



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, July 8, 2026 @ 6:30pm
Tillsonburg Administration Office

AGENDA

Agenda Page

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Additional Agenda Items
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:
 - a) Board of Directors Meeting – June 3, 2026 1-5
6. Business Arising from the previous minutes: None
7. Review of Committee Minutes:
 - a) Audit and Finance Committee Meeting – June 12, 2026 6-9
8. Correspondence:
 - a) SWOX – Resolution of modernizing Ontario's Invasive Plants rules 10-15
 - b) Norfolk Today – "New Eastern Lake Erie Authority" 16-17
 - c) Kitchener City News – "Conservation Authorities Commit to Transparency" 18-19
 - d) Brantford Expositor – "Conservation Authorities Prepare for Amalgamation" 20-21
 - e) Grant Haven – "New Exhibit Highlights History of Decoy Making" 22-23
9. Planning Department:
 - a) Section 28 Regulations Approved Permits (L. Mauthe) 24-30
10. New Business:
 - a) General Manager's Report (J. Maxwell) 31-44
 - b) Community Engagement Report (J. King) 45-48
 - c) Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Number 026-0451 (L. Mauthe) 49-53
 - d) Externally Restricted Reserves/ Endowment Report (A. LeDuc) 54-56
 - e) Minister's Direction – Budget Apportionment & Budget meeting (A. LeDuc) 57-66
 - f) Watershed Conditions Update (S. Rahman) 67-70
 - g) Deer Creek Dam Safety Boom RFP (S. Rahman) to follow
11. Closed Session

Next Meeting: Board of Directors, September 2, 2026, 6:30pm

Adjournment



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2026

Members in attendance:

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

Norfolk County
Norfolk 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:

Shelley Ann Bentley

Haldimand County

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
Paul Gagnon, Lands & Waters Supervisor
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, June 3, 2026.

2. Additional Agenda Items

None

3. Approval of the Agenda

A-76/26

Moved by J. Palmer

Seconded by D. Beres

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the agenda 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

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a) Board of Directors Meeting of May 6, 2026

A-77/26

Moved by T. Masschaele

Seconded by D. McKeen

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Board of Directors Meeting held May 6, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

7. Review of Committee Minutes

None

8. Correspondence

None

9. Development Applications

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

Leigh-Anne Mauthe presented the report.

There were no questions.

A-78/26

Moved by P. Ypma

Seconded by M. Columbus

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the staff approved Section 28 Regulation Approved Permits report dated June 3, 2026 as information.

Carried

10. New Business

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

Judy Maxwell presented the report, discussing the meeting held with Ernst & Young earlier in

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 day on June 3rd and the meeting with other General Managers and the Chief Conservation Executive Office. The meeting with Ernst & Young allowed for LPRCA staff to highlight the risks and concerns for transition that LPRCA has, along with highlighting the uniqueness of the region and history of the organization. The meeting with the Chief Conservation Executive Office gave a few more projected timelines. Specifically, mid-July is when the Project Executives should be hired and the transition committees to formally start, as well as a timeline for the Minister's Direction in regards to the 2027 Budget process.

Mike Columbus asked staff about a Watershed Tour hosted by LPRCA for the Board in the 2026 year as this will be the last one. Judy Maxwell informed the Board that there was nothing planned. Staff can look into potential dates that will not interfere with other pressing business matters, but this may not be feasible depending on the upcoming Minister's Directions and timelines.

Jim Palmer asked staff is the new location of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is close to other previously infected sites. Judy Maxwell informed the Board that the newly found infected locations are close to other blocks of discovered HWA. HWA is spreading quickly and LPRCA is targeting locations with spray when able, which has shown to have some improvement. Paul Gagnon added that the newly discovered locations in Bayham is of concern as Bayham has a large population of Hemlock trees that their loss could have an ecological impact on the cold-water streams.

Jim Palmer asked how the spray was done. Judy Maxwell informed the Board that the spray was done via back-pack sprayers by staff. The chemical is a basal spray and works its way through the bark of the tree.

Dave Beres asked staff if any LPRCA services have been limited or suspended during this transition period. Judy Maxwell informed the Board that everything at LPRCA is business as usual and that the goal of the Province is no service interruptions.

A-79/26

Moved by D. McKeen
Seconded by J. Palmer

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

Carried

b) 2026 Christmas Operating Schedule (A. LeDuc)

Aaron LeDuc presented the report.

There were no questions.

A-80/26

Moved by M. Columbus
Seconded by T. Masschaele

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors closes operations from December 25, 2026 to January 1,

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

2027 (except for emergency response);

AND,

THAT staff working be granted one complimentary day off with pay;

AND,

THAT staff are required to utilize two (2) vacation days during the period or take unpaid leave.

Carried

c) Regulations and Provincial Offences Officer Appointment (L. Mauthe)

Leigh-Anne Mauthe presented the report.

There were no questions.

A-81/26

Moved by D. Beres

Seconded by P. Ypma

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors appoint Braedan Ristine, Resource Planner as an LPRCA Regulations Officer and Provincial Offences Officer for the purpose of compliance and enforcement of any regulation made under Section 28 and 29, as per subsection 30.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and the *Trespass to Property Act*.

Carried

d) 2026 Tree Planting and Extensions Services (P. Gagnon)

Paul Gagnon presented the report, and noted one correction on the second page from eight erosion control projects to seven.

Jim Palmer asked staff where the most planted cover crop acres were located. Paul Gagnon informed the Board that most of the cover crops were planted in Norfolk County.

Mike Columbus asked staff about the cutbacks in tree planting programs and the reduction in the number of trees planted by LPRCA this year. Paul Gagnon informed the Board that the Federal government did not add to any contracts, but was honouring the ones already signed, which for Forest Canada goes until 2031. There were other factors which contributed to less trees being planted in the region.

A-82/26

Moved by E. Ketchabaw

Seconded by P. Ypma

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the Tree Planting Program & Extension Services update as information.

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

11. Closed Meeting

No closed meeting.

Next meeting: July 8, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Doug Brunton
Chair

Judy Maxwell
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

DRAFT

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

**LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Audit and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
of June 12, 2026**

Members in attendance:

Doug Brunton
Robert Chambers
Ed Ketchabaw
Chris Van Paassen

Staff in attendance:

Judy Maxwell, General Manager
Aaron LeDuc, Manager of Corporate Services
Nicole Sullivan, HR Coordinator/Executive Assistant

Guests:

Michael Ayres, CIBC, Private Wealth Management

Regrets:

Dave Beres, Chair

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

AUD-10/26

Moved by C. Van Paassen
Seconded by E. Ketchabaw

THAT the LPRCA Audit and Finance Committee member Doug Brunton sits as chair.

Carried

2. Additional Agenda Items

There were no additional agenda items.

3. Approval of the Agenda

AUD-11/26

Moved by R. Chambers
Seconded by C. Van Paassen

THAT the LPRCA Audit and Finance Committee approves the agenda as circulated.

Carried

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers,
Ed Ketchabaw, Chris Van Paassen**

There were no previous minutes for approval.

6. New Business

a) Investment Discussion with Michael Ayres

Michael Ayres, CIBC Private Wealth Management, spoke with the Audit and Finance Committee on the Endowment Fund investment portfolio. Michael Ayres stated his confidence in the performance numbers of the portfolio and the high percentage of return on the bonds. The two funds had a trailing 12-month performance of 3.67% which is higher than the average Financial Times Stock Exchange rate of 2.99%.

Ed Ketchabaw asked Michael Ayres about why the funds were not invested in CIBC. Michael Ayres informed the Committee that for these types of portfolios normally CIBC does not invest in their own bonds.

Aaron LeDuc asked Michael Ayres to give more information on where he sees the interest rate going and how that may impact these funds in the next 12 months. Michael Ayres informed the Committee that there is lots of ambiguity in the bond funds at the moment with the market and global politics. There is some concern with inflation, which could affect interest rates, and other concerns with certain global markets. At the moment the outlook for the next 12 months is that the rates will likely hold steady.

*Michael Ayres left at 9:57am

b) Statement of Compliance for Investments – 2026

Aaron LeDuc presented the report on the funds.

Chris Van Paassen asked staff if any of the funds were allocated to be used this year. Aaron LeDuc responded in the affirmative and let the committee know that there was \$123,061 from the funds that were approved to be used in the 2026 Budget.

AUD–12/26

Moved by E. Ketchabaw

Seconded by R. Chambers

THAT the LPRCA Audit and Finance Committee receives the Statement of Compliance for Investments – 2026 Report as information.

Carried

c) 2026-2027 General Insurance Renewal

The report and the correspondence from the broker, Marsh, were reviewed by Aaron LeDuc. It was noted that the rates were reduced by 6% across all participating CAs and resulted in a 2% decrease for LPRCA. The 2026 budget included a 10% increase over 2025 actuals which results in a positive variance of \$21,804 over the 2026 budget.

AUD–13/26

Moved by C. Van Paassen

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers,
Ed Ketchabaw, Chris Van Paassen

Seconded by R. Chambers

THAT the Audit and Finance Committee receives the 2026-2027 General Insurance Renewal report as information.

Carried

d) Endowment Fund Restrictions – Externally Restricted

Aaron LeDuc gave the report and discussed moving one of the externally restricted reserve funds to its own fund and put the money towards the Backus Dam repair and design in the 2027 budget.

Ed Ketchabaw asked if there was an estimated cost for the repair of the Backus Dam. Staff informed the Committee that a preliminary design was done, but no initial costs were provided at the time. The costs will likely be higher than the restricted amount and staff would also apply to WECL.

Ed Ketchabaw asked staff if the restrictions would apply to Backus Dam, and to get that answer qualified by the Ministry before allocating the funds to the Backus dam specifically.

Chris Van Paassen noted that it would be good to have the money attached to a project in the LPRCA watershed.

Ed Ketchabaw asked staff why the \$500,000 would be separated from the other funds. Staff informed the Committee that there were accounting implications with the recognized interest and the calculation would be simpler if this fund were separated in its own account. Staff informed the committee that this fund has always been noted internally as segregated.

AUD-14/26

Moved by C. Van Paassen

Seconded by R. Chambers

THAT the LPRCA Audit and Finance Committee receives the Endowment Fund Restrictions – Externally Restricted Report as information;

AND,

THAT the Audit and Finance Committee recommends to the LPRCA Board of Directors that the \$500,000 plus interest of the restricted reserves in account #43062 be separated into its own account with CIBC Private Wealth and continue with the same investment holdings;

AND,

THAT the Audit and Finance Committee recommends to the LPRCA Board of Directors that the \$500,000 plus interest be allocated towards a dam design and repair project that meets the terms of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry restrictions in the 2027 budget.

Carried

e) Externally/Internally Restricted Reserves

Aaron LeDuc gave the report going over all the externally restricted and internally restricted funds to better inform the Committee before the 2027 draft budget.

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers,
Ed Ketchabaw, Chris Van Paassen

AUD-15/26

Moved by E. Ketchabaw
Seconded by R. Chambers

THAT the Audit and Finance Committee received the Externally/Internally Restricted Reserve Terms Report as information.

Carried

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10.39 a.m.

Doug Brunton
Audit and Finance Committee interim Chair

Judy Maxwell
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers,
Ed Ketchabaw, Chris Van Paassen



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH-WEST OXFORD
R. R. # 1, Mount Elgin, ON N0J 1N0
312915 Dereham Line
Phone: (519) 877-2702; (519) 485-0477
Fax: (519) 485-2932

June 17th, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281 Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Honourable Doug Ford,

**Re: Resolution of Support for the Town of Halton Hills
Modernizing Ontario's Invasive Plants Rules to Protect Taxpayers,
Municipal Lands, Agriculture, Natural Heritage and Local Gardens**

At their meeting held June 16th, 2026, the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford received a resolution from the Town of Halton Hills and passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford direct staff to send a letter of support for item #27 of the Consent Agenda dated June 16th, 2026.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

The resolution from the Town of Halton Hills has been attached.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denny Giles'.

Denny Giles
Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk
Township of South-West Oxford

cc: Town of Halton Hills, Melissa Lawr
Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Ontario Minister of Natural Resources
Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Arpan Khanna, MP - Oxford



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Ernie Hardeman, MPP – Oxford
OFOA
OFA
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
Long Point Region Conservation Authority
AMO
ROMA
FCM
Ontario Invasive Plant Council
Landscape Ontario
Canadian Nursery Landscape Association

June 5, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Via Email

Re: Modernizing Ontario's Invasive Plants Rules to Protect Taxpayers, Municipal Lands, Agriculture, Natural Heritage and Local Gardens

Please be advised that Council of the Town of Halton Hills at its meeting of Monday June 1, 2026, adopted Resolution No. 2026-0107 regarding Modernizing Ontario's Invasive Plants Rules to Protect Taxpayers, Municipal Lands, Agriculture, Natural Heritage and Local Gardens.

Attached for your information is a copy of Resolution No. 2026-0107.

Respectfully,



Melissa Lawr, AMP, Dipl.M.A.
Deputy Clerk – Legislation

cc. Ontario Minister of Natural Resources
Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Halton area MPs and MPPs
Region of Halton
HRFA
OFA
Conservation Halton
Credit Valley Conservation
Grand River Conservation Authority
AMO
ROMA
FCM
Ontario Invasive Plant Council
Landscape Ontario
Canadian Nursery Landscape Association
All Ontario municipalities



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.: 2026-0107

Title: Modernizing Ontario's Invasive Plants Rules to Protect
Taxpayers, Municipal Lands, Agriculture, Natural Heritage
and Local Gardens

Date: June 1, 2026

Moved by: Councillor J. Brass

Seconded by: Councillor C. Garneau

Item No. 12.3

WHEREAS invasive plants, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, ornamental species, seeds and nursery stock can cause significant damage to municipal infrastructure, roadsides, stormwater systems, parks, trails, natural heritage areas, agricultural lands, woodlots, shorelines, private property and local biodiversity;

AND WHEREAS Ontario municipalities and conservation authorities are estimated to spend approximately \$50.8 million annually managing invasive species, and the average annual cost per Ontario municipality has been estimated at \$218,148, with approximately 80% of expenditures directed toward control and management rather than prevention; (Invasive Species Centre)

AND WHEREAS these costs are ultimately borne by local taxpayers, conservation authorities, property owners, farmers, volunteers and community groups who are often left to manage invasive species after they have already been introduced, sold, planted, escaped cultivation and spread;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, through the Invasive Species Act, 2015, which allows species to be listed as prohibited or restricted, and which can make it illegal to import, possess, transport, propagate, buy, sell, lease or trade listed invasive species; (Invasive Species Centre)

AND WHEREAS the concern is not with plants that are already clearly prohibited or restricted, but with invasive species and seeds and nursery stock that may

continue to be sold or distributed before modernized provincial rules, public guidance and retail practices have fully caught up with current science and local experience;

AND WHEREAS garden centres, nurseries, landscape suppliers, seed distributors, online retailers, landscapers and residents all have an important role to play in preventing the spread of invasive plants before they become a costly municipal and environmental problem;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's Grow Me Instead program promotes native and non-invasive alternatives for healthy, diverse and wildlife-friendly gardens, and its updated Southern Ontario guide includes additional invasive plants and alternatives to help residents, gardeners and landscapers make better choices; (Ontario Invasive Plant Council)

AND WHEREAS recent local reporting in Halton Hills has highlighted the importance of choosing native alternatives to invasive garden plants, including through Grow Native Halton and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's Grow Me Instead resources;

AND WHEREAS the continued sale and distribution of invasive ornamental plants undermine the work of municipalities, conservation authorities, environmental organizations, horticultural societies, local volunteers and residents who are investing time and taxpayer dollars to remove and manage these same species;

AND WHEREAS prevention at the point of sale is more cost-effective, more practical and more respectful of taxpayers than asking municipalities and property owners to pay for removal after invasive species have spread across property lines and municipal boundaries;

AND WHEREAS invasive plants do not recognize municipal boundaries, and effective prevention requires coordinated action by the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, municipalities, conservation authorities, Indigenous communities, agricultural organizations, the nursery and landscape sector, retailers, landowners and residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Town of Halton Hills respectfully request that the Province of Ontario, in consultation with municipalities, AMO, ROMA, conservation authorities, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, Indigenous communities, agricultural organizations, environmental organizations, horticultural societies, the nursery and landscape sector, garden centres and other relevant stakeholders, undertake a review and modernization of Ontario's invasive plant regulatory framework;

AND FURTHER THAT this review include consideration of expanding and regularly updating the list of prohibited and restricted invasive plant species, including invasive plants, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, ornamental species,

seeds and nursery stock that pose a risk to Ontario's natural heritage, agriculture, municipal infrastructure, parks, trails, roadsides, stormwater systems and private property;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to prohibit the sale, distribution, propagation and trade of listed invasive plant species through garden centres, nurseries, landscaping suppliers, online retailers, seed distributors and other commercial pathways;

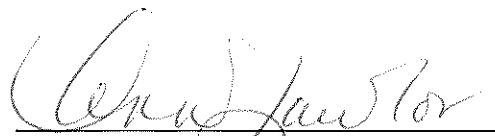
AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to develop clear labelling, public education and retailer guidance requirements so that residents, gardeners, landscapers and retailers can easily identify invasive species and choose native or non-invasive alternatives;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to work with the nursery, garden centre and landscape sectors on a practical transition plan that supports compliance, protects small businesses, promotes native and non-invasive alternatives, and prevents invasive plants from continuing to enter communities through ordinary consumer purchases;

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Canada be requested to review and strengthen, where appropriate, federal import, border, labelling and online sales rules related to invasive plants, seeds and nursery stock entering Canada, so that provincial prevention efforts are not undermined by interprovincial or international trade;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada be requested to support municipalities, conservation authorities and community partners with stronger prevention tools, updated science-based lists, public education materials and funding programs that prioritize prevention over costly long-term control and removal;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Halton-area MPs and MPPs, the Region of Halton, HRFA, OFA, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation, Grand River Conservation Authority, AMO, ROMA, FCM, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, Landscape Ontario, the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.



Mayor Ann Lawlor

Four Conservation Authorities preparing to merge into New Eastern Lake Erie Authority

By 98.9 myFM News/Oldies 99.7 staff

🕒 Jun 22, 2026 | 7:15 AM



egunes_ / Depositphotos.com

A major change is coming to conservation management in Southwestern Ontario as four local conservation authorities prepare to merge into a single regional organization.

Under recent changes to Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act, the province's 36 conservation authorities will be consolidated into nine regional authorities on February 1, 2027. Locally, the Grand River Conservation Authority, Long Point Region Conservation Authority, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority and Kettle Creek Conservation Authority will combine to form the new Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority.

By June 30, each authority's board must appoint two representatives to a Transition Committee, including its General Manager or CEO and one elected board member. The committee will be overseen by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and is expected to begin meeting later this summer.

Leaders from all four conservation authorities said they recognize the importance of maintaining strong relationships with landowners, municipalities and community groups while navigating the transition.

The organizations have already approved a set of seven guiding principles to help shape the merger. These include accountable governance, fiscal responsibility, workforce stability, service excellence, risk management, science-based watershed management, and clear communication.

Officials say the goal is to build on more than 80 years of conservation work while ensuring the new Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority is positioned for continuous improvement and long-term success.

The four conservation authorities invite the public to visit their websites for more information as it becomes available.

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Conservation authorities commit to ‘transparency’ during amalgamation



(Grand River Conservation Authority)



By **Natasha O'Neill**

Posted Jun 19, 2026 03:04:53 PM.

Last Updated Jun 19, 2026 03:05:30 PM.

The Grand River Conservation Authority and three others operating near Waterloo Region put out a joint statement committing to “transparency and accountability” as amalgamation takes place.

The Grand River Conservation Authority, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority, and Long Point Region Conservation Authority will join to create the Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority (ELERCA).

It will become official in February 2027, but until then, the organizations are working to streamline efforts into one authority.

To showcase its efforts of “openness,” with the process, the authorities put a joint statement explaining the guiding principles it will work towards, which include commitments to accountability, fiscal responsibility, talent retention and trust, among others.

This is part of a plan the provincial government is pushing to amalgamate the authorities from 36 down to nine.

Related:

- **‘They don’t have a clue how to run this’: GRCA board shares concerns over Bill 68**
- **Contract negotiations stall between GRCA and union representing front-line workers**

▪ GRCA included in proposed Ontario conservation authority consolidation

The original plan, proposed in October, would have seen seven consolidated CAs created, but pressure from the existing authorities, municipalities and concerned residents forced the province to revise that plan.

The province created the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, which will oversee the transition. This summer, it will meet and will consist of a representative from each of the amalgamated authorities.

Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, told 570 NewsRadio this move is happening because, in the government's opinion, CA's have been operating under a fragmented system that has produced inconsistent results when it comes to flood prevention and customer service.

Skeptics worried about the outcome

Kevin Thomason, with the Grand River Environmental Network, told 570 NewsRadio he's not buying the notion that this is being done to improve the organizations.

"We're in an era of increasing climate change with more flooding risks, heck, look right now, I'm sure the lead item on the news the last few days has been the flooding in New Hamburg and Ayr and so many other parts of our region and our province," said Thomason.

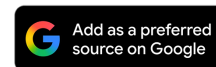
He believes it's all about development: "And yet, here's the government, in a desperation to build 1.5 million homes anywhere at any cost, trying to remove all the— what they claim is red tape, but all the guardrails and precautions as possible and open everything up."

One of the issues the province is looking to tackle, according to McCarthy, is the slow turnaround for permitting. The province's press release on Tuesday mentioned the intention to modernize the permitting process.

"When you have inconsistent, unpredictable outcomes, it doesn't work for homeowners when it comes to basic renovations. It doesn't work for farmers when they seek permits. It doesn't work for builders of new communities. It doesn't work for municipalities," said McCarthy.

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Conservation authorities prepare for amalgamation

Four conservation authorities including the GRCA are preparing to amalgamate into one regional authority.

Vincent Ball

Published Jun 22, 2026 • Last updated 11 hours ago • 2 minute read

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The leaders of four conservation authorities say they are committed to transparency as they move towards an amalgamation that will bring them under the umbrella of the Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority.

“We value the local connections with landowners, community groups and member municipalities that have shaped our history and defined our individual successes,” the board chairs of the four conservation authorities said in a joint statement. “As we prepare for a future together, we are committed to navigating this moment with as much openness and transparency as possible.”

“Navigating change always brings a certain level of uncertainty.”

“However, as leaders we recognize a responsibility to look ahead to a future that can build upon our shared achievements,” the statement says.

The statement is signed by John Challinor II, chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority, Morgaine Griffin, chair of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority, Todd Noble, chair of Kettle Creek Conservation Authority and Doug Brunton, chair of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority.

The provincial government has implemented legislation that will reduce Ontario’s conservation authorities to nine from 36 by Feb. 1 2027.

As part of the process, each conservation authority, is required to appoint two representatives – the CAO/manager and one board member – to a transition committee by June 30. The province will appoint a project executive to act as chair of the transition committee which is expected to meet sometime in the late summer.

Meanwhile, representatives of all four conservation authorities have agreed on a set of guiding principles for the transition including, accountable and transparent governance; fiscal responsibility, commitment to workforce stability and talent retention, service excellence, risk management and business continuity and watershed-based science informed management, transparency, trust and clear communication.

The principles are not listed in order of priority but all are seen as essential components of a successful transition, the statement says.

“We are committed to shaping the identity of the new Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority based on the same commitment to science, local knowledge and strong partnerships that have defined conservation authorities for over 80 years,” the statement says. “There is no doubt that this is a pivotal moment in our individual and collective histories.

“Our goal as leaders is to work with the province, staff, the public and our member municipalities to ensure that the new Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority is established on a path of continuous improvement.”

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FEATURED LOCAL SAVINGS

12 hours ago · 3 min read

New exhibit highlights history of decoy making



Visitors at the opening of the Davidson Decoy Gallery look at the many display depicting the decoys from different areas of Ontario with rich waterfowling heritage, including Toronto and Hamilton.

Jeff Helsdon*Grant Haven Media*

A hand-carved duck decoy is part utility and part art, with a mix of history thrown in on some occasions.

The opening of the Davidson Decoy Gallery Collection offers an insight into the world of hand-carved decoys, and gives visitors a chance to see some of Ontario's finest examples of decoy carving. Situated in the Backus Education Centre outside of Port Rowan, the gallery is located in an area steeped in waterfowling history. Carvers of the area are known by collectors across the continent.

The use of decoys to lure waterfowl into range for harvesting dates back to ancient Egypt. In North America, Indigenous peoples used decoys to bring ducks into bow-and-arrow range. Research has found reeds were a common base for Indigenous decoys. Decoy-making advanced in the 1800s, when market hunters carved wooden decoys, examples of which are highly prized by collectors today.

Wooden decoys continued to be used by the average hunter into the mid-20th century, when cheaper plastic displaced them from common use. Some of the Long Point hunt clubs still use wooden decoys to this day. As the use of rougher hunting blocks declined, decoy carving grew as an art form, with the detail of both carving and painting reaching new heights.

The Davidson Decoy Gallery is a modern, well-lit display of decoys not only from the Long Point area but also from other areas across the entire province. The local display includes examples of decoys from the Reeves family, who are renowned across North America. Divided into sections based on the carvers' home areas, it tells the story of waterfowling through more than 100 decoys. It also includes several examples of modern artistic carvers, including world champions such as Pat Godin, Jeffrey Krete, and Paul Burdette.

The tale of how the gallery came into being was revealed at an opening ceremony this spring. Backus curator Chloe Anna gave credit to Long Point Region Conservation Authority, which owns the Backus Conservation Area, general manager Judy Maxwell, and former curator Sarah Pointer, but said the real credit goes to Bruce Malcolm and Tom Davidson.

"Without their help, this wouldn't be a thing," she said. "They're super passionate and know so much about waterfowling history."

The journey to the display began with a phone call from Davidson, a hunter at the Lee Brown Marsh, to the marsh manager, Kim Brown.

"It started with a phone call to Kim, and I asked if there was anywhere we could buy or rent a building. He described this place," Davidson said at the opening.

Brown was surprised at the call.

"I was in shock," he said. "I'd seen his collection, and it was unbelievable."

After Davidson drove to see the facility, the wheels were put in motion.

Davidson also met local Bruce Malcolm, who has been collecting decoys for 55 years. In addition to loaning their own decoys for the display, the two sourced decoys from elsewhere.

Malcolm was behind the Canadian Decoy and Outdoor Collectible Association, of which he is a member, bringing their annual show to Backus last fall. Some of the members donated decoys at that time, and the show is coming back on Sept. 19. Davidson, who lives near Caledon, hunted the Long Point area for 45 years, at Lee Brown Marsh for 35 years, and was a member of the former Bluff's Hunting Club on Long Point. He has a passion for the area, saying there is nowhere the hunting is better than at Long Point.

"Our objective was to pay tribute to the great carvers of the past and try to entice collectors of the future," he said of the display.

The gallery is open until Sept. 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday to Sunday. Extended hours are planned for the fall, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays in September and October, to allow waterfowl hunters in the area to see the display.



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

Date: June 30, 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-45/25 REVISED

Concession 1, Lot 17, 981 South Coast Drive, Haldimand County – Walpole

- The proposed work – to replace the existing residential dwelling with a residential dwelling with 146m² (1,575 ft²) of habitable floor area, a 39 m² (419 ft²) attached garage, and to install a holding tank and cistern.
- The revision includes the elimination of the proposed second floor,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- There is no feasible alternative site outside the Lake Erie shoreline erosion hazard,
- The proposed structure is located in the area of least risk,
- The application is within the Lake Erie long term erosion hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of erosion.

Application# LPRCA-129/25 REVISED

Plan 37M100, Lot 21, 52 Trailside Drive, Haldimand County - Townsend

- The proposed work – to construct a 8.9m² (96ft²) second-story deck with a staircase down to grade on the rear of an existing dwelling as well as a 37.5m²

- (403.3ft²) concrete patio at grade,
- The revisions to the permit include the addition of a landing and changes to the location of the staircase and size of the concrete pad,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of the application,
- There is no feasible alternative location outside of the Riverine Erosion Hazard,
- The risk of creating new Riverine Erosion Hazards and/or aggravating existing hazards as a result of the development are negligible,
- The application is located in a valley associated with Nanticoke Creek that is gently sloping and where the impact of the development on slope stability is negligible, and
- The application is within the Riverine Erosion Hazard and the development will not have a negative impact on the control of erosion.

Application# LPRCA-195/25 REVISED

Concession A, Lot 41 & 42, 210 Cedar Drive, Norfolk County – Charlotteville

- The proposed work – to construct a replacement vacation home with 224m² (2,418 ft²) of habitable floor area, two covered porches, an attached garage, a new septic system and the required grading.
- The revision includes the elimination of the second floor and the addition of an attached garage.
- A satisfactory site plan and engineered construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The residential structure meets the floodproofing standard,
- The top of foundation and first floor elevation is above 176.8m CGVD28,
- No habitable space is proposed below the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m CGVD28,
- All mechanical and the electrical panel are located above the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m CGVD28,
- The proposed septic is designed to be effective when the water table reflects the maximum monthly Lake Erie water level of 175.0m CGVD1928,
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazard,
- As per the July 5, 2017 Board Resolution# A-178/17, the requirement for safe access is deemed to be satisfied.

Application# LPRCA-71/26

Plan 182, Lot 1, 201 Norfolk Street North, Norfolk County - Simcoe

- The proposed work – to install tie-rods, anchor rods, and vertical bracing as part of the emergency stabilization of a historic structure,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of the application,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards in not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the riverine flooding and erosion hazard allowances and the proposed development should not negatively impact the control of flooding and erosion.

Application# LPRCA-73/26

Plan 436, Lot 114, 126 Woodstock Avenue, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to construct a 28.9m² (311.1ft²) non-habitable accessory structure with approximately 22m² (236.8ft²) of enclosed floor area,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of the application,
- There is no opportunity for the structure to be converted into habitable space in the future,
- There is no feasible alternative site located outside of the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazards,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazards and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of flooding and erosion.

Application# LPRCA-74/26

Plan 257, Lot 12, 523 Avalon Lane, Norfolk County - Woodhouse

- The proposed work – to install a 9000-litre septic holding tank landward of an existing residential structure,
- A satisfactory site plan and details were submitted in support of the application,
- 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-75/26

Concession A, Lot 12, 910 1st Concession Road, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to construct a 185 m² (2,000 ft²) accessory structure to be used as a shop.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the riverine flood hazard allowance, and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding and erosion.

Application# LPRCA-76/26

Concession 4, Lot 9, Brock Street West, Oxford County – Township of Norwich

- The proposed work – to construct storm sewers and conduct road reconstruction on Brock Street West, including a new outlet for storm water into Otter Creek.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- There are no adverse hydraulic or fluvial impacts on the creek,
- The application is within the riverine erosion and flood hazard, and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding and erosion.

Conditions:

The permit is conditional on the following being provided to the satisfaction of LPRCA staff:

1. Detailed erosion and sediment control plans;
2. A detailed Contingency Plan;
3. A restoration plan ensuring the site will be restored to its original condition

- or better;
4. Confirmation that fuel sources, fueling activities, and material stockpile areas will be at least 30 metres away from the watercourse

Application# LPRCA-77/26

Concession 9, Lot 11, 27 Norfolk Street, Oxford County – Township of Norwich

- The proposed work – to construct a 47.3m² (509ft²) addition and renovations to an existing 2-story dwelling with no change to the buildings footprint and construct an expansion to an existing septic system,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of the application,
- The proposed development is setback from the top of stable slope,
- The risk of creating new riverine erosion hazards or aggravating existing hazards as a result of the development is negligible,
- Access into and through the valley for maintenance will not be prevented, and
- The application is partially within the riverine erosion hazard and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of erosion and/or slope stability.

Application# LPRCA-78/26

Concession 7, Lot 11, 869 Charlotteville Road 7, Norfolk County - Charlotteville

- The proposed work – to construct a 2-story dwelling with a total floor area of 388.5m² (4182ft²) with an attached 174.1m² (1,874ft²) garage approximately 15m (49.2ft) from a Provincially Significant Wetland in replacement of an existing dwelling to be demolished, as well as construct a new septic system,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of application,
- The application is adjacent to a Provincially Significant Wetland and the hydrological function of the wetland will not be negatively impacted by the development.

Application# LPRCA-81/26

Concession 1, Lot 9, 32 Lakeview Lane, Haldimand County – Rainham

- The proposed work – to raise an existing cottage and install a new sonotube pier foundation,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of the application,
- The top of foundation elevation will be at or above the floodproofing elevation of 176.93m CGVD28,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie flooding hazard allowance and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of flooding.

Application# LPRCA-82/26

Plan 18072, Lot 5, 10 Hickory Beach Lane, Haldimand County – Walpole

- The proposed work – to replace the existing holding tank with a 9,000 Litre holding tank.
- A satisfactory site plan and details were submitted in support of this application,

- There is no feasible alternative site outside the Lake Erie Shoreline Erosion Hazard,
- The tank 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-83/26

Concession 6, Lot 1, 81 Concession 5 Walpole, Haldimand County - Walpole

- The proposed work – to enclose an existing 15.8m² (170ft²) porch on the front of a dwelling,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of the application,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the riverine flooding hazard allowance and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of flooding.

Application# LPRCA-84/26

Concession 1, Lot 14, 588 South Coast Drive, Haldimand County – Walpole

- The proposed work – to demolish the existing shed and construct a 125m² (1,350 ft²) garage/ workshop.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- A maintenance access is provided to and along the shoreline, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie Erosion hazard allowance and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of erosion.

Application# LPRCA-86/26

Concession 1, Lot 6, 508 Lakeshore Road, Haldimand County – Rainham

- The proposed work – to convert a portion of the existing deck into a 33m² (367.5 ft²) three season sunroom.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The existing structure is setback from the top of stable slope and located in the area of least risk,
- A 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-88/26

Concession 9, Lot 12, 237 Main Street West, Oxford County – Township of Norwich

- The proposed work – to construct an attached additional dwelling unit with 73m² (785.7 ft²) of habitable space, a 45m² (484 ft²) deck and a new septic system.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,

- The proposed development is setback from the top of stable slope,
- The risk of creating new riverine erosion hazards or aggravating existing riverine erosion hazards as a result of the development is negligible,
- Access into and through the valley for maintenance will not be prevented, and
- The application is within the riverine erosion hazard allowance and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of slope stability or erosion.

Financial Implication:

N/A

Prepared by:

Isabel Johnson

Isabel Johnson
Resource Planner

Prepared by:

Braedan Ristine

Braedan Ristine
Resource Planner

Reviewed by:

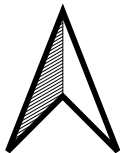
Leigh-Anne Mauthe

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

Approved and submitted by:

Judy Maxwell

Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA
General Manager

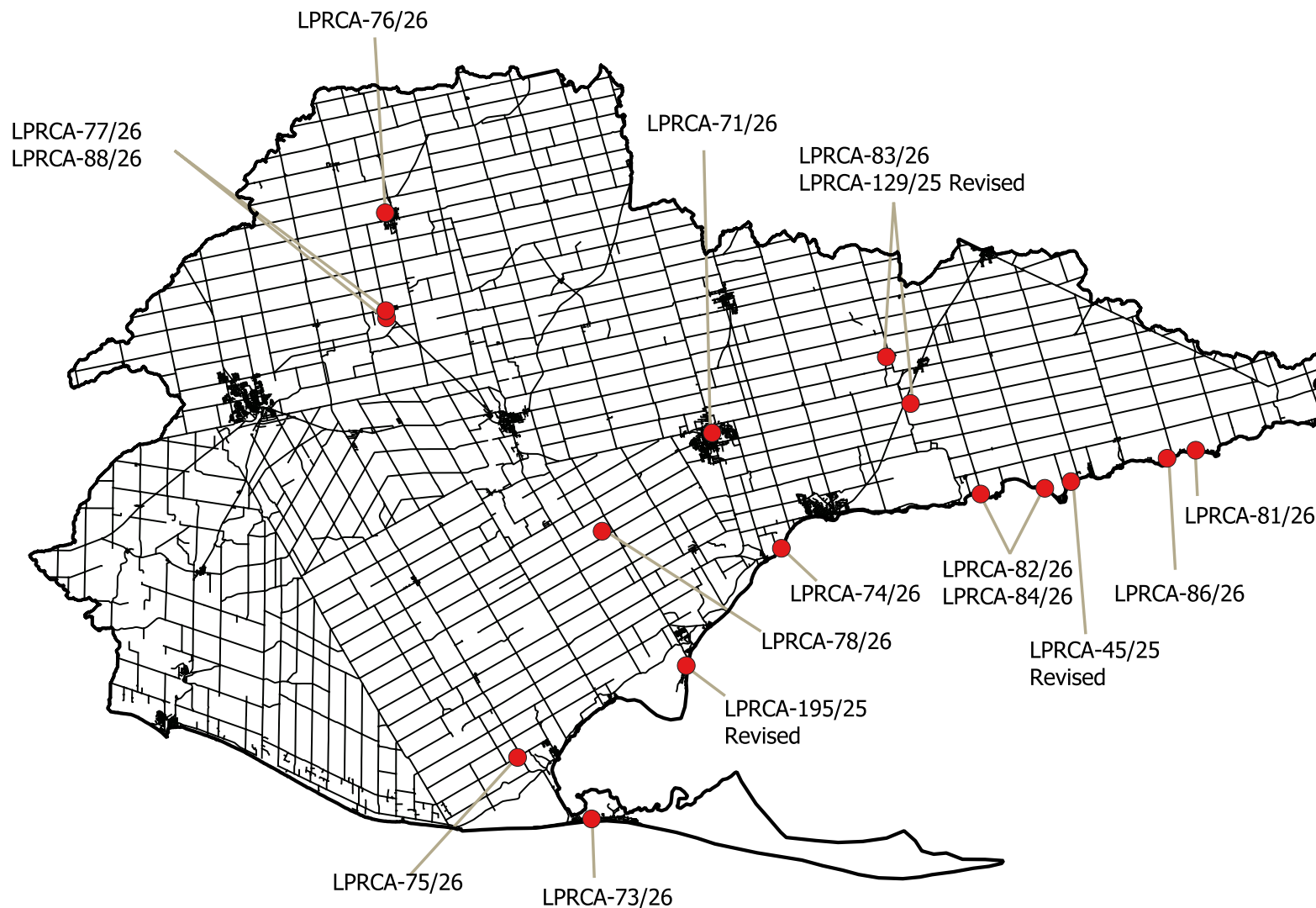


LONG POINT REGION
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

Approved Applications
O. Reg. 41/24

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LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

Date: June 30, 2026

File: 1.1.2

To: Chair and Members, LPRCA Board of Directors

From: General Manager, LPRCA

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

Recommendation:

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the General Manager's Report for June 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 June 22nd, the Vice-Chair and I virtually attended the Conservation Ontario Council Meeting. I was in Toronto on June 22-23 for the Conservation Ontario General Managers meeting.

Planning staff has reviewed 92 permit applications as of June 30th compared to 105 permit applications for the same time period in 2025. Staff has also reviewed and provided comments to municipal staff on 53 *Planning Act* applications and participated in 12 pre-consultations this year.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) announced the successful funding applications for the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program. This year, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the WECI Committee received and reviewed 137 applications from 25 conservation authorities. A total of 83 projects will be funded through the \$5 million MNR grant allocation. LPRCA submitted 3 applications and 2 projects were approved. Safety projects were capped at a total eligible project cost of \$60,000 and this is the funding approved for the Deer Creek dam safety boom project. A project submitted for safety fencing and signage for dams was approved for \$15,000.

There was an information session on June 3rd for all General Managers with the Chief Conservation Executive Officer and it was an overview of transition planning activities, including governance structures and financial considerations. The information session presentation from June 3rd is attached (Attachment # 1).

Ernst & Young has been hired to develop a playbook to guide the amalgamation process and each Conservation Authority was required to schedule an interview with them. The required interview with Ernst & Young was completed on June 3rd. The interview was an opportunity to highlight the unique features of LPRCA and identify items of concern for the amalgamation. A

second requirement from Ernst & Young was to provide data and this was completed by the deadline of June 12th.

On June 23rd a First Aid/CPR course was held and 15 employees attended at the administration office.

The Davidson Decoy Gallery in the Conservation Education Center opened to the public on June 6th and there has been good visitation numbers and positive feedback for the gallery.

Two successful funding applications to the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund for the Lee Brown Marsh phragmite control was confirmed for \$36,000. A contractor is completing aerial mapping of the phragmites and spraying will be completed in August.

Funding was also received from the Invasive Species Action Fund for \$22,592 for control of Hemlock Wooley Adelgid to improve upland and lowland habitat. Forestry staff continue to spray invasive species and the Hemlock Wooley Adelgid in the forest tracts.

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**

CA Update Session

Presented to: Conservation
Authorities

June 3, 2026

Purpose and Outline

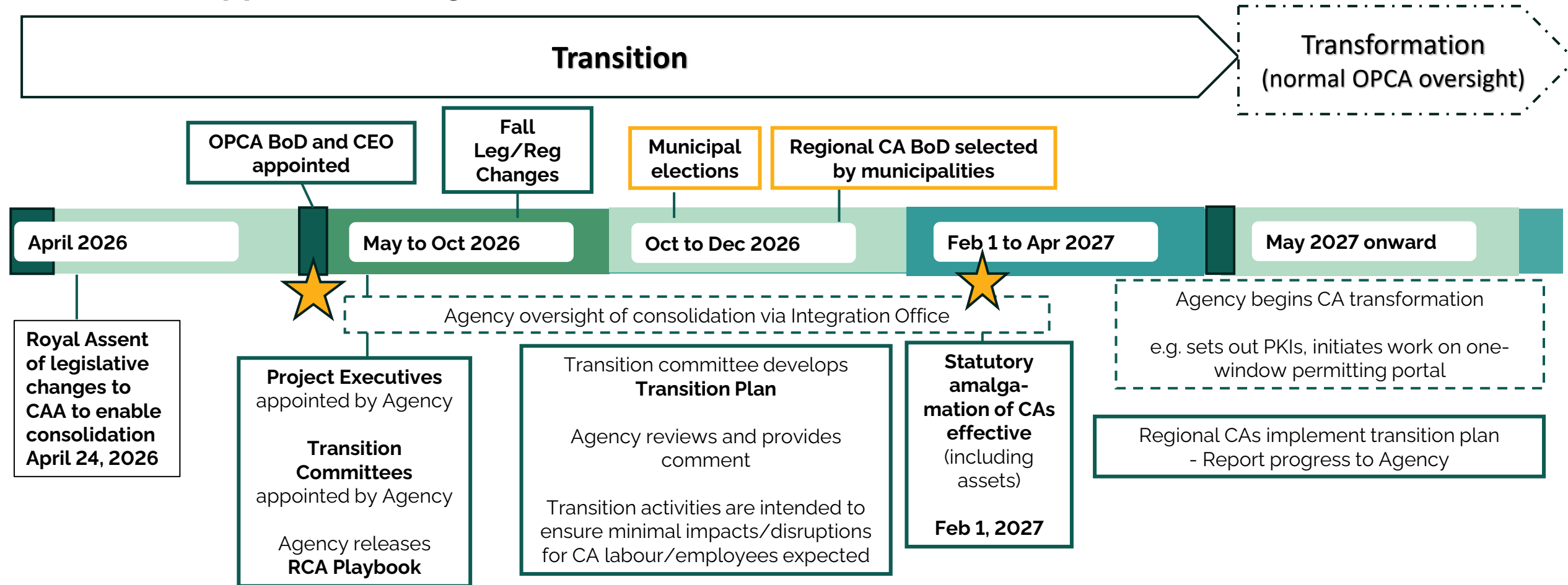
Purpose

- To provide an update on the transition planning and next steps for improving the Conservation Authority system

Outline

- Transition process and timelines
- Financial Considerations
- Governance
- Minister's Directions
- Next steps and future engagement

Transition Approach to Regional CAs and Timeline



Project Executives (PEs)

- Selected by (and paid for by) the Agency in Summer 2026.
- Become the **inaugural CAO for the regional CAs** for up to 24 months – costs may be recouped from regional CAs.

Transition Committees – Regional CA specific:

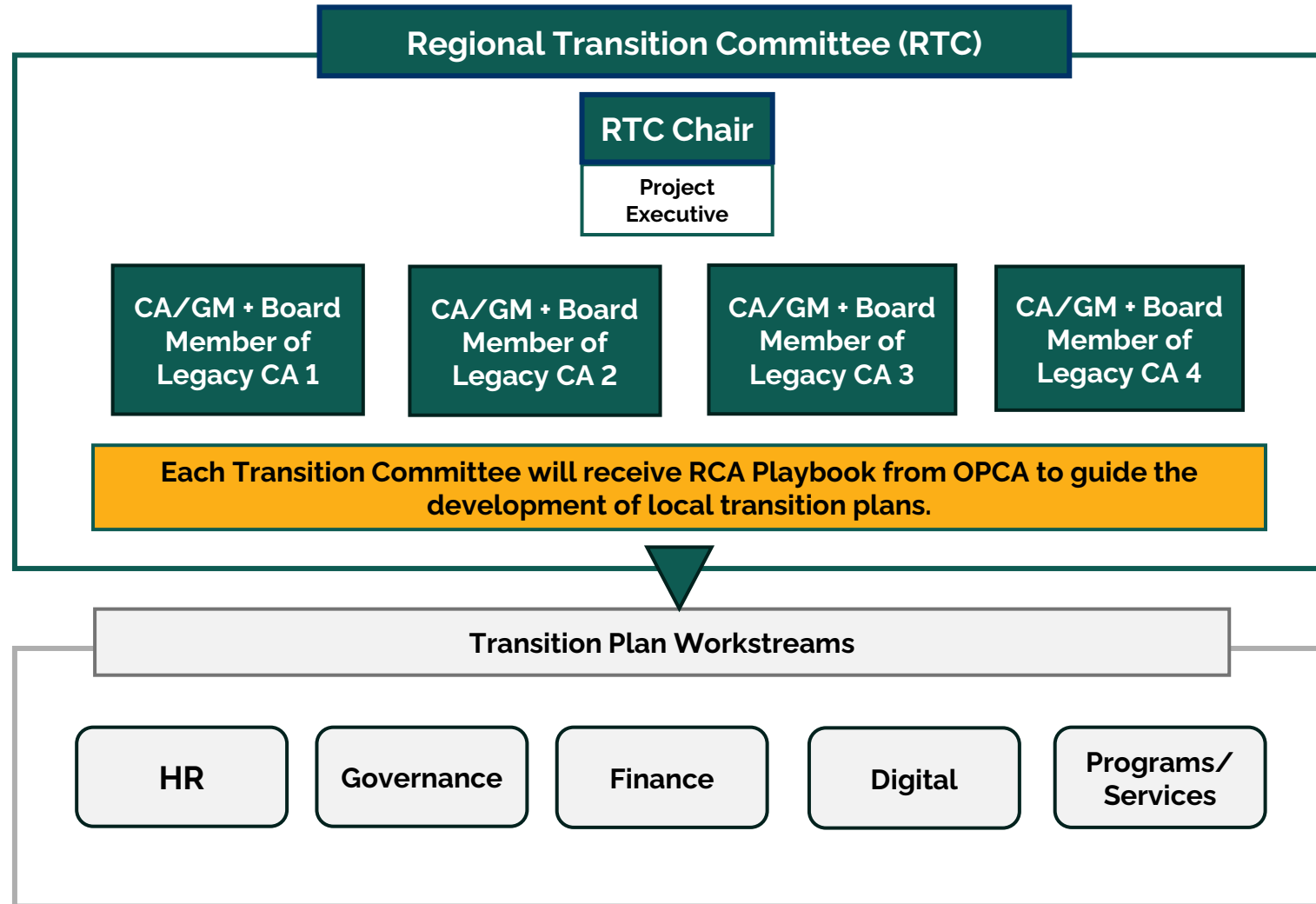
- A Project Executive (PE) (Committee Chair)
- CAO/GM from each of the CAs
- At least one board member from each CA (elected official)
- Any other individuals, as selected by the Agency

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Transition Plans - Regional CA specific:

- To support seamless operations day-1 of amalgamations – including, e.g., governance documents for new board; ensure continuity of key programs/services – flood forecasting and warning; communications products, organizational recommendations
- Reviewed by Agency; to be implemented by regional CA (with proposed adjustments, if any)

Regional Transition Committees (RTC) *



Transition Committees and CA Boards

Category	Transition Committee	CA Board of Directors
Purpose	Temporary body to support transition to regional model, provide coordination and planning	Permanent governing body responsible for oversight of the conservation authority
Status	Time-limited (exists only during transition period)	Ongoing, legislated governance body
CA Governance	Operates in parallel (does not replace the Board)	Maintains full authority over CA governance
Decision-Making Authority	Advisory and coordination-focused (final authority remains with CA boards and/or Province)	Formal decision-making authority over policies, budgets, programs, and direction
Scope of Work	- Transition planning (e.g., regional alignment) - Coordination across municipalities and CAs - Input into future structure and processes	- Approving budgets and levies - Setting strategic direction - Policy and regulatory oversight
Operational Oversight	No operational role; focused on transition strategy	Oversees organization but delegates day-to-day operations to CA staff
End State Role	Dissolves once transition is complete	RCA Board of Directors established after transition (note: members appointed prior to the transition date)



Governance Continuity

CA Boards and Transition Committees

- The role of Transition Committees is focused solely on preparing for amalgamation and does not include formal decision-making authority.
- Transition Committees are expected to collaborate closely with CA Boards through shared members, as well as with Project Executives, to ensure that the operational and business needs of each Conservation Authority are effectively captured and considered throughout the transition.

Status Quo Maintained for Governance

- The transition process does not introduce any interim changes to how CA Boards are structured or how they operate. Boards will continue to fulfill their existing governance, oversight, and decision-making responsibilities.
- The transition timeline accounts for the municipal election cycle. Elections on October 26, 2026, will result in new Councils taking office on or around November 15, 2026, which will inform future Board appointments.
- To ensure stability and continuity of operations, current CA Boards will remain active until the anticipated establishment of Regional Conservation Authorities on February 1, 2027.
- There will be no disruption or turnover in Board membership during the transition period. Members currently appointed will continue serving until successor members are officially appointed under the new structure. Any changes in membership resulting from the election will be managed in the same way as they would in any election year.

Minister's Directions (Backstops)

Minister's Directions were issued for the transition period to ensure operations continue in the ordinary course of business while applying time-limited oversight to high-impact activities to ensure stability and readiness for the statutory amalgamation.

Transition Period

- During the transition period, Conservation Authorities continue to operate in the ordinary course of business.
- Certain activities within the following categories may require OPCA CEO consent and approval, subject to thresholds, criteria or conditions established in the directive:
 - Governance
 - Organizational changes
 - Contracts and procurements
 - Major capital or financial transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions.

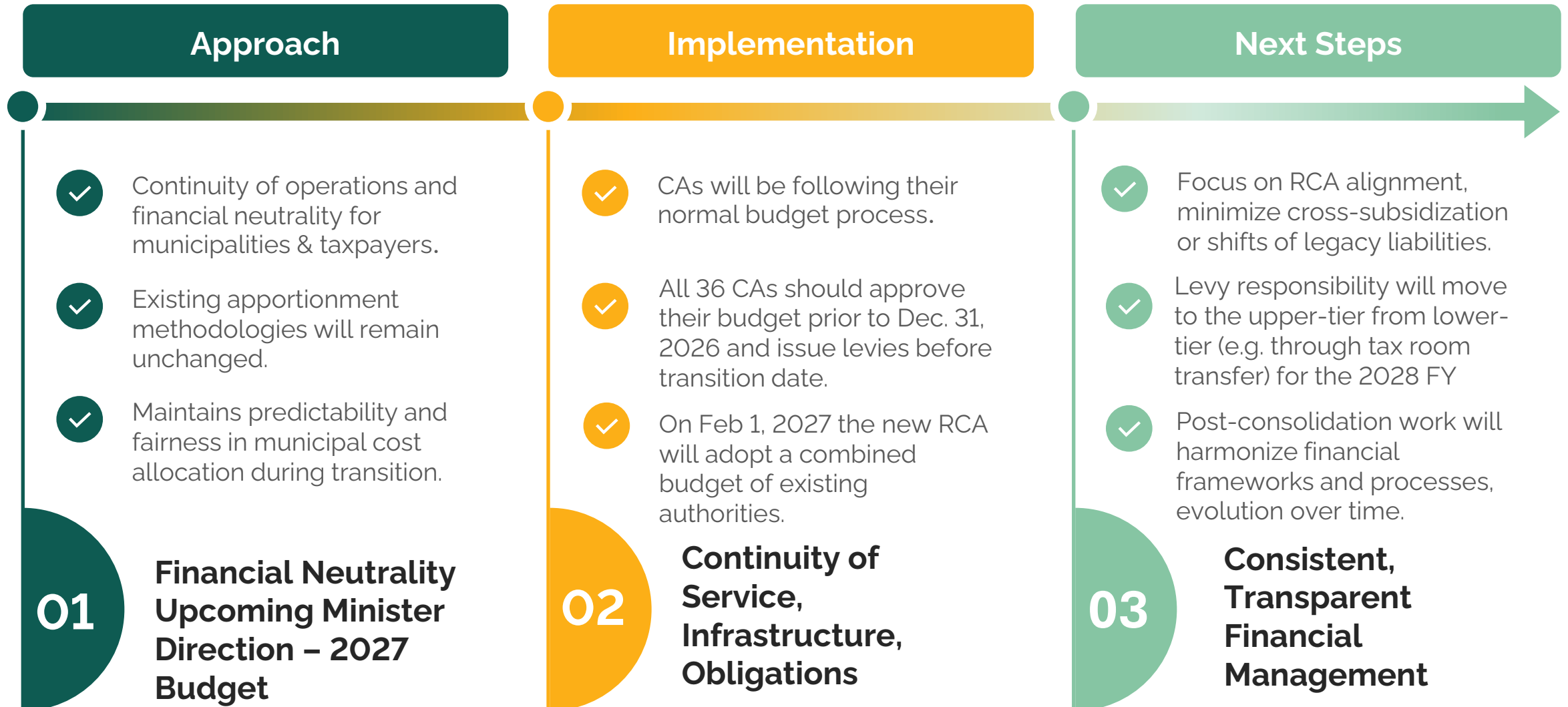
Policy Principles

- Prevent disruptive CA actions during transition that could undermine future Regional CAs
- Avoid micro-management and unnecessary burden on day-to-day CA operations
- Efficient and fair decision-making informed by those familiar with CA operations and local context.

Consent Process



2027 Budget & Levy Apportionment*



*subject to final Minister's Directions

Key Steps in Developing the RCA Playbook

	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	Feb 2027 Onwards
Data and Information Collection	◆ Kick-off meetings with CAs ◆ Issuance of data requests to CAs ◆ CA interviews to supplement/support data requests	◆ Data collection, review and validation		
Transition Readiness Assessment		★ Development of the CA Current State Overview ★ Draft and finalize the CA Current State findings		
RCA Playbook			■ Confirm future operating model ■ OPCA to develop RCA Playbook ■ OPCA finalize RCA Playbook	■ Day 1 Statutory Amalgamation



We are here
Agenda Page 41

Clean Water Act (CWA)/Source Protection



Drinking water source protection remains a core mandated responsibility of CAs, and source protection plans will continue to be carried out.



Ontario continues to fund over \$7M per year to source protection authorities and other recipients for source water protection.



It is recognized that changes may be needed under the *Clean Water Act* and associated regulations to function in alignment with the changes to conservation authority names and boundaries and to clarify how source protection authorities would operate under the regional CA structure.



The ministry is interested, in the meantime, in hearing if you have specific questions or concerns as it relates to source water protection.

Please contact source.protection@ontario.ca.

Clean Water Act (CWA)/Source Protection



Protecting drinking water sources remains a government priority, and early analysis of the impact of the CAA consolidation is focused on ensuring stability, clarity, and continuity of the mandatory CWA program as the CAA changes are implemented.



Our initial assessment of the potential implications of the recent CAA changes on the delivery of the source protection program includes:

Misalignment of boundaries of the source protection areas/regions

Governance of source protection authorities (e.g., lead SPA, SPA board)

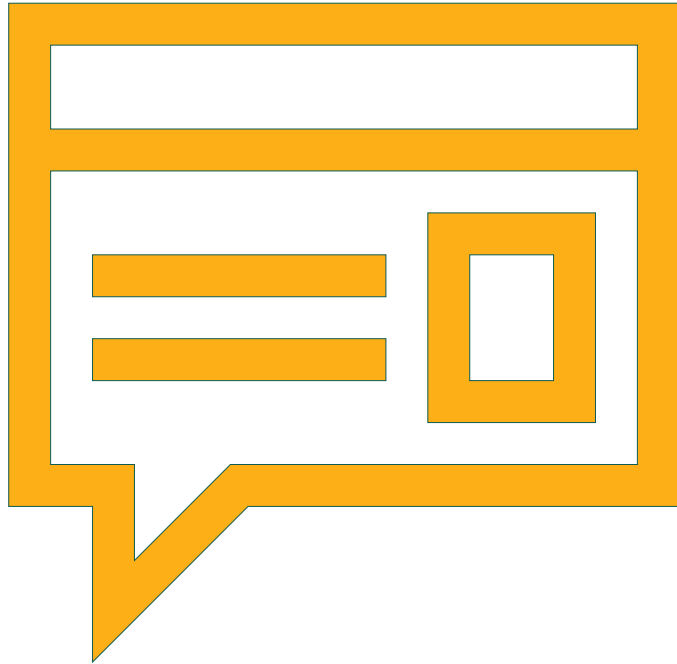
Source protection committees

Source protection plans

Transfer payment agreements



Staff are actively working on analyzing each of these components, as well as comments received through the ERO posting, to determine the scope of the impact, identify any gaps and determine options.



Next Steps

- Development of RCA playbook
- Appointment of Project Executives
- Launch of Transition Committees
- Upcoming legislative changes in the Fall
- Engagement sessions (as needed)

If you have any questions, please continue to engage with us via CCEO@ontario.ca



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

Date: July 8, 2026 **File:** 1.3.4.1

To: Chair and Members
LPRCA Board of Directors

From: General Manager, LPRCA

Re: **2026 Community Engagement Report**

Recommendation:

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the 2026 Community Engagement report as information.

Strategic Direction:

Strategic Direction #2 – Deliver Exceptional Services & Experiences
Strategic Direction #3 – Support & Empower Our People
Strategic Direction #4 – Organizational Excellence

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to summarize the events and community outreach activities LPRCA will undertake throughout 2026.

Discussion:

Tourism and Travel Advertising

LPRCA has secured its spot in relevant tourism materials and databases, such as the Ontario-wide Summer Fun Guide and Experience Norfolk. The annual Visitor's Guide is completed, containing campground maps, outdoor safety tips, fun activities, information about LPRCA's services and more. The Guide was once again produced in partnership with the Port Dover Maple Leaf, who sells advertising space in the publication to cover printing and production costs. Guides are distributed at the five LPRCA campgrounds and distributed to the community at public events.

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association – Ontario Woodlot Association Chapter Annual General Meeting – March 4, 2026

On March 4, 2026, two LPRCA staff members attended the annual Ontario (Norfolk) Woodlot Owners Association meeting. During the event, they set up an informational booth offering a variety of handouts that highlighted the Authority's programs and services, such as tree planting, invasive species management, best management practices, forest management, and more.

Easter Campaign – April 2, 2026 (Easter Weekend)

Now an annual event, Authority staff once again facilitated an “Easter egg hunt” for passive CAs through social media. Staff hid eggs around five of the Authority’s properties (Fishers Glen Tract, Hay Creek CA, Norwich CA, Tillsonburg CA and Brook CA) each containing a free day pass voucher that can be redeemed at any of the parks during the 2026 operating season.

The Next Great Save Competition – April 7-24, 2026

The Backhouse Grist Mill participated in The Next Great Save, a national competition ran by the National Trust for Canada. For the competition, a social media campaign was launched by staff to promote the Mill. The campaign was greatly successful with the Mill placing third in the competition, winning \$5,000 intended for restoration efforts. The positive impacts as a result from the campaign are still being felt to this day.

Marketing Presentation Fanshawe Simcoe/Norfolk Regional Campus – April 15, 2026

Staff attended Fanshawe College – Simcoe/Norfolk Regional Campus as a guest speaker for the Adventure Expeditions and Interpretive Leadership students. Staff spoke about what marketing in conservation looks like while promoting the Authority’s programs and services.

Turkey Point Mountain Biking Club Spring Kicker – May 3, 2026

On May 3, 2026, LPRCA marketing and forestry staff attended Turkey Point Mountain Biking Club’s annual Spring Kicker event. Staff set up an informational booth and educated visitors on the Authority’s invasive species program.

Scout Tree Planting – May 9, 2026

On May 9, 2026, LPRCA lands & waters staff partnered with Port Dover Scouts to plant close to 1,100 trees at Backus Heritage Conservation Area. This is an annual event that engages youth in watershed conservation and promotes stewardship of the natural environment.

The Davidson Decoy Gallery Pre-Opening Event – June 5, 2026

On June 5, 2026, LPRCA hosted the Davidson Decoy Gallery Pre-Opening event at the Conservation Education Centre in Backus Heritage Conservation Area. There were approximately 40 people in attendance including donors, community members, Board members and Staff. This event provided guests the opportunity to tour the gallery before the public opening on June 6, 2026. Overall, the event was a great success. The Conservation Education Centre is open from 11 am – 4 pm, Wednesday to Sunday, May 27 – September 13 and 11 am – 4 pm, Friday & Saturday, September 18 – October 10.

Radio Advertising Campaigns – Mid June to September 2026

A radio advertising campaign is in progress with Lite 92.1 radio station. The campaign coverage area goes beyond the borders of our watershed, encouraging residents within the watershed and tourists outside of it to visit our parks. LPRCA also ran a two-week radio campaign with 101.3 Giant FM that focused on promoting seasonal camping within the parks.

Backhouse Historic Site

Two interpretive staff will be on hand at the Historic Site from Victoria Day weekend through

Labour Day Weekend, Wednesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Guided tours, hands-on activities and self-guided tours are available during these hours. Community groups such as the Norfolk Fire Arts Guild will also host occasional events at Backus throughout the operating season. On August 1st, the Field to Flour and Field to Fabric event will be occurring. A full list of LPRCA events can be found on our website [here](#).

Tillsonburg TurtleFest – June 2026

Authority staff set up a booth at Tillsonburg's annual TurtleFest on June 20th. The booth focused on advertising our five campgrounds and public education on the role LPRCA plays within our watershed.

Deer Creek Children's Fishing Derby – August 8, 2026

The popular Deer Creek Children's Fishing Derby will return for its 30th anniversary on Saturday, August 8th. A water safety awareness promoter from Norfolk County will be setting up an educational activity booth and MNRF will be setting up a booth.

War of 1812 Re-Enactment – September 12-13, 2026

The War of 1812 Re-Enactment event is set to take place September 12 & 13. The Crown Forces North America will be facilitating the re-enacting component of the event.

Memorial Forest Dedication Service – September 20, 2026

The annual Memorial Forest Dedication Service is held the third Sunday following the Labour Day long weekend each year. This year, the Service will take place on Sunday, September 20th beginning at 2pm. The schedule of events will be made available closer to the date of the event.

Social Media Metrics

The Authority has maintained its online social media presence by actively posting on our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube accounts. To encourage engagement from the Authority's followers and to attract new followers, marketing staff have been increasing the number of short-form videos (reels) posted and keeping the posting schedule consistent with roughly three posts per week.

Summary for Facebook and Instagram

The table below provides a summary of the Authority's social media (Instagram & Facebook) reach and interactions over the past two years for the same time period. Reach refers to the distribution of our content while interactions refers to the number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on our content.

Below is the 2026 analytic summary report for Facebook and Instagram for further information.

		2025	2026
Reach	Facebook	50,958	151,600
	Instagram	6,762	23,700
Interactions	Facebook	2,454	8,500
	Instagram	1,141	2,600

This report highlights the communications and community outreach LPRCA has completed and future events. Throughout the year, LPRCA's social media content and community outreach will adjust to suit the needs of the Authority and the season.

Prepared by:

Jessica King

Jessica King
Marketing & Social Media Associate

Approved and submitted by:

Judy Maxwell

Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA
General Manager



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

Date: July 8, 2026

File: 3.3.1

To: Chair and Members,
LPRCA Board of Directors

From: General Manager, LPRCA

Re: Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Number 026-0451: Request for a Minister's Zoning Order for mixed-use development in Haldimand County

Recommendation:

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the staff report as information.

Links to Strategic Plan:

Strategic Direction # 1 – Protect People and Property from Flooding and Natural Hazards
Strategic Direction # 4 – Organizational Excellence

Background:

A Minister's Zoning Order (MZO), made pursuant to section 47 of the *Planning Act*, has been submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to facilitate a mixed-use community on lands located in the Nanticoke area of Haldimand County. The request for the MZO has been submitted by Empire Communities and supported by resolutions of Haldimand County council in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

On June 3, 2026, the proposal was posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for public consultation. The proposal was open for a 30-day commenting period and closed on July 3, 2026.

The request seeks permission to permit a range of industrial, commercial, institutional and residential uses on approximately 1,700 hectares along Nanticoke Creek and adjacent to Lake Erie in the area of Nanticoke, Haldimand County.

Discussion:

LPRCA has reviewed the request for the MZO and submitted comments through its role as a public commenting body under the *Planning Act*, a regulator under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and as a resource management agency (Attachment # 1).

A significant portion of the lands that are part of the MZO are within flood and erosion hazards associated with Nanticoke Creek and Lake Erie. The lands also contain Provincially Significant Wetlands and locally significant wetlands.

Through the ERO submission, LPRCA has advised the Ministry of these natural hazards and advised that any development should not be allowed in these areas to be consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024, to ensure there are no negative impacts to upstream and downstream lands and to ensure the risks to life and property are not increased. LPRCA has also advised that a detailed Environmental Impact Study should be completed for the entire subject lands to identify any additional wetlands located in the area and to determine the significance of the existing wetlands and how to preserve the integrity of the hydrology of these wetlands.

LPRCA has offered to meet with Ministry representatives to further discuss and to share the technical data relating to the flood and erosion hazards for Nanticoke Creek and Lake Erie.

Due to the timing of the MZO commenting deadline, LPRCA staff have submitted to the ERO the attached comments in advance of the July 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

Financial Implication:

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**

Long Point Region Conservation Authority
4 Elm Street, Tillsonburg, Ontario N4G 0C4

Phone: 519-842-4242
Fax: 519-842-7123
Toll free: 1-888-231-5408
conservation@lprca.on.ca
www.lprca.on.ca

July 3, 2026

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
659 Exeter Road, Floor 2
London, ON N6E 1L3

ATTN: David Stubbs, Municipal Services Office – Western Ontario

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL & ERO PORTAL

RE: Long Point Region Conservation Authority Comments on the Proposed Minister's
Zoning Order (MZO) Environmental Registry of Ontario #026-0451

Project Reference: Proposed Mixed-Use Development in Haldimand County
ERO Notice Number: 026-0451

1.0 Introduction

The Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) has reviewed the request for a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) for the above-noted lands. LPRCA provides these comments through its role as a public commenting body under the *Planning Act*, a regulator under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and as a resource management agency.

The subject property is approximately 1,700 hectares in size and contains flood and erosion hazards from Nanticoke Creek and Lake Erie, and wetlands.

2.0 Summary Recommendation

LPRCA objects to the issuance of the MZO in its current form. The proposed development limits overlap with known natural hazards.

To ensure the protection of life and property from hazards, LPRCA requests that the Ministry exclude the areas which are prone to flooding and erosion from Lake Erie and Nanticoke Creek from the development footprint.

3.0 Technical Compliance & Hazard Review

3.1 Watercourse, and Flood Plain Delineation

Nanticoke Creek outlets into Lake Erie in Haldimand County, this watercourse extends approximately 46 kilometres upstream. Historical floodplain mapping for Nanticoke Creek within the MZO area was prepared by M.M. Dillon in 1977. In 2025, LPRCA staff initiated updating floodplain mapping for this area, and the project is in the final stages of being completed. The draft updated mapping confirms that a portion of the MZO area

is within the 100-year flood (Regulatory flood) of Nanticoke Creek. A one-zone concept is applied to this area.

Nanticoke Creek traverses the northern and eastern portion of the subject lands.

Recommendation: The MZO should not allow any development within the floodway of Nanticoke Creek, as per section 5.2.3. d) of the Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) or within the lands defined as hazardous adjacent to Nanticoke Creek, as per section 5.2.2. b) of the PPS. Although we recognize that an MZO does not need to be consistent with the PPS for areas outside of the Greenbelt, development outside of the riverine floodplain or the associated hazardous lands will ensure there are no negative impacts to upstream and downstream lands and will ensure the risk to life and property is not increased.

3.3 Shoreline Hazard Delineation

The southern limit of the MZO area is adjacent to Lake Erie and contains flooding and erosion hazards associated with Lake Erie. In 2019, LPRCA, in partnership with adjacent Conservation Authorities, undertook Shoreline Flooding and Erosion Hazard Mapping along the shoreline of Haldimand County, including this area, to adequately delineate the erosion and flood hazard of the adjacent lands.

A portion of the lands which are proposed to be waterfront and employment lands are within the flood and erosion hazard associated with Lake Erie.

- **Recommendation: The MZO should not allow any development within the flood and erosion hazard area of Lake Erie, as per section 5.2.2. a) of the PPS. Further, we advise that the MZO should not allow any institutional uses within hazardous land and hazardous sites or uses that would conflict and not be consistent with section 5.5.6.a) of the PPS.**

3.4 Wetland Impacts

Based on the data from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) the subject lands also contain wetlands and Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) throughout the site.

Buffer Requirements: LPRCA regulates 30 metres around all wetlands and recommend that all development maintain this boundary to maintain the hydrology of the wetlands. LPRCA policies do allow for development within the 30-metre buffer of a wetland if an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is completed to the satisfaction of LPRCA that provides recommendations that will ensure the hydrology of the wetlands are maintained.

- **Recommendation: A detailed Environmental Impact Study must be completed for the entire subject lands to identify any additional wetlands located in the area, to determine the significance of the existing wetlands and to make recommendations to preserve the integrity of the hydrology of these wetlands. If the Minister chooses to approve the MZO, LPRCA respectfully requests that the MZO explicitly include provisions stating that final lot configurations and grading limits will be finalized only after a comprehensive hydrogeological study confirms no adverse drawdown impacts on the wetlands.**

4.0 Regulatory Jurisdiction (Conservation Authorities Act)

The Ministry and the proponent are advised that while an MZO establishes land use permissions and overrides municipal zoning bylaws, **it does not exempt the lands from Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits)**.

Prior to any site alteration, grading, topsoil stripping, or construction, the developer **must apply for and receive a Section 28 Permit** from the LPRCA. LPRCA's review of the future permit application will be bound by our core legislative mandate, which focuses strictly on:

1. **Flood mitigation** and control.
2. **Natural hazards** and slope stability.
3. **Pollution control** and sediment mitigation.
4. **Conservation of land** practices.

5.0 Requested Modifications To The Draft Zoning Order

To safeguard the provincial interest in hazard mitigation, LPRCA requests that the following site-specific clauses be embedded directly into the final text of the MZO:

1. **Clause X.1:** *No buildings, structures, or site grading shall be permitted within the areas identified as hazardous lands as per the PPS, 2024.*
2. **Clause X.2:** *A comprehensive Environmental Impact Study is completed to identify all wetlands, and recommendations to avoid any interference with the hydrology of these wetlands, must be provided to the satisfaction of the local Conservation Authority.*
3. **Clause X.3:** *A comprehensive Stormwater Management (SWM) Strategy, demonstrating quantity control and adequate flow attenuation, must be approved by the local Conservation Authority prior to municipal Site Plan Approval.*

6.0 Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this provincial initiative. LPRCA staff welcome the opportunity to meet with Ministry representatives and the proponent's consulting team to refine the limits of the development area before the final text of the Order is enacted by the Minister.

Should you require the technical documentation or any clarification regarding the technical points raised above, please contact Leigh-Anne Mauthe at Imauthe@lprca.on.ca or (519) 842-4242 ext.231.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh-Anne Mauthe, RPP, MCIP

Manager of Watershed Services
Long Point Region Conservation Authority



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

Date: June 24, 2026

File: 1.4.1

To: Chair and Members
LPRCA Board of Directors

From: General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, LPRCA

Re: **Endowment Fund Restrictions - Externally Restricted**

Recommendation:

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives Endowment Fund Restrictions – Externally Restricted report as information;

AND,

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors directs staff to open an additional account with CIBC Private Wealth to have the \$500,000 plus interest currently held in CIBC account #43062 be separated into its own account and continue with the same holdings;

AND,

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors direct staff that the \$500,000 plus interest be allocated towards a dam design and repair project in the 2027 budget that meets the terms of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry restrictions.

Strategic Direction:

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

Strategic Direction #2 – Deliver Exceptional Services & Experiences

Strategic Direction #3 – Support & Empower Our People

Strategic Direction #4 – Organizational Excellence

Purpose:

On June 12, 2026 staff presented a report regarding the restricted and unrestricted portion of the Endowment Funds to the Audit and Finance Committee.

The Audit and Finance Committee had a discussion regarding the use of the \$500,000 plus interest and made two recommendations for the Board of Directors to consider.

Background:

In February 2011, the Authority sold the Backus Woods property (875 acres) to Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) for \$5,372,500. As part of the agreement with NCC there

was conditions attached to the use of the funds as follows:

- \$500,000 of the above Purchase price will not be endowed by LPRCA but may be used at LPRCA's discretion, subject to the conditions of the approval of the sale by the Minister of Natural Resources;
- \$2,500,000 of the Purchase price shall be endowed as provided under Clause 2(i)(ii); and
- \$2,372,500 of the Purchase Price shall be endowed as provided under Clause 2(i)(ii).

Since inception (June 30, 2011 to March 31, 2026) the Endowment Fund has generated an annual return of 2.9% and \$1,317,158 has been withdrawn and used to support expenses related to the outdoor education programs at Backus since 2012.

The unrestricted \$500,000 from the sale of Backus Woods has remained invested with the restricted \$4,872,500 with CIBC Private Wealth and has grown to \$670,495 as of March 31, 2026.

As the Authority transitions to the new Regional Conservation Authority model set for February 1, 2027 staff has been financially planning for the 2027 LPRCA Budget and best uses of unencumbered funds that can be used in the budget towards projects such as the Backus Mill and water control structures.

On further investigation into the details of the Backus Woods sale an approval letter from the Minister of Natural Resources was discovered which restricts the \$500,000 of funds to be held in a capital reserve account. When the Minister restricts the proceeds to be placed in a capital reserve account the funds can only be spent in the following areas:

- Acquisition of Provincially Significant Conservation Lands or Managed/Agreement Forest lands.
- Major maintenance of flood control structures.
- Acquisition of other ecologically significant lands. This includes valley lands, hazard lands, other wetlands, headwater recharge and discharge areas, forested areas and any other lands which support provincial interests identified within the new provincial policy statements (i.e. hazard/natural heritage). This does not include land where the primary purpose is recreation or the generation of revenue.
- Hazard land mapping in support of plan input or regulation programs.
- Flood land mapping in support of plan input or regulation programs.
- Flood and erosion capital projects and related studies.
- Watershed/subwatershed management plans which are intermunicipal in scope.

Discussion:

The Audit and Finance Committee had a discussion regarding the staff report and made recommendations at its June 12, 2026 meeting.

The result of the discussion was to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors that the \$500,000 plus interest currently held with CIBC Private Wealth in account #43062 be

separated into its own account and that the funds be allocated towards a dam design and repair project that meets the terms of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry restrictions in LPRCA's 2027 budget.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for the 2026 fiscal year associated with this report.

Prepared by:

Aaron LeDuc
Aaron LeDuc, CPA, CGA
Manager of Corporate Services

Approved and submitted by:

Judy Maxwell
Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA
General Manager



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

Date: June 29, 2026 **File:** 1.4.1

To: Chair and Members
LPRCA Board of Directors

From: General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, LPRCA

Re: **Minister's direction respect to budget and apportionment matters.**

Recommendation:

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the Minister's direction under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* as information;

AND,

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors reschedule the LPRCA budget meeting from Thursday, November 12, 2026 to Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

Strategic Direction:

Strategic Direction #1 – Protect People & Property from Flooding & Natural Hazards
Strategic Direction #2 – Deliver Exceptional Services & Experiences
Strategic Direction #3 – Support & Empower Our People
Strategic Direction #4 – Organizational Excellence

Purpose:

To update the Board of Directors as to the Minister's direction correspondence received from the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on June 26, 2026 regarding budget and apportionment matters (Attachment #1).

Background:

On April 24, 2026 Bill 97 *An Act to implement Budget measures, to enact, amend or repeal various statutes and to revoke various regulation* received Royal Assent.

Bill 97 included amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* including:

Minister's direction

1.14 (1) The Minister may, for the purpose of facilitating the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for authorities, issue a direction to an authority.

- (a) prohibiting the authority from making a decision in relation to its exercise of any of its powers under this Act or any other Act in the circumstances specified in the direction and subject to conditions;
- (b) requiring the authority to give notice, in accordance with the direction, of a decision

- that is has made
- (c) requiring the authority to send notices under subsection 25 (2), 27 (3) or 27.2 (3) by the date specified in the direction;
 - (d) governing budgetary and apportionment matters relating to the authority that are otherwise addressed in a regulation made under clause 40 (1) (c), (e) or clause 40 (3) (k).

Discussion:

The Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Attachment A of Attachment #1):

1. Each authority shall take all necessary steps to develop and approve its budget for the 2027 calendar year, in accordance with the CAA, to ensure that the authority complies with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Direction.
2. No later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the transition date, each authority shall:
 - i. Hold a meeting to approve apportionment amounts for its participating and specified municipalities as required by section 16 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - ii. Hold a meeting to approve a final budget as required by section 22 of O. Reg. 402/22.
3. Prior to the transition date, each authority shall:
 - i. Provide a copy of its final budget to the Minister and each of its participating and specified municipalities in accordance with section 24 of O. Reg 402/22, and in addition, provide a copy of the approved final budget to the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).
 - ii. Send notices to the authority's participating and specified municipalities in accordance with subsections 25 (2) (notices of apportionment of capital cost), 27 (3) (notices of apportionment of operating costs) and 27.2 (3) (notices of amounts owed by specified municipalities) of the CAA.
4. Upon completion of each of the following step, each authority shall provide written notice of the completion of the step to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks and the OPCA:
 - i. Approval of a draft budget for consultation purposes in accordance with Section 14 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - ii. Approval of apportionment amounts for participating and specified municipalities in accordance with section 18 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - iii. Approval of a final budget in accordance with section 23 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - iv. Sending of notices to participating and specified municipalities in accordance with subsections 25 (2), 27 (3) and 27.2 (3) of the CAA.

In the Minister's direction the 2027 budget is required to be approved 30-days prior to the transition date of February 1, 2027. The LPRCA 2027 Budget meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday November 12, 2026 and would be sent out to participating municipalities for consultation with the final vote on the apportionment and budget to take place at the first meeting of the 2027 calendar year.

As the first meeting of 2027 would take place on Wednesday January 6, 2027 and is within the 30-calendar day window before the transition date staff is proposing an update to the LPRCA meeting schedule.

Proposed budget revised budget meeting and timelines:

Date	Proposed Updated Budget Meetings and Timeline	Time
September 23, 2026	Addition: 2027 Draft Budget Meeting	9:30 a.m.
September 25, 2026	30-day participating municipalities consultation letters sent out	-
October 28, 2026	Closing of the 30-day consultation period	-
November 4, 2026	Board Meeting including vote on the apportionment and budget	6:30 p.m.
November 12, 2026	Cancellation: 2027 Draft Budget	-

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for the 2026 fiscal year associated with this report.

Prepared by:

Aaron LeDuc
Aaron LeDuc, CPA, CGA
Manager of Corporate Services

Approved and submitted by:

Judy Maxwell
Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA
General Manager

**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs**

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
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Tél.: 416 314-6790



357-2026-1745

June 26, 2026

TO: Conservation Authorities Chairs, GMs/CAOs, and municipalities

SUBJECT: Minister's direction under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* with respect to budget and apportionment matters

I am writing with regards to the transition of Ontario's conservation authority system to a consolidated regional model. Pursuant to my authority under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), I am issuing a direction ("Direction") to conservation authorities on budget and apportionment matters leading up to the transition date – please see attached Direction.

The purpose of this Direction, effective from June 26, 2026 to the transition date under the CAA (i.e., February 1, 2027, or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations), is to require conservation authorities to complete the budgetary process for the 2027 calendar year budget before the transition date, and in accordance with the CAA and applicable budget and apportionment regulations.

This Direction establishes deadlines for key budget process milestones, including the holding of meetings to approve apportionment amounts and final budgets, and the sending of notices of apportionment to participating municipalities. Conservation authorities are also required to notify the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) as certain steps of the budget process are completed. This Direction applies to all conservation authorities listed in Appendix A, with additional guidance set out in Appendix B of the attachment.

The Direction is intended to ensure that the transition to consolidation is successful with minimal disruptions to conservation authorities' governance, programs and services.

If you have any questions regarding this Direction, please contact the Conservation Authorities Section of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at ca.office@ontario.ca.

...2

Conservation Authorities Chairs, GMs/CAOs, and municipalities
Page 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Enclosures

c: The Honorable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

ATTACHMENT A

Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (this "Direction")

Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) provides the Minister with the authority to issue a direction to a conservation authority in relation to various matters for the purpose of facilitating the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities. The types of directions that can be issued by the Minister are set out in clauses 1.14(1)(a) to (d):

- (a) prohibiting the authority from making a decision in relation to its exercise of any of its powers under this Act or any other Act in the circumstances specified in the direction and subject to any specified conditions;
- (b) requiring the authority to give notice, in accordance with the direction, of a decision that it has made;
- (c) requiring the authority to send notices under subsection 25 (2), 27 (3) or 27.2 (3) by the date specified in the direction;
- (d) governing budgetary and apportionment matters relating to the authority that are otherwise addressed in a regulation made under clause 40 (1) (c), (e) or (f) or clause 40 (3) (k).

Section 1.14 further provides that an authority that receives such a direction shall comply with the direction within the time specified in the direction.

Pursuant to the authority of the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under clauses 1.14(1)(c) and (d), the conservation authorities set out under Appendix "A" of this Direction (the "**authorities**" or each, an "**authority**") are hereby directed as follows:

1. Each authority shall take all necessary steps to develop and approve its budget for the 2027 calendar year, in accordance with the CAA, to ensure that the authority complies with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Direction.
2. No later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the transition date, each authority shall:
 - i. Hold a meeting to approve apportionment amounts for its participating and specified municipalities as required by section 16 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - ii. Hold a meeting to approve a final budget as required by section 22 of O. Reg. 402/22.
3. Prior to the transition date, each authority shall:
 - i. Provide a copy of its final budget to the Minister and each of its participating and specified municipalities in accordance with section 24 of O. Reg. 402/22, and in addition, provide a copy of the approved final budget to the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).
 - ii. Send notices to the authority's participating and specified municipalities in accordance with subsections 25(2) (notices of apportionment of capital

costs), 27(3) (notices of apportionment of operating expenses) and 27.2(3) (notices of amounts owed by specified municipalities) of the CAA.

4. Upon completion of each of the following steps, each authority shall provide written notice of the completion of the step to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks and the OPCA:
 - i. Approval of a draft budget for consultation purposes in accordance with section 14 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - ii. Approval of apportionment amounts for participating and specified municipalities in accordance with section 18 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - iii. Approval of a final budget in accordance with section 23 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - iv. Sending of notices to participating and specified municipalities in accordance with subsections 25 (2), 27(3) and 27.2(3) of the CAA.

General

5. This Direction applies to the authorities listed in Appendix “A” to this Direction.
6. This Direction is effective from the date of its issuance to the transition date, within the meaning of the CAA (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations).
7. This Direction may be amended in writing from time to time at the sole discretion of the Minister.



Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
[June 26, 2026]

APPENDIX A

LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

Ausable Bayfield CA	Lower Trent Region CA
Cataraqui Region CA	Maitland Valley CA
Catfish Creek CA	Mattagami Region CA
Central Lake Ontario CA	Mississippi Valley CA
Credit Valley CA	Niagara Peninsula CA
Crowe Valley CA	Nickel District CA
Essex Region CA	North Bay-Mattawa CA
Ganaraska Region CA	Nottawasaga Valley CA
Grand River CA	Otonabee Region CA
Grey Sauble CA	Quinte Region CA
Halton Region CA	Raisin Region CA
Hamilton Region CA	Rideau Valley CA
Kawartha Region CA	Saugeen Valley CA
Kettle Creek CA	Sault Ste. Marie Region CA
Lake Simcoe Region CA	South Nation River CA
Long Point Region CA	St. Clair Region CA
Lower Thames Valley CA	Toronto and Region CA
	Upper Thames River CA

APPENDIX B

Guidance document for the Minister's Direction issued under section 1.14 of the CAA with respect to budget and apportionment matters

The Minister's Direction issued June 26, 2026 under s.1.14 of the CAA aims to preserve operational and budget process continuity through the transition to a regional governance model for conservation authorities.

While Ontario Regulation 402/22 (Budget and Apportionment) does not set out specific dates or deadlines for the completion of the various phases of the budget and apportionment process, this Direction sets the following timing requirements and additional notification requirements:

Item/Task	Deadline
i. Holding of meeting to approve apportionment amounts for participating and specified municipalities (s. 16 of O. Reg. 402/22)	No later than 30 calendar days
ii. Holding of meeting to approve final budget (s. 22 of O. Reg. 402/22)	before the transition date
i. Providing copies of the approved final budget (s. 24 of O. Reg. 402/22)	Prior to the transition date
ii. Sending of notices to participating and specified municipalities (s. 25(2), 27(3), and 27.2(3) of the CAA)	
i. Providing a notice to the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) and Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) when each of the following steps is completed: a. Approval of a draft budget for consultation purposes b. Approval of apportionment amounts c. Approval of the final budget d. Sending of notices to participating and specified municipalities	Upon completion of each step

With respect to any documents and notice required to be given to the MECP and OPCA (e.g., approved final budget and notice of completion of various steps), please send those documents and notices to MECP at ca.office@ontario.ca and OPCA at CCEO@ontario.ca.

2027 Annual Budget

Conservation authorities will carry out the 2027 calendar year budget process in accordance with Ministers Directions, the CAA and its regulations. The determination of revenue, expenses and costs under Section 5 of O. Reg. 402/22 and determination of reduced amounts to be apportioned under Section 6 of O. Reg. 402/22 should reflect continuity of normal operations of an authority according to current organization's

governance, financial structures, and programs and services. Any anticipated impacts from regional consolidation should not be considered or incorporated into the preparation of the budget for the 2027 calendar year under this direction.

Municipal Consultation

Current participating and specified municipalities are to be consulted on the draft budget for the 2027 calendar year, in accordance with existing legislative/regulatory requirements.

Voting

Budget-related votes are conducted using current authority membership and existing governance rules and in accordance with regulations, where that is set out.

Final Approval and Posting

Authorities approve, post, and provide copies of the final budget for the 2027 calendar year in accordance with existing requirements and the Minister's Direction.

Municipal Apportionment

The approach to municipal apportionment will not change for 2027 calendar year budgets and will follow the existing methods set out in O. Reg. 402/22 and O. Reg. 401/22 (Determination of Amounts Under Subsection 27.2 (2) of the Act) and apply to the current participating and specified municipalities of each authority per the apportionment percentages distributed by the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks.

Once apportioned amounts are determined and approved by authorities, notices of apportionment are sent to each participating municipality and notices setting out amounts owing are sent to each specified municipality. Each municipality shall be required to pay the amount apportioned to it even after the transition date under the CAA, at which point the payment will be due to the regional conservation authority.

Future Annual Budget

Budget alignment across regional conservation authorities will occur following the transition date.

The ministry will assess whether any changes need to be made to the budgeting process as set out in the budget and apportionment regulations as a result of the regional consolidation of authorities and will consider amendments to those regulations in Fall 2026, where appropriate.



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

Date: June 30, 2026

File:3.6.6

To: Chair and Members,
LPRCA Board of Directors

From: General Manager, LPRCA

Re: Watershed Conditions Update

Recommendation:

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the watershed conditions update report as information.

Strategic Direction:

Strategic Direction #1 – Protect People & Property from Flooding & Natural Hazards
Strategic Direction #2 – Deliver Exceptional Services & Experiences

Background:

LPRCA is responsible for operating a flood forecasting and warning system in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). This system includes monitoring weather conditions and forecasts, forecasting flood potential, issuing bulletins, and communicating updates to municipalities. Through this flood warning system, municipalities can take the necessary actions to ensure the welfare of residents and minimize property damage due to flooding.

In collaboration with MNR, LPRCA is also responsible for monitoring precipitation, stream flow, groundwater levels, and other factors in order to recognize and measure the severity of low water conditions. The LPRCA Water Response Team (WRT) meets as required throughout the year to review stream flow information and weather forecasts. Based on the information available, the WRT can issue low water conditions statements to help preserve flows within watercourses.

Precipitation:

During the month of April, the LPRCA watershed received a higher than average amount of precipitation. The watershed received an average of approximately 100.42 mm across our precipitation gauges, which is higher than the historical average of 76.83 mm for April. The lowest amount of rain was recorded at the Waterford station at 76.41 mm, while the highest was recorded at the Otterville station at 150.10 mm.

The month of May had similar precipitation to April. The watershed received an average of approximately 105.87 mm, which is higher than the historical average of 87.63 mm for May. The lowest amount of rain was recorded at the Waterford station with 81.11 mm, while the highest recorded was again at the Otterville station at 161.60 mm.

The month of June was wetter than both April and May. The average precipitation received in June was 121.2 mm, which is about 125% of the historical average rainfall for June. The lowest amount of rain was recorded at the Townsend station with 83 mm, and the highest was recorded at the Otterville station with 238 mm.

The short-term Weather Network forecasts are calling for above-average temperatures and intermittent periods of rainfall over the first half of July.

The long-term Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Temperature and Precipitation Deterministic Forecasts indicates above-average temperatures and average precipitation are expected through July and August.

River Flow:

Throughout April, May and June 2026, no low water response messages have been issued. Flow monitoring stations across the LPRCA watershed — including Big Otter Creek at Tillsonburg and Calton, and Big Creek near Walsingham — continue to report discharge rates well above seasonal low-flow thresholds.

Seven-day average flow values remain healthy across monitored locations, indicating sufficient baseflow conditions. LPRCA will continue to track streamflow, precipitation, and groundwater indicators, and will issue low water messaging if conditions warrant it.

Lake Conditions:

Lake Erie water levels increased slightly through May 2026, going from 174.34 m on May 4th to 174.44 m above sea level (IGLD85) by May 31st. This represents a rise of approximately 10 cm during the month and is 8 cm above the long-term average for May, though 3 cm lower than May 2025.

At the beginning of June, the lake level stood at 174.44 m, increasing slightly through the month to reach 174.48 m above sea level by the end of June. This represents a rise of 4 cm from the beginning of the month, and is 10 cm above the long-term average for June, though 2 cm lower than June 2025.

Under most probable water supply scenarios, Lake Erie levels are expected to remain above average in the near term, but will likely decline into July and August, following typical seasonal trends.

A lake level above 174.5 m indicates that static water level flooding in the Long Point Region may become a risk if water levels continue to increase. The current water level also increases the potential for storm surge flooding. However, as the lake level is only marginally above the 174.5 m threshold, these risks are minimal.

LPRCA will continue to monitor Lake Erie conditions closely and provide formal flood messaging to the public and our municipal partners as required. The forecast for Lake Erie is presented in Figure 1.

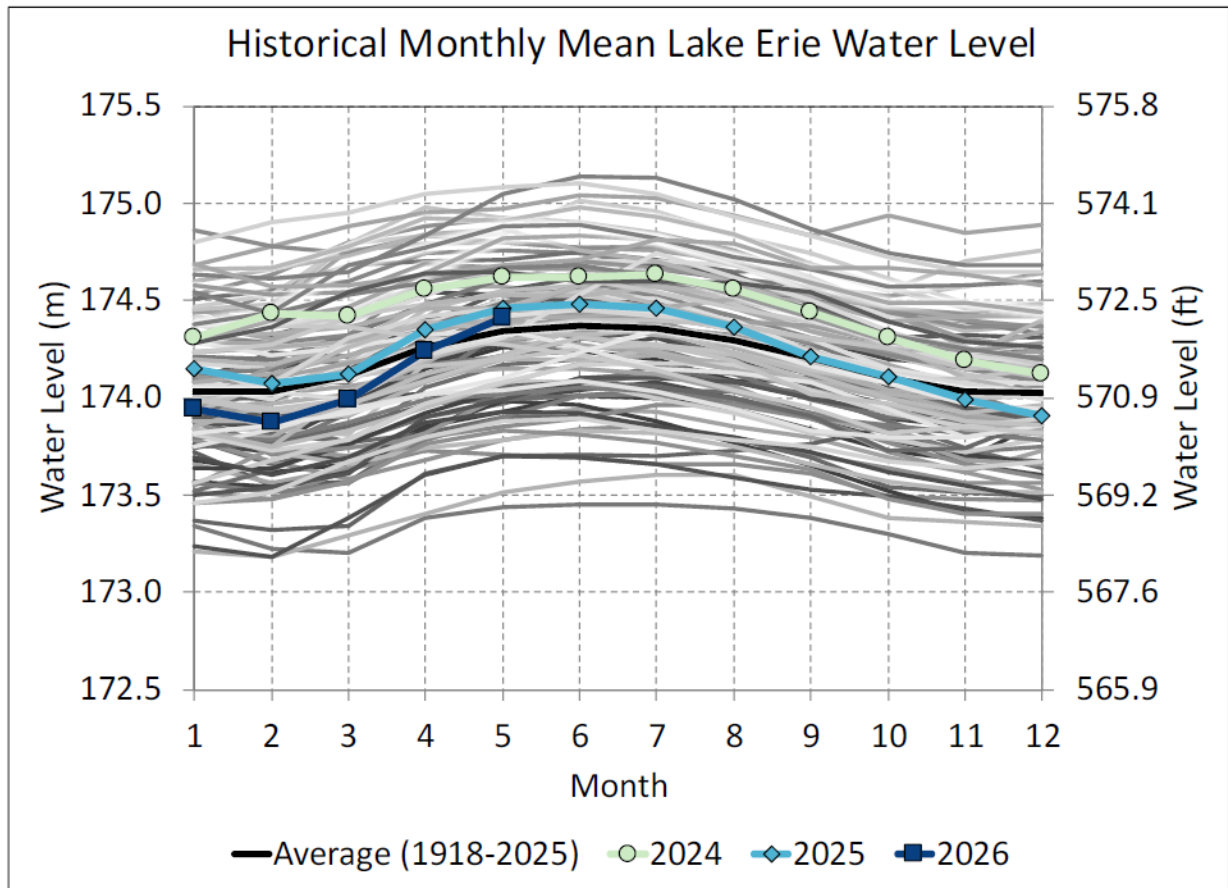


Figure 1: International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board (ILOSRLRB), “Lake Erie – Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Water Level & Flow Conditions Briefing,” June 25, 2026

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report

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