling, now that the region is starting to see some more rainfall, there have been several sampling runs to capture event based runoff. Maintenance on autosamplers that collect these events continues with repairs being made to the autosamplers and intake lines being replaced on a regular schedule. This type of sampling is important as studies have shown increased nutrient runoff during winter and spring melt events. This sampling is required to be able to determine nutrient loadings related to the phosphorous reduction targets under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The LTVCA recently heard that the MECP has begun approving its COA funding. Work has begun on finalizing an agreement to continue the expanded sampling program.

Groundwater monitoring for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program also continues. While water quality sampling was completed last autumn, the program also collects well water level and temperature on an hourly basis. A few stations also have rainloggers. LTVCA staff maintain the sites and staff download the information from data loggers in addition to those sites that have telemetry to automatically download from. Sites are typically visited once every 3 months. There was discussion of adding a spring water quality sampling run for PGMN as well, however, that work is yet to be confirmed. The next round of visits will be in late February/early March.

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

11.4) Planning and Regulations

11.4.1) Planning

From the end of November 2023 through to the end of January 2024, there were 38 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 47 phone calls and over 110 email responses to inquiries which staff have responded in these two months.

Planning Numbers	2022 Totals	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	Mar Totals	Apr Totals	May Totals	June Totals	July Totals	Aug Totals	Sept Totals	Oct Totals	Nov Totals	Dec Totals	2023 Totals	Jan Totals	2024 Totals
Chatham-Kent	204	21	17	38	26	44	18	34	27	12	14	14	10	275	14	14
Elgin	92	14	7	18	10	12	8	5	7	7	0	1	0	89	7	7
Essex	32	4	0	2	0	3	1	5	1	0	1	1	0	17	3	3
Middlesex	44	5	5	3	6	2	4	0	4	3	3	0	0	35	6	6
Total Numbers	372	44	29	60	42	61	31	44	39	21	18	15	8	416	30	30

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

Planning Fees

Planning fees generated for the time period of December 1, 2023 through to January 31, 2024:

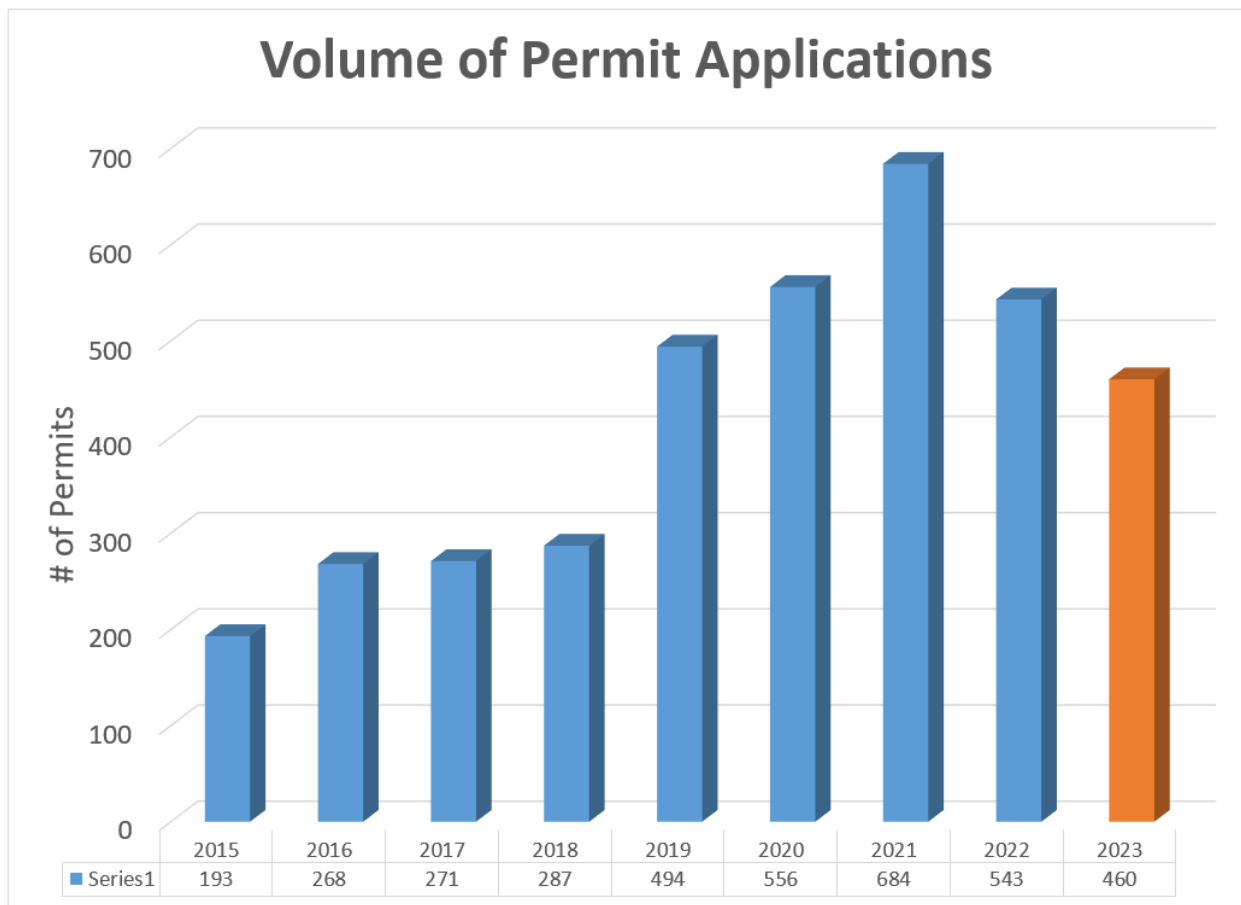
Municipality	December 2023 – January 2024	2024 Total	2023 Total
Southwold	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$930.00
Dutton Dunwich	\$0	\$0	\$230.00
West Elgin	\$0	\$0	\$7,595.00
YTD Total		\$700.00	\$8,755.00

11.4.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

Permitting

In December 2023, staff received 10 permit applications for proposed works that are subject to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. For the entire 2023-year, staff received a total of 460 new permit applications for review. No Hearings were conducted in 2023. A 2022 Executive Committee Hearing decision, which had been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal, is still working its way through the appeal process by the applicant.

The number of permit applications continued to slow down in 2023 compared to the height reached in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is likely related to the post-pandemic period (e.g. landowners spending more on vacations versus home/property improvements) and higher bank interest rates. The below figure illustrates the rising number of development applications in hazardous areas since 2015.



Below are some Section 28 permitting statistics for 2023:

- 49 properties were surveyed for flood proofing requirements related to Ontario Regulation 152/06 as well as related to municipal zoning by-laws / official plan requirements;
- 71% of all applications were within Chatham-Kent;
- 47% of the applications were for private property owners for projects such as construction or modification of structures, shoreline protection repairs, and/or bank alterations;
- 30% of applications were for utilities (such as for oil, gas, or communication);
- 23% of applications were for municipal or county projects (drainage or infrastructure); and,
- Total of permit application & hearing fees = \$82,775.00.

Historically, January tends to be a slower period for permitting which allows staff to catch up on filing from the previous year, complete policy updates and other items on the department's work plan for the year. The number of incoming permit applications for January typically ranges between 10 and 20. In January 2024, staff received 62 new permit applications for review.

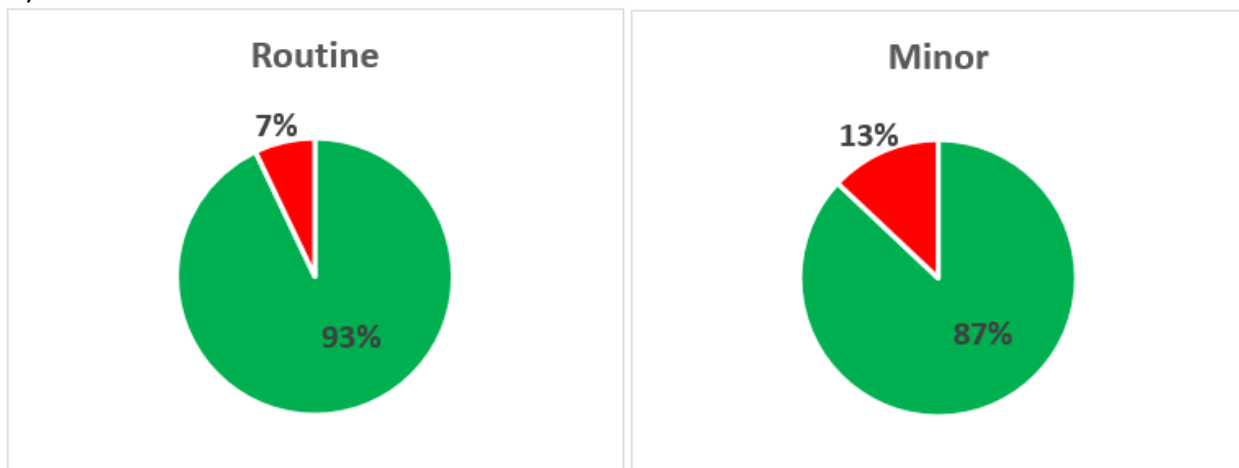
11.4.3) 2023 Permit Processing Timelines

Conservation Ontario developed a document entitled "Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review" with input from Conservation Ontario Timely Reviews and Approvals Taskforce as well as stakeholders such as the Ontario Home Builders' Association. Conservation Ontario Council endorsed the document on 24 June 2019. The LTVCA Board of Directors adopted the client service standards at the board meeting on 22 August 2019 including regular reporting on the LTVCA's performance with respect to the client service standards.

Permit applications are broken down into three categories based on the complexity of the application: routine, minor, and major applications. Routine applications are generally quick and fairly standard with minimum staff requirements for review (e.g. municipal drain maintenance), minor applications don't require a lot of staff time but may require some technical review, and major applications require significant review and staff time. The following are the delivery standards for making a decision on a complete application:

Application Category	Delivery Standard
Routine	14 Days
Minor	21 Days
Major	28 Days

Using the customer service standards developed by Conservation Ontario, the below charts indicate that 93% of routine applications and 87% of minor applications met their applicable delivery standard for permits / decisions issued in 2023. The LTVCA didn't receive any applications or make decisions on applications that could be considered to be "major" in complexity in 2023.



Complexity of Application	# Applications Reviewed Within the Following Days				
	0 - 14 Days	15 - 21 Days	21 - 28 Days	29 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	105	4	4	4	0
Minor	191	104	12	32	0
Major	0	0	0	0	0

The percentage of routine applications meeting their delivery standards is comparable to previous years (2021 = 96% and 2022 = 88%) however, the percentage of minor applications meeting their delivery standards has continued to improve (2021 = 52% and 2022 = 67%). The improvement in the turnaround time is likely related to the decrease in the volume of permit applications as well as receiving additional assistance to the program from other staff.

11.4.4) Property Inquiries

In 2023, the Water Resources and Regulations Technician and the Administrative Assistant to the program received and responded to 831 property inquiries which was a decrease from 2022. The decrease is likely related to the 2.5 month leave of the Water Resources and Regulations Technician – the inquiries that the technician would normally have handled during that time period would have been handled by other staff.

During the first month of 2024, the Water Resources and Regulations Technician has received 104 property inquiries. At the time of writing of this staff report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is approximately 0 to 5 business days for e-mails and 3 to 7 business days for phone calls.

Some of the reasons that regulations and planning staff receive property inquiries include:

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

11.4.5) Section 28 Enforcement:

23 new complaints / tips were received in 2023 however only one Notice of Violation was issued primarily due to staffing resource issues. 21 of the 23 complaints / tips were violations or potential violations of the Conservation Authorities Act. Three of the 21 violation / potential violation files have been closed without prosecution. Of the 23 complaints / violations received, 14 were in Chatham-Kent, three were in Lakeshore, three were in Southwest Middlesex, and one each were within West Elgin, Strathroy-Caradoc, and Leamington.

As of 31 January 2024, two new complaints / tips have been received from the public.

