

# Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

## Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-07-25

Friday, December 19, 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 J. Gough, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Regional Chairman E. Jolliffe, Councillor D. Le Roy, 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 E. Yeo

#### Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, T. Bartley, C. Byron, K. Cheney, S. Connor, M. Critch, A. Cullen, P. Davies, D. Goodyear, G. MacMillan, G. Peat, K. Toffan, K. Yemm

### I. Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Eek 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: I. Lovatt

BOD-109-25 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the December 19, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented. **Carried**

## IV. Adoption of Minutes

### a) Board of Directors' Meeting

Moved by: E. Jolliffe

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-110-25 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-06-25, held on Friday, December 5, 2025 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

## V. Announcements

There were no announcements for this meeting.

## VI. Presentations

### a) 2026 Draft Capital and Operating Budget

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided an overview of the Conservation Authority's 2026 Draft Capital and Operating Budget, first outlining what's new for the 2026 Budget, including a reduction in Development Services fees of \$860K or 22% and matching adjustments in staffing and program costs. He advised the new education Facility at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is expected to open in September, and the 2026 budget will begin phasing in facility and Education and Engagement programming costs. He also advised that Investment yields are expected to be well above the variable market returns for 2026.

GM Critch noted that staff have worked within the Board approved 2026 budget assumptions in developing the budget, and municipal funding partners have been supportive of the 2026 Budget. The total amount of expenditures for the 2026 Draft Capital and Operating Budget is \$30.0M, down \$1.3M from 2025. An operating decrease of \$0.4M is mainly being driven by a reduction in consulting expenses and a reduction in anticipated legal expenses in the Development Services program, offset with the overall 2% increase in cost-of-living allowance for staff.

Next steps, upon approval of the draft 2026 Budget, include making the draft budget available on the Conservation Authority's Governance webpage for the general public and participating municipalities to view in advance of the 2026 Budget being brought forward for approval by weighted vote at the January 23, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [2026 Draft Capital and Operating Budget Presentation](#)

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-111-25 **Resolved That** the presentation by General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, regarding the 2026 Draft Capital and Operating Budget be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 35-25-BOD regarding 2026 Draft Capital and Operating Budget.

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-112-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 39-25-BOD regarding the 2026 Draft Capital and Operating Budget be received; and

**Further that** the Board of Directors endorse the 2026 Draft Capital and Operating Budget for use in consultation with the participating municipalities; and

**Further that** the 2026 Draft Capital and Operating Budget be made available on the Conservation Authority's Governance webpage for the general public and participating municipalities to view in advance of the 2026 Budget weighted vote, planned for January 23, 2026. **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. 2, 3 and 4 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: E. Jolliffe

BOD-113-25 **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**

## 2. Regulation Mapping Update

BOD-114-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 41-25-BOD outlining the changes to Regulation Mapping (Ontario Regulation 41/24) be received; and

**Further That** the updates to the regulated areas and mapping be endorsed by the Board of Directors for screening purposes, both internal and external, including public viewing on the Conservation Authority's website. **Carried**

## 3. Purchasing Policy Updates

BOD-115-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 42-25-BOD regarding updates to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Purchasing Policy be received; and

**Further That** the update to the Purchasing Policy be approved for implementation effective January 1, 2026. **Carried**

## 4. Standing Timber Sales – Durham Regional Forest

BOD-116-25 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 43-25-BOD regarding the record of tenders for the Durham Regional Forest Tender No. DRF-2025-001 be received; and

**Further That** staff's recommendation to award Tender No. DRF-2025-001 to Gee's Lumber and Logging/ Penguin Poles be approved. **Carried**

# XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Item No. 1 was identified under items requiring separate discussion.

## 1. Comments on ERO No. 025-1257 – Proposed Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Board members discussed staff's recommended resolution and letter for submission to ERO No. 025-1257 regarding the proposed consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. Board members approved an amended resolution and letter, with the following two additions:

Moved by: T. Roy-DiClemente

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

BOD-117-25 **Further That** in order to achieve the stated goals of consistency through consolidation and elimination of duplication of efforts, consideration be given to requests from municipalities regarding municipal boundaries when determining membership in individual conservation authorities. **Carried**

Moved by: E. Jolliffe

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-118-25 **Further That** should the proposed consolidation proceed, consideration be given to the consolidation of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority to be called the Lake Simcoe Georgian Bay Regional Conservation Authority. **Carried**

The following final resolution was adopted and included in the Conservation Authority's submission to ERO No. 025-1257:

Moved by: I. Lovatt

Seconded by: T. Roy-DiClemente

BOD-119-25 **Whereas** the Provincial Government has amended the *Conservation Authorities Act* through Bill 68 "Plan to Protect Ontario (Budget Measures)" that allows for establishing the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to oversee the transition to Regional Conservation Authorities, and direct the strategic direction, finances, and operational activities of the new Regional Conservation Authorities; and

**Whereas** the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into 7 regional entities as part of a broader consolidation; and

**Whereas** under this proposal, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority would be consolidated into a new "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority", together with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, and Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, forming a single organization of Lake Huron watershed conservation authorities.

**Therefore, be it Resolved That** Staff Report No. 40-25-BOD regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Environmental Registry of Ontario response to proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities be received; and

**Further that** the Attachment A, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's comments letter, be approved as amended for submission by the December 22, 2025 deadline for submissions; and

**Further That** the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority recognizes and supports the Province's desired outcome of improved consistency and modernized digital permitting

processes, aligned with its goals and objectives for cutting red tape and getting more homes built faster, and safely; and

**Further That** the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority recommends that the Province engages in detailed consultation with all conservation authorities, municipalities, and watershed stakeholders in a meaningful manner and provide the detailed information required to implement such a significant undertaking; and

**Further That** should the proposed regional consolidation of conservation authorities be implemented, the current implementation of the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* and Plan by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority be transferred to the proposed Huron-Superior Region Conservation Authority; and

**Further That** should the proposed consolidation proceed, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requests the Province establish consistency between the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* jurisdiction and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority jurisdiction through the inclusion of Upper Talbot River Arm and the portion of the City of Orillia that is within the Lake Simcoe watershed; and

**Further That** in order to achieve the stated goals of consistency through consolidation and elimination of duplication of efforts, consideration be given to requests from municipalities regarding municipal boundaries when determining membership in individual conservation authorities; and

**Further That** should the proposed consolidation proceed, consideration be given to the consolidation of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority to be called the Lake Simcoe Georgian Bay Regional Conservation Authority; and

**Further That** the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority recommends the removal of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority from the proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority. **Carried**

## **XII. Closed Session**

There were no Closed Session items for this meeting.

## **XIII. Other Business**

- a) Chair Riepma advised that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be the Annual General Meeting taking place on Friday, January 23, 2026. This meeting will be held in the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices in Newmarket.

## XIV. Adjournment

Moved by: J. Gough

Seconded by: A. Courser

BOD-120-25 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 11:53 a.m. **Carried**



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Councillor Clare Riepma  
Chair



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Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer