

Board of Directors

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda – June 2026

Date: June 23, 2026

Time: 9:30am

Place: Watershed Conservation Centre Board Room, Fanshawe Conservation Area –
1424 Clarke Road, London, ON

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Modifications to the Agenda

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

4. Presentations/Delegations

5. Administrative Business

5.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: May 26, 2026

5.2. Business Arising from Minutes

5.3. Correspondence

6. Reports – For Consideration

6.1. Dingman Creek Flood Hazard Map Update, City of London – BoD-26-06-45

6.2. Request for Clarification on Minister's Direction Issued Under Section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act Regarding UTRCA Agricultural Land Lease Tender and Term – BoD-26-06-46

6.3. Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles for Transition – BoD-26-06-47

7. Reports – In Camera

7.1. Position, Plan or Instruction to be Applied to Negotiations – Fanshawe Land Lease Program – BoD-26-06-48

- 7.2. Litigation Affecting the UTRCA – Essex Street – Verbal Update

8. Reports – For Information

- 8.1. UTRCA Lands Contributing to Canada’s 30x30 Target– BoD-26-06-49
- 8.2. Upper Thames Phosphorus Reduction Program Update – BoD-26-06-50
- 8.3. 2026-2027 Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Project Approval Update – BoD-26-06-51
- 8.4. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report – BoD-26-06-52
- 8.5. Project Status Update – BoD-26-06-53
- 8.6. [Thames River Current June Edition](#)

9. Reports – Committee Updates

- 9.1. Finance and Audit Committee
- 9.2. Hearing Committee

10. Notices of Motion

11. Chair’s Comments

12. Member’s Comments

13. General Manager’s Comments

14. Adjournment

Tracy Annett, General Manager

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Erin Dolmage, Hazard Mapping Communications and Marketing Specialist
Date: June 23, 2026
File Number: BoD-26-06-45
Agenda #: 6.1
Subject: Dingman Creek Flood Hazard Map Update, City of London

Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Dingman Creek Flood Hazard Map Update, City of London.

Background

Ontario's municipalities and conservation authorities work to protect people and property from natural hazards, including flooding and erosion hazards, as well as wetlands and the area surrounding these features. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) regulates development in or near natural hazards under the Conservation Authorities Act and [Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits](#). The regulated area encompasses the natural hazards and appropriate setbacks from them. To illustrate the approximate location of the regulated area, the UTRCA develops maps that depict areas that may be affected by the regulation (O. Reg. 41/24).

The UTRCA is undertaking a comprehensive review and update of its regulated area maps since most of the UTRCA's original hazard information was compiled 20 to 40 years ago. New data has greatly increased the accuracy of hazard identification, and advances in computer technology and software have improved the UTRCA's ability to model and map hazard areas.

Updating natural hazards and regulated area maps is an important and ongoing process that enables the conservation authority and its municipal partners to use the most current information to identify hazards, assess risk, and guide land use decisions.

Discussion

Study Area

The current study area that is proposed for consideration by the UTRCA Board of Directors is Dingman Creek within the City of London. The specific area extends from Old Victoria Road at the upstream extent, to the western City of London boundary at

Woodhull Road downstream, covering approximately 132 km² and includes 107 km of watercourse.

Dingman Creek Flood Hazard Map Update

The UTRCA has been working collaboratively with the City of London through the Dingman Creek Subwatershed Stage 2 Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process, which was initiated by the City in 2021. Flood hazard modelling has been completed by KGS Group, a consultant retained by the City of London, in collaboration with UTRCA. The updated flood hazard model, developed in accordance with the *Technical Guide - River and Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard* (MNR, 2002), uses provincial LiDAR data and results from both 1-D and 2-D models to produce the flooding hazard limit (1:250-year flood) and establish the Regulated Area associated with Dingman Creek.

Increasing development pressure in the Dingman Creek subwatershed requires updated hazard information to support safe and sustainable development decisions under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 41/24. With this map update, the UTRCA will finalize the regulatory flood hazard limit for the floodplain in the City of London portion of the Dingman Creek subwatershed. In the future, further refinements to the flooding hazard limit may occur collaboratively between the City and UTRCA, as flood mitigation strategies are considered in the next phase of the EA process.

The City of London has led engagement with interest-holders and affected landowners since 2019 through the EA process. Project information, past presentations, and consultation details on the updated floodplain mapping, can be found on the City of London's [Dingman Creek EA 'Get Involved' engagement page](#).

To adopt the Dingman Creek flood hazard map update, the UTRCA was required to post the updated map for a 30-day notification period, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 41/24 for significant updates. The 30-day notification period (May 22 – June 22, 2026), along with the public engagement process through the EA, satisfies the requirements of UTRCA's *Regulated Area Map Updates and Transition Protocol* (2025). A project page was created on [Engage Thames River](#) for the public to access background information and the draft map. Social media posts were published on May 22, 2026, on Facebook and Instagram. Interest-holders were notified via email on May 22, 2026.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has recently posted proposed updates to the 2002 *Technical Guide - River & Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit (2002)* on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. The posting includes revisions to the current technical guide along with a new companion technical bulletin titled "*Special Flooding Hazard Conditions in River and Stream Systems*". UTRCA staff are reviewing the changes and will refine mapping, if required, after the updates have been approved by the province.

Conclusion

The Dingman Creek flood hazard map update will finalize the regulatory floodplain (1:250-year flood) for the Dingman Creek study area. If approved, the following will occur to the UTRCA Regulated Area map:

- “Study Area – Under Review” will be removed from the Dingman Creek subwatershed.
- The existing Regulated Area limit will be adjusted in accordance with the text of the regulation to reflect the updated floodplain information.

Note: Only the flood hazard limit has been updated. No other hazard layers or regulated features are being updated from what is currently mapped within the Dingman Creek subwatershed study area at this time.

Next Steps

The final step in the map update process is the approval of the Dingman Creek flood hazard limit and associated Regulated Area map updates by the UTRCA Board of Directors. Upon approval, the final maps will be sent to the City of London and posted on the UTRCA Regulated Areas map at maps.thamesriver.on.ca to be used in the administration of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and O. Reg. 41/24.