11.4.6) O. Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications

O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in Dec 2023 and Jan 2024)

B.D. 02/22/2024

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
2023 Permits					
443-2023	11992 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 14, 2023	14
444-2023	12060 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 14, 2023	14
445-2023	12062 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 14, 2023	14
446-2023	12064 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 14, 2023	14
447-2023	12070 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 14, 2023	14
448-2023	12078 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 14, 2023	14
449-2023	12084 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 14, 2023	14
451-2023	Boersma-Burwell Drain	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Dec 05, 2023	4
452-2023	12074 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 14, 2023	10
453-2023	Robert Wands Drain near 4604 Badder Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 05, 2023	0
454-2023	Pain Court Line over McFarlane Relief Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 07, 2023	1
455-2023	Town Line Road over McFarlane Relief Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 07, 2023	1
456-2023	390 Colborne Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 02, 2024	11
457-2023	21040 Pier Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 19, 2023	11
458-2023	408 Erie Street North	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 14, 2023	87
459-2023	Mason Drain-Myers Culvert	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 18, 2023	4
460-2023	370 Colborne Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 19, 2023	1
2024 Permits					
004-2024	Grande River Line Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 18, 2024	21
006-2024	Goodbrand Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 05, 2024	14
007-2024	Hornal Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 05, 2024	14
008-2024	East Branch Damphouse Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 03, 2024	0
009-2024	Brown Annett Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: Jan 04, 2024	2
010-2024	Backus Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 18, 2024	21
011-2024	3 Lottie Ave	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 18, 2024	10
012-2024	Brown Drain	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 18, 2024	14
013-2024	Fowler Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: Jan 18, 2024	10
014-2024	Main Drain of the North Cadotte Pumping Works	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 18, 2024	10
015-2024	25 Victoria Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 24, 2024	15
039-2024	6784 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 25, 2024	13
040-2024	Brown Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 24, 2024	12
041-2024	Iona Station Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: Jan 24, 2024	8
042-2024	10 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 25, 2024	9
043-2024	Hebblethwaite Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 25, 2024	9
047-2024	920 Charing Cross Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 25, 2024	6
052-2024	McTaggart Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Jan 25, 2024	6

O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications
 (Permits Issued in Dec 2023 and Jan 2024)

B.D. 02/22/2024

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
053-2024	CN Rail Between Glen Oak Road and Melbourne Road	Caradoc	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Jan 26, 2024	3
054-2024	CN Rail Between Glen Oak Road and Melbourne Road	Caradoc	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Jan 26, 2024	3
058-2024	23573 Gray Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Jan 30, 2024	6

11.5) Conservation Area Lands

11.5.1) Conservation Areas

Walter Devereux

Walter Devereux CA is currently having a new trail developed, staff will review shortly and open to the public this spring.

Livermore House

The tenant has moved onto a new residence; our Eastern Staff have refreshed the property and it is currently available for rent.



Two Creeks

LTVCA and the Tourism of Chatham-Kent partnered together and did a winter promotional photo shoot at Two Creeks Conservation Area, once the photos are available they will be shared with the LTVCA and the Friends of Two Creeks to use on social media campaigns and in our distribution materials.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

The Longwoods Resource Centre is midway through the construction which started in October and is due to be completed in April. The property has a completed foundation, demolition has been completed, framed and roughed in services. The windows, roofing, siding, insulation will be in place by the end of February.



Magic of Lights was in the Longwoods Road Conservation Area for the 2023 Christmas season. The light show opened to the public on November 17th and wrapped up early January. The event brought through 18,000 vehicles.

C.M. Wilson

Staff continue to work hard at transforming the CM Wilson Learning Centre into the place to be. The building interior has been repainted and refreshed throughout, major cleaning and organization of the facility has taken place. Events are starting to book into the hall and education classroom.

Administration Office

Staff periodically take the time to pick up any garbage or debris that appear on site at the Administration Office on Thames Street in Chatham. Staff always show a wonderful effort in stewardship and keeping our indoor and outdoor work spaces clean, tidy and set an example for our community. Taking on such a task may seem simple, but can make quite a difference in helping the environment.



Staff: Alyssa Broeders, Mike Young, Jason Homewood

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

11.6) Conservation Services

11.6.1) Stewardship Report

General Update

We're thrilled to report that our tree planting program is seeing great success with nearly 60,000 trees ordered and still several weeks remaining until the deadline. This exceptional response demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental stewardship.

