



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Annual General Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2026
Approved April 1, 2026

Members in attendance:

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

Regrets:

Peter Ypma	Township of South-West Oxford
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
Jessica King, Social Media and Marketing Associate
Nicole Sullivan, HR/Coordinator/Executive Assistant

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair, Doug Brunton, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Long Point Region Conservation Authority's 2026 Annual General Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm, Friday, March 6, 2026 in the Tillsonburg Administration Office Boardroom.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None were declared.

3. Additional Agenda Items

There were no additional agenda items.

4. Approval of the Agenda

A-32/26

Moved by T. Masschaele
Seconded J. Palmer

That the 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

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a) Board of Directors Hearing Board Meeting of February 4, 2026

A-33/26

Moved by D. McKeen

Seconded by E. Ketchabaw

That the minutes of the Board of Directors Hearing Board Meeting held February 4, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

b) Board of Directors Meeting of February 4, 2026

A-34/26

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by D. Beres

That the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held February 4, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. Introduction of the Board of Directors and Committees

The members of the Board and the community members of the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee and the Backus Museum Committee were introduced by Chair Brunton.

7. Introduction and Greetings from Special Guests

Greetings were extended from Councillor Robert Chambers, County of Brant, Mayor Ed Ketchabaw, the Municipality of Bayham, Debera McKeen, Haldimand County, Mayor Jim Palmer, Township of Norwich, Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, Town of Tillsonburg, and Mike Columbus, Norfolk County.

Bonnie Fox, Conservation Ontario Director, Policy and Planning, spoke for Conservation Ontario and its support of Conservation Authorities and on the role of Conservation Ontario.

8. Remarks from Bobbi Ann Brady, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk

Bobbi Ann Brady, MPP Haldimand Norfolk, acknowledged and thanked the Authority for the invitation and how nice it was to be back. MPP Bobbi Ann Brady spoke on the passion and commitment that the Authority staff has for their job and the region and acknowledged that the Authority always finds a way to work positively with the community. MPP Bobbi Ann Brady is happy to stand with Conservation Authorities in the coming year and supports the work carried out by LPRCA as environmental stewards.

9. Service Awards Presentation

The following staff were recognized for reaching service milestones with LPRCA this past year.

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

10-Year Service Award

Leigh-Anne Mauthe, Manager of Watershed Services
Sarah Dancey, Norfolk Conservation Area Supervisor

15-Year Service Award

Dave Beres, Board member
Michael Columbus, Board Member

50-year Special Recognition

Tom Haskett, Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee Chair

10. Audit and Finance Committee

The Chair called upon Dave Beres, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, to present the financial statements.

Dave Beres reported that the Committee met on February 20, 2026 and received and reviewed the financial statements in detail. MNP issued a clean opinion of the Authority's 2025 financial reports and found that the financial statements fairly presented the Authority's position.

The Chair introduced the auditors, Ray Mile and Julia Aubertin of MNP, and thanked MNP for their services.

A-35/26

Moved by D. McKeen
Seconded by E. Ketchabaw

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Audit and Finance Committee's meeting held February 20, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

A-36/26

Moved by J. Palmer
Seconded by T. Masschaele

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the LPRCA 2025 Audit Findings Report from MNP, LLP Chartered Professional Accountants as information.

Carried

A-37/26

Moved by M. Columbus
Seconded by R. Chambers

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the financial statements for the year ended December 31st, 2025 audited by MNP, LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants.

Carried

A-38/26

Moved by D. McKeen
Seconded by J. Palmer

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the appointment of MNP, LLP Chartered Accountants as LPRCA's auditors for the 2026 fiscal period.

Carried

11. Notice of Formal Motions

a) Designate Signing Officers

A-39/26

Moved by D. Beres

Seconded by J. Palmer

That the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the Chair, Vice-chair, General Manager, and Manager of Corporate Services as designated signing officers for Authority business for the year 2026.

Carried

b) Borrowing

A-40/26

Moved by T. Masschaele

Seconded by D. McKeen

That the LPRCA Board of Directors authorizes the Chair or Vice-Chair and the General Manager or Manager of Corporate Services to borrow funds as required for the day-to-day operations of the Authority.

