



Board of Directors Meeting

A G E N D A

June 20, 2024

2:00 p.m.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement	
2. Call to Order	
3. Adoption of Agenda	
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest	
5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	
5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2024.....	3
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	
7. Presentations	
7.1) Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy and Work Shop Session.....	7
7.2) Financial Update: Longwoods Resource Centre Revitalization and Indigenous Learning Centre Capital Project.....	7
8. New Business	
9. Business for Approval	
9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to May 31, 2024.....	8
9.2) Regulation Policy Updates.....	11
9.3) CM Wilson Event Barn Renaming.....	18
10. Business for Information	
10.1) C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer Report.....	19
10.2) Water Management.....	21
10.3) Planning and Regulations.....	25
10.4) Conservation Lands.....	31
10.5) Conservation Services.....	34
10.6) Communications, Outreach and Education.....	44
10.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – April 4, 2024.....	47
10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – May 2, 2024.....	48
11. Correspondence	
11.1) Conservation Ontario's 2023 Annual Report.....	49
11.2) CO Re: Amendments to the Class EA for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects.....	50
11.3) MECP Re: Environmental Assessment Act, Notice of Amendments; Class EA for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects.....	55
12. In Camera Session.....	58
13. Other Business.....	59
14. Adjournment.....	59

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, Caldwell Nation and Walpole Island First Nation. We acknowledge the first nations people within the villages, towns and cities of our communities. 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 18, 2024



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 18, 2024. The following directors were in attendance: S. Emons, T. Thompson, K. Loveland, P. Tiessen, L. Vogler, H. Aerts, M. Vink, R. Leatham, A. Finn, and P. Van Meerbergen. S. Hipple 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-2024-13 A. Finn – P. Van Meerbergen

Moved that the agenda be adopted as amended with the addition of 8.1) Appointment of a New Provincial Offences Officer, as well as an in-camera session under item 12).

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2024-14 L. Vogler – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of March 28, 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

7. Presentations

7.1) Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy

Mark Peacock, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, provided a Power Point Presentation to the Board of Directors on the steps to be taken on generating the LTVCA's Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy.

BD-2024-15 R. Leatham – K. Loveland

Moved that the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy presentation be received as presented.

CARRIED

7.2) Five Deliverables Required by the Province by December 31, 2024

Todd Casier, Manager of Corporate Services, provided a Power Point Presentation on the LTVCA's Asset Management Plan to the Board of Directors; Genevieve Champagne, Manager of Conservation Lands and Services, provided a Power Point Presentation on the LTVCA's Conservation Area Land Strategy and Conservation Lands Inventory to the Board of Directors; and Jason Wintermute, Manager of Watershed and Information Services, provided a Power Point Presentation on the LTVCA's Ice Management Plan and Operational Plan to the Board of Directors.

BD-2024-16 A. Finn – P. Van Meerbergen

Moved that the presentations on the Five Deliverables Required by the Province by December 31, 2024 be received as presented.

CARRIED

8. New Business

8.1) Appointment of a New Provincial Offences Officer

BD-2024-17 K. Loveland – A. Finn

Moved that the Board of Directors designate Mike Shore as a Provincial Offences Officer (P.O.O.), on behalf of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, under the Conservation Authorities Act and associated relevant Regulations. Mike Shore is designated as a P.O.O. for enforcement of Section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

CARRIED

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 29, 2024

BD-2024-18 M. Vink – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended February 29, 2024.

CARRIED

10. New Business

10.1) C.A.O.'s Report

BD-2024-19 L. Vogler – H. Aerts

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

CARRIED

10.2) Water Management

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.4) Conservation Area Lands

10.5) Conservation Services

10.6) Communications, Outreach and Education

10.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – February 1, 2024

10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Annual Minutes – March 7, 2024

10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – March 7, 2024

BD-2024-20 A. Finn – K. Loveland

Moved that New Business items 10.2) to 10.9) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

11.1) Update on CA Exceptions for the Drainage Community Further to the Release of O. Reg. 41/24

BD-2024-21 P. Van Meerbergen – R. Leatham

Moved that Correspondence item 11.1) be received for information.

CARRIED

12. In Camera Session

BD-2024-22 A. Finn – L. Vogler

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

CARRIED

BD-2024-23 K. Loveland – P. Tiessen

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

CARRIED

13. Other Business

None noted.

14. Adjournment

BD-2024-24 R. Leatham – M. Vink

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Sarah Emons
Chair

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

7. Presentations

7.1) Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy & Work Shop Session

Mark Peacock will provide a presentation to the Board of Directors on our Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy and take the Board of Directors through a work shop session.

7.2) Financial Update: Longwoods Resource Centre Revitalization and Indigenous Community Learning Centre Capital Project

Mark Peacock will provide a presentation to the Board of Directors on the financial update of the Longwoods Resource Centre Revitalization and Indigenous Community Learning Centre Capital Project.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to April 30, 2024

Date: June 20, 2024
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to April 30, 2024**
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

Background:

Review the 2024 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 4 months ended April 30, 2024.

REVENUE	2024 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET APR PROJECTED		2024 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	1,468,581	548,809	*	1,064,037	515,228
GENERAL LEVY	1,661,053	1,661,053	^	1,373,527	(287,526)
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000	^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	1,021,460	281,205	*	293,646	12,441
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0	*	0	0
RESERVES	0	0	*	0	0
CASH FUNDING	4,356,094	2,696,067		2,936,210	240,143
OTHER	0	0		0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	4,356,094	2,696,067		2,936,210	240,143

*-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 and the timing of grants invoiced.

Note: Grant income is based on funds received/invoiced and not matched to expenses, meaning there may be expenses outstanding and not recognized in the attached expense statement. At year-end, each grant is reviewed individually, 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, Leamington, Middlesex Centre, Southwold, Strathroy-Caradoc, 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	2024 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2024 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	201,524	67,175	67,976	801
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	12	4	5	1
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	123,534	41,178	26,805	(14,373)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	119,061	39,687	19,425	(20,262)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	448,690	149,563	110,600	(38,963)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	143,333	47,778	43,759	(4,019)
SOURCE PROTECTION	27,690	9,230	14,618	5,388
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
Water Management Subtotal	1,063,844	354,615	283,188	(71,427)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	781,568	260,523	210,030	(50,493)
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	165,495	55,165	39,909	(15,256)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	131,363	43,788	38,926	(4,862)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	144,587	48,196	21,476	(26,720)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	441,445	147,149	100,311	(46,838)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	199,888	66,629	57,513	(9,116)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	600,481	200,160	191,034	(9,126)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	1,070,568	356,856	299,483	(57,373)
SPECIES AT RISK	198,300	66,100	97,797	31,697
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	2,069,237	689,745	645,827	(43,918)
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	4,356,094	1,452,032	1,239,356	(212,676)

Water Management

Flood Control Structures is comparable to budget.

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

Technical Studies are below budget due to staff time being spent in other areas.

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

Watershed Monitoring is comparable to budget.

Source Protection is comparable to budget.

Conservation Areas

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

Community Relations and Education

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

Conservation Services/Stewardship

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

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

Species at Risk is above budget due to March 31 year-end budget expenditures.

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Summary:

	2024 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2024 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	4,356,094	2,696,067	2,936,210	240,143
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,356,094	1,452,032	1,239,356	(212,676)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,244,035	1,696,854	452,819
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,244,035	1,696,854	452,819

At April 30, 2024, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable mostly due to less expenditures compared to budget because of the seasonal nature of a large amount of the Conservation Authorities expenses.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended April 30, 2024.

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) Regulations Policy Update

To: LTVCA Board of Directors
From: Jason Wintermute, Manager, Watershed & Information Services
Date: 20 June 2024
Subject: **Update RE: Policies and Procedures to Support C.A. Act Planning and Permitting**

Purpose of this Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide an update regarding the development review policies (*Policies and Procedures to Support Administration of the Conservation Authorities Act Part VI and Ontario Regulation 41/24, 01 April 2024*) including feedback received thus far as part of the initial consultation period as well as to further refine and improve the next version of the policies. This update serves to satisfy a motion from the Board of Directors' meeting on 28 March 2024.

Background

The development review policies, which were approved by the Board of Directors on 28 March 2024, came into effect on 01 April 2024. The updated policies were created to replace the LTVCA's previous policy documents related to the Section 28 regulations program and were in response to the provincial government's updates to the Conservation Authorities Act and the implementation of the new replacement regulation (O. Reg. 41/24) associated with Section 28 of the Act.

Consultation Update

The policies were posted to our website for public consultation at the end of March and were open for comment up until May 15th. No direct comments on the document itself had been received from members of the public, municipal staff, or the development industry as of the writing of early June.

The policy document hasn't yet been circulated directly to municipal staff for consultation as additions and revisions which speak directly to municipal interactions (including Planning Act related sections) are required. It is hoped to have this work completed for the next draft. However, the link for the new online regulation screening map was circulated to municipal building department staff and to some planning staff. Feedback received regarding usability issues with the map was addressed and the map was re-published. Feedback from municipal staff since has been entirely positive regarding the new online mapping. Municipal/county staff have requested that the LTVCA provide the mapping file to them so that it can be incorporated directly into municipal/county GIS databases for internal and external use. At the time of writing of this report, the data has been shared with Middlesex County. The GIS Technician is working on improving the accuracy of the map in and around valley systems before providing the data to all member municipalities.

Second Draft Update

While using the document, staff have identified a number of revisions required for the second draft. The required revisions range from minor formatting changes to the inclusion of entirely new sections (e.g. LTVCA-specific practices and procedures, municipal plan review, O. Reg. 41/24 exemptions, etc.) and policies. The following policy items have been flagged for inclusion in the next draft as a result of regular correspondence with members of both the public and development industry:

- 1) Policies for development activity within the Thames River floodplain within the defined Chatham Special Policy Area.

Note: The LTVCA has historically used and continues to use the related Special Policy Area policies from Chatham-Kent's Official Plan and, while mentioned within the first draft of the document, the specific

policies from the Official Plan hadn't been included in the first draft. Specifically outlining these special policies within the document will provide further clarity to those using the document.

- 2) Policies for development activities within the Thames River floodplain within the defined Thamesville Special Policy Area.

Note: The LTVCA has historically used and continues to use the related Special Policy Area policies from Chatham-Kent's Official Plan and, while mentioned within the first draft of the document, the specific policies from the Official Plan hadn't been included in the first draft. Specifically outlining these special policies within the document will provide further clarity to those using the document.

- 3) Policy for temporary garden suites (such as a mobile home) in an erosion hazard.

Previous LTVCA policies included wording which would allow small habitable secondary structures which were temporary in nature and which had received municipal planning approvals. In the current policy draft, a similar policy was mistakenly left out. Staff propose the following policies be approved for inclusion in the second draft of the policy document where the definition of a garden suite is "a one-unit detached residential structure containing bathroom and kitchen facilities that is ancillary to an existing residential structure and that is designed to be portable":

Development within the Shoreline Erosion Hazard:

Development activity associated with the placement of a garden suite on a property may be permitted provided the following are met:

- a) There is no feasible alternative site outside of the erosion hazard and that the proposed development is located in an area of least (and acceptable) risk. As a minimum, the garden suite must be a minimum of 15 m beyond the stable slope allowance;*
- b) There is an agreement in place with the municipality which includes a time limit of no more than 20 years for the structure to be on the property;*
- c) The development activity will not prevent access into and through the shoreline erosion hazard in order to undertake preventative actions/maintenance or during an emergency;*
- d) There is no impact on existing and future slope stability and bank stabilization;*
- e) The potential for surficial erosion has been addressed through the submission of proper drainage, erosion and sediment control and site stabilization/restoration plans (if applicable); and,*
- f) Flooding and dynamic beach hazards (if applicable) have been adequately addressed.*

Development within the Erosion Hazard of an Apparent (Confined) River or Stream Valley:

Development activity associated with the placement of a garden suite on a property may be permitted provided the following are met:

- a) There is no feasible alternative site outside of the erosion hazard and that the proposed development is located in an area of least (and acceptable) risk. As a minimum, the garden suite must be a minimum of 15 m beyond the stable slope allowance;*
- b) There is an agreement in place with the municipality which includes a time limit of no more than 20 years for the structure to be on the property;*
- c) The development activity will not prevent access into and through the erosion hazard in order to undertake preventative actions/maintenance or during an emergency;*
- d) There is no impact on existing and future slope stability and bank stabilization;*

- e) *The potential for surficial erosion has been addressed through the submission of proper drainage, erosion and sediment control and site stabilization/restoration plans (if applicable); and,*
- f) *The flood hazard (if applicable) has been adequately addressed.*

4) Policy for raising of existing structures within a watercourse's flood fringe.

While a policy exists for the raising of existing structures within the floodplain of a Great Lake, a similar policy specific to the flood fringe of a two-zone watercourse wasn't included. Staff propose the following policy which is based off the similar existing policy for the same development activity within the floodplain of the shoreline:

Development Within Flood Fringe of a Watercourse (Two-Zone):

Structural modifications to an existing structure may be allowed where:

- a) *The works are for flood protection; or,*
- b) *The works are necessary to address safety or structural faults.*

Raising of existing structures will be permitted provided that the structure is raised such that the minimum openings into the structure are at or above the regulatory flood datum. It may be necessary to have a structural engineer provide written documentation that the structure is structurally sound and able to be lifted.

5) Policy for docks along Lake Erie or Lake St. Clair.

Staff currently use Policy 3.5.1.5 (Development activity associated with existing uses located within the shoreline flood hazard) and Policy 3.5.3.6 (Development activity associated with existing uses located within the shoreline erosion hazard) with respect to proposals related to permanent docks along the shorelines of Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and Rondeau Bay. However, to the general user of the policy document, it isn't clear that those policies also apply to permanent docks. The dock policy currently included within the document is only for docks on a small portion of the Thames River and on the canals in Lighthouse Cove. Staff propose the following separate policies for docks along the shorelines of Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and Rondeau Bay:

Development within the Shoreline Flood Hazard:

Development activity associated with the construction of docks may be permitted provided the following are met:

- a) *All mechanical and electrical works be located a minimum of 0.3 m above the regulatory flood elevation;*
- b) *Where the bed of the shoreline is defined in ownership, that consent is provided by the landowner;*
- c) *The proposed works do not interfere with, or pose a hazard to, navigation or create a public safety hazard;*
- d) *The proposed works comply with Transport Canada's minor works criteria for a dock;*
- e) *The proposed works do not interfere with water flow and currents (post only, no cribs);*
- f) *The proposed works do no impede dynamic beach processes on the subject, adjacent, or nearby properties; and,*
- g) *Erosion and dynamic beach hazards (if applicable) have been adequately addressed.*

For new permanent docks, the works must be designed by a qualified engineer. For repairs or like-for-like replacements of existing docks, the works don't have to be engineered but engineering is encouraged.

Sign-off / approval from Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry may be required as part of the application package as well as notification of adjacent and updrift and downdrift property owners.

Development within the Shoreline Erosion Hazard:

Development activity associated with the construction of docks may be permitted provided the following are met:

- a) The development activity will not prevent access to and through the shoreline erosion hazard in order to undertake preventative actions/maintenance or during an emergency;*
- b) There is no impact on existing and future slope stability and bank stabilization;*
- c) Where the bed of the shoreline is defined in ownership, that consent is provided by the landowner;*
- d) The proposed works do not interfere with, or pose a hazard to, navigation or create a public safety hazard;*
- e) The proposed works comply with Transport Canada's minor works criteria for a dock;*
- f) The proposed works do not interfere with water flow and currents (post only, no cribs);*
- g) The proposed works do not impede dynamic beach processes on the subject, adjacent, or nearby properties; and,*
- h) Flooding and dynamic beach hazards (if applicable) have been adequately addressed.*

For new permanent docks, the works must be designed by a qualified engineer. For repairs or like-for-like replacements of existing docks, the works don't have to be engineered but engineering is encouraged.

Sign-off / approval from Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry may be required as part of the application package as well as notification of adjacent and updrift and downdrift property owners.

6) Policy prohibiting infilling of the river's valley between Thamesville and Chatham.

On June 22, 1995, the LTVCA's Board of Directors moved a motion regarding the adoption of a recommendation by MacLaren Engineers as part of the Flood Plain Study "that the river valley from the Thamesville area to Chatham remain as is with encroachments, dyking and in-filling prohibited and the hydraulic significance of the flood be maintained." This was a policy meant to ensure that the regulatory flood wasn't restricted or constrained so that there wouldn't be an impact on flood levels and existing flood proofing requirements in Chatham, Thamesville (including upstream of Thamesville), and even the extent of the floodplain in the area in-between. This policy should have been included in the new policy manual. Staff propose the following policy which is based off the previously existing policy:

Development Within One-Zone Regulatory Floodplain or Within Floodway of a Watercourse; and, Development Within Flood Fringe of a Watercourse (Two-Zone):

That encroachments, dyking and in-filling be prohibited and the hydraulic significance of the flood be maintained for the Thames River valley between the Thamesville area and Chatham.

Recommendations

That effective June 21, 2024, staff continue to use both the Chatham and Thamesville Special Policies as specified in the Chatham-Kent Official Plan for development activity within the defined areas of each community; and,

Further That effective June 21, 2024, the following garden suite policies be approved for use by staff and included within the Erosion Hazard sections related to shorelines of Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, Rondeau Bay, and apparent (confined) river or stream valleys:

Development within the Shoreline Erosion Hazard:

Development activity associated with the placement of a garden suite on a property may be permitted provided the following are met:

- a) There is no feasible alternative site outside of the erosion hazard and that the proposed development is located in an area of least (and acceptable) risk. As a minimum, the garden suite must be a minimum of 15 m beyond the stable slope allowance;*
- b) There is an agreement in place with the municipality which includes a time limit of no more than 20 years for the structure to be on the property;*
- c) The development activity will not prevent access into and through the shoreline erosion hazard in order to undertake preventative actions/maintenance or during an emergency;*
- d) There is no impact on existing and future slope stability and bank stabilization;*
- e) The potential for surficial erosion has been addressed through the submission of proper drainage, erosion and sediment control and site stabilization/restoration plans (if applicable); and,*
- f) Flooding and dynamic beach hazards (if applicable) have been adequately addressed.*

and,

Development within the Erosion Hazard of an Apparent (Confined) River or Stream Valley:

Development activity associated with the placement of a garden suite on a property may be permitted provided the following are met:

- a) There is no feasible alternative site outside of the erosion hazard and that the proposed development is located in an area of least (and acceptable) risk. As a minimum, the garden suite must be a minimum of 15 m beyond the stable slope allowance;*
- b) There is an agreement in place with the municipality which includes a time limit of no more than 20 years for the structure to be on the property;*
- c) The development activity will not prevent access into and through the erosion hazard in order to undertake preventative actions/maintenance or during an emergency;*
- d) There is no impact on existing and future slope stability and bank stabilization;*
- e) The potential for surficial erosion has been addressed through the submission of proper drainage, erosion and sediment control and site stabilization/restoration plans (if applicable); and,*
- f) The flood hazard (if applicable) has been adequately addressed.*

Further That effective June 21, 2024, the following policy be approved for use by staff and included within the Flood Hazard policy section of two-zone watercourses:

Development Within Flood Fringe of a Watercourse (Two-Zone):

Structural modifications to an existing structure may be allowed where:

- a) The works are for flood protection; or,*
- b) The works are necessary to address safety or structural faults.*

Raising of existing structures will be permitted provided that the structure is raised such that the minimum openings into the structure are at or above the regulatory flood datum. It may be necessary to have a structural engineer provide written documentation that the structure is structurally sound and able to be lifted.

Further That effective June 21, 2024, the following permanent dock policies be approved for use by staff and included within the Flooding and Erosion Hazard sections related to shorelines of Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and Rondeau Bay:

Development within the Shoreline Flood Hazard:

Development activity associated with the construction of docks may be permitted provided the following are met:

- a) All mechanical and electrical works be located a minimum of 0.3 m above the regulatory flood elevation;*
- b) Where the bed of the shoreline is defined in ownership, that consent is provided by the landowner;*
- c) The proposed works do not interfere with, or pose a hazard to, navigation or create a public safety hazard;*
- d) The proposed works comply with Transport Canada's minor works criteria for a dock;*
- e) The proposed works do not interfere with water flow and currents (post only, no cribs);*
- f) The proposed works do not impede dynamic beach processes on the subject, adjacent, or nearby properties; and,*
- g) Erosion and dynamic beach hazards (if applicable) have been adequately addressed.*

For new permanent docks, the works must be designed by a qualified engineer. For repairs or like-for-like replacements of existing docks, the works don't have to be engineered but engineering is encouraged.

Sign-off / approval from Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry may be required as part of the application package as well as notification of adjacent and updrift and downdrift property owners.

and,

Development within the Shoreline Erosion Hazard:

Development activity associated with the construction of docks may be permitted provided the following are met:

- a) The development activity will not prevent access to and through the shoreline erosion hazard in order to undertake preventative actions/maintenance or during an emergency;*
- b) There is no impact on existing and future slope stability and bank stabilization;*
- c) Where the bed of the shoreline is defined in ownership, that consent is provided by the landowner;*
- d) The proposed works do not interfere with, or pose a hazard to, navigation or create a public safety hazard;*
- e) The proposed works comply with Transport Canada's minor works criteria for a dock;*
- f) The proposed works do not interfere with water flow and currents (post only, no cribs);*

- g) *The proposed works do not impede dynamic beach processes on the subject, adjacent, or nearby properties; and,*
- h) *Flooding and dynamic beach hazards (if applicable) have been adequately addressed.*

For new permanent docks, the works must be designed by a qualified engineer. For repairs or like-for-like replacements of existing docks, the works don't have to be engineered but engineering is encouraged.

Sign-off / approval from Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry may be required as part of the application package as well as notification of adjacent and updrift and downdrift property owners.

Further That effective June 21, 2024, the following policy be approved for use by staff and included within the Flood Hazard policy section of both one-zone and two-zone watercourses:

Development Within One-Zone Regulatory Floodplain or Within Floodway of a Watercourse; and, Development Within Flood Fringe of a Watercourse (Two-Zone):

That encroachments, dyking and in-filling be prohibited and the hydraulic significance of the flood be maintained for the Thames River valley between the Thamesville area and Chatham.

Further That the second draft of the document entitled *Policies and Procedures to Support Administration of the Conservation Authorities Act Part VI and Ontario Regulation 41/24* be provided to member municipalities and the public (via publishing on the web) for feedback.

Further That the second draft of the document entitled *Policies and Procedures to Support Administration of the Conservation Authorities Act Part VI and Ontario Regulation 41/24* be brought to the August 2024 Board of Directors meeting with any comments received from the public and member municipalities.

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

Customer/Stakeholder Objectives

- 1) Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

Internal Processes Objectives

- 9) Improve Internal Understanding of Roles & Responsibilities

Capacity Building Objectives

- 12) Strengthen Program Review Policy(s)

Prepared by:

Jason Homewood, P. Geo.
Water Resources and Regulations Technician

Jason Wintermute
Manager, Watershed and Information Services

Reviewed By:

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

9.3) CM Wilson Event Barn Renaming

Date: June 4th, 2024
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
From: Genevieve Champagne, Manager Conservation Lands and Services
Subject: **Report on Renaming the CM Wilson Event Barn**

Information Received

Jane Wright approached the LTVCA in prior years to possibly have the CM Wilson Event Barn renamed to the **“Stenton Barn”** in order to honour the donation made by Horace and Irene Stenton. The family has also requested a plaque of remembrance in some form or another and this has been discussed with the family. This request was done a few years ago, however with the change over in staff it has not been brought forward to the board for consideration.

A Brief History

The LTVCA had received a hand-written letter from Horace Stenton, offering the barn to 3 conservation areas in the mid 70's. The letter to my understanding has been lost on the LTVCA side and the family did not have a copy of the letter. The letter was said to describe the construction of the barn and some history on the structure itself. The barn was accepted by the LTVCA and deconstructed and then reconstructed at CM Wilson Conservation Area in 1974.

Cost Implications

The cost implication for the renaming of the barn is minimal as it would be a change in our internal documentation and a few additional signage components as well as a framed photo with a plaque noting the original donation hung within the barn. The family noted that when doing the official hanging of the framed photo plaque that they would like family present but not a large event with a media release.

Recommended Resolution

Be it Resolved That:

The CM Wilson event barn be recognized and renamed as the “Stenton Barn”, allowing staff to create new signage denoting this name change and the purchase of the donation plaque in honour of the Stenton Families donation to CM Wilson Conservation Area.

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

Respectfully Submitted:
Genevieve Champagne,
Manager Conservation Lands and Services

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

10. Business for Information

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

Date: June 20, 2024
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: C.A.O.'s Report
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

Longwoods Rd Resource Centre Revitalization and Indigenous Learning Centre - Update

Work is being completed on this project. The Tradition Contract should be completed within 4 weeks. Quotes have been requested from contractors for installation of the septic upgrades and the fire reservoir. Specifications are being completed for the access roadway and wheelchair parking area. Following completion of the building contract the LTVCA will move forward with landscaping.

A report and presentation detailing the finances of the project will be provided to the June 2024 BOD meeting.

Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy

The board will be completing a planning workshop at the June 2024 board meeting to provide input on the plan as prepared to date.

We are currently at the stage of reviewing strategies for the outcomes from the five focus areas, which are:

Areas of Focus

Watershed Management Areas

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

Organizational Areas

4. LTVCA the Partner of Choice
5. LTVCA Organizational Excellence

These strategies have been determined and a rough draft of the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy will be shared for review by the Board of Directors in the June 2024 meeting.

Chatham-Kent Lambton Children's Water Festival – 2024

After many years of dedicated work, Don Hector has retired from his role as director of the Chatham-Kent Lambton Children's Water Festival. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has been working with members of the public to form a Steering Committee to take over the task of managing the festival. We advertised on social media for volunteers and were successful in getting the support of 5 local residents to move the project forward. The new committee decided that they would be able to have the festival operate in 2024. (Tues. Oct 1 to Thursday Oct. 3) For the Water Festival the Steering Committee is comprised of these roles.

1. Water Fest Steering Committee Chair (Lead) – Glenn Smith
 - Leads committee
 - Lead during set up, event and take down (supported by committee and CA staff)
2. Fundraising / Finance Coordinator - Stephanie Peltier

- Oversees fundraising
 - Keeps tally on what is being spent
 - Payments made by LTVCA
3. Program Coordinator (Event Stations) – Janice Boose, Meghan Dunlop
 - Sets programs and liaison to people doing programs
 - Liaison to school boards with CA staff support
 - Arrange zone leaders
 4. Community Liaison (Municipality, Community groups, volunteers etc.) - Jennifer Reneau
 - Liaison to all others involved in event
 - Contacts volunteers and community groups and addresses their needs
 5. CA Liaisons (1 main staff member, plus additional staff when required)
 - supports committee
 - provides logistics during setup, event and takedown
 - provides community relations, communication

Funding: The water festival costs approximately \$30,000 annually. The LTVCA holds approximately \$18,000 in reserve from past years fund raising. Every year it is challenging to raise the funds needed for a festival so it is deemed necessary to hold some funding in reserve in case of issues. To date the committee has applied for or received greater than the \$12,000 needed to operate the festival. Fundraising will continue to limit the funds needing to be removed from the reserve.

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

10.2) Water Management

10.2.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

Flood Messaging and Flood Events

There have been no flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors in April. While there have been severe thunderstorms that passed through the region dropping significant amounts of rain, causing localized flooding, those storms were not widespread enough to cause regional flooding or to require flood control structure operations. In addition, the region has not seen any strong wind events that lasted long enough to generate significant shoreline flooding.

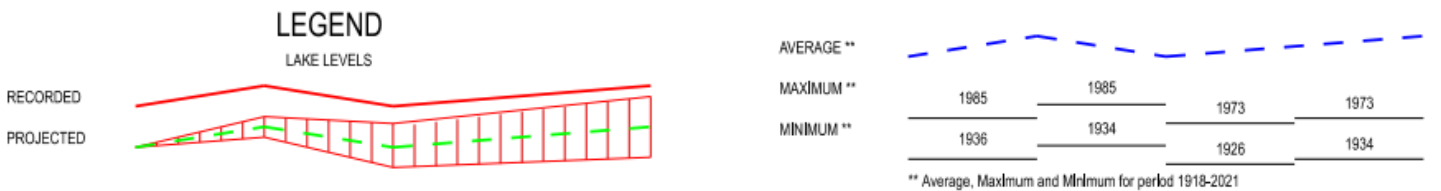
Report on Lake Conditions

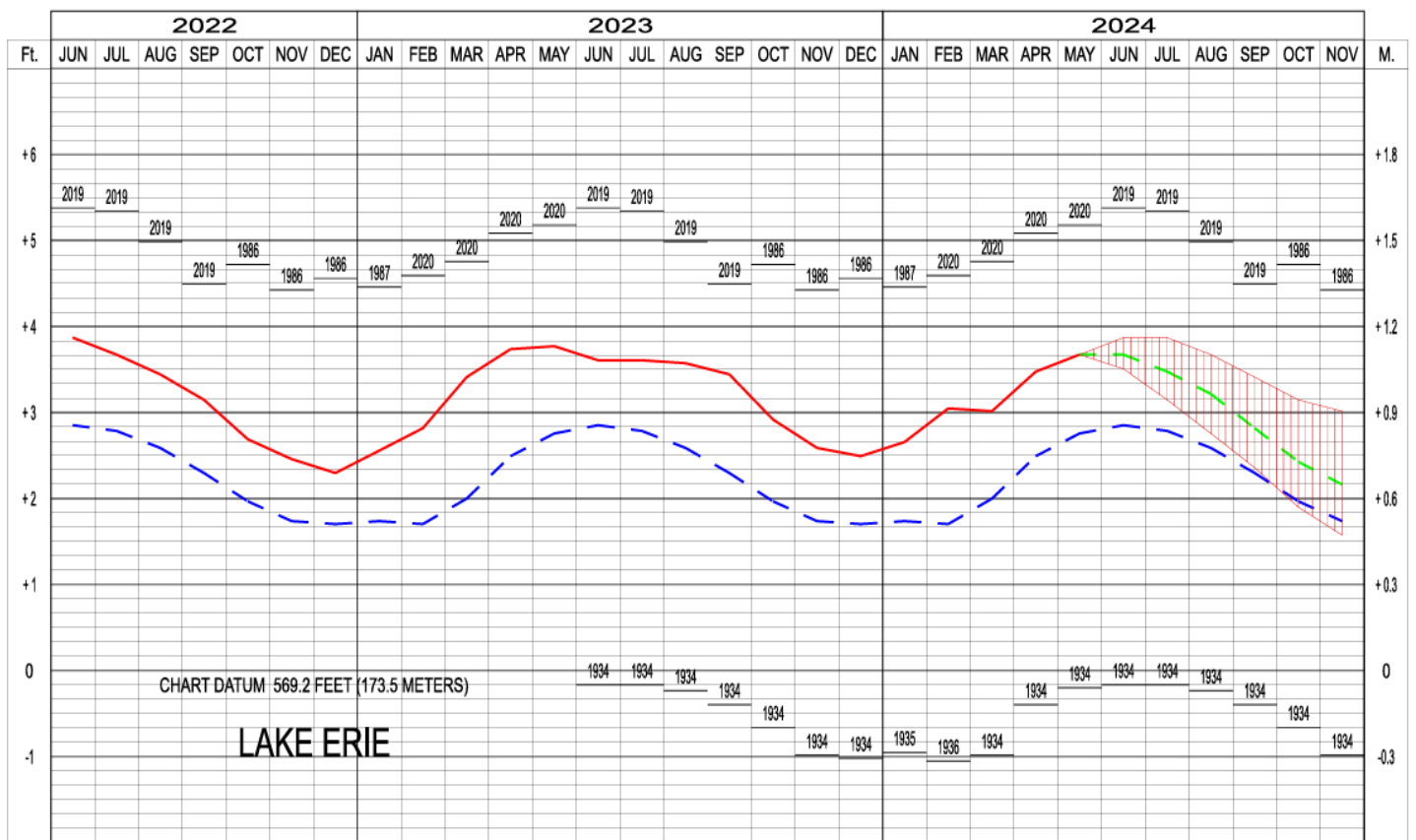
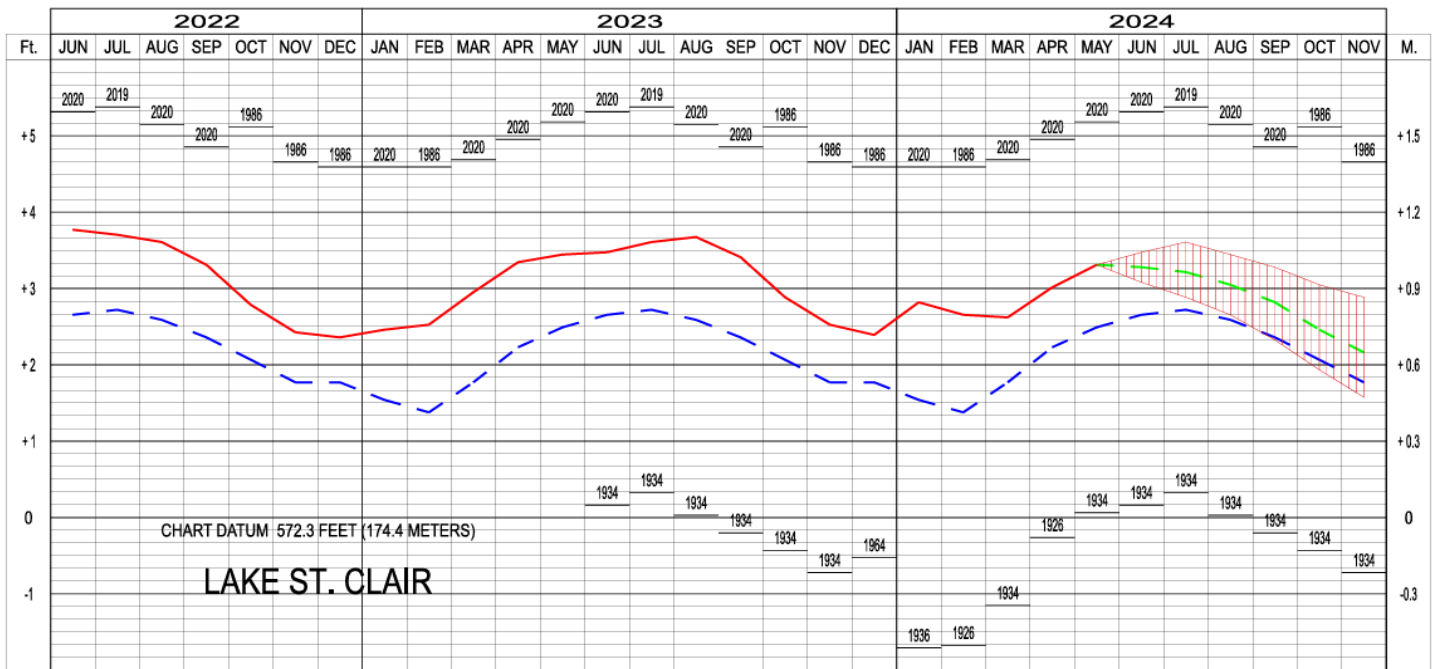
Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of June were around 174.63 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for June was 175.14 m, set in 2019. Water levels at the beginning of June were still 26 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of June. After a more rapid rise in water levels in late March and early April, water levels have been rising more slowly than usual. However, current water levels are quite close to where they were this time last year and in 2022. Forecasts suggest that water levels should reach their peak soon and begin their seasonal decline. Water levels are predicted to 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 175.47 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 26 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of June. Generally speaking, water levels have been rising this spring at a relatively normal rate, and current water levels are fairly close to where they were at this time last year and in 2022. Forecasts suggest that water levels should reach their peak soon and begin their seasonal decline. Water levels are predicted to drop around 5 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.