Our gratitude goes out to our key funders this year: Forest Ontario, Tree Canada, and Ridge Landfill. Thanks to their support, we can offer substantial incentives to landowners interested in transforming their properties into thriving forests.

Our partnership with Blackburn for radio ads continues to be fruitful, generating significant interest in our programs. In January, our focus was on our Winter Webinar series, which received positive engagement. Looking ahead to February, our marketing efforts will shift to highlight the upcoming tree order deadline on March 1, 2024.

Behind the scenes, our staff has been diligently conducting site visits and planning for spring and summer projects. These efforts are crucial for ensuring the successful execution of our initiatives.

Eastern District: Since the new year Tyler has been conducting site visits with landowners to implement tree planting, wetland, and native tall grass prairie stewardship projects for the fiscal year 2024. Projects are being tracked through our new database system. The conservation services team has been working diligently to develop the new database into a valuable tool for project tracking and reporting. A 16-acre project was proposed to Middlesex Centre at the council meeting on January 24th at the Ilderton Community Centre. Our team has submitted a list of projects to acquire funding from the Trees Canada Grant.

Promotion letters have been assembled and mail outs will go out to landowners promoting our stewardship programs. An Outreach & Information night is planned at the Glencoe Community Centre on February 12th with ALUS Middlesex. Tyler Thornton has successfully acquired his pesticide license; specializing in forestry with the University of Guelph.

Wetlands and Ducks Unlimited Canada Partnership

Despite the wet conditions in the start of the new year, 1 wetland was able to be completed that is 0.3 acres in size. The contractor was able to drain the area enough to excavate the wetland and complete the job in between rain events.

Since then, the wet weather combined with lack of freezing conditions has slowed down wetland implementation, with two outstanding projects waiting to go as soon as the conditions are favourable. In the meantime, staff have been hard at work completing grant applications and following up on project inquiries to line up this year's 2024 wetland projects.

Completed Wetland Projects:



Big Creek/Baptiste Creek Wetland – 0.33 acres

Stewardship Outreach

So far in 2024, LTVCA has attended the Ontario Agriculture Conference, where farmers and researchers alike have a chance to present and network over a two-day period. This event hosts about 500 in person attendees. Also, in January, OP Show Productions hosted the annual Chatham-Kent Farm Show. This annual event has roughly 1,500 attendees with displays from all over Chatham-Kent. At our booth, we showcased species at risk literature, stewardship program material (wetlands, tree planting projects and tallgrass prairie), soil health program and phosphorus reduction literature among other BMP's. With an interactive game of farm plinko and SAR models, we changed our approach to our display and saw results. Staff interacted with over 150 attendees and were able to answer questions and concerns brought to them about the watershed, program incentives and species at risk. A big thank you goes out to the stewardship team as they worked hard on future project leads.



ALUS Middlesex

ALUS Middlesex is excited for the new year ahead and we are busy planning for another successful year. With sights set on the upcoming tree planting season, ALUS Middlesex is hosting our 2nd Tree Information Night alongside the LTVCA stewardship team and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. The event will be held at the Glencoe Agricultural Hall on Monday, February 12th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. We hope to connect with prospective and returning landowners to answer any questions relating to tree planting opportunities. The new year brings new opportunity to connect with our partners across all five watersheds in which we operate, and our friends at Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Working in collaboration, the team is hopeful for the many new and exciting project opportunities that are planned for the 2024 season.

In late January, Program Director Elise Gabrielli had the pleasure to attend Fanshawe College’s Agri-Business Management program as a guest lecturer alongside Stephanie Cullen, ALUS Elgin Program Coordinator. Together they spoke to the ALUS Program, and delivery within SW Ontario. As a follow-up, ALUS Middlesex will participate in the program’s summer student internship with a specific focus on GIS and Digital Outreach. As we look to the summer months, the team has just completed their interview sessions with candidates from Western University’s Master of Environment and Sustainability Program (MES) and they will provide a placement for one summer co-op position. Both Elise and Graham are excited to welcome a new student member to their team for the upcoming field season.

If you’re looking to connect with the team, we can be found at several upcoming events; Elise will speak at the Monarch Partnership Workshop, hosted by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Project Coordinator, Graham Moddle

will share his expertise on pollinator habitat with attendees at the Canadian Wildlife Federation's February Speaker Series. On February 20th, ALUS Middlesex will join the Thames Talbot Land Trust at Hickory Ridge Golf Course and Country Club as part of a workshop aimed to create awareness of program opportunities within the Dingman Creek corridor. Lastly, the team is very excited to attend the Grain Farmer of Ontario's March Classic Exhibition on March 19th at RBC Place in London. The theme of this year's exhibition is Advancing our strong roots.

Finally, ALUS Middlesex will host their first PAC meeting of 2024 on Tuesday, February 13th; welcoming prospective members who are eager to learn more about our community, in addition to annual elections and project discussion.

ALUS Elgin

Annual payments to program participants were sent out on December 22nd. Tying up 2023 Year End reporting occupied ALUS Elgin this January. The absence of a full time Program Coordinator from the end of 2022 and into 2023 introduced an aspect of chaos into the record system. Tending to the records will be an ongoing project over 2024. To keep up with both this and the demands of regular program delivery, we are looking at hiring a co-op student and conducted interviews at the beginning of February. Grant opportunities for staff support are being examined with the hope of being able to offer them an extension and have a full-time assistant moving forward. Site visits are being scheduled to further plans for projects to be established in 2024.

ALUS Chatham-Kent

ALUS Chatham-Kent began 2024 by finalizing year-end reports for 2023, sending out letters for our very first batch of renewals, and solidifying our targets for 2024. There are currently 26 projects on our waiting list for 2024, more than enough to fulfill our targets for 2024, with a balanced mix of tree planting, wetlands and grassland buffers.

The ALUS Chatham-Kent Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) had its first meeting on January 15th. They elected a new chair and co-chair, reviewed and edited crucial documents (Terms of Reference, ALUS Community Guidelines, role(s) of PAC members, role of the Farmer Liaison), started planning a 5th anniversary farm tour for the summer, and hosted a meet-and-greet lunch to network with LTVCA staff and strengthen our working relationship for the benefit of farmers in Chatham-Kent. Over the course of the winter, they'll be reviewing our Strategic Plan and updating it to reflect changes over the last 5 years.

There is concern that the word about ALUS is not getting out to enough farmers, especially to those outside the LTVCA watershed but within Chatham-Kent (Wallaceburg, Dresden), where there is still a lot of confusion from farmers about where to get help implementing their environmental projects. A list of local agricultural groups was circulated as a starting point to reach out and ask if ALUS can make a short presentation at their meetings. A sub-committee was formed to create postcards, pamphlets and business cards to help with outreach efforts, and to design ALUS shirts for the PAC to wear when representing ALUS at events.

It's been a great start to 2024, with lots of momentum and motivation from our PAC to encourage farmers to help improve the environment for all of Chatham-Kent!

Urban Stewardship

The Urban Stewardship program has big things planned for the upcoming field season! Over the winter months, staff have been planning for 23 events, including tree plantings, pollinator garden creation, garbage cleanup, giveaways, outreach events, and fundraisers. Through these events, over 20 groups/businesses will be engaged in restoring our urban areas!



The 3rd annual Winter Webinar Series is well underway, with the first webinar, “Ecotoxicology: Contaminants & Your Environment” being quite well attended both in live and recorded views. The second webinar: “The Art of Nature” will occur on February 15th, and will discuss the art of being a naturalist and how to start on the journey of naturalism.



Staff also attended an outreach event: “BizconneCKt”, in which community members familiarize themselves with the non-profits in CK and the services we offer. We engaged with many individuals & spread awareness of environmental issues and incentives.

11.6.2) Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives

On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program

From December 2023 to January of 2024, LTVCA project staff continued to collect water quality and quantity data in the ONFARM study. Approximately 157 mm of precipitation was recorded at the Merlin edge of field sites during the period. During January and February, 4 significant flow events were observed and sampled. We expect flow events to occur more frequently throughout the remainder of the Winter.

The 2024 ONFARM forum was hosted on February 8th and results from the first 4-years of the project were shared with the broader public. The LTVCA Agricultural Program Coordinator presented in collaboration with Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. Results from edge-of-field BMP verification sites were discussed during the Forum and viewers had the opportunity to ask questions to the speakers from the conservation authorities. In total 257 attended the event. Additional case studies and result reports will be released at a later date.

To learn more about the LTVCA's involvement in this initiative, the ONFARM 2024 Forum video can be viewed in the linked YouTube video: [2024 ONFARM Forum \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

As part of a ONFARM knowledge translation and transfer activity, LTVCA staff attended the Southwest Agricultural Conference at The University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus in December 2023. Cover crop and soil health panel discussions provided insight into edge of field research and the effectiveness of BMP's. This was a great opportunity to network with landowners, academics, and industry professionals.

This program is funded by the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. ONFARM was developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) with support from various organizations including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, three Conservation Authorities and The Soil Resource Group.



Overland flow samples collected at Merlin edge-of-field research site during a flow event on January 25, 2024.



LTVCA water quality staff members Randy Kirby and Brittney Littlefield work to repair water quality sampling equipment at Merlin edge-of-field research site.

LTVCA: Soil Health Program 2023/24 – Update

The objective of the 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.

During December of 2023 to January of 2024 LTVCA staff completed processing all the cover crop planting claim submissions for 2023 projects. The LTVCA is contributing \$134,700.00 to 51 farm businesses to offset the cost of planting of 8,980 acres of cover crops in the watershed during 2023. Project staff are now focusing on aggregating the necessary soil and crop management data for all the fields where the plantings occurred during 2023. This data will be used by ECCC staff to estimate the amount of carbon that was sequestered in the soil through the cover crop plantings.

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.

11.6.3) Species at Risk (SAR)

Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

Letters have been sent to ranchers whose livestock access watercourses and landowners whose creeks lack shoreline vegetation (riparian buffers) within approximately 5 km, as the creek flows, from the Thames River and Rondeau Bay. These letters encourage these landowners to contact the LTVCA to initiate livestock exclusion and/or riparian buffer planting projects, with the offer of financial assistance. Implementation is to start in 2024. Agreement negotiations with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to secure Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) and Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic SAR (CNFASAR) funds over three years to support this work is nearing completion.

Terrestrial Species at Risk



Figure 1: Cerulean Warbler observed at Feasby Conservation Area.

SAR, invasive species and significant natural heritage features have been identified at LTVCA conservation area (CA) properties. Recommendations regarding their management needs have been identified.

Invasive Species and SAR Communications

A final report on *Managing New Invasions in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority*, related to the LTVCA's work monitoring the success of a 2021 Water Lettuce removal in McGregor Creek and educating businesses and the public about the dangers of releasing aquatic invasive species into the environment, has been submitted to the Invasive Species Centre.

11.7) Communications, Outreach and Education

11.7.1) Social Media

As of February 6, 2024, the **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Facebook** page has 3,523 Followers, the **Instagram page for the Authority** has 1,267 Followers, and the Authority has 1,264 followers on **Twitter**.

11.7.2) Communication and Outreach

Weather has not cooperated for Snowshoe Rentals at Longwoods Road Conservation Area this year. We have been able to host a single day of rentals in 2024 so far. We have one further date planned given appropriate weather.

On Sunday, February 25, 2024 the Community Educator at Longwoods, with the support of the Curator, will host a new event, Stories in the Longhouse. The event will provide participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in a winter tradition of storytelling.

The Education teams are presently working on a March Break program for families to enjoy at C.M. Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Areas. These programs will offer opportunities to learn about conservation and Indigenous culture through hands on activities

11.7.3) Education Programming

Our dedicated education staff has been hard at work strategizing how to best revitalize our existing Education Programs. The goal of revitalization is to ensure that our programming is up-to-date and takes a Two-eyed seeing approach. Both conservation and Indigenous studies programs will be offered, but content will not be siloed as strictly as was done in the past. The objective of the Indigenous studies programs will be to have students experience learning about biodiversity through an Indigenous lens.

