



Full Authority Minutes

February 20, 2019

The Year 2018 Annual Meeting of the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority was held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 9:35 a.m. at the St. Thomas Public Library.

Members Present:

Dennis Crevits	Central Elgin
Dominique Giguère	Township of Malahide
Stephen Harvey	Middlesex Centre
Grant Jones	Southwold Township
Bill Mackie	City of London
Elizabeth Peloza	City of London
Joe Preston	City of St. Thomas
Linda Stevenson	City of St. Thomas
Alison Warwick	Thames Centre
Ralph Winfield	City of London

Staff Present:

Jennifer Dow	Water Conservation Supervisor
Michael Buis	LWCA Coordinator
Tim Chapman	Lead Hand
Jessica Kirschner	Resource Assistant
Marianne Levogiannis	Public Relations Supervisor
Betsy McClure	Stewardship Program Supervisor
Clifford Patterson	GIS/IT Supervisor
Scott Pinnell	Maintenance Coordinator
Jeff Lawrence	Forestry and Soils Supervisor
Rob Lindsay	DWCA Coordinator
Kathleen Sebestyen-Scott	Financial Services Supervisor
Elizabeth VanHooren	General Manager/Secretary Treasurer

Ms. VanHooren noted that the election of officers had occurred at the First Full Authority Meeting of the year. Mr. Stephen Harvey was elected as Chair and Mr. Grant Jones as Vice Chair. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Harvey, who called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Audio/Video Record Notice

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the following statement:

Board members, staff, guests and members of the public are advised that the Full Authority Board/Committee meeting is being video/audio recorded, and will be posted to the Authority's web site along with the official written minutes. As such, comments and opinions expressed may be published and any comments expressed by individual Board members, guests and the general public are their own, and do not represent the opinions or comments of the Full Authority and/or the KCCA Board of Directors.

The recorded video of the Full Authority meeting is not considered the official record of that meeting. The official record of the Full Authority meeting shall consist solely of the Minutes approved by the Full Authority.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Chair's Remarks

The Chair introduced 2019 Board Members and warmly welcomed partners and supporters. The Chair remarked on KCCA's ability to do a lot with a little. He provided examples of how the Authority is balancing limited financial resources with the increasing pressures that climate change and development have on the local environment.

A full text of the Chair's remarks are attached.

General Business

- a) Presentation of 2018 Financial Statements

Mr. Scott Trevors presented a brief explanation of the Financial Statements.

AM1/2019

Moved by: Linda Stevenson

Seconded: Grant Jones

That the Year 2018 Financial Statements be adopted as presented.

Carried

- b) Presentation of the 2018 Annual Report

Ms. VanHooren presented the 2018 Annual Report. Ms. VanHooren specifically noted a number of programs and services that have been enhanced as a result of self-generated revenue.

Examples included the Environmental Youth Corps; partnerships with Southwestern Public Health and outreach and education programming.

AM2/2019

Moved by: Joe Preston
Seconded: Elizabeth Pelosa

That the Year 2018 Annual Report be adopted as presented.

Carried

c) Presentation of the 2019 Budget and Municipal Levy

A preamble to the budget and levy vote was read by Ms. VanHooren as follows:

To provide conformity with legislation and regulations governing approval of Conservation Authority levies:

1. *The proposed Year 2019 Levy and Apportionment for KCCA was circulated by registered mail to member municipalities on January 16, 2019 in order to provide a minimum 30-day notice for budget and levy approval on February 20, 2019. There is a 7.0% averaged levy increase over 2018 levels or \$63,933.00.*
2. *A recorded vote will be taken, with each member responding either "For" or "Against" the motion. The motion carries or is lost, according to the total of weighted votes assigned to each board member. This weighted vote is based upon the Modified Current Value Assessment apportioned to that portion of each municipality within the jurisdiction of the KCCA watershed.*
3. *The 2019 levy and budget approved by the Board will be circulated by registered mail to participating municipalities on February 21, 2019, who, if not satisfied, may appeal to the Mining and Lands Commissioner by March 31, 2019. Thereafter, no appeals are allowed and the Year 2019 budget and levy will be final.*

AM3/2019

Moved by: Dennis Crevits
Seconded: Bill Mackie

That the 2019 Budget of the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority be approved as presented;

That the member municipalities be assessed for payment:

Matching Levy	\$413,863.35
Non-Matching Levy	\$481,932.95
<u>Special Levy</u>	<u>\$ 81,464.05</u>
Total General Levy	\$977,260.00

And that each member municipality's share of the 2019 General Levy be calculated using "Modified Current Value Assessment.

By Regulation, a recorded Vote was taken for Year 2019 Levy and Budget Approval.

The vote carried with 100% of the weighted vote.

AM3/2019 Recorded Vote

Member Municipality	Present	Levy %	Weight %	In Favour	Opposed	Absent
City of London		57.37	50			
Bill Mackie			16.67	•		
Elizabeth Pelosa			16.67	•		
Ralph Winfield			16.66	•		
City of St. Thomas		27.55				
Joe Preston			16.16	•		
Linda Stevenson			16.15	•		
Central Elgin		7.69				
Dennis Crevits			9.02	•		
Southwold		3.77				
Grant Jones			4.42	•		
Thames Centre		1.36				
Alison Warwick			1.60	•		
Middlesex Centre		1.58				
Stephen Harvey			1.85	•		
Malahide		0.68				
Dominique Giguère			0.80	•		
Total		100	100			

Special Presentation

The Chair made several presentations to staff recognizing their years of services to the Authority. Clifford Patterson was recognized for five years of service. Michael Buis and Scott Pinnell were recognized for 10 years of service and Betsy McClure was recognized for 15 years of service.

Guest Speaker: Greg McLachlan

Greg McLachlan, founder of WorkCabin and WorkCabin Creative was present to speak on how conservation authorities can use Instagram to elevate their digital presence and drive visitors to their green spaces.

As some members had to attend other meetings, and the business portion of the meeting had concluded, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn prior to Mr. McLachlan's presentation.

AM4/2019

Moved by: Elizabeth Pelosa

Seconded: Joe Preston

That the meeting adjourn at 10:10 a.m.

Carried



Elizabeth VanHooren
General Manager/Secretary Treasurer



Stephen Harvey
Chair

Chair's Remarks 2018 Annual General Meeting

Stephen Harvey

February 20, 2019

It is my pleasure to welcome you to KCCA's Annual General Meeting. A warm welcome and expression of gratitude to our many partners and supporters in the room today - all important elements of our success and the concerted effort to make our local watershed a healthier, happier and greener place to work and play. Thank you.

I would like to take a moment and introduce the 2019 members of the Board.

Dennis Crevits	Central Elgin
Dominique Giguere	Township of Malahide
Grant Jones	Township of Southwold, Vice Chair
Bill Mackie	City of London
Elizabeth Peloza	City of London
Joe Preston	City of St. Thomas
Linda Stevenson	City of St. Thomas
Alison Warwick	Thames Centre
Ralph Winfield	City of London

I came to the Board of Directors of Kettle Creek Conservation Authority as a member representing Middlesex Centre in 2017 and quickly learned that this organization means something to the community – whether it is flood forecasting, tree planting, recreational opportunities or ensuring our drinking water is safe – the community looks to KCCA as our local environmental leader.

As we look at the year that was and forward to 2019, you can't help but conclude that KCCA is resourceful – we do a lot with a little. Resource conservation and management is becoming more complex. In order to meet the local watershed needs in a modern context, the Authority has to balance limited financial resources with the increasing pressures climate change and development has on our local environment. Let me explain.

In 2018, the Authority released its 3rd watershed report card. Watershed Report Cards are used by CAs across the province to report on watershed health through the use of environmental indicators. It is our best way of clearly and concisely reporting on the health of the local environment and to the best of our ability and resources how KCCA is attempting to address those issues.

The environmental concerns that face our watershed are unchanged from five years ago.

- Nutrient loading of phosphorus remains a key factor in poor surface water quality - 97.9% of samples in the last 5 years exceeded the provincial water quality objective for phosphorus
- Our forest cover is currently just over 14% and GIS mapping suggests that we are losing 7.32 hectares of trees per year despite our planting efforts.
- Wetland cover continues to fall short of the 10 per cent recommended by Environment Canada at just 1.34 percent

Our natural resources are showing the signs of stress typical of a highly urbanized and agricultural area of Ontario.

And the community is looking to KCCA to address those concerns. Much of the success that is outlined in the 2018 Annual Report is due to the guidance and oversight provided by the 2018 Board of Directors.

The overall watershed grade did not change in the last five years – but we didn’t lose any ground – we maintain a solid C grade. Just like a student struggling in math – we can’t change things over night. But I’m pleased to say over the past five years we continue to push the bar a little higher – and 2018 was no exception.

- We planted over 50,000 trees with an additional 2,200 seedlings sold over the counter through our Greening Communities program and another 4,000 along Central Elgin and MTO roadways.
- One of the things that makes our tree planting program so robust is our partnership development and engagement with local school groups – examples include planting 1,000 seedlings with Central Elgin Collegiate Institute high school students around the Fingal Wildlife Management Area or planting 40 large stock trees in local elementary school yards.
- We are tackling wetland loss head on. In 2018, KCCA completed a 3 year contract with Ontario Power Generation finishing 30 wetland projects totaling over 45 wetland cells created/restored ... that’s not counting the wetlands created with funding support across Elgin County from the Elgin Clean Water Program.
- And the Elgin Clean Water Program is perhaps our biggest accomplishment over the past five years in the fight against phosphorus. Look at this stat ... since 2012 the ECWP has awarded \$480,000 grants to 175 projects totalling \$1,970,000 in total project costs. That’s leveraging and partnership at its best. In 2018, we went further providing incentives to farmers to plant cover crops that overwinter – and 540 acres of cover crops were planted.

- We did create a new position at the Authority – our GIS/IT Supervisor position has been phased in over the past four years. This position offers almost \$195,000 in value to the Authority and our member municipalities and builds capacity within every program and service at the Authority. The position is capable of interpreting aerial photographs so we can detect forest loss and direct stewardship works where they are needed most. The position can take raw data and compile it into meaningful data sets that are being shared with community partners. It means we can lead by example and make the move to a more paperless office environment. It means knowledge, capacity and efficiency. And the position is expected to generate \$25,000 per year to sustain the program moving forward.

The effective use of resources and our ability to generate our own financial resources will shape how this Authority deals with increasing financial and environmental pressures.

The Authority's revenues come from four main sources: municipal levy, a provincial transfer payment, self-generated revenue and donations/fundraising efforts. In 2018, 34% of revenue came from municipal levy, 8% from the provincial transfer payment leaving close to 60% generated by the staff of this Authority.

That diversity of revenue streams is important. An achievable target may be to keep municipal levy contribution to less than 35% of our total budget. In order to achieve this the Board, like all agencies over the coming years, will have to work harder to generate our own revenue sources - ensure that our programs and services are responding to the needs of our watershed without creating increased financial pressures.

It's a difficult balance but one that I know this Board is willing to take on – responsibly and always with the interest of the environment at the forefront.