Prepared by:

Erin Dolmage, Hazard Mapping Communications and Marketing Specialist
Joe Gordon, Regulations Coordinator

Recommended by:

Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations
Chris Tasker, Manager, Water Information Management
Tracy Annett, General Manager

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Brent Verscheure, Manager, Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas
Date: June 23, 2026
File Number: BoD-26-06-46
Agenda #: 6.2
Subject: Request for Clarification on Minister's Direction Issued Under Section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act Regarding UTRCA Agricultural Land Lease Tender and Term

Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors support staff seeking the required authorization from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), in accordance with Ministerial direction, to proceed with the proposed agricultural land lease program;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be authorized to take all necessary actions to implement the approved tender process.

Background

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) owns and leases approximately 439 hectares (1,085 acres) of agricultural land. The majority of these lands have historically been leased through a competitive tendering process that provides the local agricultural community with an open and transparent opportunity to access additional farmland while generating revenue to support UTRCA land management programs and services.

UTRCA's agricultural land lease program forms an important component of ongoing operational land management activities. Historically, lease terms have been established for five (5) years to provide tenant farmers with sufficient certainty to implement best management practices, support crop planning, and make longer-term operational investments associated with agricultural production.

The current agricultural lease term expires on December 31, 2026. Existing leases generate approximately \$411,000 in annual revenue, which helps offset costs associated with the management of UTRCA-owned lands, including passive-use Conservation Areas, wetlands, woodlands, floodplain and hazard lands, and other Category 1 (mandatory) land management programs and services. This revenue contributes to reducing pressures on the municipal levy required to support these mandatory services.

Discussion

Staff previously submitted an inquiry to OPCA regarding the proposed agricultural land lease approach for consideration. While a response has not yet been received, staff may be advised that the proposed decision requires authorization from the CEO of OPCA and that any request for authorization must include a resolution of the Authority supporting the proposed decision.

Subject to Board endorsement, staff will submit the required authorization request, including the supporting Board resolution, to the CEO of OPCA in accordance with Ministerial direction.

Summary

The continuation of UTRCA's agricultural land lease program through a competitive tender process represents a long-standing and effective land management approach that supports both the agricultural community and UTRCA's financial sustainability. Multi-year lease terms provide tenant farmers with operational certainty while generating stable revenues that offset the costs of managing UTRCA-owned lands and mandatory land management services.

Board support via resolution is required by the province to enable staff to seek the necessary authorization and proceed with the preparation and distribution of agricultural land tenders for 5-year lease terms beginning January 1, 2027.

Recommended by:

Brent Verscheure, Manager, Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett
Date: June 23, 2026
File Number: BoD-26-06-47
Agenda #: 6.3
Subject: Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles for Transition

Recommendation

THAT the report on the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles for Transition be received;

AND THAT the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles for Transition be approved.

Background

On April 23, 2026, Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), received Royal Assent. Schedule 3 of the Bill outlined the legislative changes to the CA Act to consolidate Ontario's 36 CAs into 9 regional CAs. With the passing of the Bill, the February 1, 2027 consolidation of Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA), Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA), and Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) into the Western Lake Erie Regional (WLERCA) commences.

A project executive will be appointed by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to chair a transition committee comprised of representatives from each predecessor CA. That individual will become the first Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for WLERCA for up to the 24 months post amalgamation. It is anticipated that the project executive will be appointed in July 2026, with the transition committee commencing its activities immediately afterward.

In advance of the first meeting, the General Managers of the UTRCA, SCRCA, LTVCA and ERCA are meeting weekly to discuss potential issues with the amalgamation. In reviewing the actions of the surrounding new Regional CAs, it was decided that it would be appropriate to adopt some guiding principles to ensure fairness and transparency. The Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles for Transition are provided as attached.

Summary

The principles are being presented to each individual Conservation Authority Board of Directors and once approved, will be used as a joint communications document. Moving forward, the plan is to continue shared discussions that can inform the Transition Committee's work.

Recommended By

Tracy Annett, General Manager

Attachment: Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles for Transition

Guiding Principles for Transition

Over the past 80 years, Conservation Authorities have balanced fiscal responsibility with high-quality, locally responsive services. That success is rooted in a deep local knowledge and upheld by local connections with landowners, community groups and member municipalities. The consolidated authority should continue to be guided by science, local knowledge, and strong partnerships to protect people, property, and the natural environment.

Throughout this process, protecting staff and supporting a transition that respects municipal contributions and maintains public trust for all communities served should be a top priority. Successful consolidation will need to respect the past, while building upon shared achievements to create a unified region capable of delivering enhanced programs and services, advancing integrated watershed management and strengthening community partnerships across the region.

The principles are not listed in order of priority. Each principle is essential and collectively provide a framework for the future.

Accountable to Communities and Transparent Governance

Establish an effective, accountable, and transparent governance model that includes all participating municipalities and communities and complies with provincial legislation.

Fiscal Responsibility

Develop a fiscally responsible transition plan that protects short-term stability and long-term sustainability.

Commitment to Workforce Stability and Talent Retention

Prioritize the well-being, retention, and fair treatment of all staff while maintaining local service delivery throughout the consolidation process.

Service Excellence

Ensure that communities continue to receive high-quality, locally responsive programs and services.

Risk Management and Business Continuity

Ensure uninterrupted delivery of critical services while carefully managing risks associated with organizational change.

Watershed-Based Science Informed Management

Ensure consolidation does not dilute the watershed-based approach that defines Conservation Authorities.

Transparency, Trust and Clear Communication

Transparent communication is critical for maintaining confidence among staff, municipalities and the public.

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Brent Verscheure, Manager, Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas
Date: June 23, 2026
File number: BoD-26-06-49
Agenda #: 8.1
Subject: UTRCA Lands Contributing to Canada's 30x30 Target

Recommendation

THAT the Board receives the report for information.

Background

The UTRCA was approached by Ontario Nature in June 2024 to assess, recognize, and celebrate the conservation efforts of the organization by determining eligibility for contribution to the 30 x 30 target. The UTRCA in collaboration with Ontario Nature is contributing 855 hectares of natural areas and provincially significant wetland to be registered under the Protected Areas designation Database. This [database](#) is compiled and managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, to contribute towards Canada's target of protecting and conserving 30% of our lands and waters by 2030. Many organizations including municipalities, conservation authorities, land trusts, private landowners and community groups are collaborating on this initiative.

Discussion

The eligibility of each property is based on current ecological conditions and the UTRCA's management objectives that meet the program criteria for each property. Managing for passive recreational use is aligned with Canada's international standards and would contribute to Canada's international biodiversity targets for protected and conserved areas. UTRCA properties participating in the 30x30 initiative are identified in Figure 1 below.

Recognizing our lands for this initiative aligns with the environmental health priority of the UTRCA's Strategic Plan – *to protect the watershed's ecological integrity by building connected natural systems and enhancing the UTRCA's network of lands*. As well, meeting all four goals and many of the objectives within our CA Lands Strategy. As an example, one of the objectives under goal 1 environmental protection and natural hazard management, is *to protect the ecological integrity of UTRCA's lands within the watershed and maintain and enhance a connected natural heritage system*. This designation does not change or hinder the management activities of our lands. By submitting our lands to this initiative, we are partnering as a contributor to Canada's protected areas designation database.

Summary

UTRCA properties are generally protected through fee-simple UTRCA ownership and statutory designations, including the Conservation Authorities Act, UTRCA Lands Strategy, UTRCA Strategic Plan and Provincially Significant Wetland designation. Additionally, municipal official plan designations and zoning, consistent with the policies contained in the Provincial Planning Statement, also offer existing protection for many UTRCA properties. UTRCA lands participating in this reporting do not entail any additional regulatory or policy restrictions for these lands. Contributing to Canada's protection and conservation of ecologically important land through this initiative, aligns with the goals and objectives of the UTRCA Lands Strategy.

Prepared by:

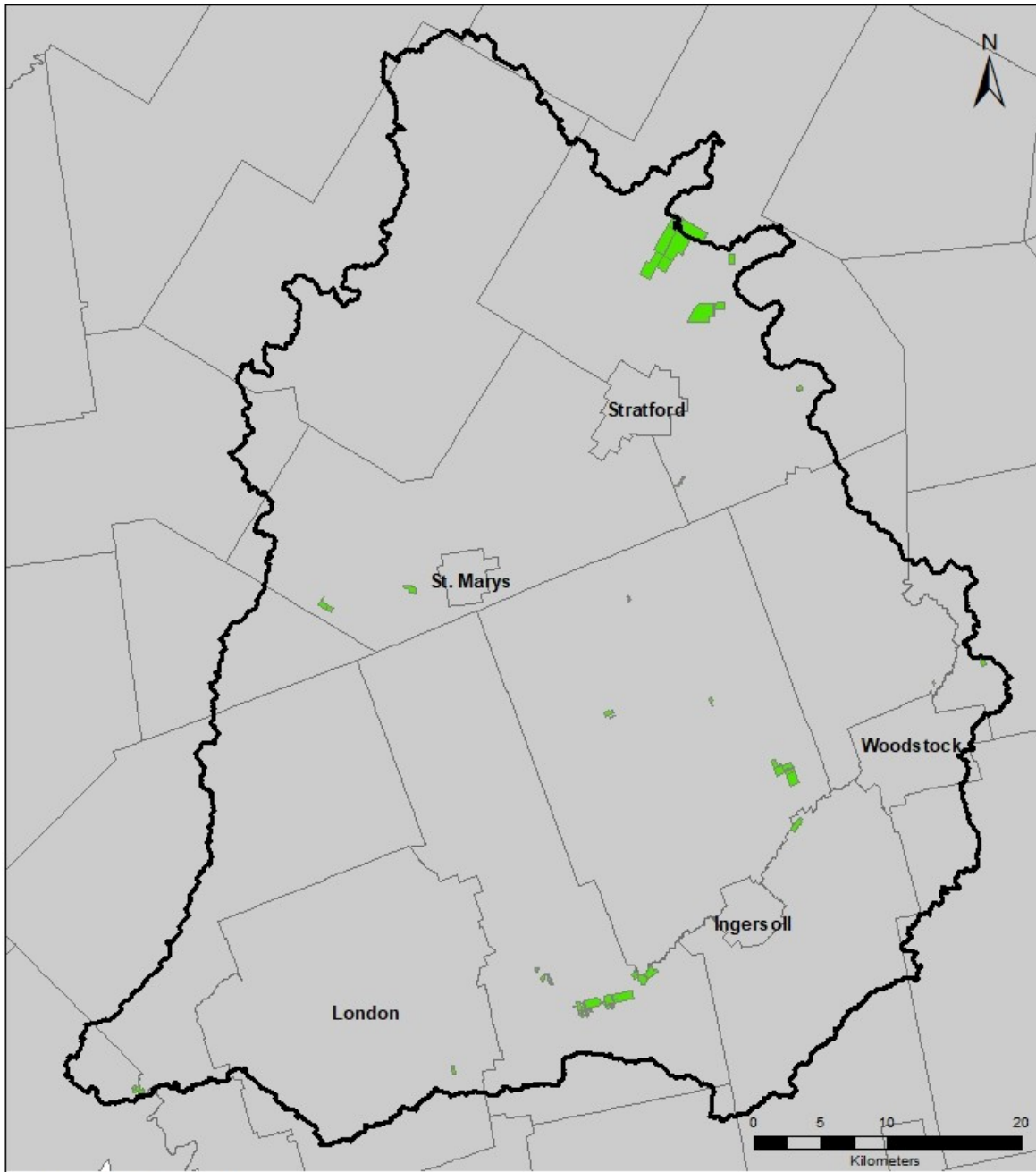
Brandon Williamson, Land Management Coordinator

Recommended by:

Brent Verscheure, Manager, Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas

Figure 1 UTRCA properties participating in the 30x30 target

30 x 30 Ontario Nature



UTRCA Properties			
Beachville Tract	Ellice Swamp	Harmony CA	W.L. Dickson Arboretum
Cade Tract	Embro CA	Ivey Tract	
Dorchester CA	Fishcreek CA	Kintore Swamp	
Dorchester Mill Pond	Gads Hill North & South	Lowthian Flats	
Dorchester Swamp	Golspie Swamp	Shakespeare CA	
Downey Tract	Harrington CA	Westminster (Dingman)	



To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tatianna Lozier, Acting Manager Integrated Watershed Management
Date: June 23, 2026
File Number: BoD-26-06-50
Agenda #: 8.2
Subject: Upper Thames Phosphorus Reduction Program Update

Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors receive the Upper Thames Phosphorus Reduction Program update report for information.

Background

The Upper Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Program launched in fall 2024 to provide cost-share opportunities towards a variety of agricultural best management practices (BMPs). The program aims to provide targeted, local support for the adoption of phosphorus reduction measures in areas of the watershed that contribute most significantly to phosphorus loss. It prioritizes fields with high soil erosion or elevated soil phosphorus levels, while promoting tailored, field-level solutions that are most effective in reducing losses across the watershed. A key focus of the program is encouraging the stacking of complementary practices to maximize overall environmental benefits and long-term impact. With the completion of the Year 2 fiscal period (ending March 31, 2026), a summary of project results is presented below.

Project Uptake

- Total Number of Practices: 1,811
- Total Area Impacted: 113,214 ac (45,816 ha)
- Estimated Phosphorus Reduction: 40,961 lbs (18,576 kg)

Year 2 saw a threefold increase in on-the-ground projects compared to Year 1, with implementation expanding across a broader range of project categories (Figure 1). Many funded projects focused on residue management (Figure 1), including maintaining at least 60% residue cover over the winter through cover crop establishment or reduced tillage practices. A key component of the program is the auditing of projects by staff, with over 800 field inspections conducted. Strong interest in the 4R Nutrient Stewardship categories emerged as a key highlight of the program and will be further emphasized in Year 3 (April 1, 2026–March 31, 2027).

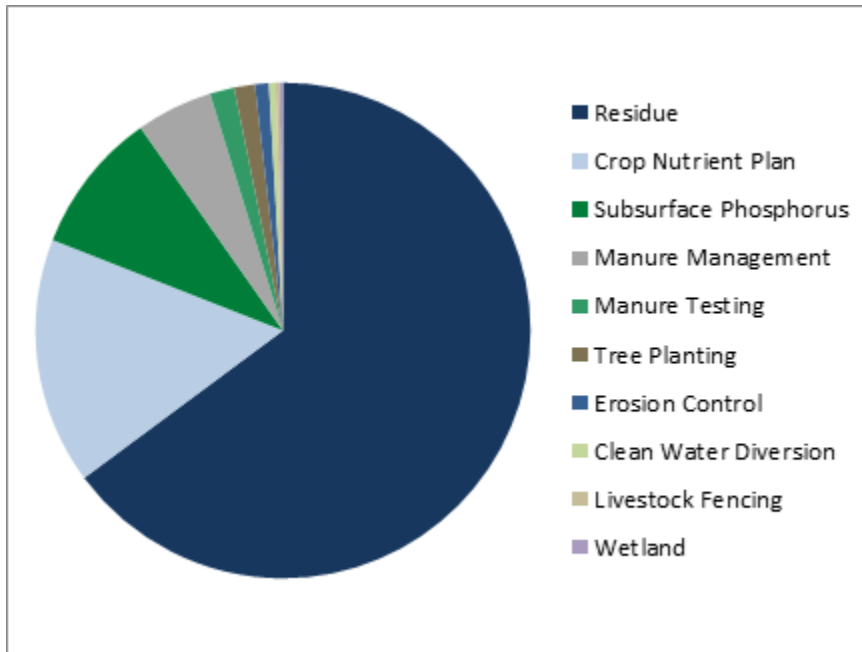


Figure 1: Breakdown of category uptake based on funded projects in Year 2

Table 1: Number of funded applicants in 2025-2026 fiscal period per municipality

Municipality	Total Applicants
Blandford-Blenheim	4
East Zorra-Tavistock	19
Ingersoll	2
City of London	11
Lucan Biddulph	16
Middlesex Centre	29
Norwich	9
Perth East	47
Perth South	59
South-West Oxford	32
Stratford	2
Thames Centre	74
West Perth	70
Woodstock	2
Zorra	72

*Note: Applicants may have had more than one project category funded.

Table 2: Number of funded acres/hectares in 2025-2026 fiscal period per municipality

Municipality	Acres	Hectares
Blandford-Blenheim	4777	1933
East Zorra-Tavistock	122	49
Ingersoll	2270	918
London	4913	1988
Lucan Biddulph	9640	3900

Municipality	Acres	Hectares
Middlesex Centre	2132	862
Norwich	9116	3688
Perth East	11883	4808
Perth South	7649	3095
South-West Oxford	135	55
Stratford	18786	7601
Thames Centre	16655	6739
West Perth	273	111
Woodstock	21705	8782
Zorra	110768	44817

*Note: Table 2 is a summary of the implemented project area. The *acres impacted* reported on page 1 account for upstream drainage areas for projects such as wetlands and erosion control structures, which are not included here.

Participants in the program included all municipalities participating in Category 3 Agreements (Table 1, Table 2) and projects were implemented across 27 of 28 subwatersheds (Figure 2), demonstrating broad geographic coverage. Participation in the priority subwatersheds (North Mitchell, Gregory Creek and Reynolds Creek) represented 16% of project uptake (Figure 2), with 25% of those landowners learning about the program through targeted mailouts. Communication and outreach played a key role in the success of the program. To support the continued growth of the program, staff utilized social media, workshops, grower meetings, and conferences to promote the program. Across the watershed, approximately 25% of program participants reported learning about the program through neighbours, highlighting the important role of peer-to-peer communication in outreach efforts. This level of word-of-mouth engagement suggests a high degree of participant satisfaction, which is further supported by positive feedback with the on-the-ground experiences with staff. In addition, education staff continued to integrate phosphorus stewardship into in-class programming for both elementary and high school students, helping to build awareness and understanding among the next generation. The involvement of the many staff who are instrumental in contributing to the success of the program are provided in Table 3.

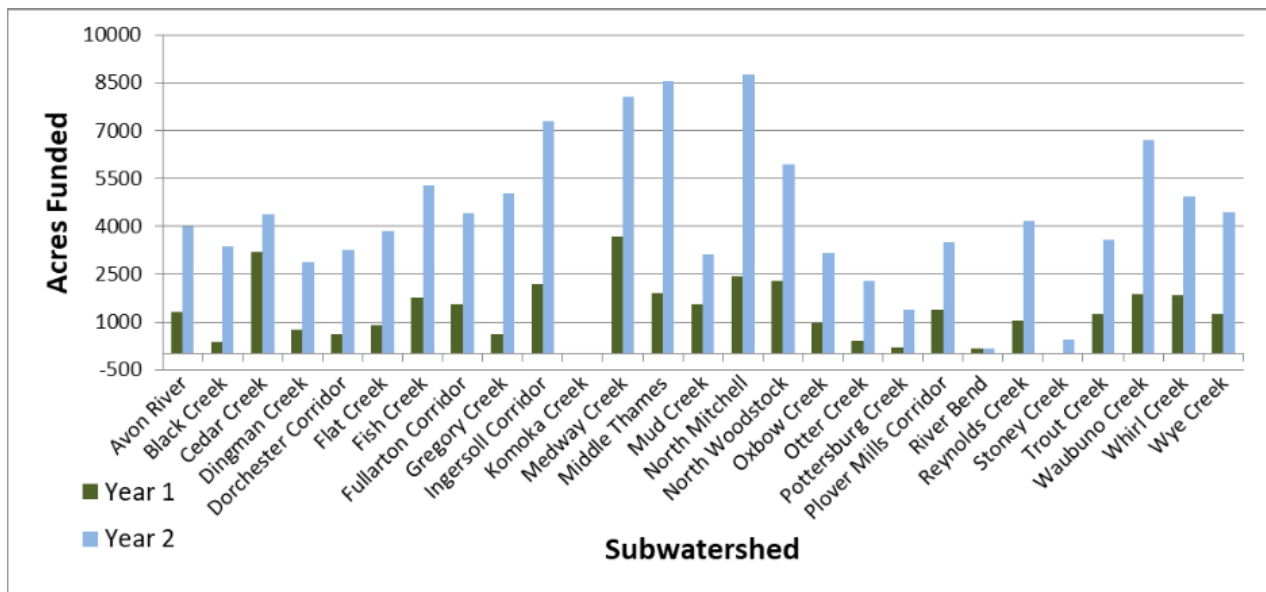


Figure 2: Total acres funded in each subwatershed

Table 3: Staff involvement in the Upper Thames Phosphorus Reduction Program

Staff Member, Title	Role in Program
Tatianna Lozier, Acting Manager Integrated Watershed Management	Coordinates project delivery with UTRCA and the Canada Water Agency, including reporting, budgeting, and support for overall program oversight. Supports project staff integrating the program into long-term and ongoing stewardship initiatives.
Chris Van Esbroeck, Agricultural Stewardship Specialist	Leads the development and delivery of the cost-share program, including program design, implementation, and ongoing evaluation. Conducts landowner site visits and provides technical guidance, oversees auditing and supports outreach efforts of the program.
Shannon Zylstra, Stewardship Outreach Specialist	Leads the development and delivery of social media campaigns and outreach events to enhance project engagement and visibility. Collaborates with staff and other Conservation Authorities to coordinate outreach opportunities, website content, and events that support collective efforts.
Taryn Smit, Stewardship Services Assistant	Facilitates program administration, including application intake and pre-screening of projects. Supports landowner communications, record keeping and project mapping/data collection.
Brynn Anderson, Stewardship Services Assistant	Conducts program water quality monitoring while supporting project administration such as site visits, field inspections, and project mapping.

Staff Member, Title	Role in Program
Beth Wrona, Agricultural Stewardship Technician	Provides support to stewardship projects, mapping, water quality monitoring, and data analysis.
Rob Davies, Forestry and Restoration Supervisor Greg Urquhart and Brenda Gallagher, Forestry and Restoration Technicians	Coordinate tree planting projects, prioritizing high-impact sites such as vulnerable slopes, riparian areas, and marginal lands. Provide backfill support for field audits and project mapping activities.
Tara Tchir, Watershed Science Coordinator	Supports linkages between the project and watershed management plans, such as the Shared Waters Approach.
Craig Irwin, Water Quality Specialist	Coordinates the enhanced subwatershed sampling program and analyzes data trends. Integrates project results into provincial and national water quality initiatives and deliverables, such as the Lake Erie Action Plan.
Bailey Arnold, Monitoring Assistant	Supports enhanced subwatershed and edge-of-field sampling programs, contributing to data collection efforts and overall program implementation.
Kaela Orton, Monitoring Technician	Supports enhanced subwatershed sampling programs and provides backfill support for project mapping activities.
Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager Community and Corporate Services	Supports the communication of project outcomes to partners and the broader community.
Vanni Azzano, Community Education Supervisor	Support opportunities for community implementation of on the ground actions and leads Low Impact Development education and awareness.
Karlee Flear, Community Education Coordinator	Coordinates the development and delivery of phosphorus focused educational programming in classrooms. Facilitates teacher professional development and provides resources and materials to support ongoing in-class learning.
Caroline Biel, Fiona Navickas, Community Education Specialists Kim Gilbert, Aliena Hoskins, Rachael Jensen, Community Education Technicians	Development and delivery of phosphorus educational programming in classrooms.

Staff Member, Title	Role in Program
Communications and Marketing Team	Collaborate with staff to develop the outreach plan and ensure that outreach, education and messaging continue. Direct support to Stewardship Outreach Specialist.
GIS Team	Provide support for configuring and maintaining mapping tools to document project locations and field validation activities. Assist in producing outputs for mapping data files, project maps, and associated metadata.
Finance Team	All those payments to landowners!

Cumulative Impact

Each of the six Lake Erie Conservation Authorities funded through the Canada Water Agency delivers a customized phosphorus reduction program tailored to the unique land uses and communities within their respective watersheds. Collectively, these efforts resulted in the following cumulative impact between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026:

- Total Number of Practices: 4,825
- Total Project Area: 293,345 ac (118,712 ha)
- Estimated Phosphorus Reduction: 106,839 lbs (48,462 kg)

Year Three Project Update

The Year 3 funding program categories will remain largely consistent, with only minor adjustments to maximum funding rates. Greater emphasis will be placed on combining multiple practices, reducing phosphorus levels in high-soil-phosphorus areas, and protecting highly erodible land. The program will also support expanded prioritization within additional subwatersheds, informed by water quality data collected over the past two years.

Summary

The Upper Thames Phosphorus Reduction Program has been well received by farmers across the watershed. The program's approach of practical solutions and on-the-ground support has encouraged meaningful participation among the agricultural community. A key strength of the program has been the ability to engage a diverse range of farm operations, which highlights the program's flexibility and relevance across different agricultural contexts. By supporting tailored strategies through cost-share delivery, the initiative has successfully addressed the unique needs and challenges faced by different types of operations within the watershed. In addition to direct environmental benefits, the program has continued to foster strong relationships with farmers and the agricultural industry, building on a long history of stewardship work across the watershed while also creating new partnerships that support complementary programs, past investments, and support future initiatives.

Recommended by:

Tatianna Lozier, Acting Manager Integrated Watershed Management

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Chris Tasker, Manager, Water and Information Management
Date: June 23, 2026
File Number: BoD-26-06-51
Agenda #: 8.3
Subject: 2026-2027 Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Project Approval Update

Recommendation

That the Board accepts this report for information.

Background

An update on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) projects was provided to the board at its May 26, 2026 meeting. At that time, it was not yet known which projects in the submission included with that report would be approved for 2026-2027 WECI funding. Since that time the WECI committee has completed its review of the projects and provided their input to MNR. The WECI committee includes regional representation from Conservation Authorities, as well as Conservation Ontario and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

The attached letter and table indicate our successful projects. We will work with the MNR to get the transfer payment agreement executed.

Discussion

The MNR cover letter indicates that given a high level of demand, the WECI committee sought to distribute funding in a manner that would support as many high-priority projects as possible across participating conservation authorities. To achieve this, adjustments were made to eligible project cost limits. Specifically, the following limits were applied:

1. Safety projects were capped at a total eligible project cost of \$60,000 (\$30,000 in funding).
2. Large, individual projects were capped at \$1,000,000 in eligible costs (\$500,000 in WECI funding).

While a limit on the eligible costs for safety projects is discussed in WECI documentation, in the past there has been some latitude for larger projects. This year the eligibility was capped as noted in the letter. As there are some very large safety projects (such as safety booms) CAs were provided the opportunity to take partial funding (\$30,000) or have them considered as a repair project and ranked based on the structure and project scoring to receive full 50% of the project budget. Safety projects under the maximum value are generally funded irrespective of scoring. This year, safety boom projects at RT Orr and Pittock Dams were examples of projects which significantly exceeded the limit on safety projects. Pittock safety boom was able to be funded as a repair given the higher structure score while Orr safety boom was not successful (but may be successful in other years).

With the limit on project size established for this year, it would be prudent to consider that this cap may be applied in the future and focus efforts by the UTRCA and Municipalities on securing other senior government funding similar to Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) and National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) for large projects. Often municipalities have access to other infrastructure funding more suitable to large infrastructure projects, but this will necessitate careful coordination with municipalities as CAs are often not directly eligible (unlike the DMAF and NDMP). Municipalities may have to consider whether they prefer to apply to these funding programs for their own infrastructure or apply for CA infrastructure, especially when they may have a limit to the number of projects for which they may apply. Where there are multiple benefitting municipalities, this may significantly complicate the considerations.

These changes highlight the importance of planning for the possibility that WECl funding may not be available for projects. As noted in the 2027 Budget Concepts report to the May 26, 2026 board meeting, UTRCA Budgetary and Reserves Policies highlight our intent to fully fund Category 1 mandatory programs. It also indicates that it would be prudent not to include WECl funding in budgets. The changes to the WECl program highlighted here, together with the limited number of projects funded this year and the previous year, underscore the importance of budgeting, and therefore levying, for the entire cost of projects where other funding (such as WECl) is not yet in place.

Prepared and Recommended by:

Chris Tasker, Manager Water and Information Management

Attachments

2026-27 WECl Notification Letter - Upper Thames

Ministry of Natural Resources
Regional Operations Division
Divisional Support Branch
Partnership Services Section
300 Water Street, 5th FL S
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Ministère des Richesses naturelles
Division des opérations régionales
Direction du soutien à la Division
Section Services aux Partenariats
300, rue Water, 5S
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7



June 5, 2026

Tracy Annett
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
1424 Clarke Road
London, ON N5V 5B9

Subject: 2026–27 Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program

Dear Ms. Annett:

Thank you for applying to the 2026–27 Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Funding Program

This year, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the WECI Committee received and reviewed 137 applications from 25 conservation authorities. A total of 83 projects will be funded through the \$5 million MNR grant allocation.

All submitted projects were carefully reviewed to confirm eligibility and were then scored and ranked relative to the full application pool. This was a highly competitive intake, with total requested funding significantly exceeding the available budget

Given this high level of demand, the Committee sought to distribute funding in a manner that would support as many high-priority projects as possible across participating conservation authorities. To achieve this, adjustments were made to eligible project cost limits. Specifically, safety projects were capped at a total eligible project cost of \$60,000, while large, individual projects were capped at \$1,000,000 in eligible costs.

These measures were necessary to ensure that available funding could be allocated more broadly, allowing a greater number of projects to proceed while still prioritizing those with the highest scores.

We are pleased to advise you that the projects listed in the table below were successful. The remaining projects fell below the cut-off for available funding. Also, project S.26.025 was deemed ineligible. The WECI program funds new OMS manuals but updates are considered regular maintenance.

A waitlist of eligible projects that scored below the funding cut-off will be maintained. These projects may be considered for funding later in the year if surplus funds become available through project adjustments and reallocations.

A pre-populated Transfer Payment Agreement will be sent to you shortly, along with instructions for completion. We would appreciate receiving the signed agreement at your earliest convenience. If there have been any changes to your approved projects (e.g., cancellations or cost reductions), please let us know so that the agreement can be adjusted.

We look forward to our continued partnership with you in the delivery of natural hazards management that assists the province in protecting human life, property, and natural resources.

If you have any questions about the WECI Program or the process for this year's Transfer Payment Agreements, please contact Lynne Milford at CATransferPayments@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Chelsea Smith
Supervisor,
Partnership Services Section

Project ID	Project Name and Description	Total Project Cost	Provincial Grant
R.26.023	Pittock Dam- Safety Boom Installation	\$600,000.00	\$300,000.00
R.26.024	Fanshawe Dam - Safety Signs and Life Rings	\$22,000.00	\$11,000.00
R.26.025	Pittock Dam- Safety Signs and Life Rings	\$19,000.00	\$9,500.00
R.26.026	Wildwood Dam- Safety Signs and Life Rings	\$24,000.00	\$12,000.00
R.26.027	Mitchell Dam- Safety Signs and Life Rings	\$11,000.00	\$5,500.00
R.26.029	Shakespeare Conservation Area Dam - Safety Signs	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00
R.26.030	Fanshawe Dam - Sump Pump Failure - Repair	\$177,000.00	\$88,500.00
R.26.032	Wildwood Dam - Rehabilitation of Stop Logs	\$45,000.00	\$22,500.00
R.26.033	Stratford Flood Control Channel- Guardrail Size Reconfiguration	\$23,000.00	\$11,500.00
R.26.040	West London Dyke Ph8-13 Construction-Part 2	\$1,000,000.00	\$500,000.00
S.26.018	Wildwood Dam - Structural Analysis of Sluiceways and Design - Phase 1	\$160,000.00	\$80,000.00
		\$2,084,000.00	\$1,042,000.00

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Joe Gordon, Regulations Coordinator
Date: June 23, 2026
File Number: BoD-26-06-52
Agenda #: 8.4
Subject: Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report

Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors receive the Section 28 Status Report for information.

Background

The attached tables are provided to the Board as a summary of staff activity related to Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits. Table 2 covers staff activities and information for the month of May 2026.

Summary of 2026 Permit Activity To-Date (Jan - May):

- **90 permit numbers** have been assigned with **62 of those permits issued**.
- **21 permits** have been issued in 2026 where the application was submitted in 2025.
- **One (1) permit** has been issued in 2026 based on a Hearing Committee decision where the application was submitted in 2024.
- **Two (2) Hydro One Standard Compliance Permits** have been issued.
- **11 Permit Extensions or Amendments** have been issued.
- **155 Site Clearances** for regulated properties where proposed development was reviewed and determined not to require a Section 28 Permit.

TOTAL Permits In-Progress:

There are currently **10 total permits in progress in 2026** where additional information is still required prior to processing the permit application. There are **five (5)** permits-in-progress from 2025. 60% of those permits-in-progress are within the City of London. The last remaining permit application from 2024 was issued in May of 2026 resulting from a Hearing Committee decision.

The following table provides information on ALL permit in-progress in a tally format
 Table 1: Permit In-Progress Tracker

YEAR	PERMIT #'S ASSIGNED	MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED	PERMIT ISSUED	HEARING DECISION	INACTIVE* (CLOSED)
2026	90	10	62	1	0
Permits in Progress (Prior Year Submission):					Prior Years
2025	234	5	226	1	2

The attached Table 2 provides further details of those permits issued in May of 2026 and demonstrates compliance with processing timelines required by O. Reg. 41/24 unless otherwise stated.

Recommended by:

Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

Prepared by:

Joe Gordon, Regulations Coordinator
 Jessica Schnaithmann, Land Use Regulations Officer
 Mike Funk, Land Use Regulations Officer
 Cari Ramsey, Land Use Regulations Officer
 Dave Griffin, Land Use Regulations Assistant
 Richard Brewer, Land Use Regulations Assistant
 Carly Sing-Judge, Land Use Regulations Assistant

Section 28 Status Report – Summary of Applications for 2026
Ontario Regulation 41/24

Table 2
Reporting Period: May 2026
[Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review \(CO, Dec 2019\)](#)

Permit #	Municipality	Location	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Response Notice	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Issued On	Comply with Timelines	Staff
P188-25	London	454 Spruce Street	Development	Routine	Building renovations including new basement bedrooms	9-Oct-2025	21-Oct-2025	29-Apr-2026	4-May-2026	YES	Funk
P35-26	London	Sunningdale Road West - Wonderland Rd N to Richmond St	Municipal Project	Major	Road Widening and Bridge Replacement	16-Mar-2026	19-Mar-2026	23-Apr-2026	4-May-2026	YES	Funk
P46-26	London	49 Hampton Crescent	Development	Minor	Proposed Removal of Existing Sunroom and Replacement with New Larger Addition	30-Mar-2026	30-Mar-2026	30-Apr-2026	5-May-2026	YES	Schnaithmann
P50-26	Zorra	10 Middleton Street	Development	Major	Thamesford WWTP Headworks Building	6-Apr-2026	14-Apr-2026	20-May-2026	27-May-2026	YES	Griffin
P61-26	Perth South	2282 Road 151	Development	Major	Replacement Dwelling	17-Apr-2026	30-Apr-2026	1-May-2026	1-May-2026	YES	Griffin
P62-26	Perth South	1774 Road 123	Development	Routine	Detached 2 storey garage	28-Apr-2026	30-Apr-2026	1-May-2026	5-May-2026	YES	Brewer

Permit #	Municipality	Location	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Response Notice	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Issued On	Comply with Timelines	Staff
P63-26	West Perth	6451 Perth Line 55	Development	Routine	Covered porch	28-Apr-2026	1-May-2026	1-May-2026	6-May-2026	YES	Brewer
P64-26	London	218 Rathowen Street (SPA)	Development	Major	Renovation, addition, garage demo	28-Apr-2026	1-May-2026	6-May-2026	6-May-2026	YES	Sing-Judge
P#65-26	EZ Tavistock	11th Line (between Braemar Rd & Oxford Rd 33- Spanning Ross Masters Branch watercourse. The closest civic address is 515794 11th Line)	Development	Routine	Urgent Road Culvert Repairs	4-May-2026	5-May-2026	5-May-2026	5-May-2026	YES	Brewer
P69-26	London	15688 Robins Hill Road - Skyway Industrial SWMF	Municipal Project	Routine	SMWF Pond Cleanout	1-May-2026	4-May-2026	6-May-2026	12-May-2026	YES	Sing-Judge
P70-26	London	725 Hickoryridge Common - Sunningdale 7 (S-204-Pond)	Municipal Project	Routine	SMWF Pond Cleanout	1-May-2026	4-May-2026	6-May-2026	12-May-2026	YES	Sing-Judge
P71-26	London	565 Killarney Road - Kilally North (S-093-Pond)	Municipal Project	Routine	SMWF Pond Cleanout	1-May-2026	4-May-2026	6-May-2026	12-May-2026	YES	Sing-Judge
P72-26	Perth East	: East Black Creek Drain – Branch 4 (Lot 7, Con 12)	Municipal Drain	Routine	Drain maintenance through a wetland	5-May-2026	8-May-2026	8-May-2026	8-May-2026	YES	Brewer

Permit #	Municipality	Location	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Response Notice	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Issued On	Comply with Timelines	Staff
P74-26	Perth South	Station Road, Flax Mill Road, Village of Sebringville	Municipal Project	Minor	Road Urbanization, Bridge/Culvert Replacements	13-May-2026	13-May-2026	25-May-2026	25-May-2026	YES	Winfield
P76-26	Woodstock	Burgess Park - 37/99 11th Line	Municipal Project	Routine	Watercourse Shoreline Stabilization	1-May-2026	12-May-2026	15-May-2026	27-May-2026	YES	Griffin
P77-26	Perth South	Perth Rd 139, 100m south of Line 2 (Spanning Sommerville-Bryant Drain	Municipal Project	Minor	BR1641 Repairs of 31m length culvert including replacement of 12m length CSP	29-Apr-2026	13-May-2026	15-May-2026	25-May-2026	YES	Brewer
P79-26	Perth South	Station Rd, Sebringville, - (GPS:43.4060145 8267376, - 81.0602732)	Linear Utility Corridor	Minor	Install ~692.0 of 2" plastic gas main, install ~90.0 of 1 1/4" plastic gas main, abandon ~524.0m of existing gas main. Undercrossing a watercourse via HDD	29-Apr-2026	14-May-2026	14-May-2026	22-May-2026	YES	Brewer
P89-26	West Perth	Lot 15 Con 6 East Part - Baker Drain	Municipal Drain	Minor	Relocation of Municipal Drain	21-May-2026	26-May-2026	27-May-2026	28-May-2026	YES	Brewer

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett, General Manager
Date: June 23, 2026
File Number: BoD-26-06-53
Agenda #: 8.5
Subject: Progress Status Updates

Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Background

To provide the Board with updates on previously discussed items and progress toward the UTRCA’s 2025–2030 Strategic Plan goals.

Discussion

The table below provides progress and estimated timelines associated with significant UTRCA projects and items identified by the Board of Directors requesting reports. As the Strategic Plan is completed, work-plans deliverables will also be incorporated into the tables below.

Report Back Items	Planned report or update	Project lead(s)	Status
Hazard Mapping Consultation	May 2026	Jenna & Erin	Complete - Hazard Mapping Consultation Thames River in the City of London Report was provided at September Meeting and Presentation in October 2024. Status update provided in April, and August, notification occurred in October, for consideration in December. Postponed to early 2026, planned for the May meeting.
Hazard Mapping Updates	October 2026	Jenna & Erin	In progress – Hazard Mapping engagement will continue throughout the watershed. The next engagement to be undertaken will be the South Thames River and Delaware sections with a planned report date of October 6, 2026.
Fee Schedule Review for Planning & Regulations	January 2026	Jenna	Complete - Report back on Fees Freeze. Future reports will be provided if Ministers' direction is received that allows fees to increase.

Report Back Items	Planned report or update	Project lead(s)	Status
Planning and Regulations Policy Updates (March 2024, September 2024, June 2025, November 2025, April 2026)	September 2026	Jenna	In progress - Staff continue to develop policies and procedures, and undertake consultation with municipalities, partners, and development groups, etc. Policy update provided at the April 2026 meeting. Consultation to occur through the summer with a Final Draft proposed in the fall.
Retention Policy	2026	Tracy & Michelle	On hold – updated retention policy to be prepared based on a collaborative CA draft. The CA draft has been legally reviewed. Aligning retention policies with integration of Microsoft 365 (file structure, naming conventions, etc.) Staff will be consulting with the other Conservation Authorities within the Western Lake Erie Region.
Cyber Security	January 2026	Tracy Christine Chris	Complete - Report to F&A – Staff to prepare a report on the current state of cyber security for the organization and any recommendations to improve to be presented to the Finance and Audit Committee at the April meeting in 2024, in-camera. Directed staff for future updates. Report to the Board followed in 2025. Information Management/Technology efforts have been focused on migration to Microsoft 365 and the tools for enhanced security. Annual updates are to follow.
Hydro Plant (November 2025)	August 2026	Chris	In progress – Hydro Plan update was provided to the Board in October 2024. Further investigation to confirm the sizing of power conditioners has been undertaken. Order fulfillment took some time; however, scheduling of installation has been confirmed (and rescheduled). Report provided in April 2026, with planned improvements in early summer of 2026. A report will be provided after improvements are completed.
Security for BOD access to agendas	2026	Chris	On hold - Options to ensure secure access to agenda packages for Board Members. Staff are meeting with other CA clerks and other Agencies to understand options to utilize M365 tools to distribute

Report Back Items	Planned report or update	Project lead(s)	Status
			Agendas, Minutes and Closed Session items. Access will be evaluated with the IT systems used by the CA's within the WLERCA.
Human Resources Report	January 2026	Jennifer	Complete - Provide UTRCA's Organizational Chart and report on staff vacancies.
Conservation Authority Consolidation Update	June 2026	Tracy	Complete – The information report provided to the members at the May meeting was produced as a publication and circulated to member municipalities and upper tier County's. As directed by the Board, it was requested that the materials be added to the next council meeting as correspondence. Board members were copied on the circulation.

Additional items requiring quarterly or routine updates for the Board are provided in the table below.

Quarterly or Routine Report Back Items	Project lead(s)	Status
WLERCA Transition Committee Progress	Tracy	Not started – WLERCA Transition Committee progress reports will be provided to the Board in routine updates.
Land Options (March 2025, June 2025)	Brent & Tracy	In progress - As requested at the October meeting, report provided March 2025 with a report on options for parcels identified in closed session. Reports to follow as necessary.
Administrative Review / Interim Policies (March 2025)	Jenna	In progress - Administrative Review Quarterly updates Jan-Mar Q1 Apr-June Q2 Jul-Sept Q3 Oct-Dec Q4 Reports to be provided in January, April, August, and October.
Implementation of Blackline Consulting Recommendations	Jenna	In progress – Implementation Progress Quarterly updates Jan-Mar Q1 Apr-June Q2 Jul-Sept Q3 Oct-Dec Q4 Reports to be provided in January, April, August, and October.

Quarterly or Routine Report Back Items	Project lead(s)	Status
UTRCA Asset Management Plan	Brent & Christine	In progress - Groups of Assets e.g., Natural Hazard Infrastructure, Fleet, Facilities etc. Regular progress reports expected. (Note* suggested to add graphics similar to those used by the City of London in their asset management plans to identify overall condition of asset) Asset Management Policy – Approved January 2024, Updated in May 2025 regular updates to be provided as asset classes are undertaken.
Land Tenant Program Update (Last updates provided November 2024, June 2025, October 2025, November 2025)	Brent	In progress – Ongoing status of land tenant program, in-camera. Report provided. Update provided in October. Verbal in-camera update in November and report in June. Future updates as required.

Definitions

Progress	Timeline
Not started	indicate project initiation date
In progress	anticipate completion date
Complete	date completed
Overdue	expected completion date and reasons for the delay
On Hold	other circumstances

Summary

The summary provided is intended to help track items requesting report updates to the Board and project updates. It is noted that items may be shifted to accommodate the number of agenda items, staff workload, and board meeting schedules.

Recommended by:

Tracy Annett, General Manager