



Board of Directors
Meeting No. BOD-09-22
Friday, November 25, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Agenda

Meeting Location:

To be held virtually by Zoom
Minutes and agendas are available at www.LSRCA.on.ca

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors' Meeting

Friday, December 16, 2022
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

Annual General Meeting

Friday, January 27, 2023
Newmarket Old Town Hall

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

I. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory

II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Conflicts of Interest

III. Approval of Agenda

Pages 1 - 4

Recommended: That the content of the Agenda for the November 25, 2022 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented.

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Board of Directors

Pages 5 - 10

Included in the agenda is a copy of the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-07-22, held on Friday, September 23, 2022.

Recommended: That the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-07-22, held on Friday, September 23, 2022 be approved as circulated.

b) Conservation Ontario Council

Pages 11 - 16

Included in the agenda is a copy of the minutes of Conservation Ontario's Council Meeting held on Monday, September 26, 2022.

Recommended: That the minutes of Conservation Ontario's Council Meeting held on Monday, September 26, 2022 be received for information.

V. Announcements

VI. Presentations

a) Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast

Pages 17 - 27

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, will provide an overview of the Authority's Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast.

Recommended: That the presentation by General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, regarding the Authority's Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast be received for information.

Included in the agenda is Staff Report No. 41-21-BOD regarding the Authority's 3rd Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast.

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 41-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast 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 4 of the agenda)

X. Adoption of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion

XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

XII. Closed Session

There are no Closed Session items for this meeting.

XIII. Other Business

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, December 16, 2022.

XIV. Adjournment

Agenda Items

1. Correspondence

Page 28 - 31

- a) October 25, 2022 letter from Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding the Upper York Sewage Solution decision; and
- b) November 4, 2022 letter from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding More Home Built Faster plan and associated Environmental Registry postings.

Recommended: That Correspondence Items a) and b) be received for information.

2. Computer Network Security Update

Pages 32 - 35

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 42-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's computer network security update be received for information.

3. Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario – Tourism Relief Fund

Pages 36 - 38

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 43-22-BOD regarding funding support from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario's Tourism Relief Fund towards the Beaver River Wetland Trail Improvements Project be received; and

Further That the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority be authorized to enter into the associated Tourism Relief Fund Contribution Agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-07-22

Friday, September 23, 2022

Held virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

Regional Chairman W. Emmerson (Chair), Mayor D. Barton, Mayor B. Drew, Councillor A. Eek, Councillor K. Ferdinands, Councillor, P. Ferragine (Vice Chair), Councillor W. Gaertner, Deputy Mayor J. Gough, Councillor R. Greenlaw, Mayor V. Hackson, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Councillor C. Pettingill, Mayor M. Quirk, Councillor C. Riepma, Deputy Mayor T. Vegh

Board Members Absent

Councillor K. Aylwin, Councillor A. Waters, Councillor E. Yeo

Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, A. Brown, D. Campbell, K. Cheney, M. Critch, A. Cullen, E. Daechsel, T. Fleischaker, K. Goodale, D. Goodyear, J. Doyley, N. Hamley, K. Kennedy, G. MacMillan, S. McKinnon, G. Peat, C. Taylor, K. Yemm, K. Zeppieri

I. Land Acknowledgement

II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

None noted for the meeting.

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: K. Ferdinands

Seconded by: C. Riepma

BOD-097-22 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the September 23, 2022 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented. **Carried**

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Board of Directors' Meeting

Moved by: J. Gough

Seconded by: V. Hackson

BOD-098-22 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-06-22, held on Friday, July 22, 2022 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

V. Announcements

- a) CAO Baldwin was pleased to introduce, and in some cases re-introduce, the Conservation Authority's new General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Don Goodyear. Board members welcomed Don, who most recently worked for York Region, but was a Conservation Authority employee prior to that.
- b) CAO Baldwin paid tribute to a former employee, Tom Hogenbirk, who recently passed away. Tom was a 26-year employee, who retired as the Director, Engineering in October 2019.
- c) CAO Baldwin advised that Conservation Ontario's new General Manager, Angela Coleman, started September 19th replacing Kim Gavine who retired at the end of June. Angela, who is also lawyer, comes from South Nation Conservation Authority, where she was the General Manager.
- d) CAO Baldwin reminded Board members that the Annual Conservation Awards Ceremony is being held on Tuesday, October 11th @ Newmarket Old Town Hall and staff look forward to returning to an in-person event.

VI. Presentations

a) Land Use Change in the Lake Simcoe Watershed – 2003 to 2018

Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, provided a presentation on land use change in the Lake Simcoe Watershed, noting that the Conservation Authority has recently completed an update to its watershed-wide landcover map, which was created in 2003 and is updated on a 5-year cycle, matching the 5-year cycle with which the Province captures a full set of aerial photographs over the watershed. He explained that the mapping is developed by categorizing the various land uses and features, the results of which is extremely detailed mapping that is used in many program areas. With mapping now available for 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018, the rate of change within the watershed may now be quantified. One notable change in the watershed from 2003 to 2018 is the extent of impervious areas increased from 3.4% to 4.7% due to the increase in parking lots, housing and commercial services as populations have increased. Another notable change in the watershed between 2003 and 2018 is an increase in natural heritage cover from 43.6% to 44.4%. This increase can be attributed to effective protection of natural heritage features that occur on the landscape, restoration projects to increase the extent of forests and wetlands, as well as the process of natural succession (i.e. forests beginning to emerge on their own in areas left unmanaged). Natural succession explains much of the increase presumably due to shifts in agricultural practices, and perhaps due to

changes in land ownership and delays in development caused by the economic slow down in the early 2000s. It should be noted that the Province's Lake Simcoe Protection Plan has a more restrictive definition of natural heritage feature than that used by the Conservation Authority. Provincial planning policy tends to exclude those early successional habitats from the definition of natural heritage feature. Even within their more restrictive definition, an increase from 33% to 34% has been observed, as some early successional features and restoration sites have matured to become true forests.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Land Use Change in the Lake Simcoe Watershed from 2003-2018](#)

Moved by: D. Barton

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-099-22 **Resolved That** the presentation by Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, regarding the Conservation Authority's land cover monitoring efforts and a summary of key trends in land use change be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 35-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's land cover monitoring and a summary of key trends in land use change.

Moved by: D. Barton

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-100-22 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 35-22-BOD regarding land use change in the Lake Simcoe watershed from 2003 to 2018 be received for information. **Carried**

b) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Project

Acting Director, Human Resources, Alyse Cullen, provided a presentation on the Conservation Authority's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Project, noting that the Conservation Authority is committed to an inclusive workplace that values, respects, and embraces diversity, so everyone can achieve their full potential. She explained that to date, steps the Conservation Authority has taken include: participating as a member of the Municipal Diversity and Inclusion Group, endorsing the York Region Inclusion Charter in June 2018; engaging the services of Taneja Consulting Inc. and S.M.D. Consulting Inc. to develop a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Roadmap; and initiating Phase 1 of the project to create a framework for the roadmap. Project deliverables to date include a review of organizational Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging practices; a confidential staff survey exploring the themes of corporate culture and a sense of belonging, demographics and workplace practices; and the creation of a small staff working group to analyze survey results and assist with the development of focus group questions.

She went on to note that next steps include small focus group meetings with employees hosted by the consultants to expand on the survey results and provide recommendations for moving forward.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging](#)

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-101-22 **Resolved That** the presentation by Acting Director, Human Resources, Alyse Cullen, regarding the Conservation Authority's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Project be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 36-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Project.

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-102-22 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 36-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Project 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

No items were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

X. Adoption of Items not Requiring Separate Discussion

Items No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: B. Drew

BOD-103-22 **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-104-22 **Resolved That** Correspondence Items a) and b) be received; and

Further that an introductory letter be sent to the Hon. Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. **Carried**

2. Conservation Authorities Act Transition – Quarterly Progress Report No. 2 for September 2022

BOD-105-22 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 37-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress Report No. 2 be received; and

Further that the September 2022 Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress No. 2 be approved for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. **Carried**

3. Delegation of Signing Authority for Minor and Routine Development Applications made pursuant to Ontario Regulation 179/06

BOD-106-22 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 38-22-BOD regarding the delegation of signing authority for minor and routine development applications made pursuant to Ontario Regulation 179/06 be received; and

Further That delegated authorization for the Coordinator, Permitting and Coordinator, Infrastructure Permitting to approve both minor and routine development permissions under Ontario Regulation 179/06 be approved; and

Further That signing authorization for permitting be updated to reflect title changes for the positions of General Manager, Development, Engineering and Restoration; Director, Development Services; and Manager, Planning. **Carried**

4. Progress Report: Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Campaign and Project

BOD-107-22 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 39-22-BOD regarding an update on the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area campaign and project be received for Information. **Carried**

XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

There were no items requiring separate discussion.

XII. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items for this meeting.

XIII. Other Business

- a) Chair Emmerson noted the next Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 28, 2022. This meeting will be held virtually. (Note: this meeting was subsequently cancelled).

XIV. Adjournment

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: J. Gough

BOD-108-22 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 10:03 a.m. **Carried**

Original to be signed by:

Original to be signed by:

Regional Chairman Wayne Emmerson
Chair

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

CONSERVATION ONTARIO COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2022 (Meeting via Zoom)

Voting Delegates Present:

Chair: Alan Revill, Cataraqui Region

Brian Horner, Ausable Bayfield
Katrina Furlanetto, Cataraqui Region
Lori Baldwin-Sands, Catfish Creek
Dusty Underhill, Catfish Creek
Chris Darling, Central Lake Ontario
Tom Adams, Credit Valley
Quentin Hanchard, Credit Valley
Tim Pidduck, Crowe Valley
Chris White, Grand River
Samantha Lawson, Grand River
Scott Greig, Grey Sauble
Tim Lanthier, Grey Sauble
Hassaan Basit, Halton
Lisa Burnside, Hamilton
Mark Majchrowski, Kawartha
Elizabeth VanHooren, Kettle Creek
Peter Ferragine, Lake Simcoe Region
Rob Baldwin, Lake Simcoe Region
Donna Blunt, Lakehead
Tammy Cook, Lakehead
John Scholten, Long Point Region
Judy Maxwell, Long Point Region

Eric Sandford, Lower Trent
Rhonda Bateman, Lower Trent
Jeff Atkinson, Mississippi Valley
Janet Mason, Mississippi Valley
Chandra Sharma, Niagara Peninsula
Carl Jorgensen, Nickel District (Con. Sudbury)
Chitra Gowda, North Bay-Mattawa
Mariane McLeod, Nottawasaga Valley
Gail Little, Nottawasaga Valley
Andy Mitchell, Otonabee Region
James Flieler, Quinte Region
Richard Pilon, Raisin Region
Pieter Leenhouts, Rideau Valley
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Rideau Valley
Corrina Barrett, Sault Ste Marie Region
Pierre Leroux, South Nation
Mike Stark, St. Clair Region
Pat Brown, St. Clair Region
Ken Phillips, St. Clair Region
John Mackenzie, Toronto and Region
Alan Dale, Upper Thames River
Tracy Annett, Upper Thames River

Guests:

Brad McNevin, Quinte Conservation
Chris Hibbard, Nottawasaga Valley
Phil Beard, Maitland Valley

Members Absent:

Ganaraska Region
Lower Thames Valley

CO Staff:

Angela Coleman
Deborah Balika
Kristin Bristow
Nicholas Fischer
Lauren McPherson

Nekeisha Mohammed
Patricia Moleirinho
Leslie Rich
Jo-Anne Rzakki
Jenna Salvatore
Rick Wilson

I. Welcome from the Chair

Chair Revill welcomed everyone in attendance.

Angela Coleman was introduced and welcomed as Conservation Ontario's new General Manager. Jenna Salvatore was welcomed and introduced as the new Nature Smart Climate Solutions Project Coordinator with Conservation Ontario. Janette Loveys Smith was introduced and welcomed as the new General Manger at the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority. Pieter Leenhouts addressed Conservation Ontario Council and provided an update on an award bestowed to Sommer Casgrain-Robertson for her work at Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

There was an agenda item missing from the Full Council section of the agenda. The “Motion to move from Full Council to Committee of the Whole” was missing. That agenda item was added in as agenda item VI.

#49/22 **Moved by: John Mackenzie**
Seconded by: Peter Ferragine

THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

III. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There was none declared.

IV. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

#50/22 **Moved by: Pieter Leenhouts**
Seconded by: Jeff Atkinson

THAT the minutes from the June 20, 2022 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

V. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none that was not covered by the meeting agenda.

VI. Motion to move from Full Council to Committee of the Whole

#51/22 **Moved by: Tom Adams**
Seconded by: John Mackenzie

THAT the meeting now move from Full Council to Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED

VII. Agenda Items

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Climate Change Advocacy Update:

- 1. Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment (PCCIA)**
- 2. National Adaptation Strategy (NAS)**

Jo-Anne Rzdaki briefly referred to the Update and introduced the presentation on Climate Proof Canada’s recommendations on Canada’s National Adaptation Strategy. Alison Steele delivered the presentation on behalf of Craig Stewart (Insurance Bureau of Canada), with Blair Feltmate (Intact Centre for Climate Change Adaption, University of Waterloo). The presentation is attached to the minutes.

C.W. #52/22 Moved by: Pat Brown
Seconded by: John Mackenzie

There was discussion related to the reference in the presentation to acute climate risks (including wildfires, flooding, and extreme heat), and that consideration for labelling that “extreme heat” as “extreme weather” as not to downplay the risk of storms that may produce tornadoes, high winds, and hail; storms can cause structural damage, power outages, and crop damage. It was noted that all the climate risks are important and not to be ignored, but that the working group for Climate Proof Canada had prioritized the flooding and fire as two key perils as they are two factors that in Canada are the costliest financially. It was also noted that extreme heat had been identified as a key peril due to the high number of deaths it can cause.

There was discussion on the difficulties related to aftermath of extreme weather events and the elongated recovery timelines with trade worker shortages.

There was discussion on urban flooding versus the riverine flooding that the Conservation Authorities are most involved in, and if there may be an appetite for looking at what Conservation Authorities do in Ontario; directing development outside of hazard lands, and green infrastructure work undertaken, and looking at the Conservation Authority model in comparison to other areas of Canada and the effect these CA projects have in mitigating extreme weather.

There was discussion on pushback that Conservation Authorities get from insurance adjusters when recovery projects are undertaken with new additional measures to mitigate future issues, and what education activities are insurance adjusters receiving so that Conservation Authorities are not challenged when working with local building services departments to make homes more resilient to overland flooding.

THAT Council receives this report as information.

CARRIED

B. General Manager’s (Acting) Report

Bonnie Fox presented the report.

C.W. #53/22 Moved by: Carl Jorgensen
Seconded by: James Flieler

THAT Council receives this report as information.

CARRIED

C. 2023 CO Workplan Report Update

Bonnie Fox provided an update and presentation which is attached to the minutes.

C.W. #54/22 Moved by: Lor Baldwin-Sands
Seconded by: Eric Sandford

THAT Council approve Conservation Ontario’s 2023 Annual Workplan.

CARRIED

D. Proposed 2023 CO Operating Budget & Levy

Angela Coleman presented the report on behalf of Linda Laliberte.

C.W. #55/22 Moved by: Aland Dale
Seconded by: Scott Greig

- 1) THAT Council adopt the 2023 Proposed Operations Budget as presented.**
- 2) THAT the general levy of \$ 1,375,000 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the attached schedule.**

CARRIED

E. Budget Status Report for period ending July 31, 2022

Bonnie Fox presented the report.

C.W. #56/22 Moved by: Peter Ferragine
Seconded by: Lori Baldwin-Sands

THAT Council receives this report as information.

CARRIED

F. CA Act Regulatory Requirements: Update on CO/CA Activities

Bonnie provided an update and presentation which is attached to the minutes.

C.W. #57/22 Moved by: John Mackenzie
Seconded by: Jeff Atkinson

THAT Council receives this report as information.

CARRIED

G. Update on the Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative

Leslie Rich provided an update and presentation which is attached to the minutes.

C.W. #58/22 Moved by: Pierre Leroux
Seconded by: Hassaan Basit

THAT Council endorses the draft "Annual Reporting on Planning Service Delivery Standards Template (for plan review under the Planning Act) for use by conservation authorities participating in the client-centric checklist;

AND THAT Corrina Barrett (SSMRCA) be endorsed as a member of the Client Service and Streamlining Initiative Steering Committee;

AND THAT Ashlea Brown (LSRCA) be endorsed as a member of the Timely Review and Approvals Taskforce.

CARRIED

H. Update on Stakeholders' Positions on Housing in Ontario

Leslie Rich provided an update and presentation which is attached to the minutes.

C.W. #59/22 Moved by: Lori Baldwin-Sands
Seconded by: Peter Ferragine

THAT Council receives this report as information.

CARRIED

I. Update on the 2023 Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards

Debbie Balika presented the report.

C.W. #60/22 Moved by: Jennifer Stephens
Seconded by: Andy Mitchell

THAT Council receives this report as information.

CARRIED

CONSENT ITEMS

C.W. #61/22 Moved by: Alan Dale
Seconded by: Peter Ferragine

THAT Council approve the consent agenda and endorse the recommendations accompanying Consent Items VI J-Niv.

CARRIED

J. Update on the Development of Standard Operating Procedures for Provincial Offences Officers

THAT Council receives this report as information.

K. CO Representative on 4R Nutrient Stewardship Memorandum of Cooperation Steering Committee

THAT CO Council endorse Patrick Esson, Senior Project Manager, Restoration Projects at Toronto Region Conservation Authority to represent CO on the Ontario 4R Nutrient Stewardship Memorandum of Cooperation Steering Committee.

L. Great Lakes Public Forum (Niagara Falls September 27-29) – Associated Reports

THAT Council receives this report as information.

M. Update on the 2022 Latornell Conservation Symposium

THAT Council receives this report as information.

N. Program Updates

i. Business Development and Partnerships Program Update

THAT Council receives this report as information.

ii. Drinking Water Source Protection Program Update

THAT Council receives this report as information.

- iii. Marketing and Communications Program Update
THAT Council receives this report as information.
- iv. Information Management Program Update
THAT Council receives this report as information.

VIII. Motion to Move from Committee of the Whole to Full Council

#62/22 **Moved by: Peiter Leenhouts**
 Seconded by: Jennifer Stephens

THAT the meeting now move from Committee of the Whole to Full Council

CARRIED

IX. Council Business – Council Adoption of Recommendations

#63/22 **Moved by: John Mackenzie**
 Seconded by: Carl Jorgensen

*THAT Conservation Ontario Council adopt Committee of the Whole (C.W.) Recommendations:
C.W. #52/22 to C.W. #61/22.*

CARRIED

X. New Business

Alan Revill proposed to the Council members that an in-person meeting for the April AGM and Council Meeting be recommended. There was a request by a member for consideration of moving a COP Council meeting to coincide with the A.D. Latornell Symposium.

XI. Adjourn

#64/22 **Moved by: Hassaan Basit**
 Seconded by: Tom Adams

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Katherine Toffan, Manager of Finance

Date: November 14, 2022

Subject:

Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast

Recommendation:

That Staff Report No. 41-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast be received for information.

Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 41-22-BOD is to provide the Board of Directors with a summary of financial activities for the period ending September 30, 2022, as they relate to the 2022 Budget approved by the Board on February 25, 2022. Staff have also used this report to review the forecasted year-end financial position of the Conservation Authority, along with high level issues and trends that staff have observed through September 30, 2022.

Background:

The Budget Status Reports have been developed for the use of the Board and management. They use the same format as the approved budget and provide a status update on the programs and projects that fall under the Conservation Authority's seven service areas: Corporate Services, Ecological Management, Education & Engagement, Greenspace Services, Planning & Development Services, Water Risk Management and Watershed Studies & Strategies.

Issues:

The Corporate Budget Status report attached in Appendix 1 presents an operational deficit position of (\$13)K on September 30, 2022. The drivers of this deficit are outlined in the table below:

Service Area	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Drivers
Greenspace Services	(\$140)K	Property Taxes on Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve
Planning & Development	127K	Planning and Regulations – Fees down, offset with gapping on hiring and operational savings in consulting and legal
Total	(\$13)K	Overall Operational (Deficit) on September 30, 2022

Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:

In keeping with Conservation Authority policy, this staff report has been prepared to provide a financial update on the current overall financial position, project expenditures, opportunities, and risks as they relate to the 2022 approved budget, as well as highlight variances identified through the year-end forecast.

Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:

a) Revenues

Overall revenues reported at the end of September are in line with what is expected against the year-to-date budget. Revenues are recognized based on the source of the revenue stream and by the expenditures that are incurred to cause recognition of revenue. The General Levy, Special Capital Levy and Provincial & Federal funding revenues are recognized as related expenses are incurred. Municipal partner funding and Revenue Generated by the Conservation Authority are generally fee-based revenues and recognized as invoiced for projects or as services are delivered.

The Generated-by-Conservation Authority revenues are trending in line with year-to-date budget and are mainly driven by the Planning and Development Services, Education and Engagement and Afforestation programs. Other Revenue is above year-to-date budget as our investments are earning higher interest than what was included in the budget assumptions.

b) Expenditures:

Some variances in staffing in the fee for service-based programs are contributing to the surplus in the Planning and Development program at the end of September. Timing of replacements for open positions has resulted in salary gapping.

The year-to-date deficit in the Greenspace Management program is a result of unbudgeted property tax costs associated with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve.

c) Timing Variances:

There are year-to-date revenue and expense variances that can be attributed to timing. Timing variances occur when expenditures have not yet happened, and recognition of the related revenue is deferred until the project work commences.

Expenditures in the Corporate Services, Facility Management program are below year-to-date budget. This reflects spending related to the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre. Further to the update given to the Board in September in Staff Report No. 39-22-BOD, once the Federal agreement is returned outlining the awarded amount of \$4.17M for this project, Conservation Authority staff will re-engage with the architect to discuss the next steps for this project.

The budget also included expenditures and reserve draws for roof repairs, parking lot lighting retrofits and office improvements. Most of these projects are complete and reserve draws have been incorporated in the financial statements.

The 2022 budget also included reserve draws for initiatives related to improving network security in the Information Management program. Expenditures in this program are lower than budgeted at this time; however, procurement of these items is taking place in November and December. Authorized funds will be drawn from reserve once this work takes place.

Expenditures in the Conservation Authority's Education program for Community Programming are below budget as most of the work has been focused on School Programming in 2022. There have been some cost savings in the Education program as staff continue to deliver programming virtually, as well as in person.

Capital projects in the Ecological Restoration & Regeneration and Water Management & Restoration are in progress or continuing into Q4 and 2023. These projects are covered by Special Capital, Provincial, Offsetting and/or Partner funding. Key areas of these variances include:

i. Ecological Management - \$1.4M of projects in the Ecological Restoration program include:

- Ecological Offsetting Capital Projects
- Grants to Partner/Landowners for projects

Projects in progress:

- Park Road and Innisfil Beach Park Wetland and Channel Realignment
- Kennedy Street Stream and Wetland Creation
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation Plan with York Region

ii. Water Risk Management - \$3.7M of projects in the Water Management & Restoration program include:

- Water Balance and Phosphorus Offsetting Capital Projects
- Stormwater Monitoring Projects
- Provincial Funding Agreements – Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

Projects currently underway or nearing completion:

- Aurora Low Impact Development Monitoring
- East Holland Monitoring
- Mouth of Western Creek Restoration
- Town of Aurora – Stormwater Pond Maintenance
- City of Barrie - KD03 Sunnidale Road Stormwater Pond Retrofit
- City of Barrie - SPO3 Stormwater retrofit and bypass channel project
- Lake Simcoe Shoreline Hazard Update Project

d) High Level Forecast to the End of 2022:

Staff have conducted a program and project review to provide a forecast of the year-end financial position. Through work with program managers, staff are forecasting an overall operational year-end surplus position of \$35K. This is an increase over the Q2 forecasted deficit position of (\$70K). Outlined below are some of the main drivers in our program areas that are contributing to the forecasted surplus and change since Q2:

i) Staff forecast a surplus in the Corporate Services, Education & Engagement and Planning & Development programs. The surplus being forecasted in Corporate Services is related to operational savings related to supplies, staff training, office and building maintenance services. These savings are forecasted to be realized because of hybrid work and employee training in a hybrid/virtual business model. There is additional surplus being forecasted in staffing costs related to timing of filling open positions.

The Education & Engagement program is still forecasting a year end surplus. Our Education team entered into new agreements in 2022 with the York and Simcoe School Boards and continue to deliver programming both in-person and virtually. Staff will continue to monitor the program revenues and any potential impact of job action for the remainder of 2022 and into the 2023 Budget.

The Planning & Development Services program area is still forecasting a surplus for year end. This is being attributed to variances in timing of hiring for open positions. During the Q2

forecast review, Staff identified that legal fees may exceed the 2022 budget. During the Q3 review staff revised the forecast and is not expecting that the fees would exceed the amount budgeted for 2022. Staff managed to secure some later trial dates which will push expenditures into next year and one open case has now been closed. In our Q2 report Staff had identified some variances in forecasted permit fee revenues. The variance identified in Q2 continues to be forecasted in Q3 and as a result, there are less major technical permits being required, which is resulting in a variance over prior year and budget for this type of review and corresponding revenue. The forecast for Planning and Regulations was built prior to the Provincial announcement of Bill 23. Staff will continue to monitor details on the proposed legalisation, timing of implementation and any financial impact this may have for the remainder of 2022.

- ii) There continues to be a deficit projected for Greenspace Services for year end. At Q2 our forecasted deficit was higher than we now anticipate for year end. The reduction of the forecasted deficit is due to securing funding from our Offsetting program and Conservation Ontario to cover work on the management plan for the property, legal and appraisal costs and some initial maintenance costs for signage and fencing. Staff will continue to explore opportunities to offset the cost for the Property Taxes and provide an update to the Board in December.
- iii) It is anticipated that all budgeted reserve transfers will be met as presented in the 2022 budget. Staff are forecasting higher than budgeted transfers related to investment interest earned. Staff continually monitor interest rates in the various accounts that the Conservation Authority can access to ensure that funds are invested at the highest rate available. Interest rates have been rising over the last few months and staff have incorporated updated assumptions to interest income in the 2023 budget.

Unbudgeted Reserve Transfers will be made for about \$26K of unexpected revenues received this year. These are funds received in 2022 that relate to reimbursement of LSRCA funds spent in prior years and will be allocated back to the appropriate reserve

There is approximately \$650K being forecasted to be put in reserve related to the administration fees collected on offsetting funds received in 2022. Of this amount, \$96K will be used to pay back the reserve draws that were used to fund the operations of the Ecological Offsetting program over the last few years. The remaining amounts will be reviewed by Staff and a plan for use will be incorporated into future budgets.

Budgeted reserve draws will only be made if the related expenditure is made. Also anticipated is a reserve transfer related to the administrative component of Offsetting Fees collected in 2022.

Summary and Recommendations:

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 41-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast be received for information.

Pre-Submission Review:

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

Signed by:

Signed by:

Mark Critch
General Manager, Corporate and Financial
Services/CFO

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Q3 2022 Corporate Budget Status Reports

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Corporate Budget Status Report
At September 30 2022 (shown in '000's)

Revenue:	Full Year Budget	YTD Budget	Actual YTD	% of YTD Budget
General Levy	\$ 4,089	\$ 3,067	\$ 2,275	74%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	8,622	6,467	4,540	70%
Provincial & Federal Funding	2,269	1,702	1,149	68%
Revenue Generated by Authority	8,392	6,294	4,514	72%
Other Revenue	77	58	184	317%
Total Revenue:	23,450	17,588	12,662	72%
Expenses:				
Corporate Services	6,838	5,129	3,512	68%
Ecological Management	3,476	2,607	1,634	63%
Education & Engagement	688	516	497	96%
Greenspace Services	1,200	900	876	97%
Planning & Development Services	5,608	4,206	3,405	81%
Water Risk Management	6,438	4,828	2,345	49%
Watershed Studies & Strategies	1,397	1,048	921	88%
Total Gross Expenses:	25,645	19,234	13,190	69%
Expenses included above related to:				
Tangible Capital Assets	-	-	-	
Internal Fee for Service	2,127	1,596	1,549	97%
Expenses before Amortization	23,518	17,638	11,641	66%
Amortization	-	-	-	
Net surplus/(deficit) before reserve activity	(68)	(50)	1,021	
Board approved draws on reserve:	1,031	773	140	
Board approved transfers to reserves:	(963)	(723)	(613)	
Other reserve activity:				
Transfer for offsetting operational surplus to payback reserve draws from prior years:	-	-	(550)	
Transfer for additional asset management funds:			(11)	
Operational (deficit) at September 30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (13)	

**Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Service Area Budget Status Report
At September 30 2022 (shown in 000's)**

	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
Corporate Services				
Revenue:				
General Levy	\$ 2,776	\$ 2,082	\$ 1,595	77%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	1,098	823	725	88%
Provincial & Federal Funding	6	5	-	0%
Revenue Generated by Authority	948	711	327	46%
Other Revenue	43	32	124	388%
Total Revenue:	4,871	3,653	2,771	76%
Expenses:				
Corporate Communications	860	645	525	81%
Facility Management	2,024	1,518	505	33%
Financial Management	1,309	981	810	83%
Governance	637	478	474	99%
Human Resource Management	580	435	346	80%
Information Management	1,428	1,071	852	80%
Total Gross Expenses:	6,838	5,128	3,512	68%
Expenses included above related to:				
Internal Fee for Service	2,043	1,532	1,464	96%
Net Expenses (excluding TCA entries):	4,795	3,596	2,048	57%
Net surplus before reserve activity	76	57	723	
Board approved draws on reserve:	736	552	69	
Board approved transfers to reserve:	(812)	(609)	(595)	
Other reserve activity:				
Transfer for offsetting admin surplus:	-	-	(197)	
Operational position at September 30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
Ecological Management				
Revenue :				
General Levy	\$ 6	\$ 5	\$ 6	120%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	2,262	1,697	1,118	66%
Provincial & Federal Funding	405	304	254	84%
Revenue Generated by Authority	806	605	390	64%
Other Revenue	31	23	26	113%
Total Revenue:	3,511	2,634	1,794	68%
Expenses:				
Ecosystem Science & Monitoring	979	734	754	103%
Forestry Services	718	538	516	96%
Restoration & Regeneration	1,780	1,336	364	27%
Total Gross Expenses:	3,476	2,608	1,634	63%
Expenses included above related to:				
Internal Fee for Service	-	-	19	
Net Expenses:	3,476	2,608	1,615	62%
Net surplus before reserve activity	35	26	179	
Board approved draws on reserve:	6	5	3	
Board approved transfers to reserve:	(41)	(30)	-	
Other reserve activity:				
Transfer for additional asset management fun	-	-	(11)	
Transfer for offsetting admin surplus:	-	-	(172)	
Operational position at September 30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Service Area Budget Status Report
At September 30 2022 (shown in 000's)

	2022 Full Year		2022 YTD		2022 YTD	% of YTD	
Education and Engagement	Budget		Budget		Actual	Budget	
Revenue :							
General Levy	\$	340	\$	255	\$	135	53%
Provincial & Federal Funding		-		-		2	
Revenue Generated by Authority		285		214		311	145%
Total Revenue:		625		469		448	96%
Expenses:							
Community Programming		152		114		73	64%
School Programming		536		402		424	105%
Total Gross Expenses:		688		516		497	96%
Expenses included above related to:							
Internal Fee for Service		63		47		49	104%
Net Expenses:		625		469		448	96%
Operational position at September 30	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	

	2022 Full Year		2022 YTD		2022 YTD	% of YTD	
Greenspace Services	Budget		Budget		Actual	Budget	
Revenue :							
General Levy	\$	372	\$	279	\$	339	122%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners		436		327		272	83%
Provincial & Federal Funding		8		6		17	283%
Revenue Generated by Authority		190		143		52	36%
Other Revenue		4		3		32	1067%
Total Revenue:		1,010		758		712	94%
Expenses:							
Management		1,005		754		750	99%
Property Services		50		38		-	0%
Securement		144		108		126	117%
Total Gross Expenses:		1,200		900		876	97%
Expenses included above related to:							
Internal Fee for Service		21		16		17	106%
Net Expenses:		1,178		884		859	97%
Net (deficit) before reserve activity		(168)		(126)		(147)	
Board approved draws on reserve:		175		131		7	
Board approved transfers to reserve:		(7)		(5)		-	0%
Operational (deficit) at September 30	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(140)	

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Service Area Budget Status Report
At September 30 2022 (shown in 000's)

Planning and Development	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
Revenue :				
General Levy	\$ 495	\$ 371	\$ 108	29%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	413	310	263	85%
Provincial & Federal Funding	22	17	-	0%
Revenue Generated by Authority	4,652	3,489	3,161	91%
Total Revenue:	5,583	4,187	3,532	84%
Expenses:				
Development Planning	2,834	2,125	1,783	84%
Permitting & Enforcement	2,774	2,081	1,622	78%
Total Gross Expenses:	5,608	4,206	3,405	81%
Expenses included above related to:				
Internal Fee for Service	-	-	-	
Net Expenses:	5,608	4,206	3,405	81%
Net surplus/(deficit) before reserve activity	(26)	(19)	127	
Board approved draws on reserve:	26	19	-	
Operational surplus at September 30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 127	

Water Risk Management	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
Revenue :				
General Levy	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 92	123%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	3,464	2,598	1,530	59%
Provincial & Federal Funding	1,370	1,028	590	57%
Revenue Generated by Authority	1,511	1,133	270	24%
Other Revenue	-	-	1	
Total Revenue:	6,445	4,834	2,483	51%
Expenses:				
Flood Management & Warning	867	650	413	64%
Source Water Protection	840	630	387	61%
Water Management & Restoration	4,011	3,009	1,132	38%
Water Science & Monitoring	720	540	413	76%
Total Gross Expenses:	6,438	4,829	2,345	49%
Expenses included above related to:				
Internal Fee for Service	-	-	-	
Net Expenses:	6,438	4,829	2,345	49%
Net surplus before reserve activity	7	5	138	
Board approved draws on reserve:	89	67	61	
Board approved transfers to reserve:	(96)	(72)	(18)	
Other reserve activity:				
Transfer for offsetting surplus:	-	-	(181)	
Operational position at September 30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Service Area Budget Status Report
At September 30 2022 (shown in 000's)

Watershed Studies and Strategies	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
Revenue :				
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	\$ 949	\$ 712	\$ 632	89%
Provincial & Federal Funding	456	342	286	84%
Revenue Generated by Authority	-	-	2	
Other Revenue	-	-	1	
Total Revenue:	<u>1,406</u>	<u>1,054</u>	921	87%
Expenses:				
Climate Change Adaptation	196	147	156	106%
Research & Innovation	551	413	345	84%
Watershed Subwatershed Planning	650	488	420	86%
Total Gross Expenses:	<u>1,397</u>	<u>1,048</u>	921	88%
Expenses included above related to:				
Internal Fee for Service	-	-	-	
Net Expenses:	<u>1,397</u>	<u>1,048</u>	921	88%
Net surplus before reserve activity	8	6	-	
Board approved transfers to reserve:	(8)	(6)	-	
Operational position at September 30	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
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Tél. : 416.314.679

357-2022-2056

October 25, 2022

Mr. Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Email: r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

I am writing today to advise you that on October 25, the government will introduce the proposed *Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act, 2022* to expedite development, construction and operation of two important infrastructure projects for York Region.

Many years have passed since the Upper York Sewage Solution Environmental Assessment began. In Fall 2021 the province decided to pause decision making on the Environmental Assessment and established an Advisory Panel to provide the government with advice on the issue. I received the Panel's report on September 21, 2022. The report advises a solution whereby York Region would optimize existing infrastructure, combined with several capital upgrades already identified in York's water and wastewater master plan, with some modifications. This solution is also significantly better for the environment, with a much smaller carbon footprint.

We are soliciting public comment on the proposed legislation that would require York and Durham Regions to work together to enlarge and improve the existing York Durham Sewage System, to convey wastewater from the communities in the upper part of York Region (i.e., Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury) to the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant in Durham Region for treatment and discharge into Lake Ontario. This would accommodate growth and housing development in the upper part of York Region to 2051. In addition, the proposed legislation would require prescribed municipalities to develop, construct and operate a new treatment facility that will remove phosphorus from drainage water that flows into Lake Simcoe. This represents the single largest clean water initiative in Lake Simcoe's history.

The proposed legislation would terminate the Upper York Sewage Solutions Environmental Assessment process. York and Durham Regions and other proponent municipalities would instead be required to prepare environmental impact reports about the projects and consult with Indigenous communities and the public.

...2

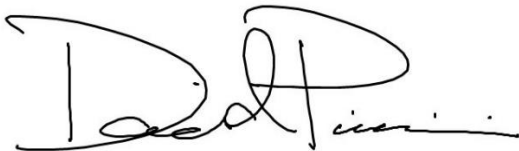
Mr. Rob Baldwin
Page 2.

More information will be available on the Environmental Registry (ERO #019-6192) this afternoon. The comment period ends on November 24, 2022.

We recognize the need to improve infrastructure in the growing region and are committed to working closely with our municipal partners to plan and implement this important work while protecting our vital water resources.

Ministry staff will be offering a virtual technical briefing on the proposed legislation on October 26, 2022 at 10:00am. Please send your RSVP to Kieu.Van@ontario.ca. Should you have any questions, please contact Lisa Trevisan, Assistant Deputy Minister, at Lisa.Trevisan@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Piccini', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Piccini
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des Affaires
Municipales et du Logement**

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November 4, 2022

Dear Clerks, CAOs, and Conservation Authority Administrators:

As you are aware, on October 25, 2022 the government introduced the [More Homes Built Faster](#) plan, which takes bold action to advance our plan to address the housing crisis by building 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. The government is taking further action to support this goal by launching a consultation on proposed changes to the Greenbelt that would support our municipal partners to plan for responsible growth and help build housing faster and in a targeted manner, while leading to an overall expansion of the Greenbelt.

Ontario is expected to grow by more than two million people by 2031, with approximately 1.5 million people living in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region.

To accommodate that growth and support the building of more homes, MMAH is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan, the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation (O. Reg. 59/05) and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan in order to:

- Remove/redesignate lands from the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan that would be suitable for residential development; and
- Add a portion of the **Paris Galt Moraine area**, designated as Protected Countryside with a Natural Heritage System.

The proposed strategic removal of lands from the Greenbelt Area was considered in the context of the objectives and policies of the Greenbelt Plan and the requirement in the Greenbelt Act, 2005 that the total amount of land within the Greenbelt Area shall not be reduced. The area of the Paris Galt Moraine lands that are proposed to be added would be in addition to the proposed 13 Urban River Valley areas that were consulted upon previously in March 2022 (see [ERO Posting 019-4485](#)). The total lands proposed to be added would be greater than the area of the lands proposed for removal from the Greenbelt Plan under this proposal.

For more information on this proposal and the consultation, please visit the following links where you will find information including a description of the proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan, Greenbelt boundary regulation, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, and the associated maps.

- [ERO 019-6216 Proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan](#)
- [ERO 019-6217: Proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation O. Reg. 59/05](#)
- [ERO 019-6218: Proposed redesignation of land under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan O. Reg. 140/02](#)

The comment period on the Environmental Registry of Ontario will close on December 5, 2022.

The government is building a strong foundation for action that will continue to ensure Ontario is a prosperous and growing province – and the best place in the world to call home. The Province looks forward to continued collaboration with municipal partners to get more homes built faster.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark

Minister

- c. Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Geoffrey Peat, Director, Information Services and Technology

Date: November 14, 2022

Subject:

Computer Network Security Update

Recommendation:

That Staff Report No. 42-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's computer network security update be received for information.

Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 42-22-BOD is to provide a summary of the Conservation Authority's network security improvements implemented in 2022 and to provide information on projects planned for the fourth quarter of 2022 or the first quarter of 2023. These projects are intended to significantly improve the Conservation Authority's cybersecurity effectiveness aimed at strengthening the protection of the Conservation Authority's information and technology assets.

Background:

The Board approved additional investment to support the improvement of the Conservation Authority's computer network security and cybersecurity program in 2022. The Conservation Authority's dependence on its Information Technology infrastructure has risen steadily in the last 10 years, a trend that has been accentuated by the pandemic and resulting need to work from home. The result is that we need to work smarter and more securely to manage and protect our information and technology assets. Additionally, like our municipal funding partners, our cost to acquire cyber security insurance has more than tripled and the conditions of insurability have become much more rigorous.

To better protect the Conservation Authority's information and technology assets, many more layers of security and management have been added into the computer network to reduce the chances of a cybersecurity attack and to make the network more resilient. These improvements have also been aimed at making the Conservation Authority's staff's ability to work from any location more efficient and secure.

The investment in advancements and security of the network infrastructure also supports better collaboration and data sharing with working partners and the public.

Issues:

Additional budget investment was required to properly manage the Conservation Authority's information and technology assets. This was supported by the Conservation Authority's Executive Leadership Team based on a plan to mature and improve network management and security.

Costs to acquire cyber security insurance have more than tripled and conditions of insurability have become much more rigorous, demanding that heightened cybersecurity controls be in place on the Conservation Authority's network before insurance against a cyber attack is secured and to lower the risk of the network being hacked.

Some fundamental network security projects implemented at the Conservation Authority include:

- A Security Gap Analysis to clearly identify network security gaps and risks and to develop a priority list of tasks to close these security gaps;
- Multifactor authentication (layered sign-in) for remote access (Virtual Private Network - VPN) to prevent unauthorized access to data and systems;
- Installation of new network firewalls;
- A mobile device policy to divide sensitive work data, systems, and access from personal activities (i.e., mobile phones now have as much access to corporate data and systems as laptops);
- An endpoint (computers, servers, and corporate cell phones) management system that secures and controls access to the vulnerable apps and data on computers and mobile devices;
- Microsoft Windows Defender (auto response to risk and attack incidents 24/7/365) installed that provides risk and vulnerability detection to find and mitigate issue/vulnerabilities before an attack;
- A managed service provider is being selected, which will greatly enhance network management and security capabilities, while consolidating the many information technology staff experts the Conservation Authority that would need to be hired.
- Purchased and now implementing a new and updated network infrastructure (in-house servers and storage) including servers and operating systems;
- Increased shift to appropriate cloud-based infrastructure to enhance business network capabilities allowing better access by staff and partners, paralleled with the corresponding work to secure these assets and access in the cloud; and

- Backup strategy and disaster recovery plan to be addressed with new managed service provider and security consultant.

Research, planning, communication and change management that go with each of the above projects has required a significant amount of time and effort to successfully achieve the desired outcome of matured and improved protection of the Conservation Authority's information and technology assets.

Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:

Improving computer network maintenance and security was listed as a 2022 operating priority for the Conservation Authority. Having proper network support is in direct alignment with the strategic plans, especially as it supports:

- Strategic Direction #4 to Advance Organizational Effectiveness and Excellence;
- Objective 4.4: Effective and efficient business processes demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement and environmental sustainability;
- Objective 2.2: Effectively and securely managed data facilitates collaboration and analysis, improving decision-making; and
- Most directly, Objective 5.3: Staff are highly engaged and have the technical resources, knowledge, and collaborative opportunities to do their jobs effectively, securely, and efficiently.

An effective computer network supports every aspect of the Conservation Authority's business, making investing in it wise and appropriate in its proper development, security, and maintenance.

The investment in our network infrastructure maintenance also supports better collaboration and data sharing with working partners and the public through technological advancements and properly secured systems.

Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:

The 2022 budget included an investment for the projects listed above aimed at improving network security in the Information Management program. This investment included some permanent annual operating increases for network maintenance and security, as well as a one-time reserve draw to support the 2022 initiatives. Expenditures in this program are lower than budgeted at this time; however, procurement of some of these items is taking place in November and December and authorized funds will be drawn from reserve once this work takes place.

The investment in the maintenance and security of information and technology assets does not generate revenue, but much of the Conservation Authority's revenue generation capabilities depend on this infrastructure being accessible and efficient almost 24/7 all year round.

The information technology investment for 2022 is budgeted going forward to continue to provide and improve computer network security and resilience.

Summary and Recommendations:

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 42-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's computer network security update be received for information.

Pre-Submission Review:

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

Signed by:

Signed by:

Mark Critch
General Manager, Corporate and Financial
Services/CFO

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Phil Davies, Manager, Forestry and Greenspace Services

Date: November 11, 2022

Subject

Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, Tourism Relief Fund – Beaver River Wetland Trail Improvements Project

Recommendation

That Staff Report No. 43-22-BOD regarding funding support from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario's Tourism Relief Fund towards the Beaver River Wetland Trail Improvements Project be received; and

Further That the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority be authorized to enter into the associated Tourism Relief Fund Contribution Agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

Purpose of this Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 43-22-BOD is to provide an overview of the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario's (FedDev) Tourism Relief Fund award to the Conservation Authority for the Beaver River Wetland Trail Improvements Project, and to seek endorsement by the Board as required by the contribution agreement.

Background

The Tourism Relief Fund was made available by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario in February 2022. Staff's application in April seeking support for the implementation of improvements along the Beaver River Wetland Trail in Brock Township, Durham Region was approved in September and includes the following:

- Trail surface and drainage upgrades;
- Development of a parking lot design plan;
- Completion of an engineering study of the existing bridge and culvert crossings; and
- The addition of amenities for trail users, such as rest areas.

Located between Blackwater and Cannington, the project will improve access along the 13km trail by adding aggregate to re-establish a consistent and accessible surface for all activity

groups. Trail safety will be improved through the re-decking of select bridges and completion of an engineering study for two others, identifying requirements for repairs and cost estimates for implementation. A parking lot design plan will be developed to identify opportunities to improve access for visitors, and three rest areas with benches, bike repair stations and trail counters will be established to improve visitor experience. The project will help improve safety and draw more visitors to enjoy the expansive wetland for walking, riding, and rolling along the route. This project will be completed by March 31, 2023, as set out in the terms of the contribution agreement.

Issues

A number of projects included in the initial funding application submitted in February 2022 are weather dependent and require significant time for development and implementation. As the timeline for implementation is restricted to the end of the Federal fiscal year, March 2023, these have been included as optional components in the contribution agreement. Should there be an extension to the FedDev Tourism Relief Fund beyond this date, implementation of these projects will proceed.

Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy

Completion of this project will contribute to the Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan by addressing the Strategic Direction of sparking a passion and action for nature. This work will help to ensure that the Conservation Authority's landholdings provide ecological and human health benefits in a sustainable way.

To promote employee and public safety, annual management and maintenance improvements such as those funded through this project are carried out by staff on conservation landholdings in accordance with guidance provided by the Risk Advisors at Marsh Insurance.

The improvements identified for implementation through this project are consistent with the recommended actions set out in the approved Beaver River Wetland Conservation Area Implementation Plan (2018).

Impact on Conservation Authority Finances

The project is eligible for 100% funding through the Tourism Relief Fund, including project management and administrative overhead. The confirmed amount from the Fund for the Beaver River Wetland Trail Improvements Project is \$125,000.

Summary and Recommendations

The Tourism Relief Fund will provide the Conservation Authority significant funding support to implement visitor safety and experience improvements for all users along the Beaver River Wetland Trail and will provide information to support future infrastructure upgrades. The

Tourism Relief fund will provide 100% of the funding required to implement each element of the project, including project management.

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 43-22-BOD regarding funding support from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario's Tourism Relief Fund towards the Beaver River Wetland Trail Improvements Project be received; and **Further That** the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority be authorized to enter into the associated Tourism Relief Fund Contribution Agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

Pre-Submission Review

Report prepared by: Dan Andrews, Land and Resource Planning Technician

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

Signed by:

Mark Critch
General Manager, Corporate and Financial
Services/Chief Financial Officer

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer