

UPPER THAMES RIVER

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

March 21, 2017

NOTICE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING - AMENDED

DATE: TUESDAY, March 28, 2017


TIME: 9:30 A.M. – 11:35 A.M.

LOCATION: WATERSHED CONSERVATION CENTRE
BOARDROOM

AGENDA:		TIME
1.	Approval of Agenda	9:30am
2.	Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	
3.	Confirmation of Payment as Required Through Statutory Obligations	
4.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Thursday December 8, 2016	
5.	Business Arising from the Minutes (a) Weighted Budget Vote Issues (I.Wilcox)(Doc: #116944) (Report attached)(10 minutes)	9:35am
6.	Harrington Dam and Embro Dam Class EA (a) Harrington Dam and Embro Dam Class EA Reports (C.Tasker/R.Goldt)(Doc: FC #977) (Report Attached)(10 minutes) (b) Delegation: Gavin Houston (20 minutes)	9:45am
7.	Closed Session – In Camera (a) Statement of Claim Settlement (J.Howley)(Doc: CA #3146) (Report attached)(10 minutes) (b) A Matter Relating to the Fanshawe Cottages (J.Howley)(Verbal)(10 minutes) (c) A Property Matter relating to the Greenhills	10:15am

Golf Club (A.Shivas)(Doc: L&F #3086)
(Report attached)(15 minutes)

8. Election of the Finance and Audit Committee 10:50am
(I.Wilcox)(Doc: #116959)
(Report attached)(10 minutes)
9. Business for Approval 11:00am
- (a) Request for Capital 2017
(J.Howley)(Doc: CA #3179)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
- (b) Fanshawe Dam Painting and Concrete Repair Phase 4 & 5 -
Design and Contract Administration - Consultant Award
(C.Tasker/R.Goldt)(Doc: FC #976)
(Report Attached)(5 minutes)
10. Business for Information 11:10am
- (a) Administration and Enforcement - Section 28
(M.Snowsell/K.Winfield) (Doc: 116676)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
- (b) Pioneer Village Update (S.Dunlop)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)
11. March FYI 11:20am
12. Other Business (Including Chair and General 11:25am
Manager's Comments)
- (a) Recognition of Rick Goldt's Retirement
13. Adjournment 11:35am



Ian Wilcox, General Manager

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

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

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

Members Present:	T.Birtch	S.McCall-Hanlon
	M.Blackie	H.McDermid
	M.Blosh	A.Murray
	R.Chowen	M.Ryan
	A.Hopkins	J.Salter
	T.Jackson	G.Way
	S.Levin	B. Petrie
	N.Manning	

Regrets:

Solicitor: G.Inglis

Staff:	T.Annett	A.Shivas
	S.Dunlop	M.Snowsell
	R.Goldt	C.Tasker
	C.Harrington	M.Viglianti
	B.Mackie	I.Wilcox
	C. Saracino	K.Winfield

1. Approval of Agenda

G.Way moved – T.Birtch seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the UTRCA Board of Directors
approve the agenda as posted on the Members’ web-site.”

CARRIED.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

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

3. Confirmation of Payment as Required Through Statutory Obligations

The Chair inquired whether the Authority has met its statutory obligations in the payment of the Accounts Payable. The members were advised the Authority has met its statutory obligations.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
February 21, 2017

S.McCall-Hanlon moved – M.Ryan seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors’ minutes dated February 21, 2017 as posted on the Members’ web-site.”

CARRIED.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Weighted Budget Vote Issues
(Report attached)

The results of the Conservation Authorities Act review will be released soon. Staff will provide correspondence regarding the weighted budget vote issue during the review of the CA Act recommendations.

S.Levin moved – T.Birtch seconded:-

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

CARRIED.

6. Harrington Dam and Embro Dam Class EA

(a) Harrington Dam and Embro Dam Class EA Reports
(Report attached)

C. Tasker presented his report to the Board and outlined how the EA process will work. Although his report includes both the Harrington and Embro Dam class EAs, the vast majority of the attention has been on the Harrington Dam EA.

T.Jackson moved – M.Ryan seconded:-

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

CARRIED.

(b) Delegation: Gavin Houston

M.Blackie introduced Gavin Houston from the Harrington Community Association.

Mr. Houston stated that while this EA process started out confrontational, it has since improved greatly and the whole tone of the process has changed for the better. The Community is much more comfortable, but there are a few things they would like the decision makers to be aware of.

Their first concern is the potential connection of the Wildwood Dam reservoir with Trout Creek and the potential negative impacts on the Brook Trout and it's habitat. They would like to see MNRF involved with the protection of the Brook Trout.

They feel the preferred alternative that was presented to the Community in October was premature in regards to the Mill. There was concern that the amount of work that has been put into the Mill wasn't taken into consideration. They clarified that the Mill is almost ready to be operational and that R.Goldt has been working with them to try and work out a way to get water to the Mill.

They are also concerned with the description of the spillway used in the EA. They have recently found historical documentation that states that the Mill was built on sheet piling, therefore the spillway may be more structurally sound than the EA currently suggests and may have a longer lifespan than previously thought.

The Harrington Community Association currently manages Harrington Conservation Area, the Mill, and the Hall. Mr. Houston outlined the Community Association's plans to set up an education program that would utilized all three. They have already been working with the Thames Valley District School Board to set up a program that would incorporate both History and Natural Heritage. They have plans for 7,200 children to participate in their unique program. As a result of this program there needs to be washrooms added to the Conservation Area. They have plans to fund and build a washroom using the Waterloo Biofilter system and use water or solar power to provide the electricity.

The Harrington Community Association was given a grant from the Government to host a Canada 150 celebration in August. They would like to see the UTRCA help them get water to the Mill so it will be operational for the celebration.

They have also submitted a proposal to dredge the pond using a new low impact technique and their wish is to turn the pond back into native Brook Trout habitat. Mr. Houston stressed that this site and situation is not a typical Dam removal situation and encouraged the Board to visit the site.

The Board members asked Mr. Houston questions and discussion followed.
The Chair thanked Mr. Houston for his presentation.

7. Closed Session – In Camera

There being property and legal matters to discuss,

T.Jackson moved – S.Levin seconded:-

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

CARRIED.

Progress Reported

- (a) Statement of Claim Settlement
(Report attached)

S.Levin moved – R.Chowen seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors
accept the report as presented in Closed Session.”

CARRIED.

- (b) A Matter Relating to the Fanshawe Cottages

J.Howley gave a verbal update regarding a matter relating to the Fanshawe Cottages.

- (c) A property Matter Relating to the Greenhills Golf Club
(Report attached)

S.Levin moved – T.Jackson seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors
approve the recommendations as presented in Closed Session.”

CARRIED.

8. Election of the Finance and Audit Committee

M.Blackie outlined the election procedure and called once for nominations for the Finance and Audit Committee.

G. Way nominated Nancy Manning.
H. McDermid nominated Tony Jackson.
M. Blosch nominated Sandy Levin.

The chair called three more times for nominations. All three nominees agreed to let their names stand for the positions on the Finance and Audit Committee for 2017.

There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

A.Hopkins moved – R.Chowen seconded:-

“RESOLVED that nominations be closed for the positions on the Finance and Audit Committee 2017.

CARRIED.

The Finance and Audit Committee will consist of M.Blackie, N.Manning, T. Jackson and S.Levin.

G.Way moved – M.Ryan seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors accept the candidates for the Finance & Audit Committee.

CARRIED.

The immediate task for the Finance and Audit Committee will be to review the Audit Findings report. A date for the first meeting will be set soon.

9. Business for Approval

(a) Request for Capital 2017

(Report attached)

It was clarified that at this point in time staff are looking to do the ground work to scope this project, which is relatively unknown at the moment. T.Birtch suggested using an RFP to assess the project for no cost. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of going this route. I.Wilcox asked that if the Board felt that the RFP route is of interest, that this decision be deferred so staff have to time look into this option.

T.Jackson left the meeting at 11:30am

N.Manning moved – A.Hopkins seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors defer the decision regarding the request for the use of funds from the Capital Maintenance Reserve for the Campground Electrical Infrastructure Improvement Project pending additional information.”

CARRIED.

S.Levin moved – B.Petrie seconded:-

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

DEFERRED.

- (b) Fanshawe Dam Painting and Concrete Repair Phase 4 & 5- Design and Contract Administration – Consultant Award
(Report attached)

H.McDermid moved – G.Way seconded:-

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

CARRIED.

10. Business for Information

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

The attached report was presented to the members for their information. There was discussion around the potential Special Policy Area mentioned in the report.

G.Way moved – H.McDermid seconded:-

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

CARRIED.

- (b) Pioneer Village Update
(Report attached)

S.Dunlop answered questions regarding advertising along the LTC bus route for 2017 and the outreach programs mentioned in the report.

M.Ryan moved – H.McDermid seconded:-

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

CARRIED.

11. March FYI

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

12. Other Business

Fanshawe Conservation Area won the Best of London award given by the London Free Press for Best Kept Tourism Secret.

I.Wilcox reminded Board members that they will need their swipe cards to get into the Park next month as the Conservation Areas will be opening very soon.

I.Wilcox and M.Blackie will be attending the Conservation Ontario meeting in Toronto next week. C.Harrington will then join them to attend the annual Queens Park Day.

Times will be scheduled for I.Wilcox and C.Harrington to speak about the budget and Targets at the council meetings of the Lower Tier Oxford County Municipalities.

The St. Marys Landowner Workshop went very well, there were over 100 people in attendance and it was very well received.

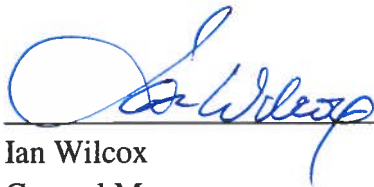
Glengowan is expected to be a large part of next month's meeting.

(a) Recognition of Rick Goldt's Retirement

M.Blackie highlighted some of R.Goldt's accomplishments and thanked him for his 36.5 years of dedicated service at the UTRCA.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:52am on a motion by T.Birtch.



Ian Wilcox
General Manager
Att.

M.Blackie, Authority Chair

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox, General Manager
Date: March 13, 2017
Subject: Weighted Budget Vote Issues

Agenda #: 5 (a)
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Introduction

During budget deliberations at the February 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM), concerns were raised regarding the fairness of the weighted budget vote. As a reminder, Conservation Authority Act regulations stipulate that the annual budget vote shall be weighted according to the relative value of property assessment in each participating municipality. The result is that those municipalities who pay more have more say in the budget vote. The table below summarizes the relative weightings of each municipality. Note that even though London pays more than 66% towards the levy, their weighting is capped at 50% by the regulation.

Municipality	2017 Voting Weight (%)
London	50 (12.5% per member)
Oxford County	23.4 (4.68% per member)
Stratford	10.6
Thames Centre	4.5
Middlesex Centre	3.3
St. Marys	2.3
West Perth	1.9
Perth East	1.8
Perth South	1.5
Lucan/ Biddulph	0.4
South Huron	0.3

Discussion

The 2017 UTRCA budget has been somewhat contentious given the 10.5% average levy increase. Those opposed to the levy increase expressed strong frustrations that, due to the weighted levy vote, they had no ability to influence the budget given London’s early support for the budget increase. These concerns were expressed by councilors during budget presentations, and by Board members at the AGM. Specific comments included the following:

1. Concerns were expressed by the Board that, for our watershed, no budget can be passed without London’s approval.
2. As a corollary, if all municipalities except London banded together, the best they could do is defeat a budget, not pass one.
3. The UTRCA has been accused of being London focused as a result of that municipality’s importance in budget approvals.

4. The weighted vote seems to be fueling the rural vs. urban debate with rural municipalities feeling powerless.

5. Staff agree the weighted vote seems punitive.

- Levy payment is proportionally equal for all municipalities. While the absolute dollar amount contributed to the UTRCA varies greatly among municipalities, the relative impact to each municipality's budget is generally equal. Using a weighted vote contradicts this attempt to ensure equity among municipal partners.

- Membership on the Board is also already weighted by population (e.g., London has four of 15 members) so the "one member, one vote" approach like that used for all other business of the UTRCA can already be considered weighted. Imposing a weighting system using assessment just exaggerates the weighting and transfers all voting power to one municipality.

6. It should be noted the weighted voting system's impact is exaggerated in our watershed. Other watersheds that have a more equal distribution of assessment among municipalities do not see this same inequity and very likely do not have the same concerns. We are aware that the City of Ottawa impacts the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and, to a lesser extent, the South Nation and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authorities in much the same way that London affects the UTRCA. Chatham Kent dominates the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority voting process as well. Beyond those examples, the impact of the weighted vote is not as obvious.

Future Options

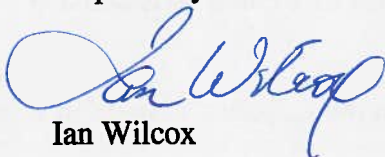
UTRCA Staff contacted Conservation Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to inquire about the status of the weighted vote and possible options or changes. Conservation Ontario noted the weighted vote had been raised as an issue several times during consultation sessions for the Conservation Authorities Act Review. UTRCA staff were directed to MNRF for further information.

Staff contacted Jennifer Keyes, Manager, Water Resources Section, MNRF to explore the issue further. Her written response included the following:

"... MNRF is definitely committed to reviewing the various aspects of the levy as part of our (Conservation Authorities Act) review. Unfortunately I am not at liberty to share what is to be considered at this time, however we are fully committed to further explore some of the operational issues that the current levy structure and system causes both conservation authorities and municipalities. We have also committed to AMO to discuss in more detail as we didn't specifically discuss this in round two of our consultations. So I know the issue and will ensure we include it in our future deliberations on the topic."

UTRCA Staff reinforced our interest in MNRF's attention to this matter and, at this point, it is suggested the UTRCA wait for the release of recommendations from the Conservation Authorities Act Review, expected this spring, and that we pay particular attention to the weighted vote as part of our review and written comments.

Prepared by:



Ian Wilcox

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Chris Tasker
Date: March 15, 2017
Agenda #: 9 (c) 6 (b)
Subject: For Information: Harrington Dam Class EA and Embro Dam Class EA - Progress Update
Filename: P:\Users\goldtr\Documents\GroupWise\977-1.doc

This memorandum is to inform the Board of progress of the Harrington Dam and Embro Dam Class EA projects and sets out the plan for release of the final draft reports, Board review, and posting of the reports as required under Environmental Assessment legislation for Ontario. Other partners and the public's interest in the projects may be considered.

The status of the EA projects was last reported to the Board in a report dated November 21, 2016 which was presented at the December 2016 board meeting with copies of the presentation provided to members thereafter.

Since December staff and the consultant have been reviewing public comments received since the Third Public Information Centre held in October. The public comments have been considered and reports are being completed. In the case of Harrington Dam Class EA, please note that the local community has been very involved in the process but there is a segment of the community that is not necessarily supportive of the preferred alternatives being proposed. Recognition will certainly be made of alternative ideas that the Harrington Community Association has brought forward for Harrington Pond restoration and enhancements.

A number of steps are planned to bring the Class EA projects to completion and to fulfill EA requirements. When the final draft reports are available they would be posted on the project webpage and those on the mailing list would be notified that they are available. These drafts would also be made available to the Township of Zorra for their consideration. Zorra may wish to post them on their website, consider the reports at council and provide the public with an opportunity to provide input to them. Before presenting the final draft to the Board (at either of the next two Board meetings) it would be preferable to have an indication of Zorra council's support for the reports, including the preferred alternatives. The project consultant would be available to make a summary presentation to the Board and council. It is anticipated that groups may wish to appear as a delegation at a future Board meeting when the reports are considered. Note that this recommended process goes beyond what is required to by the EA. Extra steps are being included to ensure that the municipality and community are given every opportunity to fully review the final report, and to discuss concerns with either the municipality or the UTRCA.

With an acceptance of the reports by the Board, the reports are then required to be posted with an official Notice of Completion which starts a 30 day review period whereby the public may request a Part II order of the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, which would be a "bump up" to a full environmental assessment.

Information updated since the December 2016 Board meeting has been posted on the web page. This includes updated project reports, presentations, and public comments. These are available on the UTRCA web site at <http://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/>

If you have any questions please contact staff.

Recommended by:



Chris Tasker, Manager,
Water and Information Management

Prepared by:



Rick Goldt
Supervisor, Water Control Structures

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox, General Manager
Date: March 14, 2017
Subject: Creation of a New Finance and
Audit Committee

Agenda #: 7 8

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Recommendation: That Board members with an interest in serving on the new Finance and Audit Committee be prepared to seek a nominator in advance of the March Board meeting, inform the Chair of their intentions, and let their name stand as part of a possible election.

Background

A new Finance and Audit Committee was recommended as part of discussions during the UTRCA's 2017 Annual General Meeting. The resolution stated specifically:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors form a separate Finance and Audit Committee, with the responsibilities as described in the attached report. This new committee would be added to the Board of Directors’ Policy Handbook. It will consist of the Chair and two to four other members elected from the Board. The committee is proposed to be titled the Finance and Audit Committee.”

As described in the February Board report, the expected responsibilities of the committee would relate to the annual audit and implementation of the new investment policy:

Audit Oversight

The Conservation Authorities Act requires the UTRCA to develop annual audited financial statements. Audit services are currently provided by KPMG’s London Office. Historically, auditors have been appointed by staff following the Authority’s procurement policy (open competition), the audit is conducted with oversight from the Supervisor of Finance, and draft statements are then reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. The Board has expressed some discomfort with this practice.

It is now proposed that the Hearings and Finance Committee would assume responsibility for:

- Annual appointment of an auditor
- Review and discussion of the results of the draft audit and the auditor’s Findings Report to ultimately recommend to the UTRCA Board their approval of the audited statements
- To periodically review, in consultation with management, the effects of changes in accounting practices or policies on the financial statements, the effectiveness of systems of internal control in protecting the assets of UTRCA and any material contingencies and disclosures affecting the statements.

Investment Advisor Oversight

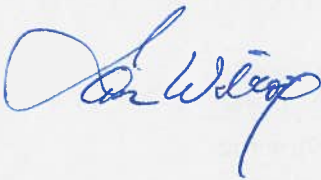
A new Investment Policy has been approved by the Board. This policy recommends a role for a new committee of the Board (proposed here as the new Finance and Audit Committee) that would include:

- Recommending/ hiring an investment advisor/firm for the long-term investment portion of the Authority's portfolio,
- An annual meeting with the investment advisor to review the portfolio's structure and performance, and to reconfirm the organization's investment objectives and constraints.

Board members interested in serving on this committee are asked to:

1. Seek a nominator in advance of the March meeting,
2. Inform the Board Chair of your intentions, and
3. Be prepared to let your name stand as part of a possible election for the available positions during the March meeting.

Prepared and Recommended by:



Ian Wilcox

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Jennifer Howley, Manager, Conservation Areas
Date: March 2, 2017 **Agenda #:** 98 (a)
Subject: Request for use of Capital Maintenance Reserve **Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
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Recommendation:

The Board of Directors approve the use of \$25,000 of the Capital Maintenance Reserve for the Campground Electrical Infrastructure Improvement Project.

Background:

At the August 2005 Board of Directors meeting, the following guidelines were approved regarding the use of the capital maintenance levy for Authority projects:

Capital Maintenance Levy Guidelines:

- The capital maintenance levy will be used for priority Authority capital projects as identified by the Infrastructure Management Plan (or existing capital list until plan completion),
- The Board of Directors will approve all capital projects as a component of the UTRCA Budget at a Board of Directors meeting,
- Projects that support the broader Authority mandated programs are eligible for capital maintenance levy,
- The capital maintenance levy may be used exclusively or in combination with other funding sources to meet project costs,
- Staff wages are an eligible expense (design, tendering, project management, labour, motor pool).

Staff is recommending the following projects to be funded through the capital maintenance levy in 2017. The current balance of the capital maintenance reserve is \$363,813.

Campground Hydro Improvement Project

The UTRCA is part of the Continuous Safety Services Program (CSSP) offered by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA). This program supports businesses in Ontario in complying with the requirements of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code. As a member of the CSSP, ESA inspections are completed bi-annually in all three Conservation Areas (CAs).

During an inspection in 2015, it was brought to the attention of CA staff that there was a change in the Ontario Electrical Safety Code regarding the use of electrical cords for the purpose of bringing hydro to seasonal campsites. The change limits the distance from the pedestal to the RV unit, eliminating the use of extension cords for seasonal campsites. It is felt that an extension cord on a seasonal site could be subjected to severe physical abuse or extended periods of wear due to the fact it is being exposed for long periods of time, versus a transient camper on an overnight campsite. This change in code is applicable only to new construction of campsites; however the use of an extension cord for a seasonal campsite is viewed by the ESA as "permanent wiring" which violates another existing section of the code.

This view of not permitting the use of an extension cord for the purpose of connecting a seasonal trailer to the electrical service pedestal has major implications for the seasonal camping hydro infrastructure layout in all three CAs. A visual inspection completed by CA staff last summer identified that approximately 40% of our seasonal campers require the use of an extension cord to reach the hydro supply. This number does not include cords that may be buried in the ground that we cannot see; therefore, we expect that the usage is much higher than what we visually noted.

Staff see this issue as an opportunity to complete a full study of the electrical services and options to determine how to resolve the problem as well as consider longer term investment opportunities into infrastructure. The study objectives would include:

- Assess the current infrastructure status,
- Provide options and costs to correct the extension cord issue to ensure compliance with ESA requirements,
- Identify cost to upgrade all services that are currently 15 or 30 amp to a minimum of 50 amp,
- Suggest metering solutions that would encourage users to conserve electricity,
- Suggest “green” alternatives, if feasible, to improve the current infrastructure.

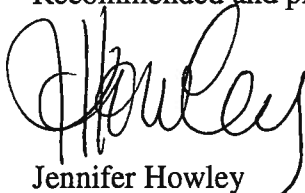
It is estimated that such a study for all three CAs would cost \$25,000 to complete. The final product would be a report for each CA including the above mentioned objectives as well as cost estimates for project management and construction follow up. The information gathered could be used to implement an electrical improvement management plan which would be part of the UTRCA Infrastructure Management Plan.

Although completing this task is costly, it examines a broad range of aspects of the infrastructure beyond just solving the problem identified by the ESA. This is an opportunity to explore improvements to our outdated electrical infrastructure and in the long run, could improve visitation to our conservation areas by offering newer amenities, as well as considering “green alternatives”. Such an opportunity supports the “Target” for the Conservation Areas.

The ESA recognizes the magnitude of the issue and supports the suggested process. They also recognize taking on such a large project is costly. In the event that the Board of Directors does not approve the use of Capital Maintenance Reserve for this purpose, the ESA will continue to work with staff to correct the problem. This will involve breaking down the magnitude of extension cord issue and addressing sections of each of the campgrounds over a longer period of time. From a dollar perspective this may appear more palatable in the short term but could prove to be more costly in the long run. Staff feel that the opportunity would be missed to look the system as a whole.

The electrical infrastructure within our CAs is ageing and requires our seasonal campers to use extension cords that were not intended for this extended use period. RVs are larger now and require more electricity to power all the amenities with which they are equipped. Staff believe that, while we need to address the extension cord issue, this is an opportunity to look at the big picture and improve the electrical infrastructure with future needs in mind, as well as look for green alternatives.

Recommended and prepared by:



Jennifer Howley
Manager, Conservation Areas

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Chris Tasker
Date: March 13, 2017
Subject: For Approval, Fanshawe Dam Painting Phases 4 -5 AECOM Canada Ltd. Engineering Services

Agenda #: 98 (b)
Filename: P:\Users\goldtr\Documents\Group Wise\976-1.doc

Recommendation:

1. That the Board of Directors approve award for engineering services for Fanshawe Dam Phases 4 and 5 Painting and Concrete Repairs, to AECOM Ltd. with upset limits of \$92,559 + HST (2017) and \$50,724 + HST (2018) subject to annual funding approval.

Report Purpose:

A project to complete the final Phases 4 and 5 of painting Fanshawe Dam steel gate and stop log gains and concrete repairs is included in the 2017 - 20 Year Water and Erosion Control Capital Repair Plan. At the February 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors, the 2017 UTRCA list of proposed projects for application for WECI funding was approved. This project was included in that list and has since been submitted for WECI funding. Based on the high ranking of the structure and past success in funding projects of this nature at Fanshawe Dam, funding approval is anticipated, provided there is funding for the program this year. This report and its recommendation will allow consultant selection for the engineering related to this project.

Background:

In 2014 a proposal by AECOM Ltd. to undertake engineering services related to painting and concrete repairs (Phases 2-4) over a 3 year period was approved (Board of Directors April 2013). Since that time AECOM has been engaged in all aspects of engineering related to all phases of this project.

Phase 4 work was deferred for 2016 to rebalance with other projects and budget planning. Through the Phase 2 and 3 projects additional work was identified for concrete at the water level, on the upstream pier noses, as well as considerable metal work on the pier cladding. AECOM completed additional inspection this past year to prepare for Phase 4 and 5 work. As part of this work AECOM has also prepared submissions to initiate the MNRF Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act permit process for the work, which can be a lengthy process.

Two phases are needed to complete the work given the funding period and seasonal constraints. Similar to Phase 2 and 3 which was let in one construction tender, Phases 4 (2017) and 5 (2018) are also planned as a single tender. The Phase 5 work, although tendered, will be subject to budget and funding approvals in 2018.

Engineering Proposal:

As AECOM is familiar with the work, they were requested to submit a proposal including scope of work and costs. AECOM project managers, designers, and contract administrators have been involved in the

previous phases of this project. Continuity in design and specification is important through the phases. Also, AECOM having completed the concrete inspections has intimate knowledge of the project. AECOM's experience with Phase 1 through 3 provides considerable confidence in their time allocation and estimates for the planned work as they are consistent through the other phases. AECOM has provided satisfactory performance and has remained within budget for the other phases of the project.

The proposal from AECOM dated February 28, 2017 detailed engineering costs over the 2 phases at an estimated cost of:

- \$92,559+HST for 2017 which includes design, tendering, and construction administration for Phase 4, and
- \$50,724 +HST for 2018 which includes construction administration for Phase 5 and overall project closure.

Budget:

The approved project budget based on previous AECOM estimates for 2017 is \$820,000 including taxes and UTRCA project management, and is projected to be similar for 2018. The engineering estimate within the budget for the two project years was \$177,000+HST.

Given the consistent involvement of AECOM with the previous phases of the project, their understanding of the work and satisfactory performance to date, staff recommend that AECOM be contracted for the engineering services related to this project.

Please contact staff if there are any questions.

Recommended by:

Prepared by:



Chris Tasker, Manager
Water and Information Management



Rick Goldt, Supervisor
Water Control Structures

To: Chair and Members of the UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett, Manager – Environmental Planning and Regulations
Date: March 15, 2017 **Agenda #:** 109 (a)
Subject: Administration and Enforcement – Sect. 28 Status Report – **Filename:** Document
Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alteration to **116676**
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 January 12, 2017 to March 15, 2017.

Application #195/16

Craig Cole & Kevin Shantz

584406 Beachville Road – Township of South-West Oxford

- proposed single family residence, installation of driveway and septic system.
- plans prepared by Arky Designs in accordance with lot grading plan from Benedict Raithby.
- staff approved and permit issued January 19, 2017.

Application #225/16

Union Gas Limited

Lot 37, Concession 2 (Southdale Road) – City of London

- installation of 247 metres of 150mm steel pipeline and 112 metres of 100mm plastic pipeline adjacent to tributary of Dingman Creek
- plans prepared by Union Gas, having regard for proximity to tributary
- staff approved and permit issued February 3, 2017

Application #229/16

John Rose

35 St. George Street North – Town of St. Marys

- proposed construction of new single family residence, outdoor utility building, installation of retaining walls and inground pool.
- plans prepared by KS Consulting and Design, Englobe Corporation and CMT Engineering Inc.
- staff approved and permit issued January 25, 2017.

Application #233/16

City of London

Springbank Park – City of London

- deteriorating storm outfall structure and adjacent infrastructure required replacement and repair

-engineering drawings prepared by Robert Hughes London Limited
-staff approved and permit issued February 1, 2017

Application #234/16

City of London

Meadowlily Road – City of London

-deteriorating storm outfall structure and adjacent infrastructure required replacement and repair
-engineering drawings prepared by Robert Hughes London Limited
-staff approved and permit issued February 1, 2017

Application #3/17

Trevalli Homes Ltd.

Lot 7 (#283), Wedgewood Drive – City of Woodstock

-proposed single family residence and attached garage adjacent Sally Creek.
-site plans prepared by Van Harten Surveying Inc. in accordance with approved subdivision plan.
-staff approved and permit issued January 25, 2017.

Application #4/17

Ivy Homes Ltd.

148 Wharnccliffe Road North – City of London

-proposed house addition within West London Potential SPA
-plans prepared by DC Buck Engineering
-staff approved and permit issued February 3, 2017

Application #5/17

Ricardo Teves

104 Wortley Road – City of London

-proposal to reconstruct residential dwelling
- geotechnical investigation undertaken to verify stable top of slope
-plans prepared by Clean Slate Concepts, with design input from Strik, Baldinelli Moniz structural engineering
-staff approved and permit issued January 26, 2017

Application #6/17

Distinctive Homes London Ltd.

187 Cooper Street – City of London

-proposed house addition within West London Potential Special Policy Area
-plans prepared by DC Buck Engineering
-staff approved and permit issued January 27, 2017

Application #7/17

City of London

756 Windermere Road – City of London

-approval required for improvements to former residential dwelling to create a pet adoption facility
-plans prepared by a+LINK Architecture
-staff approved and permit issued January 27, 2017

Application #8/17

City of Woodstock

Southside Park – City of Woodstock

- Proposed foundation wall and concrete surround for backstop, Southside Park East Ball Diamond.
- plans prepared by City of Woodstock and MTE Consultants Inc.
- staff approved and permit issued February 9, 2017.

Application #9/17

City of Woodstock

Burgess Park – City of Woodstock

- Proposed trail kiosk on floating concrete slab foundation adjacent Sally Creek.
- plans prepared by City of Woodstock and Santarelli Engineering Services.
- staff approved and permit issued February 9, 2017.

Application #11/17

Nikhil Chopra

1553 Gloucester Road – City of London

- proposed replacement of single family residence adjacent the Medway Creek valley.
- plans prepared by Riverstone Design and Build in accordance with site plan and lot grading plan from Archibald, Gray and McKay Limited.
- staff approved and permit issued February 15, 2017.

Application #12/17

City of London

Wortley Road at Victor Street, Byron Avenue East and Tecumseh Avenue East – City of London

- proposed installation of storm and sanitary sewers, watermains and appurtenances and road reconstruction associated with City of London Infrastructure Renewal Program (Contract #5).
- plans prepared by Archibald, Gray and McKay Engineering Limited.
- staff approved and permit issued February 8, 2017.

Application #13/17

Marty and Sandra Borcharding

775 Clearview Crescent – City of London

- permit required for reconstruction of deck
- project was subject to prior approval of minor variance (commented on by UTRCA)
- staff approved and permit issued February 1, 2017

Application #14/17

City of London

Blakie Road – City of London

- section of White Oaks Channel required removal of vegetation severely restricting conveyance/capacity of road crossings
- staff approved and permit issued February 1, 2017

Application #15/17

Harry and Shelley DeGier c/o Cody DeGier

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

- proposed construction of new dairy barn, associated manure storage pit and driveway.
- 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 issued March 2, 2017.

Application #16/17

Lukas Janic

225 Rathnally Street – City of London

- house addition and interior renovations proposed for property within West London Potential SPA
- plans prepared by DC Buck Engineering
- staff approved and permit issued February 3, 2017

Application #17/17

Lukas Janic

166 Paul Street – City of London

- house addition and interior renovations proposed for property within West London Potential SPA
- plans prepared by DC Buck Engineering
- staff approved and permit issued February 3, 2017

Application #18/17

Lukas Janic

157 Paul Street – City of London

- house addition and interior renovations proposed for property within West London Potential SPA
- plans prepared by DC Buck Engineering
- staff approved and permit issued February 3, 2017

Application #19/17

Brian Maznevski

133 Wychwood Place – City of London

- proposed construction of house addition
- construction drawings prepared by Dutot Design Services
- staff approved and permit issued February 3, 2017

Application #20/17

Philip Holst

Part Lot 28, Concession 1 – Township of South-West Oxford

- Phase II of a proposed wetland pond rehabilitation project.
- plans prepared by Ducks Unlimited Canada and Stewardship Oxford.
- staff approved and permit issued February 6, 2017.

Application #21/17

Wayne Feltz

Part Lot 2, Concession 1 – Municipality of West Perth

- proposed addition to existing single family residence.
- plans prepared by Chris Blake of Blakestyle Design and Drafting Inc. and MTE Consulting Engineers.
- staff approved and permit issued February 23, 2017.

Application #22/17

Villages of Sally Creek c/o Sierra Construction

Ironsbridge Road, Sally Creek Subdivision – City of Woodstock

- proposed construction of new bridge crossing Sally Creek to service Phase VI of the Sally Creek subdivision lands.
- plans prepared by the Parsons Corporation.
- staff approved and permit issued February 23, 2017.

Application #23/17

Special Abilities Riding Institute

12653, 12659 Medway Road – Municipality of Middlesex Centre

- proposed culvert relocation/replacement crossing the SARI Drain as a requirement of recently approved land severance.
- plans prepared by landowners in accordance with location, sizing and mitigation measures agreed to between landowners and UTRCA staff. Application for abandonment of this portion of the SARI drain under the *Drainage Act* has also been undertaken by landowners.
- staff approved and permit issued February 24, 2017.

Application #25/17

Distinctive Homes London Ltd.

222 Rathowen Street – City of London

- proposed house addition within West London Potential SPA
- plans prepared by DC Buck Engineering
- staff approved and permit issued March 13, 2017

Application #27/17

Matthew Bowcott

Part Lot 6, Concession 6 – Township of Blandford-Blenheim

- proposed site alteration, vegetation removal associated with a wetland.
- plans prepared by landowners in accordance with project location, details and mitigation measures agreed to on site between landowners and UTRCA staff.
- staff approved and permit issued March 3, 2017.

Application #28/17

Township of Perth South

Rae Drain

- Proposed extension of 2 culverts on the Rae Drain
- 6 metre and 9 metre extensions
- Staff approved and permit issued March 3, 2017

Application #29/17

Rogers Communication Canada Inc.

Old Stage Road – Township of Norwich

- proposed HDPE 50 mm fibre optic cable conduit installation crossing Cedar Creek
- plans prepared by Rogers Communication Canada Inc.
- staff approved and permit issued March 6, 2017.

Application #30/17

Terry Guest

102 Empress Avenue – City of London

- proposed house addition within West London Potential SPA
- plans prepared by DC Buck Engineering
- staff approved and permit issued March 13, 2017

Application #37/17

Steven Underhill

184 Paul Street – City of London

- house addition and garage proposed within West London Potential SPA
- plans prepared by DC Buck Engineering

-staff approved and permit issued March 13, 2017

Application #38/17

Ivy Homes Ltd.

37 Empress Avenue – City of London

--proposed house addition within West London Potential SPA

-plans prepared by DC Buck Engineering

-staff approved and permit issued March 13, 2017

Status Report – Unauthorized Fill Placement, Site Grading and Alteration to a Watercourse

Glendon Drive

City of London

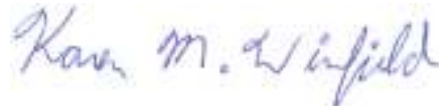
Following complaints of filling in an area regulated by the Conservation Authority, UTRCA staff undertook a visit to the site where the unauthorized import and placement of fill, unauthorized excavation and unauthorized site grading were observed within the floodplain of a cold-water trout bearing stream. Following discussions with the landowner, contractors and agricultural tenants it was apparent that the intent was to enclose the trout stream and fill in the floodplain to enlarge the adjacent farmed fields. A violation letter was subsequently issued to the landowner (February 7, 2017). The contractor has since advised that sediment and erosion controls have been installed, all fill has been relocated to a more appropriate area of the property and the riparian area will be left to revegetate. UTRCA staff will continue to monitor this project.

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



Cari Ramsey
Env. Regulations Technician

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Shanna Dunlop, Executive Director, Fanshawe Pioneer Village
Date: March 15, 2017 **Agenda #:** 9/(b) 10 (b)
Subject: Fanshawe Pioneer Village Report **Filename:**

Fanshawe Pioneer Village is preparing for expanded and enhanced programming in 2017 to mark Canada's Sesquicentennial. A special temporary exhibit, "150 Years: 150 Artifacts", will be featured in our Trillium Community Gallery for the 2017 season. Selections from the exhibit will be featured in social media posts throughout the year. In addition to our 13 regular annual events, and with the support of an Ontario 150 Community Celebration Program grant, FPV will be holding a "Confederation Celebration" weekend on August 5th and 6th. This interpretive event will feature special guest John A. MacDonald, a Confederation Ball, and the official opening of two new Storefront displays funded by the FedDev 150 Fund. An enhanced World War I interpretive event, "Vimy Remembered", will also take place on July 23rd, with funding support from the Community Fund for Canada's 150th. Expanded marketing for our season and 150th events is planned, again through the support of grants.

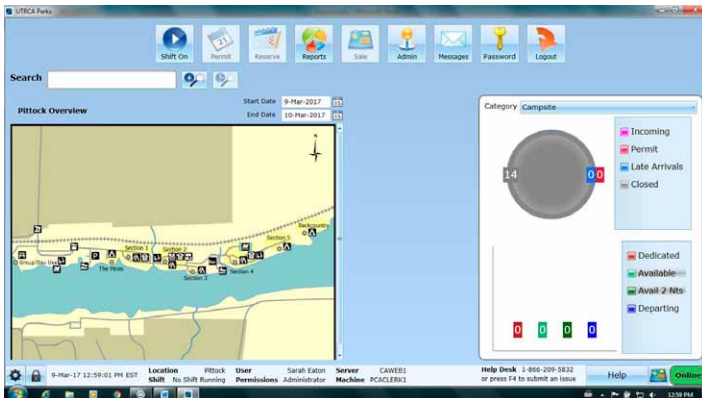
The London Transit Commission has approved the continuation of the seasonal weekend bus service to Fanshawe Conservation Area and the Pioneer Village. The route has been changed to include a stop at the Masonville Mall in an effort to increase ridership. The LTC and Tourism London are both contributing to the operational costs of the route, and funding has been secured to cover FPV's portion. The continuation of the transit initiative directly supports FPV's strategic objective of enabling accessibility to our site and programs. Another key programming initiative to be undertaken in 2017 is the development and implementation of new educational outreach offerings with the dual goals of providing accessible opportunities for the community to engage with local history, and, to reach new audiences. Fanshawe Pioneer Village has identified new locations, partners and target groups for outreach program delivery throughout the year.

Venue rental bookings are strong for FPV in 2017, with very limited remaining availability. 2018 bookings are well underway. Marketing is being directed to increase our tented and corporate events where we still have area for growth. Education program bookings are also off to a strong start with a busy Spring season ahead including: March Break Drop In day program, three weeks of Museum School, three special Education Days, and Core Spring Programs through June.

Prepared by:
Shanna Dunlop
Executive Director
Fanshawe Pioneer Village

The CWP (www.cleanwaterprogram.ca) is a locally funded incentive program to encourage environmental stewardship and innovation. Oxford County has been a supporting partner since the program began in 2001. To date, the CWP has funded more than 3000 projects, delivered through local Conservation Authority partners and administered by the UTRCA.

Contact: Craig Merkley, Conservation Services Specialist



Welcome, Silverest! The Conservation Areas' NEW Reservation System!

Fanshawe, Wildwood and Pittock Conservation Areas have recently implemented an upgraded reservation system, called Silverest. The Silverest system has a fresh new interface and will improve the way reservations, permits and sales are processed for both staff and customers.

With these significant system upgrades, staff training was needed. In late February, CA staff attended a two day training session to become familiar with the new system.

An exciting new feature of Silverest is the ability to process gift cards and e-gift cards. This new function allows customers to purchase, send and receive gift cards and e-gift cards, in person or online. The gift cards never expire and may be redeemed at any of the three UTRCA Conservation Areas towards anything that our CAs offer. Please visit our websites for more information on this and other great initiatives in our CAs:

- www.fanshaweconservationarea.ca
- www.pittockconservationarea.ca
- www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca

Contact: Jennifer Howley, Manager, Conservation Areas

Oxford Stewardship Award

The 8th Annual Oxford Stewardship Award was presented by Warden Dave Mayberry on February 22 at the monthly Oxford County Council meeting. Mike Eckert and his family are the 2016 award winners. A plaque honouring the Eckerts is on the newly unveiled Stewardship Wall of Fame in the Oxford County office.

The award winner is chosen from a list of three nominees, selected by the UTRCA, that best represent stewardship efforts in the past year through the local Clean Water Program (CWP).



Above, left to right: Peter Crockett (CAO), Mike Eckert (OSA recipient), Gord Hough (Director of Community and Strategic Planning), Cher Sprague (Stewardship Oxford judge), Gracia Wassink (artist).

Below: The County's new Stewardship Wall of Fame.





Cover Crop Plots: A recent 2" rainfall eroded soil from steep sloping land (*inset, left*) while a cereal rye grass cover crop held topsoil in place (*inset, right*), demonstrating the value of cover crop use.

Priority Subwatershed Project Update

A component of the Priority Subwatershed Project is looking at Best Management Practices that could be used to reduce phosphorus entering watercourses from farmland. One practice being monitored is the use of a cereal rye grass cover crop planted on highly erodible slopes. Alternate strips were worked to provide runoff comparisons between the plots. Visual observations indicate the rye grass cover crop is doing a great job of holding the soil on the slope, compared to the tilled plot. Water quality data is collected from each plot and will be used to determine any differences in nutrient loss.

Support for this project was provided through the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association from the Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, through Growing Forward 2.

Contact: *Craig Merkley, Conservation Services Specialist*

Giving Fanshawe CA a Fresh Look

Over this past fall and winter, Fanshawe CA staff have been busy giving the campground a fresh look.

In the fall, staff purchased and installed enough new fire pits so that, by opening day, every overnight campsite will have a fire pit for campfires and cooking. These fire pits have been placed where they will cause the least amount of disruption to neighboring campsites, and patrons will no longer have to bail out their "hole in the ground" after rain showers. Staff are pleased to enter into the new season with the new fire pits, which were long overdue and will enhance the camping experience.

While staff were installing the new fire pits, they also replaced all the permit plates from the overnight campsite permit posts. New



This new firepit will get plenty of use when the campground opens. *Inset:* The new permit plate on campsite #267.

permit plates are needed to accommodate the campsite permits produced by the new computer reservation system that is being implemented at Fanshawe, Pittock and Wildwood CAs this year. This system, called Silverest, looks to be more efficient and user friendly for staff.

Late fall saw the old campground store torn down and removed due to its deteriorating state. The store was the location for some recreation programs and for sales of candy, firewood, ice, worms and other items. The site of the old store will be landscaped and seeded in the spring.

Removing the store will give staff the opportunity for some fresh recreational programming for patrons. Staff are fine tuning the events calendar, which is posted on our website at www.fanshaweconservationarea.ca. Patrons are welcome to look at the calendar and plan a visit or vacation around an event.

The final bit of campground freshening up was the completion of a project that's been a few years in the making. Ever since the park was developed, the various camping and group camping areas have been given generic letter names. Staff have now completed a renaming project, giving new names to the seasonal camping areas and one last group camping area. Now patrons can camp seasonally in the Pines (formerly A section), Maples (E section) and Hillcrest (B section). Group campers can stay in the Woodlands Group Camping Area, located in the Woodlands overnight section. New signs will be installed along the main campground road to direct patrons to these and other areas of the campground.

Contact: *Damian Schofield, Assistant Superintendent, Fanshawe CA*

Friends of Medway Win!

"Medway Decides" is one of London City Council's Neighbourhood Decision Making Pilot Projects. Residents proposed ideas and then voted on how to spend a portion of the municipal budget in their neighbourhoods. One of the three projects selected by the Medway community is "Nature in Medway - Benches and Signage," a project submitted by the Friends of Medway Creek! Four interpretive signs and three benches will be installed along the trails in the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA, so people can take a break and enjoy the sights, sounds

and scents of nature. Connecting people to nature helps reduce depression and other stressors, and strengthens the community.

For further information on the Friends of Medway Creek, check out their 2017 newsletter and webpages at www.thamesriver.on.ca/education-community/watershed-friends-of-projects/medway

Contact: Julie Welker, Community Partnership Specialist



These white pine sawlogs were harvested in October 2016 from the Pittock CA managed forest.

UTRCA Managed Forest Renewal Due

This year, UTRCA forests are due for their 10 year renewal under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). The MFTIP program provides tax relief for managed forests. To qualify, landowners must own a minimum of 4 hectares of forest per municipal roll number and follow a forest management plan prepared for their property. These properties are then assessed at an agricultural rate and taxed at 25% of the local municipal mill rate, resulting in a 75% savings in taxes.

Forest management plans must be written and/or approved by a Managed Forest Tax Approver, certified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests. UTRCA provides this service for watershed residents interested in participating in the MFTIP.

The UTRCA currently has 18 properties with 43 municipal roll numbers and a total of 6,308 acres enrolled in MFTIP.

Contact: John Enright, Forester

Fat Bike Poker Run Wildwood CA/ Family Day Fun

On February 19, Wildwood CA and a local bike shop, Totally Spoke'd, held the 1st annual Totally Wild Fat Bike Poker Run. The inaugural event was a success with 31 people registered. Riders obtained a card at the time of registration and additional cards for every lap completed of the 2.5 km trail. Riders could complete three laps with an optional bonus lap returning to registration to obtain a final card. Prize cards were also mixed into the deck and riders were able to choose one of the many prizes. The riders with the top five best hands at the end of the day won a prize, with the top hand receiving a 2017 season vehicle pass for Wildwood and a gift basket from Totally Spoke'd.



The riders had a blast and enjoyed above seasonal temperatures while still being able to ride on a snow packed surface groomed by Wildwood's new groomer. A demo track was also available for those that wanted to try out a fat bike for the first time.

Wildwood CA started renting fat bikes in 2016 with three adult and two youth bikes. Fat bikes are a growing trend across the country with many conservation areas and parks opening and grooming trails. These bikes can be used on all surfaces year round without the need for consistent snow cover required for cross-country skiing.

Contact: Paul Switzer, Superintendent, Wildwood CA



Cold Storage Ready for Seedlings!

The UTRCA has completed construction of its own cold storage facility, just in time for the 2017 tree planting season. The facility has been incorporated into the storage bays located in the Fanshawe CA workshop area.

After many years of great relationships with Keen Crest Farms and Heeman Greenhouse and Strawberry Farms, it was time for the UTRCA to construct its own cold storage. Both Keen Crest and Heeman have been tremendous partners over the years and their assistance, patience and cooperation have been greatly appreciated.

The cold storage bay will hold seedlings during the spring tree planting season and will provide additional equipment storage space in the winter.

The seedlings used for the private land tree planting program need to be kept in near 0° Celsius temperatures during the planting season. The bay is insulated with 4 inches of spray foam insulation that has an R-24 rating and is equipped with an industrial cooling unit. When operating, the bay's average inside temperature will be 2° C.

This new facility will reduce staff travel time to other locations and assist us in meeting the UTRCA target of increasing the number of trees being planted annually.

Contact: Jay Ebel, Forestry Technician

LTC Service to Fanshawe CA & Pioneer Village

Fanshawe CA, Fanshawe Pioneer Village and Tourism London are working in partnership with the London Transit Commission (LTC) to provide bus service to the conservation area this summer. The bus will operate from July 1 to Labour Day on weekends and holiday Mondays. The lack of public transit to Fanshawe CA has long been a concern as the closest bus stop is west of Clarke Road on Huron Street.

The bus route will run between Masonville Place, the conservation area and Argyle Mall. Within the park, pick up and drop off points will be the Campground Registration Office and Pioneer Village gate, depending on what facilities the visitor would like to use.

A similar initiative was introduced last year with the “Fanshawe 400,” which operated out of Argyle Mall exclusively. Although the initiative wasn't well used, it was decided to try again for 2017 with improved advertising and promotion as well as adding the Masonville Place pick up/drop off area in hopes of increasing ridership. CA staff will promote the bus service in tandem with special events such as family fishing weekend and other events.

Last summer, over the 31 day operating period, there were approximately 850 total boardings shared between Fanshawe CA and the Pioneer Village.

Contact: Steven Musclow, Superintendent, Fanshawe CA



On Display

A new pull-up display was created to promote the lessons learned from the Medway Creek Rural Drainage Project that wrapped up this year. The display illustrates the function of a low-flow channel constructed in Medway Creek near Birr. Features include the role of vegetation in removing nutrients, and the ability of fast moving water to move sediment, expose gravel stream bottom and improve overall stream health. The display was used recently at the Stratford Garden Show as part of the City's Energy and Environment Subcommittee's display.

Contact: Craig Merkley, Conservation Services Specialist

On the Agenda

The next UTRCA Board of Directors meeting will be March 28, 2017. Agendas and approved board meeting minutes are posted at www.thamesriver.on.ca; click on “Publications.”

- Weighted Budget Vote Issues
- Election of the Finance and Audit Committee
- Capital Reserve Review
- Capital Maintenance Levy Reserve Request (WCC)
- WECI Projects: Fanshawe Dam Painting and Concrete Repair Phase 4 & 5 Design and Contract Administration - Consultant Award; Harrington Dam and Embro Dam Class EA Reports
- Administration and Enforcement - Section 28
- Pioneer Village Update
- HR Training
- March FYI – Health and Safety

Contact: Michelle Viglianti, Administrative Assistant



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