

May 22, 2018

NOTICE OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING *AMENDED*

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018

TIME: 9:30 A.M – 11:20 A.M

LOCATION: WATERSHED CONSERVATION CENTRE
BOARDROOM

AGENDA:	TIME
1. Traditional Territory Statement Greeting	9:30am
2. Approval of Agenda	
3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Tuesday April 24, 2018	
*8. (d) London Dyke Environmental Assessments (F.Brandon-Sutherland) (Presentation) (20 minutes) *(Item moved)	
5. Business Arising from the Minutes	9:35am
(a) Response St. Marys Council Concerns (I.Wilcox)(Doc: #119919) (Report attached)(15 minutes)	
6. Business for Approval	9:50am
(a) Audited Financial Statements (I.Wilcox/S.Levin)(Doc: FIN#714) (Report attached)(10 minutes)	
(b) Revised Investment Policy (C.Saracino/S.Levin) (Doc: FIN#715) (Report attached)(10 minutes)	
(c) 2019 Strategic Plan Implementation (I.Wilcox)(Doc: #119930)	

(Report attached)(15 minutes)

7. Closed Session – In Camera
8. Business for Information 10:25am
 - (a) Administration and Enforcement - Section 28
(T. Annett) (Doc: ENVP #5824)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
 - (b) Friends of Ellice and Gadshill Swamp
Status Report
(A.Shivas/B.Mackie)(Doc: #119906)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
 - (c) The Thames River (Deshkan Ziibi) Shared
Waters Approach to Water Quantity and Quality
(T.Tchir)(Presentation)(20 minutes)
9. May FYI 11:15am
10. Other Business (Including Chair and General
Manager's Comments)
11. Adjournment 11:20am



Ian Wilcox, General Manager

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

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

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018

Members Present:	M.Blackie M.Blosh R.Chowen S.Levin N.Manning S.McCall-Hanlon	A.Murray B.Petrie M.Ryan J.Salter G.Way
Regrets:	T.Birtch A.Hopkins	T.Jackson H.McDermid
Solicitor:	G.Inglis	
Staff:	T.Annett D.Charles C.Harrington T.Hollingsworth T.Tchir	M.Snowsell C.Tasker F.Brandon-Sutherland B.Mackie K.Winfield

1. Traditional Territory Statement Greeting

The Chair read the traditional territory statement greeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair proposed an amendment to move item 8d) London Dyke Environmental Assessment up to follow item four (4) on the agenda.

S.Levin moved – B.Petrie seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the UTRCA Board of Directors
move item 8d) after item 4 on the agenda.”

CARRIED.

G.Way moved – M.Ryan seconded:-

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

CARRIED.

3. 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.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
April 24, 2018

S.Levin moved – G.Way seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors’ minutes dated April 24, 2018 as posted on the Members’ web-site.”

CARRIED.

8d) London Dyke Environmental Assessments

F.Brandon-Sutherland gave a presentation on the current and future London Dyke Environmental Assessments. He will work with the project team to encourage increased communication with the consultants. F.Brandon-Sutherland clarified that while staff will be working with partners, the Upper Thames is the lead on this project and has final say on any plans for the dyke reconstruction.

F.Brandon-Sutherland explained that the chosen alternatives and availability of funding will dictate the timeline for the Earth Dykes projects, but it will be a minimum of three years before construction begins.

While Dykes are seen as passive flood control structures, they require significant cost and maintenance. Dyke improvements provide a higher level of flood protection for existing structures, they do not change the intensity of development permitted in the area.

Staff clarified that only the Municipalities that benefit from a flood control structure pay for it. They also explained that WECI is a limited pot of money for the whole Province. Major projects high on the list make it more difficult for lower ranking projects to get funding. UTRCA’s flood control structures, including dykes, typically rank very highly.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Response St. Marys Council Concerns
(Report circulated at meeting)

Board members voiced their concerns and disappointment in response to the comments from St. Marys. After discussion, the Board directed staff to write a letter responding to the questions in

a factual and brief manner. The Board felt education for both Council and the community was very important. T.Hollingsworth and I.Wilcox will work on a strategy on how best to get the information out to the public. The UTRCA has received funding through the Natural Disaster Mitigation program for Focus on Flooding education. Staff will use this opportunity to incorporate key messages and facts that arose from the letter from St. Marys Council in their programing. Board members suggested staff contact the local Chamber of Commerce for education opportunities within the business community of St. Marys. As per regular practice, I.Wilcox will give an orientation presentation to the new Council after the election.

S.Levin moved – R.Chowen seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors a) direct staff to work with the Chair to prepare a written response to St. Marys Town Council based on the key messages provided in this report and further, that the Chair and General Manager request delegation status before Council to speak to these concerns, and b) direct staff to investigate and present further information and education as appropriate to the St. Marys Community.”

CARRIED.

The letter will be circulated to the Board members before it is sent to St. Marys.

6. Business for Approval

(a) Audited Financial Statement
(Report attached)

The Finance and Audit Committee met with PH&N to review the results of the Audit. S.Levin reviewed the report and the audited statements with the Board.

As a standard business practice, the Finance and Audit Committee will soon launch a tender for audit services for 2018.

B.Petrie moved – M.Ryan seconded:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as presented in the report.”

CARRIED.

(b) Revised Investment Policy
(Report attached)

S.Levin reviewed the proposed changes made to the UTRCA investment policy. S.Levin highlighted the second page of the policy, and explained the change to the asset mix and risk

tolerance. The Finance and Audit Committee are very comfortable with the expertise of PH&N. PH&N will be reporting to the Committee on a regular basis, and in turn, the Committee will then report to the Board.

S.McHall-Hanlon moved – G.Way seconded:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as presented in the report.”

CARRIED.

- (c) 2019 Strategic Plan Implementation
(Report attached)

I.Wilcox presented his report to the Board in anticipation of the draft levy rate request being presented to the Board in June. The Board supported the Strategic Plan’s phased-funding as originally planned, with the understanding that the draft levy rate will be brought to the Board in June for further discussion and approval. Board members requested to see the breakdown of additional funding coming from levy in dollars.

M.Ryan moved – B.Petrie seconded:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approve option number one (1) as presented in the report.”

CARRIED.

7. Closed Session – In Camera

There was no business to discuss in Closed Session.

8. Business for Information

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

B.Petrie moved – G.Way seconded:-

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

CARRIED.

- (b) Friends of Ellice and Gadshill Swamp
(Report attached)

S.Levin moved – M.Ryan seconded:-

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

CARRIED.

(c) The Thames River Shared Waters Approach to Water Quantity and Quality

T.Tchir presented the Thames River shared water approach to water quantity and quality to the Board.

9. May FYI
(Attached)

The attached report was presented to the members for their information.

10. Other Business

T.Hollingsworth reported on the 2018 Oxford County Children’s Water Festival, which saw between 800-900 kids and 150 volunteers per day. For the first time a public event was held in the evening, 600 people attended.

The Board asked that high speed rail be put on a future agenda for discussion.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31p.m on a motion by N.Manning.



Ian Wilcox
General Manager
Att.

To: UTRCA Board of Directors

From: Ian Wilcox, General Manager

Date: May 11, 2018 **Agenda #:** 5 (a)

Subject: Response St. Marys Council Concerns **Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
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Recommendation: That staff be directed to work with the Chair to prepare a written response to St. Marys Town Council based on the key messages provided in this report and further, that the Chair and General Manager request delegation status before Council to speak to these concerns.

Background

Murray Blackie (Chair), Tony Jackson (St. Marys representative), Chris Tasker (Manager, Water and Information Management) and the General Manager were invited to offer a presentation to St. Marys Council at their April 17 Strategic Priorities Committee meeting. The purpose of the presentation was to provide an overview of the February 21-22 flood event noting the success of flood management efforts by the UTRCA and Town staff in protecting St. Marys from the highest flows ever on record.

Coincidentally, and in sharp contrast to the UTRCA's presentation, a delegation of two concerned citizens (who are owners of the St. Marys Golf and Country Club) provided a presentation which was strongly critical of the UTRCA's flood management program, specifically the operation of Wildwood Dam. While the presentation makes no reference to the golf course, based on past discussions it is apparent that this criticism was prompted by past experiences of Trout Creek overtopping its banks and rendering sections of the golf course unplayable, impacting revenue. Copies of both the UTRCA and citizen presentations were provided to the Board at the April 24th meeting.

Questions from Council were directed at both UTRCA staff and the citizen delegation following the presentations. UTRCA staff were comfortable that Council understood the Authority's role in protecting the Town through the operation of both Wildwood Dam and the St. Marys Flood Wall, and that the significance of the February flood was not underestimated.

It is our understanding that St. Marys Council entered into a discussion about both presentations during approval of the committee's minutes at a subsequent Council meeting. UTRCA staff were not in attendance at that meeting. The result of that Council discussion is the attached letter and series of questions addressed to the UTRCA's Chair and Board. UTRCA staff are somewhat surprised by the questions given that most were addressed as part of our April 17th presentation or in follow-up questions, and considering the effective performance of the dam and floodwall in significantly reducing damages in St Marys during the February flood, we are happy to work with the Board to prepare a written response.

A short St. Marys Independent newspaper article is also attached summarizing Council's discussion.

Discussion

Issues:

1. Golf Course Criticism

The St. Marys Golf and Country Club is located within the floodplain of Trout Creek, downstream of Wildwood Dam, on the eastern edge of the Town of St. Marys (See Map 1.).

St. Marys Golf and Country Club



Map 1. :

Regulatory Flood Limit (Blue Line)

Regulation Limit (Yellow Line)

Correspondence shows that for more than 35 years, the St. Marys Golf and Country Club has been critical of the UTRCA, suggesting that the Authority's operation of Wildwood Dam "causes flooding" on their course, impacting playability and revenue. UTRCA staff have met with the golf course ownership on many occasions to remind them of their business decision to locate in the flood plain, explain the dam's operations, provided written summaries as well as stream flow and dam operation data, and provide direct communications during all flood events. Staff have also gone so far as to slightly modify dam discharge practices to benefit the golf course's operations where those minor modifications do not negatively impact our ability to augment flow, manage floods or affect others. Stewardship and engineering staff have been on-site to offer advice regarding possible modifications that could increase their resilience to flooding (buffers, grading for improved drainage, bridge re-design, channel modifications, clearing debris, etc.). It is believed few, if any, modifications have been made (as permits would be required).

UTRCA staff have also made the golf course ownership aware that in fact the golf course benefits greatly from their location downstream of Wildwood Dam. Staff completed an analysis of stream flows from 1991 to 2016. During that time, if Wildwood Dam had not been in place, the golf course would have "lost" 83 days of golfing due to natural flows inundating parts for the course. With Wildwood Dam in place and attenuating flows, there were only 29 days where flows inundated the floodplain. This represents a 65% reduction from the impacts of high water.

Despite this benefit, staff have also been clear that floodplains need to convey water. They are part of the conveyance system, their inundation is natural, and is NOT considered flooding. Wildwood Dam is not designed to prevent Trout Creek from utilizing its natural floodplain. The golf course's decision to locate their business within the Trout Creek floodplain includes the reality of impacts from high water. Suggesting the UTRCA's operation of Wildwood Dam has somehow been negligent and "causes flooding" that puts the Town and its residents at risk is not only wrong, it is based on measure of business profit rather than environmental criteria, and ignores their responsibility as landowners to manage assets and their business operations so as to minimize risk.

Unfortunately, the golf course ownership continues to lobby that they should receive 100% flood protection from Wildwood Dam and that changes in operations be made which would reduce the reservoir's ability to maintain flow augmentation. Their complaint to Council has elevated this issue from the staff level, to become a political issue that involves Council and the Board of Directors. UTRCA staff are frustrated that, despite significant time and effort on our part, this single business, who knowingly operate within the floodplain of Trout Creek, remain adamant that the Conservation Authority should be singularly responsible for the shortcomings of their business location. Further, suggesting that water on their golf course somehow translates to threatening lives and properties in other parts of the Town is inflammatory and false and has unfairly damaged the reputation of the UTRCA.

2. Council's Letter

Council's May 9 letter is attached and includes a series of ten questions. The questions range from this flooding issue, to clarification regarding our Environmental Targets Strategic Plan, climate change, and an explanation of regional flood standards. UTRCA staff have begun drafting responses to each of these questions in anticipation of including them as part of the Board's written response.

The following is a quick synopsis:

- Operating guidelines can and will be explained. Staff appreciate the graphs referred to can be misunderstood and are working to make the information more relevant for the public. However, to be clear, the UTRCA operates within prescribed guidelines. This was discussed as part of the April 17th Council presentation and proven by our flood management performance during the February 21-22 event.
- The UTRCA considers weather forecasts in all operating decisions, but does not and cannot make "proactive", or what might be better referred to as pre-emptive, dam operations based on rainfall forecasts. For example, a decision to release reservoir water based on a forecast rainfall could easily result in the reservoir having an inadequate supply of water for low flow augmentation for the rest of the year if the anticipated runoff does not materialize.
- Strategic Planning: The UTRCA has a unique environmental mandate delivered on a watershed scale. Our Strategic Plan serves that interest and is generally consistent with the environmental components of municipal strategic plans and official plans (many of which provincial policy requires municipalities to conform with). The UTRCA's Environmental Targets Strategic Plan does not contemplate, nor should it, municipal priorities related to economic development, municipal infrastructure or social services. However, it does offer a cost shared model of local environmental improvements that will encourage community health, resilience and growth at a fraction of the cost that individual municipalities would face. St. Marys is being asked to fund only 0.5% of the total cost of environmental improvements recommended by the Environmental Targets Strategic Plan.
- The regulatory flood standard for the UTRCA watershed, as identified in O.Reg 157/06, is based on the 1937 Thames River Flood. Local communities and the province agreed to an "actually experienced" flood that became our regulatory flood standard in February 1989. In London, where some of the worst flood damages occurred, this event is equivalent to a 1:250 year flood. The

1:250 year flood is applied uniformly throughout the UTRCA. Prior to receiving provincial approval for this standard, the regional storm (based on Hurricane Hazel, a higher standard) was used to regulate flood susceptible development.

3. Flood Management Performance

The UTRCA is being accused of “flooding” a local business through mismanagement of the Wildwood Dam. This false accusation has been extrapolated to suggest the UTRCA is putting the Town and its residents at risk. These accusations are irresponsible with no factual basis and ignore that a primary purpose of Wildwood is flow augmentation.

The complaints levied against the UTRCA are driven by occasional financial losses from a business that relies on fair weather, outdoor participation, and that has knowingly located in a floodplain. The fact that the golf courses already benefits greatly from Wildwood is being ignored. In fact, all the evidence points to an effective flood management system that has protected the Town of St. Marys from flood levels that in the past would have inundated much of the downtown.

Key Messages:

Staff are willing to work with the UTRCA’s Board Chair to compose a written response. The following key messages are suggested for inclusion:

1. There has been no significant “flooding” in the Town of St. Marys. While floodplains have been inundated, their purpose is to convey water and they form an important part of the watershed’s flood management system.
2. There has been no mismanagement of Wildwood Dam. Graphs have been misinterpreted and they will be changed to be more appropriate for public use and understanding.
3. Despite their concerns and criticism, the St. Marys Golf and Country Club has benefited greatly from the operation of Wildwood Dam and Reservoir.
4. Wildwood cannot be operated for the benefit of one individual business. It’s cost and operation is paid for by the ratepayers of London (84%) and St. Marys (14%) and its benefits must be accrued accordingly.
5. The Town of St. Marys benefits from Wildwood and the floodwall. The February flood (highest on record in St Marys) clearly demonstrates the flood protection system works. No evidence of mismanagement exists.
6. The UTRCA’s Strategic Plan is designed to improve accountability and to further the mandate of the UTRCA on the municipality’s behalf. The Strategic Plan is designed to further the Ends of the UTRCA as a unique environmental organization working at a watershed, not municipal, scale.
7. A direct message needs to be conveyed that any accusation of negligence in the operation of Wildwood Dam is unfounded, misinformed and wrong.

Summary

The UTRCA has more than 70 years’ experience in working to manage flood events to minimize risk to life and property. Our team of experienced, professional technical staff work with the latest in flood monitoring and forecasting technology, maintain and operate more than \$100 million in flood control infrastructure, and communicate regularly with municipal flood coordinators to ensure effective protection. News of flooding and flood damages from across Canada are commonplace however notability absent are examples from the Thames Watershed despite flood events of equal or greater significance. Our system of controls is constantly evaluated, maintained and improved where needed. The UTRCA takes any comments or criticism regarding its flood management role very seriously, however, in this case any criticism is both unfair and unfounded. Staff are happy to work with the Chair to provide a formal written response to the Town of St. Marys that conveys the key messages described above.

Prepared and Recommended by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Wilcox'.

Ian Wilcox
General Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Tasker'.

Chris Tasker,
Manager Water and Information Systems



May 9, 2018

Chair Murray Blackie and Members of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board

C/O

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
1424 Clarke Road
London, ON N5V 5B9

RE: UTRCA Operations and Management Inquiries

Dear Members of the Board,

St. Marys Town Council requests that this letter be placed in the next available Board agenda package for consideration.

As you may be aware, Council for the Town of St. Marys received a delegation from concerned citizens on April 17, 2018. Council would like to extend its thanks to Chair Murray Blackie, Board Member Tony Jackson and the UTRCA staff for attending to hear the delegation. For the Board's information, a copy of the April 17, 2018 presentation is enclosed with this letter.

Through their delegation, the presenters raised questions and concerns in regards to the operations of the Wildwood Reservoir, and in regards to the overall operations and management of the UTRCA. Town Council had the opportunity to deliberate these questions and concerns at their April 24, 2018 Council meeting and passed the following resolution for the UTRCA Board to consider:

Resolution 2018-04-24-04

Moved By Councillor Van Galen

Seconded By Councillor Craigmile

THAT the Council of the Town of St. Marys is concerned that the Wildwood reservoir has been operating outside of the UTRCA guidelines, placing lives and property at risk; and

THAT Council ask the Board of the UTRCA to address Council's concerns and those of Mr. Courtnage and Mr. Staffen that were raised at the Strategic Priorities Committee meeting on April 17, 2018.

CARRIED

To assist the Board in providing a reply, Council is seeking a response from the Board to the specific concerns raised in the enclosed presentation. In addition, it would be helpful for St. Marys Council if the Board could provide information to answer the questions and requests for information that are set out below:

- Please provide an explanation of the upper and lower operating guidelines, and the operating trend line, that is publically posted on the UTRCA reservoir level web page.

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

- Please provide an explanation why the operating trend line for the Wildwood Reservoir would exceed the upper operating guideline. Does the Board find this to be a safe and acceptable operating practice?
- Please explain if the UTRCA uses weather forecasts to proactively discharge stored water from the Wildwood Reservoir in advance of a large storm event.
- Please identify if the UTRCA conducted a proactive discharge in advance of the February 2018 spring melt and significant weather event that resulted in the highest recorded river flows in St. Marys
- If no proactive discharge was completed, why? Does the Board find this to be a safe and acceptable operating practice?
- Please explain how the UTRCA has adapted the operating procedures of the Wildwood Reservoir to accommodate for the effects of climate change.
- Please confirm that the current operating practices for the Wildwood Reservoir are not placing the Town of St. Marys, and its residents, at risk.
- While completing its most recent strategic planning exercise, please explain if the UTRCA considered the strategic priorities of the individual member municipalities while crafting the Authority's goals for the future. If not, why?
- Please explain how the UTRCA's current strategic plan supports and/or advances the strategic goals and priorities of Town of St. Marys (as identified in the Town's strategic plan), in particular those goals for housing and downtown revitalization.
- Please explain how the 100-year and 200-year flood levels are determined. Please confirm which flood levels are codified in legislation, and which are applied as a best practice by the UTRCA.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification in regards to the requests of St. Marys Town Council.

Sincerely,



Brent Kittmer, P.Eng., MPA
CAO / Clerk

For

Council of the Town of St. Marys

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

Ideas to Share: UTRCA, Business Investments and Our Communities

Dave Courtnage

Rob Staffen

April 17, 2018

Agenda

- This presentation will be about Opportunities for our Community
- Sharing the data on the Operation by UTRCA of Wildwood Dam:
UTRCA may be putting our Community at Risk
- Power Shift from Private Sector to Public Sector
- UTRCA/St. Marys “**Circle of Importance**”
- IDEA “Smart and Caring Community Fund” for Parks, Cycling, Trails and Natural Forests – Next Generation
- **Plans moving forward**

It is About Community

- Our Families believes in 20 year plans, how would you leave these businesses to your Grandchildren and to your Community
- Understanding the Ideas behind the “13 Ways to Kill a Community” concept made our Families realize we need to get involved
- Power has shifted from the Private Sector (that pay the taxes) to the Public Sector and jobs (UTRCA authority),
- We want UTRCA and St. Marys (other Communities) to be Partners in providing clean water, safety to our Businesses and to our Families, and Parks and Recreation to the next generation
- *Community Partners:* We (a Business Owners) want to be a respected and admired as an important assets of the community at large; so that we attract tourists, we will attract industry, we will attract professionals and we will attract people to become part of the community.

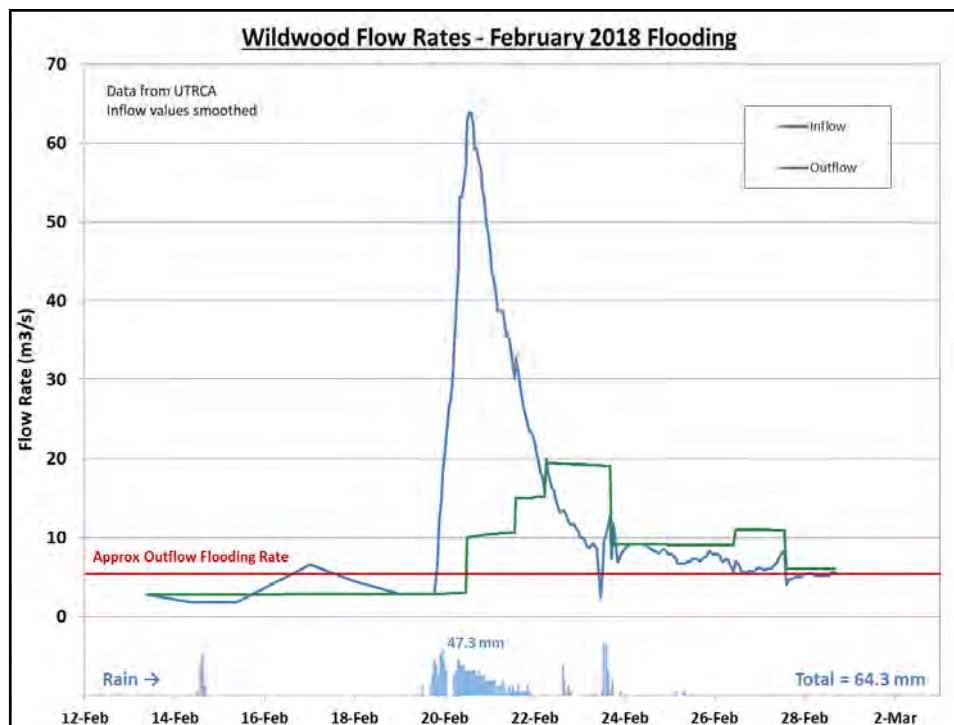
Where are we Today?

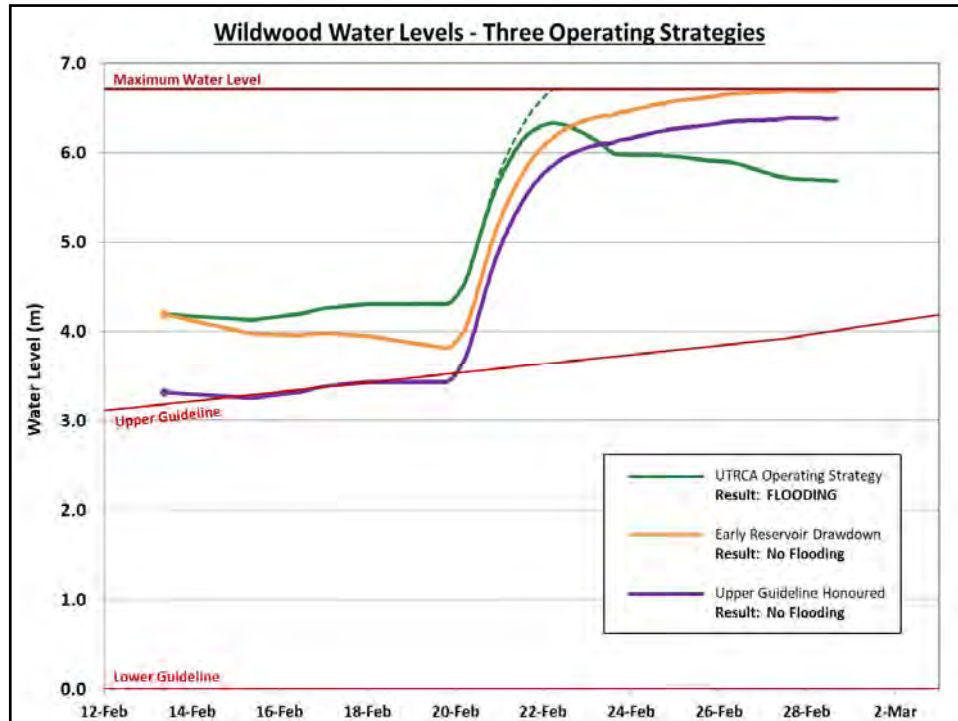
- Working with UTRCA is difficult; The 200 Year flood line is unrealistic in cases of existing Sites
- Increasing and **Unsustainable Costs** of UTRCA (Costs of the organization are up substantially, 8.7% in Labour alone whereby Business is struggling to survive and cutting labour, especially with the new Minimum wage policies and Communities are facing lost Tax Base(s) and other Government cut backs)
- UTRCA **Lack of Accountability**- in business we are rated on performance versus standards or forecast, UTRCA is perceived as Enabling its Staff: “Defending positions and individuals” versus “The Community and the team”
- Downtown Development Issues (European Examples)

Operation by UTRCA of Wildwood Dam

Flooding Summary

- All recent Trout Creek floods are due to operational errors, not weather events
 - UTRCA routinely operates outside the design basis operating parameters
 - UTRCA routinely operates outside its own operating guidelines
 - UTRCA consistently ignores data that would help prevent flooding





Operation by UTRCA of Wildwood Dam

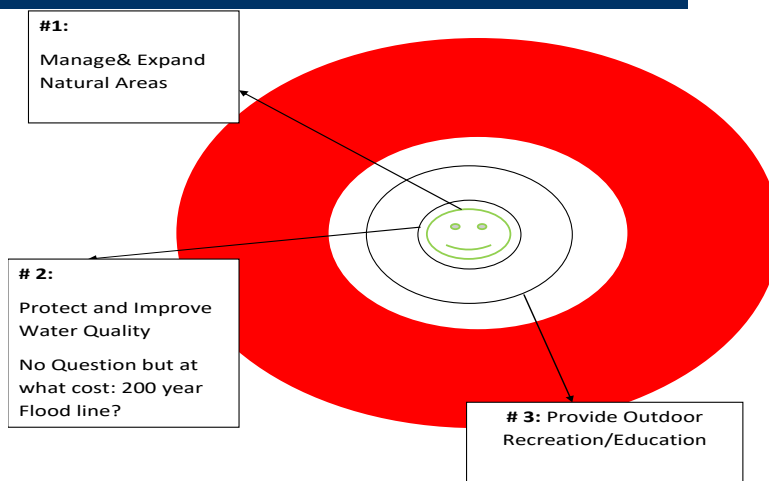
Flooding Summary

- Solutions that would prevent flooding and preserve all of flow augmentation capability presented to UTRCA, but rejected
 - Inconvenience to boaters, campers and cottage owners
 - Flow augmentation is the only priority, flood control is an incidental side benefit
 - Some flooding is acceptable as part of the flood control mandate
- Without changes to operating strategy, a flooding disaster for St. Marys is inevitable
- UTRCA's handling of the flooding problem is just a **symptom of the problem**

St. Marys, other Communities and UTRCA As Partners NOT Adversaries

- Communities, where we work, **where we pay our taxes**, where we run our Businesses or where we volunteer for our Town should be the **#1 priority** for UTRCA
(The existing relationship is backwards)
- UTRCA actually work for us (our Communities) and we should **work together as partners** in helping Businesses grow and flourish; yet UTRCA is feared by Business (and avoided if they can) for all the wrong reasons. **This is not a True Partnership**

UTRCA "CIRCLE OF IMPORTANCE" Current



UTRCA "CIRCLE OF IMPORTANCE" Current

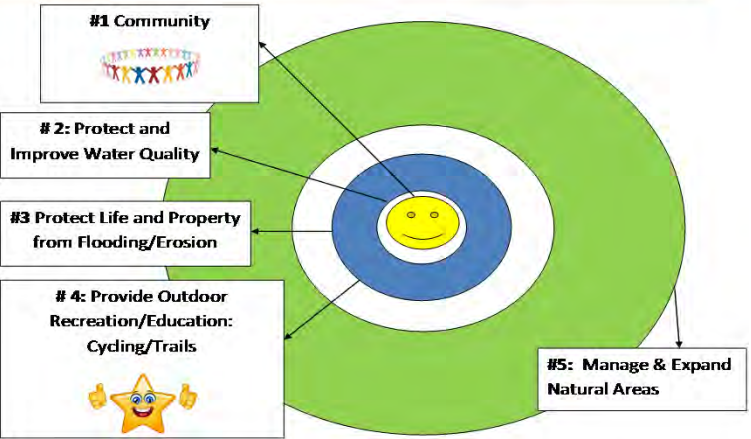
#4 Protect Life and Property from Flooding/Erosion
The 100 year flood line does that.

#5 Community
Not even mentioned in the Vision for UTRCA?

Save
Downtowns like Europe does.



UTRCA "CIRCLE OF IMPORTANCE" In Order of Priorities



Ontario's Cycling Strategy: 20 Year Plan- Where is UTRCA on Cycling?



Partnership: St. Marys/London/ Perth South/Stratford and UTRCA

- UTRCA to “Engage with our Communities”
 - ✓ Insist that UTRCA work with communities to align their priorities to be consistent with those of the communities they serve.
 - ✓ UTRCA has willing partners in the process. To ignore them is irresponsible.
 - ✓ Streamline the regulatory process. Work with the towns to establish criteria and allow the towns to work within them, rather than micromanaging every application.
 - ✓ Partners Work Together to Promote Downtown Development; especially Attainable Housing and unique Commercial venues. (Europe example) .

Partnership: St. Marys/London/ Perth South/Stratford and UTRCA

- UTRCA to be held “Accountable to our Communities”
 - ✓ Join with other like-thinking communities and **withhold funding increases** to UTRCA until the recommendations are met.
 - ✓ UTRCA to develop **Performance standards** that provide their staff with specific **performance** expectations for each major duty. Review them. Enforce them.
 - ✓ Review the operation of Wildwood Dam to **ensure the protection** of St. Marys residents and businesses.
 - ✓ Permit the use of **common sense**. Blind adherence to pre-conceived ideas rarely produces the correct result.

Partnership: St. Marys/London/ Perth South/Stratford and UTRCA

- UTRCA to “Co-Create a Vision of Community”
 - ✓ Ideas to enhance Revenue should be encouraged and rewarded
 - ✓ Cycling Paths and Hiking Trails
 - ✓ Recognize the funding limitations of small communities
 - ✓ Work with Communities to seek creative ways to fund programs (sell the farms):
 - “A Smart and Caring Community Foundation “
“Parks, Recreation, Trails and Cycling Paths”
 - Annual Fundraising Community Event
 - Sale of Farms Owned by UTRCA



QUESTIONS?

Black's Financial Services

Term	G.I.C.	CDIC INSURED
1yr	2.66	*All rates subject to change without notice
3yr	2.95	
5yr	3.35	

Call Pat for details. 519.284.1340

\$149 B.W. TAXES IN \$ DOWN!



2014 Chevrolet Trax LT AWD

ALLROADS
AWD, Powerful and efficient 4cyl. turbo, 6 sp. auto, pwr windows, locks & mirrors, tinted glass, keyless, cruise, bluetooth, onstar, outside temp display & compass, anti-lock brakes, front & side airbags, am/fm cd, 2 sets of tires and rims, comes certified with balance of GM powertrain warranty & roadside assist just \$14995 plus tax & lic.

Finance for \$0 down at a low rate of just 4.99% , for 60 months for payments at just \$149 b.w. (tax in / c.o.b. is 2250.90 o.a.c) **519.284.3308**

Black's Financial Services

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Issue #895

Thursday, April 26, 2018

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FM96 to broadcast morning show live from St. Marys on Friday, May 18

Residents invited to enjoy a free "Breakfast on the Bridge"

Earlier this month, St. Marys emerged victorious in FM96's "Small Town March Madness" competition. The contest involved 64 communities competing to be voted the "best small town" in the London-based radio station's listening area.

After a nail-biting final matchup against Thamesford, St. Marys took the title. As a result, FM96's popular morning mainstay "The Taz Show" will broadcast live from the Stonetown on Friday, May 18 – and all residents are invited to come enjoy the spoils of victory.

"We decided to make the broadcast a

thank-you to residents for securing our win," says Mayor Al Strathdee. "As The Taz Show airs in the mornings, what better way to show our gratitude than to start the day with a free breakfast?"

In what's being billed as "Breakfast on the Bridge," Water Street North from Queen to Parkview will be closed to traffic the morning of May 18, with the FM96 mobile truck broadcasting from the Green Bridge. Thanks to the generosity of many local businesses, a free breakfast will be served on a first-come, first-served basis during the show,

Continued on page 2

Strong words levied against Conservation Authority

By Chet Greason

Up for discussion at the meeting of Council on Tuesday (April 24) was the competency of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) in their operation of the Wildwood Dam.

The discussion was sparked while passing the minutes of a Strategic Priorities Committee meeting held on April 17. That meeting began with a presentation by the UTRCA's board chair Murray Blackie and general manager/secretary-treasurer Ian Wilcox addressing the flood of Feb. 21-22. They were followed by Dave Courtnage and Rob Staffen of the St. Marys Golf and Country Club, who shared their concerns regarding how the UTRCA operates the dam. The two, citing what they called the worst flood the business has ever had, demanded the town withhold funding increases requested by the Authority until it is able to prove its accountability.

At this week's meeting, many members of Council agreed that the Authority should be taken to task to some degree.

"When two credible businessmen suggest that (the UTRCA) is putting the town at risk, that's not something you take lightly," said Mayor Al Strathdee. He added that he didn't leave the April 17 meeting with good feelings, saying the experts in attendance danced around questions, specifically when they were asked how they can determine models for 100 and 250 year storms when they do not possess local data of such storms.

Continued on page 6

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Independent Shorts

- We will be publishing our Mothers' Day issue on May 10 and invite our readers to share their stories about someone who has had an impact on their life. It could be your Mother, a friend or perhaps your Mother-in-law.

Please submit to info@stmarysindependent.com or drop it off at our office at 36 Water Street South. The deadline for submissions is Monday, May 7.

- Hundreds of people have already dropped off their updated information for our 2018/19 Phone Book which will be released this fall. There is still plenty of time to update or confirm your contact details if you have not done so yet. Either fill out the form within our weekly paper or email us your details at stmarysphonebook@gmail.com.



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Strong words levied against Conservation Authority

Continued from page 1

Coun. Don Van Galen suggested Council "not be too polite" in their response, saying the UTRCA "is putting lives and properties in jeopardy," and that they're "expected to operate within their own guidelines."

Coun. Bill Osborne agreed, but cautioned that the UTRCA ought to be given a chance to respond to the comments made by Staffen and Courtnage before further action is taken.

"I'm not an engineer," he said, adding he was "Surprised they've not been in touch with us at all."

Coun. Lynn Hainer said she would like to see a peer audit conducted by a secondary source; one that can ensure the UTRCA is using best practices in the operation of the dam.

Coun. Tony Winter noted that the golf course has been flooded again since Feb. 22.

"We need a response from Upper Thames as to why this is happening," he said.

Coun. Bill Osborne wondered, if the Authority knew a heavy rainstorm was coming, why the reservoir was not emptied priorly in order to mitigate potential floods. Strathdee said it appeared as if they weren't making decisions based off of weather patterns.

A motion was passed instructing staff to reach out to the UTRCA for a response.

Fire Department responds to a year's worth of calls

Fire Chief Richard Anderson presented his monthly report to Council, which said his department responded to nine emergency calls between March 16 and April 13.

"And you can tag on another 11 to that since that report was written," he said.

Anderson says that the St. Marys Fire Department has responded to 54 calls so far this year. To put that in perspective, the department responded to 55 calls in total during the entire year of 2013.

"I can't tell you what's going on," he admitted. "But we're busy."

The Fire Department will soon be organizing a recruitment drive aimed at replacing firefighters that are set to retire soon.

Council OKs renovations

Two major projects were given the green light on Tuesday. The first is the renovation of the old water

tower, which came in under budget with a bid from Robertson Restoration of \$134,337. That's less than half of what was originally budgeted for the project.

Staff will also be authorized to approve contingencies up to, but not exceeding, \$26,800.

Robertson Restoration is the same developer that restored the Town Hall bell tower two years ago.

Council also narrowly passed a motion that accepted a bid put forth by IntegriBuild Construction Management to replace the windows of the Town Hall and the Library for \$503,232. The contingencies of that project are not to exceed \$50,000.

That total is well over the \$352,000 it was originally budgeted for.

Mayor Strathdee insisted the new windows are needed, as many of the current wooden frames in the two historic buildings have begun to rot. The new windows will be re-insulated and will not include screens, although staff will have the option of inserting screens themselves should they wish to open a window in the summer time.

As well, the current storm screens, considered an eyesore by a number of Council members, are to be removed.

The motion was passed by a vote of 3-to-2. The two dissenting votes came from Coun. Van Galen, who observed that the tender only garnering two responses meant the project ought to be put off, and Coun. Jim Craigmile, who thought windows without screens were not worth half a million dollars.

Signs, signs, everywhere there's signs

Service Club Signs will soon be constructed at four of the town's major entry points. Currently, seven service clubs are signed up to have their logos displayed upon the signs, which are expected to be installed by the end of June at a cost of \$27,669.

Director of Public Works, Jed Kelly, noted that there's still time if any other service clubs want their logo included.

Town Council has also agreed to foot half of the bill for a new banner promoting the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Induction Weekend, to be held from June 15-17. The banner will be strung up between buildings over downtown Queen Street. The municipality's share of the new banner will be \$650.

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To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Sandy Levin
Date: 3 May 2018
Subject: Approval of Audited Financial Statements for 2017

Agenda #: 6 (a)
Filename: ::ODM\AGRWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
RCA_PO.HR:5336.1

Recommendation:

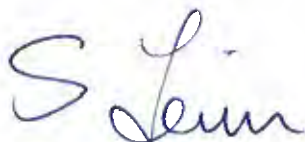
That the Board accepts and approves the Audited Financial Statements for 2017 prepared by KPMG as attached.

The Finance and Audit Committee met with Ian Jeffries, a partner with KPMG, at our most recent committee meeting and reviewed the results of the 2017 Draft Audited Financial Statements. The statements presented here for approval were dissected and discussed; one correction was required and is now incorporated in this draft.


We also reviewed the audit findings and summary of audit misstatements. A recommendation for review of non-routine transactions was made and will be enacted so that unusual transactions, in the judgement of our Supervisor of Finance, will be brought to the committee for information as needed.

It is the intention of the Finance and Audit Committee to launch a tender for audit services for 2018. We hope to have this completed over the summer and will provide our recommendation for auditor selection in the fall of 2018.

Recommended by:


Sandy Levin, Chair

And by:


Ian Wilcox, Treasurer

DRAFT Financial Statements of

**UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Year ended December 31, 2017

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, the statements of operations and accumulated net revenue, change in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, including schedules.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Upper Thames River Conservation Authority as at December 31, 2017, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Month DD, YYYY

London, Canada

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Statement of Financial Position

DRAFT

December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
Financial Assets		
Cash	\$ 3,625,859	\$ 2,905,478
Restricted cash (note 2)	266,266	480,144
Accounts receivable	723,675	1,850,676
Investments (note 3)	5,545,599	4,018,900
	<u>10,161,399</u>	<u>9,255,198</u>
Financial Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,531,146	1,251,054
Deferred revenue	3,717,279	1,918,841
Term loan (note 4)	-	423,954
Other liabilities (note 5)	64,571	243,458
	<u>5,312,996</u>	<u>3,837,307</u>
Net financial assets	4,848,403	5,417,891
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible capital assets (note 6)	39,064,166	37,954,383
Prepaid expenses and deposits	84,626	120,852
Inventories	27,333	-
Contingencies (note 10)		
Accumulated surplus (note 7)	<u>\$ 44,024,528</u>	<u>\$ 43,493,126</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved by:

_____ Chair _____ General Manager
_____ Supervisor of Finance

DRAFT - April 24, 2018, 8:46 PM

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Net Revenue

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Revenue:			
Municipal general levy	\$ 4,796,863	\$ 3,519,701	\$ 2,988,989
Dam and flood control levy	1,301,310	1,324,926	1,566,470
Conservation areas	3,241,149	3,554,115	3,437,554
Direct:			
Land and asset management	1,044,524	1,119,674	928,794
Fees for service	4,020,864	2,215,006	4,222,948
Provincial transfer payments:			
MNR Section 39 grants	351,424	351,020	351,020
Other provincial grants	3,238,690	1,549,784	3,717,316
Donations	28,191	91,133	1,028,811
Federal program funding	1,206,317	1,996,880	210,127
Other revenues	112,650	127,034	71,485
	19,341,982	15,849,273	18,523,514
Expenditures:			
Recreation	4,477,156	3,895,270	3,973,024
Flood control centre	6,927,897	4,273,659	5,076,565
Lands and facilities management	1,520,458	942,361	1,151,559
Watershed research, planning and monitoring	1,169,390	979,875	1,273,976
Community partnerships program	1,120,441	1,191,822	966,152
Source water protection (MOE)	481,901	534,558	835,733
Environmental planning	1,145,440	1,108,502	726,140
Soil and forestry programs	1,785,760	1,590,538	1,623,746
Environmental significant areas	620,929	657,567	543,830
Service cost centres (Schedule)	(40,435)	143,719	(32,695)
	19,208,937	15,317,871	16,138,030
Annual surplus	133,045	531,402	2,385,484
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	43,493,126	43,493,126	41,107,642
Accumulated surplus, end of year	\$ 43,626,171	\$ 44,024,528	\$ 43,493,126

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
Annual surplus	\$ 531,402	\$ 2,385,484
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(1,939,365)	(2,315,608)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	829,258	799,454
Loss on sale of tangible capital assets	324	-
Change in inventories	(27,333)	-
Change in prepaid expenses	36,226	(120,852)
Change in net financial assets	(569,488)	748,478
Net financial assets, beginning of year	5,417,891	4,669,413
Net financial assets, end of year	\$ 4,848,403	\$ 5,417,891

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Statement of Cash Flows

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities:		
Annual surplus	\$ 531,402	\$ 2,385,484
Adjustment for:		
Amortization of capital assets	829,258	799,454
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	1,127,001	(522,536)
Programs in progress	-	38,609
Prepaid expenses and deposits	36,226	(120,852)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	280,092	230,501
Inventories	(27,333)	-
Deferred revenue	1,798,438	487,188
Other liabilities	(178,887)	(53,925)
	4,396,197	3,243,923
Financing activities:		
Restricted cash	213,878	127,147
Payment of term loan	(423,954)	(54,448)
	(210,076)	72,699
Investing activities:		
Loss on sale of tangible capital assets	324	-
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(1,939,365)	(2,315,608)
Change in investments, net	(1,526,699)	981,100
	(3,465,740)	(1,334,508)
Increase in cash	720,381	1,982,114
Cash, beginning of year	2,905,478	923,364
Cash, end of year	\$ 3,625,859	\$ 2,905,478

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Notes to Financial Statements

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (the "Authority") is established under the Conservation Authority Act of Ontario to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources, other than gas, oil, coal and minerals for the watersheds within its area of jurisdiction.

1. Significant accounting policies:

The financial statements of the Authority are prepared by management in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for organizations operating in the local government sector as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants Canada. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Authority are as follows:

(a) Reserves:

Appropriations are made to reserves for future expenditures and contingencies for such amounts as required by various cost sharing arrangements, provincial restrictions and are deemed appropriate, and upon approval of the Board of Directors.

(b) Government transfers:

Government transfer payments are recognized as revenue in the financial statements in the year in which the payment is authorized and the events giving rise to the transfer occur, performance criteria are met, and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made. Funding that is stipulated to be used for specific purposes is only recognized as revenue in the fiscal year that the related expenses are incurred or services performed. If funding is received for which the related expenses have not yet been incurred or services performed, these amounts are recorded as a liability at year end. To the extent that stipulations by the transferor give rise to an obligation that meet the definition of a liability, government transfers are recognized as revenue as the liability is extinguished.

(c) Deferred revenue:

Certain user charges and fees are collected for which the related services have yet to be performed. These amounts are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year the related expenditures are incurred or services performed.

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017

1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(d) Tangible capital assets:

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets, excluding land are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Asset	Useful life, years
Land improvements	10-25
Buildings	15-50
Infrastructure	20-50
Furniture and fixtures	7
Vehicles	5-10
Flood control structures	50-80
Computers and communication	3-7

Amortization is charged in the year of acquisition and in the year of disposal. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

(i) Contributions of tangible capital assets:

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at their fair value at the date of receipt and also are recorded as revenue.

(ii) Natural resources:

Natural resources that have not been purchased are not recognized as assets in the financial statements.

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017

1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(e) Impairment of long-lived assets:

Long-lived assets, including equipment, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized by the amount by which the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell, and are no longer depreciated. The assets and liabilities of a disposed group classified as held for sale would be presented separately in the appropriate asset and liability sections of the balance sheet.

(f) Contaminated sites:

Under PS 3260, contaminated sites are defined as the result of contamination being introduced in air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic, or radioactive material or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard. This Standard relates to sites that are not in productive use and sites in productive use where an unexpected event resulted in contamination.

(g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017

2. Restricted cash:

Restricted cash consists of funding received from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change that has been restricted in its use by the funding Agency.

	2017	2016
Glengowan land disposition reserve fund	\$ 201,695	\$ 236,686
Source water protection trust (note 5)	64,571	243,458
Restricted cash	\$ 266,266	\$ 480,144

3. Investments:

Investments consist of Canadian bonds and guaranteed investment certificates with maturities ranging from March 15, 2018 to January 11, 2019. Interest rates on the investments range from 1.05% to 1.83%.

4. Term loan:

	2017	2016
Term loan payable, bearing interest at 2.6%, repayable in blended monthly instalments of \$5,467, due January 7, 2022.	\$ -	\$ 423,954

Interest paid on this loan during 2017 was \$9,155 (2016 - \$10,370).

During the year, the term loan was fully repaid. As a result of the repayment, the Authority incurred a penalty of \$2,400 which has been expensed in the current year.

5. Other liabilities:

The Authority is the lead Agency in the three party arrangement whereby funds are received for the other parties to the arrangement. Each party is entitled to its pro-rata share of funding which is for the purpose of source water protection.

Funds received by the Authority for the other parties to the arrangement which have not been dispersed at December 31, 2017 amount to \$64,571 (2016 - \$243,458). These amounts have been included in restricted cash.

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017

6. Tangible capital assets:

The historical cost of intangible assets employed by the Authority at December 31 is as follows:

Cost	Balance 2016	Additions	Disposals	Balance 2017
Land	\$ 16,358,834	\$ -	\$ 324	\$ 16,358,510
Land improvements	750,352	-	-	750,352
Buildings	14,685,481	100,378	-	14,785,859
Infrastructure	7,556,880	47,174	-	7,604,054
Furniture and fixtures	667,850	155,171	-	823,021
Vehicles	1,935,814	166,001	387,394	1,714,421
Flood control structures	17,078,746	1,355,396	-	18,434,142
Computers and communication	1,254,485	-	-	1,254,485
Construction in progress	107,649	1,423,545	1,308,300	222,894
	\$ 60,396,091	\$ 3,247,665	\$ 1,696,018	\$ 61,947,738

Accumulated amortization	Balance 2016	Amortization	Disposals	Balance 2017
Land	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land improvements	483,280	32,047	-	515,327
Buildings	3,326,513	281,635	-	3,608,148
Infrastructure	6,814,702	19,835	-	6,834,537
Furniture and fixtures	304,957	71,250	-	376,207
Vehicles	1,413,145	101,526	387,394	1,127,277
Flood control structures	8,958,999	260,437	-	9,219,436
Computers and communication	1,140,112	62,528	-	1,202,640
	\$ 22,441,708	\$ 829,258	\$ 387,394	\$ 22,883,572

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017

6. Tangible capital assets (continued):

	Balance 2016	Balance 2017
Net book value		
Land	\$ 16,358,834	\$ 16,358,510
Land improvements	267,072	235,025
Buildings	11,358,968	11,177,711
Infrastructure	742,178	769,517
Furniture and fixtures	362,893	446,814
Vehicles	522,669	587,144
Flood control structures	8,119,747	9,214,706
Computers and communications	114,373	51,845
Construction in progress	107,649	222,894
	\$ 37,954,383	\$ 39,064,166

7. Accumulated surplus:

	2017	2016
Surplus:		
Invested in tangible capital assets	\$ 39,064,166	\$ 37,954,383
Unrestricted net assets	(2,220,825)	(684,931)
Unfunded:		
Term loan	-	(423,954)
Total surplus	36,843,341	36,845,498
Reserve set aside for specific purposes of the Authority:		
Reserves (Schedule)	2,181,825	1,557,366
Reserve funds set aside for specific purposes by the Authority:		
Funded reserves (Schedule)	4,999,362	5,090,262
	\$ 44,024,528	\$ 43,493,126

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

DRAFT

Year ended December 31, 2017

8. Pension agreements:

The Authority makes contributions to the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System ("OMERS"), which is a multi-employer plan, on behalf of certain members of its staff. The plan is a defined benefit plan that specifies the amount of the retirement benefit to be received by the employees based on the length of service and rates of pay.

Contributions made by the Authority to OMERS for 2017 were \$1,180,908 (2016 - \$1,053,188).

9. Financial instruments:

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Authority is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

The Authority's financial instruments include cash, restricted cash, accounts receivable, programs in progress, investments, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, deferred revenue and other liabilities. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying value due to the expected short-term maturity of these instruments.

Accounts receivable is recorded net of an allowance for doubtful accounts of \$45,000 (2016 - nil).

10. Contingencies:

There are certain claims pending against the Authority as at December 31, 2017. The final outcome of these claims cannot be determined at this time. In management's opinion, insurance coverage is sufficient to offset the costs of unfavourable settlements, if any, which may result from such claims.

11. Comparative amounts:

The financial statements have been reclassified, where applicable, to conform to the presentation used in the current year. The changes do not affect prior year earnings.

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DRAFT Schedule - Service Cost Centres

Year ended December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Recoveries from mission cost centres	\$ 3,754,632	\$ 3,379,112	\$ 3,370,520
Expenditures:			
Occupancy	515,868	515,423	217,035
Information systems	673,780	669,825	625,915
Administration	717,471	615,861	743,262
Finance	656,843	655,398	605,279
Marketing and communications	491,820	469,522	562,228
Vehicles and equipment	658,415	596,802	584,106
	3,714,197	3,522,831	3,337,825
Surplus (deficit) in service cost centres	\$ 40,435	\$ (143,719)	\$ 32,695

UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DRAFT Schedule - Reserves and Reserve Funds

Year ended December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2016	Appropriations to (from) reserves	2017
Restricted and/or capital:			
Capital surcharge	\$ 318,463	\$ (26,940)	\$ 291,523
Fleet Replacement	118,770	-	118,770
Aggregate	134,260	-	134,260
Harrington Grist Mill	54,536	(1,808)	52,728
Flood control, dam maintenance	3,515,167	(25,948)	3,489,219
Memorial forests/arboretum	27,479	(1,122)	26,357
Properties/assets:			
Glengowan land disposition	236,775	(35,082)	201,693
Property management	208,799	-	208,799
Golspie Swamp	16,275	-	16,275
Pittock land disposition II	459,738	-	459,738
	<u>5,090,262</u>	<u>(90,900)</u>	<u>4,999,362</u>
Operating reserves:			
Service cost centre	196,805	-	196,805
Mission centres	106,771	32,400	139,171
Information management	81,459	-	81,459
Weekly indemnity self insurance	35,813	4,253	40,066
WCC building refurbishment	60,000	5,000	65,000
Community Partnerships	11,095	(231)	10,864
Conservation Services	235,943	71,997	307,940
Environmental Planning	35,736	99,568	135,304
Lands and Facilities	331,603	(7,337)	324,266
Conservation areas, ESA's	637,254	407,313	1,044,567
Watershed Research Planning	-	32,932	32,932
Small Hydro Project	(175,113)	(21,436)	(196,549)
	<u>1,557,366</u>	<u>624,459</u>	<u>2,181,825</u>
	<u>\$ 6,647,628</u>	<u>\$ 533,559</u>	<u>\$ 7,181,187</u>

To: UTRCA Board of Directors

From: Sandy Levin

Date: 3 May 2018

Subject: Revised Investment Policy

Agenda #: 6 (b)

Filename: ::ODM\AGRPWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
RCA_PO.HR:5336.1

Recommendation:

The Board approves the revised Investment Policy as attached.

Background:

The Investment Policy the Board approved in early 2017 set the stage for the Finance and Audit Committee to explore long-term investment options and to discuss strategies for making best use of resources. Along that journey and in the selection of an investment advisor for the long-term portion of that portfolio, the committee has studied more precisely the kinds of investments possible, those which may suit the organization and a developed better understanding of risk versus potential rewards.

We have therefore amended the Investment Policy to reflect

1. moderate overall tolerance for risk
2. minimum expected returns after fees
3. refined time horizons for the portions of the portfolio
4. ranges for different types of holdings and ideal targets (asset allocation)
5. expansion of the socially responsible investing section

Also attached to this report is a copy of the Investment Policy Statement the committee has signed with PHN. It forms the 'contract' with PHN under which they are beginning to invest \$4 Million on our behalf. The account is now open and will be funded over the course of the next 6 months.

Recommended by:



Sandy Levin, Chair

Prepared by:



Christine Saracino

UTRCA INVESTMENT POLICY

COMPANY PROFILE

Corporate Name: Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Type of Business: Watershed Management

Date of Incorporation: 1947

Jurisdiction of Incorporation (Province): Ontario

Annual Revenue: \$19,000,000

Fiscal Year End: December 31st

Other Professional Advisors: Christine Saracino, Supervisor of Finance, CPA

Investment Knowledge of Signing Officers: Moderate

PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of the Investment Policy is to establish and define the investment parameters UTRCA Board of Directors wishes to promote. Specifically, the Investment Policy will:

- Identify the investment objectives and constraints of the organization within certain timelines
- Suggest an appropriate asset mix that is consistent with these investment objectives and constraints.
- Establish an appropriate reporting and review process.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

It is an objective of the UTRCA to ensure that funds are available when required and securely invested to provide future benefit to the organization. The board recognizes that there are day-to-day cash requirements which must meet operational needs (i.e. meeting payroll and tax obligations, meeting the needs of vendors) as well as costs which may be fulfilled on a longer time horizon including the maintenance of funds recognized as reserves to the organization. These needs will be met with appropriate cash management procedures developed internally and approved by the General Manager.

Any secondary investment objective will vary dependent on the purpose of the funds in question and will dictate the strategy and specific type of investments purchased. However, in all cases, preservation or protection of capital will be the primary objective.

Portfolio Structure

Portfolio Portion	Minimum and Maximum Holdings in Expected Investments	Objective	Discretion	Governance	Minimum Expected Returns after fees
Current Portion Overnight to up to 1 year	.5 to 2 million in CAD and USD current accounts	Liquidity	Internal: Supervisor of Finance based on cash flow forecast	Cash Management procedures	0%
Mid-term Portion Over a year and up to 7 years	2 to 3 million in GICs, Treasury Bills or High Interest Savings Accounts	Income generation Liquidity	Internal: Supervisor of Finance in conjunction with GM and approved budget	Cash Management procedures and Quarterly Reports to the Board	2%
Long-term Portion representing reserves and future needs from approximately 5 years onwards	3 million and more (6 million is the reserve balance) in a selection of eligible investments outlined below	Growth Liquidity through capital appreciation	External: Selected committee of the Board with an investment firm	Annual review with investment advisor as to performance against benchmarks	5%

Withdrawals

Discretionary withdrawals from each of the three portions of the total portfolio will be conducted as necessary under governance procedures noted above and to meet the cash needs of the organization.

Withdrawals from the long-term portion of the portfolio are expected to be infrequent as it is the desire of the Board to maintain a long-term investment portfolio in perpetuity to support the continuing financial strength of the organization. Such withdrawals are expected to be planned in advance and can be directed towards specific needs, both operating (ie. strategic directives) and capital.

Eligible Investments, Allocation and Exposures

UTRCA holdings may include the following asset categories.

Asset	Range of Total Portfolio	Target of Total Portfolio
Publicly traded domestic or foreign equity securities, common and preferred stocks rights, warrants, convertible debentures, American and Global Depository Receipts	20%-60%	40%
Investment grade bonds, high yield or global bonds, debentures (convertible or not), notes or other debt instruments of governments, government agencies or corporations including mortgage or asset-backed securities	15%-45%	40%
Cash or money market securities issued by governments or corporations, Treasury bills, commercial paper, bankers acceptances and certificates issued by banks, trusts and insurance companies	0%-30%	20%

RISK TOLERANCE

There is always some degree of uncertainty (investment risk) concerning the rate of return or growth of assets that may be generated over any future period. Investment risk may be defined as the frequency and magnitude of negative returns over a given period.

The directors' tolerance for risk and volatility is considered to be moderate which implies in any one year period, the organization can tolerate a drop in value of the portfolio of up to 10% before the directors feel distinctly uncomfortable with the investment strategy. This range is a representation of the directors' tolerance for risk and volatility; however, please note that in times of higher volatility in the financial markets the portfolio may experience fluctuations in value that are higher than this range.

Each portion of the total portfolio will be managed to minimize fluctuations in a manner that is consistent with stated objectives over the time horizon. While one portion may incur little risk, another portion may tolerate higher levels of risk.

CONSTRAINTS

Socially Responsible Investing

The directors have indicated that they would like the portfolio's investments to follow a socially responsible investment strategy. A socially responsible investment strategy means investment decisions are not based primarily on financial performance, but also on ethical, social and in particular, environmental considerations.

The directors acknowledge that a socially responsible investment strategy may exclude investment in certain types of businesses or geographic markets, which may impact overall

diversification and performance of the portfolio. In addition to incorporating Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance parameters(ESG) across the overall Portfolio, UTRCA has a preference for divesting of fossil fuels within its global equity holdings by excluding issuers that are directly involved in extracting, processing or transporting coal, oil or natural gas (fossil fuels), or issuers included in “The Carbon Underground 200”. Furthermore, UTRCA expects third party managers to exclude, on a best efforts basis, issuers who knowingly engage in child labour practices.

REPORTING AND REVIEW PROCESS

The Board has accepted the Finance and Audit committee’s recommendation of RBC PH&N Investment Counsel to advise on the investments of the long-term portion of the portfolio. It therefore will be relying on the Finance and Audit Committee to make recommendations for the general management of investments held by the organization.

For the current portion of the portfolio, any amounts varying from the maximum holding will be reported to the General Manager in conjunction with a review of the Cash Management policy.

For the mid-term portion of the portfolio, investment status will be noted on quarterly financial reports to the board and any material changes in holdings also reported then.

For the long-term portion of the portfolio, the advisor is required to meet with the Finance and Audit Committee annually to review the portfolio structure and reconfirm the organization’s objectives. The committee will provide an annual report to the Board for its review of the performance of the portfolio, a summary of the transactions during the period and a recommendation on the continuation of the advisor in its role.

POLICY REVIEW

The Board recognizes that as the organization grows and circumstances change, this policy may require review. To that end, it intends to revisit the information in this policy no less than every third year to revise and amend the objectives and details outlined here.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

All investment activities will be conducted in accordance with requirements of federal and provincial regulatory bodies, the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct. The members of the Board here confirm their agreement with this policy.

Investment Policy Statement

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Adopted: February 2018

Date of Last Revision:

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1 GENERAL

1.1 Purpose

This Investment Policy Statement (“IPS”) applies to the assets held by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (“UTRCA”) with PH&N. The purpose of this Investment Policy Statement (“the Statement”) is to outline the procedures and policies to effectively manage and monitor these investment assets. The assets will be managed in accordance with all applicable legal requirements.

Any investment manager (“the Manager”) or any other agent or advisor providing services in connection with the portfolio shall accept and adhere to this Statement.

1.2 Background

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) was the sixth Authority formed in Ontario, being created by Order in Council on September 18, 1947. The UTRCA covers the upper watershed of the Thames River, an area of 3,482 square kilometres. The watershed is mainly rural except for the larger urban centres of London, Stratford and Woodstock and has a total population of approximately 485,000. Agriculture is the main component of the landscape with approximately 3,600 farms, including over 2,000 livestock operations. The fiscal year end of the UTRCA is December 31.

The UTRCA’s mission, or ends, is to:

- protect life and property from flood and erosion
- protect and improve water quality
- preserve and manage natural areas
- provide outdoor recreation opportunities

Our programs and services today include:

- flood/water control
- environmental planning & regulations
- watershed planning, monitoring & research
- soil conservation & forestry management
- management of conservation areas
- lands & facilities management
- environmentally significant areas protection
- community partnerships
- drinking water source protection

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the UTRCA has ultimate responsibility and decision-making authority for the Portfolio with PH&N. The Board has the responsibility to govern the assets of the organization and has chosen a Finance and Audit Committee to develop the Statement and to work directly with the Portfolio Manager.

The Board will:

- Will appoint the Finance and Audit Committee annually;
- receive the Committee’s recommendations with respect to the Statement of Investment Policies for long-term funds and approve or amend the Statement as appropriate;
- review all other recommendations and reports of the Committee with respect to the Portfolio and take appropriate action.

2.2 Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee (“Committee”) consists of a minimum of 3 members and a maximum of 5 members. Members of the Committee are appointed annually.

The Committee may delegate some of its responsibilities with respect to the investment of the Portfolio to agents or advisors. In particular, the services of a custodian (the “Custodian”) and of one or more investment managers (the “Manager”) are retained.

The Committee will have an active role to:

- maintain an understanding of legal and regulatory requirements and constraints applicable to the Portfolio;
- on an annual basis, review the Investment Policy Statement and make appropriate recommendations to the Board;
- provide regular reports to the Board;
- formulate recommendations to the Board regarding the selection, engagement or dismissal of professional investment managers and advisors;
- formulate recommendations to the Board regarding Managers’ mandates
- oversee the Portfolio and the activities of the Managers, including the Managers’ compliance with their mandates, the investment performance of assets managed by each Manager and the performance of the Portfolio as a whole;
- ensure that the Managers are apprised of any amendments to their mandates; and
- inform the Managers of any significant cashflows.

2.3 Investment Managers

The Manager is responsible for:

- Selecting securities within the asset classes assigned to them, subject to applicable legislation and the constraints set out in this Statement;
- Providing the Committee with quarterly reports of portfolio holdings and a review of investment performance and future strategy;
- Attending meetings of the Committee at least once per year to review performance and to discuss proposed investment strategies;
- Informing the Committee promptly of any investments which fall outside the investment constraints contained in this Statement and what actions will be taken to remedy this situation; and
- Advising the Committee of any elements of this Statement that could prevent attainment of the Fund's objectives.

3 PORTFOLIO OBJECTIVES

3.1 Investment Objectives

The overall investment objectives, in their order of priority, of the portfolio are to:

- preserve capital, in real terms
- maximize total return, within acceptable risk levels and a focus on income
- maintain liquidity necessary to meet cash requirements

3.2 Cash Requirements and Liquidity

We do not have a short-term need for cash and are willing to liquidate long-term assets as necessary.

3.3 Time Horizon

The Portfolio is intended to be permanent with an investment horizon of over 10 years.

3.4 Additional Considerations

The directors have indicated that they would like the portfolio's investments to follow a socially responsible investment strategy. A socially responsible investment strategy means investment decisions are not based primarily on financial performance, but also on ethical, social and in particular, environmental considerations.

The directors acknowledge that a socially responsible investment strategy may exclude investment in certain types of businesses or geographic markets, which may impact overall diversification and performance of the portfolio.

4 AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS

Outlined below are the general investment criteria as understood by the Committee.

4.1 List of Permitted Investments

(a) Short-term instruments:

- Cash;
- Demand or term deposits;
- Short-term notes;
- Treasury bills;
- Bankers acceptances;
- Commercial paper; and
- Investment certificates issued by banks, insurance companies and trust companies.

(b) Fixed income instruments:

- Bonds;
- Debentures (convertible and non-convertible); and
- Mortgages and other asset-backed securities.

(c) Canadian equities:

- Common and preferred stocks;
- Rights and warrants.

- (d) Foreign equities:
- Common and preferred stocks;
 - Rights and warrants; and
 - American Depository Receipts and Global Depository Receipts.
- (e) Pooled funds, closed-end investments companies and other structured vehicles in any or all of the above permitted investment categories are allowed.

4.2 Derivatives

The manager may use derivatives, such as swaps, options, futures and forward contracts, for hedging purposes, to protect against losses from changes in interest rates and market indices; and for non-hedging purposes, as a substitute for direct investment. The manager must hold enough assets or cash to cover its commitments under the derivatives. **The Portfolio cannot use derivatives for speculative trading or to create a portfolio with excess leverage.**

4.3 Pooled Funds

With the approval of the Committee, the Manager may hold any part of the portfolio in one or more pooled or co-mingled funds managed by the Manager, provided that such pooled funds are expected to be operated within constraints reasonably similar to those described in this mandate. It is recognized by the Committee that complete adherence to this Statement may not be entirely possible; however, the Manager is expected to advise the Committee in the event that the pooled fund exhibits, or may exhibit, any significant departure from this Statement.

5 RISK GUIDELINES

All allocations are based on market values. All ratings are at time of purchase.

5.1 Cash and Cash Equivalents

At least R1, using the rating of the Dominion Bond rating Service (“DBRS”) or equivalent.

5.2 Fixed Income

a) Maximum holdings of the fixed income portfolio by credit rating are:

Credit Quality	Maximum in Bond Portfolio ¹	Minimum in Bond Portfolio ¹	Maximum Position in a Single Issuer
Government of Canada ²	100%	n/a	100%
Provincial Governments ²	60%	0%	40%
Municipals	25%	0%	10%
Corporates	75%	0%	10%
AAA ³	80%	30%	10%
AA ³	60%	0%	5%
A ³	30%	0%	5%
BBB	20%	0%	5%

1 Percentage of portfolio at market value.

2 Includes government-guaranteed issues.

3 Does not apply to Government of Canada or Provincial issues

b) Maximum holdings of the fixed income portfolio by issuer:

- 10% for asset-backed securities;
- 50% for mortgages or mortgage funds;
- 20% for bonds denominated for payment in non-Canadian currency; and
- 10% for real return bonds.

c) All debt ratings refer to the ratings of Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS), Standard & Poors' or Moody's and are at time of purchase.

d) No borrowing is permitted except as a temporary measure to allow orderly redemption of units.

e) No more than 15% of the net assets of the Fund at market value at month end may be invested in any one security except government or government guaranteed debt instruments and other prospect used mutual funds.

Equities

(a) No one equity holding shall represent more than 15% of the market value of the assets of a single pooled fund.

(b) No borrowing is permitted except as a temporary measure to allow orderly redemption of units.

(c) Illiquid assets are restricted to 10% of the net assets of the Portfolio.

6 RESPONSIBLE INVESTING GUIDELINES

The Committee should endeavour to delegate investment management responsibilities to third party managers with a demonstrated commitment to incorporating ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) factors in their investment decision making process when doing so may have a material impact on the investment risk and/or return. At a minimum, contracted managers are expected to be signatories to the United Nations Principals for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) and offer investment solutions that are aligned the UN PRI's six principals of Responsible Investment. Investment managers are also expected to undertake active engagement with investee companies to advocate for more sustainable business practices, have clearly articulated proxy voting guidelines that clearly address ESG considerations, and vote proxies firm-wide (as opposed to per fund or client).

7 PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS FOR FUND

In order to meet disbursement requirements, investments need to earn a minimum level of income, measured over a four year rolling market cycle. Return objectives include realized and unrealized capital gains or losses plus income from all sources. Returns will be measured quarterly, and calculated as time-weighted rates of return. The composition of the benchmark is developed from the asset mix outlined in this Statement.

The minimum recommended level is defined as the sum of the following items:

Fees & Expenses	0.75%
<u>Capital growth/preservation amount</u>	<u>5.25%</u>
Minimum Rate of Return	6.0%

Note: The disbursement requirement and capital preservation amounts will be reviewed, and updated as required.

In addition, active investment managers are evaluated relative to the benchmarks their mandates are managed to. The Committee expects that active managers will outperform their benchmarks over a four year rolling market cycle and after all investment management fees. The performance of all active managers is reviewed annually.

6.1 Asset Mix, Ranges and Benchmarks

Asset Class	Strategic Target	Range	Benchmark (Total Return)
Cash & short-term	0%	0% – 5%	FTC 30-Day T-Bill Index
Fixed Income	40%	30% – 40%	
Investment Grade bonds		20%	FTC Universe Bond Index
Conventional Mortgages		5%	FTC Short Term Overall Bond Index
High Yield Bonds		5%	FTC Universe Bond Index
Global Bonds (ex Emerging Markets)		10%	???????????????
Equities	60%	55% – 70%	
Canadian	25%		S&P/TSX Composite Index
Global (US approx. half)	30%		MSCI World Net Index
Emerging Markets	5%		MSCI Emerging Markets Net Index

Note: FTC stands for FTSE TMX Canada

8 REPORTING & MONITORING

8.1 Investment Reports

Each quarter, the Manager will provide a written investment report containing the following information for the Finance and Audit Committee:

- Portfolio holdings at the end of the quarter;
- Portfolio transactions during the quarter;
- Rates of return for the portfolio with comparisons with relevant indexes or benchmarks; and
- Compliance Report.

Each year end, Dec 31st, the Manager will prepare a brief summary report on the performance of the portfolio for the Board of Directors.

8.2 Monitoring

At the discretion of the Committee as required, the Manager will meet with the Committee regarding:

- the rate of return achieved by the Manager;
- the Manager's outlook for the markets and corresponding strategies
- any changes in the personnel of the Manager; and
- other issues as requested.

8.3 Annual Review

It is the intention of the UTRCA to ensure that this Statement is continually appropriate to the UTRCA's needs and responsive to changing economic and investment conditions. Therefore, the Committee shall review the Investment Policy Statement annually.

9 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All fiduciaries shall disclose the particulars of any actual or potential conflicts of interest with respect to the Foundation. This shall be done promptly in writing to the Chair of the Board of Directors of the UTRCA. The Chair will, in turn, table the matter at the next Board meeting. It is expected that no fiduciary shall incur any personal gain either directly or indirectly because of their fiduciary position. This excludes normal fees and expenses incurred in fulfilling their responsibilities if documented and approved by the Board.

10 STANDARD OF CARE

The Manager is expected to comply, at all times and in all respects, with the code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct as promulgated by the CFA Institute.

The Manager will manage the assets with the care, diligence and skill that an investment Manager of ordinary prudence would use in dealing with all clients. The Manager will also use all relevant knowledge and skill that it possesses or ought to possess as a prudent Investment Manager.

The Manager will manage the assets in accordance with this Statement and will verify compliance with this Statement when making any recommendations with respect to changes in investment strategy or investment of assets.

The Manager will, at least once annually, provide a letter to the Committee confirming the Manager's familiarity with this Statement. The Manager will, from time to time, recommend changes to the IPS to ensure that the IPS remains relevant and reflective of the Foundation's investment objectives over time.

11 PROXY VOTING RIGHTS

- (a) Proxy voting rights on portfolio securities are delegated to the Manager.
- (b) The Manager maintains a record of how voting rights of securities in the portfolio were exercised.
- (c) The Manager will exercise acquired voting rights in the best interests of the unit holders of the pooled fund.

12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Statement has been approved by the undersigned on behalf of the Committee:

Signature

Name

Title

Date Approved

This Statement has been accepted by the undersigned on behalf of RBC PH&N Investment Counsel:

Signature

Name

Title

Date Approved

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox, General Manager
Date: May 14, 2018
Subject: 2019 Strategic Plan Implementation

Agenda #: 6 (c)
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Recommendation: That the UTRCA Board of Directors provide direction to staff regarding implementation of the UTRCA’s Environmental Targets Strategic Plan for 2019.

Discussion

UTRCA staff are beginning preparations for the 2019 budget year. Typically a staff report would be brought to the June meeting of the Board of Directors recommending a levy increase to be used as a starting point for budget development over the summer. This report is being provided in anticipation of the June levy recommendation.

For 2019, the key influence on levy, like the past two years, is continued implementation of the Environmental Targets Strategic Plan. A copy of the Strategic Plan is attached and you are referred to the table on page 13 titled “Funding Phase-In Plan.” As described in that table, an additional \$288,130 is forecast to be added to the municipal levy for 2019 to support further implementation of the water quality target and to begin implementation of the natural areas target. This equates to a 3.9% levy increase for Targets implementation and does not include any consideration of a cost of living increase. Staff are supportive of this phased-in investment and are developing work plans accordingly. Early investments in program development are needed to initiate expanded work and ensure the target outcomes are achieved by 2037. However, for the following reasons, staff believes the Board needs to consider its current position and circumstances before providing clear direction for 2019:

Considerations:

1. First Year of Expanded Levy Support for Natural Areas Target: Work on this Target is needed immediately given recently reported forest cover losses. This is the last of the four targets to receive expanded funding.
2. Momentum is Building: Much of the Strategic Plan’s early efforts are directed toward program development. Delaying implementation of the natural cover target by a year will create inefficiencies and certainly jeopardize our ability to achieve this target.
3. London has approved its 2019 budget: The City of London developed and approved a four year budget. While the UTRCA’s Target’s funding was considered in both 2017 and 2018, approval for 2018 and 2019 funding was granted last year. Of note, the City’s 2019 Budget will have to be ratified by the incoming council.
4. St. Marys and Perth South Concerns regarding Affordability: As the Board is aware, both St. Marys and Perth South have expressed on-going concern regarding their ability to financially support our Strategic Plan investment. They, along with Norwich, have requested our increases be kept to the annual cost of living increase.

5. Municipal Elections: Municipal election will take place this coming November. New councillors will, in all likelihood, be unaware of the UTRCA's Strategic Plan and funding requests except as part of their municipal budget process which will be their first order of business. Staff will continue to offer presentations and materials in support of the Environmental Targets Strategic Plan however it will be unlikely all Councils can be reached before municipal budget decisions are made for 2019.
6. New UTRCA Board: New municipal appointments (and re-appointments) will be made to the UTRCA Board of Directors following the municipal election. New Board Members will have to become familiar with the UTRCA's Environmental Targets Strategic Plan and the draft budget which you will prepare, all as part of decisions for their first formal meeting which will be the AGM in February.

Based on the above, three options for the 2019 municipal levy can be considered:

1. Support the Strategic Plan's phased-funding as originally planned.
 - Supports increased effort for the natural cover target that has been identified as a significant area of concern due to on-going net forest losses.
 - Ensures the Authority remains on track to achieve environmental targets, as planned.
 - Allows for leveraging of funding from other sources in 2019.
 - Continued opposition from some municipalities should be anticipated.
2. Reduce the 2019 Strategic Plan's funding level by a prescribed amount.
 - Jeopardizes achievement of environmental targets by the schedule date.
 - Creates delays or missed opportunities to leverage additional funding.
 - Returns previously approved funding to the City of London.
 - May appease certain municipalities for the 2019 budget year.
3. Defer new funding for the Strategic Plan by one year.
 - Risk stalling current momentum.
 - Seriously jeopardizes achievement of environmental targets by the schedule date.
 - Missed opportunity to leverage additional funding.
 - Returns previously approved funding to the City of London (66% of municipal levy funding).
 - May appease certain municipalities for the 2019 budget year.

Direction from the Board will assist staff in preparing a draft municipal levy recommendation for approval at the June meeting.

Prepared and Recommended by:



Ian Wilcox
General Manager

Environmental Targets:
Strategic Plan
June 2016



UTRCA Environmental Targets - Translating Purpose into Action

Poor water quality. Habitat loss. Soil erosion. Flooding and drought. Great Lakes algae blooms. Severe weather events.

These are some of the key environmental challenges facing all of us. Locally, the Thames River Watershed benefits from an active and energetic group of environmental agencies, not-for-profit organizations and passionate individuals. For decades, these groups have collaborated to improve the health of our local environment. However, while the effort has been tremendous, our collective progress in terms of measurable health improvements has been slow, largely due to a lack of capacity.

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority's (UTRCA) Watershed Report Cards give our water quality and forest health an average grade of D. Hazard risks from flooding and erosion have been effectively managed but must now consider the significant impact of a changing climate. Public use of natural areas is impressive, but there is room for growth and an opportunity to use outdoor connections to educate and promote conservation.

The Environmental Targets proposed in this report offer a better future for our watershed's health, while supporting growth and economic development. The benefits of this effort would be far-reaching. Nearly 40 years of scientific research have proven the economic, social, and health benefits of a healthy local environment.

- Canadians consider the environment as an indispensable feature of "quality of life." Specific aspects identified as crucial include water quality, air quality, responsible stewardship of natural resources and access to the outdoors.
- Businesses and talented workers they hire are attracted to places that have high numbers of amenities and high quality natural environments.
- Time spent in and around a healthy and green environment is consistently linked to objective, long-term health outcomes. The less green a person's surroundings, the higher their risk of morbidity and mortality – even when controlling for socioeconomic status and other possible confounding variables.
- The range of specific health outcomes tied to nature is startling, including reduced or improved depression and anxiety disorder, diabetes mellitus, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), various infectious diseases, cancer, healing from surgery, obesity, respiratory disease, and others.

In 2014, the UTRCA's Board of Directors approved developing environmental targets as a strategic planning initiative. These targets are a statement of how healthy and resilient we believe the Thames River watershed can be by 2037, if we focus our efforts and commit resources.

Good intentions and passion can only accomplish so much. The watershed simply needs more: more funding for projects and more work on the ground. How much more? Approximately double our current effort is needed to accomplish these ends.

The Thames River watershed has incredible potential. The targets recommended in this report are aggressive but realistic. We have the tools, experience, and expertise to achieve them. With adequate resources and strong partnerships, we can achieve our targets during the next 20 years.



Target 1:

Improve each subwatershed's water quality score by one grade, as measured by UTRCA Watershed Report Cards, by the year 2037.



Links to UTRCA strategic end:
"Protect and improve water quality."



About the target:

The target aims to improve the water quality in each of the 28 subwatersheds in the Upper Thames watershed by one grade. A-F grades, based on river monitoring data, are provided for each subwatershed every five years according to provincially standardized watershed report card guidelines. Three indicators of water quality and aquatic health are used to determine the grades: total phosphorus, bacteria and benthic invertebrates. The grades reflect the impacts from surrounding land use activities in each subwatershed.

Using best available science and local knowledge, key actions to meet the target will be prescribed in each subwatershed that provide the greatest benefits to local stream health and water quality. These actions are a shared responsibility across sectors and stakeholders to achieve the target. Current water quality scores average a D grade.



Actions to achieve the target:

Double Our Existing Rural Stewardship Program

- Target soil and nutrient loss from 600 hectares (1500 acres) per year by implementing projects that reduce peak flows/runoff, such as structural erosion control projects and constructed wetlands.
- Increase technical outreach and knowledge transfer, and establish three demonstration subwatersheds (one per county) that engage partners.
- Double the capacity of the Clean Water Program to deliver enhanced cost sharing and technical services with sustained and enhanced funding support from municipal, provincial, federal and alternative sources.

Timeline: Ongoing implementation and technical outreach for 2017-2037.



Create an Urban Stewardship Program

- Reduce storm water and nutrient runoff by promoting widespread adoption of low impact development (LID) through education, demonstration and technical support.
- Implement five new demonstration sites per year focusing on urban centres across the watershed.
- Initiate urban nutrient landscape program focused on education and based on the 4R concept (right source, rate, time, and place), and develop outreach program and materials to reach urban property owners.

Timeline: Ongoing implementation and technical outreach for 2017-2037.



Stream Corridor Enhancement Projects

- Restore three priority stream corridor sections per year with restoration techniques such as buffers and natural channel structure enhancement.

Timeline: Ongoing for 2017-2037.



Expand Comprehensive Monitoring

- Increase the level of water quality and stream health monitoring and add 13 monitoring sites to fill gaps in data collection to equally cover all 28 subwatersheds in support of the expanded stewardship and enhancement programs identified above.
- Develop an urban monitoring program to support new urban stewardship program.

Timeline: Ongoing, phased and sustained implementation for 2017-2037.



Potential Partners:

- Watershed landowners
- Watershed Municipalities
- Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Environment and Climate Change Canada

Target 2:

Establish and restore 1,500 hectares of natural vegetation cover, windbreaks and buffers by 2037.

*Links to UTRCA strategic end:
"Preserve and manage natural areas."*

About the target:

Significantly expanded planting and restoration programs will improve the health of the watershed as measured every five years in the UTRCA Watershed Report Cards. Forest health grades are based on three indicators related to the sustainability of natural heritage systems: percent forest cover, percent forest interior, and percent riparian zone forested.

This target aims to establish 1000 hectares of new natural vegetation cover and restore or improve 500 hectares of existing vegetation cover. Key actions to achieve this target will be prescribed for each subwatershed based on best available data and local knowledge to determine optimal placement. Achieving this target will create wildlife habitat, recover species at risk, shade streams, reduce soil erosion, facilitate carbon sequestration for climate change, and improve water and air quality. Current forest health scores average a D grade.



Actions to achieve the target:

Increase Technical Outreach and Double Existing Restoration Program

- Prepare and implement a marketing plan to promote the planting, stewardship, and habitat restoration services to target groups and double current landowner participation in programs.
- Promote free site visits and offer more landowner workshops, tours, articles, etc.
- Expand planting programs and services in order to double the current acreage of trees, shrubs and meadows planted every year.
- Work with landowners to target marginal lands, stream buffers, vulnerable farm fields and other areas.
- Collaborate with other agencies, NGOs and academia to test new restoration techniques.
- Work with vegetation suppliers to ensure native stock is available to meet the increased demand.

Timeline: Ongoing for 2017-2037.





Advocate for Natural Heritage Restoration and Protection

- Strengthen UTRCA's advocacy role related to the prevention of natural vegetation cover loss.
- Work with OMAFRA and municipalities to establish and promote enforcement of minimum setbacks for cropping along watercourses, as well as advocate for new and strengthen existing by-laws to preserve natural cover, including windbreaks.

Timeline: Ongoing for 2017-2037.



Comprehensive Monitoring

- Develop an improved, spatially-based database to track vegetation cover change as well as planting and restoration projects (including area planted, species, methods, costs, grants, survival assessments, etc.).

Timeline: Ongoing for 2017-2037.



Potential Partners:

- Watershed landowners
- Watershed Municipalities
- Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Environment and Climate Change Canada

Target 3:

Reduce flood and erosion risk by updating flood models and hazard mapping for all UTRCA subwatersheds by 2020, then integrating climate change scenarios into the updated models and developing climate change adaptation strategies by 2030.



Links to UTRCA strategic end: "Protect life and property from flooding and erosion."

Photo: London Free Press

About the target:

The UTRCA has a legislative responsibility to reduce flooding and erosion risks. The existing models are dated and must be modernized with current information, including the significant impact of climate change. Renewal of the flood and erosion hazard program began in 2012 with work to modernize flood forecasting and warning tools. The focus now shifts to updating hydraulic and hydrologic computer models used for hazard mapping and implementation of our regulatory program. Models currently in use were originally developed in the 1980s and many factors have changed significantly since then. The models need to be updated to reflect current land use, frequency analysis, modelling technology and a better physical definition of the water courses.

Efforts to meet these targets will be integrated with ongoing renewal of flood forecasting and warning information management. In addition, an expanded water and erosion control capital maintenance plan is needed that includes all flood control assets including monitoring systems and software.

The second phase of this target will use the updated models to consider climate change scenarios and impacts on flood hazards, develop adaptation strategies and incorporate these strategies into policy.



Actions to achieve the target:

Update and Modernize Hydraulic and Hydrologic Models

- Identify and prioritize flood risk areas for updates, considering factors such as development pressure, level of risk and potential for climate change impacts, and determine metrics for measuring completion of this work.
- Complete an updated digital elevation model (DEM) and watercourse definition ensuring appropriate levels of accuracy for model areas based on risk.
- Update hydrologic models to reflect current land use, historical precipitation utilizing updated frequency analysis, and modern modelling tools.
- Assess appropriate hydraulic modelling tools, identify and address data gaps, and calibrate models. Apply the models to produce appropriate flood elevations for updating regulatory mapping.

Timeline: Ongoing to 2020 (note: implementation of these actions began in 2012).



Flood Control Capital Plan

- Expand Flood Control Capital Plan to include all water and erosion control structures and funding partners. Include monitoring infrastructure, communications telemetry, Information Management Systems (software and hardware), etc.
- Add the need for monitoring gauges for smaller urbanizing watersheds where flood risks may be driven by shorter duration, high intensity storms resulting in localized flooding.
- Implement maintenance plan with annual updates.

Timeline: 2017-2020 (with implementation continuing).



Regulatory Mapping/Policy

- Update flood hazard and erosion limit mapping based on updated modelling results and detailed information submitted through planning and permit activities.
- Undertake consultation and communication with municipalities and stakeholder groups to clearly identify changes and regulatory impacts.
- Ensure updated mapping is provided to watershed municipalities to incorporate into Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws to be consistent with natural hazard and climate change adaption policies contained in the Provincial Policy Statement.
- Establish a comprehensive maintenance program to ensure natural hazard information is kept up-to-date and able to support regulation limit mapping and the ability to effectively implement Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

Timeline: Ongoing for 2017-2020 with maintenance program extending beyond 2020.



Identify and Model Priority Climate Change Scenarios

- Using best available information, determine scenarios to assess using the updated hydrologic and hydraulic models and determine the range of potential flood and drought impacts on the watershed's built and natural environments.
- In addition to meteorological changes driven by climate change, consider factors such as development pressures, policy implications, and infrastructure maintenance. Assessing the impacts of climate change on the risk from natural hazards will be an important step in reducing risk to loss of life and property damage and developing adaptation strategies for the watershed.

Timeline: 2020-2025.

Adaptation Strategies

- Identify impacts on UTRCA and municipal programs and determine how to apply knowledge through implementation tools such as revisions to conservation authority regulations, conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement, reservoir operations or expansion, appropriate structural measures and ways of utilizing (retrofit) existing storm water and drainage works.
- Based on adaptation strategies, consult with and engage municipalities and other stakeholder groups on the range of impacts and adaptation measures.
- Implement appropriate climate change adaptation strategies and undertake education and outreach.

Timeline: Complete by 2030.

Potential Partners:

- Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Public Safety Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Canadian Insurance Industry
- Watershed Municipalities

Target 4:

Reach 1 million people annually with conservation messages through access to UTRCA lands and demonstration of green infrastructure by the year 2030.

Links to UTRCA strategic end: "Provide outdoor recreation opportunities."



About the target:

Outdoor recreation offers opportunities to educate and promote conservation among the public for the watershed's natural environment. This target will be achieved through public access to UTRCA owned and managed recreational lands and exposure to conservation messages, programs and services offered on these lands. Outdoor recreation and education provided by the UTRCA are an opportunity to promote conservation messages to a large audience.

Actions to achieve this goal include expanding existing conservation, education and recreation programs as part of attendance strategies for all UTRCA owned and managed lands that provide recreational opportunities. These programs aim to influence the participants to change their own behaviour to improve watershed health. Developing and implementing a Green Infrastructure Plan reinforces the conservation message through leadership and a demonstrated corporate responsibility to minimize the impact of our own operations on the local environment.



Actions to achieve the target:

Market Analysis

- Develop a better understanding of our clients (demographics, attendance, activities, etc.) through a survey of current users of UTRCA lands.
- Determine why current clients are attracted to UTRCA land and why others are not.

Timeline: Complete in 2017.



Develop and Implement Property-specific Marketing and Education Plans

- Identify new target clients and develop a marketing and education plan to encourage attendance with appropriate conservation messages.
- Implement new programs blending outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation.

Timeline: Complete in 2017-2030.

Evaluate and Monitor

- Establish and implement ongoing tracking processes for both attendance and participation as an indicator of achieving the 1 million people target.

Timeline: Monitoring efforts will be developed and implemented ongoing for 2018-2030.



Develop and Implement a Green Infrastructure Plan

- Develop and implement property and facility specific green infrastructure plans to minimize our own environmental impacts and to serve as educational tools/ demonstrations for the visiting public.
- Expand green infrastructure on UTRCA lands and facilities, based on a multi-year work plan and budget.

Timeline: Complete in 2017-2037.



Potential Partners:

- Watershed Municipalities
- Other outdoor recreation providers – Ontario Parks, Parks Canada
- School Boards
- Educational institutions offering Outdoor Recreation Program
- Green Infrastructure Industry partners
- Ivey School of Business (master plan/business plan)
- CAMIS Reservations System



Targets: Budget



A commitment to achieve Environmental Targets represents the most significant programming change in the UTRCA's nearly 70 year history. New funding will be required if these Environmental Targets are to be achieved. This new funding is needed to expand staff support for landowners and other groups, for preliminary studies to ensure programs are targeted effectively, for incentives to encourage conservation, and for small capital demonstration projects.

Overall, a 32% budget increase is proposed to support a doubling of conservation efforts. In real dollars, \$4 million is needed in addition to the UTRCA's current \$12.5 million budget. The majority of new revenue is proposed to come from user fees and provincial and federal sources. Municipal support is needed to leverage these other sources. The UTRCA is proposing that most of this new revenue be phased-in over a four year period (2017-2020). The following three pages detail the costs, potential revenue sources, and a planned four year phase-in of new funding.

Targets Budget

Annual Expenses (2016\$) After Full Implementation					Cost by Target			
Category	Position/ Expense	# FTEs*	Unit Cost	Annual Total	1. Water Quality	2. Natural Areas	3. Hazard Management	4. Outdoor Recreation/ Education
1. Staff Capacity** (a) Technical Staff	Water Quality Target							
	Rural/ Urban Stewardship Program Staff	4	\$149,000	\$596,000	\$596,000			
	Natural Areas Target							
	Natural Areas Restoration Program Staff	4	\$149,000	\$596,000		\$596,000		
	Flood Control Target							
	Monitoring/ Information Management (Capital)	1	\$149,000	\$149,000			\$149,000	
	Field Survey Staff (4 seasonal staff)	0.8	\$149,000	\$119,200			\$119,200	
	Modeller (Hydrology and Hazard Mapping)	2	\$149,000	\$298,000			\$298,000	
	Plan Review Staff (Hydrology)	1	\$149,000	\$149,000			\$149,000	
	Outdoor Recreation/ Education Target							
	Green Infrastructure Plan Coordinator/ Facility Manager	1	\$149,000	\$149,000				\$149,000
	Land Management Staff	1	\$149,000	\$149,000				\$149,000
	Conservation Area Staff	2	\$149,000	\$298,000				\$298,000
(b) Marketing/ Partnerships Staff	Marketing Staff	1	\$149,000	\$149,000	\$37,250	\$37,250	\$37,250	\$37,250
	Partnerships Staff	2	\$149,000	\$298,000	\$74,500	\$74,500	\$74,500	\$74,500
(c) Monitoring Staff	Fundraising/ Tracking Coordinator	1	\$149,000	\$149,000	\$37,250	\$37,250	\$37,250	\$37,250
	Monitoring/ Data Analysis Staff	1	\$149,000	\$149,000	\$37,250	\$37,250	\$37,250	\$37,250
2. Consultants and Outside Support***	CA Lands - Use Survey		\$50,000	\$2,500				\$2,500
	CA Lands - Facility and Education Plans		\$100,000	\$5,000				\$5,000
	Multi-target Marketing Plans		\$75,000	\$3,750	\$938	\$938	\$938	\$938
	Green Infrastructure Baseline Study		\$50,000	\$2,500				\$2,500
	Green Infrastructure Management Plan		\$80,000	\$4,000				\$4,000
3. Grants/ Incentives	Clean Water Program Incentive Funding			\$700,000	\$350,000	\$350,000		
4. Capital	Increase to Capital Maintenance Levy			\$60,000				\$60,000
Grand Total				\$4,025,950	\$1,133,188	\$1,133,188	\$902,388	\$857,188

*FTEs = Full Time Equivalents

**Staff Capacity = Unit Cost Wages based on Grade Level 8, job rate plus benefits, mandatory employment related costs, support and administration (occupancy, fleet, HR, finance, IT, administration, communications)

***Consultants and Outside Support costs amortized over 20 years

Environmental Targets: Proposed Revenue

Proposed Revenue Allocations (%)				
Revenue Sources	Water Quality	Natural Areas	Hazard Management	Outdoor Recreation/ Education
Provincial/ Federal Transfer Payment	40.0%	0.0%	65.0%	10.0%
Municipal Levy	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%	20.0%
Contracts	10.0%	20.0%	5.0%	20.0%
User Fees	20.0%	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%

Budget Revenue Allocations (\$)	Water Quality	Natural Areas	Hazard Management	Outdoor Recreation/ Education	Total	Percent of New \$
Total Investment Needed	\$1,133,188	\$1,133,188.00	\$902,388	\$857,188	\$4,025,952	
Proposed Revenue Sources						
Provincial/ Federal Transfer Payment	\$453,275	\$0	\$586,552	\$85,719	\$1,125,546	28.0%
Municipal Levy	\$339,956	\$339,956	\$270,716	\$171,438	\$1,122,067	27.9%
Contracts	\$113,319	\$226,638	\$45,119	\$171,438	\$556,513	13.8%
User Fees	\$226,638	\$566,594	\$0	\$428,594	\$1,221,826	30.3%

Notes:

Contracts and Provincial/ Federal Transfer Payment are somewhat interchangeable.
Restores 50/50 ratio between levy and senior government funding.

Funding Phase-in Plan

Target	Additional Funding Required/Year						Total New Revenue
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017-2020 Total	2021-2025	
1. Water Quality							
Provincial/ Federal Transfer Payment	\$75,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$78,275	\$453,275		\$453,275
Municipal Levy	\$0	\$149,000	\$144,065	\$46,891	\$339,956		\$339,956
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$57,000	\$56,319	\$113,319		\$113,319
User Fees	\$0	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$100,000	\$126,638	\$226,638
2. Natural Areas							
Provincial/ Federal Transfer Payment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Municipal Levy	\$0	\$0	\$144,065	\$195,891	\$339,956	\$0	\$339,956
Contracts	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$175,000	\$51,638	\$226,638
User Fees	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$416,594	\$566,594
3. Hazard Management							
Provincial/ Federal Transfer Payment	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$350,000	\$236,552	\$586,552
Municipal Levy	\$149,000	\$121,716	\$0	\$0	\$270,716	\$0	\$270,716
Contracts	\$0	\$45,119	\$0	\$0	\$45,119	\$0	\$45,119
User Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. Outdoor Recreation/ Education							
Provincial/ Federal Transfer Payment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$35,719	\$85,719
Municipal Levy	\$107,676	\$0	\$0	\$63,762	\$171,438	\$0	\$171,438
Contracts	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$21,438	\$171,438
User Fees	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$328,594	\$428,594

Annual Increase by Revenue Source							
Provincial/ Federal Transfer Payment	\$125,000	\$300,000	\$200,000	\$228,275	\$853,275	\$272,271	\$1,125,546
Municipal Levy	\$256,676	\$270,716	\$288,130	\$306,544	\$1,122,066	\$0	\$1,122,066
Contracts	\$25,000	\$145,119	\$157,000	\$156,319	\$483,438	\$73,076	\$556,514
User Fees	\$0	\$70,000	\$90,000	\$190,000	\$350,000	\$871,826	\$1,221,826
TOTAL	\$406,676	\$785,835	\$735,130	\$881,138	\$2,808,779	\$1,217,173	\$4,025,952

Concepts:

- Annual levy increases = ~6.0%
- Hazard Management is the levy priority for the first two years and is then stable.
- Water Quality comes on-stream for levy in Year 2.
- Natural Areas comes on-stream for levy in Year 3.
- Outdoor Recreation receives levy in Years 1 and 4.
- Levy is needed first to develop capacity and to be used as leverage to generate new senior government funding and contracts in future years.
- User fee revenue increases are not predicted to come in full until after the first four years as up-front work and program development is needed before demand increases.
- Unclear if Federal/ Provincial \$ will actually materialize as a transfer payment (perhaps through CA Act Review) or as contracts e.g., National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP).
- \$700K is flow through \$ in the form of Clean Water Program grants (18% of requested \$).
- Immediate opportunities: Environment and Climate Change Canada/Great Lakes, NDMP, CA Act Review, etc.

To: Chair and Members of the UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett, Manager – Environmental Planning and Regulations
Date: May 14, 2018 **Agenda #:** 8 (a)
Subject: Administration and Enforcement – Sect. 28 Status Report – **Filename:** Document
Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alteration to **ENVP 5824**
Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

This report 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 April 14, 2018 to May 14, 2018.

Application #15/17 (Extension/Renewal)

Harry and Shelley DeGier c/o Cody DeGier

Part Lots 19 & 20, Concession 11 – Township of East Zorra-Tavistock

- proposed extension to previously approved new dairy barn permit, relocation of a milk house, removal of a second access driveway and extension of existing bunker silos.
- plans prepared by Stonecrest Engineering and landowner(s) in accordance with location and mitigation measures agreed to on site between landowner(s) and UTRCA staff.
- staff approved and permit extension issued April 25, 2018.

Application #73/17

Richard Placzek

101 Empress Avenue – City of London

- application to rebuild single family dwelling and utility building with West London proposed Special Policy Area (SPA)
- project was on hold, pending clarification on zoning and floodproofing requirements
- drawings prepared by Strik Baldinelli Moniz and D.C. Buck Engineering
- staff approved and permit issued May 14, 2018

Application #164/17

Belvoir Estates Farm Limited

2474 Gideon Drive – Municipality of Middlesex Centre

- proposed reconstruction of two barns (equestrian facility) recently destroyed by fire.
- this proposal was subject to site-specific project review and approval before the UTRCA Hearings Committee due to its location within the floodway of both Dingman Creek and main branch of the Thames River.
- site plans and floodproofing plans prepared by MTE Consultants Inc. and BOS Engineering & Environmental Services Inc.
- approved (in principle) by the UTRCA Hearings Committee on November 28, 2017 and permit issued (upon receipt of the final floodproofing drawings) May 10, 2018.

Application #29/18

Corporation of the City of London

St. Julien Park to Pottersburg Park – City of London

- proposed installation of twin 600mm diameter sanitary forcemains and a 150mm diameter biosolids forcemain between Vauxhall and Pottersburg Pollution Control Plants
- engineering drawings prepared by AECOM Canada
- project followed completion of Municipal Class EA
- staff approved and permit issued May 14, 2018

Application #31/18

Quadro Communications Co-Operation Inc.

Perth Line 9, Line 14, Road 120, Road 125 – Township of Perth South

- proposed high pressure directional drilling installation of fibre optic cable to service the Glass Street area east of St. Marys undercrossing Trout Creek, an unnamed Tributary to Trout Creek and the Sheldon Municipal Drain.
- plans prepared by Quadro Communications Co-Operation Inc. and Weber Contracting Limited.
- staff approved and permit issued May 11, 2018.

Application #32/18

Union Gas Limited

Elviage Drive – City of London & Gideon Drive – Municipality of Middlesex Centre

- abandon existing / install new gas main; including pipeline installation crossing two unnamed tributaries to Dingman Creek
- staff approved and permit issued May 4, 2018

Application #33/18

Oxford County

Mill Street (Main Street to Park Row), City of Woodstock

- proposed watermain, sanitary and storm sewer replacement adjacent to Cedar Creek
- staff approved and permit issued May 2, 2018

Application #47/18

Township of Zorra

Henderson Drain

- 113 linear metres of field tile and sewer pipe being installed
- staff approved and permit issued May 14, 2018

Application #48/18

Township of Perth South

Mills Drain

- proposed enclosure of 353 metres of municipal drain
- staff approved and permit issued May 5, 2018

Application #49/18

Township of Perth South

Branch A of the Youngson Drain

- proposed enclosure of 417 metres of municipal drain
- staff approved and permit issued May 3, 2018

Application #50/18

Township of Southwest Oxford

McBeth Drain

- 307 metres of new header tile installation, construction of an energy dissipation structure at outlet.
- staff approved and permit issued May 3, 2018

Application #57/18

Brandon Mallia

231 Union Avenue, Komoka – Municipality of Middlesex Centre

-proposed new house construction adjacent to Oxbow Creek

-staff approved and permit issued April 16, 2018

Application #58/18

Heather Wenman

16 Cummings Avenue – City of London

-proposed rear two storey house construction in the proposed West London SPA

-staff approved and permit issued April 19, 2018

Application #60/18

Scott Coles – CNC Homes

222 Cooper Street – City of London

-proposed construction of rear addition to existing house in the proposed West London SPA

-staff approved and permit issued March 23, 2018

Application #61/18

Zack Zimmer

484816 Sweaburg Road – Township of South-West Oxford

-proposed addition to barn/workshop (accessory structure)

-staff approved and permit issued April 24, 2018

Application #63/18

Arthur Heidbuurt

Part Lot 10, Concession 3 – Township of South-West Oxford

-proposed demolition of existing barns and rebuild of new dairy barn.

-plans prepared by Waddell Engineering Limited in accordance with elevations agreed to between landowner and UTRCA staff.

-staff approved and permit issued April 25, 2018.

Application #64/18

City of London

2245 Water Oak Drive – City of London

-proposed installation of neighborhood park

-staff approved and permit issued May 11, 2018

Application #65/18

City of London

Briscoe Woods Trail, Coves ESA – City of London

-proposed construction of a 1.0m wide wood chip trail in Briscoe Woods

-staff approved and permit issued May 11, 2018

Application #68/18

Emily Walper – CMK Investments

35 St. Andrew Street – City of London

-proposed construction of rear addition to existing house

-staff approved and permit issued April 27, 2018

Application #72/18

Camp Kee-Mo-Kee

9581 Glendon Drive – Municipality of Middlesex Centre

-proposed demolition of existing washroom facility and construction of new accessible washroom/shower/storage facility to service existing children's camp.

-plans prepared by Melchers Construction Limited in accordance with site specific project location details and mitigation measures agreed to between contractor, camp board members and UTRCA staff.
-staff approved and permit issued May 7, 2018.

Application #75/18

John Baer

5769 Dundas Street – Municipality of Thames Centre

-proposed construction of rear two storey addition to existing house in proposed West London SPA
-staff approved and permit issued May 7, 2018

Application #77/18

Lukas Janic – JBL Inc.

197 Rathowen Street – City of London

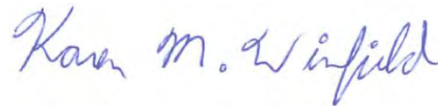
-proposed construction of rear two storey addition to existing house in proposed West London SPA
-staff approved and permit issued May 10, 2018

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

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Alex B. Shivas
Date: May 8, 2018
Subject: Friends of Ellice & Gads Hill Swamps Co-Management Agreement - Status Report
- For Information

Agenda #: 8 (b)
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In May 2017, the Board of Directors approved the implementation the third Co-Management Agreement with the Friends of Ellice & Gads Hill Swamps for the period 2017-2022. The Friends of E&GHS continue to maintain a strong membership and during the past year and have worked with UTRCA staff to complete several projects in the swamps. These initiatives include; spraying areas in Ellice Swamp for invasive phragmites and building a wetland look-out platform along the Ellice Swamp Rail Trail. In the spring of 2018, the Friends gathered together to perform a roadside ditch clean-up.

The Friends are currently busy preparing for their annual AGM in June, as well looking at other initiatives they can undertake for the upcoming year.

Prepared by:



Bill Mackie
Supervisor, Lands & Facilities



Oxford Children's Water Festival

The Oxford Children's Water Festival will welcome 3,600 students from across Oxford County and the surrounding area to Pittock Conservation Area on May 15-18.

The Festival is a fun and educational event where students in grades 2 to 5 learn about the importance of water in their daily lives, and their role in finding innovative ways to conserve water and adapt to climate change. Maintaining the quality and quantity of our groundwater and surface water is vital for the future development of our communities and for the health and enjoyment of residents. Educating youth about water and the environment is the perfect way to start doing this.

- John Duffy
- Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
- Lake Huron and Elgin Area Water Supply Systems
- London District Catholic School Board
- Long Point Region Conservation Authority
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Oxford Coalition for Social Justice
- Oxford County
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Contact: Linda Smith, Water Festival Coordinator



The Children's Water Festival returns to Pittock CA in May this year.

The Festival rotates through London, St. Thomas and Woodstock on a three year basis. This will be the thirteenth festival held in the area.

New this year is a free public night, on Thursday, May 17, from 5 to 8 pm. The family event will include water festival activities, archery, an augmented reality sandbox, birds of prey demonstration, bird feeder building, face painting, smoothie bikes, STEM activities, and a treasure hunt. There will even be free burgers (beef or veggie) and fruit for the first 200 people.

The public evening will be hosted by the Oxford Children's Water Festival, City of Woodstock, Oxford County, Southwestern Public Health, and UTRCA.

The Water Festival is made possible by financial and in-kind support from many organizations, businesses, agencies and volunteers. The Organizing Committee includes:

- City of Woodstock
- General Motors of Canada Company - CAMI Assembly Plant

Friends of Medway Creek

In 2017, the City of London launched the Neighbourhood Decision Making Pilot Project. This project focuses on the community making the decision as to what they'd like to see in their own community. The Friends of Medway Creek received funds through the project to create and install three benches and four interpretive signs in the north half of the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). This spring we were finally able to install the signs, after waiting for the long winter and soggy spring to pass. We hope people take the time to learn more about what the Medway ESA has to offer!



For more information on the Friends of Medway

One of the four new interpretive signs in the Medway Valley ESA.

and the Medway watershed project, go to www.thamesriver.on.ca/education-community/watershed-friends-of-projects/medway/.

Contact: Julie Welker, Community Partnership Specialist

Soil Health Conference

The latest findings and experiences of Canadian and US researchers, extension staff and local farmers were presented in Chatham on February 15 at a Soil Health Conference, hosted by the St. Clair Region and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities.

The UTRCA's Brad Glasman and Steve Sauder presented on the topic of Farmland Soil Erosion Control Methods. Steve outlined his personal experiences on his farm with soil erosion control, while Brad outlined how the UTRCA works with local farmers to plan, design, implement and maintain erosion control structures. Approximately 200 farmers, certified crop advisors and agency staff took part in the conference.

Contact: Brad Glasman, Manager, Conservation Services

Avon River Enhancement Project

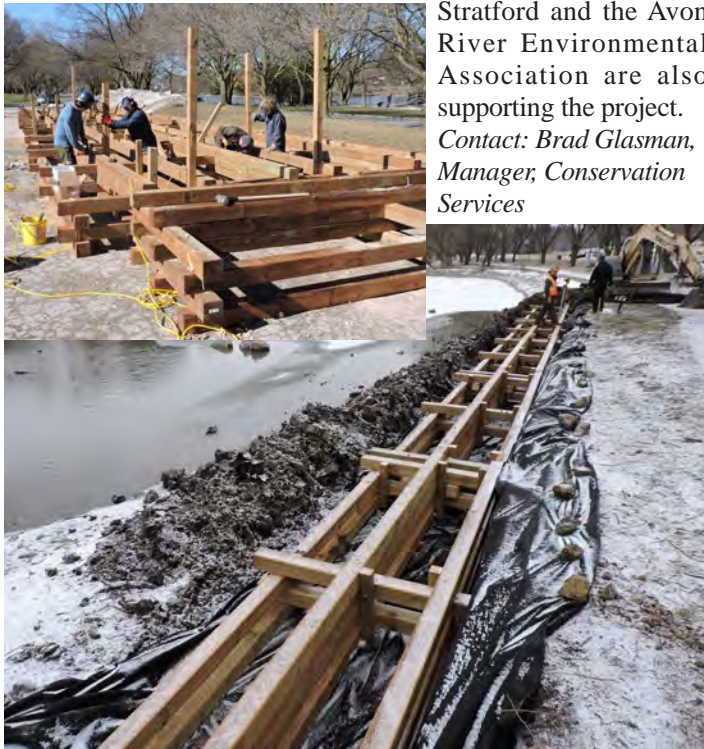
A 300-foot-long wooden crib structure has been installed along the Stratford waterfront. The unique design of this timber crib is that the outer edge will be filled with aquatic plants such as Blue Flag Iris and Cardinal Flower, which are unpalatable to waterfowl. The structure should offer water quality benefits and improve aquatic habitat in Lake Victoria.

The 16' long x 6' wide cribs were constructed in February in a parking lot across from the installation site, and installed in early March. The aquatic plants will be planted this spring.

The project was initiated after the positive reviews of the 130' timber cribwall that was installed along the Lake Victoria north shore in 2017. The new crib is located east of Tom Patterson Island along the south shore, which has very high pedestrian traffic.

The project is being funded primarily by the City of Stratford through the Environmental Committee. The Rotary Club of Stratford and the Avon River Environmental Association are also supporting the project.

Contact: Brad Glasman, Manager, Conservation Services



Western Fair Farm Show

More than 25,000 spectators visited Eastern Canada's largest indoor farm show at the Western Fairgrounds in London in March. The UTRCA participated in a joint CA booth focused on forestry, and had a second booth dedicated to our rural stewardship activities. Our booth highlights included the Soil Your Undies Project, the Medway Creek Priority Subwatershed Project, an upcoming Saturated Buffer Project, and ongoing soil and water conservation programs and services.

Contact: Brad Glasman, Manager, Conservation Services



The beautiful spring weather brought out an estimated 2500 people to Earth Day London.

Celebrating the 25th Annual Earth Day London

An estimated 2500 people turned out for the 25th Annual Earth Day London event on Sunday, April 22 at St. Julien Park in London. The UTRCA and London Heritage Council hosted this free family event. Activities included tree planting, face painting, Canadian Raptor Conservatory shows, guided hikes, bird box building, water festival activities and a bike giveaway.

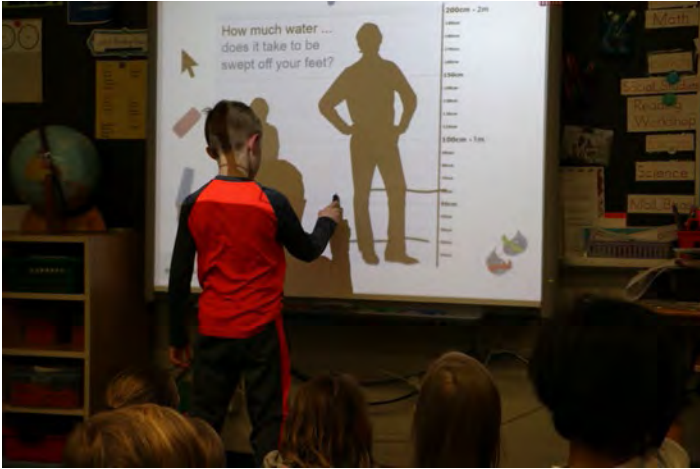
Thank you to our event supporters: the City of London, London Clean and Green, and Dillon Consulting.

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

Stay Safe Near Rivers and Streams

The rapid snowmelt and heavy rains at the end of February could not have been more timely for the presentation of the UTRCA's River Safety program. This year marked the 20th anniversary of this program and Fanshawe Community Education staff were busy visiting Grade 2 classes in London and area schools, as were Wildwood Community Education staff in Perth County.

Over the past two decades, this program has reached more than 55,000 students throughout the watershed. Students learn how to stay safe near all waterways by participating in a variety of hands-on activities. The program begins with an introduction to the water droplets Splish and Splash who, through the magic of a story, take the students on a journey through the water cycle emphasizing safety on the way.



Children used the smartboard as they learned about water safety.

A new component focusing on flood awareness was added to the program this year to take advantage of classroom interactive boards. Students enjoyed using the board to predict how much water it takes to knock them off their feet or drown them. Students and teachers alike were always surprised to discover that 13 cm of fast flowing water can sweep you off your feet, and a person can drown in only 5 cm of water.

Other activities include an interactive puzzle and Splish and Splash's own water safety bingo. Students all received a 20th anniversary River Safety sticker, River Safety Activity Booklet, and a bookmark featuring Splish and Splash and their safety message, "Stay safe near rivers and streams."

Optimist Clubs and other sponsors have made this program available to grade 2 students throughout the upper Thames River watershed for the past 20 years. We were happy to have the opportunity to meet one of our sponsors, Terry Grawey (Optimist Club of Byron), when he visited Byron Northview public school on media day. Fanshawe Community Education gratefully acknowledges all of our sponsors for their continuing support:

- Optimist Club of London East
- Optimist Club of London Fanshawe
- Optimist Club of London Middlesex
- Optimist Club of London North
- Optimist Club of Oakridge Acres
- Optimist Club of Arva & District
- Optimist Club of Thorndale
- Optimist Club of Bryanston-Birr
- Optimist Club of Byron
- Optimist Club of Ilderton
- Highbury Pet Hospital
- Tecumseh Community School
- Thamesford Lions

Contact: Pat McLean, Community Education Technician

Go Wild Grow Wild 2018

The UTRCA had a double booth at the fourth annual Go Wild Grow Wild event on April 7 at the Western Fairgrounds in London. This unique, one day event is hosted by the Carolinian Canada Coalition and attracted more than 80 exhibitors, including native

plant nurseries, Provincial Parks, Conservation Authorities, local environmental groups and clubs, and eco-tourism organizations.

Approximately 3000 people from the region and beyond came to enjoy, learn and network. UTRCA staff provided information on recommended native trees and plants, and promoted Fanshawe, Wildwood and Pittock Conservation Areas. There was a lot of interest from the public and we enjoyed chatting with a great many people. An Elgin County resident won the draw for a season's pass to the three parks.

UTRCA staff also assisted the Friends of Stoney Creek and the Dorchester Mill Pond with their booth. This partnership demonstrates how environmental community groups can create a lasting positive impact on local natural spaces. The booth drew many families with an interactive children's station to create art using natural items, and an augmented reality sand table to showcase how a watershed works.

The Carolinian Canada Coalition, with support from many sponsors and funders, hopes to continue and grow this unique and important event in London.

Contact: Cathy Quinlan, Terrestrial Biologist, or Steve Sauder, Marketing Specialist



John Enright discusses how windbreaks benefit any farming operation.

Rural Landowner Workshop

On March 20, the UTRCA hosted the annual Rural Landowner Workshop in West Perth, at the Mitchell Community Centre. The workshop was very well attended with about 60 landowners present. Annamarie Murray, Councillor for Fullarton Ward and a UTRCA Board Member, welcomed the crowd, and UTRCA General Manager Ian Wilcox moderated the program.

The Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Conservation Authorities participated by promoting the workshop and displaying their stewardship programs and the Huron Clean Water Program. Somerville Seedlings and Forests Ontario also brought displays.

The program included four presentations: "Why do we invest in cover crops?" by Kayla Veldman, Veldman Grain Farm Ltd.; "Windbreaks Work!" by John Enright, UTRCA; "Wetland Restoration - Ducks Unlimited Canada's Conservation Programs" by Rachael Scholten, Ducks Unlimited Canada; and "Innovative BMPs - How do they work to reduce phosphorus?" by Tatianna Lozier, UTRCA.

The night concluded with door prizes and discussions, with many landowners staying until 10 pm.

Contact: John Enright, Forester



An aerial view of Hodge's Pond.

Cedar Creek Rehab at Hodge's Pond

The project to rehabilitate Cedar Creek at the Hodge's Pond property, south of Woodstock, has just added an exciting new partner. The Gunn's Hill Limited Partnership (GHLP) is an Oxford Community Energy Cooperative (OCEC) project that has selected the Cedar Creek Rehabilitation Project as a recipient for the Gunn's Hill Community Fund. An initial grant of \$45,000 was approved to help with project implementation through 2018-2019, with the chance to extend the partnership through 2021, to a funding total of \$105,000.

OCEC is a renewable energy co-op based in Oxford County. The Gunn's Hill Community Fund is an annual fund that is dedicated to making improvements to the communities in Oxford County. The Cedar Creek project fits perfectly with the vision of the Community Fund. The project's proximity to their local wind farm, which generates the Community Fund, provides the opportunity to educate the community on the harmony between renewable energy, sustainable development, and environmental preservation.

What makes this partnership even more exciting, is that OCEC and the GHLP are made up of local investors who have made a commitment to this project beyond a cash contribution. These groups have committed an additional \$16,500 of in-kind support, through member planting events, partnership tours, and participation in student events.

The objective of the Cedar Creek Restoration Project is to restore natural channel characteristics and function of the creek corridor, as it flows through the Cedar Creek Swamp. A bypass of the Hodge's Pond dam has been constructed, and draw-down of the impoundment is underway.

The newly free-flowing stretch of Cedar Creek will benefit from a series of projects along its length, to enhance the stream bottom features, stabilize the creek banks through the meanders, re-naturalize the riparian zone, and add species diversity to some adjacent wetland pockets.

The upcoming projects will help to maintain the temperature improvements gained from the dam removal by adding shade to the riparian zone. Tree and shrub plantings and bioengineering will also reduce erosion on the banks of the newly established channel. Re-establishing riffle/pool sequences through the restored stretch will increase dissolved oxygen and improve the quality of in-stream habitat. Nest boxes will improve bird habitat.

These projects, combined with efforts to develop an interpretive hiking trail loop on the property, will hopefully establish this property as a productive natural heritage feature as well as a destination for nature enthusiasts, recreational walkers/hikers, and school field trips.

The Gunn's Hill Community Fund contribution is being used as matching funds in an application to Environment & Climate Change Canada to round out the \$110,000 two year project budget. The project, if fully funded, will deliver the following enhancements to the property:

- 2880 native trees and shrubs
- 4000 native aquatic plant plugs
- 4 kg of wetland seed mix (1600 m²)
- 8 constructed riffles
- 160 metres of bioengineered erosion control
- 2 heron nesting platforms
- 4 aquatic lunger structures
- 4 interpretive signs
- 3 km recreational trail
- More than 1400 community and student volunteers

The project team includes:

- County of Oxford
- Ducks Unlimited
- Oxford Community Energy Co-operative
- Oxford County Trails Council
- Stewardship Oxford
- Thames Valley District School Board
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Contact: Brad Hertner, Community Partnership Specialist, or Brad Glasman, Manager, Conservation Services

Focusing on Phosphorus

With funding support from Environment & Climate Change Canada, the UTRCA spearheaded two projects early this year. Both projects support actions under the Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Domestic Action Plan for reducing phosphorus loading to Lake Erie with the goal of decreasing the presence of harmful and nuisance algal blooms as well as zones of low oxygen (hypoxia) that threaten both the ecosystem and human health.

The UTRCA compiled the *Nutrient Reduction Project Catalogue 2018* as an inventory of programs and projects underway in the western portion of the Canadian Lake Erie watershed, that are aimed at reducing phosphorus loads entering Lake Erie. The catalogue provides a mechanism to track and share information about projects that have been or are being implemented in the watershed. The catalogue will also be used as a tool to ensure that the best practices required to achieve phosphorus load reductions are in place and to help identify opportunities for collaboration. More than 25 different agencies, academic institutions, conservation authorities, non-government organizations and community groups submitted over 100 projects themed to research, implementation, and education and outreach. In addition, the catalogue was designed to allow for projects to be added over time. The catalogue is available on the UTRCA website at www.thamesriver.on.ca/nutrient-project-catalogue/

The second project, led by the Upper and Lower Thames Conservation Authorities, was the two day Focus on the Thames Forum. The Forum highlighted a range of projects and programs underway within the Thames River watershed designed to reduce



The Focus on the Thames Forum was an opportunity to network, as well as hear from a range of presenters.

nutrient loading to the Thames River, Lake St. Clair and western Lake Erie. It was designed to provide individuals, groups and agencies an opportunity to share information, collaborate and improve planning into the future. The Forum was held at the Lamplighter Inn in London, on March 27-28 and attracted over 130 participants per day. Presentations are being collected and will be made available on the UTRCA website. Evaluations of the Forum have been overwhelmingly positive and there have been requests to repeat the event.

Contact: Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager, Community & Corporate Services

Huron Perth Regional Envirothon

The Huron Perth Regional Envirothon is a hands-on environmental competition where teams of five high school students test their knowledge in four key areas: wildlife, forestry, aquatics and soils. Education staff from Wildwood, along with staff from Ausable Bayfield CA, Maitland Valley CA, and Huron County, worked together to host this two day event. The event was also generously



supported by many community partners including Forests Ontario, Avon Maitland District School Board, Goderich Lions Club, Seaforth Lions Club, Perth Stewardship Network, Huron Stewardship Council, and Stratford Civic Beautification and Environmental Awareness Committee.

On April 18, students gathered at Wildwood CA for a workshop where local experts helped them further their understanding of the four subject areas. Students also received guidance on presentation skills and information on this year's special topic, climate change. The workshop day is held each year to prepare students for the competition day.

On May 2, teams gathered again to compete for the regional title at Spruce Lodge and TJ Dolan Natural Area. Thirteen teams from six high schools completed testing in the four subject areas as well as an eight minute presentation on climate change. Central Huron Secondary School (CHSS) emerged as the winner with Mitchell District High School as runner up. CHSS will move on to the Ontario Envirothon as the representative for the Huron-Perth region in Waterloo at the end of May.

Contact: Erin Dolmage, Community Education Technician



Students planted 150 native plants and shrubs in a local park.

The Earth Day Project

Every year the UTRCA, Stratford Civic Beautification and Environmental Awareness Committee, Energy & Environment Committee, and City of Stratford partner to offer an event in conjunction with Stratford Green Week and Earth Day. This year, we were pleased to also partner with the Avon Maitland District School Board.

The April 20 event involved a full day of activities related to environmental awareness and stewardship. Students participated in a half day workshop including an interactive presentation by students from Mitchell District High School, called "The Eco Squad," and other activities to help develop ideas for a school-wide project. The other half of the day was spent outside. Despite the previous weekend's ice storm, the ground wasn't frozen and students were able to plant 150 plants and shrubs to naturalize part of a local park.

Contact: Maranda MacKean, Community Education Specialist



The turnout was great for the Glen Cairn Community day.

Glen Cairn Community Day

On Saturday, April 28, the partners of Glen Cairn hosted a community day event at Glen Cairn Park. The event included tree planting, garbage clean up, a birds of prey demonstration, and a free bbq lunch. We had ordered sun and warmth for this day but both decided not to show up. However, this didn't seem to bother the Glen Cairn community. Despite the cold and dreary day we had record numbers in attendance. Approximately 80 adults and children joined us for a great day of cleaning up the park and learning all about the birds that soar over us every day, including a 5 week old Great-horned Owl. Thank you to the community and the partners for supporting the continued efforts to revitalize the Glen Cairn community.

Contact: Julie Welker, Community Partnership Specialist

Stream of Dreams

Jeanne Sauve French Immersion Public School and Prince Charles Public School were the most recent schools to take part in the Stream of Dreams program in London. Students learned about the Thames River watershed and the impact of stormwater on water quality. The goal is to inspire everyone in the school community to protect and conserve our local water resources. Stream murals will be installed at each of these schools in the next month.

Contact: Linda Smith, Community Partnership Specialist



Students have painted their "dream fish," which will be installed along the school yard fences.

Saturated Buffer - Another first for Ontario

In early May, UTRCA staff led the installation of a saturated buffer project. This agricultural best management practice (BMP) is aimed at reducing phosphorus and nitrogen delivery to the Thames River, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie.

The saturated buffer concept involves intercepting a subsurface tile drainage system and rerouting the flow into a shallow, perforated drain tile that extends laterally along the stream buffer. A control structure with gates forces water into this lateral line rather than allowing it to flow straight into the stream. Drainage water then seeps from the perforated pipe through the shallow riparian zone, where vegetation can take up the water and nutrients. During high drainage flow events, the control structure allows a portion of the flow to overtop the gates and go directly into the stream and not back up into the landowner's tile drainage system. This practice may allow up to 60% or more of the tile drain flow to be directed through the buffer.

The project was installed through funding from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, with in-kind support from Western University. It will serve as a demonstration and research site to showcase this new BMP and test its effectiveness.

Contact: Brad Glasman, Manager, Conservation Services



The control structure directs flows from the upland subsurface tile drainage system into perforated tile drains running along the stream edge for about 250 metres in both direction.





North Thames River near the Queen Street Bridge, St. Marys

Thames River Flood – February 2018

During the week of February 19, 35-65 mm of rain fell across the upper Thames River watershed. The runoff, combined with 30-75 mm of water from melting snow, caused flows similar to significant floods in 2009, 2008, 1997, 1977, 1968, and 1947.

The North Thames River at St. Marys peaked at 777 cubic metres per second (m^3/sec) (equivalent to 8 swimming pools passing every second) - the highest flow since records began here in 1938. It is estimated that, without Wildwood Dam regulating flows on Trout Creek, the maximum flow on the North Thames would have peaked at $830 m^3/sec$, which would have reached close to the top of the St. Marys floodwall and caused more damage elsewhere.

The event also resulted in the highest flow on Medway Creek in London since records there began in 1946, and one of the highest flows on the North Thames in Mitchell.



The discharge from Fanshawe reservoir was the largest since 1963.

Fanshawe and Wildwood Dams limited the maximum flow on the North Thames in London at Western University (downstream of Medway and Stoney Creeks) to $725 m^3/sec$. Without these two dams, it is estimated that the maximum flow would have exceeded $1100 m^3/sec$. The unregulated flow likely would have overtopped the lowest sections of the West London Dyke and also caused flooding in the Broughdale area.

Flows on the Thames River at Byron (west end of London) were the highest since Fanshawe Dam began operating in 1952, even though the UTRCA's three flood control dams reduced flows at Byron by nearly 30%. Without Fanshawe, Wildwood and Pittock Dams, it is estimated that the maximum flow at Byron would

have exceeded $1400 m^3/sec$ (instead of $1024 m^3/sec$). This flow would have threatened areas behind the other dykes downstream of the Forks.

Without Pittock Dam, it is estimated that the maximum flow on the South Branch of the Thames River in Ingersoll would have peaked at $146 m^3/sec$ (instead of $78 m^3/sec$), which may have resulted in flooding without the Ingersoll Channel.

Near-record floods and damages were experienced in the following days in Thamesville and Chatham, as the flood peak moved downstream. While the benefits from the UTRCA dams were much less obvious further downstream, their operations still had a positive impact downstream of London.

The February 2018 flood had the potential to cause significant damages. With the collaboration of UTRCA and municipalities, the upper Thames River watershed experienced little in the way of damages despite the severity of the flood. Key factors include:

- Flood control structures (dams, dykes and channels) performed very well;
- Communications with local municipalities were effective and allowed for appropriate and immediate local responses (public warnings, road closures); and
- Past land use planning efforts by municipalities and the UTRCA kept development out of harm's way, greatly reducing the risk to life and property.



Flooded business, Windermere Road at Adelaide Street, London

This flood provides valuable lessons and reinforces priorities:

- Continual maintenance of flood control structures is required;
- Updated flood modelling is an essential, continuous process that will ensure early and accurate flood warnings as both watershed conditions (development) and weather patterns change;
- Investment in new monitoring technology is needed to ensure the accuracy and reliability of future flood predictions; and
- Municipal and Conservation Authority flood response staff training should be continued to improve communications, coordination, response times and, ultimately, provide greater protection for residents.

Go to www.thamesriver.on.ca/wp-content/uploads//FloodStructures/2018Feb-Flood-Review.pdf for an event summary.
Contact: Chris Tasker, Manager, Water & Information Management



The happy winners of this year's Conservation Award.

“Drastic Plastics” Win the Award

In April, UTRCA staff helped judge the Thames Valley Science & Engineering Fair at Althouse College in London. This year's fair was a great success with 167 projects and 230 students participating.

For the past four years, the Upper Thames River, Lower Thames Valley and Kettle Creek Conservation Authorities have judged at the event and presented a Conservation Award to the junior division (grades 6-8) project that best explores conservation with a local focus. The winners of this year's award were Jessica Goodman and Salena Sun from University Heights Public School. Their project, entitled “Drastic Plastics,” investigated the presence of microplastics in the Great Lakes and our drinking water and the impact of microplastics in our environment. The students each received a pair of binoculars and the Conservation Award Plaque, which will be displayed at their school for the next year.

Contact: Karlee Flear, Community Education Supervisor

HPCDSBS Learning Fair

Education staff from Wildwood attended the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board System Learning Fair on



Some students used Lego to build their solutions.

April 26. As community partners, staff worked with Grade 5 students from across the school board to help them work through the stages of the design thinking process to empathize and contextualize the realities behind the challenges they were solving. Questions varied across subjects and professions, and solutions were applied through electronics, consumables, Lego and wood.

Contact: Maranda MacKean, Community Education Specialist

Board of Directors - On the Agenda

The next Board of Directors meeting will be May 22, 2018, at the Watershed Conservation Centre. Agendas and approved minutes are posted on our “Publications” page at www.thamesriver.on.ca.

- London Dyke Environmental Assessments
- Audited Financial Statements
- Revised Investment Policy
- Administration and Enforcement - Section 28
- Friends of Ellice and Gadshill Swamp Status Report
- Conservation Ontario Update
- St. Marys Golf Course/ Council Response

Contact: Michelle Viglianti, Administrative Assistant