

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-04-25

Friday, July 25, 2025

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Councillor C. Riepma (Chair), Mayor R. Greenlaw (Vice Chair), Councillor A. Courser, Councillor A. Eek, Regional Councillor B. Garrod, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Regional Chairman E. Jolliffe, Councillor D. Le Roy, Mayor I. Lovatt, Councillor Roy-DiClemente, Councillor M. Thompson, Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor T. Vegh

Members Absent

Councillor F. Drodge, Councillor P. Ferragine, Councillor J. Gough, Councillor C. Pettingill, Mayor M. Quirk, Councillor E. Yeo

Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, A. Brown, S. Connor, M. Critch, A. Cullen, P. Davies, K. Goodale, D. Goodyear, L. Grzywniak, G. MacMillan, G. Peat, C. Taylor, K. Toffan, K. Yemm, K. Zeppieri

Guests Present

K. Charles

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: I. Lovatt

BOD-065-25 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the July 25, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented. **Carried**

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Board of Directors' Meeting

Moved by: B. Garrod

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-066-25 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-03-25, held on Friday, May 23, 2025 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

V. Announcements

- a) CAO Rob Baldwin was pleased to advise of the recent visit by Ministers McCarthy and Mulroney to a key monitoring station in Bradford, as well as the Art Janse pumping station, where staff at both locations highlighted the functionality and importance of each station.
- b) CAO Baldwin advised that notification has been received that Conservation Authorities have returned to the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks from the Ministry of Natural Resources. He also noted that Hassaan Basit has been appointed as the Province's Chief Conservation Officer.
- c) Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Executive Director, Cheryl Taylor, was pleased to report that \$255K was raised at the annual conservation dinner. This event was held in June and was attended by 355 guests, including over 40 elected officials.

VI. Presentations

a) Second Quarter 2025 Financial Report and Year-end Forecast

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided a presentation on the Second Quarter 2025 Financial Report and Year-end Forecast, noting the operational surplus on June 30th is \$308K with all annual priorities are progressing well. The projected forecast for year-end is a deficit of \$186K for year end. Staff are monitoring application volumes and other fees/revenue, as well as spending on capital and annual priorities. He advised that projects are progressing well and within budget, and some larger offsetting projects are expected to be funded in the fourth quarter. He also noted that reserve activity is expected to be in line with 2025 Budget.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Second Quarter 2025 Financial Report](#)

Moved by: M. Thompson

Seconded by: R. Greenlaw

BOD-067-25 **Resolved That** the presentation by General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, on the Conservation Authority's Second Quarter 2025 Financial Report and Year-end Forecast be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 22-25-BOD regarding the Second Quarter 2025 Financial Report and Year-end Forecast.

Moved by: M. Thompson

Seconded by: R. Greenlaw

BOD-068-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 22-25-BOD regarding the Second Quarter 2025 Financial Report and Year-end Forecast be received for information. **Carried**

b) Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve

Land Management Technician, Lauren Grzywniak, provided an update on activities surrounding the Conservation Authority's property, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve, noting that since acquiring this property in 2022 several activities have been completed, including a land survey, property closure with fencing and signage, ecological monitoring, as well as agricultural lease updates. Property studies completed to date include a baseline documentation report, stewardship plan, opportunities and constraints mapping, along with a land relationship visioning summary report. She noted that to gain a better understanding of the lands, and in recognition of the very long period of time they were occupied by Indigenous communities, a two-eyed seeing approach has been incorporated, so that both ways of thinking and combining different types of knowledge will support a more comprehensive and informed plan for the property. Staff are now formalizing the community advisory committee members to guide the Comprehensive Stewardship Plan. She advised that staff will continue to provide updates to the Board as this process unfolds.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve Update](#)

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: D. Le Roy

BOD-069-25 **Resolved That** the presentation by Land Management Technician, Lauren Grzywniak, regarding an update on activities surrounding the Conservation Authority's property, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 23-25-BOD regarding the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve.

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: D. Le Roy

BOD-070-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 23-25-BOD regarding an update on community engagement activities to inform the development of a long-term Comprehensive Stewardship Plan for the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve 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, 3, 4, and 5 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: T. Vegh

Seconded by: E. Jolliffe

BOD-071-25 **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-072-25 **Resolved That** Correspondence item a) be received for information. **Carried**

3. Summary of 2025 Provincial and Municipal Funding Agreements

BOD-073-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 25-25-BOD regarding recently secured Provincial and municipal funding be received for information. **Carried**

4. 2025 Annual Priorities – Mid-year Status Update

BOD-074-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 26-25-BOD regarding the Mid-year Status of the Conservation Authority’s 2025 Annual Priorities be received for information. **Carried**

5. Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications for the Period January 1 through June 30, 2025

BOD-075-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. No. 27-25-BOD regarding monitoring of development services applications for the period January 1 through June 30, 2025 be received for information. **Carried**

XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Item No. 2 was identified under items requiring separate discussion.

2. Recommendation for Winter Road and Parking Lot Maintenance

Following a discussion and input from Board members, the following amended resolution was adopted:

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

BOD-076-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD regarding recommendations for winter road and parking lot maintenance be received and the following resolution adopted:

Whereas: Chloride concentrations measured in Lake Simcoe have steadily increased since the 1970's and, if unchecked, could exceed the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Chronic Guideline by approximately 2069; and

Whereas: Chloride concentrations in urban tributaries are routinely above that Chronic Guideline, occasionally above the Acute Guideline and have recently exceeded the concentration of ocean water in one urban tributary, and continue to increase everywhere due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots; and

Whereas: These concentrations are lethal to some species of fish and benthic invertebrates, and decreasing the amount of winter salt use throughout the watershed is critical to the near-term health of urban tributaries and long-term health of Lake Simcoe; and

Whereas: A barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is the scarcity of trained and certified winter maintenance contractors; and

Whereas: A more substantial barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is concern over liability; and

Whereas: Businesses in the winter maintenance sector are seeing insurance and legal costs escalate to the point where many have failed, and some property owners have been unable to find winter maintenance contractors; and

Whereas: The limited liability framework in practice in New Hampshire is based on the Canadian Smart About Salt guidelines and has been successfully defended in the higher courts.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors requests that the Attorney General of Ontario and the Minister of the

Environment, Conservation and Parks establish and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the Province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and

Further That the Board of Directors requests that technical standards and a Provincial regulatory framework be established that limits liability for winter maintenance contractors following best practices to ensure public safety, business sustainability, and environmental protection; and

Further That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed lead by example by ensuring staff and/or winter maintenance contractors that maintain municipal parking lots obtain certification through the Smart About Salt program as a condition of working for the municipality; and

Further That this resolution, along with Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD, be circulated to Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities and all current members of Provincial Parliament; and

Further That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed implement best management practices for municipal roads management; and

Further That municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed collaborate with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority on an outreach campaign to raise awareness of this issue, manage expectations from the public regarding salt usage, and inspire positive action. **Carried**

XII. Closed Session

The Board moved to Closed Session to deal with confidential legal matters.

Moved by: T. Roy-DiClemente

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-077-25 **Resolved That** the Board move to Closed Session to deal with confidential legal matters; and

Further that the Chief Administrative Officer, members of the Executive Leadership Team, and the Communications Advisor remain in the meeting for the discussion on Item a); and

Further that the Chief Administrative Officer and members of the Executive Leadership Team remain in the meeting for the discussion on Items b) and c). **Carried**

The Board rose from Closed Session to report findings.

Moved by: B. Garrod

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-078-25 **Resolved That** the Board rise from Closed Session and report findings.
Carried

a) Confidential Conservation Awards Recipients

Moved by: D. Le Roy

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-079-25 **Resolved That** Confidential Staff Report No. 28-25-BOD regarding the recipients of the 2025 Conservation Awards be received; and

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

b) Confidential Legal Matter

Moved by: D. Le Roy

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-080-25 **Resolved That** the Confidential Staff Report No. 29-25-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter be received for information. **Carried**

c) Confidential Legal Matter

Moved by: D. Le Roy

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-081-25 **Resolved That** Confidential Staff Report No. No. 30-25-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter be received for information. **Carried**

XIII. Other Business

- a) CAO Baldwin advised that a small suspended algal mass has been found in Kempenfelt Bay by staff. Staff are keeping an eye on it and doing research to better understand it. He noted that changes in temperature, clarity, nutrients recycling, etc. all make understanding lake conditions very complex. Lake Simcoe is not alone, as this scenario is happening all around the Province. Staff are in communication with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, who are the lead Ministry in this matter.
- b) Chair Riepma advised that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Friday, September 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. This meeting will be held in the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices.

XIV. Adjournment

Moved by: E. Jolliffe

Seconded by: T. Roy-DiClemente

BOD-082-25 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 10:32 a.m. **Carried**



Councillor Clare Riepma
Chair



Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer