

Board Meeting Highlights

July 25, 2025

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 and Year-end Forecast](#)

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](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received a copy of the Province of Ontario News Release entitled “Ontario Taking Action to Make Conservation Authorities More Effective”.

Second Quarter 2025 Financial Report and Year-end Forecast

The Board received Staff Report No. 22-25-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority’s Second Quarter 2025 Financial Report and Year-end Forecast.

Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve

The Board received 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.

Recommendation for Winter Road and Parking Lot Maintenance

The Board received Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD regarding recommendations for winter road and parking lot maintenance be received and adopted the following amended resolution:

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.

Summary of 2025 Provincial and Municipal Funding Agreements

The Board received Staff Report No. 25-25-BOD regarding recently secured Provincial and municipal funding.

2025 Annual Priorities – Mid-year Status Update

The Board received Staff Report No. 26-25-BOD regarding the Mid-year Status of the Conservation Authority's 2025 Annual Priorities.

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

The Board received Staff Report No. No. 27-25-BOD regarding monitoring of development services applications for the period January 1 through June 30, 2025.

Confidential Conservation Awards Recipients

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 28-25-BOD regarding the recipients of the 2025 Conservation Awards and approved recommendations contained within the staff report.

Confidential Legal Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 29-25-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter.

Confidential Legal Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 30-25-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter.

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