C.M Wilson Learning Centre

Collaborating closely with St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, members of the Education team have taken part in professional sharing opportunities with our neighbouring authority. The team is working to unveil in-class and on-site programs out of C.M. Wilson Learning Centre that enrich educational experiences and foster a deeper connection to the environment within our community.

The Indigenous Community Educator has been creating Indigenous Education program activities that parallel the pre-existing and forthcoming conservation education activities. One of the new program ideas include Tipi Teachings, where students will learn about indigenous culture, technologies, songs and stories inside the tipi.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area / Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

In addition to the plans for program revitalization mentioned above, Heritage programming will continue to be offered at Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum.

Both school and community groups have been joining us so far in 2024. Given current staffing limitations the Indigenous Community Educator has been joining the Community Educator at Longwoods to support programming endeavours, thereby allowing the Curator to keep the Museum open to the public more regularly.

Holds continue to be placed for the spring. There is limited availability in April at this time, with more space available in May and June. We anticipate that these dates will be requested more actively following March Break.

River and Creek Safety

The first round of support requests for, and invitations to select Grade 2 classes to participate in, the In-Class River and Creek Safety Program have gone out within the Eastern District. The intention is to begin offering this learning opportunity to schools within the Western District this spring. As such, members of the Watershed and Information Services team were able to provide a list of schools within proximity to the Thames River.

Philanthropic groups within the Western District, as well as schools, will be contacted in the coming weeks.

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre

The Indigenous Community Educator has been tasked with painting two 7.5' x 9' murals on the two walls in the foyer of the C. M. Wilson Centre. Over the fall and winter, they worked with staff on what they would like to see included in the mural: species at risk was the consensus. The Indigenous Community Educator provided designs for each side of the foyer and the staff approved the drawings. Painting began during the holiday season. The intention is for the Fall/Winter mural to be complete by the middle of February. At that point, work will begin on the Spring/Summer mural with the hope of having it completed by March Break.

11.7.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of February 6, 2024, the **Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook** page has 3,648 Followers. The **Instagram page for the Village** has 622 Followers.

Exhibit Updates

Exhibits continue to be moved to accommodate construction and changes to museum layout.



The final touches are being added to the new Tremendous Trees exhibit which feature leaf samples, hands-on items, and key words in the languages of Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee-Delaware Nation, and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

New exhibit ideas continue to be generated so as to best make use of the space available to us. Plans will be enacted as time and construction phases allow.

11.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – December 7, 2023

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

General meeting held on Dec. 7 2023 at the Wheatley Friendship Club

Attendance: Gerry Soulliere, Mark Peacock, Pauline Sample, Joe Dama, Mike Diesbourg, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Rick Taves, Lorna Bell, Joe Pinsonneault, Ken Hatt, Roger Dundas, Lee & Linda Pearce.

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

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

Memorial Groves: Mark stated that he would be able to acquire trees for the Groves to replace any damaged or dead trees. Most of the damaged trees have been cleaned up.

Prop. & Equip.: Gerry has applied for a \$10,000 grant from the Chatham-Kent Community Fund to help us repair all the posts in the large pavilion. We may know by this February and if it is cold enough the work could be done this winter. L.T.V.C.A. will be cutting some trees out of the pine groves this winter to maintain the health of each grove. We will order some gravel to fill in holes in the parking lots before it freezes.

Concerts: We will have an indoor concert in Jan. & Feb. both will start at 2:00pm. Karen Morand will play in Jan. Tom Lockwood will play in Feb. We may possibly have one in March and will try to get the Laws to play. Joe is trying to get an Elvis impersonator to play on Father's day.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of Oct. 30 was \$42,268.51. Account balance as of Nov. 30 was \$39,439.56. Moved by Roger, sec. by Phil report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business:None.

New Business: Gerry will be meeting with the Chatham-Kent mayor in Wheatley on Feb.8 to discuss our role in the community. The Concerned Citizen's group will be meeting on Dec. 14 at 7pm at the Resource Centre. We will be holding the Feb. meeting at the Jackson's home.

Adjournment: Mike moved for adjournment at 6:50pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

Recommendation: That the above reports, 11.2) through to 11.8) be received for information.
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12. Correspondence

13. Other Business

14. Adjournment
