

# Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

## Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-03-26

Friday, April 17, 2026

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

### Meeting Minutes

#### Members Present

Councillor P. Ferragine (Chair), Councillor C. Riepma (Vice Chair), Councillor A. Eek, Regional Councillor B. Garrod, Councillor J. Gough, Mayor R. Greenlaw, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Regional Chairman E. Jolliffe, Mayor I. Lovatt, Councillor C. Pettingill, Mayor M. Quirk, Councillor Roy-DiClemente, Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor T. Vegh

#### Members Absent

Councillor A. Courser, Councillor F. Drodge, Councillor D. Le Roy, Councillor M. Thompson, Councillor E. Yeo

#### Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, A. Brown, S. Connor M. Critch, A. Cullen, P. Davies, K. Goodale, N. Hamley, D. Lembcke, G. MacMillan, G. Peat, C. Taylor, K. Toffan, K. Yemm

#### Guests Present

J. Scott

### I. Land Acknowledgement

Deputy Mayor Vegh 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: M. Quirk

BOD-039-26 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the April 17, 2026 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: C. Riepma

BOD-040-26 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-02-26, held on Friday, March 6, 2026, be approved as circulated. **Carried**

## V. Announcements

- a) Director, Flood Management, Ken Cheney, provided an update on the current state of water level in the watershed, noting many around the watershed are experiencing serious flooding, with lake levels high, and outflows significantly reduced at this time. View the [Lake Simcoe Water Level Status Presentation](#)

## VI. Deputations

### a) Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

Mr. Jonathan Scott, Executive Director, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, made a deputation entitled Protecting Lake Simcoe: Turning Strong Plans into Sustainable Action, noting the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition's focus is that of environmental advocacy, stakeholder collaboration, public awareness, and accountability and implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. The Coalition is looking to be a leading voice for the lake, and their accompanying report, released November 2025, asks for achievable goals from the government. He noted that the Plan is not the issue, rather how the Plan is being implemented is the issue, with phosphorus at double the target, road salt rising, and beach closures past two summers.

He advised the report focuses on 13 practical actions, such as dedicated federal funding, smarter road salt rules, incentives that reward protection just to name a few.

Mr. Scott asked Board members to receive the report and to refer it to staff to determine how some recommendations can be endorsed.

CAO Baldwin noted that he and the General Manger, Integrated Watershed Management, Don Goodyear, have met with Mr. Scott in an effort to reset the relationship between staff and the Coalition, and that staff are encouraged and pleased to work together.

The Board passed the following amended resolution.

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-041-26 **Resolved That** the deputation by Mr. Jonathan Scott, Executive Director, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, entitled Protecting Lake Simcoe: Turning Strong Plans into Sustainable Action, be received; and

**Further that** the accompanying Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition report be referred to staff to prepare a staff report of recommendations for the May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Carried**

## VII. Presentations

### a) Fourth Quarter 2025 Draft Unaudited Financial Reports

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided an overview of the 2025 Financial Results, noting a year-end operational surplus of \$591K, mainly due to salary gapping due to staff leaves in Communications and Greenspace Services, as well as an increase in revenue recognized in Development Services, and unspent consulting and salary gapping in Water Risk Management. Additionally, a second WSIB rebate was announced in November, leading to a restricted surplus of \$405K being transferred to Reserves. Donated assets were also realized and recorded at the fair market value for the Land, Land Improvements and Buildings that were received in 2025 valued at \$1.8M.

GM Critch went on to note that the year-end reserve position is very strong, and Investments continue to return above benchmark rates. Ecological Offsetting project spending in 2025 was \$1.9M, which was lower than budgeted due to timing delays associated with approval and delivery of large partner projects over multiple years.

Also included in the year-end report was a detailed Procurement Summary, with a total of 138 Purchase Orders totalling \$17.5M.

View the [Fourth Quarter 2025 Draft Unaudited Financial Results](#) presentation.

Moved by: I. Lovatt

Seconded by: E. Jolliffe

BOD-042-26 **Resolved That** the presentation by General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, regarding the Fourth Quarter 2025 Draft Unaudited Financial Reports be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 13-26-BOD regarding the Fourth Quarter 2025 Draft Unaudited Financial Reports.

Moved by: I. Lovatt

Seconded by: E. Jolliffe

BOD-043-26 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 13-26-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Fourth Quarter 2025 Draft Unaudited Financial Reports be received for information. **Carried**

**b) Indigenous Framework: Progress and Next Steps**

Communications Advisor, Kate Goodale, provided an update on the progress and next steps in developing the Indigenous Relations Framework for the Conservation Authority, noting that an Indigenous Relations Framework is a series of actions that an agency commits to, to move towards reconciliation by working with, supporting, and acknowledging the important role that first nations and indigenous groups have, and in our case the protection and enhancement of the Lake Simcoe Watershed. She described the phased approach being taken, with the first phase being an internal reflection to determine objectives, review our interactions, and understand historic context. An internal working group of staff representatives across all departments has met twice and have conducted a review of interactions. Phase two will include engaging with our First Nation partners and working with staff to identify actions. Phase three will be the drafting commitments, which will be circulated, reviewed and refined as needed.

View the [Indigenous-Relations-Framework](#) presentation.

Moved by: T. Roy-DiClemente

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-044-26 **Resolved That** the presentation by Communications Advisor, Kate Goodale, on the progress and next steps in the development of the Indigenous Relations Framework for the Conservation Authority be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 14-26-BOD regarding the progress and next steps in development of the Indigenous Relations Framework for the Conservation Authority.

Moved by: T. Roy-DiClemente

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-045-26 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 14-26-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Indigenous Relations Framework: Progress and Next Steps be received for information. **Carried**

**c) Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act, 2026, Schedule 3: Proposed Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act**

Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* introduced in Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act, 2026, noting these amendments are to facilitate the amalgamation of Ontario's conservation

authorities. With this legislation expected to move quickly to Royal Assent, he explained the next planned actions include Transitional Matters (committees, project executives, service continuity, transition plans, etc.), Governance Matters (membership, Chair/Vice Chair, First Chief Administrative Officers, By-Laws, Watershed Councils), and new Lieutenant Governor in Council regulation-making authorities.

For more information, view the [Bill-97-Schedule-3-Conservation-Authorities-Act-Proposed-Amendments](#) presentation.

The Board passed an amended resolution as follows:

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-046-26 **Resolved That** the presentation by Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, regarding an overview of the proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* introduced in Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act, 2026, regarding the consolidation of conservation authorities be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 15-26-BOD regarding proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act regarding the consolidation of conservation authorities.

The Board passed an amended resolution as follows:

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-047-26 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 15-26-BOD regarding proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* regarding the consolidation of conservation authorities be received for information. **Carried**

## VIII. Hearings

There were no Hearings at this meeting.

## IX. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

## X. Adoption of Items not Requiring Separate Discussion

Items No. 1a, 2 and 3 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: T. Vegh

Seconded by: C. Riepma

BOD-048-26 **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 (Item a)

BOD-049-26 **Resolved That** Correspondence Items a) be received for information. **Carried**

### 2. Freedom of Information 2025 Statistics

BOD-050-26 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 16-26-BOD regarding the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2025 Statistical Report be received for information. **Carried**

### 3. 2026 Budget Companion Document

BOD-051-26 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 17-26-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's 2026 Budget Companion Document be received for information. **Carried**

## XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Item 1b) was identified as requiring separate discussion.

### 1. Correspondence

#### b) Letter to Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury regarding the Scanlon Creek Bark Park

Councillor Roy-DiClemente inquired about the Conservation Authority's communication regarding the closure of the Scanlon Creek Bark Park, noting that she been contacted by members of the community. CAO Baldwin advised that this issue has been discussed internally as well as with the Town of Bradford for approximately 18 months. He advised that along with the letter to Council of the Town of Bradford (copy included in the agenda), a press release was issued, staff have posted on social media, and community members who have emailed staff are being responded to.

Moved by: T. Roy-DiClemente

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

BOD-052-26 **Resolved That** Correspondence Item b) be received for information. **Carried**

## XII. Closed Session

The Board moved to Closed Session to deal with confidential human resources matters.

Moved by: T. Vegh

Seconded by: R. Greenlaw

BOD-053-26 **Resolved That** the Board move to Closed Session to deal with confidential human resources matters; and

**Further that** the Sr. Director, Human Resources remain in the meeting for the discussion on Item a); and

**Further that** the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief of Staff remain in the meeting for the discussion on Item b). **Carried**

The Board rose from Closed Session and report findings.

Moved by: B. Garrod

Seconded by: C. Riepma

BOD-054-26 **Resolved That** the Board rise from Closed Session and report findings.  
**Carried**

**a) Confidential Human Matter**

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: T. Roy-DiClemente

BOD-055-26 **Resolved That** the Confidential update regarding a confidential human resources matter be received; and

**Further that** direction provided to the Sr. Director, Human Resources be approved.  
**Carried**

**b) Confidential Human Resources Matter**

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: T. Roy-DiClemente

BOD-056-26 **Resolved That** Confidential Staff Report No. 18-26-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter be received; and

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

### **XIII. Other Business**

- a) Chair Ferragine advised that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, May 29, 2026. This meeting will be held in the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices in Newmarket.

## XIV. Adjournment

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: E. Jolliffe

BOD-057-26 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 11:56 a.m. **Carried**



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Councillor Peter Ferragine  
Chair



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Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer