

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-02-24

Friday, February 23, 2024

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Councillor A. Eek, Councillor C. Riepma (Chair), Mayor V. Hackson, Councillor E. Yeo

Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, A. Brown, M. Critch, A. Cullen, P. Davies, D. Goodyear, N. Hamley, G. MacMillan, G. Peat, D. Ruggle, C. Taylor, K. Yemm

Vice Chair Greenlaw chaired this meeting on behalf of Chair Riepma.

I. Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Greenlaw 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: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: M. Quirk

BOD-019-24 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the February 23, 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as amended to include Item VI c), a presentation entitled "Conservation Authorities Act Updates: O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited

Activities, Exemptions and Permits, and O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services". **Carried**

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Board of Directors' Meeting

Moved by: T. Vegh

Seconded by: B. Garrod

BOD-020-24 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Annual General Meeting, No. BOD-01-24, held on Friday, January 26, 2024 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

V. Announcements

a) There were no announcements for this meeting.

VI. Presentations

a) Strategic Plan Reporting and 2023 Annual Priorities Updates

CAO, Rob Baldwin, provided a presentation on the progress of Transformation 2022-2024, the Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan, noting this strategic plan was built during a time of change and uncertainty in light of Provincial Bills 109, 229, and 23, as well as the COVID pandemic. For these reasons, focus shifted for this strategic plan to outcomes sought for the watershed through the following five strategic directions:

1. Champion watershed health and climate resilience
2. Drive evidence-based decision-making.
3. Spark a passion and action for nature.
4. Advance organizational effectiveness and excellence.
5. Nurture people and talent.

CAO Baldwin reviewed the planned actions that were set out to achieve each strategic direction, noting that each action is either on track or on track with changes. A full list of outcomes can be found in the presentation linked below.

Also included in CAO Baldwin's presentation was an update on the 2023 Annual Priorities. He advised that at the start of each year the Executive Leadership Team establishes annual priorities for the year. These priorities can be single-year priorities or as was the case for the 2023, multi-year priorities with actions set out for each year. The 2023 Annual Priorities included:

1. Managing Bills 229 and 23

2. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
3. Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve
4. Scanlon Creek Nature Centre
5. Climate Change and Stormwater Management
6. Network Security
7. Records and Asset Management

CAO Baldwin reviewed these priorities, noting that each is moving forward as expected. More information may be found in the presentation linked below.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Strategic Plan Status and 2023 Annual Priorities Update](#)

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: B. Garrod

BOD-021-24 **Resolved That** the presentation by CAO Rob Baldwin regarding the progress of **Transformation 2022-2024**, the Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan and an update on the 2023 Annual Priorities be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No.04-24-BOD regarding the progress of **Transformation 2022-2024**, the Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan.

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: B. Garrod

BOD-022-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 04-24-BOD regarding the progress of **Transformation 2022-2024**, the Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan be received for information. **Carried**

b) 2023 Enabling Services Year in Review

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided a presentation on the Conservation Authority's Enabling Services Internal Customer Satisfaction Survey, noting that feedback from staff was sought to gauge the level of satisfaction being provided by the Conservation Authority's enabling services departments (Corporate Communications, Human Resources, Finance, IT/IMS and Facilities) with a goal to make improvements and enhance service delivery where required. He was pleased to report that the survey received a 67.6% response rate with an average internal customer satisfaction score of 4.1 out of 5.

GM Critch advised that next steps include identifying areas in each department where survey feedback can be incorporated into 2024 workplan development, as well as working to address areas of concerns, some of which are subject to budget availability and approval. It is expected

that the survey will be administered again at the end of 2024 with some minor question changes to gain more meaningful and constructive feedback.

Please click this link to view the presentation: [2023 Survey Results for Enabling Services](#)

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: S. Bell

BOD-023-24 **Resolved That** the presentation by General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, regarding the Conservation Authority's Enabling Services Internal Customer Satisfaction Survey results be received for information.

Carried

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 05-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Enabling Services Internal Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: S. Bell

BOD-024-24 **Resolved That** the Staff Report No. 05-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Enabling Services Internal Customer Satisfaction Survey be received for information. **Carried.**

c) Conservation Authorities Act Updates: O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, and O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services

CAO, Rob Baldwin provided a brief overview of the new Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, and the amendments to Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services made under the Conservation Authorities Act, which were announced February 16, 2024 and come into effect on April 1, 2024. He noted that the new O. Reg. 41/24 replaces all existing 36 conservation authority regulations, and some key changes include:

- Updating some definitions and areas where development activities are prohibited, while maintaining important provincial standards.
- Requirements for mapping of regulated areas to be made available online and for public notification to be given of any changes.
- Exemptions from the requirement for a conservation authority permit for some low-risk activities, subject to certain conditions, such as sheds, removable docks, garage rebuilds, fencing, and agricultural drainage.

- Limiting the conditions that can be included on a permit to matters related to natural hazards and public safety and general permit administration.
- Service standards for permit issuance including pre-consultation and confirmation of complete applications within 21-days and requiring annual reporting on permitting statistics including reporting on the level of conservation authority compliance with new regulatory requirements.
- Enabling applicants to appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal if a permit decision is not made within 90-days, as well as enabling appeals of permitting fees charged by conservation authorities.
- Enabling Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry's tools regarding the review of permit decisions and the issuance of permits.
- Updated enforcement powers and offence provisions under the act, including stop work orders and increased penalties.

CAO Baldwin noted that there is much work to be done for staff to implement all these changes by April 1st, and more information will be brought forward to the Board in the coming months.

Please click this link to view the presentation: [Conservation Authorities Act Updates - O. Reg 41/24 and O. Reg 686.21](#)

Moved by: W. Emmerson

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-025-24 **Resolved That** the presentation by CAO Rob Baldwin on Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, and amendments to Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services made under the Conservation Authorities Act be received for information. **Carried**

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

X. Adoption of Items not Requiring Separate Discussion

Items No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: A. Courser

Seconded by: B. Garrod

BOD-026-24 **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-027-24 **Resolved That** Correspondence Item a) be received for information.

Carried

2. Monitoring Report - Planning and Development Applications for the period January 1 to December 31, 2023

BOD-028-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 06-24-BOD regarding the total number of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2023 be received for information. **Carried**

3. Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Annual Statistical Report

BOD-029-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 07-24-BOD regarding the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2023 Annual Statistical Report be received for information. **Carried**

4. Conservation Authority Board Member Appointment to Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation for 2024

BOD-030-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 08-24-BOD regarding the appointment of two members to represent the Conservation Authority on the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board of Directors be received; and

Further that the Conservation Authority's Chair, Councillor Clare Riepma, and Vice Chair, Mayor Randy Greenlaw, be appointed to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board of Directors for 2024. **Carried**

5. 2024 Annual Priorities

BOD-031-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 09-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's 2024 Annual Priorities be received for information. **Carried**

6. Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 – Impacts on Development Services Department

BOD-032-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 10-24-BOD regarding an end-of-year overview and update on the impacts of Bill 23 to the Development Services Department be received for information. **Carried**

XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Item No. 7 was identified under items requiring separate discussion.

7. Georgina Island Fixed Link Project Update

Regional Chairman Emmerson thanked staff for the detailed report. He noted he believes the Chippewas of Georgina Island and the Georgina Island Fixed Link Project team are all very conscious of the environment, and he would hope they will want an environmental assessment for this project, along with the many community groups who advocate for Lake Simcoe.

BOD-033-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 11-24-BOD regarding an update on staff's review and involvement with the Georgina Island Fixed Link project be received for information. **Carried**

XII. Closed Session

The Board moved to Closed Session to deal with a confidential legal and human resources matters.

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: D. Le Roy

BOD-034-24 **Resolved That** the Board move to Closed Session to deal with confidential legal and human resources matters; and

Further that the Chief Administrative Officer and members of the Executive Leadership Team remain in the meeting for the discussion on Items a), b), and c); and

Further that the Sr. Director, Human Resources and the Chief of Staff remain in the meeting for the discussion on Item d). **Carried**

The Board rose from Closed Session to report findings.

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: M. Quirk

BOD-035-24 **Resolved That** the Board rise from Closed Session and report findings. **Carried**

a) Confidential Legal Matter

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: D. Le Roy

BOD-036-24 **Resolved That** Confidential Staff Report No. 12-24-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter be received for information. **Carried**

b) Confidential Legal Matter

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: D. Le Roy

BOD-037-24 **Resolved That** Confidential Staff Report No. 13-24-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter be received for information. **Carried**

c) Confidential Human Resources Matter

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: D. Le Roy

BOD-038-24 **Resolved That** Confidential Staff Report No. 14-24-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter be received; and

Further that the recommendations contained within the report be approved. **Carried**

d) Confidential Human Resources Matter

Moved by: F. Drodge

Seconded by: W. Emmerson

BOD-039-24 **Resolved That** he discussion on the Confidential Human Resources matter be received; and

Further that the Sr. Director, Human Resources be directed to implement recommendations approved by the Board of Directors. **Carried**

XIII. Other Business

- a) Vice Chair Greenlaw advised the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 22, 2024. This meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices.

XIV. Adjournment

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: A. Courser

BOD-040-24 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 11:25 a.m. **Carried**



Mayor Randy Greenlaw, Vice Chair



Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

