



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority

Board of Directors
Meeting No. BOD-05-25
Friday, September 26, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

Meeting Location:

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

Minutes and agendas are available at www.lsrca.on.ca

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors' Meeting

Friday, November 28, 2025

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

Annual Conservation Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 @ 6pm

NewRoads Performing Arts Centre

505 Pickering Crescent, Newmarket

A full listing of events can be found at www.lsrca.on.ca.

I. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory

II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

III. Approval of Agenda

Pages 1 - 5

Recommended: That the content of the Agenda for the September 26, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented.

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Board of Directors

Pages 6 - 13

Included in the agenda is a copy of the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-04-25, held on Friday, July 25, 2025.

Recommended: That the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-04-25, held on Friday, July 25, 2025, be approved as circulated.

V. Announcements

VI. Presentations

a) Status Update on the North York Durham Sewage System Expansion Project

The Regional Municipality of York's Manager of Engineering, Shu He, will provide a status update on the North York Durham Sewage System Expansion Project. This presentation will be provided at the meeting and will be available on the Conservation Authority's website following the meeting.

Recommended: That the presentation by The Regional Municipality of York's Manager of Engineering, Shu He, regarding a status update on the North York Durham Sewage System Expansion Project be received for information.

b) Blue-Green Algal Blooms on Lake Simcoe

Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, will provide an overview of the blue-green algal blooms found on Lake Simcoe. This presentation will be provided at the meeting and will be available on the Conservation Authority's website following the meeting.

Recommended: That the presentation by Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, regarding an overview of the blue-green algal blooms found on Lake Simcoe be received for information.

c) Scanlon Creek Nature Centre Building Progress

Director, Conservation Lands Phil Davies, will provide an overview of the progress made to date on the new Nature Centre being built at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. This presentation will be provided at the meeting and will be available on the Conservation Authority's website following the meeting.

Recommended: That the presentation by Director, Conservation Lands Phil Davies, regarding progress made on the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area be received for information.

d) Leveraging nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed

Pages 14 - 16

Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, will provide a presentation on the use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed. This presentation will be provided at the meeting and will be available on the Conservation Authority's website following the meeting.

Recommended: That the presentation by Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, regarding the use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed be received for information.

Included in the agenda is Staff Report No. 31-25-BOD regarding the use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 31-25-BOD regarding the use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed be received for information.

e) Administrative Offices - Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade

Pages 17 - 18

Manager, Restoration, Christa Sharp, will provide an overview of the new permeable pavement area at the Conservation Authority's Mabel Davis offices. Board members are invited to tour of this area following the meeting. This presentation will be provided at the meeting and will be available on the Conservation Authority's website following the meeting.

Recommended: That the presentation by Manager, Restoration, Christa Sharp, regarding an overview of the new permeable pavement area at the Conservation Authority's Mabel Davis offices be received for information.

Included in the agenda is Staff Report No. 32-25-BOD regarding the new permeable pavement area at the Conservation Authority's Mabel Davis offices.

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 32-25-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade be received for information.

VII. Hearings

There are no Hearings scheduled for this meeting.

VIII. Deputations

There are no Deputations scheduled for this meeting.

IX. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

(Reference Page 5 of the agenda)

X. Adoption of Items not Requiring Separate Discussion

XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

XII. Closed Session

The Board will move to Closed Session to deal with confidential legal matters.

Recommended: That the Board move to Closed Session to deal with confidential personal matters; and

Further that the Chief Administrative Officer and members of the Executive Leadership Team remain in the meeting for the discussion.

The Board will rise from Closed Session and report findings.

Recommended: That the Board rise from Closed Session and report findings.

a) Confidential Human Resources Matter

Confidential Staff Report No. 34-25-BOD will be sent to Board members prior to the meeting.

Recommended: That Confidential Staff Report No. 34-25-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter be received; and

Further that the recommendations contained within the staff report be endorsed.

XIII. Other Business

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, November 28, 2025. This meeting will be held in person at the Conservation Authority's Newmarket offices located at 120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket.

XIV. Adjournment

Agenda Items

1. Correspondence

Pages 19 - 21

- a) September 10, 2025 letter from some Lake Simcoe watershed MPs to the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change regarding funding and assistance.

Recommended: That Correspondence item a) be received for information.

2. Auditor Selection

Pages 22 - 24

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 33-25-BOD regarding the Request for Proposal for External Audit Services be received; and

Further that the recommendation to appoint BDO Canada LLP to provide external audit services for a five-year term starting with fiscal year ending 2025 be approved.

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

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Bill Thompson, Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies

Date: September 26, 2025

Subject

Leveraging nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed

Recommendation

That Staff Report No. 31-25-BOD regarding the use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed be received for information.

Purpose of this Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 31-25-BOD is to provide an overview of Conservation Authority staff's use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Background

Climate change is emerging as a significant driver of the health of Lake Simcoe and its watershed, as well as a serious risk to human health and well-being. Conservation Authority staff participate in a number of municipal working groups and roundtables, where information and resources are shared related to climate change and its effects on flooding, stormwater management, and urban heat. Through this work and the ongoing implementation of climate resilience strategies, staff have been building expertise in nature-based approaches to climate action.

Nature-based approaches are a good fit for the Conservation Authority. They represent an extension of the work already being done in the areas of owning and managing natural areas, commenting on municipal policy and planning applications to protect natural features, as well as in restoration and afforestation programs that aim to increase natural cover in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

As this expertise develops, staff have been sharing it with municipal colleagues through a combination of case studies and workshops, hoping to strengthen an understanding of how nature-based solutions can contribute to climate resilience locally.

Issues

Flood management is a mandatory service under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, reflective of the importance of this service and the Conservation Authority's long history in providing it. However, as with many aspects of the Conservation Authority's work, climate change will make flood

management an increasing challenge in coming years. Changing weather patterns are projected to increase the frequency and severity of rain events, which in turn is expected to increase the extent and frequency of flooding and the resulting costs of flood damages. In fact, damage caused by floods is already the costliest impact of climate change in Canada. Unfortunately, costs to upgrade infrastructure to mitigate future floods is becoming increasingly expensive.

The Conservation Authority is partnering with the City of Barrie and Credit Valley Conservation to assess the potential for climate change to affect urban flooding in the Sophia Creek catchment (which includes part of Barrie's downtown), comparing mitigation options using Credit Valley Conservation's Risk and Return on Investment Tool. This tool is designed to assess the relative costs and benefits of flood and stormwater management infrastructure, assisting municipalities in investing limited infrastructure funding in places with the greatest return on investment. Included in the project is an assessment of the relative costs and benefits of increasing green infrastructure in this catchment, thus allowing direct comparison with grey infrastructure.

While climate effects on flooding are a top-of-mind issue for the Conservation Authority, climate effects on urban air temperature are top of mind for many municipal staff, as it represents the greatest risk to human health and wellbeing. Historically, the Conservation Authority has not focused on air temperature or urban forests; however, in recent years the Forestry department has undertaken a number of urban forest studies in York Region municipalities. More recently, Conservation Authority staff have used data from these studies, landcover mapping, and a nature-based solutions modelling tool to model the effects of land use change and climate change on the urban heat island in the Town of East Gwillimbury. This model predicted an air temperature on the hottest day of the year at the end of century, and assessed what the urban forest could do to mitigate those effects by exploring a range of urban forest scenarios. The model found that while an enhanced urban forest could reduce air temperature, it wouldn't be enough on its own to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

In parallel with the above, Conservation Authority staff undertook an assessment of the role that natural areas in East Gwillimbury play in sequestering and storing carbon, including how that may change as development proceeds. Perhaps surprisingly, this project predicts that sequestration rates could increase through development due to the comprehensive nature of protection for existing natural features in the Lake Simcoe watershed, coupled with an increase in street trees in new residential areas. Information of this sort can be used by municipal staff as they develop plans to reduce community-level emissions, as it allows them to quantify the role these features play in offsetting current or future emissions. While community energy plans have not included information of this sort in the past, staff from many watershed municipalities have expressed interest in gaining a better understanding. It is hoped that this case study would provide an example that could be applied elsewhere.

In addition to completing targeted case studies like those above, Conservation Authority staff have been building knowledge and awareness of the potential contribution of nature-based solutions to climate resilience locally through a webinar series funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. This webinar series is targeted at municipal climate change staff from across the watershed, providing an introduction to the general topic of nature-based solutions, an overview of case studies such as these, and a venue for collaboration on this topic. This series has been well received and will continue into 2026.

Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy

This work supports the following Strategic Directions:

- Strategic Direction 1: Champion watershed health and climate resilience
- Strategic Direction 2: Drive evidence-based decision-making, specifically strategic objective 2.3, which states that “Climate change impacts are considered in the development and delivery of internal and external programs, policies, plans, and practices”

Impact on Conservation Authority Finances

Municipal levy supports full-time Watershed Plans and Strategies staff, who focus on climate resilience and were the nucleus of this work. Specific projects outlined in this staff report were funded through grants received from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (Lake Simcoe Protection Plan funding), Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Nature-based climate solutions represent a possible future funding stream for the Conservation Authority, including through Category 2 services provided to member municipalities.

Summary and Recommendations

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 31-25-BOD regarding the use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed be received for information

Pre-Submission Review

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Don Goodyear
General Manager
Integrated Watershed Management

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Christa Sharp, Manager, Restoration Services

Date: September 26, 2025

Subject

Administrative Offices - Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade

Recommendation

That Staff Report No. 32-25-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade be received for information.

Purpose of this Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 32-25-BOD is to provide an overview of an upgrade to a portion of the parking lot at 120 Bayview Parkway to enhance its permeability.

Background

The Conservation Authority continues to implement projects through offsetting policies that address loss of natural heritage features (ecological offsetting), groundwater recharge deficit (water balance recharge offsetting), and post development phosphorus loads (phosphorus offsetting). Staff continue to work with partners to implement innovative approaches to achieve restoration improvements. The project to upgrade to a portion of the parking lot at 120 Bayview Parkway in Newmarket addresses infiltration of water and filtration of contaminants.

The Conservation Authority has implemented upgrades to the existing 245 square metres section of permeable parking lot which needed replacement. The previous installation of interlocking blocks had started to deteriorate and was no longer functioning as required. The section of permeable parking was retrofitted with a permeable pavement.

The product used was Dream Pave, a resin-bound permeable paving product. This product is expected to resist salts, is easily maintained and will allow for infiltration. Dream Pave supplied and installed the product at no cost to the Conservation Authority as a demonstration site. This was valued at \$58,000. In lieu of a donation receipt, Dream Pave requested an educational sign to highlight the product, as well as a one-year monitoring report.

The site preparation work was approximately \$30,000 and was funded through the Conservation Authority's offsetting programs.

Issues

There are no expected issues with this project as it has an expected lifespan of 30 years. The funding was approved by the internal offsetting committee, and the parking area will be monitored for one year by Conservation Authority staff.

Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy

One of the goals of the Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan, a resilient watershed, is achieved through nature-based restoration solutions and an increase in protected areas on rural, urban and agricultural lands. The development and implementation of the offsetting policies and programs assist in achieving this goal by providing a consistent approach to enhancement and restoration throughout the watershed.

Impact on Conservation Authority Finances

This update does not impact Conservation Authority finances. Project implementation and monitoring has been approved and will be funded through internal funding resources.

Summary and Recommendations

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 32-25-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade be received for information.

Pre-Submission Review

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Development, Engineering and Restoration and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Signed by:

Glenn MacMillan
Development, Engineering and Restoration

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer



The Honourable Julie Dabrusin
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

September 10, 2025

Dear Minister Dabrusin,

We are writing on behalf of the many residents, communities, businesses, and the tourism sector we represent that depend on Lake Simcoe to express our profound concern about the federal government's ongoing inaction—and potential funding cuts—that jeopardize the health of our watershed

In the final days of the 2019 campaign, your government pledged \$40 million to protect Lake Simcoe. Since then, we have consistently pressed for this commitment to be fulfilled. Immediately after the election, my Conservative colleagues and I wrote to both the Prime Minister and your office urging the government to honour its promise. We have also tabled petitions, worked alongside grassroots advocates, and joined municipal councillors, conservation authorities, and environmental organizations in calling on Ottawa to deliver meaningful action.

Yet, that promise remains unmet. More troublingly, the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition (RLSC) has recently raised an alarm that federal support for Lake Simcoe may be slashed by 15 per cent under the Freshwater Action Fund. Published reports of leaked internal messages allegedly coming from within your office have only amplified these concerns. While the authenticity of those messages remains unverified, the very suggestion of cutbacks has created widespread uncertainty and frustration among those who have worked tirelessly to protect the lake. The Coalition rightly points out that even the current funding level falls far short of the 2019 commitment—and any further reduction would be a serious blow to restoration efforts, and we as Members of Parliament share that concern.

At the same time, emerging threats such as rising sodium levels are compounding long-standing challenges from phosphorus runoff, invasive species, and harmful algal blooms. Warmer weather continues to worsen these problems, leading to beach closures and jeopardizing drinking water, recreation, and aquatic ecosystems. Local communities are committed to doing their part—but they need robust, sustained federal support to do it effectively.

The previous Conservative government invested nearly \$60 million over a decade through the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund—empowering over 200 grassroots projects that delivered measurable improvements in water quality, phosphorus reduction, and fish habitat. In contrast, the record of the current Liberal government has been one of unfulfilled promises, delays, and now, apparent plans for further erosion of support.

Make no mistake: Lake Simcoe is not optional. It is the crown jewel of central Ontario—vital to our drinking water, our food, our economy, our tourism, and our collective future.

We urge you, Minister, to:

- Guarantee that no funding for Lake Simcoe under the Freshwater Action Fund will be cut.
- Reinststate a dedicated Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund with predictable, multi-year support at least matching the previous Conservative program.
- Partner with local municipalities, Indigenous communities, and environmental stakeholders to address phosphorus input, rising sodium levels, invasive species like the newly discovered ‘water soldier’, and shoreline resilience.

We, and those elected before us have been steadfast advocates for Lake Simcoe not just because of what it’s health means to the economy of Central Ontario but also to ensure that it remains healthy and sustainable for future generations.

The health of our lake—and the well-being of thousands of Canadians—depends on urgent, decisive action.

Sincerely,



John Brassard
Member of Parliament | Barrie South-Innisfil



Doug Shipley
Member of Parliament | Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte



Terry Dowdall
Member of Parliament | Simcoe-Grey



Adam Chambers
Member of Parliament | Simcoe North



Scot Davidson
Member of Parliament | New Tecumseh -
Gwillimbury



Jamie Schmale
Member of Parliament | Haliburton -
Kawartha Lakes



Jacob Mantle
Member of Parliament | York - Simcoe

cc. Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Katherine Toffan – Director, Finance

Date: September 12, 2025

Subject

Request for Proposal for External Auditors for 2025 to 2029 and Recommendation to Appoint

Recommendation

That Staff Report No. 33-25-BOD regarding the Request for Proposal for External Audit Services be received; and

Further that the recommendation to appoint BDO Canada LLP to provide external audit services for a five-year term starting with fiscal year ending 2025 be approved.

Purpose of this Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 33-25-BOD is to provide information on the open competitive bid process to seek external audit services for a five-year term, provide information on the results of the proposals, and obtain approval from the Board of Directors to appoint the successful firm for a five-year term starting with fiscal year ending 2025.

Background

The last call for proposal for audit services was issued in 2020. With the five-year audit term concluding at the end of the 2024 audit, and in alignment with procurement guidelines, the Conservation Authority issued a Request for Proposal (Request) for Audit Services covering the period from 2025 to 2029 audits.

The Request was issued to secure external audit services for a five-year term for the Conservation Authority, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation and Conservation Ontario. Proponents were required to submit individual pricing for each organization.

The Request was posted through Bids and Tenders on Friday August 15, 2025, and closed on Friday September 5, 2025. Four firms registered for the opportunity, and two – BDO Canada LLP and Welch LLP – submitted proposals.

The evaluation team included the Conservation Authority's Director of Finance, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation's Executive Director, and Conservation Ontario's Manager of Corporate Services.

The proposals were evaluated based on the following criteria:

Company Overview and Experience – Proponents were asked to include a profile of their firm outlining experience in auditing similar organizations, not-for-profit and public sector experience, staff continuity and availability of resources and relevant experience of the proposed audit team.

Proposed Audit Strategy - Proponents were required to outline the general audit strategies and methodologies for audit plans and testing procedures, approaches to resolving accounting and disclosure issues, expected report deliverables, digital tools to be used in conducting the audit and methods for collaborating with the clients.

Workplan and Timing - Proponents were asked to submit a detailed workplan for conducting interim and final audit work with time budgets and estimated hours for staff for each phase of the audit.

Price Proposal – Proponents were asked to provide separate pricing for each organization, for each of the five years covered under the proposed term. The price proposal was weighted at 30% of the total score and evaluated using a formula that compared each submission to the lowest quoted price.

Proposals Submitted	LSRCA Fee Proposal (5-year term)	Evaluation Score (out of 100)
BDO Canada LLP	\$181,365 +HST	91.33
Welch LLP	\$241,400 + HST	78.55

Issues

All proposals received were appropriate and reasonable in content. The evaluation team considered the working hours for the Organization staff, all criteria outlined in the proposals, including the proposed cost of the 5-year term. As a result of this assessment, the evaluation team is recommending that BDO Canada LLP be awarded the next five (5) year term.

Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy

The requirement for an audit for the Conservation Authority is found in section 38 of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, which states:

Annual audit

38 (1) Every authority shall cause its accounts and transactions to be audited annually by a person licensed under the Public Accounting Act, 2004 and shall ensure that the annual audit is prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments

recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, as they exist from time to time. 2020, c. 36, Sched. 6, s. 24 (1).

Impact on Conservation Authority Finances

The annual audit fees proposed by BDO Canada LLP for the Conservation Authority are:

Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028	Fiscal Year 2029
\$34,240	\$35,310	\$36,380	\$37,450	\$37,985

Pricing includes a 7% administrative fee to cover costs of related overhead expenses for support staff, technology, infrastructure, etc. The inclusion of the 7% fee was taken into consideration in the pricing evaluation.

Summary and Recommendations

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 33-25-BOD regarding the Request for Proposal for External Audit Services be received; and

Further that the recommendation to appoint BDO Canada LLP to provide external audit services for a five-year term starting with fiscal year ending 2025 be approved.

Pre-Submission Review

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Mark Critch
General Manager, Corporate and Financial
Services/CFO

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer