

CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Mission Statement

*"To communicate and deliver resource management services and programs
in order to achieve social and ecological harmony for the watershed"*

Meeting of the Full Authority is to be held in the CCCA Boardroom
on Thursday, November 10th, 2016, commencing at **10:00 a.m.**

A G E N D A

- 1) Welcome / Call to Order. Sally Martyn
- 2) Adoption of Agenda
- 3) Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
- 4) Disclosure of Intention to Audio / Video Record Meeting
- 5) Adoption of Minutes of:
 - a) Full Authority Meeting #08/2016 (October 13, 2016). 3-5
- 6) Business Arising from Minutes
- 7) Public / Special Delegations
- 8) Reports:
 - a) Report FA 59/2016 - Monthly Staff Reports..... 6-7
(Ed Pietrzak, Tony Difazio, Peter Dragunas)
 - b) Report FA 60/2016 - October Summary of Revenue & Expenditures..... 8-9
(Susan Mann)
 - c) Report FA 61/2016 - Accounts Payable..... 10
(Susan Mann)
 - d) Report FA 62/2016 - Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan. 11-14
(Kim Smale)
 - e) Report FA 63/2016 - Special Projects Funding. 15
(Kim Smale)
 - f) Report FA 64/2016 - Conservation Authorities Act Review. 16-30
(Kim Smale)
 - g) Report FA 65/2016 - Environmental Protection Report. 31-39
(Kim Smale)

- h) Report FA 66/2016 - Catfish Creek Sounding. 40-42
(Peter Dragunas)
- i) Report FA 67/2016 - Flood Control Dredging. 43
(Peter Dragunas)
- 9) General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer's Report. Kim Smale
- 10) Unfinished Business
- 11) Chairperson's / Board Member's Report
- 12) Notice of Motions / New Business
- 13) Correspondence:
 - a) Not Copied:
 - Correspondence Register for October 1-31, 2016.
 - b) Copied:
 - Conservation Ontario - a copy of the Multi-Stakeholder Letter submitted to the various Provincial Ministers regarding the Conservation Authorities Act Review.
 - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - a copy of a letter to the General Manager of Conservation Ontario from the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the Invasive Species Act.
- 14) Committee of the Whole
- 15) Next Meeting / Adjournment

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Thursday, October 13th, 2016

Meeting #08/2016

PRESENT:

Sally Martyn
Arthur Oslach
Anne Vanhoucke

Chairperson
Member
Member

Municipality of Central Elgin
Town of Aylmer
Township of South-West Oxford

ABSENT:

Rick Cerna
Mark Tinlin

Vice-Chairperson
Member

Township of Malahide
City of St. Thomas

STAFF:

Kim Smale
Susan Mann

General Manager / Secretary – Treasurer
Financial Services Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Craig Bradford

Reporter, The Aylmer Express

WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Martyn welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at (10:00 a.m.).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion # 102/2016

A. Oslach

A. Vanhoucke

CARRIED

THAT, the Agenda for the October 13th, 2016, Full Authority meeting be adopted as circulated.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

No one had a pecuniary interest to disclose at this time.

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO AUDIO / VIDEO RECORD MEETING:

The Chairperson asked for disclosures of intentions to audio or video record the meeting. No one indicated any such intentions at this time.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion # 103/2016

A. Vanhoucke

A. Oslach

CARRIED

THAT, the Minutes of Full Authority meeting # 07/2016 (September 8, 2016), be accepted as circulated.

Motion # 104/2016

A. Oslach

A. Vanhoucke

CARRIED

THAT, the Minutes of Interview Committee meeting #IC 05/2016 (September 28, 2016), be accepted as circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

No one reported any outstanding business to discuss from the previous Minutes.

PUBLIC / SPECIAL DELEGATIONS:

None.

REPORTS:

Report FA 52/2016 – Monthly Staff Reports, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

<u>Motion # 105/2016</u>	A. Vanhoucke	A. Oslach	CARRIED
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THAT, Staff Reports for the month of September, 2016, be noted and filed.

Report FA 53/2016 – September Summary of Revenue and Expenditures, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

<u>Motion # 106/2016</u>	A. Oslach	A. Vanhoucke	CARRIED
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THAT, Report FA 53/2016, be noted and filed.

Report FA 54/2016 – Accounts Payable, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

The Financial Services Coordinator noted that Cheque Numbers 26850-26867 had been added to the bottom of Report FA 54/2016, for payment.

<u>Motion # 107/2016</u>	A. Vanhoucke	A. Oslach	CARRIED
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THAT, Accounts Payable totaling \$41,951.89, be approved for payment as amended in Report FA 54/2016.

Report FA 55/2016 – Approved Section 28 Regulation Application, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

<u>Motion # 108/2016</u>	A. Oslach	A. Vanhoucke	CARRIED
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THAT, the Full Authority receive the staff approved Section 28 Regulation Applications Report FA 55/2016, as information.

Report FA 56/2016 – Conservation Ontario Council Meeting, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

<u>Motion # 109/2016</u>	A. Oslach	A. Vanhoucke	CARRIED
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THAT, Report FA 56/2016, be noted and filed.

Report FA 57/2016 – C.A. Statistical Survey Results, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

<u>Motion #110/2016</u>	A. Oslach	A. Vanhoucke	CARRIED
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THAT, the 2015 Conservation Authority Statistical Survey Summary of Results attached to Report FA 57/2016, be received as information at this time.

Report FA 58/2016 – Big Picture Collaborative, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

<u>Motion # 111/2016</u>	A. Vanhoucke	A. Oslach	CARRIED
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THAT, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority support Carolinian Canada's Big Picture Tracking Collaborative Project in principle and agree to sign on as a member of the collaborative.

GENERAL MANAGER / SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a) Carolinian Forest Festival:

The Carolinian Forest Festival was held at the Springwater Conservation Area on October 4-6, 2016. Over 1,500 Grade 6 and 7 students participated in the event. A Public Day was held at the Jaffa Environmental Education Centre on October 8th, with over 500 people in attendance.

b) DU Aylmer's 35th Anniversary:

The General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer took the opportunity to thank Rob Perry of The Aylmer Express and Tony Difazio of the CCCA for the recent series of articles on Ducks Unlimited Canada and DU Aylmer's 35th Anniversary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

CHAIRPERSON'S / BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT:

- Chairperson Martyn mentioned that she had recently received a complaint from the organizer of the Balls Bike Rally regarding the total amount of their invoice for the event held at the Springwater Conservation Area on July 8-10, 2016. Staff noted that a compromise had been reached with the final payment being received on October 7th, 2016.
- Member Oslach presented the members with a book that he was donating to the CCCA titled; "Seeds of Woody Plants In The United States". The book is written for everyone who works with seeds of trees and shrubs and identifies the principles and general methods of producing and handling seeds and the genetic improvement of seed.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS / NEW BUSINESS:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Not Copied:

- Correspondence Register for September 1 - 30, 2016.

b) Copied:

- Conservation Ontario – a copy of a letter from the Chair of Conservation Ontario thanking the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry for speaking at the recent Conservation Ontario Council meeting.

Motion # 112/2016

A. Vanhoucke

A. Oslach

CARRIED

THAT, the Copied Correspondence and the Correspondence Register for September, 2016, be noted and filed.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

There were no personnel, property, or legal matters to be discussed in the Committee of the Whole.

NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority will be held on Thursday, November 10th, 2016, commencing at (10:00 a.m.).

Motion # 113/2016

A. Vanhoucke

A. Oslach

CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority be adjourned at (10:44 a.m.).

General Manager / Secretary –Treasurer

Authority Chairperson

REPORT FA 59/ 2016: To The Full Authority

FROM: Conservation Areas Supervisor
Resource Planning Coordinator
Water Management Technician

SUBJECT: Monthly Staff Reports

DATE: November 3, 2016

Conservation Areas Supervisor, Ed Pietrzak

Current Activities:

- Hosted the Thames Valley Regional Athletic Association cross-country meet at the Springwater Conservation Area on October 13th, 2016. A total of 800 students were registered for the event.
- Provided orientation and health and safety training for the students on the Cooperative Education Placement Program and the participants on the Job Creation Partnerships Program.
- Ongoing day-to-day operations and maintenance of the various Conservation Areas.
- Completed the restoration of the Observation / Fishing Platform at the Springwater Conservation Area thanks to a generous donation from the Estate of Dorothy Fay Palmer.
- Woodlot management and hazard tree removal.
- Worked with the students from the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program to complete a number of stewardship projects on Conservation Authority lands.

Upcoming Activities:

- Preparing for the Annual Candlelit Christmas Spirit Walk in partnership with the Elgin Hiking Trail Club. The event is being held at Springwater on December 3rd, 2016.
- Processing firewood in preparation for the 2017 camping season.
- Trail restoration work at the Ontario Police College Path of Honour Project.
- Delivering fall Environmental Education Programs at the Springwater Conservation Area.
- Supervising the participants on the Job Creation Partnerships Program.
- General maintenance and operations.
- Regular duties as assigned.

Resource Planning Coordinator, Tony Difazio

Current Activities:

- Finalizing restoration projects at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area;
- Assisted with the 'Carolinian Forest Festival' at the Springwater Forest ;
- Supervised the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) students with several restoration projects on private and CA lands;
- Attended a meeting with staff from the CA's in Elgin County to discuss the status of the 'Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan';
- Planning for the removal of dead ash trees in the Ward McKenna Conservation Area in the Town of Aylmer; and,
- Supervision and monitoring of several stewardship projects throughout the watershed.

