



Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

**August 17, 2023
2:00 p.m.**

1. First Nations Acknowledgement	
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3. Adoption of Agenda	
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1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2023



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held in person and remotely via the LTVCA's Administration Office at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 15, 2023. The following directors were in attendance: S. Emons, K. Loveland, P. Tiessen, L. Vogler, H. Aerts, M. Vink, A. Finn. R. Leatham, S. Hipple, T. Thompson and M. Bondy sent their regrets.

1. First Nations Acknowledgment

Mark Peacock read the First Nations acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-2023-17 P. Tiessen – L. Vogler

Moved that the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2023-18 K. Loveland – H. Aerts

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of April 20, 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

7. Presentations

7.1) Strategic Planning Process

BD-2023-19 L. Vogler – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors receive presentation 7.1).

CARRIED

8. New Business

None noted.

9. Business for Approval

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

BD-2023-20 K. Loveland – H. Aerts

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

CARRIED

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

BD-2023-21 P. Tiessen – K. Loveland

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

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

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

CARRIED

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

BD-2023-22 M. Vink – L. Vogler

Moved that the Accessibility Policy for Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum approved as provided.

CARRIED

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

BD-2023-23 L. Vogler – M. Vink

Moved that the Board of Directors direct staff to revise the phased drawings into one drawing set, retender the project and bring the results of the tender to the Board for its review and approval.

CARRIED

10. New Business

10.1) Strategic Planning Process

BD-2023-24 K. Loveland – H. Aerts

Moved that the report be received for information.

CARRIED

10.2) C.A.O.'s Report

BD-2023-25 K. Loveland – P. Tiessen

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

CARRIED

10.3) Water Management

10.4) Planning and Regulations

10.5) Conservation Services

10.6) Communications, Outreach and Education

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

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

BD-2023-26 L. Vogler – P. Tiessen

Moved that New Business items 10.3) to 10.8) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

11.1) City of London Member Representative

11.2) Source Water Protection

BD-2023-27 L. Vogler – P. Tiessen

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

CARRIED

12. In Camera Session

BD-2023-28 L. Vogler – P. Tiessen

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

CARRIED

BD-2023-29 K. Loveland – L. Vogler

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

CARRIED

13. Other Business

None noted.

14. Adjournment

BD-2023-30 M. Vink – P. Tiessen

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Sarah Emons
Chair

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

7. Delegation

7.1) Mr. Jim Crane Re: Crane Conservation Area sale

8. Presentation

8.1) LTVCA Multi-Year Budget

10. Business for Approval

10.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to June 30, 2023

Date: August 17, 2023
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to June 30, 2023**
 From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

Background:

Review the 2023 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 6 months ended June 30, 2023.

REVENUE	2023 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET JUN PROJECTED		2023 ACTUAL TO JUN 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	1,685,079	842,540	*	1,165,329	322,789
GENERAL LEVY	1,581,955	1,581,955	^	1,581,955	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000	^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	728,450	364,225	*	531,195	166,970
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0	*	0	0
RESERVES	0	0	*	0	0
CASH FUNDING	4,200,484	2,993,720		3,483,479	489,759
OTHER	0	0		0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	4,200,484	2,993,720		3,483,479	489,759

*-based on a 6 of 12 month proration of the budget

^based on cash received to date

Grant income is greater than budgeted due to the reversal of deferred revenue for ongoing programs, the timing of grants invoiced and increased or new grants including a grant for a Resource Centre Rebuild and Elevator and CM Wilson Learning Centre Indigenous Educator.

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. All municipalities are paid in full as of August 9, 2023.

General Revenue is above budget due to the following factors:

- Conservation Areas is above budget due to receiving seasonal camping revenue, Conservation Education and Ska-Nah-Doht Village are above budget due to returning schools and year-end trips, Conservation Services and Chatham Kent Greening Project are above budget as tree planting is done and landowners have been billed and interest income is above budget.

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

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

EXPENSES	2023 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET JUN PROJECTED	2023 ACTUAL TO JUN 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	187,142	93,571	121,024	27,453
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	4	6	2
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	132,280	66,140	52,551	(13,589)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	179,707	89,854	76,636	(13,218)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	485,409	242,705	256,788	14,083
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	205,315	102,657	51,813	(50,844)
SOURCE PROTECTION	30,519	15,259	10,083	(5,176)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
Water Management Subtotal	1,220,381	610,190	568,901	(41,289)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	712,741	356,371	404,936	48,565
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	185,449	92,724	46,481	(46,243)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	33,941	16,970	33,760	16,790
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	145,817	72,909	51,406	(21,503)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	365,207	182,603	131,647	(50,956)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	174,493	87,247	102,864	15,617
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	522,336	261,168	278,690	17,522
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	1,077,985	538,993	452,963	(86,030)
SPECIES AT RISK	127,341	63,671	187,750	124,079
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	1,902,155	951,079	1,022,267	71,188
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	0	0	0	0
REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,200,484	2,100,243	2,127,751	27,508

Water Management

Flood Control Structures is above budget due to operation of the dam and pumps and maintenance on the channel, control building and pumps.

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

Technical Studies are below budget due to time spent on regulations.

Planning and Regulations is comparable to budget.

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

Source Protection is below budget due to timing of when staff work on this program.

Conservation Areas

Conservation area expenses are above budget due the costs of opening of the Conservation Area campgrounds, work on the Resource Centre and repairs to Conservation area houses.

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 above budget due to the establishment of the CM Wilson Learning Centre.

Conservation Services/Stewardship

Conservation Services (Forestry) and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are above budget as most large activities, like tree and prairie planting, and the related expenses have been completed.

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

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

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Summary:

	2023 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET JUN PROJECTED	2023 ACTUAL TO JUN 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	4,200,484	2,993,720	3,483,479	489,759
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,200,484	2,100,243	2,127,751	27,508
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	893,477	1,355,728	462,251
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	893,477	1,355,728	462,251

At June 30, 2023, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable due to increased grant and general revenue over budget and partially offset by increased expenditures due to the increased grants and the seasonal nature of some expenditures.

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

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended June 30, 2023.

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

4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

Respectfully Submitted

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

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

10.2) 2024 Preliminary Budget Preparation and Assumptions Report

Date: August 17, 2023
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: **2024 Preliminary Budget Preparation Report**
 From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

Background:

As part of the current Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Strategic Plan (2016-2021) the Conservation Authority developed 12 objectives in 4 General Areas. The Financial Objectives were as follows:

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

In order to achieve objective 4, a number of initiatives were defined. Year 1, 3 & 5 of these initiatives have been achieved including preparation of financial statement for each board meeting that improves the boards understanding of the financial position of the LTVCA, involving managers in their budget process and allowing Managers to manage their budgets with collaboration with the Manager, Finance and Administrative Services.

Objective	Ownership	Measurement	Candidate Initiatives	Budget Implications
4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements	Financial Services Specialist & Management Team	Quarterly statements for each program reviewed with program managers	Year 1- Quarterly statements reflecting reality	Budget neutral
				Budget neutral
			Year 3- Managers have adequate information and capacity for financial decisions	Budget neutral
			Year 5- Managers manage budgets in collaboration with Todd	

To address this requirement, in 2018 the budgeting process was revised, allowing managers more say in budget development and more responsibility in financial management of their departments. In order to provide additional time for staff consultation to occur, this preliminary budget report is being presented at the August 2024 Board meeting.

2024 Budget Preparation Process:

- 1) August/September – spreadsheets prepared showing each account with current to date results, the past two years of actuals and initial proposed budget assuming:
 - a) Salaries carried forward with increase based on merit and 6.8% COLA increases
 - b) Payroll allocated based on past experience and current expectations
 - c) Projects being carried forward will be based on known expectations
 - d) General Expenses based on past trends modified by current expectations
- 2) August/September – Managers review staff work plans with staff to determine changes and new projects/priorities/requirements for 2024 budget
- 3) August/September – Todd provide spreadsheets to managers for their areas of budget

- 4) August – Budget Preparation Report to Board providing general assumptions and process to develop 2024 preliminary budget
- 5) August - November continue meeting with municipalities regarding 2024 budget assumptions at their convenience
- 6) September/October – Mark and Todd meet with individual Managers to review and prepare preliminary budget (more than one meeting per manager may be required)
- 7) September/October – Mark and Todd meet to review overall budget and challenges and compile complete preliminary budget
- 8) September/October – meeting with managers to review preliminary budget prior to finalization
- 9) October Board Meeting – Preliminary Budget and levy presented to the Board of Directors for review and approval
- 10) October – budget and levy circulation and notification (min 30 days as per Act)
- 11) January – final review of budget with management team
- 12) February – final review and approval by board at annual meeting

Budget Preparation Assumptions:

The budget will be prepared based on:

1. 5% total general levy increase,
2. Merit increases for staff to be considered in draft budget,
3. Cost of living increases of 6.8% will be provided to staff in 2024

Details for drivers to be presented at August Board Meeting.

Recommendations:

That the Board approve the budget assumption of a 5% general levy increase, and

That staff bring the preliminary 2024 budget to the October meeting for review and approval.

Recommended by:

Todd Casier, CPA, CA,

Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

Reviewed by:

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.

CAO / Secretary-Treasurer

10.3) Municipal / LTVCA Category Agreements

Date: August 17, 2023
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner
Subject: Municipal / LTVCA Category Agreements

The CAO and Watershed Resource Planner have had discussions with several of our member municipalities, and at the writing of this report, have been before three municipal councils at their regular meetings; the Municipality of West Elgin, the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich and the Township of Southwold. All three councils have signed the Category Agreement as written and returned copies to this office for the CAO and Chair to sign.

A slightly modified agreement has been generated by the Municipality of Middlesex Centre. This revision is in response to the fact that Middlesex Centre has five Conservation Authorities within their municipal jurisdiction. The CAO of Middlesex Centre reviewed the agreements that had been submitted to them and merged them into one agreement for all five CA's to sign off on, with the appendices specific to each of the CA's. The agreement is not overly different from what the LTVCA has generated and staff saw no issues with accepting the revisions that were made given the situation.

The CAO and Watershed Resource Planner have attended a pre-consultation on July 12th with the Municipality of Lakeshore, with a council date yet to be set for staff to present at. Staff are still working on scheduling further pre-consultation meetings and presenting before councils with the remaining municipal members.

Recommendation: That the Board of Directors endorse the Chair and CAO signing of the Category Agreement received from the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich, the Municipality of West Elgin and the Township of Southwold; and that the Agreements be posted on the Governance section of the LTVCA's website.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted
Valerie Towsley
Watershed Resource Planner

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

11. Business for Information

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

Date: August 17, 2023
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: C.A.O.'s Report
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

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

Valerie Towsley and I are continuing to spend a considerable amount of time working with municipal staff and councils to get approvals of the agreement that was passed by the board in our April 2023 meeting. We are continuing to have meeting with municipal staff to have agreements in place by September of this year. We have been working with the City of London and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent on their multi-year budget process. The multi-year budget and accompanying strategic plans will define services to be provided to these municipalities over the next 4 years. MOUs being reviewed address these services.

Longwoods Road Resource Centre Revitalization and Indigenous Learning Centre - Update

Work is proceeding with this project. Staff have been busy with project management of many elements of the rebuild. During the replacement of windows in the Resource Centre it was found that the posts between the windows were in bad shape and these have been replaced. Additionally, replacement of the existing furnaces is moving forward this week and should be completed prior to the main project moving forward. Staff have been working with planning and building staff at the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and the site plan agreement has been received and returned to the municipality with comments. This agreement will be walked into the August 17, 2023 Board of Directors meeting for approval. The building plans have been approved and we expect the building permit shortly after the site plan agreement is signed. The retendering of the project is moving forward and is expected that a special board meeting will be required in early September to approval the award.

Work From Home Policy

LTVCA administration are preparing a work from home policy. There will be staff that due to their duties will not be eligible to work from home and having talked to other CA and reviewed their policies, this appears to be a challenging point. The LTVCA is a small shop and communications and interaction is important to ensuring successful program delivery. The LTVCA policy will be starting off conservatively and assessing impacts as we role the policy out.

Rondeau Barrier Beach Restoration Issue

LTVCA staff have been working with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Eriean Community Association (ECA) to bring attention to the need to restore the Rondeau Bay Barrier Beach. This feature protects the communities of Rondeau Bay and the bay ecology from damaging Lake Erie waves. Over the last number of years, it has been removed. The land on which the barrier beach sits is part of the Rondeau Provincial Park and the Eriean Federal harbour. Therefore, it is important to have the federal and provincial governments agree to address the problem. The LTVCA and the ECA have met with federal and provincial members of parliament to encourage this to happen. The LTVCA has also prepared briefing notes to both the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Minister of Energy, Conservation and Parks encouraging the province to address its responsibility. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent addressed this issue

as part of meetings with ministers during the AMO conference. A meeting with MPP Trevor Jones, the ECA and the LTVCA is to be held on August 12 to review this issue.

Multi-Year Budget

Staff have been preparing multi-year budgets as requested by the City of London and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The largest cost, being addressed, is staffing which is common to most municipal governments. Over the last 5 years the LTVCA has fallen behind with cost of living increases and the multi-year budget will not be able to fully make up this shortfall. One of the largest challenges is to provide increases that will ensure we retain staff. The draft multi-year LTVCA budget will be presented to the Board of Directors at the August 17, 2023 meeting. It must be noted that the 4 year budget is very preliminary as conditions are continually changing due to revisions to the Conservation Authorities Act and other legislation that govern our operations.

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

11.2) Water Management

11.2.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

Flood Messaging and Flood Events

There have been 4 flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors. Three of these messages were Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages, issued on July 12th, 15th, and 26th. The other message was a Flood Watch issued on July 2nd. All the messages were issued due to potential flooding of the region's smaller watercourses, streams, creeks and ditches, due to heavy thunderstorm activity. While the Thames River rose in response to the rains, it did not rise, and was not expected to rise, to anywhere near flood levels. In addition, there have not been any significant wind events to generate large waves and cause shoreline flooding.

The significant rainfall and thundershowers event on the morning of July 2nd led to operations of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel. While the July 2nd rainfall would have been enough to require diversion operations on its own, additional thunderstorm activity came though on the afternoon of July 3rd sending water levels even higher. The Diversion Dam was operated from the afternoon of July 3rd through the morning of July 5th.

Report on Lake Conditions

Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of August were around 174.61 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for August was 175.02 m, set in 2019. Lake levels at the beginning of August were still 32 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of August. While Lake Erie water levels had dropped more than normal during the latter half of last year due to dry conditions, they began an early rise in January and had risen back above 2021 or 2022 levels by April. Dry conditions in May and early June saw lake levels drop and then stabilize when they are typically rising. Heavy rains in July have kept lake levels stable when they are typically starting their seasonal decline. Lake levels are now fairly similar to where they were at this time last year. Forecasts suggest water levels could drop around 12 to 13 cm by the beginning of September.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of August were around 175.52 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for August was 175.97, set in 2020. Lake levels at the beginning of August were 33 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of August. Water levels on Lake St. Clair had been steadily rising since February with several boosts and drops related to high rainfall events. Drier conditions in May and early June kept lake levels more stable during that period. Lake levels saw a slight boost in July due to all the rain and have been relatively stable since. Lake levels are now fairly similar to where they were at this time last year. Forecasts suggest water levels could drop by around 12-13 cm by the beginning of September.

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

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

For operation, the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated once at the beginning of July. See the Flood Forecasting and Operation section of this agenda for details.

In the agenda, it was mentioned that a significant inspection project is currently being undertaken for the pumps at the 6th St. Backwater Dam and Pumping Station. The first pump was pulled on the morning of June 6th by Schepens Ltd. of Wallaceburg. Upon inspection, it was discovered that the seals were leaking. Schepens is looking into having the seals repaired rather than replacing them with new ones. As a result, this pump is still in the repair shop and subsequent pump inspections are on-hold until this pump is reinstalled.

11.2.3) Erie Shore Drive and Burk Drainage Works

Chatham-Kent has engaged R.C. Spencer Associates Inc. under the Drainage Act to look at potential solutions and works to address drainage issues along Erie Shore Drive and the associated Burk Drainage works. A preliminary report has been generated and will be discussed at a special meeting of Chatham-Kent Council to be held at the John D. Bradley Convention Centre on Thursday, September 21st at 6:00 pm. The report describes several alternatives, some of which may help provide erosion protection and address flooding to those homes along Erie Shore Drive. The preferred alternative would improve the Burk Drainage Works and provides additional drainage for Erie Shore Drive. It would not necessarily reduce flooding or arrest the erosion along the road. Most of the proposed alternatives, including the preferred alternative, would directly impact the LTVCA property known as McGeachy Pond. The preferred alternative includes construction of more dyke on the LTVCA property near and/or in the parking lot for the property on the Erie Shore Drive side. It would also potentially include limited works within the wetland area. These works would also better separate the drainage of Erie Shore Drive from the wetland pond.

11.2.4) Low Water Response Program

The Low Water Response Program looks at both precipitation and flow in local watercourses in determining whether there is a low water condition. For precipitation, both 18-month and 3-month rainfall totals are examined and the program thresholds are: Level 1, 80% of average; Level 2, 60% of average; and Level 3, 40% of average. For flows, the average flow over the last month is examined and the summer thresholds are: Level 1, 70% lowest average summer flow (LASF); Level 2, 50% LASF; and Level 3, 30% LASF. During the growing season, LTVCA staff create a brief report summarizing conditions around the watershed, which is available by request.

Looking at the rainfall over the last three months, May was unusually dry. June was also fairly dry. However, a series of thunderstorms came through in July that substantially boosted the 3-month rainfall totals. While conditions had been near to the point that a Low Water Level 1 Condition could have been declared, the July rains have boosted rainfall totals well above the low water program thresholds. For the 3-month rainfall total, only one station examined showed less than average rainfall. All other sites saw above average rainfall. Despite a drier than usual 2022, the 18-month rainfall totals are also now mostly above the Low Water Level 1 Condition threshold, with only one site showing 1% under the program threshold. As a result of the heavy rains in July, the flow indicator values are also well above the program thresholds.

Based on these rainfall indicators there does not appear to be a need to declare any kind of Low Water Condition.

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

11.2.5) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. Since it is PWQMN program season, 8 of these sites per month are being covered by the PWQMN program. MECP has found additional lab allocation under a separate program to cover the remaining 14 samples. This sampling is required to be able to

determine nutrient loadings related to the phosphorous reduction targets under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. However, bacterial analyses are being sent to Ontario Water Testing Centre (Chatham) and Total Suspended Solids are being sent to the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research at the University of Windsor, with these costs still being covered by the LTVCA. Several additional sampling runs have also been undertaken with an algae sensor to see whether there were any concerns yet regarding blue-green algae blooms. So far at least, the cooler temperatures and elevated flows seem to be discouraging the algae bloom that has become an almost annual occurrence.

For the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program, well water level and temperature data from the wells was downloaded from their data loggers and a rain logger was installed at the Ridgetown well location.

11.2.6 Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)

Thames River Blooms

So far this year, there have been no reports of algae blooms on the Thames River or its tributaries. As noted above in the watershed monitoring section, several additional sampling runs have also been undertaken with an algae sensor to see whether there were any concerns yet regarding blue-green algae blooms. So far at least, the cooler temperatures and elevated flows seem to be discouraging the algae bloom that has become an almost annual occurrence.

Lake Erie Blooms

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issues a seasonal forecast, typically in early July, for potential HABs on Lake Erie. 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. This year the seasonal forecast was issued on June 29th with an updated July 27th projection (see forecast below).

During the bloom season, the operational NOAA Lake Erie HAB Forecast provides the current extent and 5-day outlooks of where the bloom will travel and what concentrations are likely to be seen, allowing managers to determine whether to take preventative actions. At the time this agenda was drafted, the most recent Forecast was from August 8th (see forecast below).

As of August 4th, the NOAA HAB interactive map appeared to show blooms in the western basin of Lake Erie along the U.S. shoreline extending as far east as Sandusky Bay and as far north as Brest Bay near Monroe. Satellite imagery also suggest small amounts of cyanobacteria along the shoreline on the Canadian side of Lake St. Clair in Lakeshore and north towards Mitchell’s Bay. Satellite imagery also suggests there may be a couple patches in Rondeau Bay.

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

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

Western Lake Erie HAB Seasonal Projection

Projection 09 - 2023-07-27

Summary:

The Western Lake Erie HAB Seasonal Projection provides an updated estimate of potential cyanobacterial harmful algal bloom (HAB) severity. The projected severity depends on input of total bioavailable phosphorus (TBP) from the Maumee River during the loading season (March 1- July 31), with phosphorus loads measured by the Heidelberg University National Center for Water Quality Research.

The cyanobacterial bloom was established by July 4th, which is the second earliest bloom start (following 2018) since 2002. Based on satellite imagery through July 25th, the bloom will have a minimum severity of 4.5. Following these observations, we now forecast a bloom severity between 4.5-5.5, compared to a maximum forecasted severity of 4.5 issued on June 29th. The bloom will change throughout the summer and move with the wind and currents. We will provide information on the presence and location of the bloom throughout the summer at our [website](#).

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

Predicted Bloom Severity

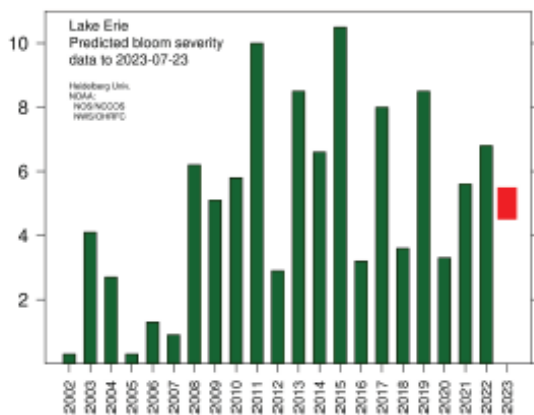


Fig. 1. Predicted bloom severity as compared to previous years. The wide red bar is the likely range of severity based on the limits of the model uncertainty.

Cumulative Total Bioavailable Phosphorus

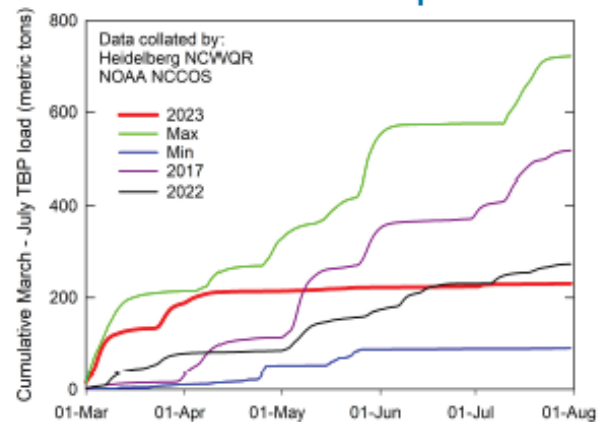


Fig. 2. Cumulative TBP loads for the Maumee River (Waterville, OH). Each line denotes a different year or the min/max cumulative load since 2002. 2023 is in red: the solid line is the measured load to July 23rd.

Total Bioavailable Phosphorus

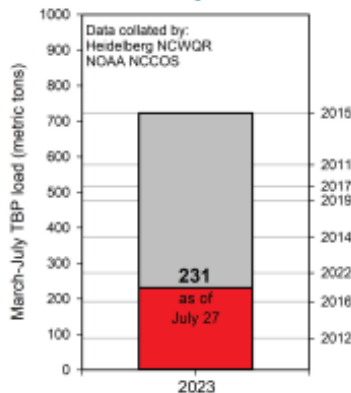


Fig. 3. Total bioavailable phosphorus (TBP) load accumulated from the Maumee River near Waterville, OH to date. The right axis denotes the TBP load from selected previous years. There has been an additional 13 metric tons of TBP load since the forecast issued on June 29th.

Satellite Image - True Color



Fig. 4. True color image for 22 July 2023 derived from the Copernicus Sentinel-3a/b satellite. Green colored water in the western basin is due to the annual cyanobacteria bloom which was established on July 4th. Sediment is light blue. Discolored, green colored water in Sandusky Bay shows the mixed cyanobacterial bloom that has occurred annually since 2019.

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

Questions? Contact: hab@noaa.gov

1305 East West Hwy, Rm 8110
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

240.533.0300 | coastalscience.noaa.gov

facebook.com/noaacostalsci | [@noaacostalsci](https://twitter.com/noaacostalsci)

Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast

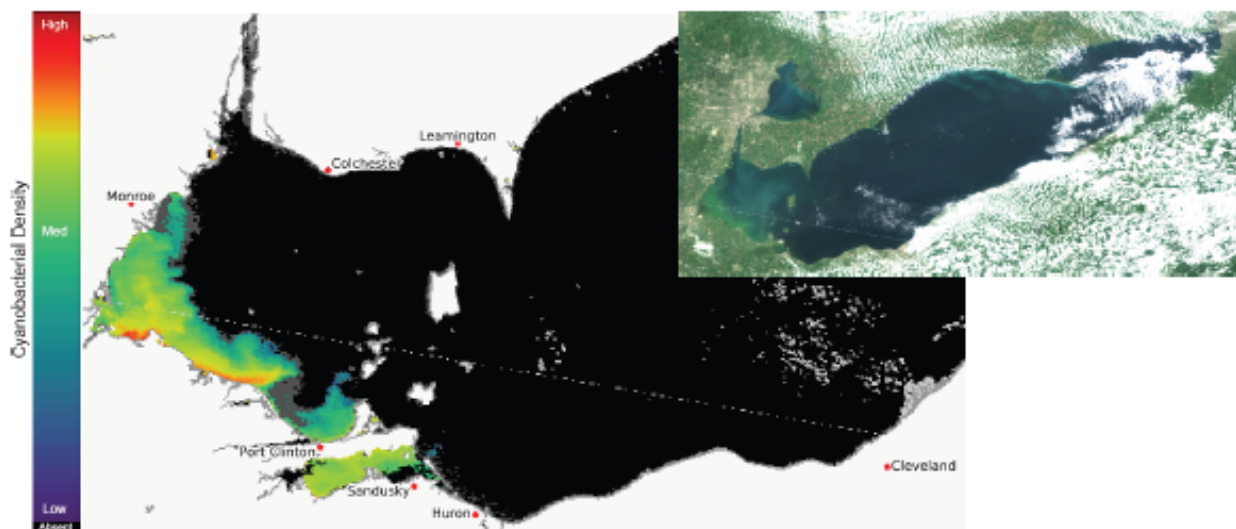


NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE

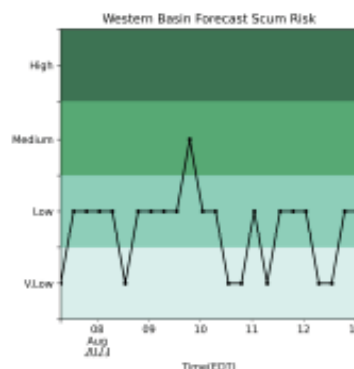
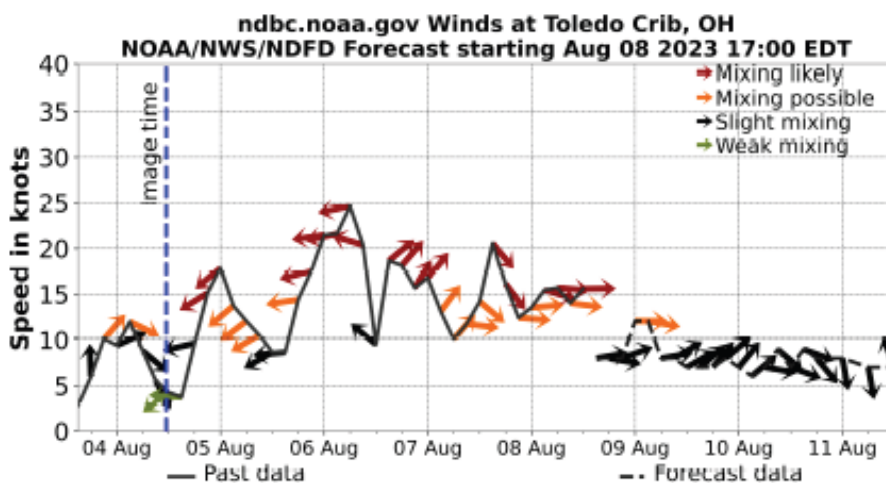
Imagery Analysis & Forecast - 2023-08-08

The *Microcystis* cyanobacteria bloom in western Lake Erie has an approximate area of 220 square miles, which is a decrease in area since Aug 03. Clouds partially obscured imagery over the weekend and Monday. The last clear image from Aug 4 showed the bloom extends from Story Point, MI to Catawba Island, OH and extends into the western basin. Sandusky Bay has a local bloom of mixed cyanobacteria. Toxins have been detected below the recreational limit. They can be highly concentrated in scums! If you see scum, keep your pets and yourself out of the water. In the satellite imagery or bloom forecast position products, any areas that are orange or red are likely to have scum, especially during calm winds, see Mixing Forecast product. --A. Meredith 8/8/2023.

The past few days of imagery can be seen at [the HAB monitoring site](#). The Lake Erie Forecast is operated by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. Contact hab@noaa.gov for technical Questions. Last Updated: 2023-08-08 02 PM EST

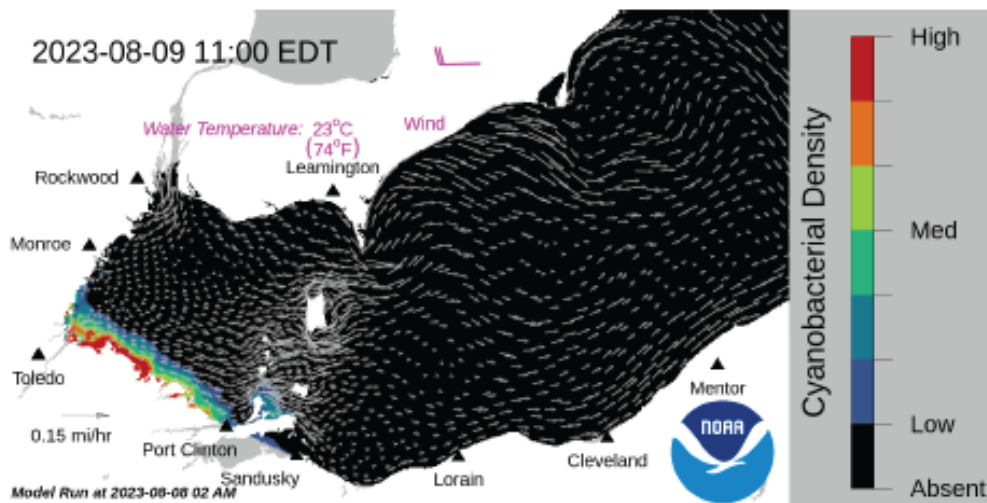


Current Lake Erie Sentinel-3 satellite imagery from the Ocean and Land Color Imager (OLCI) on Aug 04, 2023, showing bloom location and extent in the western basin. Grey indicates clouds or missing data. The estimated threshold of cyanobacteria detection is 20,000 cells/mL. Inset shows a truecolor image of the entire lake. Data derived from Copernicus Sentinel-3.

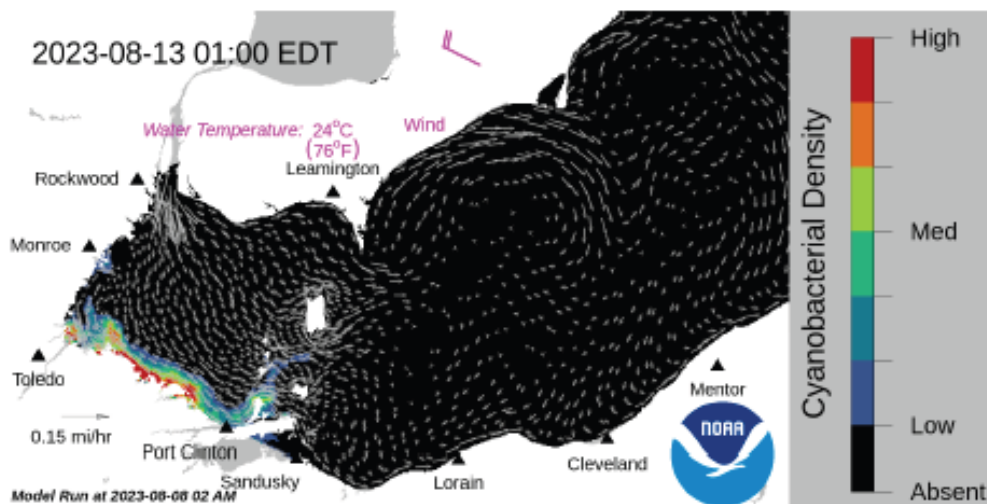


Wind speed and direction from ToledoCrib, OH. Blooms mix through water column at wind speeds > 15 knots.

Where the bloom is present in western Lake Erie, the potential risk of scum.



Forecast surface bloom position for Aug 09, modeled from the last satellite image with water currents estimated from the Lake Erie Operational Forecast System (LEOFS). Potential for bloom movement is forecast in 3-dimensions with a hydrodynamic model using satellite imagery and currents. The modeled output does not contain clouds. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.



Forecast surface bloom position for Aug 13. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.

Additional resource:

- [Archived Lake Erie Forecasts](#)
- [More information about our bloom monitoring imagery](#)
- [FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions about cyanobacteria and the forecasts NOAA issues](#)
- [Contributors and Data Providers](#)
- [Lake Erie HAB Forecast Guide - User guide to help navigate the forecast products](#)

11.3) Planning and Regulations

11.3.1) Planning

From the end of May 2023 through to the end of July 2023, there were 44 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 80 phone calls and over 110 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2022 Totals	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	Mar Totals	Apr Totals	May Totals	June Totals	July Totals	2023 Totals
Chatham-Kent	204	21	17	37	26	44	18	34	197
Elgin	92	14	7	18	10	12	8	5	74
Essex	32	4	0	2	0	3	1	5	15
Middlesex	44	5	5	3	6	2	4	0	25
Total Numbers	372	44	29	60	42	61	31	44	311

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

11.3.2) Planning Fees

Planning fees generated from the signing of three of our Municipal MOU's in 2022 resulted in \$0 from Southwold, \$200.00 from Dutton Dunwich, and \$1,300.00 from West Elgin for the month of June.

11.3.3) GIS

The GIS Technician has been working on updating the mapping of regulated areas. This involves creating and documenting methodologies to determine regulated areas (e.g. 100yr lake levels, erosion setbacks, floodplains, etc.), updating past regulated area layers based on more recent data collection (e.g. 2020 imagery), and editing layers used to create regulated areas due to source data inaccuracies (e.g. Drain mapping positional errors). Mapping of regulated areas for lake-related hazards have been completed, results of floodplain mapping along the Thames River are being reviewed, and drainage network digitization is underway. Once mapping of all regulated area types is reviewed and completed, the layer will be ready to share for public use (as a screening tool) via a web mapping application.

11.3.4) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

In the months of June and July, the LTVCA received 93 permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. Of the 239 permit applications received in the first seven months of 2023, all but 5 had been approved by staff. This includes 2 permits on hold from earlier in 2023 yet to be approved. As well as one needing a hearing. The 2 remaining applications are in the queue to be reviewed by staff as of the end of July.

The regulations program continues to experience a strong demand for resources. In an attempt to keep pace with the demand and to support the Regulations Technician, the Watershed Resource Planner and Water Resources Engineer continue to help with processing permits. The Administrative Assistant is providing surveying responsibilities in order to provide support to the program.

\$48,350 has been collected thus far this year (as of the end of July) in permit application and hearing fees.

11.3.5) Permit Processing Timelines

For applications issued in June and July, the charts and table below indicate that 100% of “routine” and 100% of “minor” permit applications met their applicable customer service standard for turnaround time. For the first time in quite some time, permit turnaround times have met the LTVCA’s and Conservation Ontario’s customer service standards due to a slight slowing down in construction.



Complexity of Application	# of Days to Review Permit Applications				
	0 - 14 Days	15 - 21 Days	21 - 28 Days	29 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	13	0	0	0	0
Minor	70	6	0	0	0
Major	0	0	0	0	0

For the months of June and July, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was 1 day (ranged between 0 and 13 days). The customer service standard for routine permits is a turnaround within 14 days. The processing time for routine permit continues to meet customer service targets. This improvement is largely due to the Water Resources Engineer that was hired near the end of 2020 taking on the task of processing most of the applications identified as being routine in complexity.

For the months of June and July, the average turnaround time for a minor permit application was 7 days (ranged between 1 and 20 days). For private property minor complexity permits, the average turnaround time was 10 days. The customer service standard for minor complexity permits is a turnaround within 21 days. The processing time for minor permit applications for the months of June and July meets the customer service targets.

Another required aspect of the Regulations program is the organization and handling of Hearings. It can take a significant amount of time to manage the applications up to the point a Hearing is deemed required and requested. Then, further time is required to prepare, arrange, and conduct the Hearings. There were four Hearings conducted in 2021 and seven Hearings in 2022, with one pending in 2023 so far.

11.3.6) Property Inquiries

Up to the end of July, 627 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Program which is 109 more since the last board report. At the time of writing of this staff report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is approximately 1-5 business days for e-mails and up to 5 business days for phone calls.

11.3.7) Section 28 Enforcement

In the first seven months of 2023, eighteen complaints / tips were received from the public about possible Section 28 enforcement issues. Fifteen of eighteen issues are confirmed violations or potential violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. None 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

11.3.8) O. Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications

Staff Report

O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in Jun 2023 and Jul 2023)

B.D. 08/17/2023

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
145-2023	135 Island Crescent	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Jun 14, 2023	20
147-2023	Keil Drive South Extension	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 07, 2023	13
148-2023	15343 Longwoods Road	Bothwell	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 14, 2023	16
150-2023	Gilroy Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jun 07, 2023	7
151-2023	23965 Sinclair Road	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 14, 2023	14
152-2023	146 Detroit Line	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 15, 2023	15
153-2023	Larsh Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 02, 2023	1
154-2023	Wheatley Road @ Burgess Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	14
155-2023	Wheatley Road @ Campbell Sideroad Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	14
156-2023	Wheatley Road @ Cottingham Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	14
157-2023	Wheatley Road @ Government Drain #4	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	14
158-2023	Wheatley Road @ Two Creeks Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	14
159-2023	36300 Fingal Line	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: Jun 15, 2023	13
160-2023	Glencoe Outlet Drain Culvert	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Jun 07, 2023	2
161-2023	19055 Blue Water Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Jun 22, 2023	16
162-2023	Albert Ave Drain	Ridgetown	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 15, 2023	8
163-2023	11 Tracy Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	4
164-2023	8827 Iona Rd	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jun 12, 2023	0
165-2023	831 Mersea Rd 8	Leamington	Lakeshore	Granted: Jun 12, 2023	0
166-2023	790 Reume Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Jun 26, 2023	13
167-2023	Stricker Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Jun 21, 2023	7
168-2023	Calixte and Primak Drains	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Jun 21, 2023	7
169-2023	Eastlake Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Jun 21, 2023	7
170-2023	Wright Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Jun 21, 2023	7
171-2023	Bogart Drain C 2023	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: Jun 21, 2023	7
172-2023	11 th Concession Drain	Lakeshore	Lakeshore	Granted: Jun 21, 2023	7
173-2023	9182 Brook Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	1
174-2023	9164 Pioneer Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	1
175-2023	9522 Gregory Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	1
176-2023	9522 River Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	1
177-2023	Boundary Line and Pinehurst Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 16, 2023	1
178-2023	Thames River along Longwood Road	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 27, 2023	13
179-2023	Richard-Griffiths Drain	Chatham	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Jun 23, 2023	8
180-2023	39 Adelaide Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 15, 2023	0
181-2023	5834 Sixth Line W @ Rice Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 26, 2023	11
182-2023	Coll Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 21, 2023	5
183-2023	14119 Norton Line	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 28, 2023	2
184-2023	986 Highway 77	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: Jul 04, 2023	15
185-2023	Drake Road over 6th and 7th Side Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 26, 2023	6

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
186-2023	11652 Longwoods Road	Kent Bridge	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 29, 2023	8
187-2023	924 Charing Cross Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 04, 2023	13
188-2023	28 William Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 28, 2023	4
189-2023	19050 & 0 Harbour Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 28, 2023	5
190-2023	18448 Raglan Road	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 07, 2023	15
191-2023	76 Vanier Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 26, 2023	0
192-2023	19155 Light Cove Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Jul 10, 2023	14
193-2023	475 Keil Drive South	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 28, 2023	1
194-2023	Coad Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Jul 03, 2023	5
195-2023	445 Mariners Road	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jun 30, 2023	0
196-2023	325 Mariners Road	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 06, 2023	6
197-2023	35 Kent St	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 05, 2023	0
199-2023	20951 Pier Rd	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 05, 2023	0
200-2023	St.Luke Channel	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 10, 2023	5
201-2023	3544 Talbot Trail	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 06, 2023	0
202-2023	8823 Prince St	Iona Station	Elgin	Granted: Jul 06, 2023	0
203-2023	19055 Crest River Ave	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Jul 13, 2023	8
204-2023	6954 Grand River Line	Paincourt	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 12, 2023	2
205-2023	12380 River Line	Kent Bridge	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 13, 2023	3
206-2023	Lucas Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 12, 2023	0
207-2023	14203 Cowal Rd	Iona Station	Elgin	Granted: Jul 11, 2023	0
209-2023	Wallace Drain and Branch	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 13, 2023	0
210-2023	Norton Line along Thames River	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 17, 2023	3
211-2023	Zone Road crossing Thames River	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 17, 2023	3
212-2023	Victoria Road crossing Thames River	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 17, 2023	3
213-2023	13229 River Road crossing Thames River	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 17, 2023	3
214-2023	7325 Fairview Dr	Wallacetown	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jul 18, 2023	4
215-2023	276 Ironwood Trail	Chatham, City	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	14
216-2023	280 Ironwood Trail	Chatham, City	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	14
217-2023	284 Ironwood Trail	Chatham, City	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	14
218-2023	288 Ironwood Trail	Chatham, City	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	14
219-2023	292 Ironwood Trail	Chatham, City	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	14
220-2023	296 Ironwood Trail	Chatham, City	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	14
221-2023	300 Ironwood Trail	Chatham, City	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	14
222-2023	304 Ironwood Trail	Chatham, City	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	14
224-2023	305 Towanda Blvd	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	11
226-2023	Harrison Drain	Horward	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 21 Jul, 2023	2
227-2023	9331 Union Road_Municipal Culvert	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: 24 Jul, 2023	4
228-2023	Union Road_Orchard Carroll Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: 24 Jul, 2023	4
229-2023	36217 Talbot Line_Cumming-Fulton Tessley Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: 24 Jul, 2023	4

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
230-2023	36312 Talbot Line_Kersten Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: 24 Jul, 2023	4
231-2023	36427 Talbot Line_Cumming-Fulton Tessley Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: 24 Jul, 2023	4
232-2023	20635 AD Shadd Rd_Centre Road Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 24 Jul, 2023	4
233-2023	10841 Westminster Drive_Thames River	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: 24 Jul, 2023	3
234-2023	Black Drain	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: 26 Jul, 2023	2
235-2023	11932 Rose Beach Line	Morpeth	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	7
236-2023	6643 Riverview Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jul 31, 2023	6
237-2023	Leitch McCann Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: 26 Jul, 2023	1
238-2023	227 Erie St S Merlin_Ward Drain	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 26 Jul, 2023	1
239-2023	Crouch Drain near Kenesserie Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 28 Jul 2023	2

11.4) Conservation Area Lands

11.4.1) Conservation Areas

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

The Longwoods Resource Centre will soon be completed with structural posts, windows, doors and furnace repairs/upgrades as these will be completed prior to construction of the addition.

The Canada Revitalization Grant that was approved has begun, with RFP being posted and reviewed by engineers. The original tender only received 1 bid, at the previous Board of Directors meeting it was approved to combine the two phases of drawings into one set with plans on re-tendering. The project is currently being tendered and will receive bid amounts shortly with plans to start construction immediately.

Sharon Creek

The previous dock located at the secondary entrance to Sharon Creek had been removed in the winter and was not fit for reinstalling. Staff addressed this by building a new dock for the area. London Canoe Club continues to provide a presence and offer their own programming.



E.M Warwick

E.M. Warwick concluded a short-term lease as a pilot project with the West Elgin Community Health Centre. The pilot program was a success and the West Elgin Community Health Centre has requested to continue to use the facility.

The Scouts typically use this site for Winter Camping, however due to Covid-19 this operation was placed on hold. Should the Scouts give first rights to refusal and not wish to continue winter camping operations we would like to look further into offering the West Elgin Community Health Centre with assistance.

Big Bend

Seasonal Campers have registered for the season and are halfway through their season. Transient camping is also available through the Lets Camp booking app.

C.M. Wilson

Staff have been hard at work cleaning up the village and the main building transforming the CK Safety Village into the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre. The education staff have moved into the building at this point and are continuously meeting with partners and preparing the site to open shortly. An Indigenous Educator will be joining the team in the near future as well. Community partners (Scouts and Kinsmen Club Members) have been contributing their time to this endeavour as well.



Before



After



Before



After

Diversion Channel

Ongoing maintenance is required at the Diversion Channel and at this time staff have been meeting with potential contractors to get estimated quotes for fencing of the Channel, quotes for this fencing work is coming in high, staff are keeping an eye on potential grants that could fulfil the infrastructure required.

Staff have started landscape maintenance on the diversion channel and will continue to do so throughout the year.

Big 'O'

Big 'O' Birding event was a success for the 2023 season, it was hosted a little later in the typical birding season however, we will realign the event date for 2024 to take place in its typical fashion.

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

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

11.5) Conservation Services

11.5.1) General Update

- Victoria Barlow our GIS Technician has assembled our historical stewardship data on Arc GIS online (not publicly available). We can now view our projects from 2007 to present in a geo spatial format.
- Database development is moving forward and contacts have been uploaded. Project parameters and costing items are being worked on.
- Summer staff under the Wilda Bostwick donation have completed tree plantation maintenance and are on to other duties. Jack has been occupied with SAR and Natasha has been finalizing post plant reporting for Forest Ontario.
- Coca Cola has offered \$10K for community tree planting this fall. Ridgetown Horticulture Society and Rotary is also purchasing \$5K worth of trees for the Memorial Forest in Ridgetown.
- An Eastern District Stewardship Technician has been hired. Tyler Thornton will start work out of the Burwell House August 21, 2023.

ALUS Middlesex

The past month has been marked by significant milestones and notable progress in various areas of our operations. After a hot and dry spring, significant rainfall came during the summer months, helping to water our tree and prairie projects, and fill up wetland projects. Interim reports to ALUS National were finalised and completed during July, with ALUS Middlesex on-track to meet all targets. These reports provide valuable insights into our progress and ensure transparency in our operations.

Wetland projects are on-going through the summer, with four being completed during July. Field staff are actively working on verifying project acreage and inputting into the database, as well as monitoring historic sites.



Figure 1: Wetland project under construction on the outskirts of London, ON. This project will provide vital habitat for migratory birds and other species.

In line with our mission to extend our reach within the community, ALUS Middlesex actively participated in several public-facing events. Our presence at Twilight Tuesday at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Festival Fridays at Storybook Gardens in London garnered positive attention and allowed us to raise awareness about our initiatives. Additionally, our social media accounts have been actively engaging with our audience, leading to a promotional contest featuring a native shrub. This endeavor resulted in reaching over 1,000 accounts and gaining new followers.



Figure 2: Collaborative event between ALUS Middlesex and Norfolk to highlight on-farm BMP's.

In close partnership with ALUS Norfolk, a free field-day stewardship tour will be held on August 23rd to highlight the importance of on-farm best management practices (BMP's) in a practical setting. The event will feature guests from the University of Guelph, FS Partners, Ontario Soil & Crop Association, and others. Tickets can be reserved [here](#).

ALUS Elgin

With the majority of 2023 projects in the ground and available funds allocated, only two more wetlands (totalling 1.5 acres) are slated to be completed this year. A waiting list of approved projects has been started for 2024 and requests from landowners to come look at their land for new projects continue to come in.

With regards to our finances, Natural Resources Canada issued additional funds to help us cover the costs of our 2023 Tree Planting projects. Ducks Unlimited has been added as a support partner for the wetlands that are still in their planning phase. We are awaiting the confirmation of a large grant that is slated to cover approximately 50% of contracts that will be up for renewal this year.

Two of our projects are scheduled to be on the LTVCA's Cultivating Conservation Tour. The Elgin Clean Water Program is also doing a project tour in August. ALUS Elgin will be presenting ourselves and our program at one of the stops. Approximately 1500 plugs for wetland species are on order for the end of September, with the intent of enhancing one of our Wetland Projects. A local school and a scout group who know the landowners are interested in planting them over the period of a few days.

Our third Partners' Advisory Committee meeting took place on July 4th. Changes to our Terms of Reference were reviewed. ALUS Canada presented their 2022 yearly report. They also presented the New Acre Project, an initiative to

engage corporate partnerships with companies looking to fulfill their environmental goals. ALUS Middlesex Executive extended the invitation to ALUS Elgin to join their legal entity. With little details to accompany the invitation, ALUS Elgin motioned to close the conversation and accept any further information ALUS Middlesex wanted to provide.

The new Program Coordinator, Stephanie Cullen is two months in and getting to know the job with one Interim Report already behind her. With both our move to the LTVCA and our database going online in 2022, there is lots of organising to catch up on. Stephanie looks forward to getting out into the field more and doing some monitoring now that Assistant Preston Nielsen’s contract finished at the end of July. Preston completed priority monitoring tasks for the summer, and was essential to providing Stephanie relevant information to this year’s project in day to day tasks as she was introduced to her role. She will be reviewing Monitoring demands and researching funding opportunities for Elgin personnel.

ALUS Chatham-Kent Update

Interim reporting is now complete. Funds awarded have all been allocated and it will be no problem spending funds for 2023. Several projects may have to wait until 2024 if the final funding source does not confirm soon.

ALUS CK is still searching for a Coordinator. Interviews are nearly complete. There has been a small candidate pool and a challenge finding the proper skill set and qualifications. Projects continue to flow in and are being wait listed.

Urban Stewardship

Urban stewardship has seen a lot of activity throughout the summer months, kicking off with two community tree plantings in early June. The Baha’is Spiritual Community of Chatham-Kent planted **19** trees in a public green space in Chatham, while volunteers from the Retro Suites planted **55** native trees at Walter Devereux Conservation Area. These events rounded out the urban stewardship spring tree season, bringing the total number of trees dispersed throughout the community to **259** so far this year.

The third annual rain barrel sale took place at the end of June, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise. 41 rain barrels were sold, earning \$475 for future urban stewardship events.

“Greening Your Grounds” books were handed out to the customers, helping to promote further urban stewardship practices.

Four pollinator gardens were also planted at several locations throughout Chatham-Kent, including elementary schools and a conservation area. Grants from Wildlife Habitat Canada, the CK Community Foundation, and Together CK funded the implementation of three pollinator gardens at Monsignor Uyen Catholic School, St. Angela Merici Catholic Schools, and Tilbury Area Public School. Students from each of these schools assisted in the planting and mulching of these gardens, and will benefit from the increased biodiversity and educational opportunities right in their own school yards.





The final garden, funded through the Enbridge Fueling Future Grant, was implemented at the new C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, and was planted by Enbridge staff volunteers. All of the gardens were planted with a variety of native flowers and grasses, and will greatly contribute to providing habitat and food for pollinators, as well as increasing habitat connectivity.

Native flowers and grasses were also planted by LTVCA at the upcoming outdoor seating area Red Barn Brewing Company. The berms that make up the private outdoor areas are now home to several species of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, which will help spread awareness of the importance of such plants to the public.



Community Living Chatham also volunteered their time with the LTVCA this year, and continued to tackle the invasive woody species at the tallgrass prairie at Thames Grove Conservation Area. The volunteers from CLC manually removed over **50** invasive saplings from the prairie, ensuring the native plants will not be crowded out.

The 4H Cloverbuds Group also stepped up to pick up garbage at Paxton's Bush. Twelve youth volunteers came out to do their part in helping the environment and learning about healthy ecosystems.



11.5.2) Agricultural Initiatives

Agricultural Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives – August 2023

From June to August of 2023, LTVCA project staff continued to collect water quality and quantity data. Approximately 236 mm of precipitation was recorded at the Merlin edge of field sites during the period. High levels of precipitation have been observed so far during the 2023 calendar year, which has resulted in multiple flow events in the Jeannettes Creek subwatershed. During the month of July, three significant summer flow events were observed and sampled. From January – July the Merlin edge of field sites have observed over 578 mm of rain, this is 291 mm higher than precipitation recorded during the same period of 2022. After one of the summer storms, a rare surface runoff event occurred at the edge of field study area that is uncommon during the summer growing season.



Field observations of surface water at a Merlin edge of field study site in July after high levels of precipitation.



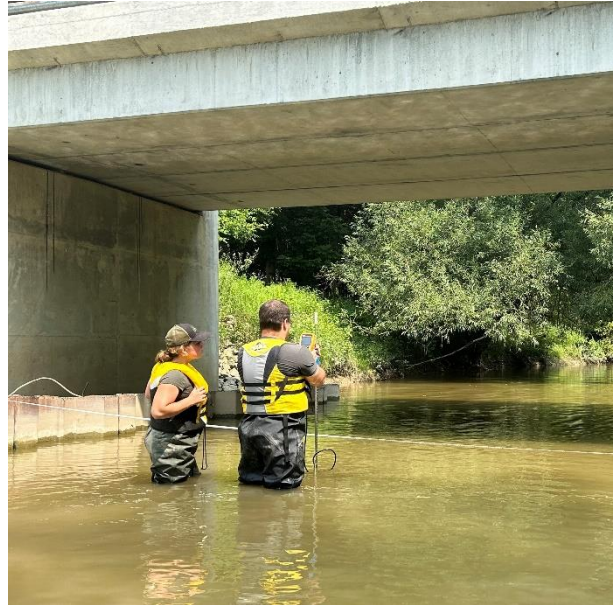
Staff are monitoring the Merlin edge-of-field sites as part of a NSERC project lead by Dr. Merrin Macrae to evaluate the efficiency of 4R Nutrient Stewardship practices to reduce nutrient loads across the Great Lake region.

Although the ONFARM project involving the LTVCA concluded in March of 2023, staff are excited to continue discussions with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs to work towards an “ONFARM 2.0” project agreement.

A flume at one of the Merlin edge of field sites captured surface runoff from a corn field on July 25th, 2023. Weather stations at the site recorded approximately 50 mm of rain in two hours.

The Soil and Water Quality Technician along with the Watershed Monitoring Technician have been busy performing maintenance on instrumentation at monitoring stations in the watershed. Working with the University of Waterloo hydrometeorology group, maintenance and repairs to the weather stations in Merlin have been completed.

Staff are looking forward to continuing work in August with the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation Environmental Technician. Providing technical support, staff will assist in installing a weir and automated water sampler that will allow the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation to begin to collect water quality and quantity data and establish a historical data set for the nation. Staff will also be utilizing the Flow Tracker Acoustic Doppler Velocimeter to collect stream discharge measurements.



Summer co-op student, Myla Furlan and Watershed Monitoring Technician, Randy Kirby test the FlowTracker instrument at the Talbot Creek monitoring site on July 26, 2023.

Upcoming Events

During the month of August staff will be attending multiple events to gain knowledge and promote programs related to soil health and water quality. On August 9th staff will be attending an event hosted by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. At this event LTVCA staff will connect with members of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and OMAFRA to gain insight about soil health assessments and impacts from drainage.

LTVCA staff have been preparing for upcoming events in the Chatham-Kent area. The Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives will be showcased by LTVCA staff at three upcoming outreach events:

- The Sons of Kent Friday Night Market on August 11th, 2023.
- The Chatham Kent Plowing Match on August 12th, 2023.
- Farm Days at Red Barn Brewery on September 3rd, 2023.

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

LTVCA staff will also begin the promotion of a new project developed by the Soil and Crop Association that will be launched this fall. The Soil Health Assessment Project – ‘SHAP’. The LTVCA Soil and Water Quality Technician is working towards getting local farmers enrolled in the project that works to connect farmers with SRG Agronomists to improve soil health. Necessary crop management data will be collected for the SHAP evaluation and a sampling plan will be determined. The Soil Resource Group (SRG) will use the sample results to draft a report for each participating farmer and provide recommendations on what practices they could adapt to improve soil health.

Third Annual Cultivating Conservation Tour

The third annual Cultivating Conservation Tour will take place on September 14th, 2023. This event will take place in the Eastern District of the LTVCA watershed from 12pm – 4pm. Outreach Specialist, Sarah Cook is busy scouting locations for the event and has spoken to several landowners regarding their participation. The goal of this interactive tour is to

increase awareness regarding regional environmental issues and to provide examples of solutions that can and have been implemented by local residents. The event targets both rural and urban landowners in the LTVCA watershed.

The sites will showcase examples of conservation projects such as:

- Tree Plantings
- Native Pollinator Plantings
- Wetland Habitat Restoration
- Donated Conservation Lands
- Agricultural Water Quality Improvement Initiatives

The tour will be followed by a social gathering. Details about the self-directed tour and gathering will appear on our social media platforms as well as the radio in the coming weeks!

11.5.3 Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

A new funding agreement is being negotiated with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for the next three years of Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) funding to continue the LTVCA's aquatic SAR program. Staff deployed temperature and dissolved oxygen data loggers in the Thames River and Baptiste Creek as part of this program. Funding is also being allocated to riparian buffer projects that will reduce overland runoff into the adjacent to the Thames River and Rondeau Bay to improve water quality and reduce sedimentation of habitat for species at risk including the Eastern Sand Darter (SARA Threatened, COSEWIC Special Concern), Endangered Spotted Gar and Warmouth (SARA Special Concern; COSEWIC Endangered).



Figure 3: Madison McKnight and Randy Kirby prepare a PME miniDOT Oxygen logger for sampling dissolved oxygen and temperature conditions in the Thames River.

Terrestrial Species at Risk



Figure 2: Natasha Gamble and Madison McKnight taking the DBH (diameter at breast height) of an Eastern Cottonwood tree as part of an ecological land classification (ELC) work at Big Bend Conservation Area.

The SAR crew have been hard at work completing ecological land classification (ELC) habitat assessments of Big Bend, E. M. Warwick and Feasby Conservation Areas. In addition, late season breeding bird surveys were completed at these locations and a survey was completed for Threatened Bank Swallows along the Thames River shoreline at Big Bend Conservation Area. These activities contribute to a *Species at Risk Management Planning and Recovery Implementation in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority* project funded by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP).

Song Meter Mini recording units have been retrieved from these three conservation areas and Jack Belleghem has been hired on an eight-week Canada Summer Jobs contract to identify birds and amphibians from the sonograms recorded. All of this work will provide valuable biological information to support the development of future management plans for these conservation areas.



11.6) Communications, Education and Outreach

11.6.1) Social Media

As of July 31, 2023, the **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Facebook** page has 3,412 Followers, the **Instagram page for the Authority** has 1,200 Followers, and the Authority has 1,250 followers on **Twitter**.

11.6.2) Communications Media Releases

One media release was distributed:

- Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Celebrates 50 Years

11.6.3) C.M Wilson Learning Centre

The CM Wilson Learning Centre is on its way to being open to school groups for a soft launch of programming in fall 2023. Programs are being prepared and the building is almost cleaned. We have a radio advertisement for the month of July promoting our programs for schools and other groups that would like to schedule pre-booked education programs. A live radio spot aired on the CKSY and CFCO morning shows in Chatham on July 19 between 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. The Chatham Youth Planning Network hosted their monthly meeting at the CM Wilson Learning Centre on July 5, we presented on the progress and future of the CMWLC and then the group participated in a looking for benthic invertebrates in the pond and learning how they tell us about water quality.

Interviews have taken place for the Indigenous Community Educator Position to work out of CM Wilson Learning Centre. Reference checks and selection are underway with hopes of the successful candidate joining the team as soon as possible, or by September.

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

Artifact Day

On July 9, 2023, Ska-Nah-Doht hosted Artifact Day. We were joined by members of the Ontario Archaeological Society-London Chapter, who ID'd artifacts brought in by members of the public, local flint knappers, and representatives from the Munsee-Delaware Language/History Group, the Oneida Language and Cultural Centre, and the Museum of Ontario Archaeology. The Summer Staff offered a number of hands-on activities to visitors.

Twilight Tuesdays

Twilight Tuesdays returns with special guests and Education Team led activities at Longwoods Road Conservation Area from July 11 through August 22, 2023. While the rain and bugs have been a factor the past few weeks we have still had folks joining us for this evening programming. The impact of these programs will be evaluated following their completion in August to determine how best to move forward with the program, or how to adapt it to better meet community needs, interests, and schedules going forward.

Upcoming Events

August 13: Ska-Nah-Doht's 50th Anniversary

August 16: Guided Hike at E.M. Warwick Conservation Area with ALUS Elgin

August 19: Nocturnal Pollinator Art Night

11.6.5) Education Programming

School Programs in 2023 So Far

January through June 2023, the second half of the 2022/2023 school year, the Education Team provided programming to 2816 students and 573 accompanying adults.

CK Early ON Forest Days

CK Early ON held their first forest day at the CMWLC on July 5 and had approximately 20 people at the outdoor classroom learning about the environment and participating in activities. The CMWLC team led them through some STEM activities.



CK Early ON Forest Days at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

Connecting to Campers and Summer Programs

July 11: CK Museum Summer Camp, 'Soil Superheroes'

July 13 and 20: Museum Strathroy-Caradoc Summer Camp, 'Pottery and Artifacts'

July 22: Pond Mills Library, London Public Library system, 'Traditional Games'

August 3: Museum of Ontario Archaeology Summer Camp, 'Tool Making and Eco-Activities'

August 4 and 11: Storybook Gardens, 'Storybook's Free Festival Garden and Multi-Cultural Nights'

August 10: Carson Public Library, London Public Library system, 'Corn Husk Dolls'



CK Museum Campers 'dig in' to learn about soil types and benthic invertebrates.

Indigenous Studies Continues

Despite most students being on summer break, a number of summer learning programs have joined the team at Ska-Nah-Doht for heritage programs and tours. Groups continue to join us throughout the summer.

11.6.6) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of July 31, 2023, the **Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook** page has 3,309 Followers. The **Instagram page for the Village** has 575 Followers.

Window Replacement

In May 2023 initial window replacements were to take place at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum / the Resource Centre. Due to the condition of the wall these were unable to progress until repairs to the structure were made. These repairs, and simultaneous window installation, began on July 31, 2023.

In the interim, staff are back working out of Burwell House, or in some cases out of space at the Heritage Log Cabins.

Policy Review

A review of all Ska-Nah-Doht policies is being undertaken by the Village Advisory Committee. The Governance, Finance, Collections, and Exhibitions Policies are seeking approval at the August 2023 LTVCA Board of Directors Meeting. The remaining policies will be seeking approval at subsequent Board of Directors Meetings.

50th Anniversary



Early Days of Ska-Nah-Doht Village

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum will be celebrating our 50th anniversary during an event on August 13th, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Admission to Longwoods Road Conservation Area will be free to all visitors during the event.

Drumming and song will be offered by the [Warrior Womyn Drum Group](#) and other local community members. At 1:00 p.m. there will be remarks from a number of individuals involved in the early years of the organization and local dignitaries.

This celebration will reflect on the last fifty years and the people that have helped build Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum over the decades.

Confirmed guests and partners:

- [Another Maracle Creation](#)
- Antler River Leather
- [Doxtator Enterprises](#)
- Karebear's Creations
- [L and L Creations](#)
- [Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation](#)
- [Middlesex Centre Archives](#)
- [Museum of Ontario Archaeology](#)
- [Museum Strathroy-Caradoc](#)
- [Nshwaasngong Child Care and Family Centre](#)
- [Visit Middlesex](#)

Food Vendor:

- [It's Not A Pow Wow Until The Wiener Comes Out](#)

Ska-Nah-Doht would like to thank Visit Middlesex and the Tourism Initiative Sponsorship program, for their support of our 50th anniversary celebrations and ongoing exhibit updates at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum.

Following window installation and wall repairs, updated and new exhibits will be reinstalled on the main floor of the Museum. Further new exhibits are in development with the hopes of them being installed for the fall education season or soon after.

Initial exhibits at the Munsee-Delaware and Oneida Cabins have been installed with text information to come. Attempts to connect with heritage and cultural organizations from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation continue.

11.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2023

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

General meeting held on June 1 2023 at Two Creeks.

Attendance: Lee & Linda Pearce, Rick & Forest Taves, Gerry Soulliere, Ken Hatt, Mike Diesbourg, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Joe Dama, Pauline Sample, Bob Niven, Lorna Bell, Roger Dundas, Sheilah Marans, Mark Peacock, Brian Warkentine.

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

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

Mem. Groves: Some trees have been cut. 4 post stakes have been replaced. 1 bench has been replaced. The Southwest Outdoors Club would like to add a new bench. Gerry has built the enclosure for the new wind phone, \$800.00 has been raised to pay for it and a plaque will be installed next to it.

Prop. & Equip.: The electrical hookup for the Chapel has been completed. A wedding has been scheduled for June 16 and 2 tables have been moved in. The bike club wants to resume their races this year. Brian Warkentine said that he would get insurance for the club. He would also like to put down some mats in wet and muddy areas. We may leave the Willow bridge as just a foot bridge and create a new entrance at the north end along with a new gate.

Concerts: The first concert of the season will be June 4 and all the promotion has been done. The lights for the stage and pavilion need to be installed.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of April 30 was \$37,363.84. Account balance as of May 31 was \$40,992.41. Moved by Roger, sec. by Phil report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Representatives of the Baptist and United churches in Wheatley proposed holding 2 concerts after our last concert but before Christmas. If they are successful others may be scheduled. Passing the hat would pay for them. Rick will look at both venues to check whether one or both will be suitable.

Adjournment: Roger moved for adjournment at 7:45pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

11.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2023

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

General meeting for July held one week earlier than normal on June 29 2023

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

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

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

Memorial Groves: A new sign directing people to the wind phone will installed as well as a bench nearby. Dead branches and suckers need to be cut and removed from some trees.

Prop. & Equip.: Marj proposed planting a butterfly bush in Larry McDonald 's old flower garden near the sign. A sign will be needed saying that any group wanting to use the Chapel or Pavilion will need to reserve them. Joe will get the wood needed for the table frames and then get a group together to make them up. We are looking into getting permanent lights for the stage and pavilion. The support posts for the pavilion need to be repaired, a grant will be applied for to pay for it. Joe has started cutting the trails. We will ask our neighbour if he will lend us the key when needed to his gate on the northwest corner.

Concerts: The concerts so far have been profitable. Rick said that the United church in Wheatley would be the most suitable for the proposed fall concerts. We would call it "Two Creeks Indoors" and hold them Saturday or Sunday afternoons. Up to \$600.00 per concert would be allocated. (Carried).

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of May 31 was \$ 40,992.41. Account balance as of June 29 was \$ 43,337.51. Moved by Roger, sec. by Rick report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: We received a very generous donation of \$1000.00 from the Wheatley Swans, thank you.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Joe will look into the possibility of installing playground equipment on our property.

Adjournment: Linda moved for adjournment at 7:10 pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

12. Correspondence

12.1) Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to Thames-Sydenham Conservation Authorities and Protection Committee

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et
des Parcs



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416-314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416.314.6790

357-2023-560

Brian Petrie, Chair
Upper Thames River Source Protection
Authority
1424 Clarke Road
London, ON N5V 5B9

Sarah Emons, Chair
Lower Thames Valley Source Protection
Authority
100 Thames Street
Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8

Pat Brown, Chair
St. Clair Region Source Protection
Authority
576 Riverside Drive
Corunna, ON N0N 1G0

Dean Edwardson, Chair
Thames-Sydenham and Region Source
Protection Committee
1069 Mike Weir Drive
Bright's Grove ON N0N 1C0

Dear Mr. Petrie, Ms. Emons, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Edwardson,

I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has approved the updated assessment reports and source protection plan for the Thames-Sydenham and Region. These updates will take effect on the day a notice of this decision is posted on the Environmental Registry.

When the initial plan was approved in 2015, an order was given under section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* governing the future review of the plan, with an amended order issued on July 22, 2019, outlining the specific requirements. The amended Order allowed for the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Authority, along with the affected municipalities, to determine if the required updates could be completed and submitted as future amendments to the assessment reports and source protection plan under section 34 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. While the majority of the required updates were completed and submitted to the ministry for approval, I am advised that the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Authority has elected to complete and submit two of the required updates as future amendments for ministry approval. As such, I am not requiring another review of the source protection plan at this time. With the approval of these updates, compliance with the amended section 36 Order has been achieved.

To ensure your source protection plan remains current and continues to protect sources of drinking water, future updates to the plan can be made through locally initiated amendments under section 34 of the Act. This would include updates to reflect new or expanding drinking water systems, new scientific or technical information, revisions to

policies to address implementation challenges, and any other updates that are necessary to ensure your source protection plan is achieving its objectives to ensure that activities cease to be, or never become, significant threats to sources of drinking water.

I appreciate the dedication of the local municipalities, source protection authorities and committees, and all our partners and stakeholders for their work and contributions to these updates. Our strong protection framework will continue to help ensure Ontario's drinking water is held to high safety standards and that sources of drinking water in the province are protected for future generations.

Sincerely,



David Piccini
Minister

- C: Julie Welker, Project Manager, Thames-Sydenham and Region
Tracy Annett, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Mark Peacock, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Ken Phillips, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
Kirsten Service, Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

12.2) Conservation Ontario's Comments on the Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument



June 27, 2023

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
Submitted via email: growthplanning@ontario.ca

Re: Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument" (ERO#019-6813)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument". Conservation Ontario is the network for Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs). Conservation Ontario's Council endorsed these comments for submission at their June 26, 2023 meeting. These comments are not intended to limit the comments submitted by individual CAs.

It is understood that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is seeking input on proposed policies for an integrated, province-wide planning instrument ("proposed planning instrument"). The proposed planning instrument would include policies from the current Provincial Policy Statement ("PPS 2020") as well as A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe ("Growth Plan").

Conservation Authorities fulfill a critical role in providing expert guidance to planning authorities and to the Province to ensure consistency with provincial natural hazard policies and to identify regulatory concerns under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* early in the process. Through the Mandatory Program and Service Regulation (O. Reg. 686/21) made under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, CAs review and comment on applications and other matters made pursuant to the *Planning Act* to help ensure consistency with the natural hazard policies found within policy statements issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act*, as well as protection of drinking water sources.

This letter provides general comments on the consultation and Attachment 1: "Conservation Ontario's Feedback on the Proposed Policy Concepts and Proposed Wording

for a New Provincial Planning Policy Instrument” provides specific responses to the consultation questions that were posed as part of the Environmental Registry posting.

Both the PPS 2020 and the proposed planning statement provide that the Province, planning authorities, and CAs are required to work together to mitigate potential risk to public health or safety, as well as property damage from natural hazards. CO supports this ongoing collaborative, preventative approach which is recognized for making Ontario a leader in the management of natural hazards. It is acknowledged that this reference to “working together” is proposed to be moved from the preamble of Section 3.0 of the PPS 2020 to the Vision section of the proposed planning instrument.

Conservation Ontario supports the Province’s proposal to keep the natural heritage policies and related definitions analogous to those within the PPS 2020. Conservation Ontario recognizes that natural heritage features such as forests and wetlands play important roles to reduce flows, store floodwaters and mitigate drought, which reduces risk and allow people greater response time to flooding emergencies. It is noted that often, the natural heritage, water resource and natural hazard systems are inextricably linked, and therefore coordinated protection of all these systems is necessary to support the maintenance of healthy watersheds and to best protect public health and safety from natural hazards and protect drinking water sources.

Lastly, to support planning authorities and CAs, Conservation Ontario continues to recommend that the Province provide comprehensive, up-to-date implementation guidance concurrently with the issuance of the proposed planning instrument. It is noted that the proposed policies are quite flexible and may result in additional Ontario Land Tribunal hearings without adequate interpretation support. Comprehensive and up-to-date guidance with ongoing implementation support from the Province would help to increase consistency and certainty regarding planning outcomes. As provided in Conservation Ontario’s December 2022 submission on the Review of A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement (ERO#019-6177), the Province should consider updating and/or finalizing the following: the Natural Hazard Technical Guides, the 1993 Watershed Planning Guidelines, the 2022 Subwatershed Planning Guide, and the Natural Heritage Reference Manual (and related guidance).


Upon review of the proposed Provincial Planning Statement, Conservation Ontario has identified the following general themes as seminal to our response. Further information on all of these themes can be found in Attachment 1.

- Natural Hazards. Support for the proposed retention of the natural hazard policy direction from the PPS 2020.
- Increase coordination. Recommendations to increase coordination through additional references to working with/coordination with Conservation Authorities as appropriate (e.g., for proposed new policies requiring planning authorities to identify hazardous lands and sites and manage development in those areas).

- Climate Change. Recommending a greater focus on preparing for impacts of a changing climate (e.g., as a purpose for undertaking watershed planning).
- Implementation Guidance. Identifying the need for comprehensive, up-to-date implementation guidance for the proposed Provincial Planning Statement (e.g., Natural Hazard Technical Guidelines, Watershed / Subwatershed Planning Guides, and the Natural Heritage Reference Manual) to increase consistency and support decision-making.
- Watershed Planning. Recommending that the Growth Plan policies requiring large and fast-growing municipalities to undertake watershed planning be continued and support for the encouragement of all other municipalities to undertake watershed planning.
- Green infrastructure and stormwater management. Requests to carry forward existing PPS 2020 policies, including maximizing vegetation within settlement areas where feasible and minimizing stormwater volumes to protect, improve or restore water quality and quantity.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument" (ERO#019-6813). Please contact me should this letter require any clarification.

Sincerely,



Leslie Rich, RPP
Policy and Planning Specialist

Attachment: Conservation Ontario's Feedback on the Proposed Policy Concepts and Proposed Wording for a New Provincial Planning Policy Instrument

c.c. All Conservation Authorities' CAOs/General Managers

If you wish to review the full CO report (14 pages) please let us know and we can email it to you.

12.3) MVCA's comments on the Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument



July 5, 2023

Submitted via email: growthplanning@ontario.ca

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

Re: Comments on the "Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument" (ERO#019-6813)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above consultation document. Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) is pleased to work with the Province and our municipal partners to achieve livable communities, a thriving economy, and a clean and healthy environment. MVCA supports the need for comprehensive and integrated policy direction on land use planning matters related to growth management, infrastructure planning, protection and management of resources, and protection of public health and safety.

ABOUT US

MVCA is located in Eastern Ontario and manages water resources over 4,100 km² including some of the fastest growing communities in the province such as Kanata-Stittsville, Almonte, and Carleton Place. For over 20 years, MVCA has collaborated with member municipalities and local counties to provide technical and planning policy review services to guide development and ensure consistency with the *Provincial Policy Statement* (PPS, 2020) and local official plan policies. We also work to ensure that planning decisions are coordinated with permit requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act* Section 28 regulation to achieve efficient and timely approvals.

CONTEXT

MVCA's work covers a range of landscapes, from managing sustainable growth within the rapid urban expansion, to balancing resource management within our rural and waterfront development areas. It is our experience that our municipal partners and watershed residents place enormous value on the natural features and water resources within their communities, and hold a strong desire to see growth managed in a sustainable manner that ensures the long-term protection of our natural heritage. There is growing recognition of the immeasurable and irreplaceable value of the services provided by those natural assets including: flood and drought mitigation, clean drinking water, and the economic and social benefits provided from products, jobs and recreational opportunities.

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Your partner in natural hazard management, resource conservation, and stewardship

COMMENTS

On June 27, 2023, Conservation Ontario submitted its comments to the Province on behalf of all 36 local conservation authorities. MVCA endorses those comments and provides the following additional comments on specific matters under the PPS (2020):

Natural Hazards (Section 5.2):

The PPS (2020) is a cornerstone document for local land use planning and has been an essential tool in enabling the Province, municipalities and conservation authorities to identify and sustain those values. Specifically, PPS policies for Natural Hazards provide the foundation for the sound management of development within flood and erosion hazard areas in order to mitigate risk and protect the safety of people and property. MVCA strongly supports the Province's continued commitment to the protection of public health and safety by carrying forward current Natural Hazard policies into the new PPS.

Natural Heritage (Section 4.1):

PPS Natural Heritage policies have been instrumental in providing municipalities with sound and comprehensive guidance in mitigating impacts to natural heritage features and systems. At the local level, the PPS (2020) provided the impetus and framework for some excellent planning initiatives that have helped to inform Official Plan policy and implementation including, the City of Ottawa's Natural Heritage System Mapping and Natural Landscape Linkage Analysis, and the County of Frontenac Natural Heritage Study (2012). Municipal councils and staff rely greatly on those PPS (2020) policies for support and guidance in striking the balance between providing for much needed growth and while maintaining a healthy natural environment over the long term. MVCA strongly supports the Province's commitment to sustaining the wellbeing of our natural features and systems by maintaining current Natural Heritage policies in the new PPS.

Vision (Chapter 1):

The current "Vision" section of PPS 2020 emphasizes a preventative approach that directs development away from Natural Hazards. This approach is extremely effective in minimizing financial risk to the Province and municipalities by avoiding costly remediation following a flood or erosion event. The proposed new text emphasizes a mitigation approach to managing development within natural hazard risk areas. Mitigation is difficult to effectively implement and comes with the risk of failure and the exacerbation of localized problems. MVCA recommends that the Province reinstate the principle of avoidance over mitigation as a more prudent and cost-effective means of protecting people and property.

Sewage Water and Stormwater (Section 3.6):

The growing frequency of extreme weather events makes municipalities and their residents increasingly vulnerable to flash flooding, sewage overflows, erosion and washouts, slope failures, etc. It is essential that the planning, design and operation of sewage and stormwater systems allow for the growing impacts of climate change. MVCA recommends that the following policy from the existing PPS (2020) be carried forward into the new document: Policy

1.6.6.1 b) 2. "Ensure that these systems are provided in a manner that: prepares for the impacts of a changing climate".

MVCA supports the requirement for stormwater planning "to align with any comprehensive municipal plans for stormwater management that consider cumulative impacts of stormwater from development on a watershed scale" per policy 3.6.8(g).

MVCA disagrees with the proposed elimination of the existing policy 3.6.8. (b) that requires planning authorities to protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by "ensuring stormwater management practices minimize stormwater volume and contaminant loads, and maintain or increase the extent of vegetative and pervious surfaces". MVCA recommends that minimizing stormwater volume should remain a priority policy for the provincial government to ensure planning authorities account for increased stormwater volumes which may contribute to pluvial and fluvial flooding and erosion within and downstream of developed areas.

Water (Section 4.2):

MVCA is pleased that the policy requiring municipalities to identify water resource systems has been retained and that a definition has been added.

MVCA disagrees with the proposed elimination of the existing PPS 2020 policy 2.2.1 (c) that requires planning authorities to evaluate and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate to water resource systems at the watershed level. This significantly diminishes the Province's existing standard of requiring watershed planning to be the basis for infrastructure, stormwater, water resource and comprehensive planning for large and fast-growing municipalities. MVCA recommends that proposed policy 4.2.3 be improved by:

- requiring "large and fast-growing municipalities" to undertake watershed planning, while continuing to encourage all other municipalities to do so;
- retaining PPS 2020 policy 2.2.1 (c) to ensure planning authorities protect, improve or restore water quality and quantity by evaluating and preparing for the impacts of a changing climate to water resource systems at the watershed level;
- reference that the purposes of watershed planning is to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate, and to inform planning for sewage and water services and stormwater management, and to protect, improve or restore of the quality and quantity of water and,
- reference partnerships with CAs to undertake watershed planning.

Ont. Reg. 686/21 (Conservation Authorities Act, Mandatory Programs and Services) includes low water or drought as a natural hazard risk. The proposed planning statement is silent on this hazard. MVCA recommends that policy 4.2 1 f) be amended to read "planning for efficient and sustainable use of water resources, through practices for water conservation, sustaining water quality and low water and drought management".

Additional recommendations:

MVCA would also like to reiterate and emphasize the following recommendations from Conservation Ontario dated June 27, 2023:

- The PPS requires greater focus on preparing for the impacts of a changing climate (e.g. as a purpose for watershed planning).
- Comprehensive, up-to-date implementation guidance is required for the proposed PPS (natural Hazard Technical Guidelines, Watershed/Subwatershed Planning Guides, and the Natural Heritage Reference Manual).
- Large and fast-growing municipalities should be required to undertake watershed planning to allow for comprehensive and coordinated consideration of interjurisdictional matters.
- Language in the PPS is needed that encourages all other municipalities to undertake watershed planning to ensure climate resiliency.
- Existing PPS 2020 policies should be retained that emphasize the importance of green infrastructure and stormwater management including maximizing vegetation within settlement areas and minimizing stormwater volumes to protect, improve or restore water quality and quantity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,



Paul Kehoe, Chair
Board Chair



Sally McIntyre
General Manager

/AS

- cc. MVCA member municipalities
Counties of Frontenac, Renfrew, and Lanark
Local MPPs: J. Jordan, R. Bresee, G. Ghamari, J. Yakabuski, C. Pasma
Mississippi River Watershed Plan Public Advisory Committee
Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation
Conservation Ontario and CA partners
Post to website

13. In Camera Session

13.1 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

14. Other Business

15. Adjournment