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.





10.2.2) 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.

This summer, the LTVCA intends on continuing the work begun last year on the pumps at the 6th St. Backwater Dam and Pumping Station. Last year, the first of three pumps were inspected and had its seals replaced. The intention is to inspect and replace the seals on the other two pumps this summer. It is anticipated that Schepens Ltd. of Wallaceburg will complete this work again. The work will involve pulling the pump one at a time, transporting them to Wallaceburg for the inspection and maintenance, inspecting the pump, replacing the seals, removing sediment from the pump chamber, and then reinstalling the pump. Any additional required maintenance will be determined during the inspections. Matching funds are being sought from the MNRF's Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) grant program for the work. Current cost estimates for the entire project is just under \$45,000. The WECI grant, if successful, would cover half the costs.

10.2.3) 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. 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.

Based on the recorded rainfall for March through May, and Thames River and McGregor Creek flows in May, there does not appear to be any concerns around low water levels.

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/>

10.2.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. Since it is PWQMN program season, analysis for 8 of these sites per month is being covered by the PWQMN program. The remainder is being covered by the recently signed agreement with MECP funded through the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA).

Benthic sampling is also being conducted this 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. The intention is to sample at 12 stations this year. Sampling will be conducted by Alyssa Broeders and Randy Kirby with staff and students from the lab of Dr. Catherine Febria at the University of Windsor assisting. The partnership with the University of Windsor will continue this year where they identify and enumerate the benthic organisms found in the samples.

10.2.5) 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 6th 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

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.3.1) Planning

From the end of March 2024 through to the end of May 2024, there were 70 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 46 phone calls and over 185 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2023 Totals	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	Mar Totals	Apr Totals	May Totals	2024 Totals
Chatham-Kent	270	14	16	15	23	39	107
Elgin	89	7	2	2	2	0	13
Essex	17	3	0	0	5	0	8
Middlesex	35	6	1	1	0	1	9
Total Numbers	411	30	19	18	30	40	137

10.3.2) Planning Fees

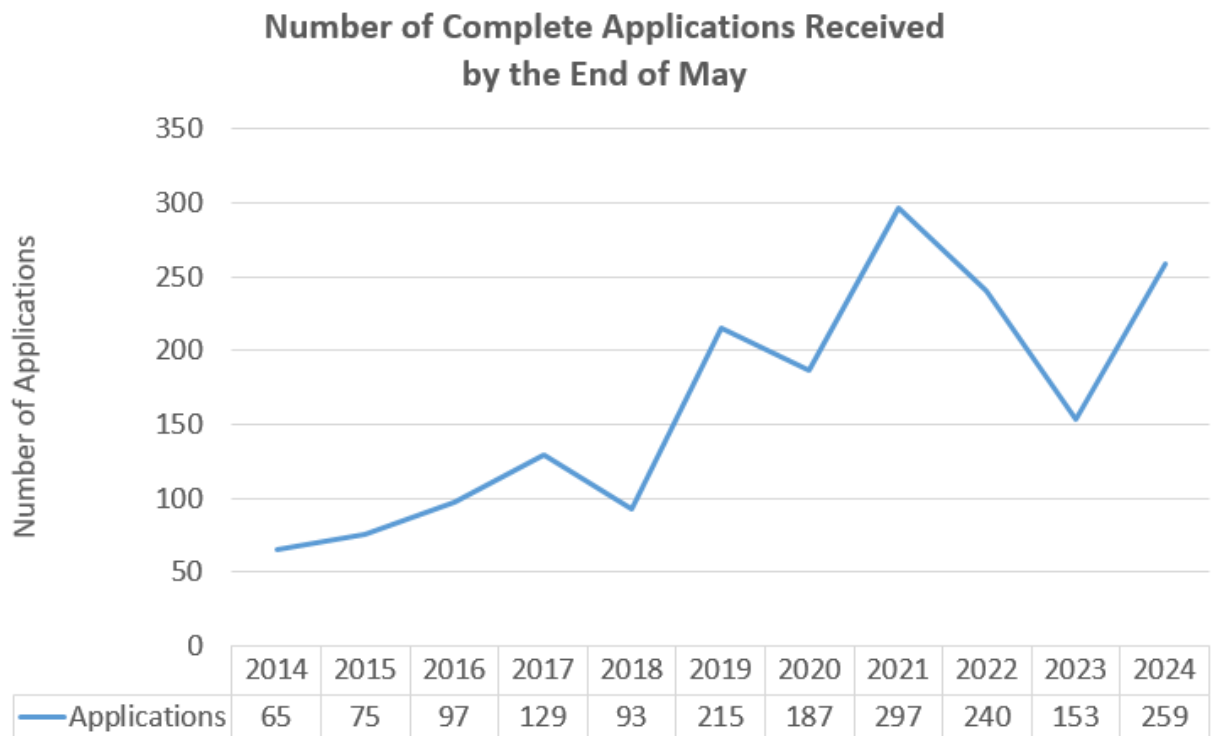
MUNICIPALITY	APRIL 2024 – MAY 2024	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
Chatham-Kent	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	
Elgin County			
Southwold		\$700.00	\$930.00
Dutton Dunwich		\$0	\$230.00
West Elgin	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$7,595.00
Essex County			
Lakeshore	\$900.00	\$900.00*	\$1,115.00*
Middlesex County			
Middlesex Centre			
YTD Total	\$3,050.00	\$3,750.00	\$9,870.00

* **Note:** Lakeshore back paid fees collected on our behalf in 2023 and 2024 in the amount of \$1,815.00. An additional \$200.00 came in directly from a proponent in 2024.

10.3.3) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

In the months of April and May, the LTVCA received a total of 174 new permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24. Of the 174 new applications and, combined with previously submitted “incomplete” applications, a total of 169 applications were deemed to be “complete” and could be processed. 103 of those applications were processed and all were approved by staff with conditions. As of the end of May, 66 “complete” applications were in the queue for processing.

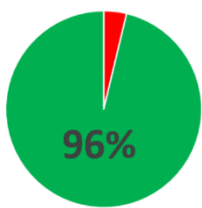
Between the beginning of the year and up to the end of May, the LTVCA had received a total of 259 “complete” applications. Comparatively, the number of complete permit applications received by the end of May in previous years is tracked below:



\$49,125 in permit application fees had been collected, or is to be collected, as of the end of May which is up \$32,300 from the last board report.

10.3.4) Permit Processing Timelines

Review for Completeness:

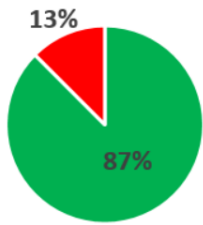


Under the new regulation (O. Reg. 41/24), the LTVCA is required to determine whether or not an application is considered to be “complete” or “incomplete” and provide a response of such within 21 calendar days. For the months of April and May, the average response time with respect to this was 7 days (ranging between 0 and 291 days). The 291-day outlier was related to an application which had been received in the summer of 2023 but wasn’t logged or processed. With that outlier removed, the average response time was 5 days with the range between 0 and 34 days. 96% of all applications met the required timeline for response.

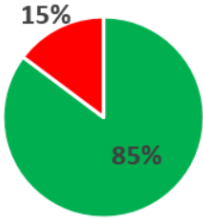
Permit Processing:

For applications issued in April and May, the table and charts below indicate that 87% of “routine” and 85% 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	7	1	0	0	0
Minor	66	15	8	6	0
Major	0	0	0	0	0



For the months of April and May, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was 3 days (ranged between 0 and 19 days). The customer service standard for routine permits is a turnaround within 14 days. For the most part, the processing time for minor permit applications is meeting the customer service target.



For the months of April and May, the average turnaround time for a minor permit application was 11 days (ranged between 0 and 46 days). For private property minor complexity permits, the average turnaround time was also 11 days. The customer service standard for minor complexity permits is a turnaround within 21 days. For the most part, the processing time for minor permit applications is meeting the customer service target.

10.3.5) Property Inquiries

Up to the end of May, 509 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Technician which is 248 more since the last board report. The April and May inquiries were responded to with ~800 e-mails and ~20 phone calls.

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 both e-mails and phone calls. The response time has significantly improved since the last board meeting due to the Regulations Technician diverting focus from policy development, online mapping, and other updates to catching up with the backlog which was created in March. However, that does mean that the further required policy work couldn't be completed.

10.3.6) Regulation Mapping Update

Improvements to the online screening map were made towards the end of April and staff have received positive feedback from members of the public, private industry, and municipal staff regarding the new tool. The GIS Technician continues to work internally towards improving the accuracy of the screening map in areas in and around valleys (ravines and gullies). Staff intend to provide the updated mapping to our member municipalities as soon as possible.

10.3.7) Section 28 Enforcement

In the first five months of 2024, 12 complaints / tips were received from the public about possible enforcement issues which is eight more than the last board report. 10 of the 12 issues are confirmed violations or potential violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and the regulation. Three of the issues have been resolved.

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

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

10.3.8) O. Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications (Applications Processed in April and May 2024)

B.D. 06/20/2024

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
088-2024	Robert Wands Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 02, 2024	26
089-2024	6281 3rd Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 03, 2024	28
091-2024	4th Concession Drain Pumping Works	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 03, 2024	26
092-2024	Nazarene Road	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 03, 2024	22
093-2024	24777 Queens Line	West Lorne	West Elgin	Granted: April 03, 2024	22
094-2024	McPhail Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 03, 2024	19
095-2024	Wyandott Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	30
096-2024	171 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	18
097-2024	Talbot Trail at Gully Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 31, 2024	10
098-2024	Walker Drain at 9217 Middle Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	12
099-2024	Raglan Road at Buchanan Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	7
100-2024	Watson Drain at 20811 Mull Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	12
101-2024	Erieau Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	45
102-2024	21679 Lakeshore Road 303	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: May 14, 2024	0
103-2024	22 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 19, 2024	4
104-2024	19190 Crest River Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: April 12, 2024	24
107-2024	24824 Carroll Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: April 24, 2024	34
108-2024	Creek's Edge Subdivision	West Lorne	West Elgin	Granted: May 22, 2024	20
109-2024	Baird Drain Open at Campbell Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	12
110-2024	School Line at Hunter Gerow Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	7
111-2024	West of 18487 Raglan Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	45
112-2024	Internal Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	45
113-2024	Internal Drain at Sykes Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	7
114-2024	Fargo Road at McArthur West Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	7
115-2024	Lagoon Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2024	46
116-2024	Lagoon Road at Nelson Burk Drain East Branch	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	7
117-2024	John Clarke Drain at Lagoon Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	7
118-2024	Queen's Line & Merlin Road Intersection	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 25, 2024	15
119-2024	15009 County Road 46	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: April 12, 2024	1
120-2024	20600 County Road 46	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: April 12, 2024	1
121-2024	3979 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	1
122-2024	4493 Morris Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	1
123-2024	6280 7th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	1

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Applications Processed in April and May 2024)**

B.D. 06/20/2024

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
124-2024	22230 Dillon Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	1
125-2024	7065 8th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	1
126-2024	7776 8th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	1
127-2024	7925 8th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	1
128-2024	8441 8th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	1
129-2024	163 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 30, 2024	19
130-2024	33001 Talbot Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: April 02, 2024	5
131-2024	7 Briar Hill Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 21, 2024	5
132-2024	Toulouse Pumping Works near Ouellette Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 02, 2024	6
133-2024	584 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
134-2024	588 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
135-2024	592 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
136-2024	596 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
137-2024	600 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
138-2024	604 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
139-2024	608 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
140-2024	612 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
141-2024	616 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
142-2024	620 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	15
143-2024	925 Charing Cross Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2024	0
144-2024	9340 Sharon Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 08, 2024	23
145-2024	21427 Muncey Road	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: April 30, 2024	8
146-2024	Bear Line/Dale Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 01, 2024	0
147-2024	275 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 01, 2024	9
148-2024	265 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 01, 2024	12
149-2024	335 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 23, 2024	1
150-2024	597 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2024	11
151-2024	601 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 10, 2024	11
152-2024	577 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 14, 2024	1
153-2024	581 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 14, 2024	1
154-2024	585 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 14, 2024	1
155-2024	589 Indian Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 14, 2024	1
156-2024	4422 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 13, 2024	14
157-2024	South Middle Road over Government Drain #1	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: May 16, 2024	22
159-2024	Flook and Hinton Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 08, 2024	12
160-2024	33001 Talbot Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: April 30, 2024	5
161-2024	Talbot Trail Lot 150 Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 08, 2024	9
162-2024	177 Howard Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 30, 2024	0
163-2024	87 Brock Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 07, 2024	7
164-2024	Bear Line Road near McFarlane Relief Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 02, 2024	1
165-2024	Eddie Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: May 02, 2024	1

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Applications Processed in April and May 2024)**

B.D. 06/20/2024

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
166-2024	47 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	8
167-2024	43 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	8
168-2024	345 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 02, 2024	1
169-2024	Johnston Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 08, 2024	7
170-2024	Caron Pump Works	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 08, 2024	7
171-2024	Vink Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 08, 2024	7
172-2024	Street Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 08, 2024	7
173-2024	Dickson Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 08, 2024	7
174-2024	Grant Drain & Branch	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 09, 2024	8
175-2024	11878 River Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 29, 2024	15
178-2024	153 Ridge Street	Dutton	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: May 06, 2024	0
179-2024	6309 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 06, 2024	0
180-2024	Thirteenth Line at Miller Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 14, 2024	6
181-2024	10 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2024	9
182-2024	120 Parkwood Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2024	8
183-2024	2 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	14
184-2024	6 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	14
185-2024	24 O'Brien Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2024	4
186-2024	230 Faubert Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 31, 2024	1
187-2024	Lake St. Clair	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 29, 2024	12
188-2024	75 Molengraaf Way	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 21, 2024	0
189-2024	Front Concession Mechanical Works Drain at 5889 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 31, 2024	2
190-2024	Front Concession Mechanical Works Drain at 5927 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 31, 2024	2
191-2024	Jacob Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 31, 2024	2
260-2024	Gillespie Cameron Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 29, 2024	5
261-2024	Gillespie Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 30, 2024	6
274-2024	39 Hillcrest Avenue	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2024	0
275-2024	South Longwoods Road by South Street	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 29, 2024	1
276-2024	84 Sherman Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 30, 2024	0

10.4) Conservation Lands

10.4.1) Conservation Areas

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

The Longwoods Road Resource Centre has been under major renovation and constructions since October 2023, the resource centre is nearing the end of its construction where the trim work is being completed, final lighting is being added and the tilework and epoxy floors are in. Overall the original building has received new furnaces, windows, doors and life safety system, while the new build focuses on the commercial kitchen, accessible bathroom, utility storage, furnace room and a grand hall for events and education.



E.M Warwick

E.M. Warwick camping season is in full swing again and campers are filling up the vacancies quickly.

Big Bend

Big Bend features seasonal campers, transient campers, events and hunt camps. Big Bend is a very popular site and seasonal campers are in for the season. This year we have a wait list started for seasonal campers interested in the property. In 2023 we added gravel to our river site roadway while this year we added gravel to our seasonal section. We featured a spring hunt camp for an evening and that was well received and appreciated by a small test group.

Mosa Forest

Staff have been reviewing Mosa Forest also known as Skunks Misery over the past year and will be implementing some site changes to help reduce ATV access while enabling additional pedestrian usage. This winter staff have been reviewing Mosa and posting perimeter markers to delineate the property for better visualization of property lines, this is key for hunting regulations. Additional signage and trail markers have been added to the property to state our property ownership and those activities that are allowed/prohibited. A parking lot will be added to allow for usage of the trails and viewing of our interpretive signage that was installed this winter. A boot brush will be added at the entrance to help

us to keep our CA's clear from invasive species that may get tracked in on the bottom of boots and shoes. With these changes we hope to help reduce ATV activity and increase pedestrian foot traffic. These efforts are thanks to our Land Staff, Stewardship Staff and our SAR Staff.



Mosa Forest: Interpretive Signage along the Trail

C.M. Wilson

The C.M Wilson Learning Centre is coming along wonderfully, the building is ready for users to come and enjoy the space, the classrooms have been cleaned up, painted and are being curated by staff to engage students. The overall building has received a fresh coat of paint and bathroom facilities have been cleaned and updated. We are meeting with stake holders throughout the month of April and May to discuss partnerships and support for the facility, Hydro One, Tim Hortons and Coretva and Mainstreet Credit Union have been in involved in positive interactions around re-engaging in this property.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent Tourism also brought out a photographer and engaged LTVCA in a photoshoot featuring CM Wilson for Southwestern Ontario Tourism, so watch out for our local models.



Big O

Big O Conservation Area annual Big O Birding Event took place on Sunday May 5th at 10am till 1pm. Wild Ontario joined us again as well as CSC Providence with some bird-based activities for children. This year it was a big success with approximately 40-50 attendees.



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

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

10.5) Conservation Services

10.5.1) General Update

Winter moved into spring and 2 acres wetlands were completed with more to be installed this summer. Now tree planting season has also concluded. This year we disbursed **65,138 seedling trees and 1185 large stock trees** out to our watershed wide communities.

Tree Orders By Municipality

MUNICIPALITY	TREE ORDERS	TOTAL
<u>N/A</u>	<u>17,388</u> Seedlings <u>954</u> Large Stock	18,342
<u>Chatham-Kent</u>	<u>31,405</u> Seedlings <u>21</u> Large Stock	31,426
<u>Dutton/Dunwich</u>	<u>670</u> Seedlings <u>10</u> Large Stock	680
<u>Lakeshore</u>	<u>1,960</u> Seedlings	1,960
<u>Leamington</u>	<u>90</u> Seedlings	90
<u>London</u>	<u>200</u> Seedlings	200
<u>Middlesex Centre</u>	<u>1,570</u> Seedlings	1,570
<u>Other</u>	<u>770</u> Seedlings	770
<u>Southwest Middlesex</u>	<u>6,090</u> Seedlings	6,090
<u>Southwold</u>	<u>2,000</u> Seedlings	2,000
<u>Strathroy-Caradoc</u>	<u>180</u> Seedlings	180
<u>West Elgin</u>	<u>1,630</u> Seedlings <u>200</u> Large Stock	1,830
65,138 Total Tree Orders		

Weather was favourable and tree planting was completed on time. Notable sites included the Soccer complex in Shedden received 65 larger trees for shading the fields. West Elgin Roads department gave away 200 larger trees as a replacement program.



Tree planters Amanda Blain and Tyler Thornton and tree cooler storage facility.

Sarah Riley was hired as our Reforestation Maintenance Assistant. Her duties will include tree planting, maintenance, and she will have the opportunity to explore other departments of the CA. Additional funding from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) Green Jobs Initiative to support her seasonal time at LTVCA.

Eastern District: Our Eastern District Stewardship Technician, Tyler Thornton has presented potential stewardship projects to the Elgin Clean Water Program, ALUS Middlesex, and ALUS Elgin to receive funding for the affiliated projects. Tyler applied to the EcoAction Community Funding Program Grant for the Government of Canada and the Community Tree Grant for Trees Canada in hopes to receive future funding for conservation services. Tyler is a part of the Health & Safety committee for the LTVCA and has participated in meetings, and inspections in accordance with his area, as well as he coordinated the fire extinguisher inspection with the London Fire Department for the Longwoods Conservation area to ensure all extinguishers were not expired and in working order in their appropriate locations.

The spring season has been busy preparing 36 tree projects, 5 grassland projects, and one wetland project, meanwhile working in liaison with landowners, contractors, and other stewardship staff members to implement rural stewardship projects on the landowners' respective properties throughout the LTVCA watershed. One of the tree planting projects in the eastern district was completed as a wetland, which was approximately 0.5 acres in size with native grass & Forbes seeded around the perimeter of the constructed wetland. Many eastern district tree planting projects were funded by Trees Canada. The next step is to complete the necessary reporting documentation to submit to Trees Canada to meet the funding requirements.

Tyler has been communicating with both the Strathroy District Collegiate Institute & West Elgin Secondary school, as both the schools combined have constructed over 25 blue bird box & 25 wood duck box builds in association with the Wildlife Habitat Canada grant where the grant awarded the LTVCA \$2,500 to construct them. These bird boxes have often been given to landowners who have participated in implementing stewardship projects on their properties to provide further habitat.

Tyler hosted a tree planting event with the Municipality of Southwold and their respective community members; where 30 Sugar Maple and 29 Red Oak large stock trees were planted along the perimeter of the soccer complex in Shedden to provide future shade for players and bystanders viewing events, which the fields offer seasonally. Tyler used his skills learned from his acquired pesticide license to treat and spray around planted trees at the Ridge Landfill; meanwhile, supervising and training the LTVCA summer Co-Op student.

Season end paperwork (invoices & billing) from associated contractors who conducted stewardship projects are currently being handled. Lastly, Tyler is communicating and following up with local landowners who have reached out during the spring inquiring about future projects to be conducted on their properties.

Wetlands and Ducks Unlimited Canada Partnership

An additional contract has been ratified with Ducks Unlimited for fiscal year 2024-25. Michael Young will remain as our representative and has been a valuable addition to the team.

Despite a busy tree planting season, the stewardship team was able to see two wetland projects completed, approximately 0.5 acres in size each. One of which was a deferred wetland from last year, as ground conditions finally improved enough to complete excavation.

The stewardship team returned to a completed wetland project to plant trees and spread native grass and forbs seeds. The wetland is establishing nicely since being dug in Fall 2023.

Completed Wetland Projects:



North Buxton Wetland – 0.8 acres



North Buxton Wetland – 0.5 acres



Wardsville Wetland – 0.5 acres

Stewardship Outreach

The partnership with Heuvelmans Chevrolet has been renewed for our Conservation Services Radio Promo Campaign. This partnership funds ads and radio interview spots for the duration of 2024 highlighting LTVCA programs, upcoming events, awareness, and environmental benefits of the work we do.

ALUS Middlesex

ALUS Middlesex recently completed a successful spring planting season, which saw the establishment of 24,363 trees in collaboration with five Conservation Authorities across Middlesex County. These projects included multiple windbreaks, specifically along riparian zones, as well as the retirement and restoration of previous farmland and pastures near existing woodlots to further improve natural corridors across the county. Featured below, Project Coordinator, Graham Moddle oversaw and assisted LTVCA staff plant 3,600 trees with landowners Patrick and Lynne Callon (*Figure 1*). Trees surround their newly restored wetland and connects and existing woodlots, aiding in habitat creation and increased biodiversity.



Figure 1: Project Coordinator, Graham Moddle lends a hand at the alongside the LTVCA team and owners Patrick and Lynne Callon.

The month of May equally marked the start of tallgrass prairie (TGP) restoration work. TGPs are dominated by flowering plants (forbs) and heat-loving, warm season perennial grasses. TGP projects serve as excellent buffers to mitigate erosion, sequester carbon and attract pollinator species. This year, to-date, ALUS Middlesex has coordinated and funded 60 acres of TGP habitat. Most notable, a collaboration with friends and partners at Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN), which included 18 acres of TGP with a meadow restoration project to occur later this summer.



The ALUS Middlesex 2024 tree plant event was a great success! Again, with thanks to friends at COTTFN, over 70 Common Hoptrees were planted along the edge of the recently restored TGP, creating a buffer along the bank of the Thames River. The Common Hoptree is native to the lands surrounding Lake Erie and thrives in sandy soil, so this site was a perfect home for these trees! Listed as a species of special concern, this tree planting event is part of ALUS Middlesex's larger mission of supporting the resurgence of species at risk in Ontario (*Figure 2: COTTFN employees Bee Bishop, Environmental Technician, and Campbell McKay, Species at Risk Technician, alongside ALUS Middlesex Monitoring & Research Co-op Student, Lela Burt*).

Lastly, ALUS Middlesex would like to extend a warm welcome to summer co-op students Lela Burt (featured in *Figure 2.*) and Nitharshana Kingston. Both students have joined the team for an 18-week and 6-week co-op term, respectively. Lela recently completed her coursework in the Master of Environment and Sustainability (MES) program at Western University. She has a keen passion for research specifically in the field of bat conservation and habitat restoration and shares her practical experience in policy development. Lela will assist the team in completing monitoring requirements for this upcoming field season, seek opportunities to conduct site specific studies and facilitate summer 2024 event planning. Nitharshana has just completed her postgraduate certificate in the Agribusiness Management program at Fanshawe College. Her previous research was focused on food science and technology, having completed her Master of Science (M.Sc.) at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. Nitharshana has been assisting the team within her role as Communications and Digital Content Specialist. ALUS Middlesex is thrilled to welcome both students and to draw from their personal expertise over the next few months!

ALUS Elgin

We were happy to welcome Madelaine Boucher to ALUS Elgin on April 22nd. Madelaine is graduate student in Western University's Masters of Environment and Sustainability program and is completing the final part of that program in a co-op placement with ALUS Elgin. Eco Canada is supporting this work placement. Madelaine has been a valuable asset to the ALUS Elgin program, providing the staff support to address the disarray that program data files fell into through our quick growth and various moves in 2022. She has made our project information more easily accessible, corrected errors in the ALUS Canada database, and has begun quality control on our GIS information. Madelaine has also engaged in environmental outreach on behalf of the program, familiarised herself enough with ALUS to respond to potential new participants and is executing tasks in the field.

The tree planting field season has been less hectic with us than the LTVCA at large. We did not have the same number and volume of trees going into projects this year as usual. Natural Resources Canada gave us a target of 11 400 trees to apply their funding to. We are currently at 4000 trees planted. ALUS Canada has yet to reassign any of those funds to a different ALUS community, as many of the communities have the same issue: NRCan funds cannot be matched with NRCan funds from a partner agency, and there aren't many other tree funds available this year. We also do not have many funds available for grasslands this year. With multiple farmers wanting pollinator buffers, we're pursuing funders of pollinator habitat to be able to execute some fall plantings. In the meantime, we do have plans for wetlands and wetland related habitats, which the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is supporting with their Wetland Conservation Partner Program. We are currently on track to meet the acre and participant numbers set out by that funder.



We helped establish four windbreaks on Elgin County farmland this spring. Two of our current participants enhanced and expanded the size of their wetland projects with trees.

Eleven of our Conservation Agreements are up for renewal this year, totalling nineteen projects. This includes four tree projects, four wetlands, eleven grasslands and one delayed hay project. We will be offering renewals to all of these landowners with funds coming from TD Bank to cover tree projects, Environment Canada's Carrollian Zone Priority place to cover the wetlands, and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Species at Risk Grasslands' fund to cover grassland projects.

The Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) has moved to begin meeting monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. Financial reviews and Project Proposals took up the bulk of both April and May's meetings. Staff funding, Strategic Planning, and a potential outreach event were the other subjects covered.

ALUS Chatham-Kent

Spring continues to be a busy time at ALUS. In April we had 6 sites visits for potential projects. On one of those visits we brought along two PAC members, our wetland specialist and a Drainage Supervisor, to help problem-solve a farmer's 7-acre drainage problem. As a result of the success of this site visit, we held a formal meeting between the LTVCA stewardship team & CK Drainage, to discuss how we can work better together to solve problems for farmers & landowners in Chatham-Kent. ALUS CK is creating a postcard that will be given to all drainage personnel to hand out when they're working with a farmer experiencing erosion or sedimentation along a municipal drain.

Our Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) held a meeting on April 18th. They approved 6 new projects - 8 acres of tallgrass prairie buffers, 4 acres of trees, 5 acres of wetland, and phragmites removal. ALUS CK turns five in 2024 & we are moving along with our planning for a tour of ALUS CK project sites! We are also moving along with revisiting & revising the Strategic Plan that was created in 2019, when ALUS CK launched.

May is always a marathon for a farmer & it's important to keep that level of understanding for the work of farming. ALUS CK was pleased to be a part of the tree planting crew for the whole LTVCA watershed. While tree planting season is grueling, it's also meaningful & important work. The experience will help us plan & execute higher quality projects with farmers now that we've seen what site prep works better for different soil types & weather conditions, the importance of choosing the right species for the site, and how to more accurately order the number of trees needed for a site.

In total, ALUS CK helped to fund & plant 18 acres for eleven participants across Chatham-Kent – that's almost 9,000 new trees in Chatham-Kent! In May we also excavated 1 wetland, planted 12 acres of tallgrass prairie & established 4 acres of grass buffers.

Urban Stewardship

The Urban Stewardship program has had a strong start to the spring field season, with many events, partnerships, and giveaways! To kick off our efforts, we delivered a comprehensive presentation to the Mental Health Network of Chatham-Kent. This presentation emphasized the critical role of urban stewardship in enhancing mental health, discussing the benefits of green spaces on reducing stress, improving mood, and boosting cognitive function. The presentation was well-received, prompting productive discussions about potential collaborations to integrate nature-based solutions into mental health programs.

In celebration of Earth Day, we organized a successful tree giveaway event where **400 native Carolinian trees** were distributed to community members. This initiative aimed to encourage urban greening and foster a sense of environmental stewardship among residents, receiving enthusiastic participation and positive feedback. Staff also attended the grand opening of the Wheatley Arboretum & Learning trail, where we had an outreach booth and dispersed an additional **100 native trees** to local residents.

To continue with Earth Week celebrations, we conducted three volunteer tree planting events. The first was at Tilbury District High School, where students planted **40 trees**, enhancing the school's



green space and promoting environmental awareness. The second event, in collaboration with the Blenheim Rotary Club, saw **30 trees** planted at St. Anne's school in Blenheim, contributing to the area's beautification and ecological health. The third event took place at the Walter Devereux Conservation Area, supported by the Farmers Lending Group, where **40 trees** were planted to enhance biodiversity and provide wildlife habitats. We also partnered with the Sydenham Field Naturalists to complete a thorough litter cleanup along Rose Beach in Chatham-Kent.



A presentation was also given to Chatham Christian School to prepare students and staff for the establishment of a pollinator garden on their school grounds. This presentation covered the importance of pollinators, best practices for creating and maintaining a pollinator-friendly garden, and encouraged student participation in the project. This initiative aims to foster environmental stewardship and provide hands-on learning experiences for students.



Additionally, we formed a partnership with CK High School to construct habitat boxes for bats and wood ducks, which will be given away to past project participants & other community members. This project not only enhances local wildlife habitats but also engages students in environmental conservation.

Another significant event was a tree planting initiative at Enbridge, where we collaborated to plant **200 trees** around their facilities. This effort aimed to improve the green spaces and promote environmental sustainability within the corporate community.



Lastly, an outreach event at Discover Blenheim engaged the broader community with information on urban stewardship & other LTVCA initiatives. The event was very well attended, and the shared knowledge will help to foster community involvement in environmental conservation and restoration projects.

We look forward to the rest of the spring field season, where several more community restoration events will be taking place.

10.5.2) Agricultural Initiatives

On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program



LTVCA staff continue work for the second phase of the On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM) program. As part of this initiative, the LTVCA is collecting year-round water samples to understand the effects of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) on water quality.

With additional funding provided by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the LTVCA was able to purchase new monitoring equipment for the edge of field research sites. The purchase of three new area-velocity modules and area-velocity sensors will allow staff to collect accurate flow data from subsurface tile drainage locations.



From May to June of 2024, LTVCA project staff continued to collect water quality and quantity data in the ONFARM study. Approximately 237 mm of precipitation was recorded at the Merlin edge of field sites during the period.

The water quality component of the ONFARM program specifically examines land management practices such as tillage, fertilizer application, controlled drainage and/or cover cropping impacts across multiple sites. Additionally, this data will be paired with long-term soil health trials, facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of BMP impacts at the edge-of-field scale.

LTVCA Merlin edge of field site with new HACH AV9000 area-velocity equipment.

The program is funded by the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year, federal-provincial-territorial initiative. ONFARM was developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and

is delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. The project is supported in collaboration with the Ausable Bayfield and Upper Thames Conservation Authorities, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Soil Resource Group and farm cooperators.

Ontario Ministry of Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) – Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) on Great Lakes Water Quality & Ecosystem Health.

The purpose of the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA) is to restore, protect and conserve Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health. The LTVCA is in discussions with OMAFRA to support a variety of agriculturally based stewardship initiatives from 2024 to 2025. The focus is on activities that will address the issue of excess nutrient loads with the objective to reduce harmful and nuisance algal blooms.

University of Waterloo Partnership

On June 4th 2024, LTVCA Agricultural Program Coordinator and staff from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority attended a meeting at the University of Waterloo to discuss current and future collaborations with the University of Waterloo Biogeochemistry Department. Staff had the opportunity to tour an edge of field research site and the Biogeochemistry laboratory. Dr. Merrin McCrae and Professor Helen Jarvie shared ideas and information related to nutrient cycling, water quality, climate change and agricultural management practices.



Weather station located at the University of Waterloo edge-of-field research site near Waterloo Ontario.

10.5.3) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

Final *Habitat Stewardship Program* (HSP) and *Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic SAR* (CNFASAR) reports have been submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for year one activities described in the April Board of Directors report. Temperature and dissolved oxygen data loggers have been installed at 13 Thames River, one Big Creek and two Rondeau Bay tributary locations to monitor environmental conditions experienced by fish and mussel SAR in these locations with year two of the above funding. SAR staff worked in cooperation with environmental representatives of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames and Munsee-Delaware Nation Indigenous communities to deploy one of these paired sets of data loggers near their Nations. A Survey123 electronic data form was developed to help collect this data, saving time and reducing the potential for transcription errors from hard copy field sheets. Two SAR staff took KISTERS WISKI (Water Management Information System KISTERS) training to assist in the management of the water quality data being collected. A very positive meeting was held with City of London drainage and ecology representatives to discuss the potential to adopt a municipal riparian buffer policy. Darren Hughes concluded his contract as SAR Technician.

Terrestrial Species at Risk



Figure 1: Anabat Swift bat detector deployed.

A final report was submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada in relation to the *Species at Risk Management Planning and Recovery Implementation in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority* project. Song Meter Mini acoustic units (for the detection of birds and frogs) and Anabat Swift ultrasonic bat detection units have been deployed for the season to monitor four conservation areas in Chatham-Kent. A BirdWeather Portable Universe Codec (PUC) unit is being used to collect and identify birds singing in real time at all deployment locations. Interviews have been conducted and a new Wildlife Technician is scheduled to start work to process the Mini Song Meter data in July. This position has been funded through the federal Canada Summer Jobs program.

10.6) Communications, Education and Outreach

10.6.1) Social Media

As of April 5, 2024, the **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Facebook** page has 3,695 Followers, the **Instagram page for the Authority** has 1,314 Followers, and the Authority has 1,261 followers on **X** (formerly Twitter).

10.6.2) Communications and Outreach

Following the success of the Curator's presentation about the history of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum at the [History Symposium in February](#), she was invited to give a presentation at the Westminster Historical Societies May general meeting. This was attended by approximately 25 people.

The Battle of Longwoods public event was attended by 619 paid and 244 free visitors. We await volunteer and re-enactor registration information.

10.6.3) Education Programming



St. Thomas - Elgin Children's Water Festival

Students had a splash at the St. Thomas - Elgin Children's Water Festival at Pinafore Park in St. Thomas in early May. LTVCA staff provided Zone Leadership and station support throughout the week.

The four-day festival welcomes over 3,200 grades 2-5 students from schools across the Thames Valley District School Board and London District Catholic School Board. Students will learn about the importance of protecting and conserving our local water resources through 46 interactive activity stations brought to life by local high school student leaders.

Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival

Following a public call for volunteer support, a steering committee has been formed to help continue bringing the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival to area students. The intention is to run the festival much as it has been in the past. The Festival will continue to be supported by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, as well as the Lambton Kent District and St. Clair Catholic District School Boards.

LTVCA staff will support the steering committee as they learn more about the festival and we transition from the 18 years of committed leadership by Don Hector. Don leaves the festival in good standing and we look forward to carrying on the tradition at C.M. Wilson this fall.

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre

Six classes from Ursuline College Chatham High School recently visited C.M. Wilson conservation area for their annual soil and water quality field trip, engaging in hands-on learning experiences that connect classroom knowledge to real-world environmental science. The students conducted various tests to analyze soil composition and water quality, gaining insights into the factors that influence ecosystem health. The grade 9 students explored the importance of maintaining sustainable practices to protect these vital resources. This field trip not only enhanced their understanding of environmental stewardship but also inspired many to consider careers in environmental science and conservation.

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

The Community Educator and Curator / Team Lead Communications and Education will continue to see school groups through the last day of the 2023/24 school year, as well as a couple of community groups camping and doing programs on the weekend.

Community groups have begun to book both on-site and on-the-road programs with us for the summer months. August seems to be particularly popular this year.

The Community Educator participated in the Thames Valley District School Board and London District Catholic School Board Heritage Fair at Fanshawe Pioneer Village on April 25, 2024. They provided free outreach programming to 91 students through this endeavour.

Battle of Longwoods

Battle of Longwoods Education Day was a success. Despite lower registration as a result of declined funding support for classes from the London District Catholic School Board the event was still attended by 494 students and 44 adults. The Team Lead Communication and Education has set up a meeting to discuss this with the LDCSB. She will also be collaborating with the Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society to refine education day offerings.

The Community Educator from Longwoods Road CA provided a station on the Oneida Nation of the Thames migration to Southwold. The Community Educators from C.M. Wilson CA provided a station on the Carolinian Life Zone and the importance of the environment in this area.

River and Creek Safety

Thank you to the Chatham Lions Club, Delaware Lioness Club, Kiwanis Club of Rodney, Optimist Club of West Lorne, Rodney Lions Club, and Salus Mutual for your support of the River and Creek Safety Program. We have been able to reach approximately 200 youth so far this year and will be seeing more this fall.

10.6.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of June 5, 2024, the **Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook** page has 3,906 Followers. The **Instagram page for the Village** has 670 Followers.

CMOG

The Community Museum Operating Grant application for 2024, based on 2023 reporting, is now available. The Curator will complete and submit the application by the end of the month, including the Emergency Preparedness Plan which is the 2024 application requirement. The Curator will begin working on a Digitization Plan, the 2025 requirement, during the summer months. CMOG is an annual grant that provides the museum with \$22 992 in operational support.

Emergency Preparedness Plan

The Curator completed compiling and updating the Emergency Preparedness Plan and Binder for Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. The plan focuses specifically on museum related emergencies. The full Plan includes the Emergency Preparedness Plan, preparedness documents, emergency maps, forms and documentation, collections care information, as well as LTVCA approved standard operating procedures for a number of incident types.

Hard copies of the full, updated copies of the binder will be stored at the Museum, Burwell House, and the LTVCA Administrative Office in Chatham. Further, any additional items required for the collection's emergency kit will be obtained.

Fundraising for the Indigenous Community Education Centre and Ska-Nah-Doht Museum Revitalization

The Curator continue to work with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation towards fundraising for the extension and revitalizations taking place at SND Museum.

LTVCA staff will be participating in the Middlesex County Warden's Charity Golf Tournament on June 18th. A portion of the funds raised will be donated to the LTVCA in support of the construction of the Indigenous Community Education Centre.

Community Survey

As part of this endeavour, and SND's current 5-year strategic plan a community survey has been created and is in circulation.

10.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2024

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

General meeting held on April 4 2024 at the Wheatley Friendship Club

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

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

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

Memorial Groves: A black locust tree that is on the ground needs to be removed. Rick suggested putting a walking path through the Groves.

Prop. & Equip.: We are waiting for an engineer's report before work is started on the pavilion. In the meantime, temporary 6" support posts will be installed between the existing posts to ensure safety. The temporary posts will eventually replace the existing posts. L.T.V.C.A. will pay for the temporary installation of the posts. Joe will order the posts. L.T.V.C.A. will be thinning out some of the pine groves in order to keep them healthy. Genevieve is looking into who is responsible for replacing the Willow culvert and bridge. Gerry has applied for a \$4000.00 grant from the Romney Wind Fund. We will put a new support post under the east end of the North bridge and then reattach it. We have approximately 160 trees to be planted in May, Rick will contact the school to coordinate a planting day.

Concerts: The Delvitos will be replacing South River Slim. We are continuing to look at getting sponsorships for the concerts.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of Feb. 29 2024 was \$36,428.44. Account balance as of March 31 2024 was \$51,833.80. Moved by Roger sec. by Phil report be accepted as given. (Carried)

Correspondence: A person has applied to rent the pavilion in order to hold a footrace.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Joe moved for adjournment at 6:55pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2024

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

General meeting held on May 2 2024 at the Wheatley Friendship Club

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

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

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

Memorial Groves: A couple of trees need to be replaced. No grass cutting or other work has been done lately due to wetness.

Prop. & Equip.: The North bridge has been repaired. We decided to hire a contractor to remove the old Willow culvert and leave it as is for now. Hydro One has denied our grant application. We have applied for a \$5000.00 grant from the Councilors Ward Funding. The pavilion has been rented twice in May. The 27 temporary support posts were installed in the pavilion to make it safe for everyone. An engineer's report on the pavilion repairs is being worked on. The new trees we received were planted May 1 with help from Melissa at L.T.V.C.A. and the students from Wheatley Public School. Roger replaced the flag on the hill. We will put up signs with information on how people can rent the Pavilion and Chapel. We want to run a water line to the Large Pavilion. Lower Thames will locate the utilities for us.

Concerts: The Chasers had to cancel their concert date, Dirt Country will be replacing them. Jen Knight will be switching concert dates with Courtney Wells. Rick has been asking companies in the area about sponsoring our concerts.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of March 31 2024 was \$51,833.80. Account balance as of April 30, 2024 was \$51,370. 40. Moved by Roger, sec. by Phil report be accepted as given. (Carried)

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Roger moved for adjournment at 6:48pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

11. Correspondence

11.1) Conservation Ontario's 2023 Annual Report

The Future of Conservation is Collaborative

Are you an optimist or a pessimist by nature? With the many twists and turns of the past few years, I no longer consider myself on one side or the other. Instead, I think of myself as a “*possibilist*”. An individual who thinks of outcomes and opportunities as creative spaces for shared wins: so long as we avoid the limitations of small-picture thinking.

Without a doubt, Conservation Authorities (CAs) and Conservation Ontario (CO) have had challenges over the years; however, with excellent members that comprise our network and extended networks, we are positioning ourselves for future success.

Most of you know I take many things seriously, including drafting this message. In my short time at CO, I have been honoured to work and negotiate on your behalf. These negotiations required me to grow as a professional and to expand the limits of my thinking for our shared organizations. I am comfortable in rooms where it is necessary to build bridges to help people come together to find productive solutions.

Through discussions and debates, I've realized that collaboration is key to unlocking the full potential of conversation and conservation.

This annual report will tell stories of successful collaborations between CO and various stakeholders. These stories serve as a reminder that no single entity can tackle the challenges of conservation alone. Through partnerships, we leverage our collective strengths, share best practices, and amplify our impact.

The work being carried out by CO on behalf of the Conservation Authority (CA) network is aligned with this vision. CO's programs and initiatives support and highlight the transformative impact of collaboration by fostering partnerships between government agencies, Indigenous communities, businesses, agriculture, stewardship organizations, environmental organizations, and engaged citizens.

From watershed management to floodplain mapping, from climate change adaptation to biodiversity conservation, CO's work exemplifies the strength that lies in unity. By combining diverse perspectives and expertise, we are driving positive change across the province.

This report highlights the importance of engaging and supporting the CA network. This inclusive approach ensures the sustainability of conservation efforts across watersheds.

Looking ahead, we are committed to deepening our collaboration with organizations across Ontario. We aim to expand our reach and influence in conservation by forging strategic alliances and nurturing partnerships. Together, we can drive change, advocate issues relevant to CAs, and create a future where the delicate balance between human progress and environmental preservation is maintained.

I want to thank Chair Chris White and our Board, Council, CAs, and partners for their support. Your dedication and commitment have enabled us to make significant strides over the past year. Let us embrace collaboration and possibility as the cornerstone of our efforts, knowing that together, we can build sustainable communities for all.

Angela Coleman

General Manager, Conservation Ontario

Download Conservation Ontario's 2023 Annual Report ([Single Page](#), [Spreads](#))

https://conservationontario.ca/fileadmin/pdf/annual_report/CO_AnnualReport_2023_Digital_Single.pdf

11.2) CO Re: Amendments to the Class EA for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects



March 8, 2024

Conservation Authority CAOs/GMs

Re: Amendments to the Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects

The Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects ("CO Class EA") was [amended on February 22, 2024](#). Amendments to the CO Class EA took place alongside seven other Class EAs to align with amendments to the *Environmental Assessment Act* and new regulations for moving to a project-list approach (for projects requiring a comprehensive EA).

In addition to administrative amendments (grammatical, terminology, etc.), the amended CO Class EA contains several process changes. Appendix A to this memo provides a summary of these process-related changes. CA proponents will need to review the amended CO Class EA for a full understanding of the changes. Please note that, further to the new transition provisions, the amended Class EA now applies to all current (ongoing) and future projects. Conservation Ontario will host a briefing session for CA staff (to be scheduled) to discuss these process changes.

Questions can be directed to myself (nfischer@conservationontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Nicholas Fischer

Nicholas Fischer
Policy and Planning Liaison

c.c: CA Section 28 Regulations Contacts
CA Class EA Contacts
CA Planning Contacts

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
Tel: 905.895.0716 Email: info@conservationontario.ca
www.conservationontario.ca

Appendix A:

Summary of Process-Related Changes to the CO Class EA

(Note: The following table does not outline the full suite of amendments to the CO Class EA (e.g., administrative amendments, updates to terminology, minor changes, etc.). This table provides a summary of amendments which alter the Class EA process ("process-related changes"). CA proponents must review the amended Class EA for a full understanding of the current process).

Section Reference (CO Class EA – Amended February 2024)	Summary of Change(s)
Section 1.2.4 Status under the Environmental Assessment Act	<p>Previously, Regulation 334 under the EA Act exempted certain undertakings from the EA Act.</p> <p>O. Reg. 334 has been revoked. The undertakings previously covered in that regulation were not and continue not to be undertakings to which the Class EA applies.</p> <p>If the undertaking is not listed in a Class EA, regulation or as a designated Part II.3 project under the EA Act, it does not have EA requirements. E.g., Development of Conservation Areas and Campgrounds previously had no EA requirements if the project cost did not exceed \$1 million. Now, these projects have no EA requirements (regardless of cost).</p>
Section 2.3 Description of Undertakings Within the Class	<p>Text is removed in this section which stated that projects under this Class EA could not include works which facilitate or anticipate development (e.g., major flood and erosion control undertakings / multipurpose projects). This text has been removed from the amended Class EA. As such, multipurpose or major projects that meet the description of undertakings within the Class EA may now follow the Class EA process.</p> <p>Text added here to state that proponents are to contact the Ministry for projects that do not fall into the class of undertakings under this Class EA to determine applicable EA requirements.</p>
Section 3.1.4 Selection of a Preferred Conservation Authority Program Option	Amendments to outcome #3 to clarify that, if the works needed are not an undertaking to which the Class EA applies, the CA proponent will refer to the regulations under the EA Act to determine if the project is a Part II.3 project which requires a comprehensive EA.
Section 3.2	Clarifying detail added to confirm proponents must send copies of all required project notices to CO as well as applicable Ministry email addresses.

Section Reference (CO Class EA – Amended February 2024)	Summary of Change(s)
Initiation of the Class Environmental Assessment Process	
Figure 1B Planning and Design Process	Simplified Figure 1B (see appropriate sections referenced in Figure for process changes)
Section 3.7.2.1 Project Plan	<p>Clarification that the Notice of Completion (previously “Notice of Filing Document for Review”) must be sent to interested persons, Indigenous communities, and all other parties indicating the Project Plan is available for review and there is an opportunity to submit a Section 16 Order. Previously, the notice was sent only to those noted above who expressed an interest in the remedial work.</p> <p>Proponents must now wait 30 days following the completion of a comment period for a Project Plan or Environmental Study Report (ESR) before proceeding with the project. The Minister may issue an order that shortens this waiting period.</p>
Section 3.7.2.3 Comprehensive Environmental Assessment	<p>Changes made to confirm the new process for preparing a comprehensive EA (previously “Individual EA”).</p> <p>It should be noted that, where a comprehensive (previously “individual) EA is recommended as the appropriate documentation level, it will only proceed as a comprehensive EA if: 1) the project is designated as a Part II.3 project, 2) a CA proponent has applied to the Minister to proceed as a Part II.3 project or 3) the project has been designated as a Part II.3 project further to a Section 16 Order.</p>
Section 3.8 Addenda to Environmental Study Reports and Project Plans	The public and agency review period of the Notice of Addendum has increased from 15 to 30 days. Addendums with significant changes will include a statement regarding the ability to request a Section 16 Order. Note: Requests for Section 16 Orders would only be applicable to the proposed changes to the project. The public and other agencies would have had the opportunity to request a Section 16 Order on the original components through the issuance of the Notice of Completion (previously “Notice of Filing”).
Section 4.1.1 Indigenous Communities	New text added at beginning of section to state that proponents shall invite interested or potentially affected Indigenous Communities to participate in the planning and design of projects proceeding pursuant to the Class EA.

Section Reference (CO Class EA – Amended February 2024)	Summary of Change(s)
Section 4.2 and Table 3 Public Notification Requirements	<p>Changes in names of notices. CAs will need to update the language on their notices accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Notice of Intent” (No Change) • “Notice of Filing” becomes “Notice of Completion” • “Notice of Addendum” (No Change) • “Notice of Project Approval” becomes “Notice of Project Completion” • “Notice of Project Completion” becomes “Notice of Project Construction Completion”
Table 3 Summary of Notification and Documentation Requirements under the Class EA	<p>Clarification provided on how to send notices to the MECP Region Offices.</p> <p>Clarification also provided that Notice of Completion and Notice of Addendum (as applicable) must include a statement regarding the opportunity to request a Section 16 Order.</p>
Section 5.0 Provision for Phasing in of Ongoing Undertakings NOW Section 5.0 Transition Provisions	<p>Section replaced with new transition provisions as no projects were assessed to be proceeding with the 2009 Class EA.</p> <p>New transition requirements added for any project commenced under a previous version of the Class EA. All ongoing projects will be required to comply with the current Class EA for the remainder of their Class EA process.</p>
Section 6.0 Duration of Project Authorizations	<p>Clarity provided that, where a project has completed the EA study (Notice of Completion issued) but a lapse of time of 5-years has occurred, the project will be reviewed in accordance with the addendum process of the Class EA. Previously, projects were to be reviewed in accordance with the “planning and design process”.</p>
Section 7.0 Section 16 Orders	<p>Previously “Provision for Changing Project Status (Part II Order). This Section has been updated further to Section 16 of the EA Act. The Minister may make an Order declaring a project is a Part II.3 Project (requiring a comprehensive EA) or imposing additional conditions on an undertaking.</p> <p>Additionally, any person may request a Section 16 Order on the grounds that the order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on Aboriginal or treaty rights.</p>
Section 11.0 Amending Class EA Documents	<p>Section has been amended further to Section 15.4 of the EA Act (“minor” and “major” amendments replaced with “Director” and “Minister” amendments). This section outlines amendment</p>

Section Reference (CO Class EA – Amended February 2024)	Summary of Change(s)
	procedures for the Class EA document, and not individual Class EA projects. No process changes for proponents.
Appendix E Sample Notification Forms	Sample notification forms have been updated with text regarding Section 16 Orders.
Appendix J Glossary of Terms	<p>Terminology Removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Aboriginal Communities” • “Amendment” • “Class Environmental Assessment Project” • “Environmental Assessment Coordinator” • “Individual Environmental Assessment” • “Part II Order” <p>Terminology Added or Amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Class Environmental Assessment” • “Comprehensive Environmental Assessment” • “Consultation” • “Environmental Assessment Act” • “Regional Environmental Assessment Coordinator” • “Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects”

11.3) MECP Re: Environmental Assessment Act, Notice of Amendments; Class EA for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS

Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects

RE: Amendments to the Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects

EA File No.: EA-02-09-02-02

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (ministry) as part of its environmental assessment modernization initiative to move to a project-list approach for projects that will require a comprehensive environmental assessment, proposed amendments to the Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects (the Class EA) to facilitate this move. A class environmental assessment sets out the undertakings (projects) to which it applies and the streamlined process to be followed to proceed with the projects.

Section 15.4 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) establishes the authority and process for making amendments to a class environmental assessment, including amendments made on the Minister's own initiative. To amend a class environmental assessment, the Minister must be satisfied that the amendments are consistent with the purpose of the EAA and the public interest. The Minister must ensure that adequate public notice of a proposed amendment is provided and that members of the public have an opportunity to comment on it.

As part of its proposals to move toward a project-list approach for projects that will require a comprehensive environmental assessment under the EAA, the ministry consulted on the proposed amendments with Indigenous communities, members of the public, government agencies, and stakeholders, including proponents. Consultation was carried out with respect to the original and revised proposals regarding the move toward a project-list approach. Information on the original and revised proposal was posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) and Ontario.ca for 60-day comment periods from November 26, 2021 to January 26, 2022 (original proposal) and March 10, 2023 to May 9, 2023 (revised proposal). Indigenous communities, government agencies and stakeholders were directly notified and provided with information on the proposed amendments.

Having considered the consultation and feedback received, the ministry is recommending amendments to the Class EA to facilitate the move to the project-list approach, including:

- Changing the class by including remedial flood or erosion control projects by conservation authorities that are multi-purpose or facilitate or anticipate development. This change would provide for the continued application of the EAA to these projects, which have not been designated as Part II.3 projects (comprehensive environmental assessments) under the project-list approach and as such would otherwise not be subject to the EAA.
- Clarifying the description of the class of projects.

- Specifying that the Class EA does not apply to waterfront projects that are designated as a Part II.3 project (i.e., require a comprehensive EA).
- Updating terminology and text for consistency with the EAA and its regulations.

In addition to the recommended amendments to the Class EA to facilitate the move to a project-list approach, the ministry recommends that the Class EA be amended to:

- Update and clarify existing text, including to align with: certain amendments to the EAA that have been made in recent years (e.g., specifying when a proponent is authorized to proceed with a project subject to the Class EA), other class environmental assessments (e.g., Indigenous consultation text) and other Acts and regulations.
- Revise certain content with standard Class EA language (e.g., Section 16 Orders, Class EA amending procedures).
- Revise the transition provision, which is no longer relevant, to clarify that the amended Class EA would apply to all projects.
- Make other administrative amendments, including grammatical changes and updates to the glossary.

Having considered the comments and submissions on the proposed amendments, consultation with Indigenous communities and organizations, the amending procedures set forth in section 15.4 of the EAA and the recommended amendments to the Class EA, I am satisfied that the amendments are consistent with the purpose of the EAA and the public interest and have decided to amend the Class EA. The amendments are incorporated in the February 2024 Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects, to which this notice is attached.

REASONS

My reasons for amending the Class EA are as follows:

- (1) Adequate public notice of the amendments has been provided and members of the public have had an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments. Public notice and opportunities to comment were provided through the ERO and Ontario.ca postings described above.
- (2) Adequate consultation with proponents of projects that will proceed pursuant to the Class EA has occurred, with appropriate opportunity provided to proponents to review the amendments and to provide their comments.
- (3) Adequate consultation with Indigenous communities and organizations has occurred. The ministry directly engaged Indigenous communities and organizations on the original proposal and revised proposal that, among other matters, provided more detail on the amendments. Consultation also included providing communities and organizations with opportunities to attend webinar sessions or individual meetings with the ministry to comment on and raise any concerns about the amendments. No comments were received from Indigenous communities or organizations about the amendments to the Class EA.
- (4) The amendments establish environmental assessment requirements for certain additional projects that are now subject to the Class EA and not included in the

comprehensive environmental assessment projects regulation. The Class EA requires consultation, including consultation with Indigenous communities, and requires the consideration of potential environmental impacts and mitigation of any such impacts before a project proceeds. The evaluation and consultation processes under the Class EA are designed to be flexible and scalable to the scope of a project and its potential impacts and provide for appropriate evaluation and consultation for projects being added to the Class EA. As such, the amendments will provide appropriate environmental oversight and opportunities for consultation for these projects.

- (5) The amendments that facilitate the move to the project-list approach are necessary to provide clarity, consistency and coherency within the environmental assessment regime.
- (6) Certain amendments are administrative in nature and are editorial, update outdated information, and/or improve clarity in the Class EA. It is important that the class environmental assessments be accurate, consistent with applicable legislation and regulations and clear and understandable for all.

For the foregoing reasons, I am satisfied that the amendments are consistent with the purpose of the EAA and the public interest.

Notice of my decision to amend the Class EA will be posted in the ERO to bring the amendments into effect, as required by the EAA, and to provide public notice of the amendments made to the Class EA. That notice will be posted in the ERO on the day that the EAA amendments and regulations moving to a project list approach for projects that will require a comprehensive environmental assessment come into force.

Dated the 16 day of February 2024 at TORONTO.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan", with a stylized, looped design.

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and
Parks
777 Bay Street
College Park 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

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
