



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @ to follow hearings**  
**Tillsonburg Administration Office**

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**AGENDA**

**Agenda Page**

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Additional Agenda Items
3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:
  - a) Board of Directors Meeting of January 7, 2026 1-9
5. Business Arising: None
6. Review of Committee Minutes: None
7. Correspondence:
  - a) AMO and Conservation Ontario Letter 10-11
  - b) AMO – ERO #025-1257 Submission 12-19
  - c) Simcoe Reformer – “LPRCA Members Oppose Provincial Changes” 20-22
  - d) Municipality of North Perth Letter of Appreciation 23
  - e) Town of Petrolia opposition to Conservation Authority Amalgamation 24-25
  - f) Granthaven Media – “Norfolk County Endorses Plan to Repair Historic Dam” 26
  - g) Township of Amaranth Letter of Support to LPRCA 27
  - h) CBC – “Caldwell First nation not consulted on CA Amalgamation” 28-30
  - i) Township of Russel Opposition to Conservation Amalgamation 31-33
8. Development Applications:
  - a) Section 28 Regulations Approved Permits (L. Mauthe) 34-38
  - b) 2025 Permit Application Turnaround Times (L. Mauthe) 39-42
9. New Business:
  - a) General Manger’s Report 43-44
  - b) Service Recognition Program (J. Maxwell) 45
10. Closed Session:
  - a) Board of Directors Closed Session Minutes of January 7, 2026
  - b) Adjournment of Closed Session
11. Adjournment

Next meeting: March 6, 2026, 1:30pm, Annual General Meeting



**LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2026**

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Members in attendance:

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

Norfolk County  
Norfolk County  
Haldimand County  
Town of Tillsonburg  
County of Brant  
Norfolk County  
Municipality of Bayham/Township of Malahide  
Norfolk County  
Haldimand County  
Township of Norwich  
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  
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 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

**2. Additional Agenda Items**

There were no additional agenda items.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

**A-1/26**

Moved by P. Ypma  
Seconded by J. Palmer

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

**Carried**

**4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

None were declared.

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**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

## **5. Elections**

The Chair and Vice-Chair vacated their seats and Ms. Kimberley Earls, Executive Director for South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation assumed the Chair position. The positions for Chair and Vice-Chair were declared vacant.

### **A-2/26**

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by S. Bentley

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors appoints Christine Jacob as scrutineer for the purpose of electing officers.

**Carried**

### **a) Election of Chair**

#### **1) Call for Nominations**

Dave Beres nominated Doug Brunton who accepted the nomination.

Tom Masschaele nominated Chris Van Paassen who accepted the nomination.

Chair Earls made the third and final call for nominations. There were no further nominations.

#### **2) Motion to Close Nominations for Chair**

### **A-3/26**

Moved by J. Palmer

Seconded by E. Ketchabaw

THAT the nominations for the Chair be closed.

**Carried**

Doug Brunton and Chris Van Paassen addressed the Board to support their nominations

#### **3) Distribution and collection of ballots by Scrutineer**

Ballots were distributed the first time and a majority vote was achieved.

#### **4) Announce Election Results**

Doug Brunton was declared the Long Point Region Conservation Authority Chair for 2026.

#### **5) Motion to Destroy Ballots**

### **A-4/26**

Moved by T. Masschaele

Seconded by D. McKeen

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#### **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 ballots for LPRCA Chair be destroyed.

**Carried**

**b) Election of Vice-Chair**

1) Call for Nominations

Tom Masschaele nominated Chris Van Paassen who accepted the nomination.

Doug Brunton nominated Dave Beres who declined the nomination.

Chair Earls made the third and final call for nominations. There were no further nominations.

2) Motion to Close Nominations for Vice-Chair

**A-5/26**

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by J. Palmer

THAT the nominations for the LPRCA Vice-Chair be closed.

**Carried**

3) Distribution and collection of ballots by Scrutineer

No Ballots were required.

4) Announce Election Results

Chris Van Paassen was declared the Long Point Region Conservation Authority Vice-Chair for 2026.

5) Motion to Destroy Ballots

No Ballots were required.

The Chair and Vice-Chair thanked their nominators and the Board for their support and were looking forward to the year ahead.

Ms. K. Earls and Ms. C. Jacob were thanked for their service and left the meeting.

Doug Brunton, Chair assumed the position and carried on the meeting.

**6. Committee Appointments**

The General Manager reviewed each of the committee membership requirements and members were asked to express interest in committee appointments.

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**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

**A-6/26**

Moved by D. McKeen

Seconded by T. Masschaele

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the following appointments for 2026:

Michael Columbus and the LPRCA Chair and Vice-Chair to the Land Acquisition Committee;

And

Michael Columbus and LPRCA Chair to the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee;

And

Dave Beres, Tom Masschaele, Jim Palmer and the LPRCA Chair to the Backus Museum Committee;

And

Robert Chambers, Dave Beres, Ed Ketchabaw, the Chair, and Vice-Chair to the Audit and Finance Committee.

**Carried**

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**a) Board of Directors Meeting of December 3, 2025**

**A-7/26**

Moved by T. Masschaele

Seconded by S. Bentley

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Board of Directors Meeting held December 3, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**7. Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

**8. Review of Committee Minutes**

**a) Backus Museum Committee Meeting of June 2, 2025**

Mike Columbus, asked Tom Masschaele (the Chair of the Backus Museum Committee for 2025) to speak to the Board members about Backus and the conditions of the buildings.

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**FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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

Tom Masschaele spoke to the Board about the Backus Historic Site and Judy Maxwell added that with the approval of the 2026 budget there are funds allocated to the removal of unsafe buildings and an engineering report for the Mill.

**A-8/26**

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by J. Palmer

THAT the minutes of the Backus Museum Committee meeting held June 2, 2025 be received as information.

**Carried**

**b) Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee Meeting of August 19, 2025**

**A-9/26**

Moved by T. Masschaele

Seconded by D. McKeen

THAT the minutes of the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee meeting held August 19, 2025 be received as information.

**Carried**

**c) Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee Meeting of December 19, 2025**

**A-10/26**

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by S. Bentley

THAT the minutes of the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee meeting held December 19, 2025 be received as information.

**Carried**

**9. Correspondence**

Shelley Ann Bentley commented on how positive it was to receive many correspondences opposing the amalgamation of the Conservation Authorities.

**A-11/26**

Moved by S. Bentley

Seconded by J. Palmer

THAT the correspondences outlined in the Board of Directors agenda of January 7, 2026 be received as information.

**Carried**

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**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

## **10. Development Applications**

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

Leigh-Anne Mauthe presented the report.

Shelley Ann Bentley was happy to see a Haldimand County #LPRCA-210/25 permit approved.

Mike Columbus asked staff about application #207/25 and the proposed work to move fill with no building. Leigh-Anne Mauthe informed the Board that grading was done on the property without a permit, and the approved permit was to address that.

#### **A-12/26**

Moved by D. Beres

Seconded by T. Masschaele

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the staff approved Section 28 Regulation Approved Permits report dated January 7, 2026 as information.

**Carried**

## **11. New Business**

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

Judy Maxwell presented the report.

Dave Beres added that the ROMA Board was opposed to the amalgamation of the Conservation Authorities and would be meeting with Minister McCarthy the weekend before the ROMA Conference.

Debera McKeen asked Dave Beres if he could keep the Board updated if anything arises from that conversation.

Judy Maxwell informed the Board that AMO and Conservation Ontario issued a joint letter in support of Conservation Authorities.

#### **A-13/26**

Moved by E. Ketchabaw

Seconded by J. Palmer

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

**Carried**

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#### **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

## **b) Fee Schedules (A. LeDuc)**

Aaron LeDuc presented the 2026 Draft Fee Schedules report.

### **A-14/26**

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by D. McKeen.

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the proposed 2026 Fee Schedules as presented to be effective January 8, 2026.

**Carried**

## **c) Per diem & Mileage (A. LeDuc)**

Aaron LeDuc presented the Per Diem and Mileage report.

### **A-15/26**

Moved by J. Palmer

Seconded by P. Ypma

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves increasing the Chair's Honorarium to \$2,924, the Vice-chair's Honorarium to \$1,170, the Member's meeting per diems to \$117, and the mileage rate to \$0.66 per kilometre effective January 1, 2026.

**Carried**

## **d) 2026 LPRCA Budget and Levy Apportionment Vote (A. LeDuc)**

Following the budget meeting of November 13, the 2026 draft budget was circulated to member municipalities for a 30-day review and comment period. One comment was received by the Municipality of Bayham to keep their levy at \$0 increase.

Ed Ketchabaw asked staff how the request by the Municipality of Bayham was handled. Aaron LeDuc informed the Board that the CVA is done by the MNR which annually provides the assessment data. The overall budget increase to the Municipalities was 0%, however, the change in the percentage of assessment did lead to increases and decreases for member municipalities. Aaron LeDuc informed the Board that staff responded to the Municipality of Bayham's request, which was attached to the report, and that LPRCA would not be adjusting Bayham's increase.

### **A-16/26**

That the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the following recommendations regarding LPRCA's 2026 Operating and Capital budgets;

1. That the 2026 Operating Budget in the total amount of \$6,370,228 and requiring a Municipal Levy- Operating of \$2,238,181 be approved as set out in Attachment 1;
2. That the 2026 Capital Budget in the total amount of \$1,199,455 requiring a General Municipal Levy - Capital of \$157,000 and a Municipal Special Levy – Capital of

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### **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



- \$260,000 for Norfolk County be approved as set out in Attachment 2;
3. That the proposed 2026 Consolidated Budget in the total amount of \$7,569,683 and requiring a Municipal Levy – Consolidated of \$2,655,181 be approved as set out in Attachment 2.
  4. That the proposed 2025 Municipal Levy Apportionment by CVA % be approved as set out in Attachment 3.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Municipality/Group</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Ed Ketchabaw	Municipality of Bayham	4.52		✓	4.53	
Robert Chambers	County of Brant	7.49		✓	7.40	
Shelley Ann Bentley	Haldimand County	7.35		✓	7.38	
Debera McKeen	Haldimand County	7.34		✓	7.38	
Ed Ketchabaw	Township of Malahide	0.7		✓	0.72	
Doug Brunton	Norfolk County	12.5		✓	12.5	
Michael Columbus	Norfolk County	12.5		✓	12.5	
Tom Masschaele	Norfolk County	12.5		✓	12.5	
Chris Van Paassen	Norfolk County	12.5		✓	12.5	
Jim Palmer	Township of Norwich	7.53		✓	7.53	
Peter Ypma	Township of South-West Oxford	7.53		✓	7.53	
Dave Beres	Town of Tillsonburg	7.53		✓	7.53	

Weighted Vote Result

100%

100%

100%

**Carried**

**e) Timber Tender Harris Floyd Tract (Block #4) (J. Maxwell)**

Judy Maxwell presented the Timber Tender for Harris Floyd report.

**A-17/26**

Moved by D. McKeen

Seconded by P. Ypma

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors accepts the tender submitted by Leonard Pilkey for marked standing timber at the Harris Floyd Tract (Block #4) – LP-367-26 for a total tendered price of \$147,693.00.

**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

The closed session began at 7:35 p.m.

## **12. Closed Meeting**

### **A-18/26**

Moved by D. Beres

Seconded by R. Chambers

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors does now enter into a closed session to discuss:

- The Security of the property of the Authority

**Carried**

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:22 p.m.

The closed meeting minutes of the December 3, 2025 was approved in the closed session.

Next meeting: February 4, 2026, Board of Directors

### **Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

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Doug Brunton  
Chair

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Judy Maxwell  
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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#### **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

Sent by email to: [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

December 24, 2025

The Honourable Todd McCarthy  
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

**Subject: Recommendations for Successful Conservation Authority Transformation**

Dear Minister McCarthy,

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Conservation Ontario are writing to provide joint feedback on ERO 025-1257 – Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities (CAs) complementing our respective and separate ERO submissions.

**We support the goals of this proposal.** Accelerating local approvals helps protect Ontario's economy amid global uncertainty. Faster, more predictable approvals, that maintain environmental protections and prioritize frontline conservation can unlock the new infrastructure and development required for a growing, competitive province.

**Municipal and local partnership is key to CA success.** The success of the CA model is local: expertise, governance, community trust, and partnerships. If regionalization results in structures that cover too large a geographic area, we risk losing what makes CAs effective:

- **Loss of local expertise:** Watershed-based CAs have extensive on-the-ground expertise and understanding of unique environmental conditions, enabling timely and effective decision-making on local development, and real-time responsiveness during storms and emergencies.
- **Loss of effective municipal oversight:** Municipal accountability and oversight help CAs effectively balance watershed management and community growth.
- **Loss of strong local relationships:** Key stakeholders (such as municipalities, Indigenous communities, businesses, the agricultural community, watershed residents, and other partners) provide funding, donations, and build public trust.

Over 100 municipalities have passed or are considering resolutions urging the Province to move forward by working together with municipalities and CAs to achieve provincial objectives while preserving local governance, accountability, and expertise.

AMO and CO propose a right-sized, simplified regional model that:

- is grounded in science-based watershed boundaries
- maintains strong municipal involvement and oversight
- preserves local relationships and community trust
- balances the need to stay connected at the community level with the needs of certainty, predictability, and consistency of service delivery standards for permitting and approvals
- avoids unnecessary complexity by allowing lands, major agreements (including employment), reserve funds etc. to remain within existing corporations

**To achieve this, AMO and CO recommend that the Province:**

1. Work together with an implementation working group (including AMO, Conservation Ontario and select CAs, municipal, developers, and Indigenous representatives) to jointly develop practical solutions, including:
  - service standards, permitting faster and standardized approvals
  - governance and boundary design
  - funding models, allocations, and reserve structures
  - shared “back office” efficiencies and,
  - clear transition planning including: service continuity; points of contact; permitting continuity measures; board and staff communications; and staff retention measures.
2. Commit to a clear implementation timeline and transition plan supported by the implementation working group to position transformation for success. This will ensure continuity of service certainty for all stakeholders.
3. Share comprehensive financial, operational, and governance impact analysis to support evidence-based decision-making.
4. Restore a 50-50 municipal-provincial funding partnership for CAs, reflecting expanded Provincial role in CA operations while ensuring affordability and long-term stability.

All stakeholders, including the development industry, benefit from certainty. This approach minimizes the risk of multiple significant changes occurring at the same time, limits disruption to program delivery, and creates conditions for better outcomes and buy-in.

Ministry McCarthy, we thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and look forward to discussing these concerns with you. Please contact Karen Nesbitt, Director of Policy and Government Relations at AMO ([knesbitt@amo.on.ca](mailto:knesbitt@amo.on.ca)), to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Robin Jones  
AMO President  
Mayor of the Village of Westport



Dave Barton  
Chair, Conservation Ontario  
Vice-Chair, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
Mayor, Township of Uxbridge

cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Sarah Harrison, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

# Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

AMO RESPONSE TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND  
PARKS

**ERO 025-1257**  
**December 22, 2025**

## **About AMO**

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is a non-profit, non-partisan association that represents the interests of all 444 municipal governments across Ontario. AMO addresses common challenges facing our members and provides meaningful advice to the provincial and federal governments on practical solutions on a wide range of issues that directly impact local governments and the citizens they serve. AMO is actively involved in natural resources management and municipal service delivery advocacy because municipal governments play an important role in protecting public and private property and providing cost-effective services to their communities.

## **Executive Summary**

AMO is pleased to provide comments on the proposed regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities (CAs) in response to posting 025-1257 in the Environmental and Regulatory Registry of Ontario.

AMO supports the proposal's intent to reduce duplicative costs that could free up resources for frontline conservation and better align CAs' services with provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

We, however, have concerns that the proposed changes could create service delivery disruption, regulatory and legal uncertainty, and increase administrative costs. Outcomes that would undermine the proposal's objectives of predictable and consistent permitting approvals and timelines, and CAs' capacity to proactively protect people and properties from floods and other natural hazards.

AMO recommends the province consider the following governance, funding, and stakeholder engagement principles as it works towards finalizing its proposal to create a new oversight body, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and consolidating the existing 36 CAs into seven mega regional CAs:

### Governance

1. Maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise, and decision-making in CA consolidation.

### Funding

2. The province funds transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts.
3. The province restores a 50-50 municipal-provincial funding partnership that reflects its increased authority over CA operations, and potentially its fees.

### Stakeholder Engagement

4. The province collaborates on creating an implementation working group which would develop options, and group membership would include AMO, Conservation Ontario, select CAs and municipalities, developers, and Indigenous communities.

## **Conservation Authorities: stewards of orderly development, protectors of people and property values, and providers of recreational and nature-based educational opportunities**

CAs play a vital role in the lives of Ontarians<sup>1</sup>. They ensure orderly land development and protection of people, properties, and property values by directing development and human activity away from natural hazards and floodplains<sup>2</sup>. CAs achieve these outcomes by managing watersheds and other natural resources within their boundaries and are frontline first responders to flooding events. They also provide recreational and nature-based educational opportunities to the communities they serve, which is how many Ontarians first encounter and become aware of CAs.

AMO supports the province's goal to streamline and improve the land development services provided by CAs as it takes concrete action to build more homes and growth enabling infrastructure such as highways. We, however, are concerned that the scale and pace of the proposed changes, undertaken without prior consultation with affected stakeholders including the municipal sector and CAs, risks increasing regulatory burden and costs, and eroding responsive local decision making, including permitting time.

AMO recommends the province consider the following governance, funding, and stakeholder engagement principles as it works towards finalizing its proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the province to advance these recommendations and our shared housing and infrastructure ambitions.

### **Recommendation 1 (Governance): Maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise, and decision-making in CA consolidation.**

#### **Rationale:**

CAs collectively own 150,000 hectares of land and 900 flood and water management assets such as dams<sup>3</sup>. They employ more than 3,900 personnel to manage these assets and run recreational and education programs, services valued at \$390 million annually<sup>4</sup>. The sound management of CAs and their landholdings requires extensive on-the-ground expertise and understanding of the unique environmental conditions within their catchment area. Knowledge that translates into timely development application review and approvals. The provincial standard for application review is 30 days. CAs meet this service level standard 90% to 96% of time, with average processing time of

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<sup>1</sup> An estimated 95% of Ontarians live in a watershed managed by conservation authorities. Source: Conservation Ontario's [Partners for a More Resilient Ontario](#) fact sheet.

<sup>2</sup> The flood protection role that CAs play in protecting properties is becoming increasingly more important as flooding become more frequent and intense due to climate change. According to estimates from the [Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation](#) at the University of Waterloo, 10% of Canada's home market is uninsurable for overland flooding and homes in flood impacted communities have sold for up to 17 per cent less following a flood event.

<sup>3</sup> Conservation Ontario's [Partners for a More Resilient Ontario](#) fact sheet. The flood control and prevention infrastructure are valued at \$3.8 billion.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



seven to nine days<sup>5</sup>. This level of speediness is rooted in the strong relationships and trust that CA employees have developed with key stakeholders, such as municipalities, Indigenous communities, developers, farmers, and property owners.

Local oversight of CAs is also a key contributing factor to timely permitting. Elected municipal officials serve on CA boards where their duties are to provide operational, financial, and strategic oversight of CAs. Municipalities have a vested interest in well managed CAs. They are a key, and in many instances, the largest funder of CAs. In 2023, municipalities provided \$179 million to CAs via transfer payments<sup>6</sup>. These funds accounted for 25% to 68% of CAs' annual operating budgets<sup>7</sup>. Municipalities are keen to grow their property tax base as property taxes are one of the few unrestricted revenue tools they have. It's in their financial interest to ensure watershed, land, and natural resources planning and management proactively protect property values while also supporting new and orderly land development.

AMO supports CA consolidation, but the creation of seven mega regional conservation authorities is at a scale that would undermine and dilute the local accountability, knowledge, and community-based relationships that are the bedrock of responsive and cost-effective permitting approvals<sup>8</sup>. For example, were the proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority enacted, CA employees would service the needs of at least 78 communities, covering a geographic distance greater than 1,400 km, and where there's little shared hydrology, climate, infrastructure needs, or growth pressures.

## **Recommendation 2 (Funding): The province funds transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts.**

### **Rationale:**

Each CA operates as an independent corporation. Even though CAs have shared mandates each CA has discretion of how best to operationalize its mandate. The province's consolidation goals of reduced administrative costs, and standardization of policies, fees, service levels, and technical capabilities cannot happen without harmonization of many parts of a CA's operations. These include:

- IT and data system integration
- wage and union harmonization
- fee and policy alignment
- corporate service model consolidation
- rebranding, signage, and legal transitions.

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<sup>5</sup> Based on data from Lakehead Conservation Authority, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. Permitting delays are often the result of incomplete or missing info that CA staff require to complete their permitting review.

<sup>6</sup> AMO analysis of schedule 40 and 42 of municipal Financial Information Returns. Number of reporting municipalities is 171 (out of 444).

<sup>7</sup> AMO analysis of municipal council resolutions as of December 15, 2025.

<sup>8</sup> For physical-based activities, such as land development approvals, increased distance will lead to diseconomies of scale due to increased transaction costs, such as greater travel time.

- asset and liability assessment<sup>9</sup>.

Given the operational and systems variability across CAs, harmonization costs are anticipated to be significant. The recent merger of public health units is an example of the transition costs inherent to harmonization. All four voluntary mergers were accompanied by millions of dollars in provincial support to maintain service continuity.

To encourage voluntary public health unit mergers the province established a three-year merger transition fund. We recommend the province establish a similar multi-year transition fund for CA consolidation. The fund would cover transition costs and maintain business continuity in program and service delivery while change is underway. For full transparency, we encourage the province to first publish a robust quantitative cost-benefit analysis of the one-time transitional and incremental on-going costs of harmonization that lays out the financial, operational and governance impacts of the proposed changes before it designs the transition funding program.

**Recommendation 3 (Funding): The province restores a 50-50 municipal-provincial funding partnership that reflect its increased authority over CA operations and potential fees.**

**Rationale:**

The principle of “pay for say” needs to be reflected in the implementation of a new provincial oversight agency. Provincial funding of CAs vary but they range from 0.5% to 5%, which is significantly below municipal funding that ranges from 25% to 68% of a CA’s operating budget<sup>10</sup>. We urge the province to restore its 50-50 municipal-provincial funding model that existed in the 1990s to reflect its increased authority over the operations and management of CAs.

**Recommendation 4 (Stakeholder Engagement): The province collaborates on creating an implementation working group that would develop options, and group membership would include AMO, Conservation Ontario, select CAs and municipalities, developers, and Indigenous communities.**

**Rationale:**

All stakeholders, including the development industry, benefit from regulatory certainty. Consolidation introduces additional unknowns at an already uncertain time in the sector, following recent provincial changes to the role of CAs. The implementation of any regional consolidation needs to be delivered in a measured and predictable manner. And sufficient time is required by municipalities and CAs to develop appropriate transition plans that minimize service delivery disruptions and net new fiscal pressures

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<sup>9</sup> Amalgamating landownership will be a complex undertaking. Legal instruments such as land titles, surveys, easement agreements, will need to be reviewed in detail and is anticipated to entail significant legal costs. Future land donations by private citizens could be jeopardized under the proposed CA boundary changes as the larger scale erodes the local connection that motivates gift giving.

<sup>10</sup> AMO analysis of council resolutions

on municipal and CA balance sheets.

Municipalities and CAs, given their respective and unique roles in land development, are best placed to develop solutions that deliver on the province's consolidation objectives. We encourage the province to collaborate on establishing an implementation working group tasked with developing alternative policy options that would deliver on the province's cost savings and modernization objectives while protecting local decision making and municipal fiscal sustainability. The scope of work could include:

- Board governance
- CA boundaries and organizational design
- funding mechanisms, allocations, and reserve structures
- permitting approval standardization
- centralized corporate services
- common service standards
- transition plans, including service continuity, points of contact, permitting continuity measures, board and staff communications.

The proposed work could mirror the approach taken for the voluntary merger of public health units whereby a 12-month collaborative design phase was followed by a three-year implementation period backed by provincial transition funding and support.

As for working group membership, having regional municipal representation will be key to developing solutions that are workable and accepted by different parts of the province. For each proposed regional CA, we encourage the province to select municipalities along the following criteria:

- state of residential, commercial, and industrial growth (no, stable, fast)
- level of urbanization (rural, suburban, urban)
- level of CA funding (less than 25% of CA total operating budget, 25% to 50%, greater than 50%).

## **Conclusion**

Conservation authorities are key actors in the province's land-use planning system. They play a vital role in ensuring orderly land development and protecting new and existing developments from natural hazards including flooding. The province's efforts to increase housing supply and to bring this supply to market more quickly is aided by the timely permitting approvals carried out by CAs. AMO supports the province's goal of reducing duplicative costs in the current CA system. Savings that could free up resources for frontline conservation and better align CAs' services with provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

We, however, have concerns that the proposed legislative changes could create service delivery disruption, regulatory and legal uncertainty, and increase administrative costs. Outcomes contrary to the policy intent of the proposed changes. AMO looks forward to collaborating with the province to help bring municipal stakeholders and perspectives forward as the province finalizes its work on transforming the current CA system.

# LPRCA members oppose provincial changes

*Members of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) are battling against the province's efforts to consolidate.*

Author of the article:

[Jacob Robinson](#)

Published Jan 18, 2026 • Last updated 2 days ago • 3 minute read

[9 Comments](#)



Members of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) are battling against the province's efforts to consolidate.

In November, the Ford government announced a consultation period regarding proposed changes to Ontario's current conservation authority (CA) system. The proposal would see Ontario's 36 authorities reduced to seven regional groups. According to the province's website, the move would "free up resources for front-line service delivery to help protect communities and better align the work of CAs with provincial priorities".

The new system would see Long Point Region Conservation Authority be placed within the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority together with CAs in Essex Region, Lower Thames Valley, St. Clair Region, Upper Thames River, Kettle Creek, Catfish Creek, and Grand River, forming a single organization that stretches from Windsor, through London, to Brantford and north of Waterloo.

The 11 members of the LPRCA are asking the Ministry of Environment to delay the proceedings with little information as to how the merger will work long-term has been made available. A delegation of Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Bobbi Ann Brady and LPRCA Chair Doug Brunton, as well as members Tillsonburg Deputy Mayor David Beres, Brant County Councillor Robert

Chambers, Bayham Mayor Ed Ketchabaw, Norwich Township Mayor Jim Palmer, and Haldimand Mayor Shelley Ann Bentley and Haldimand Councillor Debera McKeen are slated to travel to Toronto later this month.

Beres, past chair of the LPRCA, tabled a motion for letters representing Tillsonburg council be sent to provincial officials opposing the changes. The motion noted that the proposal has come forward “without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, and donor lands”. It also encourages the province to “work collaboratively with municipalities and conservation authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance framework.”

“(We’re) asking the ministry to step back and take a different look at what could work better,” Beres told Tillsonburg council.

“Our area, for example, would include Lake St. Clair, and we (at the LPRCA) have nothing to do with the watershed of Lake St. Clair.”

The LPRCA region has more than 100,000 residents, 225 kilometres of Lake Erie shoreline, six sub-watersheds, 11,000 acres of land, 12 water control structures (dams, drainage systems etc.), five campgrounds, 90 forest tracks, the Lee Brown Marsh, and Backus Mill. It stretches into portions of Haldimand County, Norfolk, Oxford, Brant, and Elgin.

“We have a lot of issues that we’re concerned about,” said Brunton.

“There are a lot of unanswered questions.”

Among them, as Beres noted, the LPRCA has received “very generous parcels of land” and “chunks of money” from donors, and the proposed changes leave little direction as to how that land and money will be allocated.

“What’s going to happen to those places?” Beres asked. “People have given in good faith. Philanthropists leave a lot – it’s no secret there’s four million (dollars in LPRCA reserves), what’s going to happen to that money? If it goes to a larger agency, are they going to build a park in Waterloo with the dollars that were left for our local area?”

“The province is supposed to appoint the people that are going to look after (the consultation regions) from what we understand, but we don’t know all the details about how it’s going to work,” Brunton added. “What would they know about all our parts and Backus Mill and all these things in our area?”

The motivation for the move, Brunton surmised, was the ability for CAs to issue permits in a timely fashion.

“We’ve never had a problem issuing permits in a timely fashion,” he said. “Sometimes you don’t issue them because they’re not correct to do so.”

Brunton forecasted that without opposition, the changes could go into effect as early as this fall.

“I think they’d like to see it wrapped up by the end of this year with the election coming,” he added.

“There’s opposition from all the conservation authorities. They (CAs) want it slowed down. They need more details.”



MUNICIPALITY OF

# North Perth

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A Community of Character

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Toll Free: 888-714-1993

January 22, 2025

Various Conservation Authorities in Ontario

To Whom it May Concern,

**Re: Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities in Ontario**

On behalf of the Council of The Municipality of North Perth, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to your organization for the work you have undertaken in responding to the Province regarding the proposed reorganization of Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Council recognizes and values the time, expertise and leadership demonstrated in your submissions and advocacy efforts. We are particularly grateful for your commitment to collaboration and for ensuring the municipal perspectives and local impacts were thoughtfully conveyed. Your efforts have contributed meaningfully to a broader understanding of the potential implications of the proposed changes and have reinforced the critical role Conservation Authorities play in serving the public interest.

Please accept Council's thanks for your continued dedication and professionalism. We look forward to working ongoing collaboration as we collectively work to protect Ontario's natural and built environments.

Sincerely,

Todd Kasenburg  
Mayor, Municipality of North Perth



January 19, 2026

TO: Township of Machar  
73 Municipal Road N. , PO Box 70,  
South River, ON P0A 1X0  
Via email: [infomachar@vianet.ca](mailto:infomachar@vianet.ca)

AND TO: Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
315 King Street West, P.O. Box 640  
Chatham, ON N7M 5KB  
Att: Maggie Downey  
Via email: [maggied@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:maggied@chatham-kent.ca)

AND TO: Township of Amaranth  
374028 6<sup>th</sup> Line,  
Amaranth ON, L9W 0M6  
Att: Holly Boardman, Deputy Clerk  
Via email: [hborardman@amaranth.ca](mailto:hborardman@amaranth.ca)

AND TO: Kawartha Conservation  
277 Kenrei Road,  
Lindsay, ON K9V 4R1  
Att: Pat Warren/Melanie Dolamore  
Via email:  
[mdolamore@kawarthaconservation.com](mailto:mdolamore@kawarthaconservation.com)

AND TO: Ganaraska Region Conservation  
Authority  
2216 County Road 28  
Port Hope, ON L1A 3V8  
Via Email: [infrom@grca.on.ca](mailto:infrom@grca.on.ca)

AND TO: The Corporation of the Township of  
Hamilton  
8285 Majestic Hills Drive  
P.O. Box 1060, Coburg, ON K9A 4W5  
Via Email: [info@hamiltontownship.ca](mailto:info@hamiltontownship.ca)

AND TO: The Corporation of the Township of  
Drummond/North Elmsley  
310 Port Elmsley Road,  
Perth, ON K7H 3C7  
Att: Lindsay Raftis, Interim Deputy Clerk  
Via Email: [lraftis@northperth.ca](mailto:lraftis@northperth.ca)

AND TO: The Town of The Blue Mountains  
32 Mill Street, Box 310  
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0  
Via Email: [mayor@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:mayor@thebluemountains.ca)

AND TO: The Township of Scugog  
181 Perry Street, PO Box 780  
Port Perry, ON L9L 1A7  
Via Email: [clerks@scugogo.ca](mailto:clerks@scugogo.ca)

AND TO: The Corporation of the Municipality of  
South Huron  
322 Main Street South, P.O. Box 759  
Exeter, Ontario N0M 1S6  
Via Email: [kwebster@southhuron.ca](mailto:kwebster@southhuron.ca)

AND TO: Long Point Region Conservation  
Authority  
4 Elm Street,  
Tillsonburg, ON N4G 0C4  
Via Email: [conversation@lprca.on.ca](mailto:conversation@lprca.on.ca)

AND TO: The Township of Southwold  
35663 Fingal Line,  
Fingal, ON N0L 1K0  
Via Email: [deputyclerk@southwold.ca](mailto:deputyclerk@southwold.ca)

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

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**RE: Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities – Bill 68**

During regular council meeting held on January 12, 2026, resolutions were circulated from Ontario Municipalities regarding Conservation Authorities Boundaries, and were brought forward for discussion and consideration with the following resolution passed:

*MOVED: Liz Wlesh      Seconded: Chad Hyatt*

*THAT council acknowledges receipt of the motion to each municipality;  
AND THAT Petrolia Town Council extend our support.*

C-6-01/12/2026

CARRIED

Kind regards,

*Original Signed*

Mandi Pearson  
Director of Legislative Services | Deputy Operations | Clerk

cc:      file

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

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Luke Edwards

*Grant Haven Media*

### ***Norfolk County endorses plan to repair historic dam***

An environmental assessment presented four ways to deal with an aging but historically important dam in northwest Norfolk, but based on the calls councillors received, there was really only one choice.

Fortunately for Teeterville residents, their desires have lined up with the results of a consultant review on the Teeterville dam. Councillors supported a plan to repair the dam, a roughly 100-year-old structure that no longer meets structural safety standards. There are still several steps to go through to get ultimate approval, but should that happen Scott Robertson, senior water resources engineer for Montrose Environmental, said implementation could happen in 2027.

"I know when we had the public meetings I think I got a call from every member of the Teeterville Legion, I think I got a call from every member of the Teeterville Fire Department, and probably half the residents of Teeterville," said Coun. Chris Van Paassen.

"And repairing the dam is the only option."

Coun. Michael Columbus agreed.

"It is the focal point for Teeterville," he said.

There has been a dam at the site since the early 1830s, Robertson's presentation said. The existing dam was likely built around 1915 and was originally used for timber transport. It's now owned and maintained by the Long Point Region Conservation Authority.

While the 2016 review found the dam did not meet provincial or federal safety standards, Robertson called it a low hazard risk dam. Montrose was contracted to complete a class environmental assessment.

"If it were to completely fail there wouldn't be a risk to life or property downstream but there would be an environmental risk with the sediment that's accumulated within the reservoir flushing downstream and into good trout habitat," he said.

There were also cultural and emergency considerations, such as the recreational opportunities that exist in the area, and the fact the Teeterville fire station uses the reservoir as a source of emergency water. The reservoir is also an important wildlife habitat.

Other options presented included replacing the dam, or removing the dam and either reinstating the watercourse or reinstating the watercourse and creating a pond or wetland.

Of the four options, repairing the dam and removing the dam and reinstating the watercourse had similar capital costs in the \$1.7 million to \$1.9 million range. Replacing the dam or removing the dam and installing ponds/wetlands would both have capital costs of over \$3 million. When including operating and maintenance costs, three of the four options had an estimate of near \$4 million. Only removing the dam and reinstating the watercourse came with significant overall savings, with a total estimate of \$1.9 million.

However, in addition to the price tag, the options all came with impacts to the nearby wildlife, as well as the fire station's ability to draw water. Additionally, public information sessions saw a community overwhelmingly in support repairing the dam.

All that led to the consultants recommending the dam be repaired.

"It basically involves adding a lot of mass to the existing structure," Robertson said. A new concrete mass will be installed along the downstream spillway to provide a more controlled flow and reduce erosion.

"But it adds a lot of weight to the dam and basically stabilizes it in place," he said.

Responding to a question from Coun. Doug Brunton, Robertson also said they could look at including a sluice gate at the spillway level to give flexibility to open the dam and drain the lake or flush out sediment.



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

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January 27, 2026

Long Point Region Conservation Authority  
4 Elm Street  
Tillsonburg, ON  
N4G 0C4  
Sent by email: [conservation@lprca.on.ca](mailto:conservation@lprca.on.ca)

**Re: Bill 68 Schedule 3 and LPRCA Resolution Re: ERO No. 025-1257**

At its regular meeting of Council held on January 21, 2026, the Township of Amaranth Council wished to send a letter of support to the Long Point Region Conservation Authority regarding their resolution on Bill 68 Schedule 3 and ERO No. 025-1257.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information on this matter.

Yours truly,

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.  
CAO/Clerk

Windsor

## Caldwell First Nation not consulted in conservation authority amalgamation, chief says

The province will consolidate 36 conservation authorities to 7 by the end of the year

CBC News · Posted: Jan 26, 2026 6:28 PM EST | Last Updated: January 26



Listen to this article ⓘ

Estimated 4 minutes



The province is aiming to consolidate 36 conservation authorities to seven by the end of this year. (Acton Clarkin/CBC)

A local First Nation is pushing back on the province's plan to drastically consolidate Ontario's conservation authorities.

Caldwell First Nation says it was never consulted on the plan — and says it needs to be paused.

Ontario unveiled a plan last year, included in Bill 68, to consolidate 36 conservation authorities down to just seven covering Ontario.

Much of southwestern Ontario, including all of Windsor-Essex, Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent, would be contained in one conservation authority: the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority.

Caldwell First Nation Chief Nikki van Oirschot says Caldwell was not consulted.

"We're not opposed to improving co-ordination or consistency, if it's going to improve efficiencies," she said. "But the proposal in this legislation, it goes too far, too fast."

***WATCH | Caldwell First Nation says it wasn't consulted on conservation amalgamation:***



**Caldwell First Nation says it wasn't consulted on conservation amalgamation**

► January 26 | 3:16

The chief of Caldwell First Nation is speaking out over Ontario's plan to amalgamate its conservation authorities from 36 down to seven. CBC's Acton Clarkin reports.

Conservation authorities act as watchdogs for sensitive environmental areas. They have a number of functions — everything from public outreach and education, to reviewing building permits for their environmental impact and doing flood assessments.

Each conservation authority has a local board of directors, composed of community members and elected officials.

According to Conservation Ontario, the umbrella organization for the groups, municipal funding typically makes up a bit more than half of funding for a conservation authority, followed by self-generated money, and provincial and federal grants, which could make up about 12 per cent of funding.

The province says the move to amalgamate will improve consistency, makes conservation teams more effective and lead to fewer permitting delays.

- [Caldwell First Nation gets land back and reserve status](#)
- [Caldwell First Nation, Canadian government to upgrade Hillman Marsh dike with \\$15M](#)

Environment Minister Todd McCarthy said conservation authorities currently have "fragmented and outdated data systems and a patchwork of standards and service delivery," when he announced the change in October.

Van Oirschot says the province has a duty to consult First Nations. For that reason, the amalgamation needs to put on pause.

"Anything that impacts First Nations, we're supposed to be consulted on by the province or the feds, and that didn't occur here," she said.

"We're not saying reverse it, necessarily. Let us have our say ... This impacts us heavily and greatly. We have a substantial amount of land in the territory, and we've just been completely looked over for this and that is concerning."



Van Oirschot worries that the unique features of the region — shoreline erosion, flooding risks and unique, fragile habitats — will be overlooked in a massive conservation authority.

"Our lands and waters aren't interchangeable," she said.

- [Caldwell First Nation elder says fishing here is a 'dream come true'](#)
- [Caldwell First Nation looks to partner with Parks Canada on new Ojibway National Urban Park](#)

That's a concern Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) CEO Tim Byrne shares.

Byrne says the province pays a small portion of what ERCA receives and that "those who pay should be able to play."

"We hold properties in every one of our member municipalities. We offer programming every one of our member municipalities," he said.

"They need to be fully engaged with the province to say where we go, what we look at, how we perform."



Tim Byrne is the chief administrative officer (CAO) of the Essex Region Conservation Authority. (Acton Clarkin/CBC)

When the Environmental Registry of Ontario sought comments on the proposed boundaries of a new conservation authority, Caldwell and ERCA both made submissions.

The comment period closed in late December.

Responding to Caldwell's concern that the First Nation hadn't been engaged, Windsor-Tecumseh MPP Andrew Dowie said feedback was directly sought from stakeholders, and the Environmental Registry of Ontario process was open to all.

"And really, that feedback is essential to getting it right," he said, adding that it is now being looked at to help determine next steps.

Dowie says the province does not intend to cut jobs under the amalgamated model, though Byrne was skeptical.

"We need all hands on deck," Dowie said. "We need the experience and the resourcing to develop our permit system and improve it. So losing knowledge would be contrary to the overall goals of this, which is about delivering better and more responsive services to Ontarians."

Dowie said that while it's too soon to say when the change will happen, the province is aiming to have it in place by the end of the year, in time for the next term of municipal councillors after local elections in October.



# TOWNSHIP OF RUSSELL

## CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**Date:** January 26, 2026 **Item(s) no.:** 15 (a)

**Subject:** Notice of Motion – Mayor Mike Tarnowski  
Proposed Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and ERO  
#025-1257

**Moved by:** Mike Tarnowski

**Seconded by:** Marc Lalonde

Whereas the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers; and

Whereas the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs; and

Whereas municipalities within the SNC jurisdiction currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years; and

Whereas SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements; and

Whereas on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring; and

Whereas Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management; and

Whereas municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern, including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, as well as the United Counties of Prescott Russell that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the French Language Services Act; and

Whereas Conservation Authorities—including SNC—already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures; and

Whereas municipalities rely on SNC's field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge—services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure; now therefor be it resolved

That the Council of the Township of Russell urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars; and further

That the Council of the Township of Russell does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation

of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations; and further

That the Council of the Township of Russell encourages the province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, local MPPs and MPs, all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Conservation Ontario and all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

### **MOTION APPROVED**

I, Joanne Camiré Laflamme, Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Russell, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the resolution adopted by the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Russell on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.



---

Joanne Camiré Laflamme  
Clerk



## LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

**Date:** February 4, 2026

**File:** 3.3.1

**To:** Chair and Members,  
LPRCA Board of Directors

**From:** General Manager, LPRCA

**Re:** **Section 28 Regulation Approved Permits**  
Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits (O. Reg. 41/24)

---

### **Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the staff approved Section 28 Regulation Approved Permits report as information.**

### **Links to Strategic Plan:**

Strategic Direction # 1 – Protect People and Property from Flooding and Natural Hazards  
Strategic Direction # 2 – Deliver Exceptional Services and Experiences  
Strategic Direction # 4 – Organizational Excellence

### **Background:**

#### **Application# LPRCA-2/26**

Plan 21074, Lot 4, 755 South Coast Drive, Haldimand County - Walpole

- The proposed work – to construct a 33.5m<sup>2</sup> (360.6ft<sup>2</sup>) car port adjacent to the existing dwelling.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of the application,
- There is no feasible alternative site located outside of the Lake Erie shoreline erosion hazard,
- The proposed structure is adequately setback from the stable top of slope,
- Maintenance access to the shoreline will not be prevented by the development,
- Susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie erosion hazard and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of erosion.

#### **Application# LPRCA-3/26**

Concession 4, Lot 20 & 21, Roadside R.O.W., Water Street & Rebecca Street, Norfolk County - Charlotteville

- The proposed work – to install 323.3m (1,060.7ft) of plastic gas main via horizontal directional drill to replace an existing steel gas main which will be abandoned.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction details was submitted in support of the application,
- A satisfactory erosion and sediment control plan was submitted with the application,
- The application is within the riverine flooding hazard allowance and the risk of creating new flooding hazards or aggravating existing hazards as a result of the development is negligible,
- The application is within areas adjacent to a provincially significant wetland and the proposed work will not negatively impact the hydrological function of the wetland, and
- The application is within the riverine flooding hazard allowance and the control of flooding will not be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

#### **Application# LPRCA-4/26**

Plan 343, Lot 9, 2046 Main Street North, Haldimand County – Jarvis

- The proposed work – to replace the existing 195m<sup>2</sup> (2,100 ft<sup>2</sup>) garage with a 100m<sup>2</sup> (1,080 ft<sup>2</sup>) garage.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The structure has an enclosed floor area of 100m<sup>2</sup>,
- There is no opportunity for the structure to be converted into habitable space in the future, and
- The application is within the riverine flood hazard and this proposal should not negatively affect the control of flooding.

#### **Application# LPRCA-5/26**

Concession 1, Block A, 5 Elizabeth Street, Elgin County – Bayham

- The proposed work – to recognize the construction of a 57 m<sup>2</sup> (620 ft<sup>2</sup>) deck.
- Satisfactory construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- There is no feasible alternative site outside the Lake Erie Shoreline Erosion Hazard,
- The existing structure is setback from the top of stable slope and located in the area of least risk,
- Maintenance access is provided to and along the shoreline,
- Susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie Erosion hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of erosion.

#### **Application# LPRCA-6/26**

Concession 1, Lot 20, 1224 Plowman's Line, Norfolk County – Middleton

- The proposed work – to replace the existing dwelling with a dwelling with 223m<sup>2</sup> (2,405 ft<sup>2</sup>) of habitable floor area and a 67m<sup>2</sup> (726 ft<sup>2</sup>) detached garage.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of the application,
- The replacement garage is less than 100 m<sup>2</sup> and is located no closer to the

- watercourse than the existing garage,
- No basement or crawl space proposed and the dwelling will be supported by a slab-on-grade foundation,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The replacement dwelling is within the riverine flood hazard allowance and the garage is within the riverine flood hazard. The proposal should not negatively affect the control of flooding.

#### **Application# LPRCA-11/26**

Concession 8, Lot 11, Municipal R.O.W., Main Street West (Otterville), Oxford County – Township of Norwich

- The proposed work – to abandon 75m (246ft) of an existing gas main and install 115m (377ft) of new gas main in a new location requiring crossing under a watercourse via horizontal directional drill,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction details was submitted in support of the application,
- A satisfactory erosion and sediment control plan was submitted with the application,
- The application is within the riverine flooding and erosion hazards and the risk of creating new hazards or aggravating existing hazards as a result of the development is negligible,
- The application crosses under Big Otter Creek and the watercourse should not be negatively impacted by the proposed work, and
- The application is within the riverine flooding and erosion hazards and the control of flooding and erosion will not be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

#### **Application# LPRCA-12/26**

Plan 429, Lot 78, 11 Pickerel Road, Norfolk County – Long Point

- The proposed work – to construct a boat lift and an 89 m<sup>2</sup> (960 ft<sup>2</sup>) second-storey storage building over the existing boat slip.
- A satisfactory site plan and engineered construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The structure has an enclosed floor area of less than 100m<sup>2</sup>,
- There is no opportunity for the structure to be converted into habitable space in the future,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created,
- There is no feasible alternative site outside the Lake Erie Shoreline Flooding or Erosion Hazard, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding.

#### **Financial Implication:**

N/A

**Prepared by:**

*Isabel Johnson*

Isabel Johnson  
Resource Planner

**Prepared by:**

*Braedan Ristine*

Braedan Ristine  
Resource Planner

**Reviewed by:**

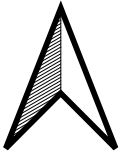
*Leigh-Anne Mauthe*

Leigh-Anne Mauthe, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Watershed Services

**Approved and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager

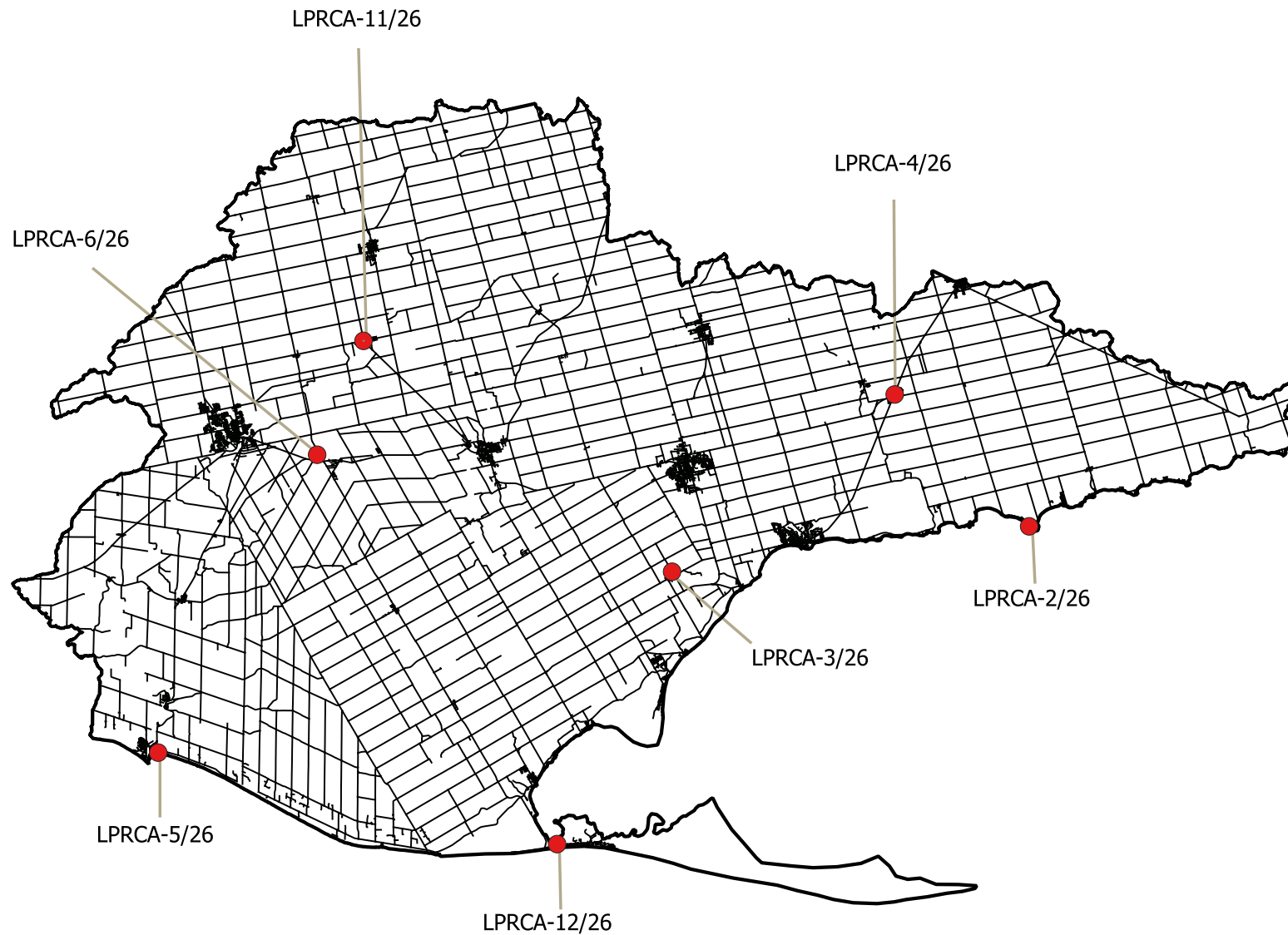


LONG POINT REGION  
CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITY

Approved Applications  
O. Reg. 41/24

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## LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

**Date:** January 26, 2025 **File:** 1.2.10.3.1

**To:** Chair and Members  
LPRCA Board of Directors

**From:** General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, LPRCA

**Re:** **2025 Permit Application Turnaround Times and Compliance with Ontario Regulation 41/24**

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### **Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the 2025 Permit Application Turnaround Times Report as information.**

### **Strategic Direction:**

Strategic Direction #1 - Protect people and property from flooding and natural hazards.  
Strategic Direction #2 - Deliver exceptional services and experiences.  
Strategic Direction #3 - Support and empower our people  
Strategic Direction #4 - Organizational excellence

### **Purpose:**

The information contained in this report outlines the permit application turnaround times for permits issued under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 2025 and LPRCA's compliance with Ontario Regulation 41/24.

### **Background:**

The LPRCA Planning and Regulations program issues permissions (permits) under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Section 28 allows the Conservation Authority to regulate development and activities in or adjacent to river or stream valleys, shorelines of the Great-Lakes St. Lawrence River system and inland lakes, watercourses, unstable soils, wetlands, and other areas around wetlands. Development activities taking place on these lands may require permission from LPRCA to confirm that the activity is not likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, unstable soils or bedrock.

LPRCA also regulates the straightening, changing, diverting or interfering in any way with the existing channel or a river, creek, stream, and watercourse or for changing or interfering in any way with a wetland.



## Service Standards for Permit Applications

In 2020, service standards for Section 28 permit applications were specified by the Ministry of Natural Resources in the Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities. In 2015, the LPRCA Technical and Planning Services staff set service objectives timelines.

In April 2019, the Conservation Ontario Council endorsed the Client Service and Streamlining Initiative, a commitment among conservation authorities to improve plan review and permitting, to respond to provincial government concerns related to delays in development approvals. The commitment includes shortened turnaround times for permitting shown below in Table 1.

The Conservation Ontario Client Services and Streamlining Initiative is mandatory for high-growth Conservation Authorities. LPRCA has not been designated a high-growth Conservation Authority, however, LPRCA has volunteered to participate in the initiative and work towards achieving the goals set. All 36 Conservation Authorities are participating in the initiative.

On April 1, 2024, Ontario Regulation 41/24 came into effect which has prescribed that all Conservation Authorities are to provide notice of an incomplete or complete application within 21 days of receiving the application and that all permit applications can be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal if no decision by the Authority is made within 90 days of the Authority deeming the application complete.

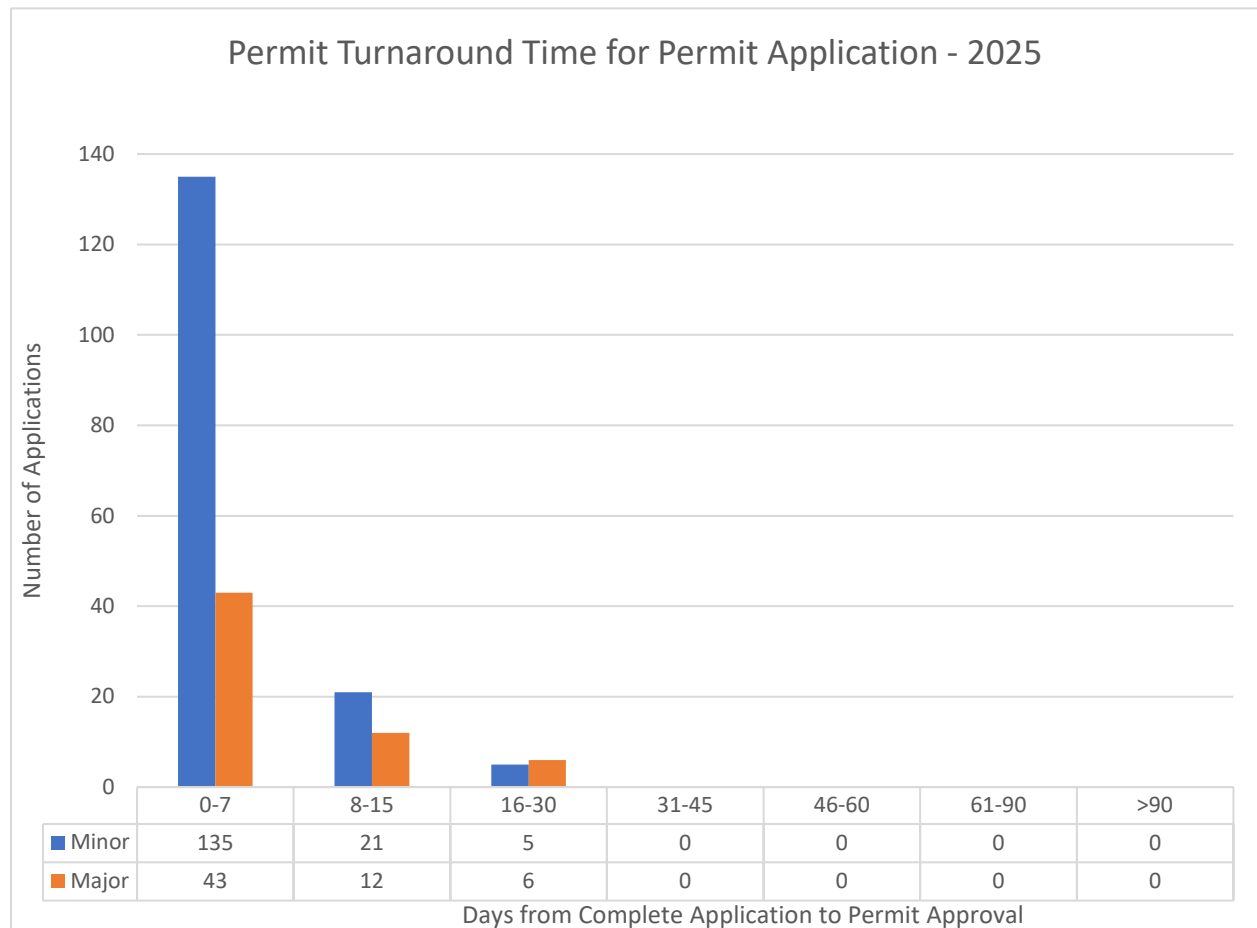
**Table 1. Service Standards for Permitting**

<b>Application Process Step</b>	<b>MNRF Policies and Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities (2010)</b>	<b>LPRCA Technical and Planning Services service objectives (2015)</b>	<b>CO Client Service and Streamlining Initiative (2019)</b>	<b>Ontario Regulation 41/24</b>
<b>Notification whether application is deemed complete – Minor application</b>	<b>21 days</b> after application received	<b>15 days</b> after application received	<b>14 days</b> after application received	<b>21 days</b> after application received
<b>Notification whether application is deemed complete – Major application</b>			<b>21 days</b> after application received	<b>21 days</b> after application received
<b>Decision (recommendation to approve or refer to a hearing) – Minor application</b>	<b>30 days</b> after complete application received	<b>30 days</b> after complete application received	<b>21 days</b> after complete application received	<b>90 days</b> after complete application received
<b>Decision (recommendation to approve or refer to a Hearing) – Major application</b>	<b>90 days</b> after complete application received	<b>30 days</b> after complete application received	<b>28 days</b> after complete application received	<b>90 days</b> after complete application received

## **Analysis:**

### **Service Standards Actuals for 2025 Permit Applications**

The chart below (Figure 1) outlines the turnaround time achieved on permit applications in 2025. The chart shows the number of days from the date of a complete application to a staff decision.



**Figure 1. Permit Application Turnaround Times for 2025**

84% of Minor applications received permits within 7 days, 97% received permits within 15 days and 100% within 30 days.

70% of Major applications received permits within 7 days, 90% received permits within 15 days, and 100% within 30 days.

For 2025, LPRCA issued 222 permits; the average permit turnaround time for minor applications was 4.7 days, and for major applications was 5.6 days.

Turnaround times throughout the years:

	Minor (days)	Major (days)	Total Number of Permits
2025	4.7	5.6	222
2024	5.2	8.3	198
2023	3.0	3.7	245
2022	4.2	4.9	278
2021	10.7	21.3	272

**Compliance with Ontario Regulation 41/24**

LPRCA is required to report annually on its compliance with Ontario Regulation 41/24, which includes permit timelines, notification of complete applications, public availability of regulation mapping and annual review of the mapping and the completion of administrative reviews.

1. Notification of Complete Applications
  - a. All permits except for one were issued within 21 days of receiving a complete application. Notice of a complete application was provided for the one permit within the prescribed timeline.
2. Public Availability of Regulation Mapping and Annual Review
  - a. The regulation mapping is publicly available and a comprehensive update was completed and approved by the Board of Directors in December of 2025
3. Completion of Administrative Reviews
  - a. Three administrative reviews were completed in 2025, and all were completed within the prescribed timeline of 30 days.

**Financial Implications:**

N/A

**Prepared by:**

*Leigh-Anne Mauthe*

**Leigh-Anne Mauthe, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Watershed Services**

**Approved and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager**



## LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

**Date:** January 30, 2026

**File:** 1.1.2

**To:** Chair and Members, LPRCA Board of Directors

**From:** General Manager, LPRCA

**Re:** General Manager's Report – January 2026

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### **Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the General Manager's Report for January 2026 as information.**

### **Strategic Direction:**

Strategic Direction #1 – Protect People and Property from Flooding and Natural Hazards

Strategic Direction #2 – Deliver Exceptional Services and Experiences

Strategic Direction #3 – Support and Empower Our People

Strategic Direction #4 – Organizational Excellence

### **Background**

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, the Chair and I attended a virtual Lake Erie Source Region Management Committee meeting.

On December 28, 2025, staff issued a Water Condition Statement – Riverine & Shoreline Flood Outlook as there was a large rain event and strong southwest winds forecasted. The watershed did not receive the forecasted rain and there was no riverine flooding, however the southwest winds exceeded the forecast and as a result staff issued a Lake Erie Shoreline Flood Watch on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Lake levels at Port Colborne reached a stage 1 in Haldimand. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, staff issued a Watershed Conditions Statement- Water Safety for the entire watershed due to the forecasted precipitation. The stream levels did elevate making for unsafe conditions.

Staff issued 7 permit applications as of January 27<sup>th</sup> compared to 13 permit applications for the same time period in 2025. Staff also reviewed and provided comments to municipal staff on four *Planning Act* applications.

Our online camping reservations open on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The application and handbook have been updated for seasonal campers and will also be sent out the same day.

Seasonal job postings were prepared and were advertised starting on January 14<sup>th</sup>. A Canada Summer Jobs funding application was completed for seven seasonal positions within the campgrounds. Young Canada Works funding applications were completed for two seasonal Heritage Interpreters.

Site visits are being conducted with landowners for the 2026 spring tree planting program. The 2026 tree planting program target is 40,000 trees to be planted in the watershed. There is OPG

funding and Forests Canada funding to help offset the cost to landowners.

Forest tracts have been identified for ecological surveys to be completed in 2026 and a request for quote has been sent out. Forestry staff is currently monitoring one logging operation.

The Flood Hazard Identification & Mapping Program (FHIMP) funded project for the Flood Hydrology Study Update was completed and the final reporting was submitted.

Insurance renewal documents were received, completed and returned to the broker, Marsh, for the April 1<sup>st</sup> renewal. LPRCA participates in the group insurance coordinated by Conservation Ontario for the majority of conservation authorities.

The external auditors from MNP were on site the week of January 26<sup>th</sup> to complete field work for the year-end audit.

All staff are working hard to deliver our programs and services to the residents of the watershed.

**Prepared and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager**



## LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

**Date:** January 28, 2026

**File:** 1.6

**To:** Chair and Members  
LPRCA Board of Directors

**From:** General Manager, LPRCA

**Re:** Service Recognition Program

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### **Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the Service Recognition Program Report as information.**

### **Strategic Direction:**

Strategic Direction #3 – Support and Empower Our People

### **Background:**

LPRCA directors and staff are recognized for years of service starting at five years and every five years thereafter. In each case, the individual must have completed a specific milestone year during the year prior to the Annual General Meeting.

At the 2026 AGM to be held on March 6<sup>th</sup>, the following individuals will be recognized for their years of service:

#### **10-Year Service Award**

Leigh-Anne Mauthe, Manager of Watershed Services  
Sarah Dancey, Park Supervisor

#### **15-Year Service Award**

Dave Beres, Board of Director  
Michael Columbus, Board of Director

### **Financial Implications:**

The Service Recognition Program within the Personnel Policy is the guide for the service awards given. Costs are covered within the 2026 operating budget.

**Prepared and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager**