

Board Meeting Highlights

November 24, 2023

Announcements:

- a) Chair Emmerson advised that Mayor Hackson has taken a three-month medical leave, and that her spot on the Board of Directors will remain vacant during this time. Board members and staff wished Mayor Hackson a speedy recovery.
- b) CAO Baldwin advised that he was pleased to attend a provincial announcement in Barrie on November 9th. The Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, announced funding of three Lake Simcoe projects, which are to be led by the Conservation Authority.

Presentations:

Third Quarter 2023 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided an overview of the third quarter 2023 financial results, noting an operation surplus of \$545K at September 30th, with all annual priorities progressing well and within budget. Drivers of the surplus are spread across the Conservation Authority's various service areas. He reviewed the year-end forecasted expenditures for projects, noting that projects aren't typically completed within the calendar year and progress is often determined by schedules and timelines of municipal and landowner partners, making accurately budgeting in-year spending in Offsetting Programs challenging. He reviewed the 2023 year-end forecasted Capital expenditures and reserve activity.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Third Quarter 2023 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast](#)

Chloride in the Lake Simcoe Watershed

Manager, Environmental Science and Monitoring, David Lembcke, together with Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, provided an overview of the impacts of chloride on Lake Simcoe and its tributaries, along with efforts to address these impacts. Chloride concentrations in the surface waters of the Lake Simcoe watershed are above Canadian Water Quality Guidelines in many places and continue to increase due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots. This trend is not unique to the Lake Simcoe watershed and is mirrored in the lakes and streams across southern Ontario and the northeastern United States. Decreasing the amount of winter salt use throughout the watershed is critical to the long-term health of Lake Simcoe.

Research, including local studies on a large commercial parking lot in the Lake Simcoe watershed, has demonstrated that adopting best practices like those used in New Hampshire can reduce salt use by 40% without any increase in slips and falls. In fact, in some cases, the over-application of salt can create a slipperier surface for walking on. The most substantial barrier to reducing salt application, however, is concern over liability.

The Conservation Authority believes that there is a solution within reach to reduce salt application and assist businesses in this sector, while ensuring public safety. The Conservation Authority has been working with organizations including Landscape Ontario and other partners to share information and seek solutions to address the issue of winter salt usage. A Salt Forum held this past October, led by the Conservation Authority and Landscape Ontario, provided a platform for contractors, provincial staff, municipal staff, conservation authorities, academia, and non-governmental organizations to review lessons learned and solutions to the issue of winter road salt. There was unanimous agreement amongst participants that there are significant challenges for both water quality and business sustainability in Ontario. The solution that all participants are working towards, including contractors and property owners, is implementation of technical standards and a Regulatory framework similar to one in place in the state of New Hampshire. In New Hampshire, contractors that have been trained and certified in winter maintenance best practice and can demonstrate due diligence through appropriate record keeping have limited liability against slip and fall claims.

This unanimous agreement amongst such a diverse range of stakeholders is rare, and creating technical standards and a Provincial regulatory framework that limits liability for contractors following best practices significantly benefits each sector and ultimately the environment. It will reduce salt application on private parking lots, provide more certainty and reduce risk for insurance underwriters, thereby helping with business sustainability, while maintaining public safety. It is important to note that the framework that exists in New Hampshire is built upon the Smart About Salt Program that was created and is in use here in Ontario, and that the liability limitation has been successfully defended in the highest level of New Hampshire state courts.

Please click this link to view the presentation: [Chloride in the Lake Simcoe Watershed](#)

Flood Management Programs

Director, Engineering, Kenneth Cheney, provided an overview of the Conservation Authority's Flood Management Programs, noting that a core mandate of the Conservation Authority is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding.

Conservation Authorities carry out programs that serve provincial and municipal interest, including Flood Forecasting and Warning and Floodplain Mapping, along with Review and Regulation of development activities within flood hazards, in accordance with the provincial governing legislation. The Conservation Authority compiles rainfall data, land-use information

(urban, rural, paved surfaces, wooded areas, etc.), topographic information (ground surface elevations to determine high ground and low ground) into computer models to determine flood hazard lands. These models simulate how much flow there will be and where it is expected. This information assists the Conservation Authority in delineating flooding hazards, in accordance with provincial guidelines.

The Conservation Authority also conducts technical reviews, typically of *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act* applications, as part of the approvals process.

Within the Lake Simcoe watershed, there are typically three main types of flooding:

- **Riverine Flooding:** Flooding associated with rivers, streams, watercourses. Conservation Authorities have a lead role associated with riverine flooding.
- **Shoreline Flooding:** Flooding associated with the shorelines of large water bodies, such as lakes. Conservation Authorities have a lead role associated with riverine flooding.
- **Urban Flooding:** Flooding in an urban area due to, often related to infrastructure. Municipalities have the lead role when it comes to urban flooding.

Since floods are the most frequent natural hazard in Canada and can happen at any time of year and be caused by various factors, there is a need within the Lake Simcoe watershed, as well as a mandate issued to conservation authorities by the Province of Ontario, to protect people and property from flooding.

Please click this link to view the presentation: [Flood Management Programs](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received the October 20, 2023 letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the Minister's exception under the Conservation Authorities Act related to Chair and Vice Chair appointments.

Third Quarter 2023 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast

The Board received Staff Report No. 55-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's third quarter 2023 financial report and year-end forecast.

Chloride in the Lake Simcoe Watershed

The Board received Staff Report No. 56-23-BOD regarding Chloride in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Flood Management Programs

The Board received Staff Report No. 57-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's flood management programs.

Development Service Fee Update

The Board received Staff Report No. 58-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Development Services Fees and approved a 2% increase to the current Fees for a cost-of-living increase, approved as part of the budget process and supported by the Watson & Associates report, effective January 1, 2024.

Laser Elevation Data Services

The Board received Staff Report No. 59-23-BOD regarding the purchase of laser elevation data for the Lake Simcoe Watershed and approved staff's recommendation to award the contract to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority as a collective purchase be approved for a purchase over \$100K.

Cyber Security Program Updates

The Board received Staff Report No. No. 60-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's cyber security program updates.

Confidential Land Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 61-23-BOD regarding a confidential land matter and approved the recommendations contained within the report.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, visit
<https://lsrca.on.ca/index.php/board-meetings/>