



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
No. BOD-03-19 – Friday, March 22, 2019
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, ON

MINUTES

LSRCA Board Members Present:

Regional Chairman W. Emmerson, Chair
Councillor S. Macpherson, Vice Chair
Mayor D. Barton
Mayor B. Drew
Councillor A. Eek
Councillor K. Ferdinands
Councillor P. Ferragine
Councillor W. Gaertner
Mayor V. Hackson
Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre
Mayor M. Quirk
Regional Councillor T. Vegh
Councillor A. Waters
Councillor E. Yeo

Regrets:

Mayor D. Bath-Hadden
Councillor N. Harris
Councillor C. Riepma
Township of Ramara

Guests:

J. Gibbons, Lake Simcoe Watch
Councillor R. Gilliland, Aurora
A. Truyens, Aware Simcoe
L. Wells, Lake Simcoe Watch

LSRCA Staff Present:

M. Walters, Chief Administrative Officer
R. Baldwin, GM Planning & Development
M. Critch, GM, Corporate and Financial Services
B. Kemp, GM, Conservation Lands
B. Longstaff, GM, Integrated Watershed Management
K. Christensen, Manager Human Resources
K. Yemm, Manager, Communications
T. Barnett, Coordinator, BOD/CAO
L. Aspden, Coordinator, Tributary Monitoring
S. Auger, Stormwater Management Coordinator
M. Bessey, Acting Manager, Planning
B. Booth, Manager, Regulations
A. Brown, Senior Environmental Regulations Analyst
S. Chadwick, Communications Specialist
P. Davies, Manager, Forestry and Greenspace Services
B. Ginn, Limnologist
N. Hamley, Manager, Education
N. Knight, Communications Specialist
D. Lembcke, Manager, Environmental Science and Monitoring
S. McKinnon, Manager, Budget and Business Analysis
L. McLean, Restoration Project Specialist
K. Read, Integrated Watershed Management Specialist
C. Sharp, Restoration Program Coordinator
G. Sinclair, Administrative Assistant, Office of the CAO
C. Taylor, Executive Director, LSCF

I. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None noted for this meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: M. Quirk

BOD-039-19 **RESOLVED THAT the content of the Agenda for the March 22, 2019 meeting of the LSRCA Board of Directors be approved as presented. CARRIED**

To view this presentation, please click this link: [LSRCA's 2019 Budget Presentation](#)

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: K. Ferdinands

BOD-042-19 RESOLVED THAT the presentation by General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch, regarding LSRCA's 2019 Proposed Budget be received for information. CARRIED

The Board approved Staff Report No. 13-19-BOD regarding LSRCA's Draft 2019 Budget. Approval of the 2019 Budget was taken by weighted vote, the results of which are found in the table below.

Moved by: V. Hackson

Seconded by: K. Ferdinands

BOD-043-19 RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 13-19-BOD regarding LSRCA's 2019 Proposed Budget be received; and

FURTHER THAT the 2019 Budget and all projects therein be adopted; and

FURTHER THAT LSRCA staff be authorized to enter into agreements and/or execute documents with private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations or governments and their agencies for the undertaking of projects for the benefit of LSRCA and funded by the sponsoring organization or agency, including projects that have not been provided for in the approved budget; and

FURTHER THAT as required by Ontario Regulation 139/96 (formerly O.S. 231/97), this recommendation and the accompanying budget documents, including the schedule of matching and non-matching levies, be approved by weighted vote. CARRIED

Representative	Partner Municipality	YEA	NAY	CVA
Mayor Dave Barton	Durham Region (Uxbridge)	X		2.00%
Mayor Debbie Bath-Hadden	Durham Region (Brock)	absent		2.00%
Mayor Bobbie Drew	Durham Region (Scugog)	X		2.00%
Councillor Avia Eek	York Region (King)	X		9.17%
Regional Chairman Wayne Emmerson (Chair)	York Region (at Large)	X		9.17%
Councillor Ken Ferdinands	York Region (Whitchurch-Stouffville)	X		9.17%
Councillor Peter Ferragine	Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	X		5.00%
Councillor Wendy Gaertner	York Region (Aurora)	X		9.17%
Mayor Virginia Hackson	York Region (East Gwillimbury)	X		9.17%
Councillor Natalie Harris	City of Barrie	absent		8.75%
Councillor Shira Harrison-McIntyre	Town of New Tecumseth	X		0.49%
Councillor Scott Macpherson (Vice Chair)	Township of Oro-Medonte	X		1.04%
Mayor Margaret Quirk	York Region (Georgina)	X		9.17%
Councillor Clare Riepma	City of Barrie	absent		8.75%
Regional Councillor Tom Vegh	York Region (Newmarket)	X		9.17%
Councillor Alex Waters	Town of Innisfil	X		4.36%
Councillor Emmett Yeo	City of Kawartha Lakes	X		0.39%
No representative appointed	Township of Ramara	absent		1.01%
	Total			100.00%
	Total in attendance			79.47%

LSRCA's 2019 Annual Operating Plan Priorities

Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, provided an overview of LSRCA's 2019 Annual Operating Plan priorities, which is a list of 11 priorities listed below as set by staff:

1. Emergency Mapping and Flood Relief – this sophisticated digital system is a multi-year project to develop a capital strategy to identify oncoming storms and inform impacts to people, roads, etc.
2. Enhance Sediment and Erosion Control Activities – working with our municipal partners and BILD, looking at more stringent policy and new standards.
3. Smart, Sustainable Community Building Practices - working with building industry on better site design, accelerating the planning process by doing so, and making communities more sustainable.
4. Reporting Key Environmental Trends & Change - identifying new and emerging contaminants and develop key performance indicators.
5. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy - looking at the impact of carbon footprint.
6. Operational Review of LSRCA Programs and Services – done every four years to improve efficiencies, we look at what we are doing in an effort to streamline processes.
7. Asset Management – following York Region process, plan and reserve to be in place.
8. Talent Management – deals with performance appraisals and succession planning;
9. Improving Service Delivery: Plan Review – working with the Province to improve and streamline services; working with industry, including reporting back to public.
10. Renovation of the Scanlon Creek Operations Centre - to create a functional office space for staff with the ability to allow for some future growth.
11. Fundraising/Construction of New Education Centre – fundraising effort with a view to be shovel ready by 2021.

To view this presentation, please click this link [LSRCA's Annual Operating Priorities 2019](#)

Moved by: B. Drew

Seconded by: S. Macpherson

**BOD-044-19 RESOLVED THAT the presentation by Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, regarding LSRCA's 2019 Annual Operating Plan priorities be received for information.
CARRIED**

b) The Health of Lake Simcoe

Dr. Brian Ginn, Limnologist, provided an update on the current status and trends in the environmental health of Lake Simcoe. The LSRCA Lake Science Program was started in 2008 to address lake concerns of residents, fill data gaps left by other monitoring programs, and investigate new and emerging environmental issues on Lake Simcoe. Dr. Ginn stated that although phosphorus loads to the lake are variable, and above the 44 tonne LSP target, they are being driven primarily by tributary inflows. Phosphorus concentrations within the lake, however, have improved since the 1980s, as have concentrations of deep water oxygen. Invasive zebra and quagga mussels are impacting Lake Simcoe. LSRCA lake surveys in 2009 and 2015 show that although zebra mussels are now rare in Lake Simcoe, they have been replaced with quagga mussels that have invaded deep water habitats that were unavailable to zebra mussels. Quagga mussels are further changing the ecology of the lake, increasing water clarity in spring and channelling more energy into deep water habitats.

One impact of these invasive mussels and phosphorus reduction is an increase in water clarity that has increased the habitat available for aquatic plants. LSRCA surveys in 2008, 2013, and 2018 have identified several locations in the lake with high amount of plants. An invasive plant species, starry stonewort, was recorded in 2009 by LSRCA and has since been spreading across the lake. Further increases in this plant will disrupt shallow water ecology and recreation on the lake. LSRCA has partnered with 25 other agencies in North America to develop management and control strategies for starry stonewort.

Climate change is further impacting Lake Simcoe with the warm water period increasing by 28 days since 1980, and the period of ice cover decreasing by 33 days since the 1800s. Run-off from winter salt use is increasing chloride concentrations in the lake and we will reach a critical level in 56 years. Although the health of Lake Simcoe is good, there are challenges related to climate and invasive species that need to be understood. Management options must treat underlying problems and these improvements will take time.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [The Health of Lake Simcoe](#)

Moved by: A. Waters

Seconded by: E. Yeo

BOD-045-19 **RESOLVED THAT the presentation by Limnologist, Brian Ginn, regarding the Health of Lake Simcoe be received for information. CARRIED**

VI. HEARINGS

There were no hearings at this meeting.

VII. DEPUTATIONS

Mr. Jack Gibbons, Chair, Lake Simcoe Watch, made a deputation to the Board regarding the Lake Simcoe Watch letter of January 31, 2019, which the Board received at their February 22, 2019 meeting. Mr. Gibbons urged Board members to direct staff to work with its municipal partners and the provincial government to put plans in place to achieve aggressive targets on phosphorus reduction and forest coverage by 2026.

CAO Mike Walters noted that while he appreciated Mr. Gibbons' concern for the environment and Lake Simcoe, the targets he was asking for are not achievable by 2026. He then advised Mr. Gibbons that in fact significant progress has been made to reduce phosphorus loads to Lake Simcoe since 1990. The progress to-date has been largely realized through the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy, a partnership led by LSRCA (involving all levels of government, First Nations, stakeholders, and the watershed community) and more recently through the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (2009) lead by the then Ministry of Environment and now by the newly formed Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Since the 1990s, phosphorus loads have been reduced by more than 25 metric tons through source controls and policy.

In collaboration with the province, municipal partners and the watershed community, LSRCA has also planted more than 3 million trees, completed more than 2,500 projects with the agricultural community to reduce runoff, and recently more than 50 urban stormwater projects, all designed to reduce phosphorus entering the Lake.

LSRCA has also collaborated with MECP, member municipalities and the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) to implement two first-of-their-kind policy/programs. In July 2016 the LSRCA Board approved improved standards for stormwater management to mitigate impacts from new development, and on January 1, 2018 the Phosphorus Offsetting Program, which is generating revenue to complete more stormwater quality improvement projects throughout the watershed. It is estimated that these two programs combined will reduce more than 13.5 tonnes of phosphorus from urban runoff entering Lake Simcoe by 2031. In addition, he was pleased to note that the Province of Ontario has a renewed commitment to improving the health of Lake Simcoe as outlined in the new MECP "A Made in Ontario Environmental Plan". Based on this plan and the commitment from the Board of Directors, LSRCA will continue to assist the Province and partner with First Nations, our member municipalities and community stakeholders, to improve the health and quality of Lake Simcoe.

The CAO went on to advise that given the complexity and cost of watershed management efforts, it is essential that a new phosphorus reduction strategy be established based on SMART planning principles. Based on our most current science and in recognition of what needs to be done, we know that Mr. Gibbons' timeline to achieve the phosphorus loading target is not realistic; and furthermore, significant resources and a long-term commitment of many will be required in order to implement it. In the absence of a new SMART strategy, it is premature and would be irresponsible for LSRCA to agree that the phosphorus loading target could be met. Doing so would only raise unfair and unrealistic expectations among watershed stakeholders and residents. As Dr. Ginn said in his presentation, "it has taken more than 100 years for Lake Simcoe's health to decline and it will take decades for it to be restored."

In response to Mr. Gibbons' proposed target of 40% for a Natural Heritage System, CAO Walters noted that currently the Lake Simcoe watershed contains 45% natural heritage cover and that LSRCA has a goal of increasing this to 66% cover with high connectivity. In July 2018, the Board of Directors approved LSRCA's Natural Heritage Systems & Restoration Strategy, which forms the roadmap to restoring a wide variety of natural heritage features within the watershed and identifies specific targets and locations. As with the phosphorus target, the goal of increasing natural cover to 66% will also take time to achieve.

Critical factors to achieving this goal are the cost and the availability of tree seedlings. To add 5% forest cover to the watershed, current conservative estimates reveal we would require 32 million seedlings (which exceeds the total seedling supply for the entire province) and a cost of \$84 million dollars for seedling purchase and planting. Based on SMART planning principles, LSRCA has established a 40 year timeframe to achieve this goal, allowing time for tree nurseries to increase production and to plan for a minimum of \$2.1 million annual planting costs.

LSRCA's Mission is to work with our community to protect and restore the Lake Simcoe watershed by leading research, policy and action. LSRCA's commitment from the Board of Directors and staff is that we will continue in our leadership role to achieve this mission. LSRCA's Board has reaffirmed a continued support to the Province of Ontario, specifically MECP, in implementing the recommendations of the LSPP, in partnership with First Nations, our municipalities and watershed community.

CAO Walters concluded that it will take time to achieve these aggressive targets and it will require the cooperation of all levels of government and the watershed community to do so. He invited Mr. Gibbons and the Lake Simcoe Watch group of organizations to work with LSRCA staff and Board to achieve these shared goals.

Moved by: S. Macpherson

Seconded by: D. Barton

BOD-046-19 **RESOLVED THAT the deputation by Mr. Jack Gibbons, Chair, Lake Simcoe Watch, be received for information. CARRIED**

Chair Emmerson pulled forward to be received at this time Item No. 2, Staff Report 14-19-BOD in response to Correspondence from Lake Simcoe Watch.

2. Response to Correspondence from Lake Simcoe Watch

Moved by: S. Macpherson

Seconded by: D. Barton

BOD-047-19 **RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 14-19-BOD regarding the Lake Simcoe Watch correspondence dated January 31, 2019 be received; and**

FURTHER THAT the CAO be directed to respond to Lake Simcoe Watch on behalf of LSRCA. CARRIED

VIII. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

With Item 2 having previously been discussed, Items No. 1 and 5 were identified as items requiring separate discussion.

IX. ADOPTION OF ITEMS NOT REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

Items No. 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 were identified as items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: V. Hackson

Seconded by: B. Drew

BOD-048-19 **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**

3. Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications for the period January 1 to December 31, 2018

BOD-049-19 **RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 15-19-BOD regarding monitoring of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2018 be received for information. CARRIED**

4. Changes to the Municipal Act that Allow for Amendments to Municipal Site Alteration By-laws

BOD-050-19 **RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 16-19-BOD regarding changes to the Municipal Act that allow for amendments to municipal Site Alteration By-laws be received for information. CARRIED**

6. Scanlon Creek Operations Centre Renovation Update

BOD-051-19 **RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 18-19-BOD regarding an update on the Scanlon Creek Operations Centre Renovation Project and the results of the recent post tender addendum be received; and**

FURTHER THAT a draw of \$400,000 from the asset management reserve to fund a portion of the project be approved; and

FURTHER THAT that staff be directed to contract the works associated with the Scanlon Creek Operations Centre Renovation Project to W.S Morgan. CARRIED

7. Meeting Provincial Priorities for Reducing Regulatory Burden

BOD-052-19 **RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 19-19-BOD regarding meeting provincial priorities for reducing regulatory burden be received; and**

FURTHER THAT the Board of Directors endorse the three key solutions developed by the Conservation Ontario working group to: improve client service and accountability; increase speed of approvals; and reduce “red tape” and regulatory burden; and

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to work with Conservation Ontario and LSRCA clients to identify additional improvements; and

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to implement these identified improvements as soon as possible; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be sent to local Municipal Councils and MPPs. CARRIED

8. BDO Canada LLP – Audit Planning Report for 2018 Annual Audit

BOD-053-19 **RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 20-19-BOD regarding BDO Canada LLP – Audit Planning Report for 2018 Annual Audit be received for information. CARRIED**

X. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

1. Correspondence

- a) Councillor Gaertner asked CAO Walters if there were any updates regarding the MECP letter included in the agenda regarding the future of Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Program. CAO Walters noted that there will be funding for 2019, and staff are in the process of developing work plans. He also noted that funding post 2019 is uncertain at this time, but discussions are taking place, and conservation authorities need to show the province this program's value to the residents of Ontario.

Moved by: W. Gaertner

Seconded by: A. Eek

- b) Mayor Quirk advised the Town of Georgina passed a resolution to host a forum to discuss the health of Lake Simcoe. They are looking to hold this forum in May.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: T. Vegh

Seconded by: D. Barton

BOD-059-19 **RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned @ 11:40 a.m. CARRIED**



Regional Chairman W. Emmerson
Chair

Michael Walters
Chief Administrative Officer