Carried

c) Designate Conservation Ontario Council Representatives

A-41/26

Moved by J. Palmer

Seconded by R. Chambers

That the LPRCA Board of Directors designates the Authority Chair as the Authority's representative to Conservation Ontario (CO), with the Vice-Chair designated as alternate,

AND

Further that the General Manager be directed to participate on appropriate committees of CO and be authorized to vote in the absence of the designated representatives.

Carried

12. 2025 Annual Report

Judy Maxwell presented the 2025 Annual Report and provided an overview of the year's activities and achievements. Hard copies are available at the head office and the report is available on the LPRCA website; <https://www.lprca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2025-Annual-Report-LPRCA-bleed-compressed.pdf>

On behalf of the staff, General Manager, Judy Maxwell, thanked staff, the Board, municipal partners, the various community partners, and customers for their continued support.

A-42/26

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by J. Palmer

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

That the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the 2025 Annual Report as information.

Carried

13. Chair's Remarks

Chair, Doug Brunton, addressed the Board and guests to highlight the successes and accomplishments of Long Point Region Conservation Authority in 2025.

Chair, Doug Brunton, spoke on the announcement of the proposed amalgamations of Conservation Authorities into 7 regional Conservation Authorities and reiterated that the Board of Directors does not support the Regional Conservation Authority consolidation proposal that was outlined in the Environmental Registry of Ontario. Doug Brunton is hopeful that our collective efforts have been heard and the importance of locally driven, watershed-based programs and services will continue into the future.

The Chair then thanked the current and former members of the Board, the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee, the Backus Museum committee, Norfolk Fibre Arts Guild Volunteers, and the staff for their dedication and support.

14. Stewardship Award Presentation

Chair Brunton stated that the Long Point Region Conservation Stewardship award was created to recognize those individuals or groups who have made a commitment to environmental sustainability and conservation.

Jeff Tribe was selected as the recipient of the 2025 Long Point Region Conservation Stewardship Award.

Jeff, a proud resident of Oxford County, is a journalist, photographer, videographer and content creator who is passionate about the environment. Jeff, with the help of Ducks Unlimited Canada, facilitated a wetland restoration project on the Tribe Family Farm resulting in 1.4 acres of newly created wetland, including 2 wetland cells, several smaller water features and 8.9 acres of surrounding upland habitat. Around the wetland, Jeff planted 450 trees and shrubs. Most recently, Jeff planted another 550 trees on the farm through Forests Canada's 50 Million Tree Planting Program facilitated by LPRCA.

A plaque was presented to Jeff Tribe, who spoke briefly in appreciation of the Stewardship Award.

15. Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Chair Brunton introduced Gregg McLachlan, founder of WorkCabin Films and full-time conservation filmmaker. Gregg is not just the founder of WorkCabin films but also the Cinematographer, Writer, Editor, Executive Producer and handles Post-Production. Gregg has spent more than a decade pursuing his lifelong passion for nature and filmmaking.

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

16. Keynote Presentation – Destiny Wild: How Conservation Efforts Are Showing Returns, Gregg McLachlan

Gregg McLachlan’s presentation included the trailer for his upcoming film Destiny Wild, which follows biologists, conservationists, and community stewards in the Long Point Biosphere region as they document rare wildlife, fragile habitats, and the subtle signals that suggest the land is remembering what it once was.

Gregg McLachlan spoke on his other conservation documentaries, including Saving the Night Caller, which covers the Eastern Whip-poor-will in Walsingham Forest and Norfolk County. The film explores the heart behind conservation science, helping viewers gain a deeper appreciation for the work it takes to ensure these species are still calling through the night for generations to come.

Mr. McLachlan spoke on the importance of Norfolk County’s environment and unique ecosystems and highlighted that through years of conservation effort, starting with the forestry station in 1909, many animals are returning and could return to Norfolk County.

Gregg thanked the Board and the Authority for the opportunity to speak.

Chari Brunton thanked and gave Gregg McLachlan a gift for his presentation.

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Doug Brunton
Chair
/ns

Judy Maxwell
General Manager

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma