

April 16, 2019

NOTICE OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019
TIME: 10:00 A.M – 12:00 P.M
LOCATION: WATERSHED CONSERVATION CENTRE
BOARDROOM

****There will be a brief Source Protection Authority meeting at 9:30am preceding the Board of Directors meeting****

AGENDA:	TIME
1. Approval of Agenda	10:00am
2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Thursday March 26, 2019	
4. Business Arising from the Minutes	
(a) Response to March 12, 2019 St. Marys Letter (Letter attached)(5 minutes)	
(b) Correspondence from Perth East and Perth South (Letter attached)(5 minutes)	
(c) Deferred Item: Motion to Rescind AGM Budget Vote (I.Wilcox)(Doc: #121400) (Report attached)(20 minutes)	
i) Legal Report – Closed Session (G.Inglis)	
ii) Discussion	
(d) Board Member Representation (T.Annett)(Doc: ENVP #7576) (Report attached)(10 minutes)	
5. Business for Approval	10:40am

- (a) Meeting Provincial Priorities for Reducing Regulatory Burden
(T.Annett)(Doc: ENVP #7601)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
 - (b) Finance & Audit Committee – Open Position
(I.Wilcox/M.Viglianti)(Doc: Admin #3285)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
6. Closed Session – In Camera
7. Business for Information 10:50am
- (a) Environmental Registry Postings, Provincial Transfer Payment Reduction (50%)
(I.Wilcox)(Doc: #121412)
(Report attached)(15 minutes)
 - (b) Administration and Enforcement - Section 28
(T. Annett) (Doc: ENVP #7597)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
 - (c) Board Orientation: Revenue Sources Review
(T.Hollingsworth/C.Tasker)(Doc: #1522)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
 - (d) Update on Water and Erosion Control Structure Funding
(C.Tasker)(Doc: FC #1525)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
 - (e) First Quarter Finance Update
(C.Saracino)(Doc: FIN #915)
(Report attached)(10 minutes)
 - (f) Board Orientation: UTRCA Reserves
(C.Saracino)(Doc: FC #913)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
 - (g) Environmental Planning & Regulations Presentation
(T.Annett)(20 minutes)
8. April For Your Information 11:55am

9. Other Business (Including Chair and General Manager's Comments)

10. Adjournment

12:00pm

Ian Wilcox, General Manager

c.c. Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

T.Annett	J.Howley	S.Musclow	J.Skrypnyk	B.Verscheure
B.Glasman	G.Inglis	C.Ramsey	M.Snowsell	M.Viglianti
C.Harrington	D.Charles	C.Saracino	P.Switzer	I.Wilcox
T.Hollingsworth	B.Mackie	A.Shivas	C.Tasker	K.Winfield

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019

Members Present:	M.Blosh	P.Mitchell
	A.Dale	A.Murray
	D.Edmiston	B.Petrie
	A.Hopkins	J.Reffle
	T.Jackson	J.Salter
	S.Levin	M.Schadenberg
	H.McDermid	A.Westman

Regrets: N.Manning

Solicitor: G.Inglis

Staff:	T.Annett	C.Tasker
	C.Harrington	J.Howley
	T.Hollingsworth	C.Saracino
	A.Shivas	

1. Approval of Agenda

S.Levin opened the meeting by acknowledging the passing of long time Board member, past Chair and past Vice-Chair Peter Huitema, and the passing of former staff member Ken Sherman, first Superintendent of Pittock.

B.Petrie moved – seconded by M.Blosh :-

“RESOLVED that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the agenda as posted.”

CARRIED.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair inquired whether the members had any conflicts of interest to declare relating to the agenda. There were none.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
March 26, 2019

B.Petrie moved – seconded by D.Edmiston:-

“RESOLVED that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors’ minutes dated March 26, 2019 as posted on the Members’ web-site.”

CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- (a) Responses to March 12, 2019 St. Marys Letter
(Letter attached)

I.Wilcox clarified that the letter was not circulated to the media as originally intended. I.Wilcox and S.Levin plan to attend a St. Marys council meeting as a delegation.

B.Petrie moved – seconded by A.Hopkins:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the letter.”

CARRIED.

- (b) Correspondence from Perth East and Perth South
(Letters attached)

S.Levin acknowledged that no further action is required upon receipt of the two letters by the Board.

B.Petrie moved – seconded by J.Salter:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the letters.”

CARRIED.

- (c) Deferred Item: Motion to Rescind AGM Budget Vote
(Report attached)

- i) Legal Report – Closed Session

M.Blosh moved – seconded by A.Murray:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors adjourn to Closed Session – In Camera.”

CARRIED.

Progress Reported

The Board discussed a legal matter.

ii) Discussion

B.Petrie moved – seconded by A.Hopkins:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

The Board re-addressed the deferred motion from March 26th 2019. It was clarified by T.Jackson that the intention of the motion was to rescind and expunge the budget motion for the operating budget only, not the capital budget. H.McDermid agreed with the clarification.

T.Jackson moved – seconded by H.McDermid:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors amend the motion deferred from March 26, 2019 to specify the intent to rescind and expunge only the operating budget .

CARRIED.

T.Jackson moved – seconded by H.McDermid:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors rescind and expunge the second operating budget motion.

DEFEATED.

(d) Board Member Representation (Report attached)

The Board discussed the staff report. Staff and G.Inglis clarified that should the decision be made to change the size of the Board, the Order in Council would need to be changed and ultimately need Minister’s approval.

Staff will work with T.Jackson and S.Levin to write a letter to St. Marys addressing the comments and questions on member representation from their March 12th letter to the UTRCA. If a formal request for Board expansion is made by St. Marys, this matter will be brought back to the Board.

P.Mitchell moved – seconded by B.Petrie:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented and direct staff to arrange a meeting with the Town of St. Marys.”

CARRIED.

5. Business for Approval

(a) Meeting Provincial Priorities for Reducing Regulatory Burden
(Report attached)

S.Levin presented a revised version of the recommendation presented in the report. The revised recommendation read:

“THEREFORE THE Board of Directors endorse the three key solutions developed by the Conservation Ontario working group as long as it is not at the expense of public safety or the environment: to improve client service and accountability; increase speed of approvals; and reduce ‘red tape’ and regulatory burden; and further, THAT Administration be directed to continue to work with Conservation Ontario and our clients to identify additional improvements; and further, THAT Administration be directed to implement these solutions as soon as possible; and further THAT Administration share this report and resolution to local Municipal Councils and Members of Provincial Parliament.”

The Board raised concerns around the section directing administration to implement the solutions as soon as possible. There was discomfort with wanting to implement solutions without knowing the cost and without proper discussion at the Board level.

B.Petrie moved – seconded by J.Salter:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approve the following recommendation:

THEREFORE THE Board of Directors endorse the three key solutions developed by the Conservation Ontario working group as long as it is not at the expense of public safety or the environment: to improve client service and accountability; increase speed of approvals; and reduce ‘red tape’ and regulatory burden; and further, THAT Administration be directed to continue to work with Conservation Ontario and our clients to identify additional improvements; and further, THAT Administration be directed to implement these solutions as soon as possible; and further THAT Administration share this report and resolution to local Municipal Councils and

Members of Provincial Parliament.”

Friendly Amendment:

T.Jackson moved – seconded by A.Hopkins:-

“RESOLVED that the recommendation be amended to read: THEREFORE THE Board of Directors endorse the three key solutions developed by the Conservation Ontario working group as long as it is not at the expense of public safety or the environment: to improve client service and accountability; increase speed of approvals; and reduce ‘red tape’ and regulatory burden; and further, THAT Administration be directed to continue to work with Conservation Ontario and our clients to identify additional improvements; and further, THAT Administration share this report and resolution to local Municipal Councils and Members of Provincial Parliament.”

CARRIED.

- (b) Finance & Audit Committee – Open Position
(Report attached)

S.Levin called for nominations for the open position on the Finance & Audit Committee. B.Petrie nominated A.Dale for the 2019 Finance & Audit Committee. S.Levin called for nominations two more times. With no further nominations, nominations were closed and A.Dale declared the fifth member of the 2019 Finance & Audit Committee.

A.Dale clarified that, as the Vice-Chair, he sought a nomination to sit on the Finance & Audit Committee to better understand the financial position of the UTRCA. According to the Terms of Reference of the Finance & Audit Committee, the Vice-Chair does not automatically sit on the Finance & Audit Committee and would therefore not attend ‘all’ meetings of the Authority, as stated in the description of duties of the Vice-Chair in the By-Laws. To prevent future confusion, the Board asked staff to review the wording in the description of the duties of the Vice-Chair. This change will be brought back to the Board in next review of the by-laws.

6. Closed Session – In Camera

There were no items for discussion in camera.

7. Business for Information

- (a) Environmental Registry Postings, Provincial Transfer Payment Reduction (50%)
(Report attached)

I.Wilcox reviewed his report. Staff will present a strategy at the May Board meeting on how the UTRCA will deal with the cut to the transfer payment and propose how to adapt to the changes proposed in the Environmental Registry Posting.

The administration of the WECI program is moving forward for 2019 but no information from the Province on the fate of the program or the amount of money available has been announced. The same situation is happening with the Source Water Protection program. There is a lot of uncertainty at the moment, but as more information comes in, staff will pass it along to the Board members.

A.Hopkins moved – seconded by P.Mitchell:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

- (b) Administration and Enforcement – Section 28
(Report attached)

Questions were raised regarding two permits issued for minor issues. Staff explained that in both situations, land ownership changed so a permit was required. This was an example of one area being reviewed in the streamlining exercise.

A.Westman moved – seconded by J.Salter:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

- (c) Board Orientation: Revenue Sources Review
(Report attached)

T.Hollingsworth presented the report.

A.Murray moved – seconded by J.Salter:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

- (d) Update on Water and Erosion Control Structure
(Report attached)

C.Tasker presented the report and explained that although the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program is not guaranteed funding, a considerable amount of effort is put into the proposals and reporting. The administration of the program is currently moving forward for 2019 but no information from the Province on the fate of the program funding has been announced. Despite the uncertainty of the program funding, the repairs need to happen, and without Provincial funding, the funding responsibility falls solely to the Municipalities who benefit from the structure.

T.Jackson moved – seconded by B.Petrie:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

- (e) First Quarter Finance Update
(Report attached)

A.Westman left the meeting at 11:50am.

C.Saracino presented the first quarter financial report and reported that internally there have been no surprises to date.

T.Jackson moved – seconded by H.McDermid:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

- (f) Board Orientation: UTRCA Reserves
(Report attached)

C.Saracino presented her report and emphasized that everyone views and interprets the word ‘reserve’ differently. She noted that 2018’s deficit was unusual and was due to the large land transaction between the UTRCA and the City of London. It was suggested that staff include a yearly reserve report when the Finance & Audit Committee presents the Audited Financial Statements to the Board. There was a suggestion to use the term ‘deferred expenditures’ in place of ‘reserves’ for clarity.

T.Jackson moved – seconded by J.Reffle:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

A.Hopkins left the meeting at 12:10pm

(g) Environmental Planning & Regulations Presentation

This was presentation was deferred to a future meeting.

8. April FYI
(FYI attached)

The April FYI was presented for the Member's information.

9. Other Business

Staff will look into a suggestion from the Board to create a partnership with Ontario Hydro to naturalize areas under hydro lines that are currently mowed.

I.Wilcox announced staff are in the early stages of planning a Partner's Tour, more information to come at a later date.

I.Wilcox passed on the news that the 50 Million Trees Initiative has been cancelled by the Ontario Government.

Board members were reminded that Fanshawe, Wildwood, and Pittock Conservation Areas open May 1st. Other upcoming events included Earth Day, the Thames River Clean up and the Children's Water Festival.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm on a motion B.Petrie.



Ian Wilcox
General Manager
Att.



"Inspiring a Healthy Environment"

April 5, 2019

Mayor Al Strathdee
 Town of St. Marys
 P.O. Box 998
 St. Marys, Ontario
 N4X 1B6

Dear Mayor Strathdee,

This letter is being provided to you and Council in response to your March 12, 2019 correspondence. In support of this letter, I am requesting an opportunity to attend Council as a delegation to speak to this response, and answer any other questions Council may have. I am also open to further conversations outside the formal confines and time restrictions of Council and Board agendas and believe these efforts would prove more productive.

Your letter offers various criticisms of the UTRCA's budget process and questions our accountability and the fairness of our budget system. You have also requested a change in your representation on our Board of Directors. I will speak to each of these issues in turn but before doing so I would like to provide context for Council and others who have been circulated your letter.

1. Council has been aware of the UTRCA's Strategic Planning efforts since they were approved in 2016, including our four year projection of municipal funding requests (2017-2020). Our strategic plan is available on our web site at <http://thamesriver.on.ca> and click on **UTRCA Environmental Targets** at the bottom of the page.
2. St. Marys' 2019 overall levy funding request is a reduction of 3.9% (\$7,744) as compared to 2018, primarily due to the completion of capital works. The St. Marys Floodwall repairs have been a capital project with expenses spanning 2017-2019. The total project budget is \$790,000 for which the Town, as the only benefiting municipality, is 100% responsible for funding. Through the initiative and additional efforts of UTRCA staff, outside funding sources were identified and pursued to assist the Town in offsetting its costs. The UTRCA was successful in reducing the Town's costs by \$585,000, a 74% reduction. Budgets and financial statements do not clearly demonstrate this "cost avoidance" but we believe it is an example of the benefit of working with the UTRCA to manage the Town's flood control infrastructure to maximize the protection of residents and property.
3. Your Board representative has served your interests well and your concerns were clearly shared with the Board. Your support for the delegation from Perth South at our annual meeting was also clear. However, it would be our interest in the future to engage you or a delegation directly well before the Annual General Meeting to ensure there is adequate time for the Board to consider and question those concerns. The UTRCA is looking at modifying its budget process to encourage earlier engagement.

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In response to the comments of your March 12 letter and your request to reconsider the budget including a reduction of \$288,000 (St. Marys share being \$4,348):

1. **Budget Reduction:** The budget debate did consider a reduction of \$288,000. Due process was followed, and the decision of the Board was not to support the reduction. While I understand the outcome was not supported by St. Marys specifically, the majority of members did support the budget including the \$288,000 and, as such, it was approved.
2. **Due Process:** Your letter includes the accusation that due process was not followed. You claim Board members were not adequately informed of the UTRCA's financial situation. You specifically mention an absence of information by claiming members "*could not have made an informed decision about the municipal levy increase...*" You also admit you relied only on meeting minutes as the basis of your accusation.

Consider the following:

- Half of the board are returning members and were involved in every stage of the budget's development.
- New members received the budget as soon as appointed, met individually with staff for an orientation session including an introduction to the budget, were encouraged to review the budget in detail, speak with outgoing board members, and call staff with questions.
- A January board orientation session included budget review.
- All information regarding reserves and land holdings is available, as is all other financial information.
- The judgement that members were uninformed is unfair, incorrect, and dismissive of the professionalism of individual members of the Board of Directors.

3. **Accountability:**

Your letter characterizes our Strategic Plan's implementation as "overly aggressive growth." The Environmental Targets Strategic Plan was approved in 2016 and is designed to accelerate conservation efforts in the watershed to improve the health and resilience of our natural environment, including water quality and forest cover. These efforts are not only consistent with the UTRCA's core mandate, they are supportive of most municipal official plans as well as Provincial Policy Statements. In addition:

- Municipal funding supports only 28% of the Plan's costs (St. Marys share is less than 0.5% of total costs). The remaining 72% of costs will be funded from other revenue, an example of our on-going efforts to leverage funding to provide better service without the associated cost.
- The Board of Directors has been very clear in its requirement for progress metrics in terms of both program inputs and the plan's outcomes. An analysis of metrics drove the initial development of the Strategic Plan and will be instrumental in guiding its implementation. Annual progress reports are provided to the Board of Directors and are publicly available.

4. **Fairness**

In your letter you claim "*The municipal levy system is overly complex and grossly unfair.*" In response:

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- The Conservation Authority levy apportionment system is not complicated. It utilizes property assessment data, similar to the apportionment of municipal taxation, but it is far simpler with fewer "ratepayers."
- The levy apportionment system is a provincial requirement.
- The use of Modified Current Value Assessment (CVA) is a means of allocating levy based on a standardized measure of ability to pay. It is proportional, equitable and in all but exceptional cases, fair. Smaller municipalities do not bear a higher proportion of the levy burden.
- As per the Conservation Authorities Act, a budget vote requires a weighted voting method proportional to the CVA. The Act was revised by the last provincial government shortly before the end of its term. The weighted voting method was not changed.

5. Board Representation:

Your letter includes a request for a dedicated board representative rather than the current position shared with the Municipalities of Perth South and South Huron. The request requires a review of past Board minutes and provincial consultation in terms of process and approval authority. The UTRCA is investigating this further and we will provide a response under separate cover. While your request is reasonable, a few early thoughts are worth sharing:

- The UTRCA's current Board composition is in accordance with provincial legislation.
- A new dedicated member for St. Marys would not change the weighted budget vote outcome. The weighted vote is conducted as though each municipality has its own dedicated member.
- Other shared municipalities (Perth South, South Huron, Lucan-Biddulph, Thames Centre, Blandford-Blenheim, East Zorra- Tavistock, Norwich, Southwest Oxford) would need to be offered the same dedicated positions.
- London and Woodstock would need to be offered an additional position each as both voluntarily reduced their membership by one member in 1992 to maintain an appropriate rural/ urban balance on the board.
- Board costs (levy) would increase by a minimum of \$6K (per diem, travel) resulting from additional members.
- With a greater number of board members, the influence of any one member/ municipality on all non-budget issues would decrease.

In summary, the UTRCA works hard and takes pride in providing quality services that protect life and property, and that enhance the quality and resiliency of our local natural environment, all at a fraction of the cost that each municipality would face on their own. Our Environmental Targets Strategic Plan does require new investment but its benefits include:

1. Visible improvements in water quality (a repeated request of the Town and its residents in relation to Trout Creek),
2. Net growth in naturalized green spaces which attracts residents and businesses,
3. Expanded outdoor recreation opportunities which combines economic development with conservation messaging,
4. Streamlined development approvals through improved flood elevation data, regulation limits, and greater certainty in decision making and,
5. Cost sharing among 17 municipalities and other revenue sources that limits St. Marys share of this new investment to less than 0.5% of the plan's total cost (~\$18,000 of \$4.03M). Despite these



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additional costs, it has been the board's position that benefits in terms of environmental improvements and the enhanced protection of life and property far exceed costs.

I appreciate the time you've taken to share your municipality's concerns with the UTRCA and I am open to further discussions to ensure your views are considered as early as possible in our 2020 budget development process. Please contact me at any time to discuss the above or other issues.

Sincerely Yours
UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Levin". The signature is cursive and fluid.

Sandy Levin
Chair

Cc –
UTRCA Board of Directors
St. Marys Town Council
Mayor Robert Wilhelm and Perth South Municipal Council
Mayor Rhonda Ehgotz and Perth East Municipal Council
Mayor Ed Holder
Mayor Dan Mathieson
Randy Pettapiece, MPP
John Nater, MP
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario



Office of the Mayor
Al Strathdee
astrathdee@town.stmarys.on.ca
(519) 284-2340 Ext. 246

March 12, 2019

Mr. Sandy Levin, Chair, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
1424 Clarke Rd. London, Ont., N5V 5B9

Dear Mr. Levin,

At the February 21st inaugural meeting of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors, director Tony Jackson made a motion to remove the \$288,000 increase in municipal levy. This motion was defeated without adequate consideration. I am writing to you to formally request that the UTRCA board of director's reconsider Mr. Jackson's motion. There are a number of issues that I feel the Board should consider:

- 1) **Due Process.** Passing the budget at the inaugural meeting of the 2019 UTRCA Board did not allow for due process. Many board members, especially those attending their first meeting, were not adequately informed of the UTRCA financial situation. There was no detailed examination of assets and reserves. From the minutes of previous board minutes, we know this includes millions of dollars in reserves and land holdings that were not discussed at the meeting.

Both new and incumbent members of the board could not have made an informed decision about the municipal levy increase without being given detailed financial information and time to consider its impact on member municipalities. Therefore, I ask the board to reconsider the increase in municipal levy whilst taking an appropriate amount of time to look at UTRCA's comprehensive financial situation.

- 2) **Accountability.** My concerns remain centred around the overly aggressive growth of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority relative to its peers. We are concerned with our ability to pay the continuous increases which are above average. UTRCA's reliance on precarious Provincial and Federal grants is also of concern. The new environmental targets and strategic plan fails to re-evaluate core services and lacks sufficient metrics of accountability. These shortcomings leave municipalities vulnerable to recurrent increases in levies without sufficient checks and balances.
- 3) **Fairness.** The discussion at the February 21st UTRCA annual general meeting regarding municipal levies was disheartening. The municipal levy system is overly complex and grossly unfair. Municipal levies are not collected on a per capita basis. This leaves smaller municipalities bearing the burden of disproportionately high fees. I would encourage the UTRCA on behalf of its rural member municipalities to work with the Province of Ontario to find a workable solution to this obvious inequity.

The weighted voting system is problematic for smaller municipalities. The representatives of the City of London and one other Board member have the ability to control all of the financial decisions. Smaller member municipalities are not adequately represented.

TOWN OF ST. MARYS
P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON. N4X 1B6



Quoting from the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.27:

PART II

Establishment of conservation Authorities, Representatives at meeting

2 (2) The council of each municipality may appoint representatives to attend the meeting in the following numbers:

5. **Where the population is less than 10,000, one representative.** R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, s. 2 (2); 2001, c. 9, Sched. K, s. 1 (1).

Adhering to this legislation, the Town of St. Marys, with a population of 7,265, would be entitled to one representative; the Township of Perth South, with a population of 3,810, would be entitled to one representative; and, the Municipality of South Huron, with a population of 10,096, would be entitled to two representatives. According to the legislation, this would allocate a total of four board members in our region, where there is currently only one board member.

As a separated municipality and in accordance with Provincial legislation, St. Marys should be granted a director on the UTRCA Board. I urge you to re-examine the appropriate legislation and consider this request.

Quoting from the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.27:

Changes in number of members

14 (2) The total number of members of the authority and the number of members that each participating municipality may appoint shall be adjusted as required to ensure compliance with subsection (1) if the municipalities that are participating municipalities change or the population of a participating municipality changes. 2001, c. 9, Sched. K, s. 1 (6).

As the population of St. Marys has grown considerably in recent years, we feel that is necessary for the board to reconsider the allocation of board members. During the meeting of February 21st, a member of the board stated that "people love to dump on Conservation Authorities". This speaks to the frustration and tension that is currently being felt by rural communities who feel their needs are not being represented at the board level. I believe it is important that this be addressed and the allocation of board members be revisited.

Thank you for considering my request. I urge you to re-consider your decision and review the legislation surrounding the appointment of directors. I look forward to your written response addressing my concerns.

Best Regards,


Al Strathdee

Mayor

Town of St. Marys

cc. UTRCA Directors, Ian Wilcox, Mayor Robert Wilhelm, Mayor Rhonda Ehgotz, Randy Pettapiece MPP, John Nater MP, Mayor Ed Holder, Mayor Dan Mathieson, Doug Ford Premier of Ontario

TOWN OF ST. MARYS
P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON. N4X 1B6

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Township of Perth East

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Office of the Mayor
Rhonda Ehgoetz
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519-393-6888

March 26, 2019

Mr. Sandy Levin, Chair,
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
1424 Clarke Road,
London, ON
N5V 5B9

Dear Mr. Levin,

At the regular meeting held on March 19, 2019, the Council of the Township of Perth East received correspondence from the Town of St. Marys expressing concerns pertaining to the 2019 UTRCA Budget. Council of the Township of Perth East are in support of the correspondence from the Town of St. Marys (as attached) and endorsed the following resolution;

THAT the Council of the Township of Perth East receive the correspondence from the Town of St. Marys, dated March 12, 2019 expressing concerns pertaining to the 2019 UTRCA Budget for information;
AND Council provide support regarding the St. Marys correspondence;
AND THAT Council endorse the following points;

1) Due Process

Passing the budget at the inaugural meeting of the 2019 UTRCA Board did not allow for due process. Many board members, especially those attending their first meeting, were not adequately informed of the UTRCA financial situation. There was no detail examination of assets and reserves. From the minutes of previous board minutes, we know this includes millions of dollars in reserves and land holdings that were not discussed at the meeting.

2) Accountability

Overly aggressive growth of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority relative to its peers.

We are concerned with ability to pay the continuous increase which are above average. UTRCA's reliance on precarious Provincial and Federal grants is also of concern. The new environmental targets and strategic plan fails to reevaluate core services and lacks sufficient metrics of accountability. These shortcomings leave municipalities vulnerable to recurrent increase in levies without sufficient checks and balances.

- 3) Fairness
The municipal levy system is overly complex and grossly unfair. Municipal levies are not collected on a per capita basis. This leaves smaller municipalities bearing the burden of disproportionately high fees. I would encourage the UTRCA on behalf of its rural member municipalities to work with the Province of Ontario to find a workable solution to the obvious inequity.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Rhonda Ehgoetz
Mayor
Township of Perth East

cc. UTRCA Directors
Ian Wilcox, UTRCA, **General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer**
Mayor Robert Wilhelm, Township of Perth South
Mayor Todd Kasenberg, Municipality of North Perth
Mayor Dan Mathieson, City of Stratford
Mayor, Al Strathdee, Town of St. Marys
Randy Pettapiece, MPP Perth Wellington
John Nater, MP Perth Wellington
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario



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March 12, 2019

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1424 Clarke Rd. London, Ont., N5V 5B9

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- 1) **Due Process.** Passing the budget at the inaugural meeting of the 2019 UTRCA Board did not allow for due process. Many board members, especially those attending their first meeting, were not adequately informed of the UTRCA financial situation. There was no detailed examination of assets and reserves. From the minutes of previous board minutes, we know this includes millions of dollars in reserves and land holdings that were not discussed at the meeting.

Both new and incumbent members of the board could not have made an informed decision about the municipal levy increase without being given detailed financial information and time to consider its impact on member municipalities. Therefore, I ask the board to reconsider the increase in municipal levy whilst taking an appropriate amount of time to look at UTRCA's comprehensive financial situation.

- 2) **Accountability.** My concerns remain centred around the overly aggressive growth of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority relative to its peers. We are concerned with our ability to pay the continuous increases which are above average. UTRCA's reliance on precarious Provincial and Federal grants is also of concern. The new environmental targets and strategic plan fails to re-evaluate core services and lacks sufficient metrics of accountability. These shortcomings leave municipalities vulnerable to recurrent increases in levies without sufficient checks and balances.
- 3) **Fairness.** The discussion at the February 21st UTRCA annual general meeting regarding municipal levies was disheartening. The municipal levy system is overly complex and grossly unfair. Municipal levies are not collected on a per capita basis. This leaves smaller municipalities bearing the burden of disproportionately high fees. I would encourage the UTRCA on behalf of its rural member municipalities to work with the Province of Ontario to find a workable solution to this obvious inequity.

The weighted voting system is problematic for smaller municipalities. The representatives of the City of London and one other Board member have the ability to control all of the financial decisions. Smaller member municipalities are not adequately represented.

TOWN OF ST. MARYS
P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON. N4X 1B6



Quoting from the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.27:

PART II

Establishment of conservation Authorities, Representatives at meeting

2 (2) The council of each municipality may appoint representatives to attend the meeting in the following numbers:

5. **Where the population is less than 10,000, one representative.** R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, s. 2 (2); 2001, c. 9, Sched. K, s. 1 (1).

Adhering to this legislation, the Town of St. Marys, with a population of 7,265, would be entitled to one representative; the Township of Perth South, with a population of 3,810, would be entitled to one representative; and, the Municipality of South Huron, with a population of 10,096, would be entitled to two representatives. According to the legislation, this would allocate a total of four board members in our region, where there is currently only one board member.

As a separated municipality and in accordance with Provincial legislation, St. Marys should be granted a director on the UTRCA Board. I urge you to re-examine the appropriate legislation and consider this request.

Quoting from the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.27:

Changes in number of members

14 (2) The total number of members of the authority and the number of members that each participating municipality may appoint shall be adjusted as required to ensure compliance with subsection (1) if the municipalities that are participating municipalities change or the population of a participating municipality changes. 2001, c. 9, Sched. K, s. 1 (6).

As the population of St. Marys has grown considerably in recent years, we feel that is necessary for the board to reconsider the allocation of board members. During the meeting of February 21st, a member of the board stated that "people love to dump on Conservation Authorities". This speaks to the frustration and tension that is currently being felt by rural communities who feel their needs are not being represented at the board level. I believe it is important that this be addressed and the allocation of board members be revisited.

Thank you for considering my request. I urge you to re-consider your decision and review the legislation surrounding the appointment of directors. I look forward to your written response addressing my concerns.

Best Regards,

Al Strathdee

Mayor

Town of St. Marys

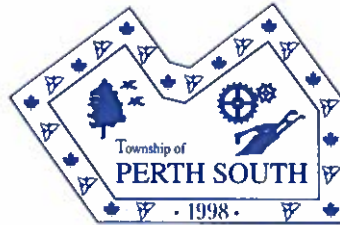
cc. UTRCA Directors, Ian Wilcox, Mayor Robert Wilhelm, Mayor Rhonda Ehgotz, Randy Pettapiece MPP, John Nater MP, Mayor Ed Holder, Mayor Dan Mathieson, Doug Ford Premier of Ontario

TOWN OF ST. MARYS
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APR 12 2019

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CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PERTH SOUTH

April 9, 2019

Sandy Levin, Chair
Board of Directors
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
1424 Clarke Road
London, Ontario
N5V 5B9

Dear Sandy Levin:

As you are aware, I attended the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) Board meeting on March 26, 2019 and I cannot express enough how frustrated I was when I heard Ian Wilcox present a report that provided inaccurate information to the Board.

1. Perth South has never stated that the UTRCA levy is 13% of the Perth South's budget. As of the Draft 4 version of the 2019 Operating & Capital Budget the total operating levy for Perth South totaled \$2,111,425. Perth South's portion of the UTRCA levy is \$53,577, which would make this payment equal to 2.54% of the operating levy.
2. Perth South's transfer payment for 2019 will not remain the same as it was in 2018. Perth South's Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) transfer payment was reduced by \$145,100. This reduction is equal to a 15% reduction and required a 4.5% levy increase to generate the taxation revenue to replace this loss in transfer payment.
3. A one-time unconditional grant transfer payment was received in March 2019 and represents an investment by the province in small and rural municipalities to improve service delivery and efficiency. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing said "This funding will help small and rural municipalities improve how they deliver services and reduce the ongoing costs of providing these services." These funds are not intended to reduce our 2019 levy and do not lessen the combined financial burden of OMPF cuts and expense increases in 2019, therefore our financial position remains unchanged.

During the Annual General Meeting on February 21, 2019 Perth South provided a professional presentation that outlined some of Perth South's financial issues. We requested that the UTRCA revisit their 2019 Budget to look at the increased spending and find ways to bring the increase more in line with the cost of living.

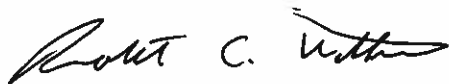
At no time did we “dump on the Conservation Authority” as stated by a member and at no time did we ever ask the Conservation Authority to “save Perth South” as stated by another member. We did ask the Board to be conservative in their spending. Perth South Council and staff have worked hard to reduce costs as we adjust to our new financial reality and ask that our partners in the delivery of services to our residents do the same.

Perth South is disappointed that this inaccurate information was presented to the Board and feels that it is imperative that the record be corrected.

In addition to these concerns, we are interested in obtaining a better understanding and exploring options related to the current representation and weighted voting on the UTRCA Board in the near future.

If you have any questions I would be happy to discuss it with you further.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Wilhelm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Wilhelm
Mayor, Township of Perth South

Cc: Tony Jackson, UTRCA Board Representative
Al Strathdee, Mayor, Town of St. Marys

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox, General Manager
Date: April 10, 2019
Subject: Deferred Item: Motion to Rescind
AGM Budget Vote

Agenda #: 4 (c)
Filename: ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
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Background

A motion to rescind the Weighted Budget Vote from the UTRCA's Annual General Meeting was tabled during the March 26, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. This motion was put forward citing what was described as an improper voting procedure related to an earlier budget motion and vote. Following Board discussion, the matter was formally deferred to the April 2019 Board meeting to allow the UTRCA's solicitor time to review the meeting's audio and to offer a written opinion regarding the validity of the budget vote in question.

1. Motions tabled at the March Board meeting state:

"that the Board of Directors rescind and expunge the second budget motion."

"that the Board of Directors defer any further decision until a legal opinion is obtained."

2. Staff have been advised a legal opinion will be provided by the Authority's solicitor during closed session at the April Board meeting.

Suggested Board Action

It is recommended the Board move to closed session to hear and discuss the opinion of legal counsel, and to then rise, debate the matter, and offer a final vote all in public session. If the motion to rescind is approved (a simple majority is sufficient) a new motion will be required to approve a UTRCA 2019 Budget. If the motion to rescind is defeated, no further action will be required and the existing budget approval will stand.

If you have questions regarding the deferral or the actions proposed here, please contact the Chair or Ian Wilcox (wilcoxi@thamesriver.on.ca).

Prepared by:

Ian Wilcox,
General Manager

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett
Date: April 15, 2019
Subject: Board Member Representation

Agenda #: 4(d)
Filename: C:\Users\annett\Documents\GroupWise\7576-1.doc

BACKGROUND

Recently, questions have arisen regarding the membership composition of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) Board of Directors. The following report is provided to the Board as a brief history of the changes in Board representation over time and outlines the current requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

HISTORY

The Order in Council, dated September 18, 1947 provides the following summary of the formation of the UTRCA. Consistent with Section 3 of the *Conservation Authorities Act, 1946*, petitions were received by the Honourable Minister of Public Works dated September 5, 1947 from the Municipalities of;

- Township of Fullarton
- County of Perth
- Town of Ingersoll
- County of Oxford

Requesting a meeting be called to consider the establishment of a Conservation Authority. In compliance with the petitions a meeting was called on Thursday August 14, 1947 in the Auditorium, St. Marys. The thirty (30) municipalities being, in whole or in part, within the watershed of the Upper Thames River were requested to send representatives to a meeting. All were advised of this meeting and requested to send representatives appointed by the Councils of their respective municipalities in the numbers provided under Section 3, Sub-section 2 of the Act. The meeting was held with twenty-seven (27) of the thirty (30) municipalities being represented by Thirty-one (31) delegates.

The meeting passed a resolution in favour of creating the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and requesting the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to establish the Authority, as provided under Section 4 of the Act. It is noted that the resolution was adopted by a vote of twenty-four (24) in favour and seven (7) against.

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) was the sixth Authority formed in Ontario, being created by Order in Council on September 18, 1947.

MEMBERSHIP

Since the formation, additional Orders in Council have been issued to reflect changes in membership in the designated participating municipalities. Table 1 summarizes these changes over time. In addition, the table identifies the restructuring of municipalities over the same time period.

The last change reflected by the Order in Council in 1993 was initiated in 1991. At that time, direction was provided from the Ministry of Natural Resources and requested that the Conservation Authorities of Ontario seriously consider membership reductions. Although the UTRCA had only reduced its' membership six (6) years prior from 40 to 31 municipal representatives (at the time two provincial representatives were also appointed to the Board), the authority was not exempt from further reductions. It was proposed that the number of members be reduced province wide from a total of 937 to 337 in order to increase member accountability by reducing the need for Executive Committees, enabling the Authorities to meet as a full authority and involving every member in the decision making process of the Authority.

Several different scenarios were developed to consider membership reductions. Consultation with Member Municipalities was sought throughout the process. Many benefits of reducing the board membership were provided including; greater involvement and knowledge, better communication between the authority and its member municipalities, and better participation by the membership in the authority's programs. The loss of rural representation appeared to be the major concern with the proposed reduction. It was felt that more consideration should be given to land area rather than just population. Figures 1, 2 and 3 display the municipal representation based on land area from 1947, 1993 and the current municipal boundaries.

An alternative proposal was put forward to address the concerns raised. At the time the City of London had five (5) representatives, however only two members sat on the Executive Committee. Similarly, City of Woodstock and Stratford each had two (2) representatives but only one from each was part of the Executive Committee. It was proposed that these municipalities each reduce their representation by one member to allow all representatives to meet monthly as part of a full authority, to provide for more involvement than what had existed. The revised proposal was to reduce its membership to eighteen (18) members; the ratio would be nine (9) rural to seven (7) urban representatives plus the two (2) Provincial Appointees.

Section 8 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* allowed the Lieutenant Governor in Council to group municipalities for the purpose of appointments and also prescribes mechanisms whereby appointments can be made. This Section of the Act remains today. The choice of the representatives within the group is in the hands of the municipalities.

Of interest, the meeting minutes of the UTRCA Executive Committee, Tuesday February 18, 1992 documented the following:

Mr. G. Teahen representing the Town of St. Marys stating that although the proposed reduction in numbers is a positive step for the Authority and sounds very workable, the Town must presently object to the proposal. The proposal indicates one representative for the Town of St. Marys, and Townships of Usbourne and Blanshard. It was felt that the Town of St. Marys is a separated Town with the County of Perth and does not take part in County Council business, it is not felt that the Town would have fair representation. Once the restructuring of Perth County is completed the Town would likely become part of the County and would have no objection to a joint representative as is currently outlined.

In April of 1992, the Greater London Area Arbitrator's report recommended municipal restructuring in the County of Middlesex. These changes had implications on the Authority's membership reductions. The proposal was amended to group these areas to ensure that further adjustments of municipal boundaries within the County of Middlesex would have no impact on representation to the Authority. In addition, the annexation of the Town of Westminster was concluded and scheduled to become effective January 1, 1993. This coincided with the implementation date of the restructured membership. The Ministry of Natural Resource and Legal Services Branch was of the opinion that the population change as a result of the annexation, the remaining Middlesex Group of municipalities would be entitled to two (2) representatives rather than the original three (3) as proposed. The Order-in-Council dated January 22, 1993, reflected the pending annexation by reducing the membership to fifteen (15) representatives.

The Order in Council documents the provisions for the authority Chair to meet with the heads of councils of the grouped municipalities to select the municipal representatives.

Table 1: Membership

ORIGINAL Member Municipality Order in Council OC-1699/47 September 18, 1947 <small>*Usbourne Township added by Order in Council, May 6, 1954 **Hibbert Township added by Order in Council OC, July 13, 1977</small>	Membership Reduction Order in Council OC 2849/85 December 5, 1985	Membership Reduction Order in Council OC 105/93 January 22, 1993	Municipal Restructuring 1993-2001	Current
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX				
City of London	4	5	4	4
North Dorchester	1	1	Jointly appoint 2 members	Thames Centre 2001
West Nissouri	1	Jointly appoint 3 members		
Biddulph	1			
London	2	Jointly appoint 2 members	Middlesex Centre 1998	1
Delaware	1			
Lobo	1			
Westminster	2	Amalgamated with the City of London January 1, 1993		
COUNTY OF OXFORD 1975 Oxford County Act				
City of Woodstock	2	2	1	1
Town of Ingersoll	1	1	1	1
Blandford Township	1	Blandford-Blenheim	Jointly appoint 1 member	1
Blenheim Township	1			
East Zorra	1			
Village of Tavistock	1	East Zorra-Tavistock	1	1
Village of Embro	1	3 Zorra		
Nissouri East	1			
North Oxford	1			
West Zorra	1			
Dereham	1	1	Jointly appoint 1 member	1
Oxford West	1	South-West Oxford		
Oxford East	1	1 Norwich		
COUNTY OF PERTH				
City of Stratford	2	2	1	1
Town of St. Marys	1	1	Jointly appoint 1 member	South Huron 2001
Usbourne *	1*	Jointly appoint 1 member		
OC-1245/54				
Blanshard	1	1	Jointly appoint 1 member	Perth East 1998
Downie	1			
North Easthope	1			
South Easthope	1	1	Jointly Appoint 1 member	West Perth 1998
Ellice	1			
Fullarton	1	Jointly to appoint 1 member		
Hibbert **	1**			
Logan	1	1	15	15
Town of Mitchell	1	1		
Total Members	40	31		

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Since 1993 the membership of the UTRCA's Board has remained unchanged in order to be consistent with the Order in Council (OC 105/93) dated January 22, 1993. Part IV of the Conservation Authorities Act Section 14 subsections 1 and 2 discuss the appointment of members based on population and recognize that changes in members shall be adjusted as required to ensure compliance. The Act also outlines that:

Agreement on number of members

(2.1) Despite subsections (1), (2) and (5), the total number of members of the authority and the number of members that each participating municipality may appoint may be determined by an agreement that is confirmed by resolutions passed by the councils of all of the participating municipalities. 2001, c. 9, Sched. K, s. 1 (6).

In order to re-examine the allocation of Board members, as requested by the Town of St. Marys, population growth needs to be considered for all municipalities in order for a fair agreement to be reached. To clarify, it is the population within the *watershed area* that needs to be considered (not the total population of the Municipality) as outlined in Section 5(4) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Table 2 attached outlines the populations of Municipalities and their groupings using 2016 census data.

If membership is re-examined the City of London, and City of Stratford would each be entitled to another member that they voluntarily reduced in 1993. For Oxford County, the Act specifies that Regional municipalities can *appoint the number of members to which the local municipalities would otherwise have been entitled as participating municipalities*. The City of Woodstock and Town of Ingersoll would be entitled two (2) representatives each and each municipality within the Region could seek representation. Currently Oxford County has five (5) representatives but could increase to nine (9). In addition, population growth within the municipalities of Thames Centre and Middlesex Centre would result in an additional member for each municipality.

The result could be an increase of up to ten (10) additional members to the Authority Board. Any increase in Board representation in the rural areas would be balanced by representatives within the urban centres. In addition, any agreement would need to be confirmed by resolutions passed by the councils of all participating municipalities.

CONCLUSION

The process followed in advance of the 1993 Order in Council considered both population and land area to achieve a fair representation of urban and rural Board members. At the time the intent of the reduction was an effort by the Ministry of Natural Resources to reduce the number of members throughout the Province. The benefits of a reducing the Board membership included: greater involvement of members, better communication between the authority and its member municipalities, and improved participation by the membership in the authority's programs.

The presentation made by the General Manager at the March Board meeting made the following points;

- Current Board make-up is in accordance with provincial legislation
- A new dedicated member for St. Marys would not change the weighted budget vote outcome in any way.
- Other shared municipalities would have to be offered the same dedicated positions.
- Board costs would increase by \$6K at a minimum (per diem, travel) resulting from additional members.
- Influence of any one member/ municipality on all other issues would decrease.

Currently, the *Conservation Authorities Act* is under review. The Province is also undertaking a Regional Government review that includes the County of Oxford. It is suggested that any recommendations to re-consider membership review await the outcomes of these initiatives.

PREPARED BY:

Tracy Annett, MCIP, RPP, Manager
Environmental Planning and Regulations

Table 2: Membership Population

ORIGINAL MUNICIPALITIES	Municipal Restructuring	Population 1991		Population 2016*		NOTES:
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX						
City of London	Town of Westminster added in 1993	281745 +3334 285079		383026	5	As a result of the London / Middlesex boundary negotiations and annexation 2 members would be entitled as a Group for the rural area of Middlesex.
North Dorchester	Thames Centre 2001	6121	10121	12498	2	
West Nissouri		3273		+ 892	1	
Biddulph	Lucan-Biddulph 1999	727		=13390		
London Delaware Lobo	Middlesex Centre 1998	4613	6167	11206	2	
		543				
		1011				
Westminster	1993 Amalgamation					
COUNTY OF OXFORD						
City of Woodstock		26275		40870	2	County of Oxford Act 1975 the County was entitled to appoint the same number of members prior to 1975. The County 1985 OC involved a voluntary reduction. Section 4(1)(b) states that Regional municipalities: can appoint the number of members to which the local municipalities would otherwise have been entitled as participating municipalities
Town of Ingersoll		8253		12757	2	
Blandford Township	Blandford-Blenheim	775		644	1	
East Zorra	East Zorra-Tavistock	6121		6876	1	
Village of Tavistock						
Village of Embro	Zorra	7984		8138	1	
Nissouri East						
North Oxford						
West Zorra						
Dereham	South-West Oxford	5002	6231	5151	1	
Oxford West				+915		
Oxford East				6066		
Norwich	Norwich	1229			1	
COUNTY OF PERTH						
City of Stratford		26078		31465	2	Prior to Perth restructuring the groups were: St. Marys Usbourne & Blanshard = 7019 Downie, Ellice and North & South Easthope = 7407
Town of St. Marys		4923	9372	7265	1	
Usbourne	South Huron 2001	286		223	11237	
Blanshard	Perth South 1998	1810	3749	4969		
Downie		2352				
North Easthope	Perth East 1998	1003	5055	4969	1	
South Easthope		1469				
Ellice		2583				
Fullarton	West Perth 1998	1558	6571	7464	1	
Hibbert		228				
Logan		1707				
Town of Mitchell		3078				

NOTE: Population 2016 (based on sum of all dissemination blocks by percentage in UTRCA watershed)

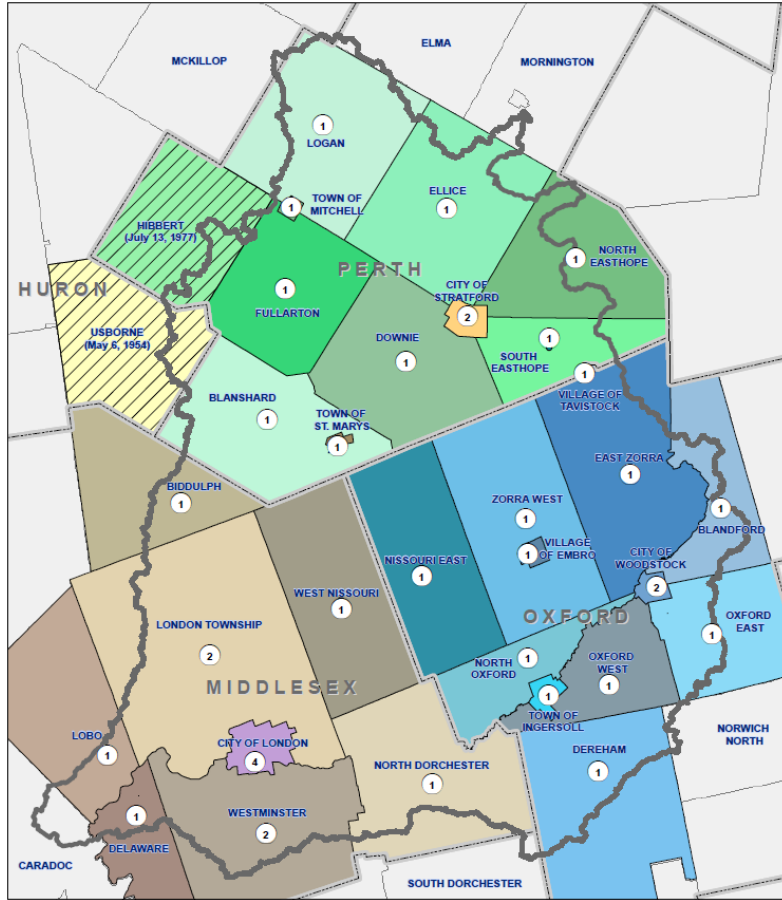
PART II, ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Representatives at meeting

Section 2(2) The council of each municipality may appoint representatives to attend the meeting in the following numbers:

- 1.2 Where the population is 250,000 or more but less than 500,000, five representatives.
2. Where the population is 100,000 or more but less than 250,000, four representatives.
3. Where the population is 50,000 or more but less than 100,000, three representatives.
4. Where the population is 10,000 or more but less than 50,000, two representatives.
5. Where the population is less than 10,000, one representative.

