



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
No. BOD-08-20 – Friday, July 24, 2020

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

LSRCA Board Members Present:

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

Regrets:

Mayor D. Bath-Hadden
Councillor A. Waters
Township of Ramara

Guests:

H. Ampagoumian, Georgina resident
M. Anderson, Georgina Post
C. Bennett, Georgina resident
D. Harding, Town of Georgina
S. Jamie, Georgina resident
A. Lensen, Georgina resident
I. Petrushevshy, Georgina resident
G. Slark, Georgina resident
R. Volpe, Georgina resident
K. Wolfe, Georgina resident

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, Director Human Resources
C. Taylor, Executive Director, LSCF
K. Yemm, Director, Corporate Communications & Engagement
T. Barnett, Coordinator, BOD/CAO
M. Bessey, Director, Planning
K. Biddie, Outdoor Educator
A. Brown, Director Regulations
C. Connell, Outdoor Educator
P. Davies, Manager, Forestry and Greenspace Services
N. Hamley, Manager, Education
C. Hawson, Hydrogeologist
S. Jagminas, Senior Communications Advisor
N. Knight, Communications Specialist, Web and Content Marketing
K. Nesbitt, Administrative Assistant, Engineering
N. O'Dell, Communications Specialist
G. Peat, Manager, Director, Information Services & Technology
M. Rosato, Communications Specialist
D. Ruggle, Planner II
R. Sadowska, Conservation Engineer
C. Sharp, Restoration Program Coordinator
T. Stanford, Senior Outdoor Educator

I. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None noted for this meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: C. Riepma

Seconded by: V. Hackson

CAO Mike Walters noted that he is unaware of why the property was not conveyed back to the Town of Georgina, but funds were available at that time for the dam maintenance. It is important to note the dam is not a flood control structure and as a result does not qualify for funding from the Province.

He went on to note that the dam is in fact a flood control hazard and the Authority's policy is to remove dams and online ponds. They are harmful to the environment as they block fish passage, back up sediment and pollutants, make water warmer, and reduce oxygen in downstream water for other species. There are a number of reports by Environment Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry detailing their harmful effects. For these reasons, the Authority recommends discontinuing the operation of the dam. If there was a use other than recreation, it would make a stronger argument for the Authority to continue operating the dam.

While the Authority has been following an operational plan laid out by the Province, CAO Walters explained that we are under no obligation to continue to operate the dam. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry does not dictate if the dam should be operated, but rather how it should be managed if it is operational. There is no requirement for the Authority to put back the stop logs.

CAO Walters advised that the Authority is willing to consult with the community. The best approach is to work with the Town of Georgina and undertake consultation and come up with scenarios and opportunities moving forward. He reiterated that the Authority is not looking to operate the dam in 2021, as the engineers report provides for one to five years in which to complete the structural fixes, with an estimated price tag of \$550,000. A solution and resources will need to be found should the work be undertaken, as LSRCA does not have these resources.

Mayor Quirk noted there is lots of concern within the Pefferlaw community and asked that recommendation No. 7 in the staff report be deferred until ownership has been confirmed and public consultation has been completed, noting that the pandemic will present some challenges for public consultation at this time.

CAO Walters noted that the stop logs are going in once the necessary repairs and welding is done, which addresses the immediate concerns. He then proposed a meeting between LSRCA staff and the Town of Georgina staff to develop a workplan, to ensure all options are presented.

Councillor Harrison-McIntyre questioned why the Authority would continue to operate the dam if it is contrary to its mandate. With the scientific information available, she would not support continuing to operate it. She suggested perhaps ownership could be transferred back to the Town of Georgina, and they can continue to operate if they so choose. CAO Walters noted this option is one of the scenarios to be considered.

Mayor Barton shared his personal attachment to the Pefferlaw dam and noted he feels more time is needed to complete the consultation and explore funding options.

Chair Emmerson put forth an amended recommendation to approve recommendations 1 through 6 and to defer 7 until public consultation has occurred and all options have been considered.

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: D. Barton

BOD-090-20 RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 36-20-BOD regarding Pefferlaw Dam Ownership Review, Structural Assessment, and Recommendations be received; and

FURTHER THAT the following recommendations be approved:

- 1. That the Board direct Authority staff to complete remedial welding on the truss supports of the Pefferlaw Dam as soon as possible.**
- 2. That the Board approve a request to the Town of Georgina to share the cost to complete the remedial welding works.**
- 3. That upon completion of the welding repairs, Authority staff install the stoplogs, and following the Dam Operational Plan remove them again in the Fall to comply with provincially approved operating protocols.**
- 4. That the Authority maintain the closure to pedestrian access over the bridge on the dam structure.**
- 5. That the Authority continue to seek confirmation of ownership of the dam structure from the Province.**
- 6. That the Authority, with the Town of Georgina, undertake community consultation regarding the current and future status of the Pefferlaw Dam; and**

FURTHER THAT the decision regarding the recommendation that the Authority permanently discontinue operation and stoplog management of the Pefferlaw Dam beyond the fall of 2020 be deferred until public consultation has been completed.
CARRIED

V. PRESENTATIONS

a) LSRCA Education Program 2020 Accomplishments

Manager, Education, Nicole Hamley, provided an overview of LSRCA's Education Program 2020 accomplishments, noting that challenges began early in 2020 with the escalation of teacher job action, which saw the cancellation of nearly all Scanlon Creek field trips and planned teacher workshops. COVID-19 then resulted in the cancellation of all planned education programs and services, and within two weeks and tremendous support from Corporate Communications, programming was moved entirely online. Online learning webpages were launched that served three varied audiences, which brought over 3,300 external viewers in the second quarter. Resource packages were put together and a series of videos were created.

An LSRCA Facebook page dedicated to Outdoor Learning has allowed for two-way engagement and sharing of resources as members are able to ask questions. Some great feedback has been received and teachers have been pleased to be able to share our posts in their own online platforms. By the end of June, this Facebook group had 1,000 followers, with a total worldwide reach now at just under 18,000.

This online learning experience has served many purposes – it has assured our watershed residents and community partners that we are still here to support nature connection; it has broaden our reach to new audiences, strengthened our reputation as leaders in outdoor education, developed our skill sets and expertise as we adapt and innovate, provided opportunities for collaboration both internally and externally, and set us up for success for Q3/Q4 and beyond.

Next steps include Summer Programming, a new online course “Introduction to Outdoor Learning”, and a new Do it Yourself Hike Series at Scanlon Creek.

Plans for the 2020/21 school year include a one-year contract extension with Simcoe County District School Board, a new hybrid model of Grade 7 program delivery with York Region District School Board with a focus on climate change, and a modified Forest School.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [LSRCA Education Program Accomplishments 2020 Q1 and Q2](#)

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: E. Yeo

BOD-091-20 **RESOLVED THAT the presentation by Manager, Education, Nicole Hamley regarding LSRCA’s Education Program 2020 Accomplishments be received for information. CARRIED**

b) LSRCA 2nd Quarter 2020 Financial Report and Forecast

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch, provided the Board with LSRCA’s 2nd Quarter 2020 Financial Report and Forecast, noting that LSRCA business operations have been significantly impacted by COVID-19; however, management took immediate and measured action to address the changes and minimize the financial impact. While there is a projected deficit being forecast for 2020, additional municipal funding is not anticipated. Uncertainty, however, does remain for Q3 & Q4, but there are also funding opportunities. Overall, the financial condition of LSRCA remains strong, and staff continue to keep a close eye on reserves and deferred revenue.

GM Critch shared some highlights for Q2, including that 2020 revenue has been delayed, deferred or lost in various programs, due to COVID 19 restrictions, some project work has been deferred into Q3 and Q4. The Scanlon Operation Centre redevelopment is substantially complete, and some operational savings have been identified due to staff working from work. An operational deficit of \$50,00 is expected for the end of Q2.

Looking forward at opportunities and risks, GM Critch noted that details on the impacts of Bill 108 are not all available at this time, and some fine tuning will be done once this information is available. New opportunities are available through Federal and Provincial infrastructure and stimulus programs. There continues to be uncertainty of timing with regards to full return to the offices and the related building/supplies cost. In summary, GM Critch noted that operations have been significantly impacted by COVID-19, but we are still doing all the work, have minimized the financial impact and made significant changes to process. It is anticipated there will be a deficit at year-end, but we continue to seek ways to eliminate or minimize it. Our financial condition remains strong, and staff continue to look for ways to minimize expenditures.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [2nd Quarter 2020 Financial Update](#)

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: B. Drew

BOD-092-20 **RESOLVED THAT the presentation by General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch, regarding LSRCA’s 2nd Quarter 2020 Financial Report and Forecast be received for information. CARRIED**

Staff Report No. 33-20-BOD regarding LSRCA's 2nd Quarter 2020 Financial Report and Forecast was included in the agenda.

Moved by: P. Ferragine

Seconded by: B. Drew

BOD-093-20 RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 33-20-BOD regarding LSRCA's Second Quarter Financial Report and Year-End Forecast for the period ending June 30, 2020 be received; and

FURTHER THAT Staff be directed to use deferred revenues from prior years to fund 2020 AOP items where needed; and

FURTHER THAT Staff be directed to use the Rate Stabilization reserve to fund COVID-19 related expenditures from March through December 31, 2020. CARRIED

c) Climate Change Mitigation Strategy for the Lake Simcoe Watershed

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, provided the Board with a presentation on the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy for the Lake Simcoe Watershed, which is ready to be released. He provided a brief overview of the strategies and most importantly some of the goals and recommendations that provide direction to LSRCA to help mitigate the effects of climate change at a local level. This strategy is the third in a series to be completed, the first being the carbon reduction strategy that completed in 2019, followed by the adaptation strategy earlier in 2020, with the aim of this last strategic document to identify what role LSRCA can play at a watershed level to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, while also respecting our mandate.

GM Longstaff explained how staff first quantified the situation by estimating emissions and carbon sequestration to develop an overall carbon budget that brings both the emissions and sequestration estimates together for the baseline year.

He reviewed the five goals: i) to provide leadership in the field of climate change and carbon sequestration by continuing to support our municipal partners; ii) to effectively communicate the necessary information in order to educate and empower people within the Lake Simcoe watershed to take action to combat climate change within their communities; iii) to provide the tools and resources that will allow our LSRCA and our municipal partners to apply best practices to carbon reduction or sequestration efforts; iv) to use the tools and resources to expand and build upon our collective knowledge and understanding of climate change mitigation and carbon sequestration; and v) to support municipalities in incorporating carbon sequestration into community design and energy plans.

GM Longstaff reviewed the next steps, including releasing and promoting the strategy, preparing and an implementation plan, implementing the recommendations (which is underway), and tracking and reporting progress.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Climate Change Mitigation Strategy](#)

Moved by: K. Ferdinands

Seconded by: R. Greenlaw

Staff Report No. 35-20-BOD regarding LSRCA's 2021 Budget Assumptions was included in the agenda.

Moved by: V. Hackson

Seconded by: C. Riepma

BOD-097-20 RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 35-20-BOD regarding the recommended budget assumptions for the 2021 fiscal year be approved. CARRIED

VI. HEARINGS

There were no hearings at this meeting.

VIII. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

With Item No. 2 previously already dealt with, Item No. 1a) was identified under items requiring separate discussion.

IX. ADOPTION OF ITEMS NOT REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

Items No. 1b), 1c), 1d), and 3 were identified as items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: K. Aylwin

Seconded by: M. Quirk

BOD-098-20 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

1. Correspondence (Items b, c, and d)

BOD-099-20 RESOLVED THAT correspondence listed in the agenda as Items 1b), 1c) and 1d) be received for information. CARRIED

3. LSRCA's Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications for the Period January 1 through June 30, 2020

BOD-100-20 RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 37-20-BOD regarding monitoring of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through June 30, 2020 be received for information. CARRIED

X. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

1. Correspondence (Item a)

Councillor Eek asked for clarification on the Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund whether the program was cancelled or if the term of the program was completed. CAO Walters advised that the original five-year term was extended once and continued to its completion.

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: D. Barton

Moved by: D. Barton

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-106-20 **RESOLVED THAT the verbal update regarding a Human Resources matter be received for information.** CARRIED

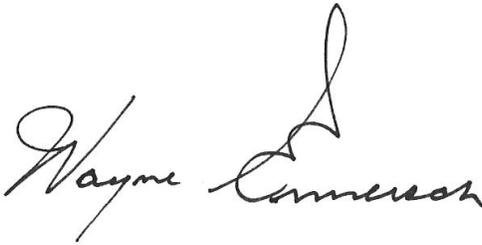
XII. OTHER BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: R. Greenlaw

Seconded by: K. Ferdinands

BOD-107-20 **RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned @ 11:35 a.m.** CARRIED



Regional Chairman W. Emmerson
Chair

Michael Walters
Chief Administrative Officer