

Windsor, Ontario July 28, 2016

A meeting of the **Windsor Essex County Environment Committee** is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre, there being present the following members:

Councillor Paul Borrelli, Chair  
Joe Sachetti, Vice Chair, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Councillor Fred Francis  
Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Derek Coronado  
Debby Grant  
Mike Nelson  
Dr. Edwin Tam  
Radwan Tamr (arrives at 5:40 p.m.)

**Regrets received from:**

Jesse Gardner Costa  
Joe Passa

**Also present are the following resource personnel:**

Dustin Carey, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator (A)  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Committee Coordinator calls the meeting to order at 5:30 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Moved by J. Sachetti, seconded by D. Coronado,  
That Rule 3.3 (c) of the Procedure By-law 98-2011 be waived to add the following addition to the Agenda:

**2.1 Election of Chairperson**

Carried.

## 2.1 Election of Chairperson

The Committee Coordinator calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair. Councillor Francis nominates Councillor Borrelli and is seconded by M. Nelson. The Committee Coordinator asks if there are further nominations from the floor, and seeing none, the Committee Coordinator asks Councillor Borrelli if he accepts. Councillor Borrelli accepts.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by Councillor Borrelli,  
That Councillor Paul Borrelli **BE ELECTED** Chair of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee.

Carried.

Councillor Borrelli assumes the Chair.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

None disclosed.

## 4. MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sachetti,  
That the minutes of the meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee held January 28, 2016 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Carried.

## 5. BUSINESS ITEMS

### 5.1 Peter Garforth Green Speaker Presentation Honarium Ratification

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sachetti,  
That the following e-mail poll **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED**:

That approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 (Canadian Funds) as an Honarium for Peter Garforth, Green Speaker Series who will present on Community Energy Planning and its associated environmental and economic benefits on March 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

Carried.

### 5.2 Jason Thistlethwaite Green Speak Presentation Funds Ratification

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by Mayor G. McNamara,  
That the following e-mail poll **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED**:

That approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 (Canadian Funds) for costs associated with transportation, meals, accommodations and room rental for Dr. Jason Thistlethwaite, Green Speaker Series who will provide a presentation on Sustainable Flood Risk Management and its associated socioeconomic considerations to be held on May 3, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre".

Carried.

### **5.3 Pat on the Back Award Funds Ratification**

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by Mayor G. McNamara,  
That the following e-mail poll **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

That approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$2,500 (Canadian Funds) for costs associated with the Pat on the Back Awards to be held on June 6, 2016 which includes four awards in the amount of \$500 each and the purchase of a plaque to commemorate the winner.

Carried.

### **5.4 WECEC Domain Renewal**

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by M. Nelson,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$28.25 payable to eliquidMEDIA for the WECEC annual domain renewal.

Carried.

### **5.5 Green Speaker Selection and Funds Request**

D. Carey reports there is \$1,521.75 remaining in the 2016 WECEC Operating Budget and asks for suggestions for Green Speakers.

Moved by Deputy Mayor J. Sachetti, seconded by D. Grant,

That the balance of the 2016 WECEC Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,521.75 **BE ALLOCATED** to the Green Speakers Series.

Carried.

### **5.6 Priorities for the Duration of 2016**

D. Carey advises the following suggestions were provided at the WECEC meeting held on January 28, 2016:

- Greening the City - specifically more green roofs and other types of green infrastructure

- Walkability, complete streets, trails, active transportation
- Review of existing tree cutting bylaw
- Pollution issues, cancer causing environmental issues
- Right to Know by-law
- Parkway natural areas
- Know Your City tour
- Information sharing about what other municipalities are doing
- Invasive species control
- Youth engagement
- Anti-idling

Discussion ensues regarding the priorities list for 2016 and the following suggestions are added:

- o Bike lanes
- o Presentation on invasive species control from ERCA
- o In terms of cancer causing environmental issues, invite a representative from the Windsor Essex County Health Unit to provide a presentation
- o Trans Border issues, i.e. River Rouge. Lung Cancers on the average per capita are higher than any region in Ontario
- o White Flag Campaign - request for a presentation.
- o Suggestion for elected officials of WECEC to champion the issues of WECEC.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by Dr. E. Tam,  
That the list identifying priorities for WECEC in 2016 including the additional items provided at the WECEC meeting held July 28, 2016 **BE APPROVED**.  
Carried.

## 6. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

### 6.1 WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report

D. Carey provides an overview of the Green Speaker Series events that occurred on March 30, 2016 (Peter Garforth - "Community Energy Planning") and on May 3, 2016 (Dr. Jason Thistlethwaite - "A Financial Survival Guide to Climate Change"). He notes both events were very successful and well attended.

D. Carey provides highlights relating to the 2016 Environmental Advisory Committees of Ontario Symposium held May 14, 2016 at the Greenwood Discovery Centre, Ajax, Ontario as follows:

- Session 1: ***About the Ajax Environmental Advisory Committee***
- Session 2: ***Planning for Community Gardens***
- Session 3: ***Advocating for Community Gardens as Green Infrastructure***
- Session 4: ***Edible Native Species in the Urban Forest***

Session 5: ***Local Food in an Urban Environment***

Session 6: ***Your Pane is their Pain*** - this refers to the increase of bird strikes into buildings in Canada and the methods used to reduce the number of bird strikes.

Moved by Mayor G. McNamara, seconded by Dr. E. Tam,  
That the July 2016 Coordinator's Report and the verbal update by the Environment and Sustainability Coordinator **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

## **7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **7.1 Air**

In terms of the Marathon Petroleum Co. Detroit Refinery, D. Coronado reports 3,500 public comments were submitted.

D. Coronado states that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission - the federal agency that monitors the safe operation of nuclear stations now requires that all homes and businesses within 10 km of a nuclear power station receive a supply of potassium iodide (K) pills. He indicates the Windsor Essex County Health Unit is working on secondary zones for potassium iodide.

**Note:** the Secondary Zone extends from 1 km to 50 km. around a nuclear power plant.

It is noted there are no nuclear plants in the Windsor Essex County area; however, the City of Windsor is within 50 km of U.S. nuclear power plant facilities.

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by Dr. E. Tam,  
That a representative from the Windsor Essex County Health Unit, or Lee Tome, Deputy Fire Chief, Town of Amherstburg **BE INVITED** to attend the September 29, 2016 meeting of WECEC to provide an assessment of the "mock disaster" undertaken in June 2016 and, to provide information relating to the programs in place regarding potassium iodide.  
Carried.

### **7.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues Subcommittee**

M. Nelson provides the highlights of the subcommittee meeting held March 17, 2016 as follows:

A number of issues were discussed including:

- o Matchette Road review of the requirements for closure
- o Tree canopy and tree cutting bylaw in the City of Windsor

- o Dainty Rice - unauthorized excavation of a municipal drain
- o Airport Woodlots - status update
- o Twin Oaks and Little River - ATV traffic and access to the site is disturbing the natural environment
- o City/County Projects - various projects and topics were discussed, i.e. Matchette Road Class EA process.

The "Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues Subcommittee Report" submitted by M. Nelson is **attached** as Appendix "A".

M. Nelson puts forth the following motion submitted by the Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues Subcommittee for consideration:

*"Whereas, the report of the City Forester dated November 27, 2015 entitled "Urban Forestry Plan to Reduce the Backlog in Forestry Services and A Return to a Preventative Maintenance Program: be received; and*

*Whereas, the Parks Forestry Department has initiated a Request for Proposals for an Urban Forest Management Plan; and*

*Whereas, the Terms of Reference of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee identifies the Committee's duty to advise on and recommend studies that could assist in increasing awareness of environmental concerns; solutions to environmental problems and/or enhance environmental conditions in the region; and*

*Whereas Greening the city, reviewing the existing tree cutting bylaw, and Parkway natural areas were identified as priorities for the current WECEC term in the WECEC Work Plan, finalized at the July 30, 2015 meeting,*

*Therefore be it resolved, that the Parks Forestry Department be requested to involve the Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues Subcommittee in the development of the Request for Proposals for the proposed Urban Forest Management Plan."*

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,

That City Administration **BE REQUESTED** to provide comment and a review relating to the Request for Proposals for an Urban Forest Management Plan which will determine the general health of the urban forest, enhance the urban forest, define short and long term goals, and will determine the canopy coverage.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by Mayor G. McNamara,

That the "Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues Subcommittee Report" of its meeting held March 17, 2016 submitted by M. Nelson **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### 8.1 Update on City of Windsor Environmental Initiatives

D. Carey states the City of Windsor is embarking on a Community Energy Plan (CEP). It is noted the CEP will result in improving energy efficiency, modifying land use planning, reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, fostering green energy solutions throughout Windsor, while supporting local economic development.

In terms of urban heat islands, it is noted Health Canada has been working with communities to help identify the causes of urban heat islands (UHI) and support approaches to reduce heat-health impacts through interventions in the built environment. Health Canada has been collaborating with communities in Ontario (Windsor, Ottawa, London, etc.) on eight innovative community-driven projects. The results from these collaborations, which are being disseminated to stakeholders and partners across Canada and internationally, help raise awareness and support action to reduce UHI's at the local level.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by R. Tamr,  
That the update on the City of Windsor Environmental Issues provided by the Environment & Sustainability Coordinator **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

### 8.2 Update on Essex County Environmental Initiatives

The document entitled "Update on Essex County Environmental Initiatives" prepared by M. Nelson is attached as Appendix "B". The highlights of the document include the following:

**2015-2015 Strategic Plan** - Significant consultation was undertaken with the community regarding the draft Strategic Plan 2016 - 2015 - Sustaining the Place for Life.

**Ojibway Shores Environmental Report** - The purpose of the report is to provide a current baseline biological inventory and evaluation in accordance with currently accepted ecological evaluation standards. This exercise will result in a more accurate and up-to-date assessment of the current extent of the feature's existing natural vegetation.

**Ontario Phragmites Working Group** - ERCA staff participated in the annual meeting of the Ontario Phragmites Working Group on March 3, 2016.

**Hillman Marsh Prescribed Burn** - A Low Complexity Prescribed Burn was completed at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area on March 22, 2016.

**Holiday Beach Management Plan** - ERCA prepared a management plan for the Holiday Beach Conservation Area.

**Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative:** Priority Subwatershed Project: ERCA is one of only four of the 36 Ontario Conservation Authorities to be selected to work with Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association on a Priority Subwatershed Project. The goal of the project is to reduce phosphorous and nutrient loadings into Lake Erie by working with agricultural producers to implement best management practices.

**Town of Lakeshore Official Plan Review** - ERCA has initiated a review of the natural heritage policies of the Town of Lakeshore Official Plan on behalf of the Town of Lakeshore. This will include an update to the Essex Region Natural Heritage System Strategy reflecting available information on natural heritage features.

**The Western Lake Erie Student Conference** - This Conference is being hosted by the Essex Region Conservation Authority, with funding support from the Ministries of Environment and Education.

**Great Lakes Guardian Phragmites Control Pilot Program** - In partnership with Caldwell First Nations, Leamington District Secondary School, and the Leamington Blue Dot movement, ERCA will conduct a Phragmites Control Pilot Project at the East Cell of Hillman Marsh Conservation Area, thanks to a grant from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund.

**Habitat Restoration and Spring Garden** - A collaborative effort between ERCA, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and the City of Windsor has started to restore the habitat values of the Spring Garden area.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sachetti, seconded by D. Grant,

That the "Update on Essex County Environmental Issues" prepared by M. Nelson

**BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

## 8. **NEW BUSINESS**

D. Grant proposes an "urban forager" be considered for the next Green Speaker series. D. Carey will report back on this matter.

Mayor Gary McNamara asks if WECEC has put forth a motion regarding microplastics in the Great Lakes. D. Coronado responds the Federal Government have listed "microbeads" as a toxic substances, however, there is currently no legislation as of yet.

Councillor Francis requests an update regarding what other municipalities/agencies are doing regarding microplastics and asks for a report back at the next meeting.

## 9. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Moved by Deputy Mayor J. Sachetti, seconded by Mayor G. McNamara,



That the following Communications **BE RECEIVED:**

- 9.1 Ontario Climate Action Plan
- 9.2 Climate Change Mitigation and Low-Carbon Economy Act
- 9.3 Marathon Refinery
- 9.4 Nomination of Radionuclides as a Chemical of Mutual Concern under the GLWQA
- 9.5 AMO Conference 2016
- 9.6 Windsor-Essex Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

Carried.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

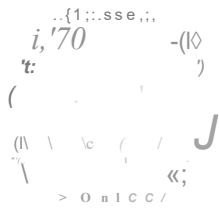
The next meeting will be held on September 29, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:05 o'clock p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
COMMITTEE COORDINATOR



**AGENDA**  
**WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
held on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**Meeting at 5:30p.m at the Ojibway Nature Centre**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - **emailed separately.**

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

5.1 **Peter Garforth Green Speaker Presentation Honorarium Ratification**

*"That APPROVAL BE GIVEN to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 (Canadian Funds) as an Honorarium for Peter Garforth, Green Speaker Series who will present on Community Energy Planning and its associated environmental and economic benefits on March 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre."*

5.2 **Jason Thistlethwaite Green Speaker Presentation Funds Ratification**

*"That APPROVAL BE GIVEN to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 (Canadian Funds) for costs associated with transportation, meals, accommodation and room rental for Dr. Jason Thistlethwaite, Green Speaker Series who will provide a presentation on Sustainable Flood Risk Management and its associated socioeconomic considerations to be held on May 3, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre."*

5.3 **Pat on the Back Awards Funds Ratification**

*"That APPROVAL BE GIVEN to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$2,500 (Canadian Funds) for costs associated with the Pat on the Back Awards to be held on June 6, 2016 which includes four awards in the amount of \$500 each and the purchase of a plaque to commemorate the winner."*

5.4 **WECEC Domain Renewal**

The invoice from eliquidMEDIA is **attac /led.**

5.5 **Green Speaker Selection and Funds Request**

5.6 **Priorities for the Duration of 2016**

6. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

6.1 WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report - **attached.**

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 7.1 Air
- 7.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 8.1 Update on City of Windsor environmental initiatives
- 8.2 Update on Essex County environmental initiatives

9. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- 9.1 Ontario Climate Action Plan - **attached**
- 9.2 Climate Change Mitigation and Low-Carbon Economy Act - **attached**
- 9.3 Marathon Refinery - **attached**
- 9.4 Nomination of Radionuclides as a Chemical of Mutual Concern under the GLWQA - **attached**
- 9.5 AMO Conference 2016 - **attached**
- 9.6 Windsor-Essex Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - **attached**

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is September 29, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

## 7.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues Subcommittee Report

Report prepared for the July 28, 2016 Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee meeting.

### I. Short report on March 17, 2016 meeting

- Subcommittee members met on March 17, 2016 at the offices of the Citizens Environment Alliance
- Members included Jesse Gardner-Costa, Derek Coronado, Mike Nelson, Debby Grant. Dustin Carey provided support and we were joined by Phil Roberts.
- A number of issues were discussed:
  - Matchette Road review of the requirements for closure
  - Tree canopy and tree cutting bylaw in the City of Windsor
  - Dainty Rice - unauthorized excavation of a municipal drain
  - Airport Woodlots - status update
  - Twin Oaks and little River -A TV traffic and access to the site is disturbing the natural environment
  - City/County Projects - various projects and topics were discussed

**ACTION:** Dustin to draft up a short summary report of the comments discussed at the meeting and in particular, issues of concern for the committee to review and discuss. The issues included the Matchette Road Class EA process and the Urban Forest Strategy.

2. Motion to WECEC: Subcommittee prepared the following motion to be presented at the next WECEC meeting: Urban Forest Management Plan - Word attachment.
3. Subcommittee discussed issues related to the report that went to the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The decision on the Standing Committee was deferred. The subcommittee would request that Dustin Carey be placed on the Notification List for future committee decisions and notifications.
4. Subcommittee also reviewed information from the Windsor Star article dated June 22, 2016 "Province, ERCA investigate work near protected city wetland".  
<http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/province-erca-investigate-work-near-protected-city-wetland>

## 8.2 Update on Essex County environmental initiatives

Report prepared by Mike Nelson for the April 13, 2016 Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee meeting

**2015-2025 Strategic Plan** - Significant consultation was undertaken with the community to inform the draft Strategic Plan 2016 - 2025 - Sustaining the Place for Life. These included an online survey, Conservation Conversation with two dozen stakeholders, a Regional Roundtable with the CAOs of a dozen regional organizations, as well as input from municipal staff and administration, the Board of Directors, and ERCA staff. Throughout this consultation process, there were five recurring themes that we heard. From these themes, fifteen strategic goals have been identified, with forty-five strategic actions outlined to achieve these goals and the community's vision for the Essex Region. Each year, progress on these strategic actions will be measured through our Annual Report and associated Accountability Report. Following Board approval, the Strategic Plan will be publicly launched. A link to the Agenda which contains Report BO14/16 is found here: [http://erca.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/BO\\_Agenda-FULL-I4Apr2016.pdf](http://erca.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/BO_Agenda-FULL-I4Apr2016.pdf)

**Ojibway Shores Environmental Report** - The purpose of the report is to provide a current baseline biological inventory and evaluation in accordance with currently accepted ecological evaluation standards. This exercise will result in a more accurate and up to date assessment of the current extent of the feature's existing natural vegetation. Currently, a template for the Ojibway Shores Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation Report has been drafted, which includes background and the regional context, floral and faunal inventories, and an evaluation of the natural heritage significance of the property. Outside support for the Ecological Land Classification analysis section of the report has been obtained. We're currently developing the background and contextual information and reviewing all available relevant flora and fauna data prior to beginning analysis.

**Ontario Phragmites Working Group** - ERCA staff participated in the annual meeting of the Ontario Phragmites Working Group on March 3, 2016. Meeting minutes from this meeting as well as correspondence from the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding Phragmites control initiatives may be found in an ERCA Board of Directors' report being provided to the Board at the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. A link to the Agenda which contains Report BO 10/ 16 is found here: [http://erca.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/BD\\_Agenda-FULL-I4Apr2016.pdf](http://erca.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/BD_Agenda-FULL-I4Apr2016.pdf)

**Hillman Marsh Prescribed Burn** - A Low Complexity Prescribed Burn was completed at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area on March 22, 2016. Information relating to this LCPB may be found in an ERCA Board of Directors' report being provided to the Board at the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. A link to the Agenda which contains Report BD09/ 16 is found here: [http://erca.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/BO\\_Agenda-FULL-I4Apr2016.pdf](http://erca.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/BO_Agenda-FULL-I4Apr2016.pdf)

**Holiday Beach Management Plan** - ERCA prepared a management plan for the Holiday Beach Conservation Area. This report is available online and available for review. Please send comments to Kevin Money. Public Consultation for this plan is ongoing and the final management plan will be brought to the Board of Directors in the fall of 2016.

**GLASI Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative: Priority Subwatershed Project** - ERCA is one of only four of the 36 Ontario Conservation Authorities to be selected to work with Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association on a Priority Subwatershed Project. ERCA's Priority Subwatershed Project targets Wigle Creek, a subwatershed in Kingsville that drains into Lake Erie. The goal of the project is to reduce phosphorus and nutrient loadings into Lake Erie by working with agricultural producers to implement best management practices. To date, the cost-share program has funded conservation tillage, phosphorus management practices and crop nutrient plans. ERCA will continue to encourage the uptake of additional BMPs, including the use of cover crops, and monitor the effectiveness of BMPs through water quality sampling over the next two years.

**Town of Lakeshore Official Plan Review** - ERCA has initiated a review of the natural heritage policies of the Town of Lakeshore Official Plan on behalf of the Town of Lakeshore. This will include an update to the Essex Region Natural Heritage System Strategy reflecting available information on natural heritage features.

The **Western Lake Erie Student Conference** is being hosted by the Essex Region Conservation Authority, with funding support from the Ministries of Environment and Education. On April 21, this conference will bring together approximately 150 Special High Skills Majors (SHSM) students from the Greater Essex County District School Board and the Windsor Essex Catholic School Board, SHSM teachers (Environment, Agriculture, Construction, Travel and Tourism, Landscape and Horticulture) and Great Lakes professionals in the western Lake Erie basin to:

- Provide an opportunity for students and teachers to learn about and connect with Lake Erie
- Highlight Great Lakes related career opportunities across a broad spectrum of professions (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and also tradespersons (such as Great Lakes fisheries, drinking water operators, tourism related professions, etc.)
- Participate in a Great Lakes experiential activity

**Great Lakes Guardian Phragmites Control Pilot Project**- In partnership with Caldwell First Nations, Leamington District Secondary School, and the Leamington Blue Dot movement, ERCA will conduct a Phragmites Control Pilot Project at the East Cell of Hillman Marsh Conservation Area, thanks to a grant from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund. The project will include baseline marsh monitoring to identify the native species presently inhabiting the marsh. Subsequently, Phragmites will be removed and treated by an appropriately licensed contractor and in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources' best practices. The project will also include education and outreach through workshops, an educational video, and signage. Ongoing maintenance will be undertaken through a continued partnership with the Caldwell First Nations. This project will allow us to gather valuable research data about *Phragmites* control efforts, which will have broad value should the MNR permit future use of chemical control applications in wet areas. A link to the Agenda which contains Report BD11/16 is found here: [http://erca.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/BD\\_Agenda-FULL- I4Apr2016.pdf](http://erca.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/BD_Agenda-FULL- I4Apr2016.pdf)

**Habitat Restoration and Spring Garden** - A collaborative effort between the Essex Region Conservation Authority, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and the City of Windsor has started to

restore the habitat values of the Spring Garden area. Phase one of this plan has been initiated and ERCA staff are removing invasive shrubs and trees, opening up the area for snake species at risk. Future phases include more brush removal and a series of controlled burns.