

# Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

## Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-05-25

Friday, September 26, 2025

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, Councillor P. Ferragine, Regional Councillor B. Garrod, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Regional Chairman E. Jolliffe, Mayor I. Lovatt, Councillor C. Pettingill, Mayor M. Quirk, Councillor Roy-DiClemente, Councillor M. Thompson, Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor T. Vegh

#### Members Absent

Councillor J. Gough, Councillor D. Le Roy, Councillor E. Yeo

#### Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, R. Bolton, A. Brown, S. Connor, M. Critch, A. Cullen, P. Davies, B. Ginn, D. Goodyear, N. Hamley, D. Lembcke, G. MacMillan, G. Peat, B. Piotrowski, C. Sharp, B. Thompson, K. Toffan, K. Yemm

#### Guests Present

P. Accardi, S. He, R. Larock

### I. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Lovatt 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: F. Drodge

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-083-25 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the September 26, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented. **Carried**

#### IV. Adoption of Minutes

##### a) Board of Directors' Meeting

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: B. Garrod

BOD-084-25 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-04-25, held on Friday, July 25, 2025 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

#### V. Announcements

- a) CAO Rob Baldwin reminded Board members that the 2025 Annual Conservation Awards ceremony is coming up on October 7<sup>th</sup> in Newmarket.
- b) CAO Rob Baldwin advised that staff have now presented Chloride in the Lake Simcoe Watershed to several municipal Councils. Presentations have been well received with lots of great questions being asked, and most Councils have passed resolutions regarding lowering salt use and requesting legislation around limited liability.
- c) Senior Director, Communications and Engagement, Kristen Yemm, was pleased to advise that on September 20<sup>th</sup>, staff held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Park Prescription (PaRx) event at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Staff were pleased to mark this year's event with the unveiling of a wind phone. Originating in Japan, the Wind Phone, a disconnected rotary phone placed in a quiet natural setting, offers a space where people can connect with loved ones they have lost. It provides a meaningful and peaceful place for reflection, remembrance, and emotional healing.

#### 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, provided a status update on the North York Durham Sewage System Expansion Project. For some background, Mr. He advised that from 2009 to 2014 York Region completed the Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental assessment project to accommodate the growth in the Upper York area including East Gwillimby, Newmarket and Aurora. The environmental assessment recommended a Lake Simcoe based wastewater servicing solution including a Water Reclamation Center and upgrades to the existing York Durham Sewage System. While the Province was satisfied with the studies and the consultation processes, no decision was made until the Province enacted the *York Region Wastewater Act* in October 2021, with the purpose

of putting the Upper York Sewage Solutions environmental assessment project on hold to allow the Province to propose an alternative solution to service the Upper York area.

In November 2022, the Province enacted the *Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act*, and with that cancelled the Upper York Sewage Solutions environmental assessment project and directed the York and Durham Regions to deliver a Lake Ontario based wastewater servicing solution. Mr. He reviewed the project's milestones, noting that substantial completion is expected for the fourth quarter of 2030.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [North York Durham Sewage Solutions Expansion Project Update](#)

Moved by: T. Roy-DiClemente

Seconded by: E. Jolliffe

BOD-085-25 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

#### **b) Blue-green Algal Blooms on Lake Simcoe**

Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, presented an update on blue-green algae on Lake Simcoe. Since the presentation of late summer 2024, the Conservation Authority's Science team has been investigating possible non-nutrient causes behind the 2024 algal bloom, as well as the presence of an algal layer in July and September 2025. In addition, staff have been working on a pilot project for sharing blue-green information from the lake with regional and municipal partners to develop an early-warning system that conditions favourable to blue-green algal bloom development may be occurring.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Blue-green Algal Blooms on Lake Simcoe](#)

Moved by: A. Courser

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-086-25 **Resolved That** the presentation by Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, regarding an overview and timeline of the blue-green algal blooms found on Lake Simcoe be received for information. **Carried**

#### **c) Scanlon Creek Nature Centre Building Progress**

Director, Conservation Lands Phil Davies, provided an overview of the progress made to date on the new Nature Centre being built at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, noting the building will be fully accessible, barrier-free, inclusive and welcoming to all. This new building will replace the Conservation Authority's existing outdoor education facility and will be used for school-aged

children programming, as well as community partner meetings and professional development. The official opening is planned for September 2026.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Scanlon Creek Nature Centre Progress Update](#)

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

BOD-087-25 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

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

Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, provided a presentation on the use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed, noting that climate change is emerging as a significant driver of the health of Lake Simcoe and its watershed. Conservation Authority staff participate in several 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 represent an extension of the work already being done by the Conservation Authority 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 the understanding of how nature-based solutions can contribute to climate resilience locally.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Nature-Based Climate Resilience Solutions](#)

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: T. Roy-DiClemente

BOD-088-25 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

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

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: T. Roy-DiClemente

BOD-089-25 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

**e) Administrative Offices - Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade**

Manager, Restoration, Christa Sharp, provided an overview of the new permeable pavement area at the Conservation Authority's Mabel Davis offices, noting that 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). This project to upgrade an existing 245 square metre section of permeable parking lot which needed replacement addresses infiltration of water and filtration of contaminants. The previous installation of interlocking blocks was deteriorating and was no longer functioning as required.

The product used was Dream Pave, a resin-bound permeable paving product, that 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 funded through the Conservation Authority's offsetting programs was approximately \$30,000.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Administrative Offices Permeable Parking Area Upgrade 2025](#)

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

BOD-090-25 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

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

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

BOD-091-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 32-25-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade 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 and 2 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: P. Ferragine

BOD-092-25 **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-093-25 **Resolved That** Correspondence item a) be received for information. **Carried**

### 2. Auditor Selection

BOD-094-25 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

## XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No. items were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

## XII. Closed Session

Confidential Staff Report No. 34-25-BOD was provided to Board members prior to the meeting. Chair Riepma determined there were no questions or comments on the report, and accordingly, the Board endorsed the confidential staff report without moving into Closed Session.

**a) Confidential Human Resources Matter**

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-095-25 **Resolved 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. **Carried**

**XIII. Other Business**

- a) Chair Riepma advised that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Friday, November 28, 2025. There will also be a Source Protection Authority meeting that day at 9:00 a.m., with the regular Board of Directors' meeting immediately following. These meetings will be held in the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Moved by: T. Roy-DiClemente

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-096-25 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 11:15 a.m. **Carried**



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Councillor Clare Riepma  
Chair



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Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer