

April 9, 2026

Meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors

Conservation Authorities Amalgamation and Changes to the CA Act

Resolution No. 47/26

Moved by Kieran McKenzie

Seconded by Jim Morrison

WHEREAS the Board supports the Province's objectives of modernization and increased efficiency in the delivery of programs and services;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has provided verbal assurances that local offices will remain open, that no front-line jobs will be lost, that local programs and services will continue, and that local relationships and expertise will be retained, and the Board seeks clarity regarding how these assurances will be formally secured through binding legislative, regulatory, or policy mechanisms;

AND WHEREAS the Board remains concerned that the proposed watershed boundaries, while improved from earlier proposals, remain too large and may undermine effective, locally informed watershed-based management;

AND WHEREAS the proposed removal of lower-tier municipalities as participating municipalities risks the loss of direct local input into strategic and budgetary decision-making, weakens rural representation, and limits meaningful local influence over watershed-based planning, despite these municipalities having to continue to contribute funding;

AND WHEREAS the proposed implementation timeline is extremely aggressive and would benefit from fulsome consultation and meaningful dialogue with affected municipalities, industry experts, and stakeholders to ensure programs, services, and local expertise are protected, and that governance restructuring of this scale is informed by timely, constructive engagement with affected municipalities, industry experts, and stakeholders;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board supports the Province's modernization objectives provided they do not compromise local representation, expertise, service delivery, or accountability;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board urges the Province to formally entrench the Minister's assurances to ensure long-term protection of local offices, staff, programs, services, and local knowledge;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board recommends reconsideration of watershed boundary scale, retention of meaningful

participation for lower-tier municipalities, and an expedited and robust consultation process and meaningful dialogue with affected municipalities, industry experts, and stakeholders to ensure programs, services, and local expertise are protected to minimize unintended consequences;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT this resolution be communicated to the Minister, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, local MPPs, local municipalities and Board of Directors of the proposed Western Lake Erie Conservation Authority as a formal statement of the Board's position.

-CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I, Nicole Kupnicki, Manager, Human Resources & Council Services of the Essex Region Conservation Authority, do hereby certify this to be a true and complete copy of Resolution No. 47/26, passed by the Essex Region Conservation Authority Meeting of the Board of Directors on the 9th day of April, 2026.

DATED at Essex, Ontario
this 10th day of April, 2026.



Nicole Kupnicki