

## Board Meeting Highlights

February 23, 2024

### **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](#)

**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](#)

**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](#)

## **Correspondence and Staff Reports:**

### **Correspondence**

The Board received a copy of the December 13, 2023 Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry letter to all Conservation Authorities regarding extension to Minister's Direction on Fee Changes associated with Planning, Development and Permitting.

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

The Board received Staff Report No. 06-24-BOD regarding the total number of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2023.

### **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Annual Statistical Report**

The Board received Staff Report No. 07-24-BOD regarding the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2023 Annual Statistical Report.

### **Conservation Authority Board Member Appointment to Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation for 2024**

The Board received 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 and approved the appointment of the Conservation Authority's Chair, Councillor Clare Riepma, and Vice Chair, Mayor Randy Greenlaw, to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board of Directors for 2024.

### **2024 Annual Priorities**

The Board received Staff Report No. 09-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's 2024 Annual Priorities.

### **Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 – Impacts on Development Services Department**

The Board received 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.

### **Georgina Island Fixed Link Project Update**

The Board received Staff Report No. 11-24-BOD regarding an update on staff's review and involvement with the Georgina Island Fixed Link project.

### **Confidential Legal Matter**

The Board approved Confidential Staff Report No. 12-24-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter.

### **Confidential Legal Matter**

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 13-24-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter.

### **Confidential Human Resources Matter**

The Board approved the recommendations in Confidential Staff Report No. 14-23-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter.

### **Confidential Human Resources Matter**

The Board provided direction to the Sr. Director, Human Resources regarding a confidential human resources matter.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, visit [LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage](#).