



## Essex Region Conservation Authority

### Board of Directors Annual General Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, January 19, 2023

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location and Details:** Council Chambers, Essex Civic Centre

#### Attendance

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**Members Present:**

Jim Morrison (Chair)	Michael Akpata
Sue Desjarlais (Vice-Chair)	Anthony Abraham
Molly Allaire	Larry Verbeke
Peter Courtney	Joe Bachetti
Kim DeYong	Tania Jobin (Former Chair)
Thomas Neufeld	Angelo Marignani
Jason Matyi	Mark McKenzie
Katie McGuire-Blais	Kieran McKenzie (Former Vice-Chair)
Tracey Bailey	
Ryan McNamara	

**Absent:**

**Regrets:** Dayne Malloch

**Staff Present**

Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer  
Nicole Kupnicki, Corporate Services, Human Resources Manager/EA  
Shelley McMullen, CFO/Director Corporate Services  
Kevin Money, Director Conservation Services  
Danielle Stuebing, Director Community and Outreach Services  
James Bryant, Director Watershed Management Services  
Lisa Limarzi, Administrative Associate, Corporate Services  
Aaron Zimmer, Multimedia Specialist  
Kris Ives, Curator/Education Coordinator  
Katheryn Bezaire, Interpreter  
Gina Pannunzio, Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator  
Ashely Gyori, Regulations Analyst  
Sydney Richmond, Regulations Analyst  
Katie Stammler, Water Quality Scientist/Source Water Protection PM  
Kyrsten Burns, Maple Project Coordinator  
Tom Dufour, Geomatics Technician  
Jamie Lilly, Watershed Data Technician  
Kate Arthur, Wetland Biologist  
Michael Dick, Agricultural Technician

**Guests**

Lori Jacobs, Payroll & Accounting Specialist  
Marissa Lefebvre, Outreach Assistant, Intern  
Kayla Jakobszen, Outreach Assistant, Intern  
Chief Mary Duckworth, Caldwell First Nation  
Liz Akiwenzie, Knowledge Keeper, Caldwell First Nation  
Zack Hamm, Consultation Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation  
Irek Kuzmierczyk, MP Windsor-Tecumseh  
Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh  
Hilda MacDonald, Warden, County of Essex/Mayor Leamington  
Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Marg Evans, CAO, Town of Tecumseh  
Sherry Bondy, Mayor, Town of Essex  
Doug Sweet, CAO Town of Essex  
Claire Wales, President, Essex Region Conservation Foundation  
Mayor McNamara, Town of Tecumseh  
Marg Evans, CAO Town of Tecumseh  
Mayor Bondy, Town of Essex  
Doug Sweet, CAO Town of Essex  
Truper McBride, CAO Municipality of Lakeshore  
Loris & Kim Collavino  
Mike Collavino and family  
Lauren Collavino, PSI  
Cameron & Linda Fraser, PSI  
Lorrie Stephenson (HEIRS)  
Bonnie Storey (HEIRS)  
Jacke Baldwin, HEIRS  
Lorie Stephenson, HEIRS  
Chad Quinlan & Family, Quinlan Farms  
Mike St. Pierre  
Joe Beneteau  
Barry Leavitt, Director Corporate Operations and Innovation (Enwin)  
Robert Spagnuolo, VP of Water Operation (Enwin)  
Costin Beliciu, Manager of Public Relations & Corporate Comms. (Enwin)  
Kelsey Santarossa, Councillor, Municipality of Lakeshore  
Claire McAllister, FOOP  
Mike Fisher, FOOP  
Gordon Orr (TWEPI)  
Colleen Caza  
Tom Fuerth, Chair, Source Water Protection Committee  
Paulette Kupnicki  
Tamara Stomp, Friends of John R. Park Homestead  
Liz Grady  
Liz Arkininstall  
Chris Hodare, Unifor Local 200 Environment  
Bruce Stephenson

Mark Peacock, CAO, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority  
John Ambrose, Pelee Buzz  
Cherie Dillen, Pelee Island Butterfly  
Pat Wiley, Pelee Island Butterfly  
Adam Gault, The Harrow News  
Nicki Keas, Pelee Butterfly

## 1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the January 19, 2023 meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors. I will call the meeting to order and confirm members in attendance.

We have regrets this evening from:

- Dayne Malloch, Township of Pelee Island

## 2. Land Acknowledgement

Members of Caldwell First Nation are with us this evening. I would ask that each of us take a moment to pause and reflect before we enter a time of learning on this day from people who have cared for this land since time immemorial. Please join me in a moment of silence as we prepare to receive these teachings.

## 3. Relationship Building with Caldwell First Nation and ERCA

**Liz Akiwenzie, Knowledge Keeper, Caldwell First Nations:** Ho. Bonjour. [...]. I say migwech [...]. I say migwech for everything that is in my life, for my children and my grandchildren. I say migwech to all my relatives that were here way before I arrived on this earth. I say migwech to Creator, our higher power for all that is my life. I say migwech to all those old ones that were here way before me. Those ones that still spoke the language, that did ceremonies that were connected to the land... those ones that remembered me when they were doing ceremonies. I want to acknowledge all of those old ones, those grandmas and those grandpas. I acknowledge my parents and my grandparents, on my father side and my mother side, for all that they have taught me for me to be standing here at this time.

I say migwech [...] to all of your relatives that arrived in my homeland. I say migwech to all of what creation gave to human beings. I say migwech to Shkaakaamikwe, Mother Earth, for all that she gives to us as human beings, and yet as human beings, we still disrespect her. We still take from her, and take from her, and we don't give anything back to her. In our understanding about that... why we call mother earth female, it's because she is the nurturer. She is the one who provides for all of us, all four nations of man, the white man, black man, yellow man and the red man. Everything, we are all from this earth.

I want to acknowledge my mother for all that she taught me all that she gave to me. And my mother just left to go to Creator's world about two months ago. She was the most beautiful, the most resilient woman, that I have known. I could not have lived what she lived through., But she loved me with every ounce of her being. I acknowledge all of those all those old ones. All those

women. All those mothers, all my sisters, all my aunties, all my daughters and my nieces and my grandbabies, those one's that are standing up and saying this is who we are. We are Anishinabek. We are the original people of this land. We are the original people of turtle island, and we have been here since the beginning of time.

What you see in the middle here, is you see medicines. That is my medicines. One small piece of my medicine. We have all kinds of medicine, seen and unseen. I put that medicine bundle out there not for you, but for me. To acknowledge my ancestors, to respect my mother and my father and my grandparents, to respect all of those ones that did ceremony. What we called that is a bundle which remind us about life, and about why we do what it is that we do.

I have a commitment. I have a spiritual commitment to my relatives. I have a spiritual commitment to [...] my higher power. I have a spiritual commitment to Shkaakaamikwe, Mother Earth. I have a spiritual commitment to all of those children that don't have a voice. For all my relatives that their voice was taken... like my mother, like my father, because of the historical impact of what the systems have done to them, and what they did to me personally. So I honour my relatives, and it reminds me of where I have come from. And it reminds me where I am today. I say migwech to our ceremonial people. Those ones that continue to do ceremony. Those ones that continue to stand us up to feed our heart, our mind, our body, and our spirit. Because we just don't think or feel one part of our being. It's the wholeness of who we are as human beings. We don't do things by ourselves. We have collective knowledge of the old ones the grandmas and the grampas, the aunties and uncles, the children. All of those ones. Those little ones are greatest teachers. To the old ones which is our greatest teachers.

So, if we were in a different space, in a different place, I would light my medicines and I would smudge. And what we do with our smudge, it is sage which we light. And we clean our minds so that we'll have a good mind when we sit in meetings such as this. We cleanse our eyes so that we can see the goodness about what we need to. So that we can see the past, the present and what we want to do for the future. We cleanse our physical body so that we can walk with integrity and kindness for anyone that steps in our pathway. So that we will be connected to the spirit in the essence of who we are. So that is what that medicine is about. And I know that so many of you don't know, never experienced it, but what I want to say to each and every one of you sitting here – migwech [...] for coming and sitting and being here and allowing me to be in this building. And I say migwech to all of my relatives that were here way before me. I say migwech my uncles, and my aunties that are in Creator's world. Those ones that taught me about who I am.

I am Nisitange Kwe, which means understanding woman. It doesn't mean I understand everything. It means, I'm always looking to understand. My other name is Dayyayutdoladoe, that's on my mother side which means she who sees both sides. Those two names truly describe who I am. My English name, Liz Akiwenzie, means absolutely nothing. Maybe I shouldn't say it doesn't mean anything. What that name means is how the system mentally, emotionally, physically, sexually, and spiritually abused me, my siblings my parents, my grandparents. So that's the name that they hurt me by. But my name, Nisitange Kwe, Dayyayutdoladoe, I have never been harmed. How beautiful that that is. Plus, Akiwenzie isn't even my real name. It should be [...], old man listening to the earth. But it got anglicized by the

religious institutions that forced themselves into our communities. But, you know, even them. You know, I can stand here with great love and integrity and respect and say, I forgive them for what they did to me, to my siblings, to my father, to my mother, to my grandparents, because I'm still here. And I'm not going nowhere.

But I have a spiritual commitment to use my voice to bring people together and not separate them. The only way that we can do that, is just what we're doing right now. And I truly stay with a great deal of respect, to see all of you to come and sit in this place. So with that thought and with that understanding, we have songs... and we don't have sad songs. We only have songs that feed our being and make us feel good. Our songs are as strong as prayers. So I'm going to offer a song for you. And I would ask all of you to sit with your feet, flat on the floor. In your own thoughts, and in your own minds, think about those things you're grateful for... for yourself, for your family, for your community, for the nation, and for all of creation. I so much love those old ones because everything that they did wasn't about them. It was always thinking about the children. How does this affect the children? How is this going to affect everyone within our circle? So I'm grateful that I have that teachings. Our teaching is our educational system. Our teaching is what helps us to walk with integrity and kindness, and to walk within our truth. So with that thought and with that understanding, I will offer a song.

<Liz Akiwenzie offered a song with hand drum and was joined by Chief Mary Duckworth and Kieran McKenzie>

I'll explain this song to you. What I'm singing about is Geesis the sun in the sky. My youngest son his name is Geesis. He has no English name. He only has an Anishinabek moswin name and if I knew and grew up with my cultural understanding, none of my children would've had an English name. They would have had an Anishinabek moswin name. So what the sun is reminding us is to live a good life. Mishoomis is the grandfathers reminding us to live a good life. Nookomis, the grandmother of a good life. Makwa, that bear, we consider to be that bear that brings the medicine for healing of our heart, our mind and body in our spirit. And I am strongly connected to that bear spirit... have been ever since I was a little girl. Ashkaakamigokwe, Mother Earth, is reminding us to live a good life. So that's what that song is about. We sing that song that song in one of our ceremonies. It comes from a young man from Manitoba. He was 17 years old and he gave up his food and his water for four days and four nights. This is one of the songs that he brought back to the people. So, I acknowledge him when I'm singing that song. You see me close my eyes. I'm thinking about him and sending those prayers and those thoughts to him and to his family and to his community. So, everything that we do has great meaning. We don't do anything that doesn't have meaning.

So again, I want to say migwech, which means thank you on my father side being, Anishenabek, [...] on my mother side also means thank you. So migwech, [...] for allowing me to be here. Ah-ho.

**Chief Mary Duckworth:** Bonjour. [...]. I am the elected Chief of Caldwell First Nation. I should say, selected Chief, because in our old ways we didn't have elections. What we did was we mentored our children, and we chose our leaders. It was the women that chose the leaders. And we took care of them and we raised them up to step into those roles. So, I am the selected

Chief of Caldwell First Nation and I'm honoured to be here at the ERCA AGM. I've met some of you and I hope to meet all of you one day to discuss what's going on with our environment, Bill 23, and everything that's affecting us. So, what I've done today is I brought a wampum belt. This wampum belt is made of glass beads, so it has to be taken really good care of. There was ceremony done on it, and it was prayed upon. This particular wampum is an Anishinaabe wampum, which is what I am. You heard Liz talk about Anishinaabe but also Haudenosaunee, two different tribes. I am Anishinaabe, and this was created by the Anishinaabe people to given to the Haudenosaunee people when they came here seeking protection from the US in the war of 1812 and prior. So when they came, the Haudenosaunee gifted us with a wampum belt, called Peace and Friendship. It's a beautiful belt. And what we did is we gifted them A Dish With One Spoon. So the Dish With One Spoon, was a way for us to say, come in and share our harvest. Come and spend time with us. But if you have one dish and one spoon, we will be sure that everybody gets something from the dish. I wanted to bring this to you as a reminder in these times when everybody wants something out of your dish right now, and we need to protect that. We need to make sure we keep everything as natural and as beautiful as we can for our children. So I am presenting this to ERCA tonight. It's the first time I've ever presented one to a non-first nation organization. But I really feel that our relationship is important. I feel our relationship is even more important right now because of Bill 23. So, I would like to give this to you -Dish With One Spoon. Please take care of it and always remember us when you look at it and how we protect the environment together. Migwech.

A gift of tobacco was presented by Tim Byrne, Tania Jobin and Kieran McKenzie to Liz Akiwenzie and Chief Mary Duckworth.

**Tania Jobin:** On behalf of the Board, Administration and invited guests, we would like to offer an additional thanks for Caldwell First Nation for you joining us and sharing teachings with us this evening. Thank you.

*[Spelling of translations from [www.ojibwe.net](http://www.ojibwe.net). Any errors and omissions are unintentional.]*

#### 4. **Announcement**

Before we begin the business portion of tonight's meeting, it is my honour to make a very special announcement regarding the future of trails in the Essex region. In late December, following years of negotiations, the former Canada Southern Railway, known as CASO, stretching 47 kilometres through Essex County was successfully protected for public use, thanks to a partnership between ERCA, the County of Essex, Town of Tecumseh, Town of Essex and Municipality of Lakeshore, and with funding support from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Once the funding has been acquired to develop this former rail corridor into a trail system, it will connect Chatham-Kent trails to Leamington's Greenway, the Chrysler Canada and the Cypher Systems Greenway – ultimately completing the long anticipated, multi-use trail loop through the region. In addition, this allows connection to Trans Canada Trails connecting this region to the Canadian Trail system.

This tremendous achievement was only possible thanks to a number of partners, and we are delighted to welcome our good friend and former ERCA Chair Irek Kuzmierczyk, MP for Windsor-Tecumseh, to say a few words.

<Comments from MP Irek Kuzmierczyk>

The CASO corridor dissects all major watercourses which outlet to Lake St. Clair, and has a significant regional watershed management value.

In addition, this future trail will support the County Wide Active Transportation System initiative of the County of Essex. We are so grateful to the County of Essex for its partnership in this effort and are delighted to welcome Warden Hilda MacDonald to say a few words.

<Remarks from Warden MacDonald>

We look forward to our continued partnership with the County of Essex in continuing to support trail protection, development and active transportation across the Essex Region.

In addition to the opportunity for trail development, the CASO line provides a wildlife corridor, utility corridors, natural heritage restoration opportunities, hazard mitigation potential, and unique habitat that is preferred by certain endangered species at risk.

It also ensures the long-term protection of the only linkage between existing fragmented forests and wetlands along the corridor. The municipalities through which this corridor traverses fully appreciated the multiple benefits associated with ensuring its protection in public ownership, and resoundingly offered their support of its acquisition.

It's my pleasure to welcome Mayor Gary McNamara from the Town of Tecumseh to say a few words.

<Remarks from Mayor McNamara>

I'd now like to welcome former Board member Mayor Sherry Bondy from the Town of Essex, where the CASO line intersects with the Cypher Systems Group Greenway at Sadlers Pond Community Entrance.

<Remarks from Mayor Bondy>

The longest section of this newly acquired corridor also results in the long-anticipated connection of the Municipality of Lakeshore to the Greenway trail system. I'm happy to invite fellow Board member Mayor Tracey Bailey to say a few words.

<Remarks from Mayor Bailey>

Thank you, to all partners for your commitment and dedication to protecting this important piece of property in public ownership for the benefit of the entire Windsor-Essex region.

I'd now invite all speakers to join me in unveiling the map illustrating how this future trail creates new linkages and further highlights our regional commitment to active transportation.

## 5. **Comments from the Chair**

Before vacating the Chair, I wish to express what an honour it has been to serve the Authority, and our region, in this role. While there have been challenges as we navigated a global pandemic and ongoing changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, there have also been significant and meaningful accomplishments, of which I'm very proud.

It was my honour to celebrate the grand opening of the new Conservation Centre at the John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area, the significant upgrades to the Hawk Tower and trails at Holiday Beach, and the opening of two new Community Entrances to our greenway trail system, among many other successes. I am so thankful for the many opportunities I had to represent the Authority at events and announcements, and to meet so many of the volunteers and partners dedicated to contributing to the conservation of our region.

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to the dedicated ERCA staff who have worked vigilantly to keep up with the ongoing changes to legislation, and for keeping our Board informed about the impacts of these changes every step of the way.

And finally, I'm grateful to the members of this Board for your leadership and support of conservation and the watershed principles. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to ensure a future of environmental sustainability for the Windsor-Essex-Pelee Island region.

## 6. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

## 7. **Approval of Agenda**

**Resolution 01/23** Moved by Angelo Marignani

Seconded by Sue Desjarlais

THAT the agenda for the January 19, 2023 meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors be approved. **Carried**

## 8. **Adoption of Minutes**

### A. **ERCA Board of Directors**

**Resolution 02/23** Moved by Thomas Neufeld

Seconded by Ryan McNamara

THAT the minutes for the December 8, 2022 meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors be approved as distributed. **Carried**

## 9. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

### A. ERCA Administrative By-Laws

**Resolution 03/23** Moved by Tracey Bailey  
Seconded by Angelo Marignani

WHEREAS Administration has received confirmation from the Minister that no exemption was required related to the eligibility of a representative from the City of Windsor to be elected in the position of Chair and Vice Chair on a rotational basis for a period of not more than two years, elected annually;

Be It Resolved;

THAT Resolution BD105/22 on December 8, 2022, is rescinded and that ERCA Administrative By-laws, approved November 18, 2021, remain in effect until amended; and further,

THAT Administration will endeavour to undertake a fulsome review, in consultation with the Board, at a later date to ensure all remaining sections are in compliance with updates to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. **Carried**

## 10. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

### A. Appointment of Interim Chair (CAO for purposes of Election)

**Resolution 04/23** Moved by Peter Courtney  
Seconded by Kimberly DeYong

THAT the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer of the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) be authorized to act as Chair for the 2023 election of Chair of the Essex Region Conservation Authority. **Carried**

### B. Appointment of Scrutineers

**Resolution 05/23** Moved by Ryan McNamara  
Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT Mary-Ann Keefner and Claire Wales be appointed to act as scrutineers for the 2023 election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Essex Region Conservation Authority, if needed. **Carried**

### C. Election of Chair

**Resolution 06/23** Moved by Larry Verbeke  
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed. **Carried**

**Resolution 07/23** THAT Councillor Jim Morrison is the Chair of the Essex Region Conservation Authority for the next year. **Acclaimed.**

## **D. Election of Vice Chair**

**Resolution 08/23** Moved by Tania Jobin  
Seconded by Joe Bachetti  
THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed. **Carried**

**Resolution 09/23** THAT Councillor Sue Desjarlais is the new Vice Chair of the Essex Region Conservation Authority for the next year. **Acclaimed**

## **11. Remarks from Incoming Chair**

Thank you for your confidence in electing (acclaiming) me as Chair, and congratulations to Sue Desjarlais on their election as Vice Chair. We look forward to serving in the Windsor-Essex-Pelee Island community in these roles. I am particularly honoured to serve in this capacity during ERCA's 50th year. I know there are many exciting initiatives planned throughout the year to celebrate this milestone anniversary.

I'd also like to take a moment on behalf of the Board to express my sincerest appreciation to you, Tania, for your leadership over these past few years. You have guided us through times of both significant challenges and exciting opportunities.

As a token of our appreciation, I'm pleased to present you this framed photo of the John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area. Under your leadership, significant investments were made at this Conservation Area, including the grand opening of the new Conservation Centre, significant accessibility improvements, the rehabilitation of the Fox Creek wetland trail and more. You also welcomed Minister Helena Jaczek to this location, and Indigenous installation artist Tracey-Mae Chambers. We hope this gift will serve as a positive reminder of the impacts you made during your tenure as our Chair.

As well, since our last two Annual Meetings have been held virtually, we do have a belated gift to present to former Chair Kieran McKenzie - a photo of Devonwood Conservation Area, which we know is a special place to you and to many in your Windsor riding.

The following items are standard business practice of the Authority and that Auditor, Financial Institutions, Solicitor and Insurance Company receive endorsement through resolution by the Board.

## **12. Actions**

### **A. Appointment of ERCA Auditor, Financial Institutions, Solicitor, and Insurance Company for 2023**

#### **i. Auditor**

**Resolution 10/23** Moved by Angelo Marignani  
Seconded by Peter Courtney

THAT the firm of Hicks, MacPherson, latonna and Driedger LLP be appointed as the Authority's Auditor for 2023. **Carried**

ii. Financial Institution

**Resolution 11/23** Moved by Sue Desjarlais  
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT the CIBC and the Windsor Family Credit Union be appointed as the ERCA financial institutions and utilized for banking, including borrowing and short-term investments, for 2023. **Carried**

iii. Solicitors

**Resolution 12/23** Moved by Tania Jobin  
Seconded by Tracey Bailey

THAT the firms of Shibley Righton, LLP, M. Gordner Law Professional Corporation, and McTague Law Firm be appointed the ERCA Solicitors for 2023. **Carried**

iv. Insurance Company

**Resolution 13/23** Moved by Mark McKenzie  
Seconded by Sue Desjarlais

THAT ERCA continues to participate in the Conservation Ontario Group Insurance program for its insurance coverage for 2023. **Carried**

v. Signing Authority

**Resolution 14/23** Moved by Thomas Neufeld  
Seconded by Mark McKenzie

THAT the CFO/Director of Finance and Corporate Services be designated as a Signing Officer until such time as ERCA's Administrative By-Laws are amended, or the Board rescinds this resolution. **Carried**

**B. Approval for ERCA Borrowing Resolution**

**Resolution 15/23** Moved by Ryan McNamara  
Seconded by Larry Verbeke

WHEREAS it is necessary for the Essex Region Conservation Authority (hereinafter called the "Authority") to borrow the sum of up to 1,500,000 dollars required for its purposes until payment to the Authority by participating municipalities, designated as such under the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter C.27, and grant payments received from senior levels of government.

Be It Therefore Resolved:

THAT the Authority borrow, at the lowest effective interest rate, from any one of its appointed financial institutions or participating municipalities, a sum not to exceed in the

aggregate 1,500,000 dollars at any one time necessary for its purposes by way of loans, advances, overdrafts, or promissory note, or notes of the Authority until payment to the Authority of any grants and of sums to be paid to the Authority by participating municipalities.

### 13. Reports for Approval

#### A. **BD 01/23 Update to Conservation Authority Act (More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022)**

**Resolution 16/23** Moved by Kieran McKenzie  
Seconded by Peter Courtney

THAT Members receive BD01/23 for information; and further,

THAT Authority Staff and Administration continue to meet the obligations under the Conservation Authorities Act; and further,

THAT Administration continue to evaluate anticipated financial implications in preparation of 2023 and 2024 budgets and advise the Board as additional regulation and legislative impacts become known. **Carried**

#### B. **BD 02/23 Update to ERCA Fee Policy**

**Resolution 17/23** Moved by Angelo Marignani  
Seconded by Anthony Abraham

THAT the proposed revisions to the ERCA Fee Policy be accepted as drafted and the ERCA Fee Policy be circulated in accordance with the *Conservation Authorities Act*.  
**Carried**

#### C. **BD 03/23 Draft ERCA 2023 Fee Schedule**

**Resolution 18/23** Moved by Larry Verbeke  
Seconded by Tania Jobin

THAT the proposed ERCA 2023 Fee Schedule, as described herein, be approved; and further,

THAT Administration post notice of the Fee Schedule in ERCA's Administrative offices, on ERCA's website and other social media, and be distributed to member municipalities.  
**Carried**

#### D. **BD 04/23 Turkey Creek Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modelling Study – Final Report**

**Resolution 19/23** Moved by Kieran McKenzie  
Seconded by Tracey Bailey

THAT the Turkey Creek Watershed Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modelling Study Phase 2 Report, prepared by Dillon Consulting Ltd. and Landmark Engineers Inc. be approved for

use by ERCA Administration as a technical document to support regulatory approvals and ERCA policy within study area. **Carried**

**E. BD 05/23 Upper Little River Watershed Master Drainage and Stormwater Management Plan Environmental Assessment – Study Completion**

**Resolution 20/23** Moved by Joe Bachetti  
Seconded by Jason Matyi  
THAT Report BD05/23 be received for member's information. **Carried**

**F. BD 06/23 Property Information Management (and Clearance) System Modernization and Remediation**

**Resolution 21/23** Moved by Tania Jobin  
Seconded by Angelo Marignani  
THAT the recommended solution, comprised of Microsoft Dynamics (365) Customer Service and associated modules, as described herein as Option #1, be approved; and further,

THAT Administration executes the vendor contract in advance of the 2023 Budget approval due to the mission-critical nature of this information system and the potential negative impact on mandatory services, in the event of further equipment failures; and further,

THAT the estimated capital expense be included in the 2023 Draft Budget and funded with the existing IT reserve and deferred revenue, allocated to this project in 2022.  
**Carried**

**G. BD 07/23 Grant Deliverables for Maple Festival Expansion**

**Resolution 22/23** Moved by Mark McKenzie  
Seconded by Molly Alliare  
THAT Administration be authorized to proceed with entering into an agreement for the purpose of receiving grant funds to expand the Maple Syrup Festival to two locations and three weekends.

**Resolution 23/23** Moved by Mark McKenzie  
Seconded by Angelo Marignani  
WHEREAS the Board has not had an opportunity to establish a working Executive Committee to approve purchasing in accordance with ERCA's established policies;

Be It Resolved;

THAT until the Executive Committee is confirmed by resolution at the February 16, 2023, regular meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors, the Chair and Vice-Chair be authorized to award contracts over \$25,000 associated with the project described in BD07/23.

**Carried**

## 14. Reports for Information

### A. Environmental Registry Reports

- i. Conservation Ontario's comments on Proposed Updates to the Regulation of Development for the Protection of People and Property from Natural Hazards in Ontario (ERO # 019-2927)
- ii. Conservation Ontario's comments on Conserving Ontario's Natural Heritage (ERO#019-6161)
- iii. Conservation Ontario's comments on Review of A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement (ERO#019-6177).

**Resolution 24/23** Moved by Sue Desjarlais  
Seconded by Molly Alliare  
THAT comments circulated for ERO Reports #019-2927, #019-6161 and 019-6177, be received for information. **Carried**

### B. Correspondence

- i. Letter from the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh regarding Bill 23 - The More Homes Built Faster Act dated December 1, 2022
- ii. Letter from the Township of Pelee regarding Bill 23 - The More Homes Built Faster Act dated December 1, 2022
- iii. Letter from Credit Valley Conservation regarding Resolution No 94/22 dated December 9, 2022
- iv. Letter from MNRF regarding Legislative and regulation changes affecting conservation authorities dated December 28, 2022
- v. Letter from MNRF regarding Minister's direction for conservation authorities regarding fee changes associated with planning, development and permitting fees dated December 28, 2022
- vi. Letter from MNRF regarding Changes to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System dated January 4, 2023
- vii. Email from MNRF regarding ERCA Request for Exemption under Section 17 (1.3) (b), Conservation Authorities Act dated January 9, 2023

**Resolution 25/23** Moved by Kieran McKenzie  
Seconded by Mark McKenzie  
THAT correspondence be received for Member's information. **Carried**

## 15. 2022 Essex Region Conservation Authority Annual Report

**Resolution 26/23** Moved by Michael Akpata

Seconded by Ryan McNamara

THAT the 2022 Annual Report be received for Member's information. **Carried**

## 16. ERCA Staff Awards

The accomplishments we celebrate here tonight would not have been possible without the small, hardworking team of staff who implement them. We are so fortunate to have staff who, over many years, continue to contribute to the sustainability of the region. These people are among the most dedicated staff members I have had the pleasure of working with.

We have undertaken the practice of recognizing special milestones, and planting a tree to signify years of service to the region. I would ask Tim Byrne to introduce the staff members we celebrate this year.

### **Sydney Richmond, Regulations Analyst - 5 years**

I'm pleased to thank Sydney Richmond for 5 years of service. Sydney first came to ERCA in the position of Surveyor/Technical Assistant, a role where she quickly surpassed expectations in delivering survey and property information requests to residents and lawyers across the watershed, and provided much needed GIS and technical support on a variety of projects.

With the ever-increasing demands in Watershed Management Services, Sydney took on additional responsibilities when she was hired as the Regulations Technician, followed by a quick transition into her current role as a Regulations Analyst.

In this role, Sydney conducts natural hazard reviews for a variety of Section 28 applications, ranging from inland development files to complex engineering shoreline reports. She has earned her Provincial Offences Officer designation, and has become key contributor to this organization. Congratulations to Sydney on your first five years with ERCA, and I look forward to working with you for many years to come.

## 17. ERCA Conservation Awards Presentation

Good evening, and what an honour it is to help recognize those who have chosen to make a positive impact on our region's environment and future.

### **Conservation Farm Award Winner – Quinlan Farms**

We begin tonight with the Conservation Farm Award, which is jointly presented by ERCA and the Essex Soil and Crop Improvement Association to the farming operation which best displays conservation minded farming practices from those nominated. The farms are graded on tillage practices, crop rotation, chemical use and storage, knowledge of fertility programs, Best Management Practices and overall farm maintenance.

This year's recipient is Quinlan Farms, which was started by Walter and Gail Quinlan in the early 80s. Sons Donald and Chad developed their passion for farming working alongside their parents. Today they run the farm along with their wives Kelly and April, with three generations working on the family farm.

Soil health has always been important to their farming operation. They began no-till farming in the early 90s, and have expanded over the years to include cover crops and diverse crop rotation. A large portion of the crops are planted into a living cover crop to help conserve moisture, suppress weeds and recycle nutrients. The Quinlan's goal is to limit synthetic fertilizers use on their farm and keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of waterways. Their animals are pasture raised, and graze the cover crops to help increase soil organic matter and soil health.

Quinlan Farms have benefited from landowner grants through ERCA's Clean Water ~ Green spaces program to implement many of the Best Management Practices on their farm. They have established windbreaks and planted trees to protect soil from wind erosion and increase biodiversity. The waterways crossing the farm's landscape are protected with soil erosion control structures and grassed buffer strips. We thank the Quinlan family for their dedication to conservation, and are pleased to present them with this award.

### **John R. Park Homestead Award - Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society**

The John R. Park Homestead Award recognizes an individual or group for preservation and promotion of human and/r natural history in the Essex Region, and we are pleased to honour the Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society known as HEIRS, as this year's recipient.

HEIRS is an organization of dynamic volunteers passionate about preserving local history. Its purpose is to preserve and encourage research into local and family history, and to encourage the preservation of historical artifacts and buildings.

They have been building a library and collection for 50 years and provide resources for people to research their own genealogical roots. HEIRS is a significant historical records hub, where many historical groups can seek information about the local area and our collective past.

HEIRS offer a membership program, which helps to share the local history of Harrow and Colchester South and the broader Windsor-Essex region. Members receive informative newsletters and invitations to community events. Its website provides access to exclusive content from its archives and collection, as well as a quick connection to their volunteer archivists and genealogy experts.

HEIRS hosts information on the Park Homestead and the Fox and Iler families and they have supported Homestead staff over the years with research requests, exhibit preparations, and more. In their 50th anniversary year, we are pleased to recognize HEIRS with the John R. Park Homestead Award.

### **Individual Education – Mike St. Pierre**

For 30 years, Mike St. Pierre led a fulfilling career with the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board. He began teaching Horticulture Science at Cardinal Carter and remained there for eighteen years. In this role, he mentored hundreds of students, and we are pleased to present him with the Conservation Award for Education.

Throughout his teaching career, Mike led many student activities focusing on stewardship including coordinating volunteers for the annual Point Pelee National Park beach cleanups and the Pelee Savannah restoration project. He collected native tree seeds for seedling propagation, developed a native tree arboretum and achieved SEEDS Foundation Green School and EcoSchool status.

In 2010, Mike began his role as a Experiential Learning Consultant with the Board, providing students with a variety of academic experiences. He helped to implement programs such as the Ontario Technological Skills Competitions, St. Clair College's 'Get Skilled' competition, and the EcoSchools program which encourages schools to become more environmentally aware. Thanks largely to Mike's efforts, 20 of the Board's schools are now provincially recognized with this prestigious status. He also implemented Health and Physical Education programs, Robotics, Outdoor Education and the Specialist High Skills Major program.

ERCA has had the pleasure in working on many of these programs with Mike, partnering with EcoSchools on greening and stewardship initiatives, and providing Sector Partner Experiences, and a variety of environmental Specialist Major programs.

While Mike entered into his well-deserved retirement last year, his generosity and knowledge continues to a source of inspiration for his colleagues. His expertise and willingness to share and collaborate with others has made a significant and lasting impact across the region and throughout the province's educational system. We wish Mike every success in his next chapter; thank him for the thousands of students he has inspired to be better conservationists, and honour him with the Conservation Award for Education.

### **Organization - Education – Pelee Island Butterfly Sanctuary & Teaching Garden**

Cherie Dillon has a long history of educating people about the intrigue and mystery of butterflies and their lifecycle. She began her journey in LaSalle where she stewarded a small biodiverse garden that attracted many butterflies and insect species. In 2020, she acquired 6.5 acres of land on Pelee Island, and established the Pelee Island Butterfly Sanctuary and Teaching Garden, which we recognize today with the Conservation Education Award for an organization.

Over the past two years, hundreds of native wildflowers, grasses, trees and shrubs have been planted to establish the pollinator habitat that complements the woodland at the Butterfly Sanctuary. Within only two seasons, the Butterfly Sanctuary and Teaching Garden has already provided tours and educational experiences to over 600 visitors! Guests learn about the life cycles of many different native butterfly species and the importance of maintaining a healthy

and diverse landscape. The Butterfly Sanctuary and Teaching Garden aims to inspire others to create pollinator habitat on their own properties.

Butterflies help people understand the complex nature of natural environments, gain an appreciation of their complexity and wonder, and develop a desire to protect and nurture them. The Pelee Island Butterfly Sanctuary and Teaching Garden looks forward to continuing to educate guests about these charismatic creatures to inspire sensitive care of the natural world, and we are pleased to recognize this work with the Conservation Education Award for an organization.

### **Organization - Volunteer – Friends of Ojibway Prairie**

The Friends of Ojibway Prairie - or FOOP - is an 80-member volunteer organization dedicated to promoting public awareness of the Ojibway Prairie Complex and its unique biological and historical importance. The Friends work closely with the City of Windsor and Ontario Parks to assist with educational programs, special events, restoration projects and more, and we are pleased to recognize them with this year's Conservation Volunteer Award.

The Ojibway Prairie Complex is a collection of six closely situated natural areas within the City of Windsor stretching from the Detroit River shoreline across the landscape. It includes the Ojibway Nature Centre, Ojibway Park, Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park, Black Oak Heritage Park, Spring Garden Natural Area and Oakwood Natural Area, the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Ojibway Shores. The majority of these sites are designated as Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest.

Established in 1992, the volunteer organization organizes and funds a variety of activities such as hikes and talks to educate and engage people in learning about this unique habitat, and have even established a clothing line to raise funds while allowing people to express their pride for Ojibway. They regularly use their volunteer platform to help promote biodiversity protection through prescribed burns and advocacy for a wildlife overpass.

In 2021, the Government of Canada announced interest in exploring the possibility of creating the Ojibway National Urban Park. In Canada and around the world, there is growing awareness of the importance of urban parks as essential places for conservation, recreation, learning, and mental and physical wellbeing.

FOOP has been instrumental in voicing their support for this effort, and last year, they were selected to testify at the House of Commons' Environment and Sustainable Development Standing Committee on this matter.

For its dedication to the stewardship, protection and advocacy of this important prairie habitat, we are pleased to recognize the Friends of Ojibway Prairie with the Volunteer Conservation Award for an organization!

### **Organization - Environmental Achievement – Enwin Utilities Ltd.**

ENWIN Utilities Ltd. is the licensed electricity distribution company serving customers in the City of Windsor, with the mission to provide safe and reliable energy and water services in a cost-effective, sustainable manner.

Enwin prioritizes sustainable practices through a number of initiatives. It's currently in partnership with Automobility Enterprises and St. Clair College to convert a fleet pickup truck from its traditional V8 internal combustion engine into an electric vehicle. This process is no easy feat, as the truck had to be meticulously taken apart and the majority of its drive-train components changed. The changeover involved intense problem solving, custom fabrication, and rigorous testing, and the knowledge documented throughout the process will be an asset to future EV technicians from ENWIN and St. Clair College.

This conversion integrates an EV vehicle into ENWIN's existing fleet and will demonstrate the capabilities of electric vehicles in real-world working scenarios. Once this project reaches completion, it is anticipated that more EVs will be incorporated into the organization's fleet, further decreasing its carbon footprint and promoting EV migration to other companies. The promotion of this process on social media culminated in national recognition by the CBC.

In 2022, ENWIN launched the new Green Button standard to allow local families and businesses to track and make decisions regarding their energy use. Studies have found that access to energy data, which Green Button along with smart home devices, enables, can help consumers achieve energy savings of up to 18 percent.

ENWIN has also encouraged its customers to save paper and trees by switching to online e-billing to reduce its carbon footprint. This campaign has supported both the Windsor Essex Child/Youth Advocacy Centre and ERCA. In fact, during the summer of 2022, for every ENWIN customer that opted into the e-billing program, a tree will be planted – and this effort was extremely successful with over 1,000 customers signing up.

As a result, ENWIN will be supporting the planting of 1,187 trees on Earth Day 2023! This marks the second time ENWIN has supported the Earth Day tree planting, and its first campaign in 2020 allowed more than 1000 trees to be planted in 2022.

ENWIN plays a vital role in distributing electricity and utility services across our local community, and we look forward to the continued successes of its sustainable programs now and into the future. We are pleased to recognize ENWIN Utilities with the Conservation Award for Environmental Achievement, and invite!

### **Environment Achievement Individual – Collavino Family**

The Collavino Family has lived in the River Canard community since 1983, and has greatly appreciated all of the wildlife and biodiversity of the region. ERCA and the family have worked together many times in the past on various conservation projects and environmental protection initiatives.

In 2005, the Collavino family purchased a property in the River Canard watershed as a farmland investment. The site is a mix of wetland and floodplain within the Detroit River Area of Concern. It was previously owned by General Chemical, used then for salt brine extraction.

In fall 2022, after several years of discussion and careful consideration, the Collavino Family generously donated this 150 acre property to ERCA to become the Collavino Conservation Area. The wetland portion of the site has remained undisturbed over the years and is recognized as a Provincially Significant Wetland and Environmentally Significant Area. The site is also identified as a Priority Canadian Habitat Site in the Detroit River Area of Concern, and its assured protection supports the delisting process.

A wetland restoration and management plan has been developed to ensure appropriate protective measures are in place for this sensitive area. In 2022, a prescribed burn was undertaken to control invasive Phragmites. Future plans include adding a parking area for the public, a mowed pathway around the dyked area will provide a 2.2km walking path and educational signage will be installed. The Collavino family clearly identified that they wanted to ensure that the public could access this beautiful and much-loved conservation property.

Wetlands are critically important to mitigate flooding and the impacts of our changing climate, and we are honoured that the Collavino family put their trust in ERCA to ensure this new Conservation Area will be managed and protected for generations to come. For their legacy commitment to conservation in our region, we are thrilled to present them with the Conservation Award for Environmental Achievement.

### **Dennis Chase Staff Award – Ashley Gyori**

*The Dennis Chase Staff Award honours longtime staff member Dennis Chase and recognizes those who demonstrate the traits that Dennis upheld: dedication, commitment, conscientiousness, kindness to colleagues, enthusiasm, pride in a job well done, and good humour.*

Ashley Gyori is a Regulations Analyst who has graciously gone above and beyond over her past 7 plus years with ERCA, and we are pleased to honour her with this award.

Ashley has risen through the Watershed Management Services team quickly, transitioning first from Technical Survey Assistant to Regulations Technician, where she reviewed and prepared at least 75% of the permits through 2017-2018. In March of 2020, with the continued relentless pace of permit application submissions, she was elevated to the position of Regulations Analyst.

She trained as the Risk Management Official in her early days with ERCA, and developed the entire RMO procedures still used today. In her current role, she fulfils all of ERCA's drainage requirements while supporting the many varied facets of the Watershed Management Services Department.

Ashley has been relied on to train every new member of the Regs, Planning and Engineering teams related to our Property Information Management System, our Regulations, and other important elements of ERCA's development roles. She's one of the first people the department leans on for technical opinions on various applications.

Certainly, the challenging demands, deadlines and competing priorities within the Watershed Management Services department are well known, and Ashley manages them all with a smile. She embodies dedication and commitment to the organization, pride in the work, and kindness to others.

Here's what her colleagues had to say: "Ashley is always the first person to lend a helping hand to anyone in need whether it's someone in the parking lot or the office, and she never ceases to do it without a smile on her face. She genuinely strives to help people in any way she can. While being fiercely committed to her role in protecting the community from natural hazards, she has the warmest disposition and always goes the extra mile to leave a positive impact in all experiences."

"Ashley is one of the most hardworking people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. She takes pride in everything she does, and her continued kindness even on the most stressful days brings brightness to everyone around her."

"Ashley is a rockstar in the ERCA office. Her expertise, attention to detail and willingness to help others goes unmatched and she does it all with a smile on her face."

Thank you, Ashley, for your commitment, integrity and kindness, and we are pleased to recognize you with the Dennis Chase Staff Award.

Friends, please join me in once again congratulating all of the 2022 Conservation Award winners.

## 18. Other Business

### A. Board Orientation

Board Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2023, starting at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Essex Civic Centre.

### B. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors will be held on February 16, 2023 starting at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Essex Civic Centre.

## 19. Adjournment

**Resolution 27/23** Moved by Mark McKenzie  
Seconded by Katie McGuire-Blais  
THAT the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adjourned. **Carried**



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**Jim Morrison, Chair**



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**Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer**