

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-09-24

Friday, November 22, 2024

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Councillor C. Riepma (Chair), Mayor R. Greenlaw (Vice Chair), Councillor A. Courser, Councillor F. Drodge, Councillor A. Eek, Regional Chairman W. Emmerson, Councillor P. Ferragine, Councillor J. Gough, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Councillor D. Le Roy, Mayor I. Lovatt, Mayor M. Quirk, Councillor Roy-DiClemente, Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor T. Vegh, Councillor E. Yeo

Members Absent

Regional Councillor B. Garrod, Councillor C. Pettingill, Councillor M. Thompson, Councillor E. Yeo

Staff Present

D. Andrews, R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, A. Brown, S. Connor, M. Critch, A. Cullen, P. Davies, D. Goodyear, L. Grzywniak, N. Hamley, B. Lywood, G. MacMillan, G. Peat, K. Toffan, K. Turriff, K. Yemm

I. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Riepma 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: R. Greenlaw

Seconded by: F. Drodge

BOD-129-24 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the November 22, 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented. **Carried**

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Board of Directors' Meeting

Moved by: D. Le Roy

Seconded by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

BOD-130-24 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-08-24, held on Friday, September 27, 2024 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

V. Announcements

- a) Chair Riepma welcomed returning Board member Councillor Joe Gough from the Township of Ramara, who has been appointed in place of Councillor Sherri Bell.
- b) Senior Director, Communications and Engagement, Kristen Yemm, was pleased to share that Education Program Specialist, Cassandra Connell, applied to become a mentor in [Take Me Outside](#), a national charitable organization that works to raise awareness and enable action on nature connection and outdoor learning. Not only has Cassandra become a mentor, but she has also been selected as the Ontario Regional Coordinator for their pilot program. Selected from a candidate pool of 128, Cassandra is one of only eight across Canada and three in the northern US. This exciting opportunity for Cassandra and the Conservation Authority will showcase our skills, expertise and leadership in outdoor learning and support for educators in taking kids outside to learn about, and connect with, nature.
- c) Senior Director, Communications and Engagement, Kristen Yemm, was pleased to advise that the Conservation Authority's public engagement platform, <https://yoursay.lsrca.on.ca/>, now includes a link to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve, providing updates on project activities on the Conservation Authority's most recently acquired land.

VI. Presentations

a) Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast

Director, Finance, Katherine Toffan, provided an overview of the Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast, noting an operational surplus of \$1,498K at September 30th. The main drivers of this surplus include salary gapping for open positions in a number of departments, along with fees higher than expected in Planning and Development. She noted Annual Priorities for 2024 are on track and progressing well. Reserve transfers are on track, while reserve draws for year-end are forecast to be under budget. Staff are forecasting a surplus for year-end.

Looking ahead to 2025, staff are progressing well with filling vacancies. In Planning and Development, it is unknown at this time if the fees freeze will continue. Construction on the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek will begin in January, with operating impacts expected in 2026.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Third Quarter 2024 Financial Update and Forecast Presentation](#)

Moved by: T. Roy-DiClemente

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-131-24 **Resolved That** the presentation by Director, Finance, Katherine Toffan, regarding the Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 52-24-BOD regarding the Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast.

Moved by: T. Roy-DiClemente

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-132-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 52-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast be received for information. **Carried**

b) A Digital Strategy for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Don Goodyear, together with Director, Information Services & Technology, Geoff Peat, provided an overview of the Conservation Authority's Digital Transformation project. Digital transformation is a process of using digital technologies to create new or modify existing processes, and customer experiences to meet changing organizational demands. He outlined the steps required including assessment of current digital capabilities, identification of key areas for improvement, development of a roadmap for implementation, and continuous evaluation and adaptations of strategies. An assessment found gaps in terms of technology, skills, business processes and data management, with these areas becoming the key areas for the strategy to focus on. The expected outcomes include improved operational efficiency, enhanced customer experience and community engagement, better data management and analysis, and increased transparency and accountability.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Digital Strategy Presentation](#)

Moved by: A. Courser

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-133-24 **Resolved That** the presentation by General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Don Goodyear, together with Director, Information Services & Technology, Geoff Peat, regarding an overview of the Conservation Authority's Digital Strategy be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 53-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Digital Strategy.

Moved by: A. Courser

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-134-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 53-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Digital Strategy 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

No items were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

X. Adoption of Items not Requiring Separate Discussion

Moved by: W. Emmerson

Seconded by: J. Gough

BOD-135-24 **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. 2024 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Conservation Areas Strategy – Final Draft

BOD-136-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 54-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Conservation Areas Strategy be received; and

Further that the 2024 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Conservation Areas Strategy be approved for implementation. **Carried**

2. Conservation Areas Parking Fees

BOD-137-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 55-24-BOD regarding the reassessment of the parking fees program be received; and

Further That parking at the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Conservation Areas continues to be provided without charge until further notice. **Carried**

XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No items remained for separate discussion.

XII. Closed Session

There were no closed session items for this meeting.

XIII. Other Business

- a) Chair Riepma advised that the next meeting will be held on Friday, December 20, 2024 in the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

Moved by: W. Emmerson

Seconded by: J. Gough

BOD-138-24 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 a.m. **Carried**



Councillor Clare Riepma
Chair



Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer