



73rd Annual General Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-01-24

Friday, January 26, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

Meeting Location:

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, ON

Minutes and agendas are available at www.LSRCA.on.ca

Upcoming Events

2024 Board of Directors' meeting schedule pending approval

A full listing of events can be found at www.LSRCA.on.ca

Board Member Listing

Representing

City of Barrie
City of Barrie
City of Kawartha Lakes
Durham Region: Township of Brock
Durham Region: Township of Scugog
Durham Region: Township of Uxbridge
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Town of Innisfil
Town of New Tecumseth
Township of Oro-Medonte
Township of Ramara
York Region: At Large
York Region: Town of Aurora
York Region: Town of East Gwillimbury
York Region: Town of Georgina
York Region: Township of King
York Region: Town of Newmarket
York Region: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Representing

City of Barrie
City of Barrie
City of Kawartha Lakes
City of Orillia (ex-officio)
Durham Region: Township of Brock
Durham Region: Township of Scugog
Durham Region: Township of Uxbridge
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Town of Innisfil
Town of New Tecumseth
Township of Oro-Medonte
Township of Ramara
York Region: At Large
York Region: Town of Aurora
York Region: Town of East Gwillimbury
York Region: Town of Georgina
York Region: Township of King
York Region: Town of Newmarket
York Region: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

2023 Board of Directors

Councillor A. Courser
Councillor C. Riepma
Councillor E. Yeo
Councillor C. Pettingill
Councillor D. Le Roy
Regional Councillor B. Garrod
Councillor P. Ferragine
Councillor F. Drodge
Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre
Mayor R. Greenlaw
Councillor S. Bell
Regional Chairman and CEO W. Emmerson
Councillor M. Thompson
Mayor V. Hackson (on leave)
Mayor M. Quirk
Councillor A. Eek
Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor T. Vegh
Mayor I. Lovatt

2024 Board of Directors

Councillor A. Courser
Councillor C. Riepma
Councillor E. Yeo
Appointment Pending
Councillor C. Pettingill
Councillor D. Le Roy
Regional Councillor B. Garrod
Councillor P. Ferragine
Councillor F. Drodge
Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre
Mayor R. Greenlaw
Councillor S. Bell
Regional Chairman and CEO W. Emmerson
Councillor M. Thompson
Mayor V. Hackson (on leave)
Mayor M. Quirk
Councillor A. Eek
Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor T. Vegh
Mayor I. Lovatt

I. Chair Emmerson's Welcome

Roll Call – 2023 Board Members

The 2023 Board Members will introduce themselves and state which municipality they represent.

II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

III. Approval of Agenda

Pages 1 - 8

Recommended: That the content of the Agenda for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's 73rd Annual General Meeting held on Friday, January 26, 2024 be approved as presented.

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Board of Directors

Pages 9-13

Included in the agenda is a copy of the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-10-23 held on Friday, December 15, 2023.

Recommended: That the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting No. BOD-10-23 held on Friday, December 15, 2023 be approved as circulated.

V. Presentations

Pages 14-16

a) Lake Management

Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, will provide an update on Phosphorus Loads and Lake Simcoe Management. This presentation will be provided at the meeting and will be available on the Conservation Authority's website following the meeting.

Recommended: That the presentation by Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, regarding Phosphorus Loads and Lake Simcoe Management be received for information.

Staff Report No. 01-24-BOD regarding Phosphorus Loads and Lake Simcoe Management is included in the agenda.

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 01-24-BOD providing an update on phosphorus in Lake Simcoe be received for information.

b) 2023 Year in Review

Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, will share a presentation on the Conservation Authority's 2023 highlights and accomplishments.

Recommended: That the presentation by Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, on the Conservation Authority's 2023 highlights and accomplishments be received for information.

VI. 2023 Business is Concluded

Chair Emmerson and Vice Chair Ferragine may make some closing remarks and conclude the Year 2023 business, and the Chair will be deemed vacant.

VII. 2024 Business

The 2024 Business portion of the meeting will be called to order by the Conservation Authority's Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin.

Roll Call – 2024 Board Members

The 2024 Board Members will introduce themselves and state which municipality they represent.

VIII. Election of Officers

The election of officers for 2024 will be conducted by Rob Baldwin, Chief Administrative Officer, acting as Chair Pro Temps. Positions are required for Chair and Vice Chair of the Conservation Authority for 2024 and must be appointed members of the Board of Directors.

The general rules for the election are as follows:

- a) Only current Directors of the Conservation Authority may vote.
- b) Nominations will be called three (3) times and will only require a mover.
- c) The closing of nominations will require both a mover and a seconder.
- d) Each Director nominated will be required to accept the nomination.
- e) In the event of an election, each nominee will be permitted not more than three (3) minutes to speak for the office, in the order of the alphabetical listing of their surnames.
- f) Upon the acceptance by nominees for the position of office, ballots will be distributed to the Directors for the purpose of election. A Director's choice for a nominee will be written on the ballot and the appointed scrutineers for the counting of the ballots will collect the ballots.

A. Appointment of Scrutineers

In the event that there is more than one nominee for either position of Chair or Vice Chair and a vote is held, scrutineers are appointed for the counting of ballots.

Recommended: That in the event of a vote by ballot, Mr. Jeff Payne and Mr. Mike Walters will act as scrutineers; and

Further that all ballots be destroyed following the election.

B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2024

- i. Chair of the Conservation Authority
- ii. Vice Chair of the Conservation Authority

C. Appointment of the Regulations Sub-committee for 2024

In the event of a Hearing by the Board of Directors, a Regulations Sub-Committee is formed to review the circumstances of the Hearing and report to the Board. This sub-committee consists of the Chair, the Vice Chair, and the Member representing the local municipality in which the application under Ontario Regulation 179/06 is received.

Recommended: That the Chair and Vice Chair, along with the Member representing the local municipality in which the application under Ontario Regulation 179/06 is received, shall be members of the sub-committee to review applications and report to the Board of Directors.

D. Appointment to Conservation Ontario for 2024

Conservation Ontario represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. It is the practice of the Conservation Authority to request the Chair, or his/her designate, and the Chief Administrative Officer to represent the Conservation Authority on Conservation Ontario's Committees and Council. Conservation Ontario's Council meets four times per year, and the 2024 meetings are scheduled to take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. April 15th (Annual General Meeting), June 24th, September 23rd and December 9th.

Recommended: That the 2024 Chair, or his/her designate, be appointed as the Conservation Authority's voting delegate to Conservation Ontario; and

Further that the Chief Administrative Officer be the alternate delegate.

E. Appointment to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board of Directors for 2024

The Conservation Authority appoints the Chair and Vice Chair, or two designates, to serve on the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board. The Foundation Board meets every other month, and the 2024 meetings are scheduled to take place from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on January 31st, March 27th, May 29th, July 31st, September 25th and November 27th.

Recommended: That the 2024 Chair _____ and 2024 Vice Chair _____, or their designates, be appointed to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board of Directors for 2024.

F. Appointment of Solicitors for 2024

The Conservation Authority utilizes the services of five (5) legal firms:

1. Stiver Vale Barristers & Solicitors for general administrative advice, land holdings and real estate;
2. Hicks Morley for employment and labour related matters;
3. HHL Law Firm LLP (formerly Hill Hunter Losell Law Firm LLP) for regulation advice and litigation;
4. Barriston Law for general administrative, regulation and planning advice, and litigation; and
5. Beard Winter LLP for general administrative, regulation and planning advice, real estate and litigation.

Recommended: That Stiver Vale, Hicks Morley, HHL Law Firm, Barriston Law and Beard Winter be appointed as Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's legal firms for 2024.

G. Appointment of Signing Officers for 2024

The Conservation Authority wishes to continue banking with the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Recommended: That an account in the name of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (hereinafter called the "Organization") be kept at the Bank of Nova Scotia (hereinafter called the "Bank"); and

Further that the Conservation Authority's Chair, Vice Chair, the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, and the General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, or any two of them are hereby authorized to sign, make, draw, accept, endorse and deliver cheques, promissory notes, bills of

exchange, orders for the payment of money and such agreements and instruments as may be necessary or useful in connection with the operation of the said account; and

Further that any one of the above-mentioned officers is hereby authorized for and in the name of the Organization to endorse and transfer to the Bank for deposit or discount with or collection by the Bank (but for the credit of the Organization only) cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, orders for the payment of money and other instruments, to arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts with the Bank and to sign receipts for vouchers.

H. Borrowing Resolution

Each year at the Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors pass a resolution which authorizes a maximum amount available for borrowing, if required, to cover administrative and/or capital expenditures during the year. The amount of the borrowing resolution for 2024 is recommended to be set at the traditional level of \$500,000. The Conservation Authority has rarely drawn on this operating loan, with the last time being 2010, when it was required to bridge the payment receipts from municipal funding partners and the federal government Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund payments, where payments followed project work completion.

Recommended: That signing officers for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority be empowered to borrow up to \$500,000 on an Operating Loan Agreement, as required, for administration and/or capital expenditures.

IX. Staff Reports

a) Draft 2024 Budget - Ontario Regulation 402/22, Section 14

Pages 17-25

Staff Report No. 02-24-BOD regarding the Draft 2024 Budget in accordance with Ontario Regulation 402/22, Section 14 is included in the agenda.

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 02-24-BOD regarding the Draft 2024 Budget be received; and

Further that the Board of Directors vote to approve the Draft 2024 Budget for use in consultation with the participating municipalities; and

Further that the Draft 2024 Budget be made available on the Conservation Authority's Governance webpage for the general public and participating municipalities to view in advance of the 2024 Budget vote planned for March 2024.

b) Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule 2024

Pages 26-27

Attached is Staff Report No. 03-24-BOD, which seeks the Board of Director's approval on the 2024 Board of Directors' meeting schedule.

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 03-24-BOD regarding the Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule for 2024 be received; and

Further that the proposed schedule be approved.

X. Closing Remarks

XI. Adjournment

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-10-23

Friday, December 15, 2023

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

Regional Chairman W. Emmerson (Chair), Councillor S. Bell, Regional Councillor B. Garrod, Mayor R. Greenlaw, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Councillor D. Le Roy, Mayor I. Lovatt, Councillor C. Pettingill, Mayor M. Quirk, Councillor C. Riepma, Councillor M. Thompson, Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor T. Vegh

Board Members Absent

Councillor P. Ferragine (Vice Chair), Councillor A. Courser, Councillor F. Drodge, Councillor A. Eek, Mayor V. Hackson, Councillor E. Yeo

Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, A. Brown, K. Cheney, S. Connor, M. Critch, P. Davies, D. Goodyear, D. Lembcke, G. MacMillan, B. Thompson, K. Turriff, K. Yemm

Guests in Attendance

M. Jacobs, L. Simpson

I. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Emmerson acknowledged the Lake Simcoe watershed as traditional Indigenous territory and thanked all generations of Indigenous peoples for their enduring and unwavering care for this land and water.

II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

None noted for the meeting.

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: C. Riepma

Seconded by: R. Greenlaw

BOD-153-23 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the December 15, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as circulated. **Carried**

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Board of Directors' Meeting

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: M. Quirk

BOD-154-23 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-09-23, held on Friday, November 24, 2023 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

V. Announcements

- a) General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Don Goodyear was pleased to advise that on November 30th, two staff members, Julia Marko and Emma Dias, hosted a well-received workshop for municipal planning staff on Bill 23 impacts to natural heritage review. The workshop was well attended with about 50 people representing 14 watershed municipalities.
- b) CAO Rob Baldwin thanked the Communications team for the successful migration and launch of the Conservation Authority's new website, noting this unexpected change in website host necessitated the migration of all website material to a new host.
- c) CAO Rob Baldwin advised that he, Chair Emmerson and Chief of Staff, Trish Barnett, had a very productive virtual meeting with Minister Khanjin recently, where items such as salt and source protection were discussed.
- d) CAO Rob Baldwin advised that two letters were recently received from the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; namely, one granting an extension to March 31, 2024 for the cost apportioning agreements with participating municipalities; and the other notifying of an extension of the Minister's direction on the Planning, Development and Permitting fees freeze to the end of 2024.

VI. Presentations

There were no Presentations at this meeting.

VII. Hearings

There were no Hearings at this meeting.

VIII. Deputations

Mr. Michael Jacobs, Fixed Link Project Manager and Georgina Island Fixed Link Secretariat, made a deputation regarding the Georgina Island Fixed Link project. He shared the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Council Resolution of February 2021; namely, their intent to build a Fixed Link that will connect Georgina Island to the mainland; their desire to complete

the Impact Assessment by December 31, 2024; and their intent to have the Fixed Link operational by December 31, 2026. He reviewed the project timelines, as well as the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada process and comments received. From comments received, the Georgina Island First Nation have invested in an improved project understanding. He reviewed some of these investments and learnings. He overviewed other work in progress, such as a seven generations financial assessment, nation to nation negotiations and additional research to support engagement requests.

Based on their learnings, Georgina Island Fixed Link has better defined its development assumption, and he shared a map of the path to connect. He then outlined the upcoming engagement plans. In closing Mr. Jacobs noted that Georgina Island First Nation have invested time and money to understand the project and its impacts on the community and the natural world.

To view this presentation, please follow this link: [Georgina Island Fixed Link Project Update](#)

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

BOD-155-23 **Resolved That** the deputation by Mr. Michael Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer of Cambium Indigenous Professional Services, regarding the Georgina Island Fixed Link project be received for information. **Carried**

IX. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No items were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

X. Adoption of Items not Requiring Separate Discussion

Items No. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: M. Thompson

Seconded by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

BOD-156-23 **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

BOD-157-23 **Resolved That** Correspondence Item a) be received for information. **Carried**

2. Georgina Island Fixed Link Project Update

BOD-158-23 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 62-23-BOD regarding an update on the Conservation Authority's review of and involvement in the Georgina Island Fixed Link project be received for information. **Carried**

3. New Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area - Project and Funding Progress Report

BOD-159-23 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 63-23-BOD regarding project and funding updates on the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area be received for information. **Carried**

4. New Nature Centre Project: Temporary Utilization of Offsetting Reserves If Required

BOD-160-23 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 64-23-BOD regarding temporary funding utilizing Offsetting Reserves for the new Nature Centre be received; and

Further that the use of the Offsetting Reserves if required to act as a funding backstop as outlined in this report be approved. **Carried**

5. Framework to Limit Liability for Winter Maintenance Contractors Employing Best Practices

BOD-161-23 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 65-23-BOD regarding a framework to limit liability for winter maintenance contractors employing best practices be received; and

Further that staff be directed to circulate this report and the attached template resolution to watershed municipalities. **Carried**

XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No items required separate discussion.

XII. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items for this meeting.

XIII. Other Business

- a) Chair Emmerson advised the next meeting is Annual General Meeting taking place on Friday, January 26, 2024. This meeting will be held in person at the Conservation Authority's Newmarket offices located at 120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket.

XIV. Adjournment

Moved by: D. Le Roy

Seconded by: B. Garrod

BOD-162-23 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 11:12 a.m. **Carried**

Original to be signed by:

Original to be signed by:

Wayne Emmerson
Chair

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Dr. Brian Ginn, Limnologist

Date: January 26, 2024

Subject

Phosphorus Loads and Lake Simcoe Management Update

Recommendation

That Staff Report No. 01-24-BOD providing an update on phosphorus in Lake Simcoe be received for information.

Purpose of this Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 01-24-BOD and accompanying presentation is to provide the Board with an update on how phosphorus loads and phosphorus use within the lake have changed since 2010, along with lake management implications.

Background

Adaptive management strategies, re-evaluation of methods, and reviewing targets is at the core of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (the Plan). Central to the Plan has been the reduction of nutrient loads to 44 tonnes to improve in-lake environmental conditions, and reducing nutrient loads as a method of improving water quality has been a cornerstone of lake management for at least the past 60 years. However, since 2009-10 Lake Simcoe has undergone environmental changes due to climate changes and invasive species that have undone many of these well-established ecological relationships governing management strategies to the extent where phosphorus inputs are no longer as predictive of in-lake environmental conditions.

Issues

Since 2010, the environmental state of Lake Simcoe has not responded to fluctuations in phosphorus loads in the manner expected. Despite increases and decreases in annual nutrient inputs, key in-lake health indicators have not fluctuated in turn and are within the range of the Plan targets.

Over the past 3 years, the Conservation Authority has investigated why Lake Simcoe has not responded to changing phosphorus loads and is apparently “decoupled” from well-established ecological relationships that are the foundation of lake management strategies.

Climate change has altered precipitation patterns and tributary flows that are the main drivers of phosphorus loads. The variation in loads between years is dependent on how and when precipitation falls, as well as delivery of nutrients to the lake by tributaries.

Invasive quagga mussels are the dominant species in Lake Simcoe and have redefined the nutrient pathways to patterns that could not have been predicted when the Plan was written before 2009.

The new patterns of phosphorus delivery and use in Lake Simcoe are occurring on other lakes across the Great Lakes Region. Through collaborations, staff are now understanding where changes may be required in lake management plans, and how to develop new models to better predict ecological changes in the lake and across the Great Lakes system. For example, as long as quagga mussel populations grow, in-lake phosphorus concentrations are expected to further decline. If quagga mussel populations decline, in-lake phosphorus concentrations and amounts of algae would be expected to increase. As a result, phosphorus load targets would need to be flexible to protect the sustainability of the lake ecosystem.

The phosphorus decoupling scenario being investigated on Lake Simcoe should serve as a cautionary tale for lake management. A single metric, such as phosphorus loads, does not always accurately reflect lake health, ecological trends, or the effectiveness of a management strategy. For example, climate change is extending the length of water column stratification, which impacts late year deepwater oxygen; a lack of winter ice cover and warmer water temperatures can change amounts of algae and larval fish development; chloride run-off is an emerging concern for freshwater ecosystems including Lake Simcoe.

Lakes have many complex relationships that must be monitored, assessed, and tracked over time to provide a more complete picture of lake health. To this end, staff at the Conservation Authority will continue to evaluate and re-visit metrics to ensure a sustainable future for the Lake Simcoe ecosystem.

Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy

Understanding the drivers that affect lake health and how they are evolving is fundamental to our adaptive management approach and aligned with the strategic plan direction two; Knowledge of watershed health and management decisions are improved through comprehensive, leading-edge science.

Impact on Conservation Authority Finances

Research on phosphorus decoupling within Lake Simcoe is a component of the municipally funded Ecological Management program and substantially supported through agreements with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Summary and Recommendations

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 01-24-BOD and the accompanying presentation be received for information.

Pre-Submission Review

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Signed by:

Don Goodyear
General Manager, Integrated Watershed
Management

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Mark Critch, GM of Corporate and Financial Services/CFO

Date: January 17, 2024

Subject:

Draft 2024 Budget - Ontario Regulation 402/22, Section 14

Recommendation:

That Staff Report No. 02-24-BOD regarding the Draft 2024 Budget be received; and

Further that the Board of Directors vote to approve the Draft 2024 Budget for use in consultation with the participating municipalities; and

Further that the Draft 2024 Budget be made available on the Conservation Authority's Governance webpage for the general public and participating municipalities to view in advance of the 2024 Budget vote planned for March 2024.

Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 02-24-BOD is to fulfill the requirements of the Ontario Regulation 402/22, Section 14, whereby a conservation authority shall hold a meeting to consider the draft budget for a given year and to approve the draft budget for consultation purposes. As per Ontario Regulation 402/22, Section 15, if the draft budget is approved for consultation purposes, a conservation authority shall provide each participating municipality, and any specified municipality, a copy of the draft budget including information relating to the apportionment of operating expenses and capital costs. A copy of the draft budget and financial information will also be made available to the public by posting on the conservation authority's "Governance" webpage.

Background:

Bill 229 received Royal Assent in December 2020, and along with it came several changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, including new rules that impact the Conservation Authority's programs and services, as well as the budget process.

Some new requirements in effect for the 2024 Budget process include:

- 1) Programs and Services Inventory was required by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Status - completed).

- 2) Operating and capital expenses in the 2024 Budget were divided into Category 1 mandatory, Category 1 Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, Category 2 (municipality requested) and Category 3 (authority requested) (Status - completed).
- 3) Memorandums of Understanding are required for all Category 2 and 3 programs (in progress, on track for completion by March 31st due date).
- 4) The Draft Budget being voted on by the Board of Directors, to secure approval to use for consultation purposes with participating municipalities (required January 26, 2024).
- 5) Once the Draft 2024 Budget is approved for consultation purposes, a conservation authority is to a) send to each participating municipality, and to any specified municipality, a copy of the draft budget and of all financial information relating to the apportionment of operating expenses and capital costs; and b) make a copy of said draft budget and financial information available to the public by posting them on the conservation authority's "Governance" webpage. (Status – pending).
- 6) A conservation authority shall then give at least 30 days' notice of a meeting to all participating municipalities and to any specified municipalities. This notice will include the most recent draft of the budget and the amount of the reduced operating expenses and reduced capital costs that the participating municipality or specified municipality that is given notice will be required to pay for the year. At this meeting, the Final Budget will be tabled and will be subject to weighted voting protocols similar to prior years, as well as new protocols for the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. (Final budget approval anticipated for March 2024 Board of Directors' meeting).

Issues

The 2024 Draft budget was developed using the Board approved Budget Assumptions from the June 2023 Board of Directors' meeting. This included a cap on the increase of levy funding at up to 2% over 2023 Budget. The budget assumptions provided the preliminary budget information that was shared with each municipality in August.

Furthermore, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer have travelled to each participating municipality to meet with senior staff and review the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, the new Memorandum of Understanding requirements and changes to the budget process. The Chief Financial Officer also hosted a Finance workshop for all municipalities to help the finance professionals understand the changes, as well as how these budget process changes would impact their municipality.

Considering the 2024 Board of Directors' meeting schedule, staff are now seeking approval of the Draft 2024 Budget for consultation to ensure at least 30 days' notice for the public and participating and specified municipalities can be achieved prior to the final vote at the March 2024 Board of Directors' meeting.

Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:

The Conservation Authority provides the annual Draft Budget to its municipal funding partners well in advance of tabling the final budget for Board of Directors' approval. In future years, this draft budget will be provided in the late summer/early fall, consistent with the Conservation Authority's past practices and municipal requests.

Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:

This report is not the final 2024 Budget. The 2024 Budget will be tabled in March 2024 and the Board of Directors will have another opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification before the weighted votes are taken. This report merely fulfills the obligations found in Ontario Regulation 402/22, Section 14.

Summary and Recommendations:

The Draft 2024 Budget (Attachment 1) is provided for information for the Board of Directors. To fulfill the obligations in the Conservation Authorities Act and following a vote by the Board of Directors to approve the draft budget for consultation purposes, the Draft 2024 Budget will be circulated to participating municipalities and specified municipalities and will be posted on the Conservation Authority's Governance webpage for public review. The Final 2024 Budget will be tabled for Board of Directors' approval in March 2024.

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 02-24-BOD regarding the Draft 2024 Budget be received; and **Further that** the Board of Directors vote to approve the Draft 2024 Budget for use in consultation with the participating municipalities; and **Further that** the Draft 2024 Budget be made available on the Conservation Authority's Governance webpage for the general public and participating municipalities to view in advance of the 2024 Budget vote planned for March 2024.

Pre-Submission Review

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Mark Critch,
General Manager, Corporate and Financial
Services/ Chief Financial Officer

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- i) 2024 Draft Budget document



Draft Budget At-A-Glance

2024



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



At-A-Glance

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority is a local watershed management organization incorporated under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946).

Since our formation in 1951, we have been dedicated to conserving, restoring and managing the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Our jurisdiction, which began in the East Holland River with five municipalities, has grown to include the entire Lake Simcoe watershed with the exception of the City of Orillia and the Upper Talbot River subwatershed.

The Authority is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors, appointed within a four-year cycle by its 9 member municipalities. Each year, the Board of Directors elects a Chair and Vice Chair from among its 18 members.

Our Watershed

The Lake Simcoe watershed is a 3,400 square kilometre area of land that sweeps across 20 municipalities, from the Oak Ridges Moraine in the south to the Oro Moraine in the north, through York and Durham Regions, Simcoe County and the cities of Kawartha Lakes, Barrie and Orillia.

The watershed is delineated by 18 major river systems and many smaller ones that flow through the landscape to the heart of the watershed; Lake Simcoe.

Board Approved Assumptions - June 23, 2023

1. Inflation: up to 2.00% used only for applicable expenditures (2023: 4.00%)
2. COLA: up to 2.00% (2023: 2.00%) plus applicable step increases
3. Infrastructure levy for Asset Management: up to 0.50% included in Category 1 funding (2023: 0.50%)
4. Investment in Strategic Priorities: 1.50% (2023: 0.00%)
5. No additional new FTEs in 2024, unless they are fully funded through external funding or self generating revenue
6. Tax Levy (Category 1): Up to 2.00% (2023: 2.00%)

New Funding Categories for 2024: Levy Request for 2024

Based on Board Approved Assumptions

	2023 Levy in Millions	Increase in Millions	2024 Levy in Millions*	% Increase
Category 1 - Mandatory	5.70	0.11	5.81	2.00%
Category 1 - Mandatory - <i>Lake Simcoe Protection Act</i>	2.46	0.05	2.51	2.00%
Category 2 - Work on behalf of Municipality	0.66	0.01	0.67	2.00%
Category 3 - Funding requested by Authority	0.35	0.01	0.36	2.00%
Total	\$9.17M	\$0.18M	\$9.35M	2.00%

*Pending approval by municipalities and Board of Directors



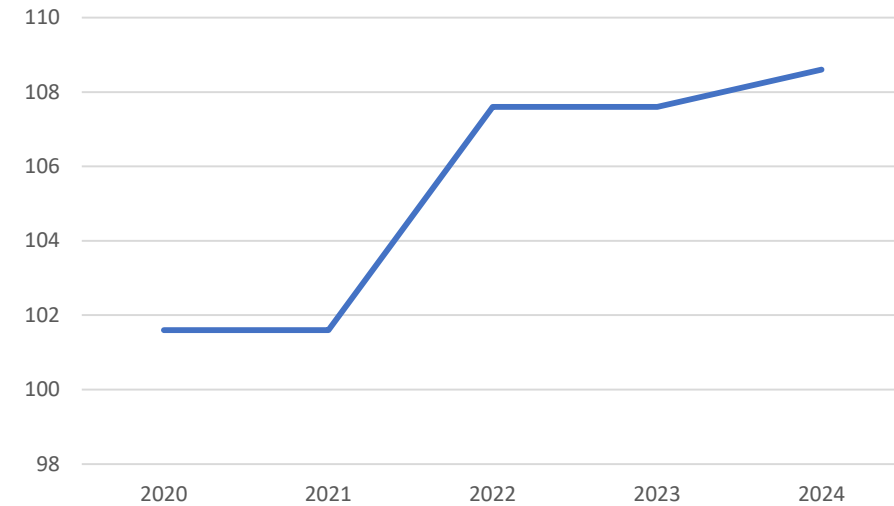
2024 Budget Highlights

- Transitioning with Transparency
- Renewed Vision for 2022-2024
- Authority spending increase is below inflation

The Authority continues to demonstrate respect for the taxpayer by only requesting modest levy increases for 2024 and not adding any new levy funded FTEs. Our focus in 2024 will be implementation of our strategic plan and transitioning to changes from the review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

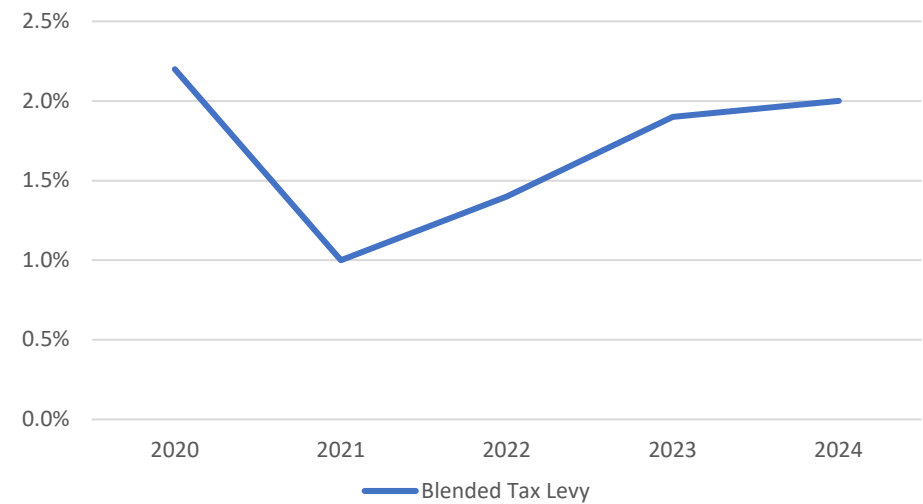


Respecting the Taxpayer: Number of FTEs over 5 Years*



*All additions funded by fees or grants.

Responsible Increases for 5 years



2024 Draft* Capital and Operating Budget

For the period January - December 31, 2024

Consolidated Summary	Approved Budget 2023 (Millions)	Proposed Budget 2024 (Millions)*
<u>Revenue:</u>		
Category 1 - Mandatory	5.7	5.8
Category 1 - Mandatory - <i>Lake Simcoe Protection Act</i>	2.5	2.5
Category 2 - Work on behalf of Municipality	0.7	0.7
Category 3 - Funding requested by Authority	0.3	0.4
Provincial and Federal Funding	2.4	1.6
Revenue Generated by Authority	11.2	13.5
Other Revenue	0.2	-
Total Revenue	23.0	24.5
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Corporate Services	5.7	5.6
Ecological Management	3.4	2.4
Education & Engagement	0.9	0.9
Greenspace Services	1.0	1.0
Planning & Development Services	5.2	4.8
Water Risk Management	2.4	2.2
Watershed Studies & Strategies	1.1	1.1
Operating Expenditures	19.7	18
Internal Fee for Service	(2.9)	(3.1)
Capital & Project Expenditures	5.9	10.0
Total Expenditures	22.8	24.9
Required Draws to/(from) Reserve	0.1	(0.4)
Net Revenue (Expenditures)	0	0

* Draft budget only, pending approval by our Board of Directors. Staff will continue to work with budget holders to finalize the 2024 budget.

Investing in Lake Simcoe

Budget Submissions*	2023 Restated Budget (in 000s)	2024 Proposed Budget (in 000s)					2025 Outlook (in 000s)
		Category 1 Core	Category 1 LSP	Category 2	Category 3	TOTAL	
York Region	6,015	3,798	1,569	534	231	6,133	6,256
Barrie	1,450	951	401	66	58	1,476	1,506
Durham Region	509	335	142	23	20	521	531
Bradford West Gwillimbury	454	304	122	21	18	465	474
Innisfil	400	263	110	18	16	408	416
Oro-Medonte	92	57	30	4	3	94	96
Ramara	79	53	21	4	3	80	82
Kawartha Lakes	57	20	35	1	1	59	60
New Tesumseth	45	28	14	2	2	46	47
Orillia (new for 2024)	66	-	67	-	-	67	68
Total Municipal Investment	\$ 9,166	\$ 5,810	\$ 2,510	\$ 674	\$ 354	\$ 9,349	\$ 9,535
Increase in Investment						\$ 183	\$ 187
Increase as a percentage						2.0%	2.0%

* Subject to Board of Directors approval, totals will not change but re-allocations between programs may occur.



Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Rob Baldwin, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: January 16, 2024

Subject:

Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule 2024

Recommendation:

That Staff Report No. 03-24-BOD regarding the Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule for 2024 be received; and

Further that the proposed schedule be approved.

Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 03-24-BOD is to seek the Board of Directors' approval of the 2024 schedule of meetings for the Board of Directors. It is customary for the meeting schedule for the ensuing year to be approved at the Annual General Meeting.

Background

a) Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors' Meetings

It is the practice of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Board of Directors to meet monthly to consider the business of the Conservation Authority. Generally, the Board meets on the fourth Friday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m., except August when the Board does not meet and December when the Board meets on the 2nd or 3rd Friday. One other proposed change for 2024 is to hold the June meeting on the third Friday to avoid any quorum issues, as the fourth Friday falls on the Canada Day long weekend. In accordance with the Conservation Authority's Administrative By-Laws, the Chair may also call a Special Meeting of the Board on three days' written notice.

Meetings are typically held at the Conservation Authority's offices located at 120 Bayview Parkway in Newmarket.

The proposed Board meeting schedule for 2024 is as follows:

Friday, January 26th (AGM)

Friday, February 23rd

Friday, March 22nd

Friday, April 26th

Friday, May 24th

Friday, June 21st

Friday, July 26th

No August meeting

Friday, September 27th

Friday, October 25th

Friday, November 22nd

Friday, December 20th

b) Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority Meetings

The Conservation Authority Board also meets as part of the Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority. These meetings are held as required (usually one or two per year) and are scheduled to coincide with monthly Board Meetings (i.e. the Source Protection Authority meets first, followed by the monthly Board of Directors' meeting). The Source Protection Authority includes four additional members representing the City of Orillia, District of Muskoka, Township of Algonquin Highlands and Township of Severn.

Summary and Recommendations:

It is therefore recommended That Staff Report No. 03-24-BOD regarding the Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule for 2024 be received; and **Further that** the proposed schedule be approved.

Staff Report prepared by Trish Barnett, Chief of Staff

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin

Chief Administrative Officer