

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-12-21

Friday, December 17, 2021

Held virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

Regional Chairman W. Emmerson (Chair), Councillor P. Ferragine (Vice Chair), Councillor K. Aylwin, Mayor B. Drew, Councillor A. Eek, Councillor W. Gaertner, Deputy Mayor J. Gough, Councillor R. Greenlaw, Mayor V. Hackson, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Councillor C. Pettingill, Mayor M. Quirk, Councillor C. Riepma, Regional Councillor T. Vegh, Councillor A. Waters, Councillor E. Yeo

Board Members Absent

Mayor D. Barton, Councillor K. Ferdinands

Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, A. Brown, K. Cheney, K. Christensen, M. Critch, J. Doyley, S. Jagminas, B. Kemp, B. Longstaff, G. MacMillan, S. McKinnon, N. O'Dell, G. Peat, M. Rosato, L. Staples, K. Yemm, K. Zeppieri

I. Land Acknowledgement

II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

None noted for the meeting.

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: W. Gaertner

Seconded by: A. Waters

BOD-174-21 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the December 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as amended to remove the placeholder for Item 6, Staff Report No. 67-21-BOD. **Carried**

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Board of Directors' Meeting

Moved by: B. Drew

Seconded by: V. Hackson

BOD-175-21 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-11-21, held on Friday, November 26, 2021 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

V. Announcements

- a) CAO Baldwin updated the Board on staff's return to the physical offices, which had been planned for January 10th. He advised that the return to office date has been pushed back to an unknown date at this time due to rising cases of COVID.
- b) CAO Baldwin advised that the Federal Minister's mandate letter was recently issued, and he was pleased to note that it included implementation funding for a series of the Great Lakes waterways and rivers, and Lake Simcoe is specifically named as a recipient. Staff have been working with Environment Canada over a couple of years on a substantial restoration package and remain optimistic that this funding will come through. He reminded Board members that the Authority received Federal funding a few years back through the Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund and the Lake Simcoe/south-eastern Georgian Bay Clean-up Fund.
- c) General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff was pleased to advise the Board that the Climate Wise Business Network recently held its annual awards ceremony, and the Authority was awarded the GHG Achievement Award. This award recognizes efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the Authority reduced emissions from fleet vehicles by moving from gasoline to electric and hybrid vehicles. During the period 2016 and 2019, a 30% reduction in fleet vehicle emissions was achieved, with an overall emissions reduction of 16%, putting the Authority halfway to its 2026 targets.

VI. Presentations

There were no Presentations at this meeting.

VII. Hearings

There were no Hearings at this meeting.

VIII. Deputations

There were no Deputations at this meeting.

IX. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Items 2, 3, and 5 were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

X. Adoption of Items not Requiring Separate Discussion

Items No. 1 and 4 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: E. Yeo

BOD-176-21 **Resolved That** the following recommendations respecting the matters listed as “Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion” be adopted as submitted to the Board, and staff be authorized to take all necessary action required to give effect to same. **Carried**

1. Correspondence

There were no Correspondence items for this meeting.

4. Lake Simcoe Shoreline Hazard Project – Request for Proposal – Award to Consultant

BOD-177-21 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 65-21-BOD regarding the Request for Proposal for the Lake Simcoe Shoreline Hazard Project be received; and

Further that the award of the Lake Simcoe Shoreline Hazard Project to W.F. Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers Ltd. be approved. **Carried**

XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

2. Conservation Authorities Act Transition Plan

CAO Baldwin updated the Board on the *Conservation Authorities Act* progress, noting there are currently two mandatory steps, the first being the Transition Plan by end of December, which will be submitted to the Province upon approval at the close of the current meeting. The second is the submission by the end of February 2022 of the Programs and Inventories list, which is a list of programs and inventories as they fall into three categories: i) mandatory, ii) administered on behalf of a municipality, and iii) those that advance the issues or causes around the watershed. Base level costing will also be included, and this information will all be brought to the Board for information in February 2022, prior to submission to the Province. Additionally, he provided a few other updates, noting that the Phase 2 regulations consultation guide is to be issued on the Environmental Registry for Ontario for consultation in the coming weeks. This has a tighter timeline of completion by March 2022 prior to the upcoming Provincial election. Phase 2 regulations are principally around financing, levying, and the process around developing the budget for 2024, and this will be shared with the Board and municipal partners for comment.

The CAO noted that he and the Authority's CFO plan to meet with the funding municipalities in the new year to update them on impacts of the *Conservation Authorities Act* changes. He advised that the Minister's Conservation Authorities Working Group has been extended to the end of the first Quarter of 2022 as work continues. Section 28 regulation, which is permitting and regulations, has not yet been released and it is hoped that this release will happen early in the new year. He noted that overall progress has been very good, and Minister Piccini has been very responsive and respectful in helping conservation authorities deliver on the Province's mandate over the coming years.

Moved by: R. Greenlaw

Seconded by: K. Aylwin

BOD-178-21 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 63-21-BOD regarding the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's *Conservation Authorities Act* Transition Plan be received; and

Further that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority *Conservation Authorities Act* Transition Plan be approved; and

Further that the Transition Plan be circulated to Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, watershed municipalities, and be posted publicly on the Authority's website. **Carried**

3. Updates to Ontario Regulation 179/06 Implementation Guidelines (formerly Watershed Development Guidelines)

Councillor Eek noted she is pleased to see amendments to Section 5 of the guidelines, noting these are much needed restrictions due to the impacts of the more extreme weather events in recent years, specifically in the unique Holland Marsh area.

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-179-21 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 64-21-BOD regarding the updates to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Ontario Regulation 179/06 Implementation Guidelines and the revised document 'Attachment C' be received; and

Further That the revised 'Ontario Regulation 179/06 Implementation Guidelines' for implementation effective January 3, 2022 be approved. **Carried**

5. Updates Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Purchasing Policy

Councillor Gaertner asked for an explanation on how the recommended limits in the purchasing policy were reached. General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch explained that the majority of the Authority's procurement and project work is approved through the budget process, and thresholds are examined for particular projects where the Board has already approved amounts towards specified areas. He noted the recommended updates are regarding offsetting projects where specific projects are identified and a balance is needed between business expediency and transparency. He went on to explain that Staff have brought a number of projects to the Board for approval in 2021, and the Board meeting timeframe can put projects behind awaiting Board approval. He assured Councillor Gaertner that there would continue to be full transparency in the budget process, and all project awards are brought forward to the Board as part of the year-end process.

Moved by: W. Gaertner

Seconded by: C. Riepma

BOD-180-21 Resolved That Staff Report No. 66-21-BOD regarding recommended updates to Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Purchasing Policy be received; and

Further that the delegation of authority to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for project approvals up to \$500,000 and purchase order approvals within the projects up to \$200,000 be approved; and

Further that Schedule E of the Purchasing Policy be updated to allow for standard procurement/purchase order awards between \$200,000 and \$500,000 to be authorized by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), along with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Directors; and

Further that the Schedule D of the Purchasing Policy be updated to increase the threshold for the CAO from \$100,000 to \$200,000 on standard procurement; and

Further that the Schedule E of the Purchasing Policy be updated and amended to remove the term "designate" from the authorization table. **Carried**

XII. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items for this meeting.

XIII. Other Business

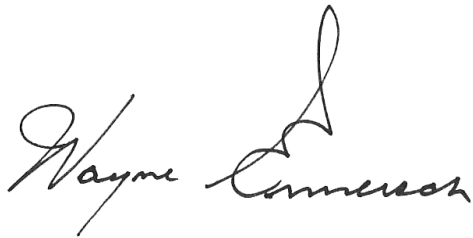
- a) Chair Emmerson noted the next Board of Directors' meeting will be the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Friday, January 28, 2022. This meeting will be held virtually.

XIV. Adjournment

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-181-21 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 10:02 a.m. **Carried**



Regional Chairman Wayne Emmerson
Chair



Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer