

Report No.: 2026-04-01
Report Page: Page 1 of 2
Meeting Date: March 26, 2026
File No.:



To: Chair and Members
Lambton Area Water Supply System Joint Board of Management

From: Clinton Harper
General Manager

Subject: Information Reports (April 30, 2026)

Recommendation

That the LAWSS Joint Board of Management receive the following reports as information.

Items:

1. LAWSS Meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

On April 8, 2026, the LAWSS Joint Board of Management met with the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon. Rob Flack, to discuss the difficulties associated with LAWSS' ability to directly approach the Province with matters critical to the long-term viability of the regional water transmission network and LAWSS efforts to transition the Organization into a Municipal Service Corporation.

In addition to the Minister, LAWSS Municipal Representatives, and LAWSS Technical staff, the meeting was attended by MPP Bob Bailey, MPP Steve Pinsonneault, and Mayor Mike Bradley. Attached is a letter from Mayor Bradley to City of Sarnia Municipal Council requesting that the group reconsider its previous direction to not support LAWSS' effort to transition to the MSC org structure.

2. Update- Ongoing Pump Maintenance at the WTP. (LL# 5, LL #3, HL #6)

On April 15, 2026, LAWSS staff were notified by OCWA that Low Lift #5 had been successfully returned to service. The pump had been removed at the beginning of 2026 to complete an unplanned re-build of the pump liner. It has been noted that the pump now puts out significantly more flow than it did prior to being taken out of service (from 900l/s to 1350l/s). Operations has had to slightly modify how they operate the Low Lift System to accommodate this change. On the same day, Low Lift Pump #3 was removed from the WTP to undergo planned maintenance of a similar nature. Work is ongoing.

High Lift Pump #6 remains off site with work ongoing. High Lift #6 is planned to be returned to service by mid-June once the needed impellor work is complete.

Report No.: 2026-04-01
Report Page: Page 2 of 2
Meeting Date: March 26, 2026
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3. LAWSS Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) System temporarily offline.

On January 20, 2026, during routine annual testing of the backflow preventer that provides service water to the HFS feed system, it was found that the backflow equipment would need to be temporarily removed for service. To accommodate this, the system was shutdown and the Public Health Unit was notified as required. On February 4, 2026, after receiving the part to repair the backflow preventer, it was noted that an isolation valve associated with the backflow prevention assembly also required replacement.

Initially, the isolation valve was removed and sent to a local mechanical contractor for repair. However, it was determined that the purchase of a new valve was the appropriate path forward due to cost and lead time. This work is ongoing.

On April 21, 2026, Lambton Public Health sent out a press release notifying that the system was offline for maintenance. Link to the press release can be found below.

[Interruption to water fluoridation in Lambton’s municipal water supply - Lambton Public Health](#)

4. Fish on fence

On April 29, 2026, approx. 100 high school students will be arriving at the Bluewater Bridge parking lot by bus as part of the Western Lake Erie Student Summit and Stewardship Program. The program is the collaborative effort of six conservation authorities: Upper Thames River, Catfish Creek, Essex Region, Kettle Creek, Lower Thames Valley, and St. Clair Region; the program is also supported by regional school boards.

In early 2026, LAWSS staff was approached with a request to install approx. 100 painted fish made from recycled plastic on the west facing chain link fence at the LAWSS Water Treatment Plant. “Fish-on-the-fence” is one of the many activities that students will be participating in on this day. LAWSS' washrooms will be open for the event and then closed again until just prior to Victoria Day weekend.

This report was prepared by: Clinton Harper, LAWSS General Manager,

Attachment(s): Correspondence to City of Sarnia Council April 27