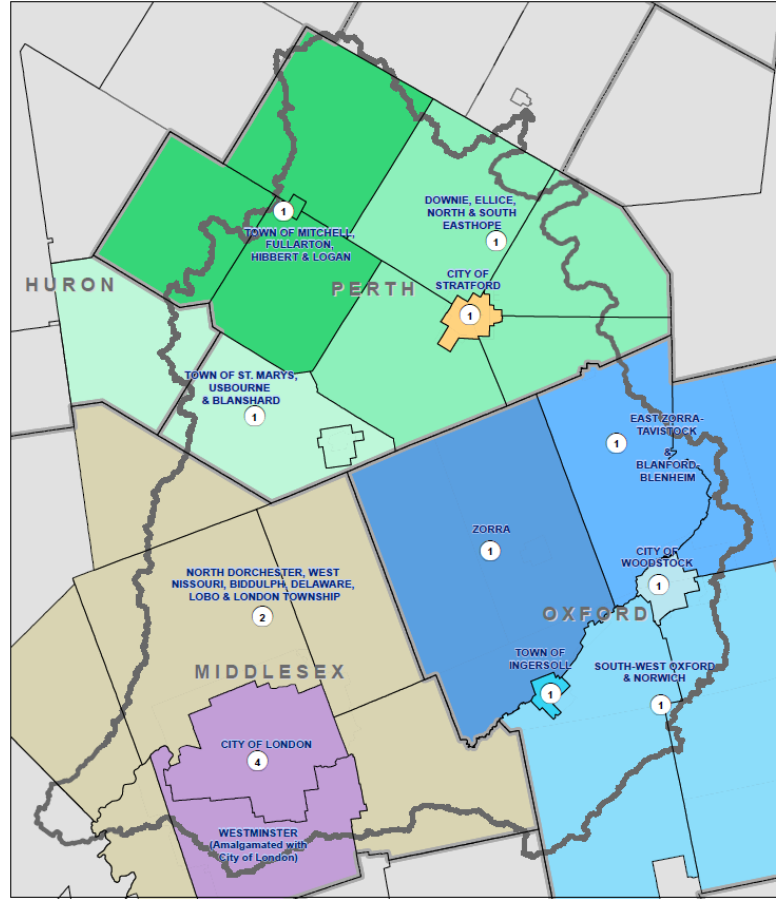
Figure 1; 1947 Representation



**ORIGINAL Member Municipality
Order in Council OC-1699/47
September 18, 1947**

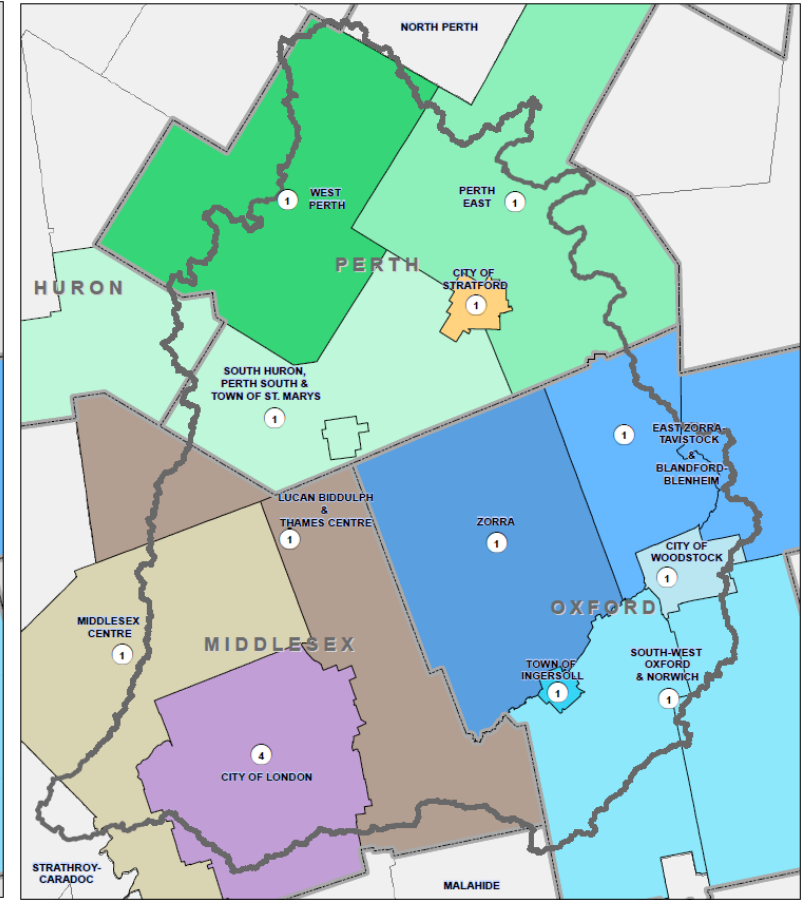
*Usborne Township added by Order in Council, May 6, 1954
**Hibbert Township added by Order in Council OC, July 13, 1977

Figure 2: 1993 Representation






**Membership Reduction Order in Council
OC 105/93
January 22, 1993**

Figure 3; Current Representation



**Current Membership
Includes Municipal Restructuring 1993-2001**

-  UTRCA Watershed
-  Municipal Boundary
-  County Boundary

MEMO

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett
Date: April 15, 2019 **Agenda #:** 5 (a)
Subject: Meeting Provincial Priorities for Reducing Regulatory Burden **Filename:** C:\Users\annett\Documents\GroupWise\7601-1.doc

RECOMMENDATION:

WHEREAS the provincial government intends to increase the supply of housing and streamline the land use planning and development approval process to achieve this goal; and
WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities play an important role in the planning and development review process with respect to watershed protection and hazard lands; and
WHEREAS Conservation Authorities support and can help deliver the Government’s objective not to jeopardize public health and safety or the environment;
THEREFORE THE Board of Directors endorse the three key solutions developed by the Conservation Ontario working group: to improve client service and accountability; increase speed of approvals; and reduce ‘red tape’ and regulatory burden; and further,
THAT Administration be directed to continue to work with Conservation Ontario and our clients to identify additional improvements; and further,
THAT Administration be directed to implement these solutions as soon as possible; and further
THAT Administration share this report and resolution to local Municipal Councils and Members of Provincial Parliament.

SUMMARY

- Ontario has introduced a number of proposals to support their commitment to reduce red tape and regulatory burden including the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan and the Housing Supply Action Plan. Conservation authorities are a cost-effective mechanism for the Province and municipalities for the delivery of objectives under these strategies, as well as the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and watershed planning objectives.
- For its part, Conservation Authorities recognize that we need to identify the outcomes that the province and our municipalities need and review and modify our processes to ensure the best solutions.
- Through a Conservation Ontario Working Group and an associated Technical Task Team are identifying actions to streamline approval activities and reduce red tape in three key areas: Improving client service and accountability, increasing speed of approvals, and reducing ‘red tape’ and regulatory burden, and help the province address the lack of housing supply. This is especially true in areas of high growth.
- The above resolution is being presented to all 36 Conservation Authority Boards for approval.

DISCUSSION

In June of 2018 a new government was elected and moved quickly to implement the Plan for the People platform which included promises to,

*“Cut red tape and stifling regulations that are crippling job creation and growth...”, and
“... single-window access for approvals with a hard one-year deadline”.*

Since that time the government has introduced a number of consultations, draft proposals and proposed amendments to legislation in support of their agenda, including the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, and the Housing Supply Action Plan.

- **Made in Ontario Environment Plan** - The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks released the Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan (2018) that affirmed support for conservation and environmental planning and specifically mentioned that they would “work in collaboration with municipalities and stakeholders to ensure that conservation authorities focus and deliver on their core mandate of protecting people and property from flooding and other natural hazards and conserving natural resources”.
- **Housing Supply Action Plan** - The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) has initiated consultations on a Housing Supply Action Plan with the purpose to increase supply and streamline the development approval process. The Ministry is also reviewing the Planning Act and the Provincial Policy Statement to ensure that the land use planning and development approvals process is aligned with their goal.

Conservation authorities (CAs) in Ontario are part of the planning and development approvals process as we implement our mandate. Concerns have been expressed that conservation authorities “need to stick to their mandate” and that they present a “significant barrier” to timely development approvals. Many of these concerns arise in the Greater Toronto Area where land development is complex and demands are high, though it is also present in other areas in the province where development is occurring.

Though these concerns have been expressed, in reality CAs continually look for opportunities to improve our processes and relationships with the many stakeholders that we interact with.

- In 2007 Conservation Ontario and CAs participated with the Ontario Home Builders Association (OHBA) and the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) along with municipalities, the province and other stakeholders as members of the Conservation Authority Liaison Committee (CALC). At the time UTRCA staff were members of this committee.
- In 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) approved the *Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities* that would form part of MNRF’s Policies and Procedures Manual. Conservation Ontario provided training in 2012 and 2014 to assist CAs in implementing the best practices laid out in this document.
- In 2013, Conservation Authorities in Ontario to implement the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Protocol. The Protocol, developed by the Provincial Drainage Act and Regulation Team (DART) that included representatives from Conservation Authorities/Conservation Ontario, Drainage Superintendents, and staff from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Natural Resources, was designed to streamline approvals processes that are required for municipal works, completed under the Drainage Act, within areas regulated under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act.
- In 2017, with the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry established a Multi-Stakeholder Service Delivery Review Committee that included Conservation Authorities, BILD, Ontario Homebuilders Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, etc., and others to address client service issues. Ian Wilcox, UTRCA’s General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer sits as an alternate to Richard Wyma of ERCA on this Committee, representing South West Ontario Conservation Authorities. In addition, Tracy

Annett, Manager of Environmental Planning & Regulations sat on the Municipal Plan Review Sub-Committee.

Additionally, UTRCA has initiated the update to our Environmental Planning Policy Manual, as well as comprehensive updates to our hazard mapping as part of our Targets Strategic Plan. Both of these initiatives will improve transparency and consistency in our planning and regulatory approval processes. It is imperative that conservation authorities continue to engage municipalities and other stakeholders in the conversation about our very important role in land use planning and development approvals as well as helping the new government understand our mandate and the relationships we have with our municipalities.

NEXT STEPS

Conservation Ontario (CO) retained Strategy Corp to provide insights and advice on working with the new government. Strategy Corp hosted a Strategy Session with all General Managers in February 2018 to discuss advice on working with the government recognizing the challenges facing the current government, and development of prioritization and priority matters.

Through this process a number of General Managers volunteered to establish a small working group to work with Conservation Ontario to identify recommendations for solutions that will address the issues identified by the government around the housing supply while still protecting natural hazards management and plan review activities required to protect the health and safety of Ontario's watersheds and residents. Conservation Ontario also established a "Timely Review and Approvals Task Force" to provide technical support to the Working Group regarding CA reviews and approvals, standards, training needs, and opportunities for reducing red tape/regulatory burden. Tracy Annett, UTRCA's Environmental Planning & Regulations Manager, is a member of this Task Force.

Conservation Authority Mandate

The CO working group discussed clarifying and restating our mandate as supported by the recent update to the Conservation Authorities Act (2017) and as described in the province's *Made in Ontario Environment Plan*:

"The core mandate of conservation authorities is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social and environmental benefits".

This has always been the purpose of CAs. Today, with pressures related to climate change, increased phosphorous and decreased water quality in our lakes and rivers, it is necessary to have organizations like CAs on the ground and being able to work at the right scale to protect and manage natural resources. Our monitoring, identification of issues and appropriate mitigation measures, helps our communities to be able to respond to climate change and increase their resiliency. Further, as the federal and provincial governments restrict their activities more to policy related activities there is a gap in capacity to address local environmental issues.

Conservation authorities are a cost-effective mechanism for the Province and municipalities for the delivery of objectives under the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)

- In addition to acting as a commenting agency on behalf of the Province with regard to natural hazards, conservation authorities also act as regulators. Additionally, conservation authorities act as technical advisors for municipalities in the review of planning applications, and, as source protection authorities under the Clean Water Act supporting policy implementation.

- Conservation authorities ensure that applicants and municipal planning authorities are aware of regulations and requirements as well as assist in the coordination of applications under the Planning Act and the Conservation Authorities Act. The focus is to eliminate unnecessary delay or duplication in the process as it relates to protecting public health and safety from natural hazards, now and into the future.
- Conservation authorities, through the provision of advice from watershed-based science, enable municipalities to cost effectively consider in their decision-making other PPS considerations such as ‘wise use and management of resources’ and stormwater.

Streamlining Conservation Authority Activities

The CO working group has been evaluating ways that CAs can streamline approval activities and “reduce red tape” in order to help the province address the lack of housing supply. It is recognized that we need to identify the outcomes that the province and our municipalities need and review and modify our processes to ensure the best solutions.

The CO working group developed three key solutions that we will work on with the development and construction community and municipalities. Through these activities we will also identify any other specific concerns to be addressed.

- 1) Improve Client Service and Accountability
 - Provide client service training and establish client service standards implementing activities such as one point of contact for applications, and template guidelines for policies, processes, and, CA/Municipal MOUs that have clear deadlines for the different plan review services.
 - Our commitment to timely approvals will be reported on annually.
 - Initially, focus efforts on conservation authorities with high growth areas (GGHG/GTA and other parts of the province) where growth is taking place and housing supply is needed immediately.
- 2) Increase speed of approvals
 - Assess current application review/approval timelines, identifying problem areas where timelines are not being met and developing solutions to meet timelines.
 - Establish timelines that match the complexity of development applications (e.g. simple and complete applications can be processed more quickly).
- 3) Reduce “red tape” and regulatory burden
 - Examine where conservation authorities can improve or change our processes to simplify permitting in hazard areas.
 - Explore additional legislative or regulatory amendments to achieve increased housing supply and decreased approval timeframes.

Work Underway Among CAs

Some of these activities have already been started with the CO Section 28 Regulations Committee meeting over the past six months to identify potential streamlining options that can be implemented immediately.

We too experience issues with other regulatory or planning processes that influence our ability to complete our work. We have identified several of these including the opportunity to revisit recent changes to the *Safe Drinking Water Act* (O. Reg 205/18) and streamlining of approvals under the *Endangered Species Act*.

In effort to keep up with the growth of permit and planning applications, UTRCA added Regulations staff capacity in 2016. Since that time, applications submitted through UTRCA’s planning, engineering, and permitting programs continue to increase annually which does

challenge those resources. In addition, UTRCA has initiated changes in its electronic file management systems and administrative functions to further facilitate review timelines. Additional functionality will be added to the database for improved efficiencies.

There is always more we can do and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority is committed to ensuring that we deliver our mandate while working with clients efficiently and effectively. UTRCA will also communicate with our stakeholders any changes to our processes regarding planning and permitting to ensure a smooth transition.

CONCLUSION

The province is seeking to streamline planning and development approvals to facilitate the housing supply. CAs have a role to play in examining our processes for plan review and permitting and UTRCA is committed to continuous improvement as described in this report, and evidenced by UTRCA's ongoing involvement in Conservation Ontario Council, Conservation Ontario Service Delivery Review Committee, and most recently, the Timely Review and Approvals Task Force. UTRCA supports the three areas for immediate action and will provide updates on those actions based on work completed by the Work Group and Task Force.

Conservation Ontario is seeking a commitment from all CAs to pursue streamlining and customer service measures in order to contribute to achieving provincial priorities and as such this report is being brought forward to the Board of Directors.

PREPARED BY:

Tracy Annett, MCIP, RPP, Manager
Environmental Planning and Regulations

RECOMMENDED BY:

Ian Wilcox,
General Manager / Secretary Treasurer

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox
Date: April 9, 2019 **Agenda #:** 5 (b)
Subject: Finance & Audit Committee – Open Position **Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
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Recommendation: That nominations be re-opened to fill the vacant position on the Finance & Audit Committee.

The Committee currently consists of the Chair Sandy Levin, Tony Jackson, Annamarie Murray and Jim Reffle, who were appointed at the Annual General Meeting. According to the Administrative By-Law and the Terms of Reference for the Finance & Audit Committee, “The Committee consists of the Chair, and no fewer than two, but no more than four other members shall be elected from the Board.” The Chair received an expression of interest from Vice-Chair Alan Dale to fill the fifth position available on the Finance & Audit Committee. Staff recommend that nominations be re-opened for any Members interested in running for this position.

Recommended by:
Ian Wilcox,
General Manager

Prepared by:
Michelle Viglianti
Administrative Assistant

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox, General Manager
Date: April 14, 2019 **Agenda #:** 7 (a)
Subject: Environmental Registry Postings, Provincial Transfer Payment Reduction (50%) **Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
RCA_PO.File_Centre_Library:121
412.1

Two recent provincial announcements will have a significant impact on the future of Conservation Authority operations in Ontario. Both are discussed below:

- 1) **Proposals Posted to Ontario’s Environmental Registry:**
 - i. **Modernizing Conservation Authority Operations and,**
 - ii. **Focusing Conservation Authority Development Permits on the Protection of People and Property**

Each proposal is discussed below:

i) Modernizing Conservation Authority Operations

On April 4, 2019, The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) hosted a webinar for all Conservation Authority CAOs on very short notice, to announce that a proposal would be posted on the Environmental Registry the following day. The proposal is titled “*Modernizing Conservation Authority Operations- Conservation Authorities Act*” and is open for a 45 day public comment period. The proposal details are copied below and the link can be found at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-5018>:

It should be noted this review of the Conservation Authorities Act is being proposed despite the recent extensive public review and update of the Act during 2016-2017.

Proposal details

Conservation Authorities Act

The *Conservation Authorities Act*, an Act introduced in 1946, enables programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario. Under the Act, 36 conservation authorities were created at the request of municipalities. They are governed by municipally appointed representatives to deliver local resource management programs at a watershed scale for both provincial and municipal interests. The initial focus of conservation authorities was to prevent flooding, erosion, drought, and deforestation through improved land, water and forestry management practices. As extreme weather, particularly heavy rains and flooding becomes more frequent due to climate change, the core frontline role that conservation authorities play in our communities is becoming increasingly important. Since the 1940s when the Act was established, the programs and services delivered by conservation authorities have expanded. Conservation authorities are the second largest landowners in Ontario, next to the Province; collectively they own and manage 146,000 hectares of land in Ontario.

Summary of proposed changes

We are proposing to make amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, an Act introduced in 1946 that would, if passed:

- clearly define the core mandatory programs and services provided by conservation authorities to be, natural hazard protection and management, conservation and management of conservation authority lands, drinking water source protection (as prescribed under the *Clean Water Act*), and protection of the Lake Simcoe watershed (as prescribed under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*)

- increase transparency in how conservation authorities levy municipalities for mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services. Update the *Conservation Authorities Act* an Act introduced in 1946, to conform with modern transparency standards by ensuring that municipalities and conservation authorities review levies for non-core programs after a certain period of time (e.g., 4 to 8 years)

- establish a transition period (e.g. 18 to 24 months) and process for conservation authorities and municipalities to enter into agreements for the delivery of non-mandatory programs and services and meet these transparency standards

- enable the Minister to appoint an investigator to investigate or undertake an audit and report on a conservation authority

- clarify that the duty of conservation authority board members is to act in the best interest of the conservation authority, similar to not-for profit organizations.

We are also proposing to proclaim un-proclaimed provisions of the *Conservation Authorities Act* related to:

- fees for programs and services
- transparency and accountability
- approval of projects with provincial grants
- recovery of capital costs and operating expenses from municipalities (municipal levies)
- regulation of areas over which conservation authorities have jurisdiction (e.g., development permitting)
- enforcement and offences
- additional regulations.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is consulting on a proposal to streamline and focus conservation authorities development permitting and role in municipal plan review. For more information, visit Environmental Registry [013-4992](tel:013-4992).

In the spring 2019, we will also develop and consult on a suite of regulatory and policy proposals to support the proposed amendments to and proclamation of un-proclaimed provisions of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Purpose of Act

As extreme weather events increasingly threaten our homes, businesses and infrastructure, conservation authorities play a key frontline role in helping Ontario families and businesses prepare for the cost and impact of climate change in their communities.

Conservation authorities also play an important role in Ontario's land use planning and environmental protection process. They not only help protect people and property from extreme weather, such as flooding and other natural hazards, but they also are essential to protecting sources of drinking water and conserving our province's natural resources.

It important that conservation authorities refocus on delivering their core mandate.

To support this, the government is consulting with stakeholders and the public on how conservation authorities can improve delivery of their core programs and services, as outlined in our [made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#).

ii) Focusing Conservation Authority Development Permits on the Protection of People and Property

A second proposal was posted to the Environmental registry April 4th with a similar 45 day public comment period. Proposal details are below and the link can be found at

https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4992?share=wqKxH7M9UXsfd_-whMFF8i9JsO_iZb818W9PDiQWDQg

Proposal details

Description of the Regulation

Prohibited activities set out in Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* as amended by Schedule 4 of the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017* include:

Development in areas related to natural hazards such as floodplains, shorelines, wetlands and hazardous lands (i.e. lands that could be unsafe for development because of naturally occurring processes associated with flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock); and

Interference with or alterations to a watercourse or wetland.

The Ministry is proposing to create a regulation further defining the ability of a conservation authority to regulate prohibited development and other activities for impacts to the control of flooding and other natural hazards.

This regulation would replace *Ontario Regulation 97/04* which governs the content of conservation authority regulations under the current Section 28(1) of the Act, as well as all existing conservation authority regulations (*O.Reg. 42/06, O.Reg. 146-148, O.Reg. 150-153, O.Reg. 155-172, O.Reg. 174-182, and O.Reg. 319/09*).

Consolidating and harmonizing the existing 36 individual conservation authority-approved regulations into 1 Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry approved regulation will help to ensure consistency in requirements across all conservation authorities while still allowing for local flexibility based on differences in risks posed by flooding and other natural hazards.

For the purposes of this regulation the Ministry is also proposing to:

Update definitions for key regulatory terms to better align with other provincial policy, including: “wetland”, “watercourse” and “pollution”;

Defining undefined terms including: “interference” and “conservation of land” as consistent with the natural hazard management intent of the regulation;

Reduce regulatory restrictions between 30m and 120m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed;

Exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit including certain alterations and repairs to existing municipal drains subject to the *Drainage Act* provided they are undertaken in accordance with the *Drainage Act* and *Conservation Authorities Act* Protocol;

Allow conservation authorities to further exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit provided in accordance with conservation authority policies;

Require conservation authorities to develop, consult on, make publicly available and periodically review internal policies that guide permitting decisions;

Require conservation authorities to notify the public of changes to mapped regulated areas such as floodplains or wetland boundaries; and

Require conservation authorities to establish, monitor and report on service delivery standards including requirements and timelines for determination of complete applications and timelines for permit decisions.

These regulations are a critical component of Ontario’s approach to reducing risks posed by flooding and other natural hazards and strengthening Ontario’s resiliency to extreme weather events.

Ensuring conservation authority permitting decisions focus and deliver on their core mandate of

protecting people and property from flooding and other natural hazards is part of the government's **Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan** to help communities and families prepare and respond to climate change. The proposed changes will also provide the business sector with a clear and consistent regulatory environment in which to operate and will help to make approval processes faster, more predictable and less costly.

As more extreme weather events occur that threaten our homes, businesses and infrastructure, it's important to ensure conservation authorities deliver on their core mandate for protecting people and property from flooding and other natural hazards. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of these regulations is critical component of this government's strategy for strengthening Ontario's resiliency to extreme weather events.

Once established, the province is also proposing to bring into force un-proclaimed sections of the *Conservation Authorities Act* associated with conservation authority permitting decisions and regulatory enforcement.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is consulting on a proposal to ensure that conservation authorities focus and deliver on their core mandate, and to improve the governance of conservation authorities. For more information, visit Environmental Registry notice **013-5018**.

2) Provincial Section 39 Transfer Payment Cut (50%)

The Provincial Budget was announced this past Thursday, April 11, 2019 and while Conservation Authorities were not specifically mentioned, staff did learn late on April 12th that the provincial transfer payment to all Conservation Authorities is to be cut by 50% for 2019. This provincial funding is directed at hazard management (i.e., flood and erosion control) and it's loss will be significant. Details have not yet been provided beyond the notion of a blanket 50% reduction.

As context, provincial funding to Conservation Authorities was reduced by 80% in 1996. Provincial funding for the UTRCA has remained fixed at \$351,000 since that time which is far below the cost of delivering the program, and far below the 50% share the province is supposed to pay matching the municipal contribution. Conservation Ontario, with support from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has lobbied the province for years to increase funding levels to match actual costs, without success. This announcement simply exacerbates the financial position of a chronically under-funded core program. The UTRCA's funding for 2019 is being reduced by ~\$170K.

Staff did anticipate funding cuts but this is a more significant reduction than expected. Staff are working with Conservation Ontario to gather more information from MNRF, and to develop a range of budget options for the Board's consideration. Budget options and recommendations will be presented to the Board at the May meeting.

Conservation Ontario's press release regarding the funding reductions can be found at: https://conservationontario.ca/fileadmin/pdf/latest-news/Media_Release_Natural_Hazards_CA_Transfer_Payment_Reduction_Media_Release_April_2019.pdf

UTRCA Staff Observations

- Both postings to the Environmental registry and the transfer payment reduction appear geared to limiting the scope of Conservation Authority operations.

- There was no pre-consultation with Conservation Authorities or Conservation Ontario in advance of these announcements. Conservation Ontario has struggled to gain any audience with our oversight ministries (MNR and MECP) despite repeated attempts.
- Agreement with the province regarding “core- mandatory programs” is welcome. Conservation Ontario has been consistent in this messaging for nearly twenty years and during that time we have emphasized our core programs include:
 1. Protection of life and property from flooding and erosion hazards,
 2. Protection and improvement in water quality,
 3. Management and expansion of natural areas and,
 4. Providing the public with outdoor recreation/ education opportunities.

Note these core programs are all consistent with the UTRCA’s Environmental Targets.
Conservation Ontario is well positioned to contribute to this discussion.
- The addition of drinking water source protection (under the Clean Water Act) to the list of mandatory programs was not anticipated.
- The inclusion of the Lake Simcoe Protection Act is irrelevant to all but one Conservation Authority.
- The concept of a mandatory and non-mandatory levy is confusing. A levy, by definition, is mandatory. Conservation Authorities already work with a variety of partners, including municipalities, to fund “discretionary (non- mandatory)” programs that are important locally e.g., Clean Water Program funding. This funding is entirely at the municipality’s discretion and, as such, is not referred to as levy. Identification of mandatory core programs (bullet point above) should clarify eligible levy expenses, rather than trying to create additional categories.
- Proclaiming “un-proclaimed” sections of the Act was already anticipated as part of the 2017 Act amendments.
- Changes proposed to Section 28 Regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act have been discussed by previous joint CA/ Provincial working groups (Conservation Authorities Liaison Committee (CALC), Drainage Act Review Team (DART)) and the current posting is consistent with many ideas previously proposed. UTRCA staff do see an opportunity to improve the efficiency of the regulations program without compromising public and environmental protections. Our focus for any proposed changes will be ensuring those protections are not jeopardized.
- The 2019 provincial transfer payment cuts seem contradictory to the Environmental Registry postings. Despite the rhetoric of the importance of Conservation Authority core programs, the funding reduction is targeted specifically at what is agreed to be a core program. The only conclusion is this is an effort to download costs to Member Municipalities.
- Conservation Ontario will serve as the lead advocate for input into Environmental registry postings, and in dealing with provincial ministries regarding funding reductions. The UTRCA will continue to support CO’s efforts and expect to submit our own complimentary comments when and where appropriate.

Prepared by:

Ian Wilcox,
General Manager

To: Chair and Members of the UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett, Manager – Environmental Planning and Regulations
Date: April 15, 2019 **Agenda #:** 7 (b)
Subject: Administration and Enforcement – Sect. 28 Status Report – **Filename:** Document
Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alteration to **ENVP 7597**
Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

The attached table is provided to the Board as a summary of staff activity related to the Conservation Authority's *Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation* (Ont. Reg. 157/06 made pursuant to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act). The summary covers the period from March 19 to April 12, 2019.

Reviewed by:

Tracy Annett, MCIP, RPP, Manager
Environmental Planning and Regulations

Prepared by:

Karen Winfield
Land Use Regulations Officer

Mark Snowsell
Land Use Regulations Officer

Brent Verscheure
Land Use Regulations Officer

Cari Ramsey
Env. Regulations Technician

SECTION 28 STATUS REPORT SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS



DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINE AND WATERCOURSES REGULATION ONTARIO REGULATION 157/09

Period of Report: March 18, 2019 to April 12, 2019

Permit Application	Municipality	Address/Location	Application Type	Project Description	Application Complete	Permit Issued	Regulations Staff
27-18	London	Sunningdale Road	Construct/Reconstruct	Pathway construction as part of Sunninglea residential development	12/03/2019	21/03/2109	Snowsell
217-18	London	9345 Elviage Drive	Construct/Reconstruct	Residential Dwelling and Garage	05/03/2019	05/04/2019	Snowsell
20-19	Zorra	155095 15th Line	Construct/Reconstruct	Proposed New Bridge and Associated Driveway Crossing the Quinn Municipal Drain	03/06/2019 (***But bridge permits held back until pre-construction meeting 02/04/2019)	02/04/2019	Winfield
24-19	Middlesex Centre	166 Edgewater Boulevard (Lot 64)	Construct/Reconstruct	Proposed Single Family Residence with Garage adjacent the Thames River.	27/03/2019	28/03/2019	Winfield
34-19	Thames Centre	Storey Drive	Construct/Reconstruct	Proposed Single Family Residence with Garage adjacent the North Thames River.	05/03/2019	21/03/2019	Winfield
35-19	London	2240 Huron Street	Construct/Reconstruct	Construct 4 warehouse units	11/03/2019	27/03/2019	Snowsell

Permit Application	Municipality	Address/Location	Application Type	Project Description	Application Complete	Permit Issued	Regulations Staff
46-19	London	3384 Gore Road	Minor Works	Proposed Page Wire Fence Installation through area contained by natural hazards/natural heritage features	18/03/2019	21/03/2019	Verscheure
47-19	Zorra	765875 Township Road 5	Utilities/Services	Proposed Sun Canadian Pipe Line Integrity Dig and Remediation	20/03/2019	21/03/2019	Verscheure
48-19	Stratford	O'Loane Avenue at Lorne Avenue West (Perth Line 32)	Utilities/Services	Proposed Fibre Optic Cable Duct Installation Undercrossing the Avon River	22/03/2019	07/04/2019	Winfield
49-19	Middlesex Centre	162 Edgewater Boulevard (Lot 63)	Construct/Reconstruct	Proposed Single Family Residence with Garage adjacent the Thames River.	08/04/2019	09/04/2019	Winfield
50-19	Middlesex Centre	Medway Road (Part Lot 10, Concession 7)	Construct/Reconstruct	Proposed Installation of Telecommunications Tower	21/03/2019	07/04/2019	Winfield
51-19	Thames Centre	Wellburn Road (Part Lot 34, Concession 5)	Construct/Reconstruct	Proposed Single Family Residence and Installation of Septic System adjacent Gregory Creek.	07/03/2019	07/04/2019	Winfield
52-19	London	Clarke Road Bridge	Municipal Project	Proposed Clarke Road Bridge Repairs and Maintenance above North Thames River	26/03/2019	26/03/2019	Verscheure
53-19	London	7099 Clayton Walk	Construct/Reconstruct	Inground Pool and armor stone landscaping	26/03/2019	26/03/2019	Snowsell
55-19	Woodstock	Lansdowne Ave, Pittock Conservation Area	Enhancement/Restoration Project	Proposed Pittock Conservation Area South Shore Erosion Control - Trail Reconstruction and Stabilization	22/03/2019	25/03/2019	Verscheure
56-19	London	Wilton Grove Road, between Commerce Road and East City Limit	Municipal Project	Proposed Wilton Grove Road Widening including the Rehabilitation of One (1) Culvert Crossing and the Replacement of One (1) Culvert Crossing	19/03/2019	01/04/2019	Verscheure
61-19	Zorra	5580 Cobble Hills Road	Construct/Reconstruct	Proposed Construction of an Accessory Structure adjacent to Pearson-Sims Drain	02/04/2019	03/04/2019	Verscheure
62-19	Woodstock	1240 Commerce Way	Construct/Reconstruct	Proposed Construction of a Heavy Vehicle Service Shop adjacent to Watercourse	03/04/2019	08/04/2019	Verscheure

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager Community and Corporate Services
Chris Tasker, Manager Water and Information Management
Date: April 11, 2019 **Agenda #:** 7 (c)
Subject: Board Orientation: Revenue Sources Review **Filename:** Flood Control #1522

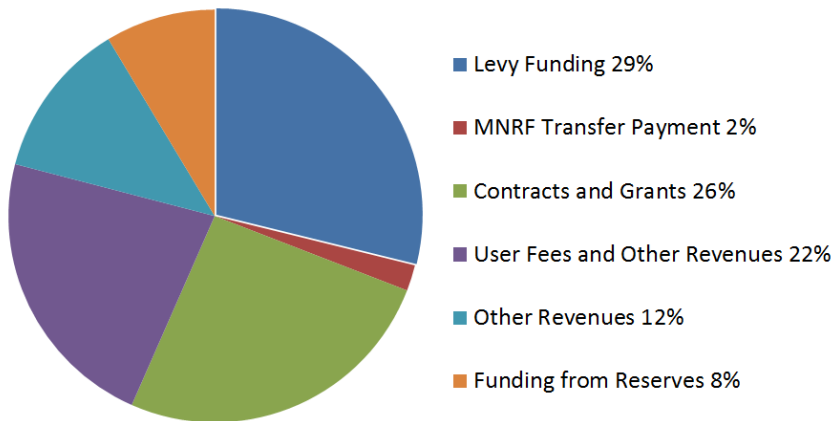
UTRCA Sources of Revenue

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority's (UTRCA) sources of revenue can be described within 5 categories:

- 1) **Levy Funding** – This includes the Municipal General Levy which is calculated using a formula that considers the percentage of the municipality's land area located within the watershed and the Current Value Assessment (CVA) of the land area within the watershed; the Dam and Flood Control Levy is calculated using a formula that apportions costs to municipalities that benefit from each structure/program. The Operating Reserve Levy creates a reserve to offset unexpected operating expenses within a given year. *This municipal levy provides approximately one third of the revenues that support the work of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. It is the most important source of funding as this investment is leveraged to attract funding through contracts, grants and from user fees.*
- 2) **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Section 39 Transfer Payment** - This funding is dedicated to hazard management and has not changed in amount for 23 years. It supports just under 2% of the UTRCA's overall budget. (Recent notice indicates this funding is to be cut by 50%).
- 3) **Contracts and Grants** – The UTRCA regularly applies for and is successful in securing funding from other levels of government, foundations, banks and sponsors to support a wide range of Authority programs and services and leverage the municipal investment.
- 4) **User Fees and Other Revenues** – The Authority collects fees from Conservation Area day users, campers and clubs. Fees are charged for many of the UTRCA plan review services, for Authority land rental and to attend Conservation Education programs. User fees are typically applied to those areas where individuals directly benefit from the program or service.
- 5) **Other Revenues** – This category refers to interest earned though the investment of Authority funds.

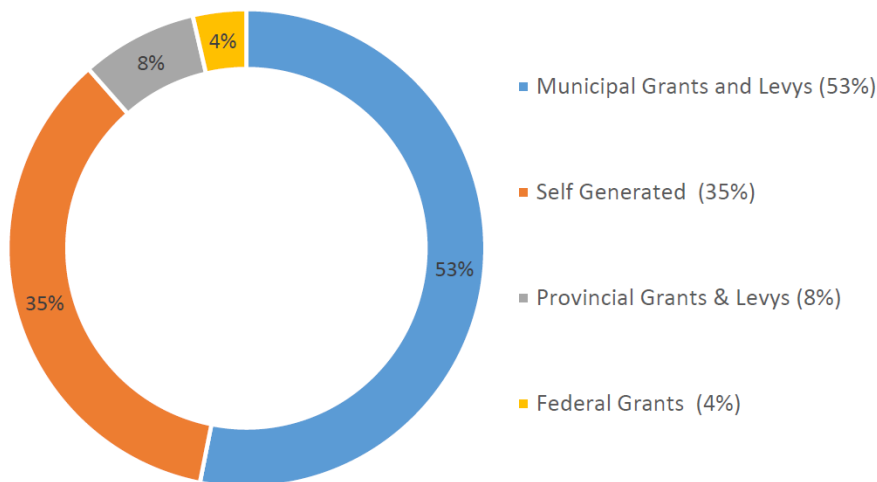
If, during the development of the annual budget, the need for the use of reserve funds on a time limited basis is identified, these funds become another source of revenue.

UTRCA Sources of Revenue 2018 Budget



The UTRCA is proud of the organization’s ability to leverage the investment of its member municipalities at a much higher rate than the provincial average. The proportion of our total budget funded by municipal sources is far less than the provincial average.

Conservation Ontario Statistical Survey – Conservation Authority Revenue Sources



UTRCA staff document efforts to obtain contract and grant funding in the form of a log. Following is an excerpt from this log to illustrate recent funding awards.

Potential Funder	Project	Funding
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Intake 4 •Flood Risk Mitigation Communication Tools •Flood Mitigation Plan – Thames River in London	\$99,000 of the total \$199,500 project cost \$240,000 of total \$480,000 project cost

	<p>Intake 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •South Western Ontario Flood Forecasting Database Support and Enhancement (Phase 3) •Flood Forecasting and Warning Hydrometric Network Modernization (Phase 2) •Focus on Flooding and Reducing the Impacts of Stormwater Awareness and Education Program 	<p>\$200,000 of the total \$400,000 project cost</p> <p>\$100,000 of the total \$200,000 project cost</p> <p>\$81,400 of the total \$162,800 project</p>
Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)	•Phases 5 to 13 of the West London Dyke Rehabilitation	40% (\$10,000,000) of the total \$25,000,000 estimated project cost
Environment and Climate Change Canada "Freshwater Program - Great Lakes Remediation	Medway Creek Watershed Phosphorus Reduction Initiative	\$150,000/ year for 5 years (initiated in 2018)
Agricultural Adaptation Council, Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program	Medway Creek Watershed Demonstration project for Phosphorus Reduction	\$690,910 over 3 years (2018-2020)
Enbridge	Restoration efforts in the Medway Subwatershed	\$5,000
Start.ca	GREEN education program in London	\$25,000/ year for 5 years (2019 – 2013)
GM Canada/ Stratford Auto Products/ Stratford Energy and Environment Committee	GM GREEN education program in Stratford	\$2,000
Environment and Climate Change Canada EcoAction Program	Rehabilitation of Cedar Creek through the Hodge's Pond/Sweaburg Swamp property	\$65,520 over 2 years \$110,700 in-kind Oxford County, Oxford County Trails Council, Stewardship Oxford, UTRCA
Oxford Community Energy Coalition/Gunn's Hill Limited Partnership	Rehabilitation of Cedar Creek through the Hodge's Pond /Sweaburg Swamp property and building of a loop trail around the property	\$105,000 over 5 years
Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk – Environment Canada	UTRCA Species at Risk Reptile Stewardship Program	\$46,000
Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Drain Classification – Fish Sampling	\$9,000
Employment and Social Development Canada - Enabling Accessibility Fund	Accessible trail/trail improvements around FCA pond	\$6,380

Nature London	Invasive species removal and wildflower/shrub planting around FCA pond	\$4,1342
Cargill Cares	Watershed Report Card education program in Medway Creek and Stoney Creek	\$1,500
London Community Foundation	Earth Day London activity support	\$3,000
TD Friends of the Environment	Friends of Stoney Creek Community Day, clean ups, interpretive signage	\$4780
12 different foundations, businesses, service clubs, unions	London Middlesex Children's Water Festival programming	\$59,690
Watershed Service Clubs	River Safety Education program	\$15,700
City of London	Installation of hydrometric monitoring stations, water quality sampling, benthic sampling, information management and analysis using WISKI, compilation of historic data, GIS land use mapping	\$560,000 over 3 years

Prepared by:

Teresa Hollingsworth
 Manager, Community and Corporate Services

Chris Tasker, P.Eng,
 Manager, Water and Information Management

To: UTRCA Board of Directors

From: Chris Tasker, Manager,
Water and Information Management

Date: April 16, 2019 **Agenda #:** 7 (d)

Subject: Update on Water and Erosion Control **Filename:** Flood Control #833
Structure funding

This report is intended to provide the board with an update on funding applications which were recently discussed with the board.

National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)

Background - NDMP is a federal program established in April 2015 to reduce impacts of natural disasters on Canadians. The program focuses investments on significant recurring flood risk and advancing work to facilitate private residential insurance for overland flooding. Applications are made through a provincial process with MMAH taking the lead and MNR providing technical support. It is a 5 year program which includes \$200 million in federal funding and ends in March 2021. Previously, the board was updated on applications submitted as part of intakes 2 and 3. More recently, proposals were submitted for the fourth and fifth intakes. This update is intended to provide information on the projects submitted in these later rounds. More information is also available in previous board reports:

- NDMP Intake Five Funding Proposals, dated August 28, 2018
- NDMP funding proposal update, dated September 16, 2016
- NDMP funding proposal update, dated June 10, 2016

Update

Two projects were submitted and approved as part of intake 4:

- Flood Risk Mitigation Communication Tools providing \$99,000 of the total \$199,500 project cost
- Flood Mitigation Plan – Thames River in London providing \$240,000 of total \$480,000 project cost

Three projects were approved of the 5 projects submitted in intake 5:

- St Marys Floodwall Rehabilitation Phase 3 was not approved, resulting in an adjustment to the WECE application described below
- West London Dyke - Phase 5 Reconstruction was not approved. This project overlaps with the DMAF project and would have been declined when the DMAP project was approved (as discussed below).
- South Western Ontario Flood Forecasting Database Support and Enhancement (Phase 3) was approved for \$200,000 of the total \$400,000 project cost. This project provides a continuation of work initiated as part of a previous NDMP approved project. This project provides some

funding which supports meeting the reduction of natural hazards included in our Environmental Target 3.

- Flood Forecasting and Warning Hydrometric Network Modernization (Phase 2) was approved for \$100,000 of the total \$200,000 project cost. This project provides a continuation of work initiated as part of a previous NDMP approved project. This project provides some funding which supports meeting the reduction of natural hazards included in our Environmental Target 3.
- Focus on Flooding and Reducing the Impacts of Stormwater Awareness and Education Program was approved for \$81,400 of the total \$162,800 project.

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)

Background - DMAF is a federal funding program that supports large-scale infrastructure projects or bundled groups of projects aimed at increasing community resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events. Funded projects have until 2028 to be completed and must have a minimum of \$20M in eligible expenditures.

At the June 2018 meeting the board supported applying to the DMAF. Several projects were being considered by staff however only a project related to West London Dykes was determined to be eligible and was submitted in response to the request for expressions of interest. In October, the UTRCA was invited to submit a full application on this project. More information is available in the following reports

- Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund Full Application for West London Dyke Rehabilitation dated November 27, 2018
- Application for Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF), dated June 18, 2018

Update

The UTRCA was successful in receiving funding for the completion of phases 5 to 13 of the West London Dyke Rehabilitation. DMAF provides 40% (\$10,000,000) of the total \$25,000,000 estimated project cost. A formal announcement and media event was held March 27, 2018. Work will begin on Phase 5 construction north of Blackfriars Bridge in the summer. The contractor for phase 4 will be finishing up site restoration south of Blackfriars Bridge when conditions allow.

Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI)

Background - The WECI program provides provincial funding for capital repairs of CA infrastructure. This program provides 50% funding for eligible repairs and studies. In past, project submissions have been made in February for review by the WECI committee made up of representatives from MNRF, Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities. Projects are prioritized to determine which projects are approved for the 5 million dollars of provincial funding available each year. Provincial funding must be matched with local funding which generally comes from flood control levy or structure reserves. More information is also available in the previous board report:

- Pending 2019 Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Project Proposal, dated February 13, 2019

Update – The UTRCA submitted the attached WECI application on April 11, 2019. This list is somewhat reduced from the list approved by the board at its February meeting. Two projects have been deferred to a subsequent year due to the anticipated shorter window to complete projects as a result of

the later call for applications and the expected delay in approval of projects. Also the full scope of the St Marys Floodwall Phase 3 project was included in the WECI application as we were informed that our NDMP proposal was declined. The total project cost and municipal funding remain unchanged for the St Marys project.

Prepared by:

Chris Tasker, P.Eng,
Manager, Water and Information Management

2019-2020 Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Application Form for the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Program

Conservation Authority Name:

Project id	Project Name	Cost Estimate	Contact Name and position title Contact Numbers	What is the current condition of the structure where the project is proposed?	How was this project identified for 2019?	WECI Database Score Changes?
		Total Amount	(Work and after hours work cell phone #)	Examples include: Repair -The project area is in poor condition; right side of dam is crumbling. Safety - The project area is unsafe, lacks a fall arrest Study- The project area is deteriorating; a study is required to determine the extent of the issue and appropriate repairs	Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Plan • Engineering Study • Annual Inspection • Strategic Plan 	Please provide rational where major score changes have been made in the database
S.19.011	Dam Safety Review Phase 1 Scoping	\$50,000	Fraser Brandon-Sutherland Project E.I.T. 519-451-2800 ext. 422 519-777-2722	Study - Follow up 2 nd generation dam safety studies following CDA Guidelines, LRIA Technical Bulletins. Project was approved for funding in 2017 (S.17.028) but cancelled by UTRCA.	20 Year Capital Plan and CDA Guidelines	
S.19.008	Embro Dam Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report	\$9,000	Chris Tasker, Manager Water and Information Unit 519-451-2800 ext. 238	Study - Class EA was initiated in May 2015 with the issuance of the notice of intent. Unsuccessful WECI application, but the project proceeded with solely municipal funding. This project was run in parallel with the Harrington Dam EA. When the final draft EA project files were discussed with municipal council it was determined that a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report should be completed prior to posting the notice of completion of the EA.	UTRCA 20 Year Capital Repair Plan and previous engineering studies	
R.19.022	Fanshawe Dam Phase 6 Painting and Concrete Repairs	\$300,000	Fraser Brandon-Sutherland Project E.I.T. 519-451-2800 ext. 422 519-777-2722	Repair - Structure had not been protective painted for 30 years with primer well exposed prior to Phase 1. Phase 6 is the final phase and a continuation of Phase 5. Includes painting, concrete repairs and minor weld repairs that were not able to be completed in Phase 5 due to weather delays.	20 Year Capital Plan. Continuation to complete previously approved project	

S.19.009	Fullarton Dam EA	\$50,000	Fraser Brandon-Sutherland Project E.I.T. 519-451-2800 ext. 422 519-777-2722	Study - Dam safety reviews (2007) and additional geotechnical investigations indicated major repairs, replacement, or removal option for Fullarton Dam.	Dam Safety Reviews	
S.19.010	Harrington Dam Cultural Heritage Evaluation & Impact Assessment	\$18,000	Chris Tasker, Manager Water and Information Unit 519-451-2800 ext. 238	Study - Class EA was initiated in May 2015 which received WECl funding previously as per S.14.021 & S.15.016. When the final draft EA project files were discussed with municipal council it was determined that a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report should be completed prior to posting the notice of completion of the EA. The WECl application for this project is only limited to the additional work required to complete the CHER and HIA as required to post the notice of completion of the EA.	UTRCA 20 Year Capital Repair Plan and previous engineering studies	
R.09.029 R.19.030	Pittock Dam Gate Heater Design & Replacement	\$50,000	David Charles Supervisor Water Control Structures 519-451-2800 ext. 244	Repair - Pittock gate/gate heaters have failed and need replacement. Heaters are required to keep gates free of ice to allow operation of the gates in the winter. Controller is desired to rotate heating between gates to reduce heating cost.	Inspections	
R.20.002 R.19.031	St. Mary's Floodwall Rehabilitation Phase 3	\$256,000	David Charles Supervisor Water Control Structures 519-451-2800 ext. 244	Repair - lower foundation wall for the floodwall, repairing gaps in foundation walls, including toe works to prevent material scouring and loss.	Inspection of the 25 year old floodwall (S.14.018) Previous repair phases R.17.063 and R.18.011. 20 year Capital Plan	
R.19.025	West London Dyke Phase 5A Reconstruction	\$3,000,000	Fraser Brandon-Sutherland Project E.I.T. 519-451-2800 ext. 422 519-777-2722	Repair - The reconstruction of the West London Dyke was identified as part of the Master Repair Plan EA. Background technical task activities completed including toe erosion concerns, materials review and environmental requirements in support of concept plan development. Reconstruction Phases 1 & 2 occurred in 2007 - 2009 with Phase 3 reconstruction taking place in 2016 - 2017 as per R.16.006 and Phase 4A reconstruction as per R.18.082. Phase 5 would cover reconstruction from North of Blackfriars Bridge towards St. Patricks Street.	20 Year Capital Repair Plan 2016 Master Repair Plan EA	

R.19.026	Wildwood Dam Exhaust Fan and Duct Replacement	\$10,000	Fraser Brandon-Sutherland Project E.I.T. 519-451-2800 ext. 422 519-777-2722	Repair - Fan for air circulation through the dam gallery requires replacement. Fan is past useful life and has no safety guards. Additionally when access doors are open in the Vent Building air is pulled from the outside as opposed to from the dam tunnel.	Inspection	
R.19.027	Wildwood Dam Motor Control Centre Replacement Design	\$50,000	David Charles Supervisor Water Control Structures 519-451-2800 ext. 244	Repair - The MCC houses all the circuitry control for power distribution in the dam. The equipment and cabinet requires replacing due to age and wear and tear and obsolescence. A recent fire at Fanshawe Dam underscores the need for this type of work on aging electrical infrastructure.	20 Year Capital Plan Inspection	

(Please insert more rows as required)

Personal information on this form is obtained under the authority of the Ministry of Natural Resources Act, Section 8, R.S.O. 1978. The information submitted in this application is for the purpose of assessment of the applicant's request for funds under the WECI program. The financial and technical information will be used for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the application and future capital reporting. Questions or concerns regarding use of personal information should be directed to Program Services Section, Integration Branch, 300 Water Street, 5th Floor South Tower, Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

<p>Signature</p> <p>General Manager/Chief Administrative Officer</p>	<p>Date: April 9, 2019</p>
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To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox and Christine Saracino
Date: 16 April 2019
Subject: Q1 2019 Finance Update

Agenda #: 7 (e)
Filename: ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
RCA_PO.Finances:915.1

Recommendation:

The Board accepts the Q1 2019 financial reports as presented.

The Statement of Financial Position outlines the asset and liability balances as of the end of March 2019. Most balances are consistent with the prior year though accrued receivables are significantly higher. This is due to the large balance owing from the federal NDMP program which was accrued at the year end and which is not expected to be cleared until later in 2019.

Deferred and committed capital funding continues to grow as we attempt to regulate our depreciation expenses better by deferring current revenues for use in offsetting those future costs.

Though the current year surplus shows some \$5.7 Million this is only because operating levy was accounted for and invoiced for the entire year in March. We do not expect this degree of surplus by year's end.

The Summary Statement of Operating Activities describes the sources of funding and the expenses incurred in the first three months of the year by each unit. The pace of revenue recognition and expenditure is never smooth throughout the year; the first three months of the year contain adjustments, carry forwards but otherwise do not reflect well a continuous level of activity. Conservation Areas is the best example where revenues and expenditures are largely incurred over the period between May and October, less so in the shoulder seasons. There is no single line item which stands out for comment.

The Summary Statement of Capital Activities describes capital spending undertaken thus far in the year. It is yet minimal due to winter weather conditions. The tractor purchase was tendered and a supplier chosen just last week. Many other capital projects are in planning stages but not yet executed.

Recommended by:

Ian Wilcox
General Manager

Prepared by:

Christine Saracino
Supervisor, Finance & Accounting

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Statement of Financial Position and Accumulated Surplus (unaudited)
as at March 31, 2019

FINANCIAL ASSETS	Current Year	Prior Year	Notes
Cash and equivalents			
Bank Balances	2,406,517	3,676,383	
Petty Cash, Floats and Advances	2,902	4,902	
Short-term Investments	2,261,803	6,055,482	
PHN Investment Portfolio	4,187,107	-	
	<u>8,858,329</u>	<u>9,736,767</u>	
Restricted Cash			
Source Water Protection Bank Account	134,473	238,645	
Glengowan Bank Account	-	202,342	
	<u>134,473</u>	<u>440,987</u>	
Receivable Amounts			
Accounts Receivable	4,137,927	3,372,389	
Federal Taxes Receivable	36,926	85,076	
Accrued Receivables	1,996,630	489,259	NDMP funding yet to be received
	<u>6,171,483</u>	<u>3,946,723</u>	
	<u>15,164,286</u>	<u>14,124,478</u>	
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities			
Wage-related payables	906,410	910,185	
Federal Taxes Payable	16,896	56,907	
Accounts Payable	438,193	835,530	
Amounts held for other groups	11,125	29,254	
	<u>1,372,624</u>	<u>1,831,876</u>	
Deferred Revenues			
Funding carried forward temporarily	74,756	115,768	
Advanced WECl, SWP, NDMP funding	247,420	238,426	
Deferred and Committed Capital Funding	2,775,478	1,599,619	Intentionally growing for future depreciation
	<u>3,097,653</u>	<u>1,953,813</u>	
Term Loan (water system)	-	-	
	<u>4,470,277</u>	<u>3,785,689</u>	
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	10,694,009	10,338,789	
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Tangible Capital Assets	61,951,681	61,793,886	
less accumulated amortization	<u>(23,633,796)</u>	<u>(23,097,197)</u>	
Net tangible capital assets	38,317,885	38,696,689	
Capital projects in progress	-	222,892	
Prepaid Expenses, Deposits and Inventories	26,630	85,244	
Accumulated Surplus	<u>49,038,524</u>	<u>49,343,614</u>	
Equity in Tangible Capital Assets	38,462,891	39,064,170	
All other Equity	(1,623,827)	(2,225,108)	
Current year Surplus	5,751,321	5,391,069	
Reserves	6,448,140	7,185,468	
Accumulated Surplus	<u>49,038,524</u>	<u>49,415,599</u>	

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Summary Statement of Operating Activities

For The Period Ending March 31, 2019

	2019 YTD Actual	2019 Budget Approved	Notes
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Levy Funding			
			Actual includes some deferred levies from 2018
Municipal Operating Levy	4,138,978	3,963,898	
Dam and Flood Control Operations Levy	1,286,282	1,286,282	
Operating Reserve Levy	33,048	33,048	
Amortized Capital Levy	-	59,755	
	5,458,308	5,342,983	
Government Transfer Payments	-	351,016	
Contracts			
Municipal within Watershed	148,173	864,151	
Municipal without Watershed	15,156	107,340	
Provincial	521,902	742,759	
Federal	307,523	1,326,772	Not all federal funding has been accrued
All other	981,580	1,603,495	
	1,974,334	4,644,517	
User Fees			
Conservation Areas	161,696	3,646,079	
Planning and Permit Fees	58,545	220,140	
Education Fees	47,473	145,000	
	267,714	4,011,219	
Other Revenues			
	938,019	1,275,227	Includes deferred 2018 funding carried forward into 2019
From Deferred Capital Levy for dep'n	66,005	65,847	
Total Revenues	8,704,379	15,690,808	
Operating Expenditures:			
Mission Cost Centres			
Community Partnerships	333,361	1,580,567	
Water and Information Management	719,560	2,732,311	
Environmental Planning and Regulations	521,427	1,902,382	
Conservation Services	361,519	2,182,862	
Watershed Planning & Research	288,845	1,057,218	
Conservation Areas	704,173	4,445,099	
Lands and Facilities Management	360,848	1,562,177	
Service Cost Centres	46,393	96,071	
Total Operating Expenditures	3,336,125	15,558,687	
Surplus (deficit) in Current Operations	5,368,255	132,121	
(To) or from Equity [Reserves]	-	(120,580)	Net increase to reserves from operations
Balance of Operating Activities	5,368,255	11,541	
Depreciation	276,158	1,033,045	
Net Cash Surplus (Deficit)	5,644,413	1,044,586	

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Summary Statement of Operating Activities
For The Period Ending March 31, 2019

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Summary Statement of Capital Activities

For The Period Ending March 31, 2019

	2019 YTD Actual	2019 Budget Approved	Notes
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES:			
Capital Funding for Flood Control			
Flood Control Capital Levy	1,589,278	1,749,604	
Federal - NDMP	1,689,045	1,576,227	Carried forward more from 2018 than expected
Provincial - WECl	710,662	827,104	
Funding from reserves	-	308,288	
Total Funding for Flood Control Capital	3,988,985	4,461,223	
Capital Projects			
Multi-Dam Projects	1,182	-	
Fanshawe Dam	18,783	20,006	Budget must be corrected when next revised
Wildwood Dam	87,939	175,022	
Pittcok dam	91	65,021	
London Dykes	3,129,509	3,394,754	
St Marys Flood Wall	508,231	444,560	
RT Orr Dam	-	100,021	
Mitchell Dam	31,074	30,005	
Small Dams	660	109,561	
Transfer to structure reserves	-	125,000	
Total Flood Control Capital Spending	3,777,468	4,463,950	
Net Flood Control Capital Spending	211,517	(2,727)	
Other Capital Spending			
Capital Maintenance Levy	171,690	171,690	
From other reserves	-	330,259	
	171,690	501,949	
Land	-	104,258	
Land improvements	-	86,000	
Buildings and Building systems	-	60,000	
Infrastructure	-	50,000	
Furniture and Fixtures	-	67,000	
Vehicles and Equipment	32,995	255,000	Only a truck purchased by end of March
Technology/Computers	-	110,000	
	32,995	732,258	
Net Other Capital Spending	138,695	(230,309)	
Surplus (deficit) from Capital Activities	350,212	(233,036)	

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Christine Saracino, Supervisor, Finance
Date: 14 April 2019
Subject: Board Orientation: UTRCA Reserves

Agenda #: 7 (f)
Filename: ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
RCA_PO.Finances:913.1

For information:

There is often confusion about organizational reserves as the word ‘reserve’ connotes many different things to different people. However, for the purposes of finance, ‘reserve’ can be understood only if the idea of equity is understood.

Each of you can count up a value called your “net worth”. It is the combination of the value of your home or farm, probably an RSP and chequing account, perhaps a boat or truck. You have assets, some of which are liquid or easily accessible but some values, such as your home, are not so easily accessible. Your net worth, or equity, was hard won and came from spending less than you earned year after year, from making prudent purchases, from paying off your mortgage, from the natural increase in value of your assets, from keeping your home in good repair and putting off spending or holidays you might like to have taken. Your net worth was not created in a short period of time.

Over 70 years the Authority has built up equity as well; in other words, we have created surpluses more than we have accumulated deficits and it has allowed us to build up the value of our assets and to have cash in the bank. Our accumulated surpluses over many years have created our current financial position (at 31 Dec 2018) which appears as follows:

Financial Assets:	Cash, accounts receivable, investments	12,111,681
<u>Financial Liabilities:</u>	Accounts payable, deferred revenue, accrued liabilities	<u>(11,073,734)</u>
Net Financial Assets:		1,037,947
Non-Financial Assets:	Tangible capital assets (land, flood control structures, etc.)	42,141,333
Deposits and Inventories:		<u>107,919</u>
Accumulated Surplus		43,287,199

The Authority is therefore ‘worth’ \$43 Million dollars. That is our equity and it is clearly heavily weighted on the side of tangible capital assets; the flood control structures, our lands, equipment, infrastructure, vehicles, computers and buildings.

Is the \$12 Million of cash and investments our reserves? No, the \$12 Million is what we need to cover our liabilities. Where are the reserves then?

Reserves are simply an alternate way of looking at accumulated surpluses or equity. The \$43 Million UTRCA equity or the accumulated surpluses of the organization also appears as:

Invested in Tangible Capital Assets (not easily liquidated)	42,141,333
Unrestricted net assets	(5,297,993)
Reserves set aside for specific purposes (operating and/or capital)	2,825,591
Restricted reserves	<u>3,618,268</u>
Accumulated Surplus	<u>43,287,199</u>

In the past, the organization decided to tag or identify that a surplus should be segregated or identified separately for a specific purpose. The creation and maintenance of reserves and the segregating of value is an arbitrary way of identifying where we believe our equity is created or best used. We are obligated to invest in capital assets, that is, to keep flood control structures in repair but we also know that some donors give for specific purposes, that the parks create profits each year which should further the work in the parks. We have segregated our equity by naming reserves, and we've continued to invest in tangible capital assets. In fact, we've segregated more into reserves than we had available, so we have now created a 'negative reserve' total of more than \$5 Million simply by virtue of naming surpluses as reserves for special purposes. It can easily be seen however that there is in fact, only about \$1M in 'free reserves' currently available at the Authority. That is the net financial assets on our statement of financial position of the first page.

In 2018, UTRCA equity fell by \$737,329, that is, we experienced an overall deficit of that amount for that year. This deficit came directly out of equity, out of reserves. Some years produce surpluses, other years produce deficits though we always try to plan for a balanced outcome. Even in a year with an overall deficit, some individual reserves will rise and others will fall; some units create surpluses and others don't.

In summary, it is important to recognize that reserves are not cash, nor are they easily available to be used. In 2018 while we added \$607,400 to some reserves, we depleted others by \$1,344,729. While dipping into reserves by running a deficit may be a planned choice, continuing to segregate surpluses and invest in assets simultaneously will lead to decreasing organizational value.

Our 2019 budget is planned to create a small surplus overall and a net increase to reserves which we will need to help offset the deficit of 2018 and begin to bring our accumulated surpluses back up.

See the attached page for the detailed listing of the named reserves.

Prepared by:

Christine Saracino

UTRCA		2017	Increase from	Decrease	2018
2018 Reserve Schedule		Balance	Surplus	from Deficit	Balance
	<i>Restricted by levy purpose, structure and beneficiary</i>				-
Flood Control		3,489,219	224,407	244,692	3,468,935
	3121 Dams & Flood Control	2,306,478		244,692	2,061,786
	3130 Flood Control Capital - London	521,114	100,000		621,114
	3131 Flood Control Capital - Oxford	661,628	124,407		786,035
	<i>Restricted by donor wishes</i>				-
Donor Designated Memorial Forests		26,357	7,354	1,388	32,324
	3171 Zorra Township	825	577		1,402
	3173 Thames Centre	19,427	60		19,487
	3174 St Marys	1,541	129		1,670
	3175 Thamesford	(1,275)		1,388	(2,663)
	3172 Woodstock	5,839	4,152		9,991
	3176 Furtney		2,436		2,436
	<i>Restricted by outside organization</i>				
	3254 Harrington Grist Mill	52,727		1,696	51,031
	<i>Restricted by MNRF</i>				-
Land Disposition/Acquisition Reserve		886,506	-	820,528	65,978
	3141 Glengowan	201,695		201,695	-
	3145 Property Management	208,799		208,799	-
	3142 Golspie Swamp	16,275		16,275	-
	3144 Pittock II	459,738		393,760	65,978
	<i>Operating Reserves</i>				-
General Operating Reserve		417,436	32,400	-	449,836
	3212 Service Cost Centre	196,805	32,400		229,205
	3211 Mission Centres	139,171			139,171
	3215 Information Management	81,459			81,459
	<i>Defined Purpose Reserves:</i>				-
		1,699,388	333,239	276,425	1,756,202
	3111 HR (and self indemnity sick leave)	40,066	10,000		50,066
	3213 Community Partnerships	10,864		24,482	(13,618)
	3216 Conservation Services	307,941		100,085	207,856
	3214 Environmental Planning & Regs	135,304	82,304		217,608
	3220 Lands and Facilities	324,266		78,735	245,532
	3218 Conservation Areas	959,728	237,546		1,197,273
	3219 ESAs	84,840	3,390		88,230
	3217 Watershed Research Planning	32,932		72,838	(39,906)
	3253 Small Hydro Project	(196,553)		286	(196,838)
	<i>Capital Building, Fleet and Equipment Replacement</i>				-
		609,552	10,000	-	619,552
	3252 WCC Building Refurbishment	65,000	10,000		75,000
	3115 Capital Maintenance incl Fleet	291,523			291,523
	3251 Fleet Replacement	118,770			118,770
	3143 Aggregate	134,260			134,260
		7,181,186	607,400	1,344,729	6,443,857
			2018 Deficit	(737,329)	

fyi

April 2019



www.thamesriver.on.ca

Twitter [@UTRCMarketing](https://twitter.com/UTRCMarketing)

Facebook [@UpperThamesRiverConservationAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/UpperThamesRiverConservationAuthority)



Celebrate Earth Day London!

Sunday, April 28, 11 am - 3 pm, Harris Park

[Earth Day London 2019 Flyer](#)

All are welcome to attend London's Earth Day event at Harris Park, from 11 am to 3 pm. Activities will include pollinator planting, flood walks, Canadian Raptor Conservancy demonstrations, water festival activities, river art, Earth Day mandala, fish sampling demonstrations, a beaver baffle demonstration, turtle talks, face painting, and a free draw for a children's bike.

This event is made possible through the sponsorship of the London Community Foundation, Back to the River, Dillon Consulting, the City of London, and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

Please consider riding your bicycle along the path to Harris Park (bike parking available), or take London Transit bus routes #5 or #13.

Contact: *Steve Sauder, Marketing Specialist, or Karen Pugh, Resource Specialist*

Cover Crops for Water Quality

Conservation Services staff spent the beginning of April in the Upper Medway determining residue cover on agricultural fields. Crop residue intercepts rain drops and provides opportunities to slow down water runoff in the field, thus helping to reduce erosion.

This assessment is part of an ongoing water quality project in the Upper Medway subwatershed, which encourages farmers to plant cover crops. Cover crops add a component of living vegetation, which can increase infiltration and the soil's water-holding capacity. As the soil absorbs more water, the likelihood of surface runoff and erosion are reduced.

A long term goal for the subwatershed is to plant cover crops on the majority of farmable acres, all while maintaining 60% residue cover in the watershed through the winter and spring months. Cover crops and residue management are Best Management Practices that contribute to improved water quality.

Contact: *Tatianna Lozier, Soil & Water Quality Technician*



Staff estimate the percent residue cover using a knotted rope placed across the field. Each knot that is touching a piece of residue is counted, giving an estimate of total cover.



Students work together to solve flood related tasks.

Focus on Flooding “Escape Room” Pilot

After many months of brainstorming, planning and constructing, Community Education and Partnerships staff were excited to pilot a Focus on Flooding “Escape Room” with students this winter. Students in grades 5 to 8 at Nicolas Wilson PS and Knollwood Park PS were the first to participate in the new program.

Funded by the National Disaster Mitigation Program, the program is designed to teach students about flooding in a fun and engaging way. The escape room format of teaching and learning also aligns with the current direction of education, which focuses on teaching students critical thinking and problem solving, as well as collaboration and communication skills.



Unlocking a box to collect an Escape Room token.

During the Escape Room, students work through five stations that teach them key concepts related to flooding. As the students rotate through the stations in small groups, they solve flooding related tasks which allow them to unlock boxes and earn tokens to use in the final activity. After participating in the Escape Room, the students take what they learned and produce news clips about flooding in our area.



Using the virtual reality sand table to learn about runoff and flooding.

Students and teachers alike were very excited to participate in the Escape Room experience. UTRCA staff look forward to offering the program to other students in our watershed in the future.

[Escape Room pilot photos](#)

Contact: Karlee Flear, Community Education Supervisor

Western Ontario WISKI Hub

The Western Ontario WISKI (Water Information System KISTERS) Hub, hosted by UTRCA, is a network of member conservation authorities sharing a single database system for managing hydrometric, water quality and ecological data beyond watershed boundaries. Since its inception in 2016, the network has grown to include 10 members within southwestern and northern Ontario, with another three conservation authorities in the process of joining.



Western Ontario WISKI Hub members

The hub has allowed for increased knowledge, resource and cost sharing among all members as well as improved data accessibility. These benefits are being highlighted in a KISTERS North America presentation, titled “The Story of Ontario Environmental Data Hubs: Pooling Resources to Improve Data Management and

Access,” at the Canada Water Resources Association’s 72nd Annual Conference this spring.

Additionally, UTRCA has been included as a case study for [KISTERS’ Biological Monitoring brochure](#) for our work integrating our aquatic monitoring data into KIECO (KISTERS’ Ecological Data Software) for improved data management, analysis and reporting.

Contact: *Laura Flynn, Water Management Data Specialist*

River Safety 2019

“Stay safe near rivers and streams,” are words that Fanshawe and Wildwood Community Education staff say a lot during the River Safety program season. While having fun with hands-on activities, Grade 2 students learn how they can stay safe near waterways year round and especially during times of flooding.

Splish and Splash are two water droplet friends in *The Journey of Splish and Splash*, a story written and illustrated by staff. The two droplets share with the students the adventures they encounter while travelling through the water cycle. Water safety



Community Education staff bring the River Safety message to students at Little Falls PS in St. Marys.

messages from the story spill over into the other activities, including the ever-popular, interactive wooden puzzle. At the conclusion of the program, students are excited to receive a take-home activity booklet along with a Splish and Splash bookmark, highlighting the water safety messages.

Teachers are always pleased to welcome us into their classrooms each year for this important safety program. This year, our 21st, Fanshawe and Wildwood staff visited more than 2300 grade 2 students!

Our appreciation and thanks go to the following generous sponsors, without whom the River Safety program would not be possible:

- The Optimist Club of Arva & District
- The Optimist Club of Bryanston-Birr
- The Optimist Club of Carling Heights
- The Optimist Club of Downie
- The Optimist Club of Ilderton
- The Optimist Club of Kirkton-Woodham
- The Optimist Club of London East
- The Optimist Club of London Fanshawe
- The Optimist Club of London Middlesex

- The Optimist Club of London North
- The Optimist Club of London Oakridge Acres
- The Optimist Club of Mitchell
- The Optimist Club of North Dorchester
- The Optimist Club of Sebringville
- The Optimist Club of Shakespeare
- The Optimist Club of Thorndale
- The Optimist Club of Tavistock
- Highbury Pet Hospital
- Ingersoll Community Foundation
- Mitchell Kinettes
- Rotary Club of St. Marys
- Rotary Club of Stratford
- Tecumseh Community School
- Thamesford Lions Club

Contact: *Pat McLean, Community Education Technician, or Vanni Azzano, Community Education Supervisor*

Rural Landowner Workshop Draws Record Crowd

The annual UTRCA Rural Landowner Workshop was held in St. Marys at the Pyramid Recreation Centre on Tuesday, March 19. This workshop continues to grow in popularity, drawing a record crowd this year of more than 125 landowners.

The audience was treated to five presentations by local experts. Dan Breen, a dairy farmer from Putnam and winner of the 2018 Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association Soil Champion, was the keynote speaker. Dan spoke of his ongoing efforts to build soil health by including cover crops in his rotation.

The other four presentations were by UTRCA staff. John Enright spoke about local efforts to revive butternut, which is a tree species at risk. Tatianna Lozier presented information on creating wetland habitat and highlighted local examples. Craig Merkley talked about the Cade Tract, a new conservation area just outside of St. Marys. Jay Ebel concluded the evening by circulating a survey and engaging the audience in a discussion about what it would take to encourage more landowners to participate in conservation programs.



Workshop participants listen to a presentation on butternut, a tree species at risk.

After the door prizes were handed out, many landowners stayed to talk with the speakers. The evening was very well received and staff are already planning next year’s workshop. [Landowner Workshop photos](#)

Contact: *John Enright, Forester*



The federal funding announcement took place on a recently reconstructed section of the West London Dyke, north of the Queens Avenue bridge over the North Thames River.

Canada helps protect London from flooding

On March 27, the UTRCA co-hosted a media event on the West London Dyke (WLD), to announce new federal funding for phases 5 to 13 of the WLD Reconstruction Project. The project will include the reconstruction of approximately 1,600 metres of the dyke, from Blackfriars Bridge north to Oxford Street West, and from the Forks west to Cavendish Park.

The work will increase the dyke elevation to better protect thousands of residents and businesses from flooding of the Thames River. Once complete, this project will improve the City's ability to mitigate the effects of storm and flooding events, while also protecting public utilities and transportation services, and ensuring the health and well-being of residents.

The Government of Canada is contributing up to \$10 million to this \$25 million project, through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF). The City of London will provide the remainder of the project funding. The UTRCA will manage the project in partnership with the City.

The federal DMAF funding will significantly reduce the time needed to complete the WLD Reconstruction Project, and reduce the flood risk to more than 2600 people and 1200 structures behind



The project will include the reconstruction of approximately 1,600 m of the dyke, including this section near the Oxford Street West bridge, pictured during the February 2018 flood.

the dyke. It is estimated that without the dyke, total damages today from the Regulatory Flood (based on the April 1937 flood) would exceed \$65,000,000.

Several dignitaries were on hand to announce the funding, including Marco Mendicino, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, London MPs Peter Fragiskatos and Kate Young, Mayor Ed Holder, and two UTRCA Board Members from the City of London, Chair Sandy Levin and Councillor Anna Hopkins.

DMAF is a \$2-billion, 10-year program to help communities build the infrastructure they need to better withstand natural hazards such as floods, wildfires, earthquakes and droughts.

[DMAF announcement photos](#)

Contact: David Charles, Supervisor, Water Control Structures



The UTRCA's Jay Ebel, John Enright, Brenda Gallagher and Brandon Williamson with Dr. Sharon Reed (MNRF), next to a newly installed sap beetle flight trap.

Oak Wilt - The Next Threat!

Oak wilt appears to be the next in a long list exotic diseases to threaten our forest cover. Oak wilt is a vascular disease caused by the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum*. The fungus grows on the outer sapwood of oak trees, restricting the flow of water and nutrients through the tree.

Oak wilt was first identified in Wisconsin in 1947. Since that time, it has spread across 23 States. In 2016, oak wilt was confirmed on Belle Isle (Michigan) in the middle of the Detroit River, 500 metres from the shores of Windsor. To date, oak wilt has not been found in Ontario.

While all oak species are susceptible, the red oak group (red, black and pin) appears to be the most susceptible, with mortality frequently occurring within one growing season. The fungus can be spread by nitidulid beetles (sap beetles) and through root grafting.

The many species of sap beetles are attracted to fresh wounds or pruning cuts during the active growing season. To reduce the spread of oak wilt, avoid pruning oak trees between April and August. If a tree is wounded or pruned during this period, it is recommended that the damaged area be covered immediately with a latex paint or wound dressing.

In 2019, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will be conducting a flight trap study to get a better handle

on when the various species of sap beetles are flying. Three study locations have been chosen: the University of Guelph Arboretum, the Royal Botanical Gardens (Hamilton/Burlington), and the UTRCA's Fanshawe Conservation Area (London). From March until November, UTRCA forestry staff will monitor three flight traps weekly, and ship sap beetles collected to the MNRF lab in Sault Ste. Marie for identification.

[Find out more about Oak Wilt.](#)

Contact: John Enright, Forester



UTRCA staff at the Go Wild Grow Wild displays.

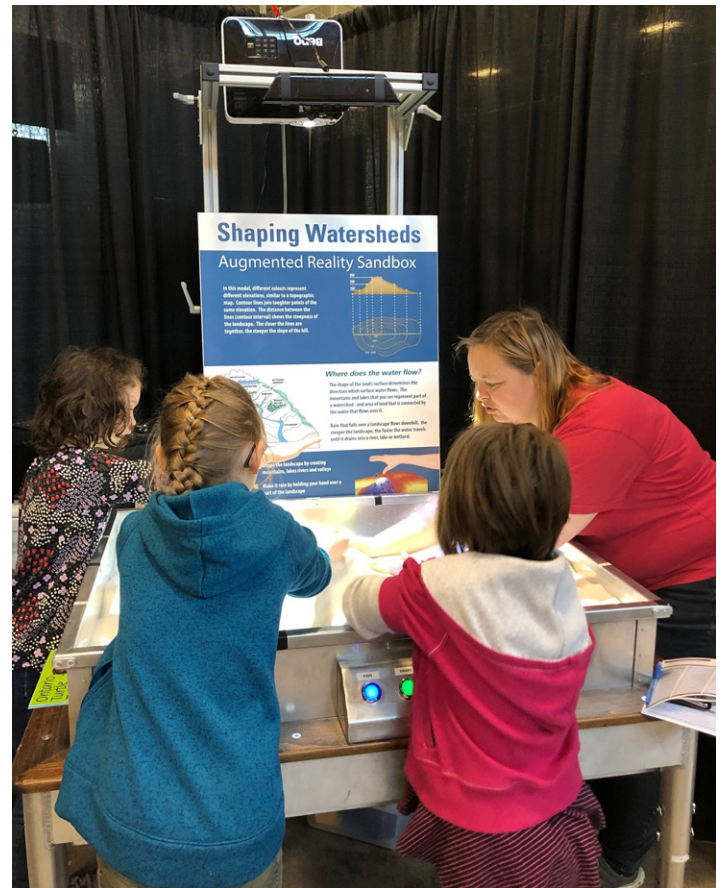
Go Wild Grow Wild

Saturday, April 6 was Carolinian Canada's annual "Go Wild Grow Wild" Green Expo at London's Western Fair District. The UTRCA had a strong presence, with displays and information on a range of topics including the Conservation Areas, native trees and plants, watersheds, flooding and more. The UTRCA's Brandon Williamson gave a talk on the Urban Beaver, explaining the importance of this mammal to the ecosystem, the challenges beavers can create in an urban environment, and management strategies that benefit both the beaver and the community.

At a shared booth, the Friends of Stoney Creek, Friends of Medway Creek, and Dorchester Mill Pond Committee shared information about their volunteer groups. The augmented reality sandbox drew in the crowds while the children enjoyed crafting with natural materials. All three groups enjoyed the opportunity to meet new people at the event, share information about their groups, and network with one another.



Three "Friends of" groups shared a display booth.



The virtual reality sand table is always popular.

This event is an excellent opportunity to spread the conservation message and make connections, with attendance in the thousands.

[Go Wild Grow Wild photos](#)

Contact: Steve Sauder, Marketing Specialist



The craft table attracted lots of children.



A back country campsites at Wildwood CA.

Wildwood CA Back Country Camping: Innovative Experience Award Finalist!

Wildwood Conservation Area’s “Back Country Camping Sites” initiative was one of three finalists for the Innovative Experience Award through Ontario’s Southwest Tourism. The award recognizes an experience, event or festival that uses new or refurbished innovative strategies to improve the tourism experience or marketing activities.

Paul Switzer, Superintendent at Wildwood CA, was invited to attend the awards ceremony on March 6th at London’s Best Western Lamplighter as part of the Ontario’s Southwest Tourism Conference where the winner was announced.

It was Paul’s vision and dedication that brought the back country sites to fruition. An avid camper himself, Paul noticed the increasing popularity of remote, “off the grid” camping as people sought truly rejuvenating experiences at campgrounds in northern Ontario. Seeing the benefits as well as the possibility of developing a similar offering in southwestern Ontario, Wildwood CA staff created four backcountry campsites at Wildwood. These sites, located on the shore of the reservoir, are for people looking for a more remote and private experience similar to what they can find in northern Ontario, but closer to home.



The UTRCA contingent at the awards dinner.

The two other finalists were “From Tree to Table – A Build-your-own Board Experience,” and “Regenerate-Heritage Grain Weekend.” The award went to “From Tree to Table.” Paul and his team should be extremely proud of the unique opportunity that they created for Wildwood CA visitors.

Also in attendance were Sandy Levin, Chair of the UTRCA, and staff members Dave Griffin, Ryan Mullin, Karen Sockett, Erik Fink, James Miller, Michelle Viglianti and Jennifer Howley. [Back Country Campsite photos](#)

Contact: Paul Switzer, Superintendent, Wildwood CA

London Farm Show

The UTRCA’s Conservation Services Unit has had a display booth at the annual London Farm Show for close to 50 years. The spring show draws more than 22,000 visitors each year, making it an excellent opportunity to connect with landowners from within the watershed and beyond.



This year, UTRCA staff designed a new set of display panels featuring examples of “What We Do” and “How Can We Help.” Also new this year was an “Ask The Expert” component. Several cover crop experts from around the watershed took turns at the exhibit, answering questions from visitors about their own experience with cover crops. Their expertise was a valuable addition to our cover crop information displays. The UTRCA is leading a cover crop demonstration project in the Upper Medway subwatershed.

[London Farm Show photos](#)

Contact: Craig Merkley, Conservation Services Specialist

Curling Funspiel

The 12th annual “Fish Habitat & Friends Curling Funspiel” was held on March 23 at the Ilderton Curling Club. This bonspiel began as a way to connect with government agency staff who specialize in protecting fish habitat in southwestern Ontario. Over the years, it has grown to include various consulting firms, agency partners, First Nations, and friends.

This year, UTRCA staff (and friends) hit the ice with three curling teams. The beauty of this funspiel is that it is geared to all skill levels, so it is a fun day of networking or just plain socializing.



Tracey Haycock with her Hot Shot trophy!

While none of the UTRCA teams took home the “Big Fish” team prize, Tracey Haycock managed to swim above the experienced curlers to win the highly competitive “Hot Shot” (fish) trophy. Tracey’s win makes this the third time that a UTRCA staff member (or spouse) has taken home this very prestigious award. Congratulations, Tracey! Honourable mention goes to Mark Shifflett, who came in second at the Turkey Shoot.

Contact: Karen Winfield, Land Use Regulations Officer

Board of Directors – On the Agenda

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on April 23, 2019, at the Watershed Conservation Centre, located in Fanshawe Conservation Area. Agendas and approved minutes are posted on our “Board Agendas & Minutes” page at www.thamesriver.on.ca.

Please note that a brief Source Protection Authority meeting will precede the Board of Directors meeting.

- Response to March 12, 2019 St. Marys Letter
- Correspondence from Perth East and Perth South
- Deferred Motion to Rescind Budget Vote
- Board Representation Report
- Conservation Ontario Report Regarding Streamlining and Client Services
- Finance & Audit Committee – Open Position
- Conservation Authorities Act Review
- Administration and Enforcement – Section 28
- New Funding Summary
- Quarterly Financial Report
- Reserves Board Report
- Environmental Planning & Regulations Presentation

Contact: Michelle Viglianti, Administrative Assistant