



Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

**Essex Region Conservation Authority
Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Meeting of Council April 28, 2026**

Key Issues

- 1. No evidence to support that consolidation will accelerate housing development while still supporting public safety from natural hazards and the protection of natural, scientific and recreational lands.**
- 2. Absence of Meaningful Consultation and Consensus**
- 3. Scale of the Proposed Regional Conservation Authorities is Impractical and Fails to Respect Science-Based, Watershed-Based Management**

Key Issues

4. Loss of Knowledge and Representation

5. Lack of Details on How Local Watershed Councils Will Operate

6. Regional Consolidation Undermines Source Protection Plans and Drinking Water Protection

7. Inequitable Funding Model will be Exacerbated

Key Issues

8. The Truth about Transition Costs

9. Impact on Corporate Knowledge – Staff Resources

10. Risks to Continuity and Effectiveness of Watershed Management Practices

Concluding Remarks

A landscape photograph of a wetland area. In the foreground, there is a body of water reflecting the sky and the surrounding vegetation. The middle ground is dominated by a dense field of tall, golden-brown reeds. In the background, a line of trees with autumn foliage stretches across the horizon under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Questions