

## Board Meeting Highlights

### 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting

January 28, 2022

#### Welcome and Greetings:

Chair Emmerson welcomed everyone to the Authority's 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting and recognized the many guests who participated in the virtual meeting from the various levels of government, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, as well as other partners and many Authority staff members. Board members introduced themselves and Chair Emmerson called upon a few guests to bring greetings on behalf of their respective organizations. First up was Scot Davidson, Member of Parliament for York-Simcoe, who brought greetings from the shores of Lake Simcoe. Chair Emmerson welcomed the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health, and MPP for Newmarket-Aurora and the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs, Minister of Transportation, and MPP for York-Simcoe, who brought greetings on behalf of the Province of Ontario. Brandon Stiles brought greetings on behalf of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, and Marvin Geist, President of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board of Directors, brought greetings on behalf of the Foundation.

#### Presentations:

##### a) 2021 Year in Review

The Authority's Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, reviewed the many accomplishments of 2021, including the progress made on the Conservation Authorities Act regulations through the conservation authorities working group; the completion of the Authority's new Strategic Plan - Transformation 2022-2024; improvements made to address requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act; a banner year for restoration projects; the acquisition of ecologically significant lands to our holdings; the successful execution of our virtual conservation awards ceremony; as well continually adapting education programs to ensure opportunities for participation. CAO Baldwin introduced the Authority's Executive Leadership Team and shared a video showcasing the Authority's 2021 highlights and accomplishments. To view this video, please click this link: [2021 Year in Review](#)

##### b) Climate Change: An Optimistic Outlook

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, provided a presentation regarding actions taken and decisions made around climate change. Climate change and the Authority's vision of a "healthy lake, healthy land, healthy life...for generations to come" do epitomize everything we need to do as a watershed community. Decisions we make today and

how seriously we take climate change will impact generations to come. We have choices to make on whether we continue down the path of high emissions or will we make concerted efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The business-as-usual pathway will have significant consequences to the environment, including more frequent and more severe storms leading to increased flooding and more phosphorus leading to Lake Simcoe. Predictions of milder winters and warmer summers will have significant impacts to watershed communities and ecosystems. With all this in mind he explained, a positive pathway to enhance resilience by dedicating resources is needed. Over the years the Authority has completed many projects toward this positive pathway in the areas of watercourse projects, streambank stabilizations projects, barrier removal projects, wetland and grassland projects, tree plantings, working with farmers on agricultural projects, stormwater management projects, and trail management and maintenance projects.

He noted that the Authority's new strategic plan recognizes that climate change cuts across all areas of the organization. With mitigation and adaptation strategies in place, the Authority has a dedicated team always ready to assist and is better positioned than every to bring our municipalities together to help tackle the challenge.

General Manager Longstaff introduced the City of Barrie's Risk Management Official, Katie Thompson, to present on the City's path towards climate resiliency through mitigation and adaptation. Katie noted that with many creeks flowing through the City to Kempenfelt Bay, much of their adaptation efforts have focused on managing stormwater. She described some of the devastating impacts the City has experienced due to some recent weather events, as well as the enormous costs of repair. It was determined that adaptation was needed to curb the financial impacts of climate change, and it is estimated that every dollar spent on adaption can yield anywhere from \$9 to \$38 in avoided damage costs.

A Climate Change adaptation strategy was completed in the City of Barrie, an implementation plan was developed, and budget friendly initiatives were undertaken. The new draft official plan fully embraces sustainability as a key theme to growth management and outlines working with other agencies to fully understand future environmental trends. The plan recognizes the need for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and incorporates policies guiding infrastructure maintenance and development in a manner that will allow the City to recover to weather events.

Another area of focus for the City is stormwater infrastructure and efforts on enhancing controls, and the City is working with the Authority on a project in the Kidds Creek subwatershed that will greatly reduce flooding and increase water quality.

Ms. Thompson noted that the City participates in the local climate change exchange working group that enables knowledge and resource sharing to assist with capacity building and expand successful action. The group looks to reduce overlapping efforts and use resources efficiently.

She shared information on the City's Community Energy Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Plan, noting the draft plan will be posted soon on the City's website for public consultation and provided the following link for information: [www.buildingbarrie.ca/communityenergy](http://www.buildingbarrie.ca/communityenergy)

For more information on the Authority's Climate Change initiatives, please contact Ben Longstaff @ [b.longstaff@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:b.longstaff@lsrca.on.ca) or 905-895-1281 ext 305.

### **c) Top 10 Restoration Projects of 2021**

Manager, Restoration Services, Christa Sharp provided a presentation on the Authority's top ten restoration projects of 2021, noting there were so many great projects that it was difficult for her team to pick just ten. In fact, she noted that 102 restoration projects were completed for a total cost of \$1.88M. The top ten projects included:

- retrofitting a dry stormwater pond in Barrie, which involved the installation of an underground vault chamber that stores and infiltrates stormwater. This project will infiltrate over 16,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year and will reduce phosphorus by over 10 kg/year;
- a low impact development retrofit project in East Gwillimbury implemented to address runoff that would flow across the parking lot picking up pollutants on its way. The parking lot was resurfaced and a bioretention swale installed, which will filter over 400 m<sup>3</sup> of stormwater during major storm events;
- in partnership with private landowners, developing designs for construction for two properties; Bayfield Mall in Barrie and 404 Town Centre in Newmarket, to retrofit the properties with low impact development features to reduce negative impacts to nearby creeks. These projects will move forward in 2022 and 2023;
- another design project at Scanlon Creek to address erosion along the creeks by stabilizing the banks to reduce sediment. This project also involves continuing work done in 2015 by removing another barrier and connecting 1.7km of watercourse to the West Holland River, securing this creek for flash storms and adding more habitat for fish to spawn in;
- Kettleby Creek Restoration Project at Kettleby Valley Camp, where the removal of a dam and restoration of a portion of the creek allows coldwater fish to migrate through unhindered, also reconnecting endangered redbreasted dace to their spawning habitat;
- with prescribed burns being one of the top recommended methods to manage grasslands, the Authority undertook a 9 hectare burn at Innisfree in the Town of Innisfil and a 2.4 hectare burn at the Maple Cross Nature Reserve in King Township;

- increasing biodiversity and creating pollinator habitat by planting native wildflowers;
- working with livestock farmers to restrict livestock from watercourses, manage manure, and manage milkhouse waste. Outcomes included protecting 320m of streambank from erosion, creating 7.7M litres of storage capacity for manure and milkhouse waste, improving conditions for over 150 livestock and preventing 480 kg of phosphorus from entering our waterways;
- continuing work done in 2019 to reduce agricultural runoff at a Beaverton farm, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, buffer plantings, windbreaks, and new ditches are among the new features installed to reduce the amount of phosphorus, sediment and other contaminants from reaching Lake Simcoe;
- supported farmers in the Holland Marsh as they completed projects such as: seeding cover crops to help control wind and water erosion, prevent soil loss and reduce weed competition. Some farmers also installed de-dirting equipment and one farmer installed a closed loop wash water treatment system, reducing the amount of water used and preventing discharge into the local drainage ditch; and
- completed 27 community action projects with over 275 volunteers who planted over 6,700 native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, which improve wildlife and pollinator habitat, increase biodiversity, help store carbon, protect streambanks and create shade in urban environments.

To view these restoration projects, please click this link: [Top Ten Restoration Projects of 2021](#)

For more information on the Authority's Restoration Program, please contact Christa Sharp @ [c.sharp@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:c.sharp@lsrca.on.ca) or 905-895-1281 ext 115.

### **Conclusion of 2021 Business:**

Chair Emmerson concluded the Year 2021 business and deemed the Chair vacant.

### **2022 Business:**

The 2022 Business portion of the meeting was called to order by the CAO Rob Baldwin, who served as Chair Pro Temp during the election of the Chair and Vice Chair for 2022.

### **Election of Officers for 2022:**

Regional Municipality of York Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson was reappointed to the position of Chair for 2022, and Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Councillor Peter Ferragine was reappointed to the position of Vice Chair for 2022.



### **2022 Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule:**

The Board approved the following meeting schedule for the remainder of 2022. Meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will continue to be held virtually until further notice:

Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

No meeting in August

Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

To view LSRCA's AGM media release, please click the following link:

<https://www.lsrca.on.ca/Pages/Climate-Change-on-the-agenda-for-Conservation-Authority-Annual-General-Meeting.aspx>