Upcoming Activities:

- Complete stream restoration projects at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area;
- Assist landowners in the watershed with wetland restoration projects;
- Assist with the training of the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) students with chainsaw safety; and,
- Regular duties as assigned.

Water Management Technician, Peter Dragunas

Current Activities:

- Meeting at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority with applicable government agencies and Conservation Authorities for Ontario's Domestic Action Plan Reducing Phosphorus to Minimize Algal Blooms in Lake Erie.
- Completed channel sounding of Catfish Creek at Port Bruce.
- Sounding analysis with a focus on the viability of the Flood Control Sediment Retention Structure, yearly and seasonal correlations.
- Fall hydrometric station maintenance.
- Continued 2016 Ontario Low Water Response monitoring.
- 2016 / 2017 flood criteria and threshold review to better assist with flood forecasting.
- 2016 Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area tree planting / land revitalization.
- Modeling updates for the 2016 – 2017 flood forecasting season (stage and time forecasting at Sparta Gauge).
- Continued landowner consultations and discussions for potential reforestation locations for the 2017 Catfish Creek Conservation Authority Reforestation, Land Reclamation and Rehabilitation Program.

Upcoming Activities:

- Continued site visits with landowners to discuss / assist with land reclamation and rehabilitation for the CCCA 2017 Tree Planting Program.
- Permit To Take Water (PTTW) application assistance.
- Meet with Malahide Township staff to discuss the upcoming flood season.
- Regular duties as required.

Recommendation:

That, Staff Reports for the month of October, 2016, be noted and filed.

for 
Ed Pietrzak
Conservation Areas Supervisor

for 
Tony Difazio
Resource Planning Coordinator

for 
Peter Dragunas
Water Management Technician

REPORT FA 60 / 2016 : To The Full Authority
FROM: Susan Mann, Financial Services Coordinator
SUBJECT: October Summary of Revenue & Expenditures
DATE: October 31, 2016

SUMMARY OF REVENUE
for the period ending October 31, 2016

	2016 Budget	2016 To Date	Difference	2015 To Date
MNRF Provincial Grants	\$ 79,835.00	\$ 79,835.00	\$ -	\$ 79,835.00
Other Provincial Grants	\$ 82,348.11	\$ 41,828.91	\$ (40,519.20)	\$ 66,073.98
Federal Grants	\$ 23,300.00	\$ 39,200.00	\$ 15,900.00	\$ 93,398.00
General Levy	\$ 244,124.45	\$ 244,124.45	\$ -	\$ 230,270.11
Special Benefiting Levy	\$ 43,877.34	\$ 8,250.00	\$ (35,627.34)	\$ 8,250.00
Employment Program Grants	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,228.36	\$ (2,771.64)	\$ 19,609.32
Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 38,367.00	\$ 41,220.37	\$ 2,853.37	\$ 76,602.72
Conservation Areas Revenue	\$ 458,860.00	\$ 485,316.03	\$ 26,456.03	\$ 455,568.19
Maple Syrup Revenue	\$ 55,850.00	\$ 54,539.36	\$ (1,310.64)	\$ 57,410.05
Bank Interest Earned	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ (6,000.00)	\$ 244.75
Information & Education	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 6,803.50	\$ (1,696.50)	\$ 8,552.41
Legal Inquiries/Permit Applications	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,053.08	\$ (1,946.92)	\$ 3,508.83
Trees/Planting/Spraying	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 2,790.40	\$ (959.60)	\$ 3,984.82
Woodlot Management	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 840.71	\$ (659.29)	\$ 486.73
Watershed Stewardship Projects	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ (20,000.00)	\$ 21,077.52
Water Quality/Quantity Programs	\$ 5,212.10	\$ -	\$ (5,212.10)	\$ 4,712.10
Revenue from Other C.A. Lands	\$ 13,294.63	\$ 18,478.48	\$ 5,183.85	\$ 11,457.48
Other Revenue	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,748.62	\$ 1,248.62	\$ -
Contract Services	\$ -	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00
Vehicle & Equipment Rental Recoveries	\$ 40,200.00	\$ 35,539.31	\$ (4,660.69)	\$ 31,687.00
Previous Year Surplus	\$ 376.83	\$ 376.83	\$ -	\$ 399.80
Income Appropriation from Special Reserves	\$ 51,836.52	\$ -	\$ (51,836.52)	\$ -
Income Appropriation from General Reserves	\$ 194,549.91	\$ -	\$ (194,549.91)	\$ -
	\$ 1,392,281.89	\$ 1,076,823.41	\$ (315,458.48)	\$ 1,173,778.81

DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS	2016 Budget	Received To Date	Difference
Fish Stocking	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Springwater Event Sponsorships	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 800.00	\$ (200.00)
Annual Report	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -
Environmental Education	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ (7,350.00)
EESS ELP Sponsorships	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Community Forest	\$ 250.00	\$ 80.00	\$ (170.00)
Maple Syrup Program	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,925.00	\$ 1,925.00
Springwater Forest Trails	\$ 10,017.00	\$ 8,425.62	\$ (1,591.38)
Archie Coulter C.A. Trails	\$ 850.00	\$ 589.75	\$ (260.25)
YNHA	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -
Springwater C.A. Development	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Catfish Creek Trail Rehabilitation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ontario Police College Path of Honour	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
TOTAL Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 38,367.00	\$ 41,220.37	\$ 2,853.37

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

for the period ending October 31, 2016

	2016 Budget	2016 To Date	Balance	2015 To Date
ADMINISTRATION				
A-1 Wages & Benefits	\$ 96,412.37	\$ 82,280.50	\$ 14,131.87	\$ 70,579.88
A-2 Travel Exp. & Allow.	\$ 8,633.84	\$ 1,340.18	\$ 7,293.66	\$ 496.33
A-3 Equip. Purchase & Rental	\$ 9,850.00	\$ 6,770.36	\$ 3,079.64	\$ 7,734.01
A-4 Materials & Supplies	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 3,247.91	\$ 402.09	\$ 2,278.52
A-5 Rent & Utilities	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 9,677.31	\$ 13,322.69	\$ 8,507.64
A-6 General Expenses	\$ 37,547.00	\$ 34,843.93	\$ 2,703.07	\$ 34,209.57
TOTAL	\$ 179,093.21	\$ 138,160.19	\$ 40,933.02	\$ 123,805.95
FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING				
F4-2 Flood Control Structures	\$ 13,317.37	\$ 9,622.82	\$ 3,694.55	\$ 9,548.26
F4-4 Flood Forecasting & Warning	\$ 155,639.90	\$ 125,850.48	\$ 29,789.42	\$ 122,347.96
F4-5 Ice Management	\$ 93,727.34	\$ 20,749.00	\$ 72,978.34	\$ 30,894.82
F4-6 Plan Input	\$ 33,796.11	\$ 28,191.26	\$ 5,604.85	\$ 27,326.93
F4-71 Watershed Planning	\$ 14,927.62	\$ 16,881.35	\$ (1,953.73)	\$ 15,467.67
F4-72 Technical Studies (GIS)	\$ 9,743.16	\$ 5,238.12	\$ 4,505.04	\$ 4,533.69
TOTAL	\$ 321,151.50	\$ 206,533.03	\$ 114,618.47	\$ 210,119.33
OTHER PROGRAM AREAS				
B-1 Information & Education	\$ 28,967.11	\$ 18,523.87	\$ 10,443.24	\$ 17,977.50
E-1 Extension Services - Tree Planting Community Forest	\$ 31,343.54	\$ 26,372.67	\$ 4,970.87	\$ 30,486.66
	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -
E-1 Extension Services - Woodlot Management	\$ 9,895.80	\$ 7,313.11	\$ 2,582.69	\$ 7,047.28
E-1 Extension Services - Watershed Stewardship	\$ 20,750.00	\$ 680.44	\$ 20,069.56	\$ 24,159.65
E4-1 Fish & Wildlife Habitat	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 171.41
TOTAL	\$ 91,206.45	\$ 52,890.09	\$ 38,316.36	\$ 79,842.50
CAPITAL & SPECIAL PROJECTS				
Water Management Programs	\$ 36,260.21	\$ 22,053.54	\$ 14,206.67	\$ 45,646.95
Springwater C.A. Development	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 68,779.90	\$ 9,220.10	\$ 10,286.05
Special Projects	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 402.42	\$ 2,597.58	\$ 4,637.30
TOTAL	\$ 117,260.21	\$ 91,235.86	\$ 26,024.35	\$ 60,570.30
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY LANDS				
Springwater Operation & Maint	\$ 468,231.84	\$ 444,668.57	\$ 23,563.27	\$ 406,084.57
Vehicle & Equipment Pool Exp.	\$ 91,565.00	\$ 87,375.78	\$ 4,189.22	\$ 34,976.82
Maple Syrup	\$ 58,421.44	\$ 49,316.68	\$ 9,104.76	\$ 51,912.93
Other C.A. Lands	\$ 65,352.24	\$ 71,718.54	\$ (6,366.30)	\$ 97,805.06
TOTAL	\$ 683,570.52	\$ 653,079.57	\$ 30,490.95	\$ 590,779.38
APPROPRIATION TO GENERAL RESERVES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
APPROPRIATION TO SPECIAL RESERVES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,392,281.89	\$ 1,141,898.74	\$ 250,383.15	\$ 1,065,117.46



Susan Mann,
Financial Services Coordinator

REPORT FA 61 / 2016 : TO THE FULL AUTHORITY

FROM: Susan Mann, Financial Services Coordinator
SUBJECT: Accounts Payable
DATE: October 31, 2016

