

## Board Meeting Highlights

July 23, 2021

### Announcements:

- a) CAO Rob Baldwin advised that a meeting was held on July 21<sup>st</sup> at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area with the Hon. David Piccini, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. The meeting was arranged and attended by Parliamentary Assistant and Barrie-Innisfil MPP Andrea Khanjin. In attendance from the Authority were Rob Baldwin, Nicole Hamley, Ben Longstaff and Kristen Yemm. He advised that they walked the trails together while discussing salt management, our innovative stormwater work and low impact development, an overview of our education program, as well as the importance of passive recreation and the need for it to be incorporated in the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Staff very much appreciated this opportunity to showcase some of the Authority's work.
- b) CAO Baldwin advised that discussions with staff regarding return to the physical offices in the Fall have begun, and more information will be provided to the Board as plans evolve.
- c) CAO Baldwin advised of an upcoming meeting regarding the Georgina Island Fixed Link Project, a planned causeway and bridge to connect the island with mainland Georgina, noting that he appreciates the opportunity to discuss this project in the early planning stages. As more information becomes available, it will be brought back to the Board.
- d) Chair Emmerson offered best wishes to the City of Barrie residents after their recent tornado damage. City of Barrie Councillors Aylwin and Riepma updated on the situation, noting that thankfully all injured citizens have been released from hospital. They also praised the entire community for rallying together to support one another.

### Presentations:

#### a) **Second Quarter 2021 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast**

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided a presentation on the Authority's Second Quarter 2021 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast. He reviewed the Executive Summary, noting that Authority business operations are recovering from some impacts seen in 2020 due to COVID-19. The Authority's 14 Annual Operating Priorities for 2021 are progressing as expected, with one exception due to Federal funding. He noted a surplus is forecast for 2021, the financial condition of the Authority is strong, and staff will monitor the use of reserves and deferred revenue for year end.

GM Critch updated on business operations, noting staff continue working from home with anticipated return to the office in the Fall. Some additional costs will be incurred related to cleaning, supplies and equipment, as well as renovations to the Mabel Davis offices in preparation for staff's return. He went on to note that overall revenue and expenditures are in line with mid-year expectations. Some Provincial and Federal funding is below year-to-date expectations mainly related to timing of project work. Revenue generation is trending just above year-to-date expectations due to higher volumes of applications in Planning & Regulations, and tree planting and education programs have gone ahead as planned during the first two quarters.

GM Critch noted a few factors contributing to the surplus include variances due to staff turnover and recruitment for open positions, as well as variances in operational spending which will be offset with some additional spending in the third and fourth quarters for return to office as well as asset management. Other contributors are timing variances on capital work at Authority properties, with expenditures expected in second half of 2021.

Looking forward, GM Critch noted that the forecast at the second quarter is used to identify key trends and to monitor the remainder of the year. The forecast will help inform the development of the 2022 Budget and will ensure the adequacy of reserves in the short term. Staff will continue to monitor the impacts of Bill 229/108 and implement changes as needed.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [2nd Quarter 2021 Financial Update](#)

For more information on the Authority's Second Quarter 2021 Financial Report, please contact Mark Critch at 905-895-1281, ext. 297 or [m.critch@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:m.critch@lsrca.on.ca).

#### **b) Program Update: Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies**

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, advised that the Authority's Climate Change program is gaining strength due in large part to the completion of the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies, as well as having a dedicated climate change specialist on staff. He was pleased to introduce the Authority's Climate Change Specialist, Fabio Tonto, to provide an update on these initiatives.

Mr. Tonto advised that climate change projections for 2028 are for temperatures to rise 6.8 degrees Celsius, which will translate to several additional days above 30 degrees Celsius. In addition, rain events are expected to be more frequent, more intense, and longer in duration. In response, the Authority has completed climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, which have several recommendations. He advised that there are eight themes and in total 46 actions in the implementation plan, a few of which were highlighted during the meeting:

- Raising Awareness and Engaging the Watershed: Led by the Authority's Education team, five free themed guided hikes on three Authority properties are scheduled for Fall 2021. For

more information on these hikes or to register, please click this link:

<https://www.lsrca.on.ca/Pages/Climate-Change-Hikes.aspx>.

- Exploring the Potential of Carbon Sequestration within grassland habitats. Efforts include wetland restoration projects to support the idea of net zero communities and no new carbon being released into the atmosphere.
- Supporting Municipal Readiness: Authority staff participate in regional and municipal working groups and reach out to municipal partners to gain a better understanding of the challenges of climate change among our municipal partners. Authority staff have hosted a webinar series to connect practitioners from the municipalities to inform and share information. Four interactive webinars have been held in May and June with over 150 attendees. The feedback was very positive, and lots was learned about increasing efficiency by collaborating and sharing information, plans and actions.

Authority staff continue to look at ways to move climate change initiatives forward and assist in further collaboration with municipal partners. To view this presentation, please click this link: [Climate Change Program Update](#). For additional information, please visit the Authority's Climate Change webpage: <https://www.lsrca.on.ca/watershed-health/climate-change> or contact Fabio Tonto at 905-895-1281, ext. 239 or [f.tonto@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:f.tonto@lsrca.on.ca).

## **Correspondence and Staff Reports:**

### **Second Quarter 2021 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast**

The Board received Staff Report No. 37-21-BOD regarding the Second Quarter Financial Report and Year-End Forecast for the period ending June 30, 2021.

### **Program Update: Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies**

The Board received Staff Report No. 38-21-BOD regarding the Authority's initial work to implement the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies.

### **Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications for the Period January 1 through June 30, 2021**

The Board received Staff Report No. 39-21-BOD regarding monitoring of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through June 30, 2021.

### **Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Offsetting Policies Housekeeping Updates**

The Board received Staff Report No. 40-21-BOD regarding Housekeeping Updates to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Offsetting Policies. The Board approved updates to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Ecological Offsetting Policy, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Phosphorus Offsetting Policy, and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Water Balance Recharge Policy as presented.

**Project Update: Tamarac Park - Stormwater Management Pond Retrofit**

The Board received Staff Report No. 41-21-BOD regarding the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's efforts with the York Region Phosphorus Removal Demonstration Project Partnership: Tamarac Park - Stormwater Management Pond Retrofit. The Board authorized the Purchase Order increase to \$1,621,087, to ensure compliance with the Authority's Purchasing Policy and associated signing authority provisions.

**Confidential 2021 Conservation Awards Recipients**

The Board approved Confidential Staff Report No. 42-21-BOD regarding the 2021 Conservation Awards recipients.

**Confidential Legal Matter**

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 43-21-BOD regarding a legal matter.

**Confidential Legal Matter**

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 44-21-BOD regarding a legal matter.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, visit [LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage](#).