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April 18, 2018

Mayor & Council
Town of Kingsville
2021 Division Road North
Kingsville, ON N9Y 2Y9

Dear Mayor and Council:

RE: Delegation Presentation March 26, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to address you and your Council on the evening of Monday, March 26, 2018. We appreciate the time and consideration given to the presentation of the ERCA 2017 Annual Report, 2018 ERCA Budget and projects proposed in our region in 2018.

In response to the discussion, I also wanted to provide further information regarding our role in the Drainage review process, and our engagement with our agricultural partners.

ERCA's role in the Municipal drainage process is provided for in the **Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol**, known as the DART Protocol as it was developed by the inter-agency Drainage Act & Section 28 Regulations Team (DART). The DART was established by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to explore options and solutions to the legal liability issues for municipalities and conservation authorities arising from provisions in the *Drainage Act* and the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The DART includes representatives from MNRF, OMAFRA, Conservation Ontario, conservation authorities (including ERCA), the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario, the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers Land Drainage Coalition, and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association. The DART's goal was to develop a means for municipalities and conservation authorities to fulfill their responsibilities under the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act without compromising the intent of either statute.

The DART protocol provides provincially-approved guidance to conservation authority staff and municipal representatives (e.g. drainage superintendents, drainage engineers) regarding the most appropriate practices and permit requirements for municipal drain maintenance and repair activities.

In keeping with the Protocol, ERCA uses Standard Compliance Requirements Forms for maintenance and repair of municipal drains constructed under the Drainage Act, including brushing, debris removal, cleanouts, culvert replacement, bank stabilization, etc. In fact, ERCA was the first Conservation Authority in Ontario to apply the standardized forms and processes provided for in the Protocol to its review of drain maintenance. ERCA applies this protocol to approximately 150 applications annually within Essex Region.

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Through the DART Protocol, municipalities advise ERCA of intention to undertake a drainage study. ERCA responds with information regarding regulations that may apply. The Drainage Engineer appointed by the municipality considers these requirements as part of their report, which proceeds through required Municipal processes before it is submitted to ERCA for review. Once received, ERCA uses the standardized forms and processes described in the DART Protocol to complete its review. It should be noted that municipalities may submit Drainage Reports to ERCA several weeks/months after they have been completed by the Drainage Engineers.

In Kingsville, between 2015 and 2018, ERCA received 15 Municipal Drain projects (see below). ERCA reviewed and issued permits for 14 projects. One project (County Road 50 Heritage Drain Works) was not completed by the Municipality. On average, ERCA's reviews were completed within 10.5 business days following receipt of the complete submission – some more complex reviews required more than 10.5 days for the review.

DRAINAGE WORKS: TOWN OF KINGSVILLE: 2015-2018					
Project Name	Engineer	Submission Date	Issued	Expired	# Days ¹
Schiller Drain and Diversion	N. J. Peralta Engineers Ltd.	01-May-14	15-May-14	28-May-15	11 ²
Stewart Stevenson Bridge Construction	Rood Engineering Inc	11-Dec-14	22-Dec-14	22-Dec-15	6
Culvert Replacement - 3396 County Road 23	N. J. Peralta Engineering	27-Jul-15	14-Aug-15	19-Aug-16	13
COUNTY RD 50 Heritage Rd Drain works	Project not completed.				
WEST FRONT RD DRAIN - Culvert Replacement	NJ Peralta Engineering Ltd.	26-Mar-15	09-Apr-15	30-Apr-16	12
11th Concession Drain East of Belle River - Culvert - 372 Road 11	Rood Engineering Inc.	10-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-18	14
Drain Enclosure	RC Spencer Associates	12-Mar-15	24-Mar-15	24-Mar-16	8
Division Road Drain Enclosure	RC Spencer Associates Inc.	24-Mar-15	27-Mar-15	31-Mar-16	3
Undertake road reconstruction & culvert installation	Stantec Consulting Ltd., C. Jubenville	15-Jul-15	25-Aug-15	25-Aug-17	21

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Bridge Replacement - Griffen	Rood Engineering Inc.	22-Feb-16	22-Feb-16	22-Feb-17	1
Installation of a bridge or culvert	NJ Peralta Engineering Ltd.	10-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-18	14
Bridge Construction - Town of Kingsville	Rood Engineering Inc.	10-Mar-16	30-Mar-16	30-Mar-18	14
Rehabilitation of Road 2 Bridge (#010)	Dillon Consulting Ltd.	11-May-16	20-Jun-16	30-Jun-17	24
Hughes Drain Extension Bridge	NJ Peralta	08-Nov-16	10-Nov-16	10-Nov-17	2
Fox Jakiat Drain	Rood Engineering Inc.	08-Nov-16	10-Nov-16	10-Nov-17	2
¹ Number of business days from date submission received to date permit issued. ¹ Expired permit renewed in September 2015 with new expiration date of September 30, 2017.					

ERCA has on multiple occasions had the opportunity to present and speak to questions and concerns regarding its role in the drainage process, and with different stakeholder groups including agricultural representatives, Drainage Superintendents, and others. In addition, as you know, in Kingsville, Tim Byrne, ERCA's Director of Watershed Management Services, sits as a member of the Kingsville Drainage Committee, which was established to promote partnerships with farmers and other agencies to assist in the planning of drain clean-ups, and provide advice to Council about drainage issues.

As noted at the Council meeting, ERCA maintains an active relationship with the agriculture community. Our Agricultural Technician is responsible for promoting, planning and implementing rural best management practices that lead to reduced erosion and improved water quality on private and publicly owned lands. This position also acts as a liaison with, and provides, support for local farmers, agricultural partners, interest groups and agencies.

Additionally, ERCA has completed a number of agricultural Beneficial Management Projects with farmers in Kingsville through its Clean Water~Green Spaces program, which supports restoration and conservation practices and provides incentives to farmers and rural landowners primarily. Over the last four years, through these programs, ERCA has planted 30,000 trees, completed 32 acres of restoration and 15 Beneficial Management Projects within Kingsville. Also within Kingsville, ERCA has worked with a local farmer and undertaken a multiyear research study in partnership with the University of Waterloo to determine the value of holding back water in farm tile during the growing season to increase yields and reduce nutrient loss.

More recently ERCA and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association initiated a Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) program as a special project solely benefiting farmers in the

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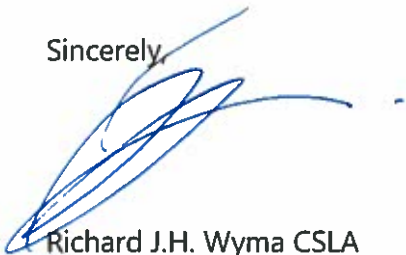
Wigle Creek/Cedar Creek watershed within Kingsville. Over the last 3 years of this program, more than \$400,000 has been invested in more than 70 BMPs in that watershed.

We know the health of our watersheds in Ontario continue to be stressed by climate change and land use. We are making a difference, but we also need to increase scope, scale and intensity of our joint efforts to create a place we can be proud of and celebrate – one we can call home. For life.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and Council. We look forward to continued collaboration on the projects and initiatives that we currently share with the Town of Kingsville and look forward to shared opportunities that may come in the coming year.

Should you have questions or comments, please contact me directly via phone, 519-776-5209, extension 353; or email, rwyma@erca.org

Sincerely,



Richard J.H. Wyma CSLA
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