VENDOR	CHQ #	TOTAL	EXPLANATION
Hathaway, Mike	26868	50.00	seasonal camping refund
Mission Management Information Systems Inc.	26869	3,520.52	installment 2 of 2 (reservation software)
payroll October 17 (26870-26884)			
Hydro One	26885	9,550.51	campground, shop, office, gauge
Telus Mobility	26886	88.40	mobile phones
payroll October 31 (26887-26891)			
Hydro One	26892	539.96	campground & gauge
CBSC Capital Inc.	26893	989.09	photo-copier lease
Hydro One	26894	34.47	gauge
payroll November 4 (26895-26904)			
407 ETR	26905	37.32	toll highway to Conservation Ontario meeting
Aramark Refreshment Services	26906	122.00	coffee service
Aylmer Home Hardware	26907	147.41	SPW CA Development (Observation Platform)
Bear Adventures	26908	150.00	assistance for education programs
Bell Canada	26909	88.16	gauge
Canadian Tire	26910	170.19	supplies for campground & YNHA project
CJDL Consulting Engineers	26911	1,723.53	consultant fees for YNHA project
Clean Solutions & Supplies Ltd.	26912	363.62	campground supplies
Commissionaires	26913	110.06	enforcement contractor
Elgin Feeds Ltd.	26914	247.06	supplies for YNHA & OPC projects
Hydro One	26915	51.18	gauge
JDS All Season Power Inc	26916	456.62	equipment maintenance
Jury, David	26917	158.20	computer network support
Koolen Electric	26918	624.86	campground maintenance
Laemers Excavating	26919	11,925.61	contract services for YNHA project
Molly Maid	26920	158.00	administration centre cleaning service
Moore's Flower & Garden	26921	56.50	supplies for OPC project
R Safety	26922	299.70	supplies for YNHA project
Secord Home Building Centre	26923	793.26	supplies for YNHA project
St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre	26924	11,862.62	supplies for YNHA project
Trout Unlimited Canada	26925	28.42	education kits
TSC Stores L.P.	26926	153.91	campground supplies
VanDenNest Nursery	26927	4,425.08	supplies for YNHA project
Wise Line Tools Inc	26928	80.21	SPW CA Development (Observation Platform)

\$ 49,006.47

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, Accounts Payable totalling \$49,006.47 , be approved for payment as presented in Report FA 61 / 2016.



Susan Mann,
Financial Services Coordinator

REPORT FA 62 / 2016: To The Full Authority

FROM: Kim Smale, General Manager / Secretary – Treasurer

SUBJECT: Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan

DATE: November 2, 2016

Purpose:

To advise the members of a meeting initiated by the Lower Thames Valley C.A. with the four (4) Elgin County Conservation Authorities (LTVCA, KCCA, CCCA, LPRCA) to discuss existing and proposed policies and operational guidelines relevant to the Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan.

Discussion:

In response to a presentation by the Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association, the LTVCA passed the following motion at its August 24th, 2016, Full Authority meeting.

“Moved, that the Board support Management seeking clarification with the four Conservation Authorities having jurisdiction within Elgin County regarding the status of the Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan as it relates to their regulations and their operational policies and guidelines”.

Consequently, staff from the four (4) Conservation Authorities met on October 12th, 2016, resulting in the attached Report being presented to the LTVCA Board of Directors at their October 20th, Full Authority meeting. The suggested recommendation was adopted as presented at the meeting.

Recommendation:

THAT, Report FA 62/2016, be received as information at this time.



Kim Smale
General Manager / Secretary – Treasurer

October 12, 2016

Report to the LTVCA Board - business arising from the minutes of August 25, 2016 regarding the Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan (ECSMP)

Background

At its meeting on August 25, 2016 the LTVCA Board, by resolution, directed staff to meet with each of the Conservation Authorities having jurisdiction within Elgin County for the purpose of clarifying the status of the Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan as it relates to their regulations passed pursuant to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. The Board resolution resulted from a presentation by the Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association (LENSLA) at that meeting.

Current Situation

Staff from all four Conservation Authorities met on October 12 at the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority and each provided a synopsis of the status of the plan and its impact on their respective operation policies and guidelines for their Section 28 Regulations, which are summarized as follows:

Long Point Region Conservation Authority

- ECSMP was adopted but subsequently rescinded due to deferral of the plan by Elgin County Council in November 2015; defaults to 1989 Shoreline Management Plan
- Shoreline regulatory limit established using data from 1989 SMP (similar to rates established by ECSMP)
- 1989 SMP recommendations and MNRF Technical Guidelines Appendix A.7.2.1 apply with minor changes in interpretation
- New development prohibited within regulated area; existing development permits additions up to 50%, accessory buildings, pools not lakeward of existing. Replacement, major additions with floodproofing and safe access; erosion allowance reduction to 60 years from stable top of bank.
- Shoreline protection maintenance, upgrades, infilling for existing development only, subject to no significant updrift/downdrift impact
- Plan to develop consolidated policy document, previously released for municipal consultation, for public consultation 2107

Catfish Creek Conservation Authority

- ECSMP adopted, subsequently rescinded, reverting to 1991 Shoreline Management Plan with all stakeholders encouraged to review the ECSMP with meaningful public consultation and input
- Regulatory limit is based on current data for erosion rates and 1:100 year peak instantaneous water levels
- New development prohibited within 100 year erosion allowance plus 3:1 Stable slope, confirmed at time of application

- Permits minor additions, repairs to existing dwellings no closer to natural hazard; studies required to ensure no offsite impacts
- Repairs to existing protection is permitted, new protection requires engineering studies by qualified consultant
- Comprehensive policy review anticipated within next year

Kettle Creek Conservation Authority

- ECSMP adopted
- Regulatory limit based on new erosion rates for 100 year period plus stable slope allowance; 100 year flood level plus wave uprush, documents available for inspection at KCCA office
- Existing policies adopted in 2006 with specific amendments since adoption
- New development prohibited within erosion hazard limit, encourage relocation of existing structures further from hazard. New development prohibited on dynamic beaches; permitted within flood hazard using 2-zone concept with flood proofing
- Maintenance and upkeep of existing structures within erosion limit; additions/expansions/replacements discouraged/prohibited
- Shoreline protection may be permitted for existing development subject to a satisfactory impact statement, prepared by a coastal engineer, which demonstrates no increase in long term erosion rates on neighbouring properties; will not cause damage to adjacent structures; and will in no way have a detrimental effect on the environment. Non-structural protection is preferred to structural protection, but is viable in fewer places. Not considered viable for high bluff areas, encourage relocation or abandonment
- Proposing a consolidated policy document consistent with format of MNR/CO Draft Policy Guideline (2008), will consider recommendations of the ECSMP

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

- ECSMP adopted by resolution October 2015
- Regulatory limit based on new erosion rates for 100 year period plus stable slope allowance; and 1:100 Peak Instantaneous Water Level (storm surge plus wave uprush plus high lake level)
- New development generally prohibited within "critically regulated area and if room available, encouraged to be located outside of the total regulated area (additional allowance of 15 M plus 100 year plus 3:1 slope)
- Existing development permits additions up to 20% every 10 years, located no closer to the shoreline/bluff hazard than the existing structure; accessory structures incl. pools no nearer hazard than existing building; <100 square feet no permit required
- Shoreline protection is permitted for existing development subject to demonstrating no negative impact on adjoining properties within the impact zone, and repairs to existing allowed so long as it's a like-for-like replacement of a prior approved structure (i.e. cannot be lengthened)

- Current operational guideline contains blend of policy, operations; public consultation has occurred on new draft Policy, no substantive comments obtained; Operational Guidelines to follow. Anticipate Board approval early 2017 following municipal consultation

Discussion

Regardless of the status of the ECSMP, each Conservation Authority continues to administer its shoreline hazard regulations consistent with MNRF Technical Guidelines and no specific policy or operational changes have occurred as a result of its adoption. Each Authority determines its regulatory limit using erosion rates established in earlier shoreline management plans and confirmed by the ECSMP. Each Authority is either in the process of or is anticipating updating its policies and procedures, using the MNRF/Conservation Ontario 2008 Policy Guideline. Recommendations within the ECSMP will be considered along with current policies and practices, public and municipal input.

In developing their respective policies, the four Conservation Authorities are endeavoring to move toward greater consistency in the application and interpretation of policies, recognizing that each jurisdiction has unique geophysical conditions and has existing features including the port communities and nodes of existing development that will warrant specific recognition within the policy framework.

Recommendation

That the LTVCA Board continue to work with the province, municipalities, stakeholders and the public to complete the update of its Policies and Operation Guidelines for the administration of its Section 28 regulation and as the basis for its review of activities under the Planning Act within its jurisdiction.

REPORT FA 63 / 2016: To The Full Authority**FROM:** Kim Smale, General Manager / Secretary – Treasurer**SUBJECT:** Special Projects Funding**DATE:** November 1, 2016

Purpose:

To provide the Board with an update on some of the additional projects which have received funding approval since the presentation of Report FA 32/2016, at the June Full Authority meeting.


Discussion:

The following list provides a summary of the most recent special projects receiving funding in 2016. This brings the total amount raised for the year to approximately \$188,380.00.

<u>Name of Project</u>	<u>Primary Funding Source</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Private Landowner Wetland Restoration	Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$10,000.00
Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area Wetland Restoration	Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$3,500.00
Catfish Creek Valley Habitat Restoration	Environment and Climate Change Canada, Species at Risk	\$13,890.00
Catfish Creek Recreational Fisheries Conservation	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	\$47,055.00
Erie- Essex Fish Species at Risk	Environment and Climate Change Canada, Essex Region Conservation Authority	\$32,000.00

Recommendation:

THAT, the Full Authority acknowledge receipt of the additional list of 2016 Special Projects as outlined in Report FA 63/2016.



Kim Smale
General Manager / Secretary – Treasurer

REPORT FA 64 / 2016: To The Full Authority

FROM: Kim Smale, General Manager / Secretary – Treasurer

SUBJECT: Conservation Authorities Act Review

DATE: November 2, 2016

Purpose:

To update the members on the Conservation Authorities Act Review – Stage 2 Results.

Discussion:

Please find attached a copy of the vision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the three (3) stage consultation process for the Conservation Authorities Act Review.

Also attached, is a copy of the Multi-Stakeholder Letter submitted to the various Ministers on behalf of Conservation Ontario, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario regarding the Conservation Authorities Act Review.

Recommendation:

THAT, the information attached to Report FA 64/2016, be noted and filed.



Kim Smale
General Manager / Secretary – Treasurer



Conservation Authorities Act Review - Stage 2 Results

Conservation Ontario Council Meeting

Monday, September 26th, 2016

Conservation Authorities Act Review

- Three stage consultation process initiated in Spring 2015
- 2016 Mandate Letter Commitment:
 - Continuing the review of the *Conservation Authorities Act* which will identify opportunities to improve the legislative, regulatory and policy framework that currently governs the creation, operation and activities of conservation authorities.

THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT REVIEW PROCESS



STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

Proposed Priorities

- Priority areas for improvement presented in Stage 2



PRIORITY #1: Strengthen oversight and accountability in decision making.



PRIORITY #2: Increasing clarity and consistency in roles and responsibilities, processes and requirements.



PRIORITY #3: Improving collaboration and engagement among all parties involved in resource management.



PRIORITY #4: Modernizing funding mechanisms to support conservation authority operations.



PRIORITY #5: Enhancing flexibility for the province to update the *Conservation Authorities Act* framework in the future.

STAGE

2

Stage 2 Engagement Activities

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

- Priorities Paper posted to the Environmental Registry
 - 120 day posting (May 12th – September 9th)
 - 220+ submissions received
- Parliamentary Assistant Stakeholder Working Group meeting (May 16th-17th)
 - Two day multi-stakeholder meeting chaired by the Parliamentary Assistant
 - Independent facilitator report circulated to participants
- 5 Regional Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Sessions held in early June
 - Ottawa, Newmarket, London, Sudbury and Thunder Bay
- 4 Regional Indigenous Engagement Sessions held in September
 - Orillia, London, Thunder Bay, and Sudbury

STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

PA Multi-Stakeholder Working Group: Overview

Participants:

- Toronto and Region CA
- Lakehead Region CA
- Nottawasaga CA
- Halton Region CA
- Longpoint CA
- Conservation Ontario;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Agriculture - Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Christian Farmers Association
- National Farmers' Union
- Métis Nation of Ontario;
- Ontario Home Builders Association
- Ecojustice

Areas of discussion*:

- Acknowledgement of broad range of activities undertaken by CAs
- Role of CAs as integrated watershed managers
- Importance of working with Indigenous communities
- Strengthening accountability, and public, and sector-based participation in decision-making
- Third-party appeals for Section 28 approvals
- Improving service standards
- Need for long-term/ sustainable funding
- Other areas of discussion:
 - Permit appeals
 - Reconvening of the Conservation Authority Liaison Committee

STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Sessions: Overview

5 regional sessions:

- Ottawa (23 participants)
- Thunder Bay (7 participants)
- London (57 participants)
- Newmarket (59 participants)
- Sudbury (12 participants)

Summary of key themes:

- Acknowledge integrated watershed management (IWM) in the Act
- Continue to recognize the need for local autonomy/ flexibility in programming
- Reinstate the provincial/municipal partnership in managing natural resources
- Establish a multi-ministerial body to promote dialogue and collaboration re: CAs
- Increase and diversify provincial funding
- Ensure that any new or additional programs and services are delegated with resources
- Update provincial policies and technical guidelines
- Ensure the interests of all stakeholders are considered during decision-making processes.

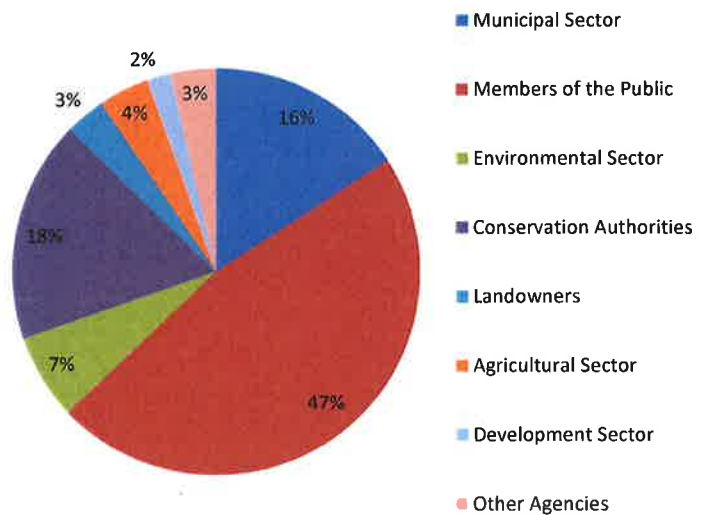
STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

Environmental Registry Submissions: Overview

- 221 external submissions received
- Submissions received by sector:
 - Conservation authorities – 39
 - Municipal Sector – 35
 - Agricultural Sector – 9
 - Development Sector – 4
 - Environmental Sector – 15
 - Landowners/ associations – 7
 - Member of the public – 104
 - Other – 8



STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

What We've Heard: Conservation Authorities

Sample of conservation authority feedback:

- Act should reinforce CAs as watershed management agencies
- S.28 definitions should match Mining & Lands Commissioner interpretations
- Modernize enforcement provisions (e.g. use of stop work orders and tickets)
- Modernize governance and accountability provisions (S.30 by-laws)
- Create a multi-ministry body to support integrated watershed management
- Define the types of costs that can be included within municipal levies
- Sustainable, multi-ministry funding for provincially mandated programs
- Improve service delivery standards through new guidelines, multi-stakeholder Service Delivery Review Committee, and training

STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

What We've Heard: Municipalities

Sample of municipal-sector feedback:

- Mandate use of MOUs with municipalities to set expectations for mandated activities
- Province may have to take responsibility to deliver the activities normally undertaken by CAs in some areas of the province
- Mandated timelines and service standard best management practices for planning and development applications
- Modernize the availability of applications and information held by CAs
- Disappointment in lack of new funding commitments from the province
- Consider equalization grants for CAs which consider local ability to pay

STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

What We've Heard: Agricultural Sector

Sample of agricultural-sector feedback:

- Define mandatory programs and services as roles related to natural hazards
- Optional programs and services should include land stewardship, parks management and outdoor education
- Limit CA's commenting roles to those where they have a direct statutory role and identifying regulated features and areas (wetlands and watercourses)
- Increase accountability mechanisms (e.g. codes of conduct, etc.)
- Opposed to increased enforcement provisions and penalties
- Add farm organization representatives to each CA board
- Consistency in fees, and service standards for planning reviews and permitting

STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

What We've Heard: Development Sector

Sample of development-sector feedback:

- Specific roles and responsibilities should be entrenched in legislation and prioritized around managing natural hazards and watershed management
- Roles and responsibilities outside of the Act should be defined in a publically posted MOU and censored by MNRF
- Mandate CAs to establish fair and reasonable fee schedules which define fee categories, based on complexity
- Legislated timelines for planning application review process – failure to provide comments on application within 180 days shall be appealable
- Require CAs to publically post annual reports and financial statements
- Reconstitute the *Conservation Authorities Liaison Committee*

STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

What We've Heard: Environmental Sector

Sample of environmental-sector feedback:

- Outline principles to be used in fulfilling the purpose of the Act (e.g. consideration of cumulative impacts, precautionary principle, etc.)
- Expand board membership to include provincial appointees, indigenous communities, community representatives, NGOs, academics, etc.
- Increase transparency and accountability in conservation authorities' decision-making – including mandating public meetings and the disclosure of information
- Enable third party appeals for permit approvals
- Provide guidance on the ability of CAs to self-generate funds
- Support delegating or delivering roles normally undertaken by CAs in areas outside a CA jurisdiction

STAGE

2

PROPOSED PRIORITIES

Indigenous Engagement Sessions: Overview

4 regional sessions:

- Orillia (13 participants)
- London (9 participants)
- Thunder Bay (20 participants)
- Sudbury (17 participants)

Summary of key themes to date:

- Need for better communication between CAs and Indigenous communities
- Board training with regards to Indigenous communities should be specific to each CA and delivered by members of the community
- Embed requirements for engaging with Indigenous communities within the Act
- Some interest in exploring formal membership in a CA (as a pilot program)
- Should be First Nations representatives on CA boards
- Capacity challenges can limit higher levels of involvement

STAGE

3

PROPOSED CHANGES

Next Steps

- Roll-up and internal report-back on Stage 2 Results – October
- Discussion of Stage 2 results with other provincial ministries – November
- Seek direction on Stage 3 – December
 - Including scope of potential changes, expectations for additional consultation and timelines for completion



REPORT FA 65 / 2016: To The Full Authority

FROM: Kim Smale, General Manager / Secretary – Treasurer

SUBJECT: Environmental Protection Report

DATE: October 28, 2016

Purpose:

To provide the members with a copy of the Executive Summary from the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's 2015 / 2016 Environmental Protection Report.

Discussion:

Conservation Ontario e-mailed a copy of the attached information to all 36 Conservation Authorities following the October 26th release of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's Report titled: "Small Steps Forward".

Please note the Commissioner's reference to Conservation Authorities and others under the Invasive Species Management in Ontario: New Act, Little Action section. It reads as follows:

"Instead, the MNRF is mostly leaving the hard front-line work to municipalities, conservation authorities and private landowners, without provincial guidance, co-ordination, expertise or predictable funding".

This statement does not shine a very positive light on the future involvement of the Province and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in environmental protection and conservation.

Recommendation:

THAT, Report FA 65/ 2016, be received as information at this time.



Kim Smale
General Manager / Secretary – Treasurer

SMALL STEPS FORWARD

Environmental Protection Report 2015/2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Download the full report at:
eco.on.ca/reports/2016-small-steps-forward



Executive Summary

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) is the guardian of the *Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)*, and reports to the Ontario Legislature, and to the public, on energy conservation, climate change and environmental protection.

This report focuses on two questions:

1. Do the environmental rights of Ontarians get enough respect? (Volume 1); and
2. How well do recent Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) initiatives conserve biodiversity? (Volume 2)

Environmental Rights

The environmental rights of Ontarians need more respect.

There has been meaningful progress since December 2015. As we showed in our Special Report *EBR Performance Checkup: Respect for Ontario Environmental Rights 2015/2016*, Ontario government ministries worked hard this year to improve their compliance with the *EBR*.

This was welcome and overdue. In 2015, ministries had 1,800 outdated proposal notices on the Environmental Registry reaching as far back as 1996. By the summer of 2016, more than 1,000 of these outdated notices had been brought up to date. New notices from some ministries became of better quality and more helpful to the public. We welcomed the Treasury Board Secretariat as our 15th prescribed ministry.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) makes the largest number of environmentally significant decisions and should set a good example in respecting environmental rights. The ECO is glad to see that the MOECC has, at last, begun posting public progress updates on its outstanding applications for review. The MOECC has also begun a long-overdue review of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* itself. These initiatives are important and appreciated. However, much remains to be done:

1. The Environmental Registry, Ontarians' window on significant government environmental decisions, is hobbled by obsolete software and often frustrates public participation.
2. The MOECC is still responsible for more than 400 outdated Environmental Registry proposals, depriving Ontarians of their legal right to seek leave to appeal on many controversial and important environmental decisions.



3. The MOECC has not completed *EBR* reviews from as far back as 2009, leaving Ontario residents hanging and important policy issues unresolved. One relates to the shameful impact of Sarnia's air pollution on the health of the First Nations community of Aamjiwnaang and other similar air pollution hotspots.
4. When the MOECC "completes" a review, it does not always deliver what it promised. For example, the MOECC agreed in July 2015 that the public deserves to know when raw sewage is dumped into Toronto's harbour. When it happened again in August 2016, the public didn't receive notice.

By next year's report, the MOECC should earn Ontarians' trust by respecting and protecting Ontarians' environmental rights.

The MNRF and Biodiversity

The MNRF is responsible for almost all of Ontario's biodiversity, including the plants, animals and natural landscapes for which we are famous around the world. This biodiversity is coming under increasing threat as climate change accelerates. The MNRF has important new tools this year to conserve our biodiversity: a new *Invasive Species Act, 2015*, a new *Wildland Fire Management Strategy*, and new moose management measures. These are good steps in the right direction.

But will MNRF "walk the talk"?

Unfortunately, the MNRF often fails to use its tools to provide effective conservation for Ontario's species. We have seen instances where the MNRF:

1. Did what was easiest and cheapest, instead of what works;
2. Hoped for the best instead of collecting the data that is essential for effective species protection; and
3. Relied on others to do the work it should do, or used to do, without providing them with leadership, co-ordination, funding or accountability.

The impact was substantial:

1. Invasive species continued to be a serious threat while some practical and inexpensive precautions were ignored;
2. Years of fire suppression impaired the ecological health of our forests and increased the risk of catastrophic fires; and
3. Important wildlife populations like moose, bats and amphibians declined.

	Prescribed Ministry	Quality of Notices Posted on the Environmental Registry	Timeliness of Decision Notices and Avoiding Outdated Proposals	Handling of Applications for Review and Investigation	Considering Statements of Environmental Values (SEVs)	Co-operation With ECO Requests
MOECC						
MNRF						

Excerpt from ECO Special Report, *EBR Performance Checkup: Respect for Ontario Environmental Rights 2015/2016*

Ontario needs an overall, big picture assessment of our biodiversity. It's the MNRF's job to provide one, but it doesn't.

Ontario needs an overall, big picture assessment of our biodiversity. It's the MNRF's job to provide one, but it doesn't.

The MNRF, like other ministries, struggles to fulfil its many mandates within the constraints of limited resources, and amid the demands of many stakeholders. But the MNRF can, and must, take its biodiversity duties more seriously. It has new tools. Will it use them well?

Walking the Fire Line: Managing and Using Fire in Ontario's Northern Forests

Ontario's forests need regular renewal by fire. But Ontario doesn't allow enough managed fire in our Crown forests to provide ecological benefits and prevent future catastrophic fires. The MNRF took a step in the right direction with a new *Wildland Fire Management Strategy* that could allow more fires to be left to burn in northern Ontario. Now the MNRF needs to let such fires burn when and where they are needed and appropriate, even if this means the loss of some potentially harvestable timber:

- Forest fires are necessary for the ecological health of Ontario's forests, particularly to enable a diversity of species types and age classes.
- Long-term fire suppression can result in older forests that are burdened with excess fuel loads, and more susceptible to catastrophic and uncontrollable fires such as the one in Fort McMurray.

A strong focus on protecting standing timber for possible future use by the forestry industry has traditionally been a substantial obstacle to restoring natural fire cycles. The MNRF has not yet faced up to the trade-offs between these two objectives.

Regular fire cycles have particular importance in protected areas such as provincial parks, which must conserve Ontario's biodiversity. Unfortunately, these areas are starved of fire because Ontario Parks lacks the resources to manage prescribed burns, and the MNRF as a whole will not assist them without payment. This is penny wise and pound foolish.

With climate change gathering speed, northern Ontario communities should increase their resistance and resilience to forest fire. The Ontario government should ensure all communities near flammable forest become "FireSmart."



Jack Pine regeneration in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park after the spring 2016 forest fire. Source: Ontario Parks.

Invasive Species Management in Ontario: New Act, Little Action

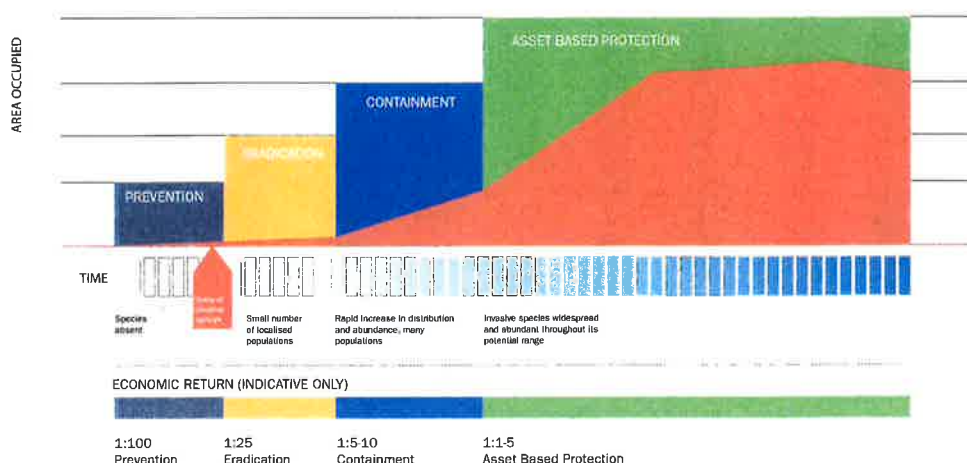
Invasive species have huge economic, social and health effects, and are among the biggest threats to biodiversity. Ontario has Canada's highest risk of invasions by non-native species (e.g., emerald ash borer, Phragmites, zebra and quagga mussels, and Asian carp). Up to 66 per cent of Ontario's species at risk are already threatened by established invaders such as garlic mustard (a forest herb), Phragmites (a grass), and round goby (a fish).

