



# Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

## 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting

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

Friday, January 26, 2024

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

### Meeting Minutes

#### Board Members Present

Councillor S. Bell, Councillor A. Courser, Councillor F. Drodge, Councillor A. Eek, Regional Chairman W. Emmerson, Councillor P. Ferragine, Regional Councillor B. Garrod, Mayor R. Greenlaw, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, 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

Mayor V. Hackson, Councillor D. Le Roy, Councillor E. Yeo

#### Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, A. Brown, S. Connor, M. Critch, A. Cullen, P. Davies, R. Doyle, B. Ginn, N. Hamley, D. Lembcke, G. MacMillan, G. Peat, C. Taylor, K. Yemm

#### Guests in Attendance

J.L. Durnford, J. Payne, K. Tuyen, M. Walters

### I. Chair Emmerson's Welcome

Chair Emmerson welcomed everyone to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual General meeting of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and acknowledged the Lake Simcoe watershed as traditional Indigenous territory.

#### Roll Call – 2023 Board Members

The 2023 Board Members introduced themselves and advised which municipality they represent. Chair Emmerson mentioned members who were not in attendance.

### II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

None noted for the meeting.

### III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: T. Vegh

Seconded: M. Thompson

BOD-001-24 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

#### IV. Adoption of Minutes

##### a) Board of Directors

Moved by: A. Courser

Seconded by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

BOD-002-24 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting No. BOD-10-23 held on Friday, December 15, 2023 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

#### V. Presentations

##### a) Lake Management

Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, provided an update on how phosphorus loads and phosphorus use within the lake have changed, along with lake management implications, noting that 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 Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (the Plan) targets. He explained that over the past 3 years, the Conservation Authority has investigated why the lake has not responded to changing phosphorus loads and is apparently "decoupled" from well-established ecological relationships that are the foundation of lake management strategies.

Dr. Ginn noted that climate change has altered precipitation patterns and tributary flows that are the main drivers of phosphorus loads, and 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 another factor and are the dominant species in Lake Simcoe, redefining the nutrient pathways to patterns that could not have been predicted when the Plan was written before 2009. He explained these new patterns of phosphorus delivery and use in Lake Simcoe are occurring on other lakes across the Great Lakes region. Through collaborations, the team is 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. One example is 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.

Dr. Ginn advised that 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. He noted the importance Conservation Authority staff's continuing to evaluate and re-visit metrics to ensure a sustainable future for the lake's ecosystem.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Lake Management Update Presentation](#)

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

BOD-003-24 **Resolved That** the presentation by Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, regarding Phosphorus Loads and Lake Simcoe Management be received for information. **Carried**

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

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

BOD-004-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 01-24-BOD providing an update on phosphorus in Lake Simcoe be received for information. **Carried**

#### **b) 2023 Year in Review**

The Conservation Authority's Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, congratulated staff on their many accomplishments of 2023, noting that staff are the reason for our success and what a privilege and honour it is to lead such a talented team. CAO Baldwin shared a video that captures the many highlights and accomplishments from 2023. To view the video, please click this link: [2023 Year in Review Video](#). These highlights and accomplishments are also captured in the [2023 Year in Review Infographics](#)

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: F. Drodge

BOD-005-24 **Resolved That** the presentation by Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, on the Conservation Authority's 2023 highlights and accomplishments be received for information. **Carried**

## **VI. 2023 Business is Concluded**

Chair Emmerson concluded the business of 2023 and deemed the Chair vacant.

Moved by: T. Vegh

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-006-24 **Resolved That** the Board of Directors conclude the business of 2023; and

**Further That** the Chair be declared vacant. **Carried**

## **VII. 2024 Business**

After a short break, the 2024 Business portion of the meeting was called to order by the Conservation Authority's Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin.

### **Roll Call – 2024 Board Members**

The 2024 Board Members introduced themselves and advised which municipality they represent. CAO Baldwin mentioned members who were not in attendance.

## **VIII. Election of Officers**

CAO Baldwin conducted the election of officers, outlining the general rules and noting that positions are required for Chair and Vice Chair for 2024 and must be appointed members of the Board of Directors.

### **A. Appointment of Scrutineers**

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: F. Drodge

BOD-007-24 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

### **B. Election of Officers – 2024**

#### **i. Chair of the Authority**

Councillor Clare Riepma was nominated for the position of Chair by Regional Chairman Wayne Emmerson. Nominations were called for three times. No further nominations were put forward.

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-008-24 **Resolved that** the nominations for the position of Chair be closed. **Carried**

Councillor Riepma accepted the nomination for the position of Chair, and CAO Baldwin offered congratulations to Councillor Riepma as the 2024 Chair.

#### **ii. Vice Chair of the Authority**

Mayor Randy Greenlaw was nominated for the position of Vice Chair by Mayor Margaret Quirk. Nominations were called for three times and no further nominations were put forward.

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: W. Emmerson

BOD-009-24 **Resolved that** the nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed. **Carried**

Mayor Greenlaw accepted the nomination for the position of Vice Chair, and CAO Baldwin congratulated Mayor Greenlaw as the 2024 Vice Chair.

Chair Riepma chaired the remainder of the meeting.

### **C. Appointment of the Regulations Sub-committee for 2024**

In the event of a Hearing by the Board of Directors under Ontario Regulation 179/06, a Regulations Sub-Committee is formed to review the circumstances and report to the Board.

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: F. Drodge

BOD-010-24 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

### **D. Appointment to Conservation Ontario for 2024**

The Chair, or his/her designate, and the Chief Administrative Officer represent the Conservation Authority on Conservation Ontario's Council. Chair Riepma agreed to represent the Conservation Authority for 2024.

Moved by: T. Vegh

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-011-24 **Resolved that** the 2024 Chair, Councillor Clare Riepma, be appointed as the Conservation Authority's voting delegate to Conservation Ontario; and

**Further that** the Chief Administrative Officer be the alternate delegate. **Carried**

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

Chair Riepma advised that the Chair and Vice Chair or their designates are appointed to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board of Directors. Chair Riepma requested that this appointment be deferred to the February 2024 Board of Directors' meeting.

Moved by: A. Courser

Seconded by: F. Drodge

BOD-012-24 **Resolved that** the appointed of Board members to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board of Directors for 2024 be deferred to the February 2024 meeting. **Carried**

### **F. Appointment of Solicitors for 2024**

The Conservation Authority currently utilizes the services of five (5) legal firms; namely, Stiver Vale for general administrative advice and land management; Hicks Morley for employment and labour related matters; HHL Law Firm (formerly Hill Hunter Losell) for floodplain regulation advice; Barriston LLP for general administrative and regulations advice; and Beard Winter for floodplain regulation advice, litigation and real estate.

Moved by: I. Lovatt

Seconded by: W. Emmerson

BOD-013-24 **Resolved 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; and

**Further that** a review of legal firms be conducted for 2025. **Carried**

### **G. Signing Officers for 2024**

Each year the Conservation Authority appoints four signing officers: namely, the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO.

Moved by: R. Greenlaw

Seconded by: P. Ferragine

BOD-014-24 **Resolved 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 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. **Carried**

## H. Borrowing Resolution

The borrowing resolution authorizes the Conservation Authority to borrow an amount up to \$500,000.

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: M. Quirk

BOD-015-24 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

## IX. Staff Reports

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

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

Moved by: A. Courser

Seconded by: F. Drodge

BOD-016-24 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

#### **b) Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule 2024**

Staff Report No. 03-24-BOD, which outlined the recommended Board of Director's 2024 meeting schedule was included in the agenda.

Moved by: R. Greenlaw

Seconded by: W. Emmerson

BOD-017-24 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

#### **X. Closing Remarks**

Vice Chair Greenlaw and Chair Riepma thanked the Board of Directors for their trust and confidence in them, both noting they look forward to serving as Chair and Vice Chair.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-018-24 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 10:50 a.m. **Carried**



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Mayor Randy Greenlaw, Vice Chair  
Signing on behalf of  
Councillor Clare Riepma, Chair



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Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Office