

Looking to the Future

Board of Directors

April 23, 2021

Rob Baldwin, CAO



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



Member of Conservation Ontario

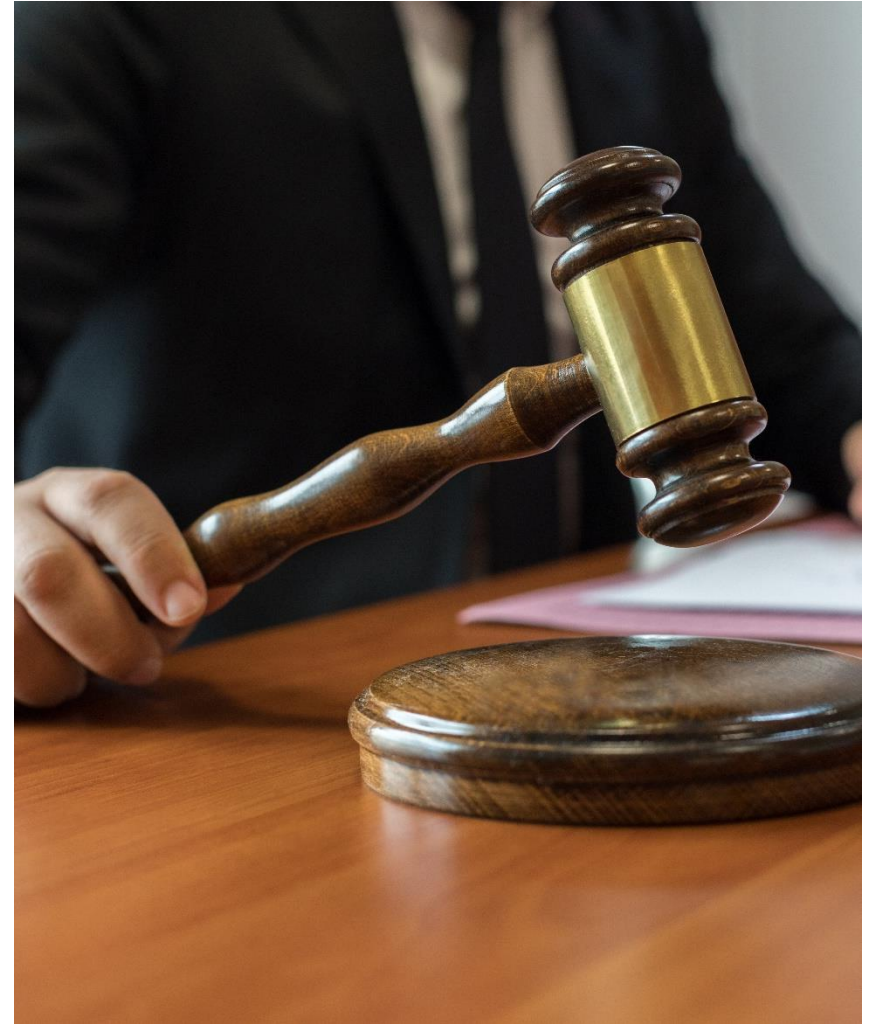
COVID-19 Response

- Keeping staff safe to implement essential and key programs
- Working remotely to Sept 7
- Preparing for return to “brick and mortar”
- Developing a formal “remote work” policy
- Undertake a review of what worked well, not as well and what could be improved
- Use lessons learned to develop an Emergency Preparedness Plan



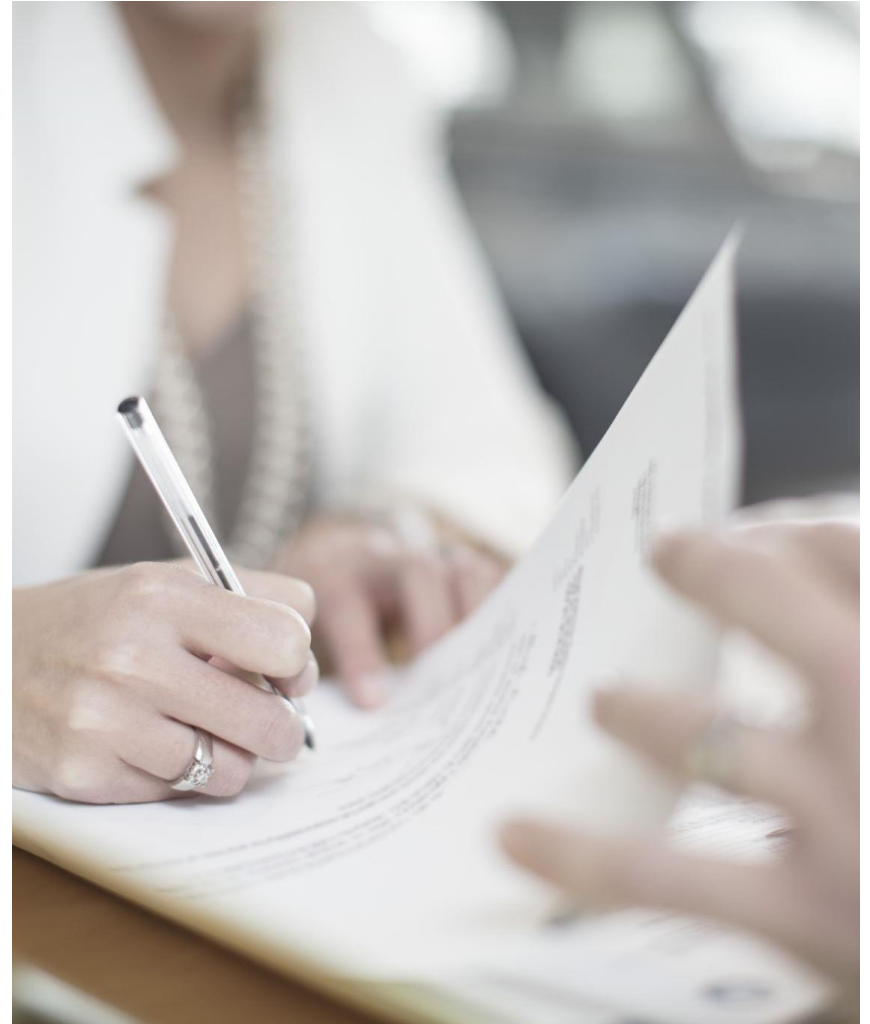
Bill 229 Evolution

- Significant changes to the Conservation Authorities Act have occurred and still more to come
- Will formally define core and non-core programs
 - This will require potentially significant budget transition
 - Allows for increased opportunity for non-core growth
- Will constantly evolve over the next 18 months



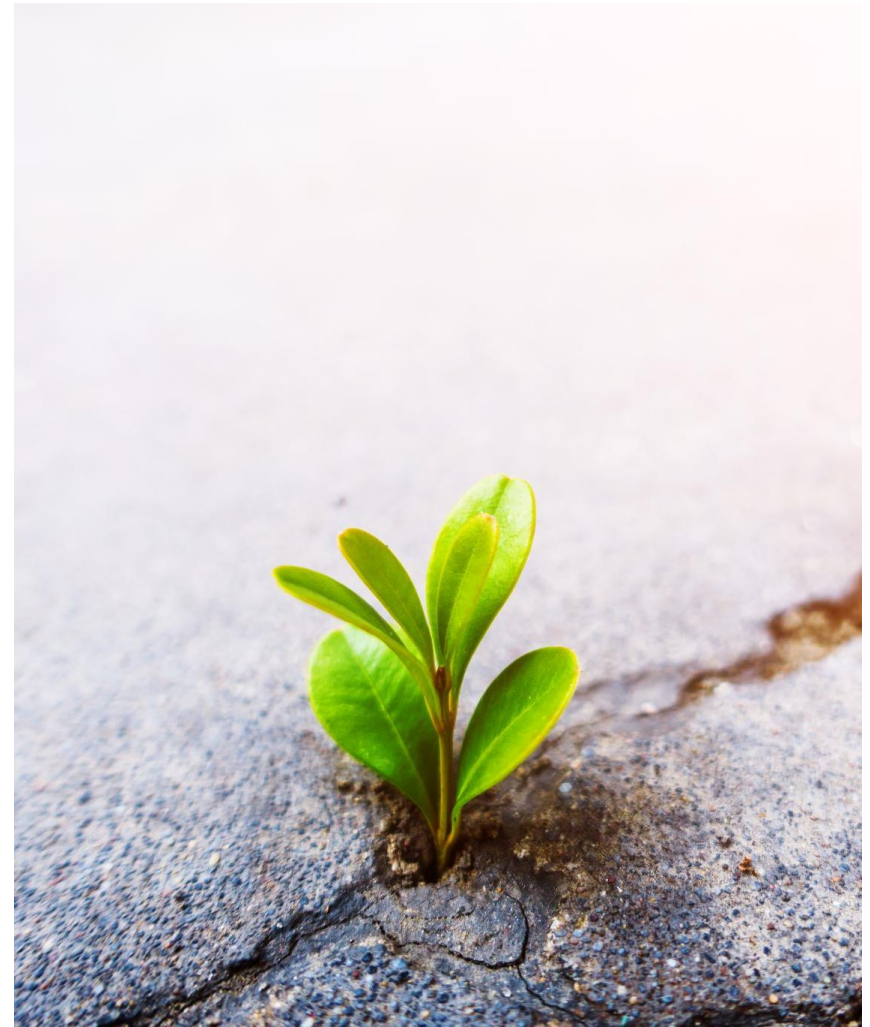
Bill 229 Actions

- Amend Authority bylaws where required
- Develop transition plan when details and timing are finalized
- Develop focused and clear Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for non-core activities
- Updates to the Board of Directors (BOD) and staff as elements/requirements evolve



Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

- Currently under 10 year review
- Many core areas identified for LSRCA under Bill 229
 - Monitoring, watershed planning, etc.
- Core definition allows certainty to focus program areas
- Opportunity to expand governance role and oversight, similar to Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS)
- Opportunity for expanded role in other areas where best suited or needed



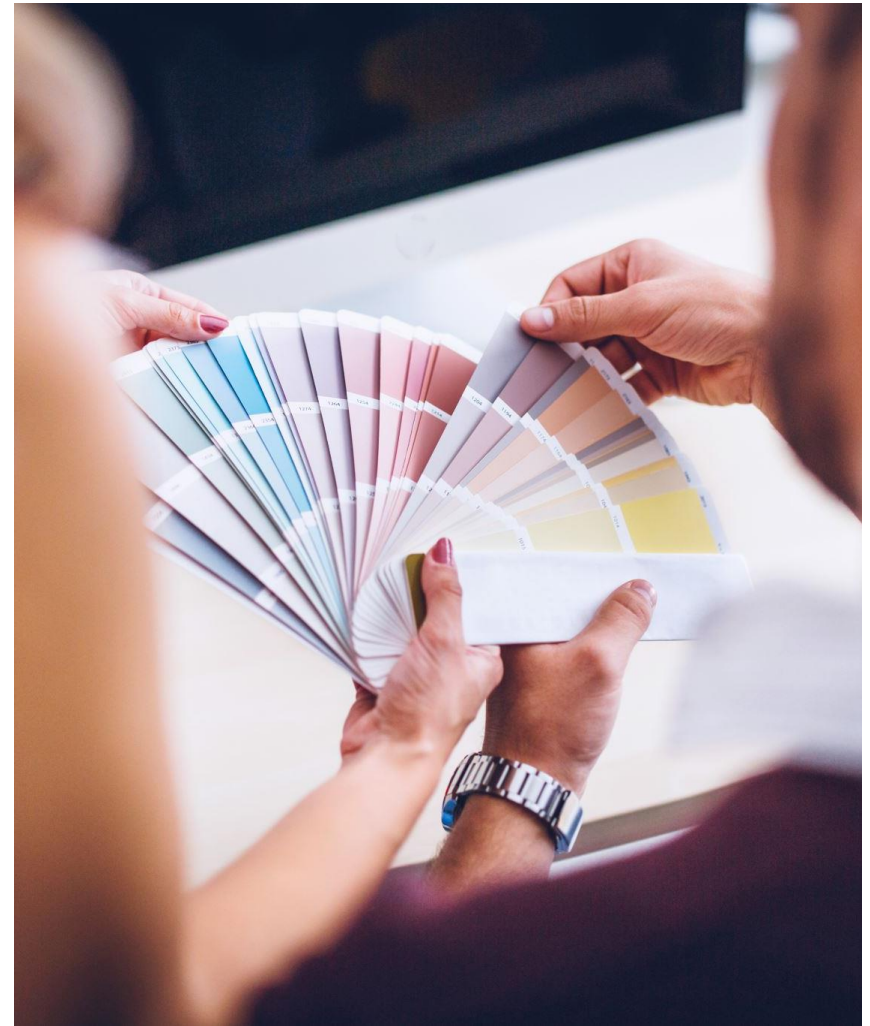
Strategic Plan – Bright Future

- New strategic plan is currently underway
- Timing aligns with Bill 229 considerations
- Being led internally for the first time
 - “Built by and for staff”
- Will set the key tasks, strategies and projects over the next three years beginning in 2022



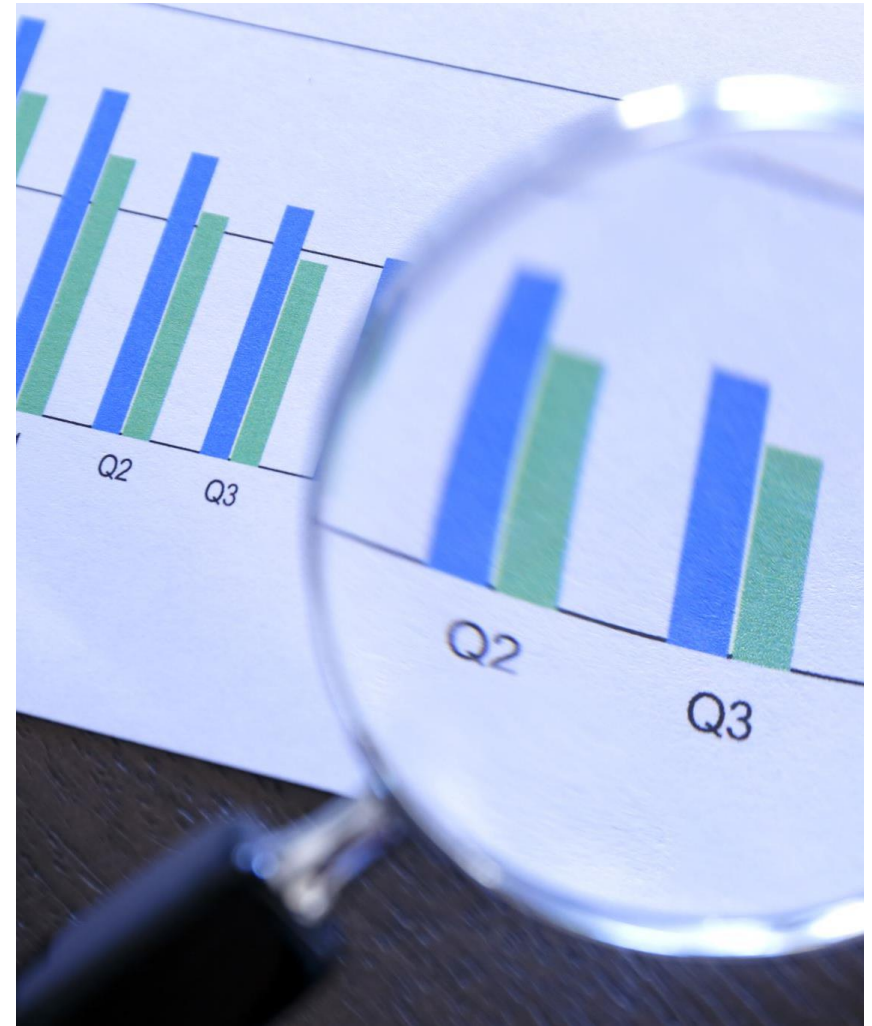
Re-Branding

- It's time for change!
- Post Bill 229 is perfect time to revitalize brand
- Long name, acronym is difficult to remember
- Need fresh, updated logo and shorter name
 - Increase brand awareness
 - Simplify the Corporate name
 - Address evolving social media trends



Watershed Awareness

- Implementing suite of metrics and indicators of restoration projects – comprehensive reporting
- Modernizing subwatershed planning - innovative digital approaches
- Developing focused subwatershed targets and KPI's
- Explore innovative approaches for engagement and information exchange
- Focused issues management – not every issue is an issue



Flood Relief Opportunities

- Significant opportunities across watershed
- Increase climate change considerations
- Opportunities for public-private partnerships
 - Development driven
 - Infrastructure improvements, changes
 - Develop case for institutional investment (insurance, financial), provincial & federal, to reduce risk and decrease impacts/costs
- Stormwater Optimization may drive municipal opportunities



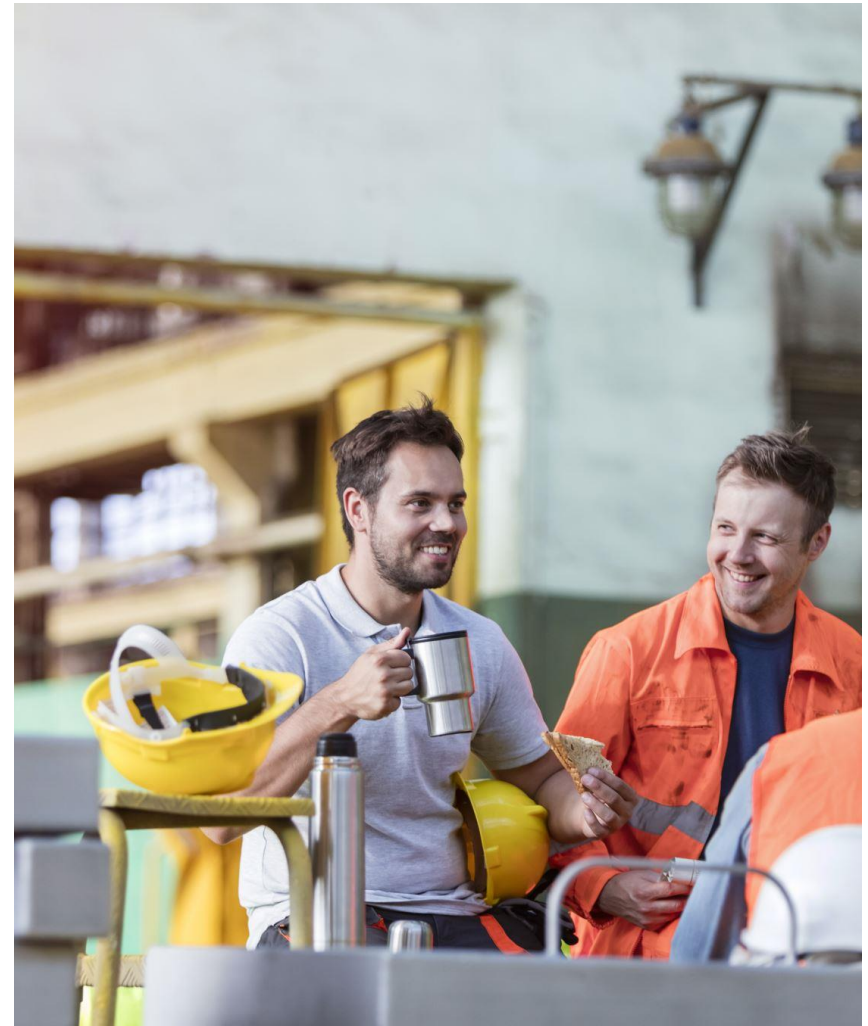
Expanding Partnerships

- Dedicated Sediment & Erosion Control Inspectors
 - Share costs across multiple municipalities
 - Remove burden on busy bylaw staff/building inspectors
 - Consistent erosion and sediment control (ESC) approach across watershed
 - Random and timely inspections are the key to compliance
 - Reduce complaints and local environmental impacts
 - Require municipal designation for enforcement powers



Expanding Partnerships continued

- Stormwater Inspection and Maintenance
 - Assist in implementation of System Wide Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECA) - MECP
 - Reduce costs to partner municipalities
 - In-house technical expertise
 - Increase performance of facilities (reduce Phosphorus and flood risk) – reducing municipal liability
 - Bring new techniques and science to stormwater



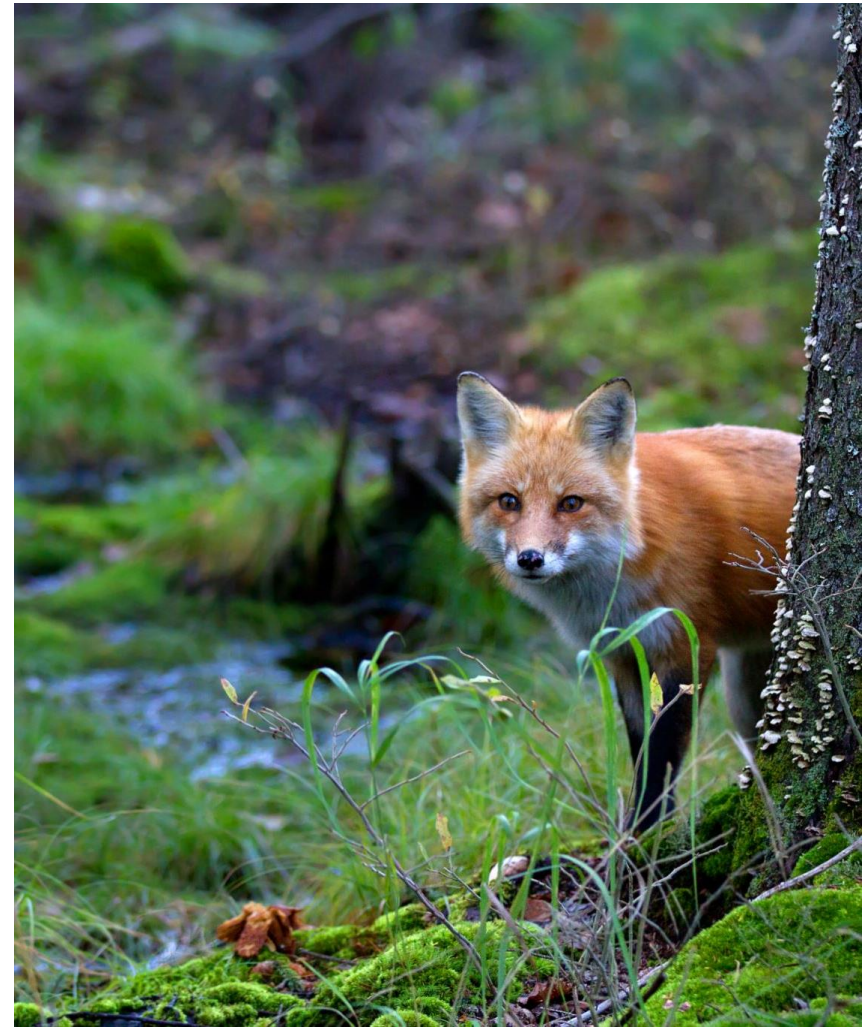
Accelerating Restoration

- Increase focus on private lands in urban areas
- Always evaluate opportunities prior to implementation of municipal infrastructure projects
- Seek new funding opportunities and mechanisms
- Advance integration with climate change
- Focus on maximum return projects
- Push the boundaries of innovation and technology



Land Management - Disposition

- Bill 229 clarifies the role of Authority in land management
- Focused on:
 - managing the right lands for the right reasons
 - efficient disposition of lands that do not meet core responsibilities
 - municipal interests and needs
 - reducing liability



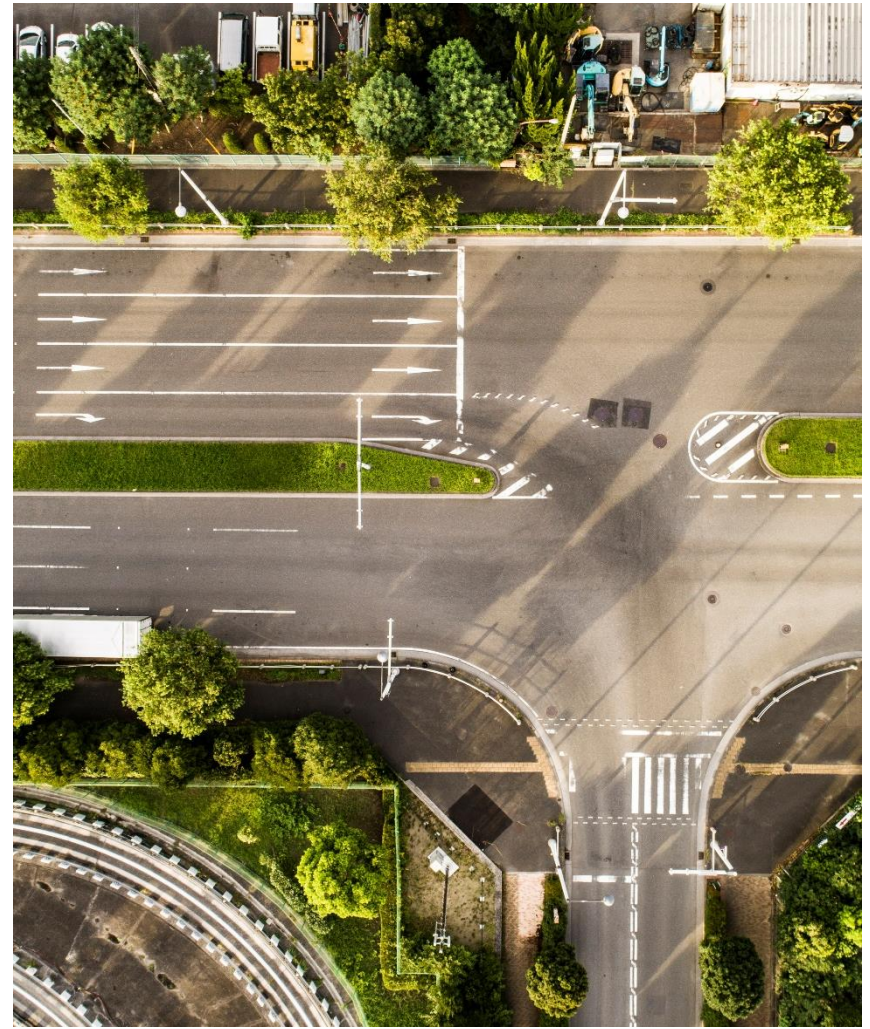
Climate Change

Adaptation

- Evolving guidelines to ensure development and infrastructure address potential changes
- Work with municipalities to build robust stormwater systems (retrofits, maintenance, etc.)
- Detailed floodplain analysis and modernization

Mitigation

- Working to be carbon neutral or better
- Aggressive restoration and afforestation programs
- Explore opportunities for providing carbon offsetting to interested parties – drive revenue, mitigation



Development and Regs Excellence

- Increasing reporting, transparency of planning & development activities
- Implementing e-commerce where feasible
- Developing processes/standards to simplify digital applications, data transfer and e-submissions
- Work with municipalities to align programs, improve efficiencies – eliminate duplicative peer reviews
- Clearly defined MOU's regarding plan review roles
- New enforcement protocols and triage system



Education Programs

- Continuous evolution during the pandemic
- Critical to the future of this and every watershed
- Foundational program for decades but faces new challenges under Bill 229
- New opportunities are extensive and exciting
- Future relies on
 - Delivering high calibre and innovative programs – growth
 - Building a new education facility – anchor location
 - Full cost recovery – certainty and sustainability



Fiscal Stability & Growth

- Build Strong Reserves
- Focused & Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Increased shift to e-commerce
- Increased fiscal alignment with municipal partners
- Detailed short and long term financial plans
 - Annual, bi-annual, five and ten year budgeting
- Comprehensive Fee Review Underway
 - Focus on full cost recovery
 - Use recognized costing processes similar to partners



Great Governance

- Implement requirements of Bill 229
- Full transparency of BOD composition, bylaws and permanent digital board meetings
- Further refine hearing procedures and guidelines
- Increase frequency or opportunities for BOD education sessions
- Implement mandatory requirement for a Watershed Advisory Board
 - Details still forthcoming