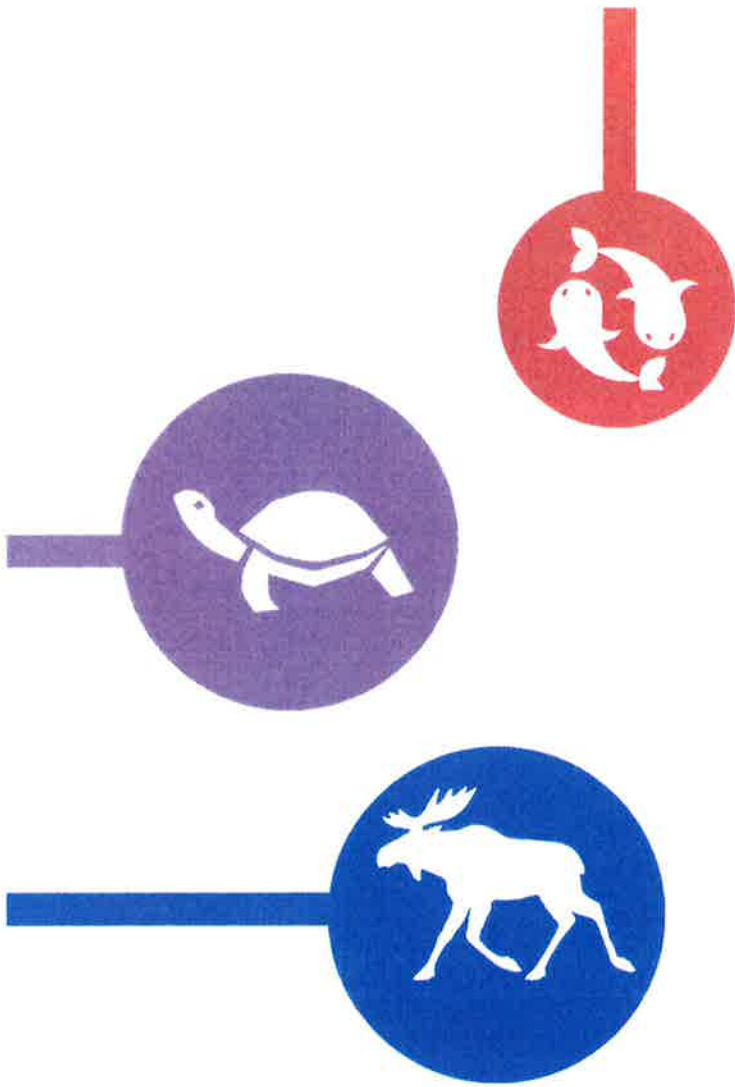
Ontario's new *Invasive Species Act, 2015*, and the 2012 *Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan* are useful tools for managing invasive species. But the MNRF is taking few concrete actions to prevent the introduction of invaders, detect them early, or manage and monitor species that are already doing damage. Worse, the MNRF is failing to take basic precautionary steps to block known pathways by which some invasive species spread.

Instead, the MNRF is mostly leaving the hard front-line work to municipalities, conservation authorities and private landowners, without provincial guidance, co-ordination, expertise or predictable funding. The MNRF is not collecting enough data to know which threats are the most urgent, and which control measures work best.

The MNRF should:

- restrict known pathways of invasive species spread;
- tackle invasive species in provincial parks;
- establish advisory panels with scientific expertise and local and Aboriginal knowledge; and
- report publicly on progress in managing invasive species.



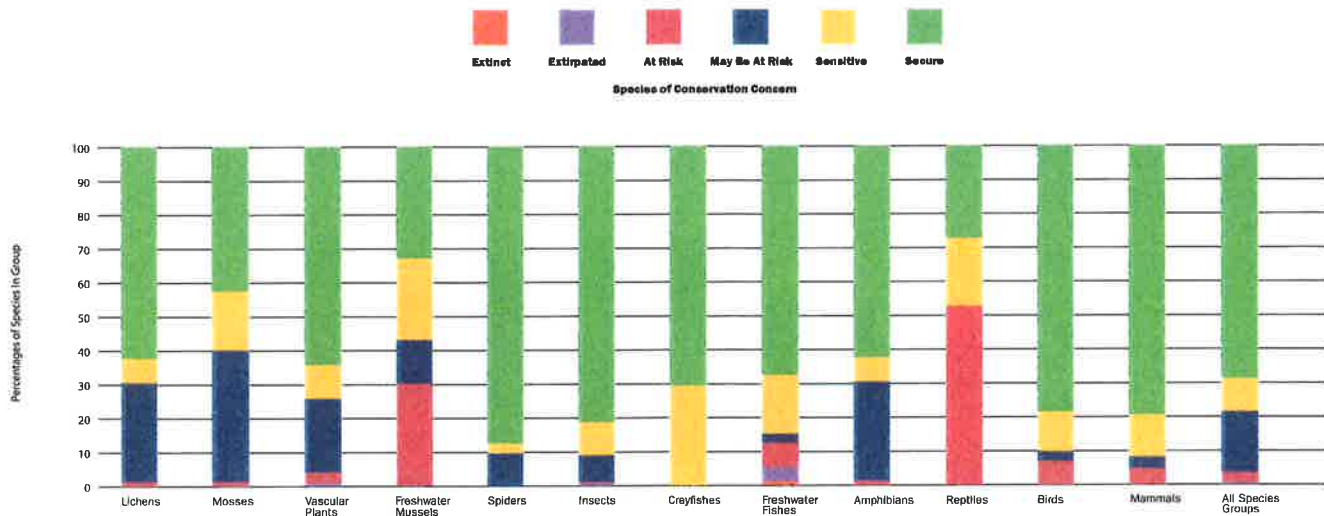


Biodiversity Under Pressure: Wildlife Declines in Ontario

The large-scale loss of biodiversity is a crisis in Ontario and around the world. As well as invasive species, the biggest threats are human-caused habitat loss and degradation, and disease, with climate change playing a growing role. The declines of moose, bats and amphibians in Ontario demonstrate that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry needs to act urgently on habitat protection and biodiversity monitoring.

Ontario's Declining Moose Populations

Moose are an iconic Ontario species with particular cultural and economic significance. However, Ontario's moose are in trouble. There are now about 92,300 moose – down about 20 per cent in the last decade. In nearly half of Ontario moose management units, too few calves are reaching adult breeding age to keep the population stable.



Proportion of Ontario native wild species in secure and conservation concern categories. Source: Ontario Biodiversity Council (2015). *State of Ontario's Biodiversity*. Available at: <http://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/sobr>.

The declines of moose, bats and amphibians in Ontario demonstrate that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry needs to act urgently on habitat protection and biodiversity monitoring.



Source: Ryan Hagerty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

There are many pressures on moose, including habitat degradation, disease and parasites (e.g., winter ticks, liver fluke, brainworm), hunting, predation and weather. Climate change is an increasingly serious threat.

The MNRF's Moose Project included changes to moose harvesting rules, and an ill-advised proposal (since abandoned) to increase the hunting of wolves and coyotes. However, the new restrictions on harvesting moose may not prevent further population declines. Ontario has approximately 98,000 licensed moose hunters – more than one licensed hunter for every moose in Ontario – plus Aboriginal peoples with a constitutional or treaty right to take moose without a licence. Based on the MNRF's estimates:

Climate change is an increasingly serious threat.

Moose Population Decline	Adult Moose Harvest (2014)	Calf Moose Harvest (2014)
-22,700 since early 2000s	Legal limit: 13,499 tags	Legal limit: one for each of the 98,000 licensed hunters
	Estimated resident harvest: 3,020	Estimated resident harvest: 1,403
	Aboriginal harvest: Unknown	Aboriginal harvest: Unknown
	Tourism industry harvest: 601	Tourism industry harvest: 26



A little brown bat infected with white-nose syndrome Source: Ryan von Linden/New York Department of Environmental Conservation used under CC BY 2.0.

White-nose Syndrome: Tragedy of the Bats

Ontario's bats are important predators of mosquitoes and other insects. Since 2010, millions of them have died from an invasive fungal disease called white-nose syndrome. As a result, four of Ontario's eight native bat species have become endangered. Bat populations across eastern North America are collapsing. There is no known treatment.

Ontario's *White-nose Syndrome Response Plan* concentrates on increasing awareness about white-nose syndrome, so as to limit the inadvertent spread of the disease by humans. The MNRF is also co-operating with other ministries and governments to share information, and to co-ordinate surveillance and research.

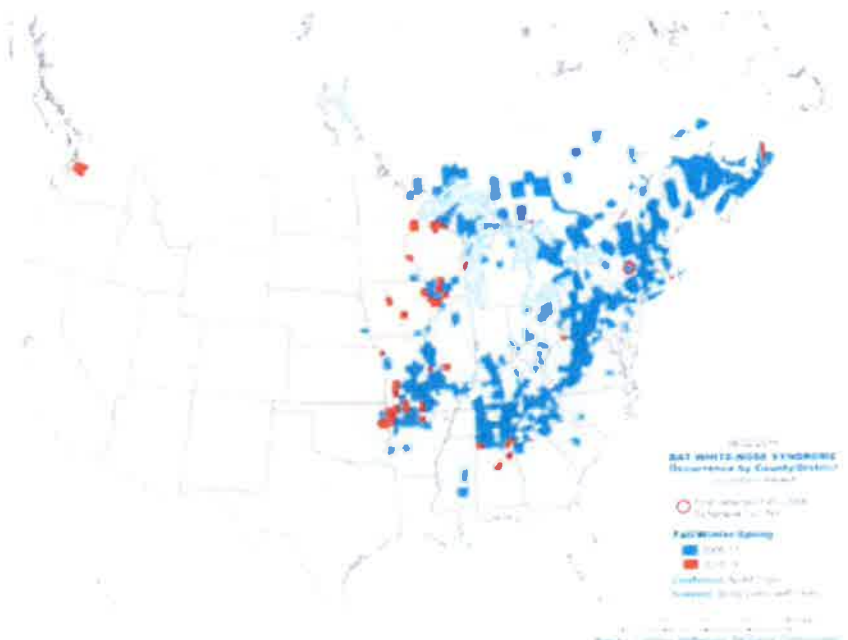
While white-nose syndrome is by far the major threat to Ontario's bats; bats can suffer additional losses from human persecution and from wind turbines. The collapse of Ontario's bat population could lead to an increase in insect pests, just as public health authorities are calling on Ontarians to protect themselves from mosquito bites because of the spread of insect-borne diseases.

Bat populations across eastern North America are collapsing. There is no known treatment.

Update: Amphibian Declines Continue in Ontario

Amphibians are the most threatened group of vertebrate animals in the world.

Both globally and in Ontario, the most significant threat to amphibians is habitat loss. Habitat degradation (e.g., from pollutants such as agrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and road salt), habitat fragmentation, road mortality, overharvesting, invasive species, infectious diseases, climate change, and ozone depletion also put pressure on amphibian populations. In 2009, the ECO recommended that the MNRF co-ordinate an inter-ministerial plan to protect and conserve amphibian populations.



Bat White-Nose Syndrome Occurrence as of August 2016, Source: Lindsey Heffernan, Pennsylvania Game Commission.



Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris blanchardi*). Source: Jessica Piispanen/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest used under CC BY 2.0.

Seven years later, there has been no action, and amphibian habitat (especially wetlands) continues to decline. Provincial land-use planning policies have not effectively protected amphibian habitat. In fact, the Ontario government continues to subsidize the destruction of irreplaceable wetlands under the *Drainage Act*.

Meanwhile, the MNRF does not effectively monitor amphibian populations. Most of Ontario's information about our amphibians comes from unpaid citizen science monitoring programs. These programs are immensely valuable, but would be far more effective with MNRF leadership, co-ordination and support. Ontario cannot effectively conserve biodiversity with uncoordinated piecemeal monitoring.

ECO Recognition Award

The ECO is impressed by the passion, commitment and expertise of many government staff who devote themselves to Ontario's environmental well-being, despite obstacles and constraints.

With our annual ECO Recognition Award, we are delighted to recognize the initiative of two groups of civil servants who set outstanding examples of environmental commitment and achievement last year. This award recognizes their hard work on projects that are innovative, go above and beyond legal mandates, better Ontario's environment and that meet the requirements and purposes of the *EBR*.

The 2016 ECO Recognition Award goes to MNRF staff for the Mid-Canada Radar Site Clean-up in Polar Bear Provincial Park. An honourable mention goes to the Ministry of Transportation for its project to restore fish passage in a tributary to the Saugeen River, near Southampton, Ontario. The ECO congratulates all the ministry staff who implemented these exceptional environmental projects.



Mid-Canada Radar Site Clean-up in Polar Bear Provincial Park. Source: Ontario Parks/MNRF

Key Recommendations From This Year's Report

Volume 1

Chapter 1.2.2: No Transparency for Aggregate Resources Act Instruments

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should fix the long-standing deficiencies in Environmental Registry notices for *Aggregate Resources Act* instruments to ensure the public's right to be notified and comment.

Chapter 1.2.3: Outdated Proposals

All prescribed ministries should establish processes to ensure that decision notices are posted as soon as reasonably possible after decisions are made.

All prescribed ministries should remedy all of their outdated notices that remain on the Environmental Registry without a decision.

Chapter 1.2.4: Environmental Registry: Overhaul Discussions Begin

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change should give the needs of existing Environmental Registry users strong consideration in the design of a new Registry.

Chapter 1.4: Keeping the EBR in Sync with Government Changes and New Laws

The Ministry of Education should be prescribed under the *EBR* for the purposes of Applications for Review.

Chapter 2.2: Ministries' Handling of Applications for Review in 2015/2016

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change should conclude all overdue reviews in 2016/2017 and, further, should conduct reviews with greater speed going forward.

Chapter 2.3.2: Public Should be Alerted to Poor Water Quality After Wastewater Overflows and Bypasses

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change should work with Toronto Water to implement procedures for public notification of sewage bypass events as soon as possible.

Volume 2

Chapter 1: Walking the Fire Line: Managing and Using Fire in Ontario's Northern Forests

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should ensure that the fire-dependent forests it is charged with sustainably managing, including those in the Area of the Undertaking and protected areas, experience forest fire, either by letting forest fires burn or by conducting prescribed burns.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should follow through on its commitment to build and maintain a workforce capable of executing prescribed burns, and create a team of dedicated burn personnel.

The Ontario government should ensure all communities near flammable forest become "FireSmart" by making prevention and mitigation plans mandatory, and providing adequate funding to communities to develop and implement them.

Chapter 2: Invasive Species Management in Ontario: New Act, Little Action

The Ontario government should take actions now to restrict known pathways of invasive species spread, including:

- prohibiting the sale of invasive plants;
- requiring boats to be cleaned and inspected before entering new water systems; and
- banning live bait from protected areas.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should tackle invasive species in parks now by:

- assessing and documenting the invasive species threats to each protected area;
- developing prevention, detection and management plans; and
- allocating funds for ecological restoration that are not tied to visitor revenue.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should establish advisory panels with scientific expertise and local and Aboriginal knowledge to propose species for regulation.

The Ontario government should report publicly on progress to manage invasive species regulated under the *Invasive Species Act*, 2015.

Chapter 3: Biodiversity Under Pressure: Wildlife Declines in Ontario

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should implement mandatory reporting for all licensed moose hunters.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should examine and publicly report on whether habitat-related issues are playing a role in moose declines.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should take accelerated steps to identify and implement potential recovery actions for at-risk bat species as soon as possible.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should take steps to remedy the chronic delays in finalizing government response statements.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing should prohibit infrastructure in provincially significant wetlands.

The Ministry of Transportation should finalize and publicly consult on its draft wildlife mitigation strategy for provincial roads.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should develop and implement a broad-scale biodiversity monitoring program.

REPORT FA 66 / 2016: To The Full Authority

FROM: Peter Dragunas, Water Management Technician

SUBJECT: Catfish Creek Channel Sounding

DATE: October 31, 2016

Purpose:

To update the Full Authority with regard to the results of the October 2016, Catfish Creek channel sounding at Port Bruce.

Discussion / Background:

Please find attached copies of the Catfish Creek Channel Sounding maps at Port Bruce for May and October 2016.

At the time of the October survey, the Lake Erie water level extrapolated from the Fisheries and Oceans Canada web site at Eriean and Port Dover stations, was 0.781m above the Chart Datum (CD) of 173.5m. In contrast, the lake level in May 2016 was 0.830m. On a spring to fall seasonal comparison (May to October), the Lake Erie water level is down 0.049m (4.9 cm). Since the Catfish Creek Channel Sounding data and information is evaluated relative to CD, lake levels during the survey do not affect the channel sounding bathymetric results and are included for information purposes only.

Typically when seasonal sounding data is compared (fall to spring or spring to fall), the deposition / erosion patterns should indicate erosion in the spring (May sounding) when flows are generally higher, and deposition during the summer months (October sounding) when flows are generally lower.

Based on the May and October 2016 sounding results, it is evident that sediment deposition is present throughout the lower sounding reaches of the Catfish Creek at Port Bruce. The aforementioned results indicate sediment consolidation has occurred within the natural deposition zones, resulting in a sediment net gain within the sounding reach of the channel.

The October 2016 sounding illustrates that a reduced intermittent thalweg exists for hydrological conveyance within the Catfish Creek sounding reach in particular in the Flood Control Sediment Retention Structure area.

Thalweg Rationalization

The lesser than usual flows this summer provided the opportunity for the channel to deposit sediment in the typical deposition zones and within the Flood Control Sediment Retention Structure locale. This deposition in the aforementioned area has impeded the channel in maintaining a suitable flood mitigation hydrological conveyance thalweg within the lower reaches of the sounding area of the Catfish Creek in Port Bruce.

Recommendation:

That, the channel sounding observations described in Report FA 66 / 2016, be received as information at this time.

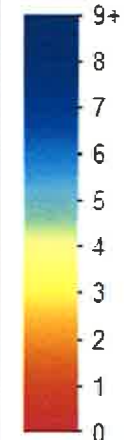

for Peter Dragunas,
Water Management Technician



Port Bruce May 2016 Sounding



Feet



Data Sources: NRVIS, DFO, CCCA
CCCA GIS

May 2016
This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of
routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. Catefish
Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) shall not be liable
in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any
information on this map.

Information changes daily.
Not for recreational use.
Not to be used as a
navigational guide.

Depths on this chart
are illustrated from a
low water surface
or low water datum
referred to as Chart Datum
(173.51 GLD).

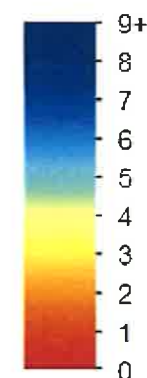
Lake Erie depth at time
of survey 1.144 m (3.75 ft).



Port Bruce October 2016 Sounding



Feet



Data Sources: NRVIS, DFO, CCCA
CCCA GIS
October 2016

This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. Cattfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) is not liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any information on this map.

Information changes daily.
Not for recreational use.
Not to be used as a
navigational guide.

Depths on this chart
are illustrated from a
low water surface
or low water datum
referred to as Chart Datum
(175.5 IGLD).

Lake Erie depth at time
of survey 6.731 m (3.75 ft).

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REPORT FA 67 / 2016: To The Full Authority

FROM : Peter Dragunas, Water Management Technician

SUBJECT : Flood Control Dredging

DATE : October 28, 2016

Purpose:

To update the Full Authority on the status of the 2016 Catfish Creek channel dredging in Port Bruce.


Discussion / Background:

Based on the sounding information and available funds, staff are recommending the removal of approximately 4,500 yds³ of sediment from the Catfish Creek channel at Port Bruce, to increase the capacity of the channels hydraulic conveyance intended for flood mitigation within the Hamlet of Port Bruce.

Recommendation:

That staff be directed to contract the enlargement of the Catfish Creek Sediment Retention Structure by Removing approximately 4,500 yds³ of material from the Catfish Creek channel at Port Bruce in 2016; and further,

That, the contract for the project be awarded to the lowest bidder.


for Peter Dragunas,
Water Management Technician

Correspondence: To The Full Authority

FROM: Kim Smale, General Manager / Secretary - Treasurer

SUBJECT: Correspondence Register, October 1 - 31, 2016

DATE: October 31, 2016

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Environment and Climate Change Canada, Toronto

- a copy of the approved 2016-2017 Contribution Agreement for the Catfish Creek Valley Habitat Restoration Project.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Burlington

- e-mail "Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program Round 6 Launched"
- e-mail "Payment Notification – Project #14-HCAA-01713"

Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, London

- information regarding the monthly claim forms for the Job Creation Partnerships Project No. 28587.

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Guelph

- e-mail "Catfish Creek Mitigation Project #SCF-0356"
- e-mail "Sustaining Ontario's Agricultural Soils: Towards a Shared Vision Discussion Paper"

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Toronto

- information regarding the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Peterborough

- e-mail "Making Use of the Ontario Government's Vendor of Record (VOR) Arrangements"
- e-mail "Interim Progress Report for Conservation Authorities Act Section 39 Provincial Grants"
- e-mail "Wetland Strategy for Ontario Engagement Session – November 2, 2016"
- e-mail "2017/18 Land Stewardship & Habitat Restoration Program – Call for Proposals"

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Conservation Ontario

- e-mail "Source Water Stewardship Business Case"
- a copy of the Agenda for the General Managers' meeting being held at the Black Creek Pioneer Village on October 17th, 2016.
- e-mail "Conservation Authorities Act Review Multi –Stakeholder Letter"
- e-mail "Great Lakes Water Levels Webinar Series"
- e-mail "Annual Biomonitoring Meeting January 17-18, 2017"
- a copy of the final CO comments on the Coordinated Review of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Niagara Escarpment Plan.
- e-mail "Draft Guideline for Development of a Guide to CA Permits on Agricultural Lands"

Essex Region C.A.

- "Essex Region C.A. and Foundation Launch New Visual Identity"
- e-mail "2016-2017 HSP Species at Risk Funding Notification"

Grand River C.A.

- e-mail "2016-17 Lake Erie Source Protection Region In-Year Progress Report April to September 2016"

Grey Sauble C.A.

- notice that Sonya G. Skinner has been hired as the new Chief Administrative Officer effective November 1, 2016.

Kettle Creek C.A.

- a copy of an article from the Port Stanley News titled; "Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association and Great Lakes Commission Connect"

Lower Thames Valley C.A.

- e-mail "Elgin CAs Policy Matrix"
- e-mail "Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan Update"
- e-mail "Declaration Against Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's Shoreline Management Plan"

St. Clair Region C.A.

- a copy of the Agenda for the CA Discussion Meeting regarding Ontario's Domestic Action Plan Reducing Phosphorus to Minimize Algal Blooms in Lake Erie.

Upper Thames River C.A.

- e-mail "Domestic Action Plan"

MUNICIPALITIES

Municipality of Central Elgin

- an invitation to attend the 2016 Citizen Achievement and Central Elgin Growing Together Awards on October 26th, 2016, at the Plains Baptist Church.

Township of Malahide

- Notice of Sitting of Court of Revision for the Eden Drain Branch D and the Stover Drain Branch D.
- a copy of a Resolution requesting the CCCA to confirm in writing the availability and cost of a dragline with a minimum of 100 foot boom to break ice during the spring thaw in Port Bruce in 2017, on the same basis as in 2016.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Carolinian Canada Coalition, London

- e-mail "Big Picture Tracking Collaborative"

Elgin St. Thomas Public Health, St. Thomas

- e-mail "Small Drinking Water Systems Directives - Poplar Hill & White's Mill Campgrounds"

Magazines

- Parks and Rec Business, Bird Studies Canada

Minutes

- Conservation Ontario Council

Newsletters

- Conservation Ontario, Maple Syrup Digest

Stantec Consulting Ltd., London

- notice that the Environmental Study Report documenting the planning process and recommendations for the Dalewood Drive Bridge has been completed.

Thames Valley District School Board, London

- a copy of the signed Land Use Agreement between the TVDSB and the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority



Kim Smale
General Manager / Secretary - Treasurer



**Canadian
Environmental Law
Association**
EQUITY. JUSTICE. HEALTH.



Honourable Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
6th Floor, Whitney Block, Room 6630
99 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

Honourable Bob Chiarelli
Minister of Infrastructure
Mowat Block, 5th Floor, 900 Bay St.
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1C2

Honourable Glen Murray
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor, 80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

Honourable Jeff Leal
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor, 77 Grenville St.
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3

Honourable Mitzie Hunter
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 22nd Floor
900 Bay St.
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Honourable Eleanor McMahon
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Hearst Block, 9th Floor
900 Bay St.
Toronto, Ontario M7E 2A1

Honorable David Oraziatti
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional
Services
George Drew Bldg, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y6

Honourable Bill Mauro
Minister of Municipal Affairs
777 Bay St.
College Park, 17th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5

October 6, 2016

Re: Conservation Authorities Act Review

Dear Ministers,

Our organizations work together in support of Ontario's economic and environmental priorities. We have taken the time to consider the *Conservation Authorities Act Review* and to identify a couple of high level common goals and objectives that we all agree with. These comments are in addition to our more detailed submissions made to *Conserving our Future: Proposed Priorities for Renewal* (EBR 012-7583) and they are not intended to limit the government's review of those comments.

Improving Client Service Delivery

Our organizations have a history of working together for improved service delivery within both the Conservation Authorities' plan review and permitting programs. We welcome the creation of a multi-stakeholder Service Delivery Review Committee (similar to the Ministry of Natural Resources/Ministry of Municipal Affairs CA Liaison Committee (CALC) with additional stakeholders) to address, on a regular basis, streamlining and other issues related to service standards (e.g. Service Agreements, user fees). It is supported that regular multi-stakeholder training on the MNRF (2010) *Policies & Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities* be provided. It is further noted that varying financial capacity/disparity among Conservation Authorities impacts the programs and services that are available on a province-wide basis. Frameworks for improvement need to allow flexibility to reflect local watershed needs and reflect best practices on a continual basis.

Addressing the Provincial Funding Gap

The lack of a renewed/updated funding commitment from the Province continues to be disappointing. There have been no increases (neither inflationary nor program improvements) to the provincially funded portion of the natural hazards program since the mid-1990s despite increased risks presented by climate change. As well, there is a lack of support for examining the broader benefits and cost savings obtained by the Province from program delivery through an integrated watershed management approach. It makes sense to invest in Conservation Authority programs and services which protect water, build ecosystem resilience, provide green space, and, prevent costly expenditures for flood damages, business disruptions and healthcare. We support development of a sustainable multi-ministry funding formula to achieve provincial priorities and to meet Ontario's current and emerging environmental imperatives (e.g. climate change, Great Lakes water protection). In the examination of broader benefits/provincial interest, it is noted that, if new responsibilities devolve to CAs; new funding needs to accompany these new duties. We also urge the Province to re-engage the federal government which also has expectations for local watershed management. Finally, in development of a sustainable funding formula, to address in part some issues of capacity, the Province should consider some resource equalization grants for CAs, taking into account local ability to pay.

Again, we are committed to working together, as provincial organizations and through our members at the watershed level to ensure the sustainable and resilient ecological and socio-economic well-being of Ontario. We ask that the Province partner with us. To be successful, we need your leadership and action on the above two priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RH' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Dick Hibma, Chair,
Conservation Ontario

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L Dollin'.

Lynn Dollin, President,
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McCabe'.

Don McCabe, President,
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theresa McClenaghan'.

Theresa McClenaghan, Executive Director,
Canadian Environmental Law Association

c.c. Gillian McEachern, Premier's Office
Dr. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
Gilles Bisson, Critic, MNRF
Todd Smith, Critic MNRF
CAOs, All Conservation Authorities

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tel: 416-314-2301
Fax: 416-314-2216

**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts**

Bureau de la ministre

Édifice Whitney, bureau 6630
99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416-314-2301
Téléc.: 416-314-2216



MNR6446MC-2016-840

Ms. Kim Gavine
General Manager
Conservation Ontario
kgavine@conservationontario.ca

Dear Ms. Gavine:

Yesterday, the *Invasive Species Act* came into effect in Ontario and along with it a regulation that prohibits and restricts certain species. This act and regulation will help Ontario protect native species and ecosystems and safeguard natural resource-based activities like forestry and fishing.

Since the *Invasive Species Act* was passed by the Legislature last fall, my ministry has used a science-based process for assessing the risk of the invasive species included in this regulation. The regulation prohibits the 16 species identified on the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Least Wanted aquatic invasive species list. The regulations also restricts three additional widely established invasive species, including phragmites, to support their management and control.

While some of the regulated species have not yet been found in Ontario, most are present in the waters of neighbouring states, or have been identified as having a high risk of introduction into the Great Lakes Basin. This preventative approach meets our commitment to keep the least wanted species out of the Great Lakes, while also allowing the province to continue to work with local partners on the management and eradication of established species. Preventing and controlling invasive species that threaten the natural environment is a core part of my ministry's mandate.

The passage of this act and regulation represents a significant milestone with respect to invasive species management in Ontario. Invasive species are, and will continue to pose, a significant risk to our natural environment and economy. Therefore, my ministry will continue to work with our existing partners and also seek out opportunities to develop new partnerships to address this challenge.

I would like to thank all who have supported our efforts and provided their insight during the development of the act and regulation. We should all reflect with pride on this accomplishment and on its long-term significance to our province.

Best,

Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry