



**LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**Board of Directors Annual General Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2025**  
**Approved, April 2, 2025**

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Members in attendance:

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

Regrets:

None

Staff in attendance:

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

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair, Dave Beres, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Long Point Region Conservation Authority's 2024 Annual General Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm, Friday, March 7, 2025 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-28/25**

Moved by T. Masschaele  
Seconded M. Columbus

That the Board of Directors approves the agenda as circulated.

**Carried**

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**FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus,  
Tom Masschaele, Jim Palmer, Rainey Weisler, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

## **5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

### **a) Board of Directors Meeting of February 5, 2025**

**A-29/25**

Moved by R. Weisler

Seconded by S. Bentley

That the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held February 5, 2025 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 Beres.

## **7. Introduction and Greetings from Special Guests**

Greetings were extended from Councillor Robert Chambers, County of Brant, Mayor David Mayberry, Township of South-West Oxford, Mayor Ed Ketchabaw, the Municipality of Bayham, Deputy Mayor Doug Brunton, Norfolk County, Mayor Shelley Ann Bentley, Haldimand County, Mayor Jim Palmer, Township of Norwich, and Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, Town of Tillsonburg.

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

Bobbi Ann Brady acknowledged and thanked the Authority for the invite and how nice it was to be back in the boardroom. Bobbi Ann spoke on the passion that the Authority staff has for their job and the region and acknowledged that the Authority works with the community and always finds a way to work positively with the community. Bobbi Ann is proud of her ridings municipal representation on the Authority Board and supports the work carried out by the LPRCA as environmental stewards.

## **9. Service Awards Presentation**

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

### **5-Year Service Award**

Nicole Sullivan, HR Coordinator/Executive Assistant

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

Judy Maxwell, General Manager

Darrel Rohrer, Maintenance Operations Labourer

## **10. Audit and Finance Committee**

The Chair called upon Chris Van Paassen, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, to present the financial statements.

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Chair Van Paassen reported that the Committee met on February 14, 2025 and received and reviewed the financial statements in detail. MNP issued a clean opinion of the Authority's 2024 financial reports and found that the financial statements fairly presented the Authority's position.

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

Ashley Didone, Audit partner MNP, presented the 2024 Audit findings report and communicated to the Board auditor independence.

**A-30/25**

Moved by S. Bentley

Seconded by M. Columbus

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Audit and Finance Committee's meeting held February 14, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**A-31/25**

Moved by P. Ypma

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-32/25**

Moved by J. Palmer

Seconded by R. Weisler

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the financial statements for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 audited by MNP, LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants.

**Carried**

**A-33/25**

Moved by P. Ypma

Seconded by R. Chambers

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the appointment of MNP, LLP Chartered Accountants as LPRCA's auditors for the 2025 fiscal period.

**Carried**

**11. Notice of Formal Motions**

**a) Designate Signing Officers**

**A-34/25**

Moved by M. Columbus

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

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year 2025.

**Carried**

**b) Borrowing**

**A-35/25**

Moved by T. Masschaele

Seconded by R. Weisler

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-36/25**

Moved by R. Weisler

Seconded by C. Van Paassen

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. 2024 Annual Report**

Judy Maxwell presented the 2024 annual report and provided an overview of the year's activities. 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/2025/03/2024-Annual-Report-compressed.pdf>

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

**13. Chair's Remarks**

Chair, Dave Beres, addressed the Board and guests to highlight the successes and accomplishments of Long Point Region Conservation Authority in 2024.

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 Beres 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.

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Brian Woolley was nominated by members of ALUS Norfolk and was selected as the recipient of the 2024 Long Point Region Conservation Stewardship Award.

Brian, a proud resident of Norfolk County, has dedicated a large portion of his life to conservation advocacy, efforts and commitments. Brian obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture with a Crop Science major. Brian, on his own farm, has been working to address field erosion by implementing best management practices for erosion control, such as grassed waterways and cover crops. In 2019, he partnered with LPRCA and ALUS under the 50 Million Tree Program to plant over 4,000 trees. He controls invasive species, like Phragmites, European buckthorn and spongy moth, on his property.

#### **15. Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Chair Beres introduced Pete Zuzek, founder and President of Zuzek Inc., a professional services company dedicated to increasing the health and resilience of the world's coastal communities and ecosystems.

#### **16. Keynote Presentation – Overview & Progress on the North Shore Resilience Project, Pete Zuzek**

Pete's presentation detailed and gave a progress update on the Lake Erie North Shore Resilience Project, in which Pete works as a consultant. The Project started in 2023, when a working group of stakeholders and technical advisors came together to discuss the erosion on the North Shoreline from Port Glasgow to Long Point sandspit. The Long Point Biosphere Region was successful in securing \$900,000 of funding over 3 years by the Canada Water Agency.

The focus on the project is to help with the recovery of the North Shore of Lake Erie and to learn about how to better create resilience along the coast with all of its interconnected ecosystems.

The Project has three goals: First goal is to develop scientific knowledge on the movement of the sediment along the shore; Second goal is to complete dune restorations with native plants to increase the resilience of the beaches in the area; and the third goal is to work with stakeholders and organizations along with engaging with communities to develop an action plan along the broad study area.

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

#### **14. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

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Dave Beres  
Chair  
/ns

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Judy Maxwell  
General Manager

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