

Board Meeting Highlights

May 26, 2023

Announcements:

- a) CAO Baldwin introduced Angela Coleman, General Manager of Conservation Ontario, who attended the meeting as a guest.
- b) CAO Baldwin advised that Councillor Bryn Hamilton, the Board's representative from the City of Barrie, will be stepping down from the Board due to a promotion in her full-time place of employment.
- c) CAO Baldwin was sad to announce the recent passing of Wil Wegman. Wil had a 30 plus year career at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and was a strong advocate for Lake Simcoe and the work of the Conservation Authority. Wil was one of the nicest people you could meet and was a great friend to many Conservation Authority staff. Wil will be sadly missed around the watershed.
- d) CAO Baldwin was pleased to advise that the International Association of Great Lakes Research conference took place a couple of weeks ago and included several presentations by Conservation Authority staff. General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Don Goodyear, spoke proudly of the presentations by staff, noting they each represented the organization very well presenting on leading edge science, as well as practical implementation programs. These presentations included our salt management/reduction efforts by Pam Strong; our work on carbon sequestration by Bill Thompson; land cover change and natural cover increase, also by Bill Thompson; our climate change mitigation and adaptation program by Kaitlyn Read; tributary health and the relationship to chloride concentrations by Rob Wilson; stormwater management focus and progress by Sheida Moin; Lake Simcoe nearshore monitoring and trends by Brian Ginn. Brian Ginn also co-chaired a Lake Simcoe session and presented on phosphorus loading trends and the departure from expected relationships, known as decoupling.

Presentations:

a) **Phosphorus Loads to Lake Simcoe – 2018 to 2020**

Manager, Environmental Science and Monitoring, David Lembcke, provided an update on phosphorus loads to Lake Simcoe from 2018 to 2020, noting that phosphorus loads to Lake Simcoe is one of the key metrics used to assess lake health and efforts to manage phosphorus within the watershed. The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan is focused on restoring a healthy and sustainable cold-water fish community in Lake Simcoe. To help achieve this goal, the target of 7 mg/L dissolved oxygen at the end of summer was set. He explained there is a connection

between phosphorus loads and dissolved oxygen in a lake. Decomposing plants and algae use up dissolved oxygen, and the amount of algae present in the lake is controlled to some extent by in-lake phosphorus levels. These phosphorus levels are in-turn controlled by phosphorus loading. In this way, the target 7 mg/L of dissolved oxygen is linked to an ideal phosphorus loading goal of 44 tonnes per year. As such phosphorus loads have been monitored since the 1990s to track the total amount of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe from all sources. The report [Phosphorus-Loads-Update-2018-2020](#) provides an update on the three most recently calculated hydrologic years of 2018 to 2020.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Phosphorus Loads to Lake Simcoe 2018-2020 Presentation](#)

b) Conservation Authority Lands Overview

Director, Conservation Lands, Phil Davies, provided an overview of Conservation Authority owned lands, noting the Conservation Authority owns, manages or holds easements over 36 properties that include a range of landscapes, ecosystem types and recreational opportunities. Most of the properties are open for the public to visit and explore at their leisure, providing communities with many benefits in addition to environmental conservation, offering opportunities for passive recreational pursuits, including hiking, bird watching, dog walking, picnics and other activities in all four seasons. He explained that properties are acquired through purchases, donations, and transfers and include well-used and loved properties within town centres and some more remote areas accessible only by foot or canoe. They range in size from the 0.43ha Beaverton Dam Conservation Area to the 500ha Beaver River Wetland Conservation Area in Brock Township. The Conservation Authority has been acquiring properties since the 1950s, and the 358ha Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve in Georgina was the latest to be added in 2022. While staff manage the majority, all or a portion of some properties are maintained under agreement by the host municipality. Durham Regional Forest is owned by the Region and managed by the Conservation Authority under a formal Agreement scheduled to expire in 2023. The Conservation Authority is also party to Conservation Easement Agreements for two private property landholdings, playing a role in ensuring the long-term protection of the natural heritage features they protect. Collectively, landholdings include about 2,750ha of land with over 120km of trails.

Recently, eight properties were enrolled in the Federal government's Canada Target 1 Program, an international commitment for protected areas to conserve 25% of Canada's lands and oceans by 2025, working toward conserving 30% by 2030. These Conservation Authority lands now count towards Canada's national and international area-based conservation targets and will be publicly showcased for the contributions they make beyond the watershed.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Conservation Authority Landholdings Presentation](#)

c) Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Overview

Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Executive Director, Cheryl Taylor, provided an overview of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, noting it was incorporated in 1973 to aid the Conservation Authority in the cultivation and advancement of conservation by serving as a permanent custodian of their endowment funds. The Foundation has strong support of its Board of Directors, who volunteer their time to further the vision and mission of the Foundation. Over the years, the Foundation has supported hundreds of Conservation Authority projects and outdoor education programs, while adhering to strict governance. The Connect Campaign, the Foundation's first capital campaign, launched in 2018 and is well underway raising funds for a much need new Nature Centre to house the Conservation Authority's Education Program. To learn more about the Foundation, please visit their website through this link: <https://www.lakesimcoefoundation.ca/>

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Presentation](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Phosphorus Loads to Lake Simcoe – 2018 to 2020

The Board received Staff Report No. 24-23-BOD regarding phosphorus loads to Lake Simcoe from 2018 to 2020.

Conservation Authority Lands Overview

The Board received Staff Report No. 25-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Lands program.

Offsetting Program Results – Reconciliation to December 31, 2022

The Board received Staff Report No. 26-23-BOD regarding an update on the Conservation Authorities Offsetting Cash in Lieu funds and Key Performance Indicators.

2023 Budget Restatement

The Board received Staff Report No. 27-23-BOD regarding the restatement of the approved 2023 Budget and approved the request to allocate deferred funds to be used for one-time investments in Asset management, data collections and research and support of ongoing projects.

Water Balance Recharge Offsetting Policy and Phosphorus Offsetting Policy Updates

The Board received Staff Report No. 28-23-BOD and approved the requested updates regarding the Water Balance Recharge Offsetting Policy, Phosphorus Offsetting Policy and Lake Simcoe Region Water Balance Recharge Offsetting Policy.

Western Creek Construction Project

The Board received Staff Report No. 29-23-BOD regarding the Western Creek Restoration/Infrastructure Protection Project RFT- CA-2023-001, Town of Newmarket and approved the recommended bidder, R&M Construction (560789 Ontario Limited), for the tender contract bid price of \$602,675.11 (excluding HST).

Confidential Legal Matter

The Board received a presentation regarding a confidential legal matter, along with the accompanying Confidential Staff Report No. 30-23-BOD.

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