



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2025
Approved December 3, 2025

Members in attendance:

Dave Beres, Chair	Town of Tillsonburg
Doug Brunton, Vice-Chair	Norfolk County
Shelley Ann Bentley	Haldimand County
Robert Chambers	County of Brant
Michael Columbus	Norfolk County
Ed Ketchabaw	Municipality of Bayham/Township of Malahide
Tom Masschaele	Norfolk County
Debera McKeen	Haldimand County
Jim Palmer	Township of Norwich
Chris Van Paassen	Norfolk County
Peter Ypma	Township of South-West Oxford

Regrets:

None

Staff in attendance:

Judy Maxwell, General Manager
Aaron LeDuc, Manager of Corporate Services
Leigh-Anne Mauthe, Manager of Watershed Services
Saifur Rahman, Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure
Jessica King, Social Media and Marketing Associate
Nicole Sullivan, HR Coordinator/Executive Assistant

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m., Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

2. Additional Agenda Items

Chris Van Paassen proposed an addition to the agenda in regards to the Ontario government announcement.

A-112/25

Moved by C. Van Paassen
Seconded by D. McKeen

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors add the Ontario Government Announcement on Conservation Authorities under New Business as item 10 G to the November 5, 2025 agenda.

Carried

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Ed Ketchabaw, Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

3. Approval of the Agenda

A-113/25

Moved by J. Palmer

Seconded by P. Ypma

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the agenda as amended.

Carried

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a) Board of Directors Meeting October 1, 2025

Robert Chambers made an amendment to the minutes to include the acknowledgement of Rainey Weisler's last board meeting and the welcoming of Ed Ketchabaw.

Dave Beres officially welcomes Ed Ketchabaw to the LPRCA Board of Directors.

A-114/25

Moved by T. Masschaele

Seconded by M. Columbus

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Board of Directors meeting held October 1, 2025 be adopted as amended.

Carried

6. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

7. Review of Committee Minutes

A-115/25

Moved by C. Van Paassen

Seconded by E. Ketchabaw

THAT the minutes of the Audit & Finance Committee meeting held October 24, 2025 be adopted as circulated

Carried

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Ed Ketchabaw, Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

8. Correspondence

None

9. Development Applications

a) Section 28 Regulations Approved Permits (L. Mauthe)

Leigh-Anne Mauthe presented the approved permits report.

A - 116/25

Moved by S. Bentley

Seconded by P. Ypma

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the staff approved Section 28 Regulation Approved Permits report dated November 5, 2025 as information.

Carried

10. New Business

a) General Manager's Report (J. Maxwell)

Judy Maxwell provided a report summarizing operations in October and provided a few recent updates on forestry and watershed tours with community partners, Environmental Registry of Ontario postings that Conservation Ontario staff are coordinating comments for, and an update on Forestry operations.

Peter Ypma asked staff about the tops of trees after a timber harvest. Judy Maxwell informed the Board that LPRCA standards the tops are cleaned up. LPRCA has fuelwood contracts for cleanup of the tops and operations are monitored by forestry staff. These contractors are all insured, sign a contract with LPRCA, pay a fee, and are monitored by forestry staff.

Mike Columbus asked if the federal government budget announcement and the cut to the tree planting program will affect LPRCA's tree planting. Judy Maxwell informed the Board that as of now there is no change to LPRCA's tree planting, the funding agreement with Forest Canada is in place until 2029.

Dave Beres asked staff to provide an update on the Boardroom renovations. Judy Maxwell informed the Board that the ceiling tiles and lights were all replaced and completed this week, and the rest of the updates will be completed by mid-January.

Doug Brunton asked staff about LPRCA's lease on the building. Aaron LeDuc informed the Board that LPRCA has four terms of five years with an option for a 5th term, and that this lease started in 2018.

A-117/25

Moved by S. Bentley

Seconded by J. Palmer

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Ed Ketchabaw, Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the General Manager's Report for October 2025 as information.

Carried

b) 3rd Qtr. Financial Report (A. LeDuc)

Aaron LeDuc presented the report.

Jim Palmer asked staff to clarify the large surplus that is shown in the report. Aaron LeDuc informed the Board that due to the seasonality of a large portion of LPRCA's revenue, there is generally an uptick on surplus in the 2nd and 3rd Quarters, but the surplus will slim down by the end of the year when other expenses are finalized and amortization is included.

A-118/25

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by D. McKeen

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the Q3 Financial Report – September 30, 2025 for the fiscal year up to and including September 30, 2025 as information.

Carried

c) Tangible Capital Asset Draft Policy (A. LeDuc)

Aaron LeDuc presented the report.

Chris Van Paassen asked staff for an explanation on the tangible capital asset policy and how LPRCA accounts for sources of financing and accounting entries. Aaron LeDuc explained that the tangible Capital Asset Policy is how LPRCA accounts for financial assets and how LPRCA will account for the assets in the financial statements versus how the Authority acquires tangible capital assets.

A-119/25

Moved by T. Masschaele

Seconded by C. Van Paassen

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the Draft Tangible Capital Asset Policy as presented.

Carried

d) Draft Investment Policy (A. LeDuc)

Aaron LeDuc presented the report.

Ed Ketchabaw asked staff to clarify if the review period is annually as the staff report or every five years as stated in the policy. Aaron LeDuc informed the Board that the review cycle is every five years, and the staff report was an error.

A-120/25

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Moved by J. Palmer
Seconded by M. Columbus

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the Draft Investment Policy as presented.

Carried

e) Administration Review Policy for Permits (L. Mauthe)

Leigh-Anne Mauthe presented the report and draft policy after the deferral from the last Board meeting.

Chris Van Paassen thanks the staff for deferring the report and speaking to others on the subject. Chris Van Paassen disagreed with the staff report recommendation and provided comments.

Robert Chambers and Mike Columbus supported the staff recommendation and both provided comments, and agrees with staff that members of the Board being the reporting officer would constitute a conflict of interest.

A-121/25

Moved by R. Chambers
Seconded by M. Columbus

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approve the Administration Review Policy for Permits required under Section 12 of Ontario Regulation 41/24 as presented.

Carried

f) Prescription/Operating Plans – Casselton & Earl Danylevich (J. Maxwell)

Judy Maxwell delivered the report.

Jim Palmer asked staff if the forestry prescription reports are always this complicated. Judy Maxwell informed the Board that the plans are based on a developed template, but that each tract is individually surveyed and analyzed by forestry staff as the tracts can vary drastically.

A-122/25

Moved by C. Van Paassen
Seconded by T. Masschaele

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the prescription/operating plans for the Earl Danylevich Tract at 1290 Charlotteville West Quarter Line of Charlotteville Township, and the Casselton Tract at 811 Charlotteville Road 2 of Charlotteville Township.

Carried

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**g) Ontario Government Announcement regarding Conservation Authorities
(Addition)**

Dave Beres read his remarks on the Ontario Government announcement about the creation of a new agency — the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) — which will oversee all Conservation Authorities across the province. This new agency is intended to provide centralized leadership, streamline governance, and modernize the permitting process through a single digital platform and provincewide performance standards. As part of this initiative, the current 36 Conservation Authorities will be reorganized into seven watershed-based regions. As of now, it is speculated that Essex Region CA, Lower Thames Valley CA, St. Clair Region CA, Kettle Creek CA, Catfish Creek CA, Upper Thames River CA, Grand River CA and Long Point Region CA will combine to make Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority. Public consultation is expected to begin in spring 2026, involving municipalities, Indigenous communities, stakeholders, and residents. Implementation of changes outlined in the OPCA legislation will begin following the October 2026 municipal elections, with changes rolling out in 2027. Dave Beres reiterated that there is no change to LPRCA's current operations. It is business as usual. LPRCA Board and Staff remain fully committed to delivering the high-quality programs and services to the communities — from water quality monitoring and public safety to watershed health initiatives throughout the Long Point Region.

Shelley Ann Bentley asked broadly if there was any recourse at the moment for members to dispute the amalgamation and remain Long Point Region Conservation Authority, as the speculated region is a massive area and does not support the community as the CA's do now.

Dave Beres stated that Conservation Authorities will give their input on the amalgamation when the registry opens.

Ed Ketchabaw asserted that LPRCA Board should not just accept this announcement. There are many unanswered questions, like what is the purpose of this? What can be gained by amalgamating? What is the financial outcome? And what is the goal of the province? Not time to agree until more questions are answered.

Doug Brunton has great concern with where the amalgamation is going, as past amalgamations of other government agencies have been problematic. There is concern with the blending of LPRCA's finances with other organizations and the loss of the reserves that should be utilized in the community and not spread across such a large region. Doug Brunton reiterated his concern with the community places and spaces like Lee Brown Marsh and Backus Heritage Conservation Area.

Tom Masschaele agrees with previous Board members, and adds that the results of amalgamation and centralization do not usually work out for the smaller groups who are in a good financial position, as LPRCA is in. Efficiency in this case, seems it may mean the spreading of LPRCA's assets.

Chris Van Paassen agrees that LPRCA is not ready to concede on this announcement completely and Board and staff should communicate and do homework to push back now

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with ministers and other partners. The MPP for Haldimand-Norfolk and Oxford may be receptive to LPRCA. Saving money by going bigger has not worked in the past.

Robert Chambers asked if Ontario was the only province with Conservation Authorities, and inquired how the other provinces handle the work of Conservation Authorities, was the work downloaded to the municipalities in those provinces.

Mike Columbus wondered about the government's statement on "no job losses" as it seems very hard to imagine there will be no job losses and how can the Board handle this.

Judy Maxwell informed the Board that legislation to create the agency should be coming in the next few weeks to hopefully give more direction. There is much that needs to be considered, but hard to do with no direction or concrete plan from the province.

Doug Brunton asked staff if the 2026 budget is set, and if community projects can be pushed forward for 2026. Judy Maxwell indicated that the Board can approve projects outside of the budget.

Jim Palmer asked staff about the province representative that was advertised for LPRCA. Judy Maxwell informed the Board that the position was advertised, and other CAs received an agricultural representative, but LPRCA has not and may not have one appointed now.

Dave Beres asked Board members to forward their concerns to Judy Maxwell to be reviewed.

A-123/25

Moved by E. Ketchabaw

Seconded by M. Columbus

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the update on the Ontario government Announcement regarding Conservation Authorities as information.

AND

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors direct staff to circulate the remarks from the Chair and the Media Release to the Board of Directors.

Carried

11. Closed Meeting

None

Next meeting: November 13, 2025, Budget Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Dave Beres
Chair

Judy Maxwell
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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