

# Board Meeting Highlights

April 26, 2019

## **Announcements:**

- a) CAO Mike Walters advised that LSRCA's Annual Conservation Awards evening will be held on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Madsen's Gardens, located at 160 Bayview Parkway in Newmarket. Nominations are now open until June 14<sup>th</sup> and can be made through the following link: [2019 Conservation Award Nomination Form](#). For assistance, please contact Katarina Zeppieri @ 905-895-1281 ext 116 or [k.zeppieri@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:k.zeppieri@lsrca.on.ca).
- b) CAO Walters advised that LSRCA's Communications team worked with LSRCA's Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn to hold a Facebook live segment of the Lake Doctor, where followers had their questions answered live, as well as after the fact. Check out LSRCA's Facebook page for details.
- c) CAO Walters was very pleased to advise that on April 1<sup>st</sup>, LSRCA's Chair Wayne Emmerson became the Chair of Conservation Ontario, a non-profit association that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. For more information, please click this link for [Conservation Ontario](#).
- d) Chair Emmerson advised that on April 10<sup>th</sup>, LSRCA was well represented on Georgina Roger's TV show Politically Speaking – Issues and Insights, when Mike Walters was interviewed on the health of Lake Simcoe.

## **Presentations:**

### a) LSRCA's 2018 Audit Findings by BDO Canada LLP

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch introduced Trudy White of BDO Canada LLP, who provided the Board with an overview of the 2018 audit findings. BDO's final report to the Board of Directors was included in the agenda. Ms. White advised Board members that BDO conducted its audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards with the objective of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. The audit focused on risks specific to the business and key accounts. Internal controls were reviewed, and no controls were found that needed adjustment. LSRCA's 2018 system conversion was tested and found to be done properly, and additional testing on journal entries was performed for reasonableness. She reported that no adjustments were required on the financial statements, which is very good and very rare.

### LSRCA's Stormwater Management Optimization Study Update

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, along with Tracy Patterson of Freeman Associates Ltd., provided an overview and update on LSRCA's Stormwater Management (SWM) Optimization Study. Ms. Patterson noted there are significant issues within municipalities around aging

infrastructure and extreme weather events, and lots of research has been done for best practices, and what is not working is managing stormwater within the municipal boundaries. A paradigm shift in SWM is needed from an individual municipality approach to a shared municipal approach. The East Holland River was chosen as the study area as it borders five municipalities, has lots of growth and development and is a nice size from a hydrologic and cost analysis perspective.

The study objectives included: using process-based decision modelling to evaluate the potential of an integrated, systems-based approach to SWM infrastructure; determining the operational implications (policy, programming, finance, etc.) of an integrated or systems-based approach to municipal SWM, and developing the tools and guidance for future SWM applications. She went on to note that the watershed needs to be considered as a whole, so that issues and infrastructure can be addressed upstream where needed.

GM Longstaff outlined the various funders of this project, as well as the three project stages: Stage 1 (2018): Secure funds, project team and advisory committee, model data compilation, and initiate build; Stage 2 (2019): Complete model build and life cycle costing, optimization modeling and scenarios - preferred management strategies, and initiate life cycle costing, and Stage 3 (2020): Reporting, outreach and engagement, policy implications and implementation plan.

GM Longstaff went on to note the progress made, including; establishing and engaging a multi-stakeholder technical advisory committee, selecting a consultant to complete optimization modeling through a competitive bid process, near completion of all data compilation and current state model configuration, as well as the development of an economic analysis framework and the collection and processing of financial data for the cost-benefit analysis.

CAO Walters thanked Ms. Patterson and GM Longstaff, noting this concept is leading edge and is being shared and presented across Canada. It is the best way to optimize offsetting money and will inform SWM decision making. To view this presentation, please click this link: [Stormwater Management Optimization Study Update](#)

### **Correspondence and Staff Reports:**

#### **Correspondence**

The Board received the following three pieces of correspondence:

- a) March 26th letter from the Town of Georgina regarding their Spring Forum to discuss the health of Lake Simcoe;
- b) March 29th letter from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Public Safety Canada proposal approval for \$431,250; and
- c) April 12th letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding notification of a reduction of the 2019-2020 transfer payment funding.

#### LSRCA's 2018 Draft Audited Financial Statements

The Board received Staff Report No. 21-19-BOD prepared by Manager of Finance, Katherine Toffan, regarding LSRCA's 2018 draft audited financial statements. The Board approved the 2018 draft audited financial statements, along with the appropriations to and from reserves as outlined in Schedule 8 of the 2018 draft audited financial statements. The Board authorized the distribution of the 2018 audited financial statements to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and LSRCA's banker.

#### Amendment to Stormwater Management Economic Optimization Study

The Board approved Staff Report No. 22-19-BOD, prepared by General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, regarding the amendment of an agreement with Freeman Associates Ltd. for completion of stormwater optimization study funded by the National Disaster Mitigation Program.

#### Financial Reserves Adequacy and Establishment of 2019 Targets for Reserve Balances

The Board received Staff Report No. 23-19-BOD, prepared by General Manager, Corporate & Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, regarding the 2018 year-end reserve status and approved the recommended targets for reserve balances in 2019. The Board directed staff to report to the Board of Directors semi-annually on the progress made in achieving the reserve targets, along with an action plan for long-term sustainability.

#### Proposed Fee Policy for Non-Profit Organizations

The Board approved Staff Report No. 24-19-BOD prepared by Senior Environmental Regulations Analyst, Ashlea Brown, regarding an addendum to LSRCA's Fees Policy to include a Non-Profit Fee Policy that allows fee discretion for registered non-profit organizations that operate to improve social welfare. This Non-Profit Fee Policy is effective June 1, 2019.

#### Appointment of LSRCA Enforcement Officer

The Board approved Staff Report No. 25-19-BOD prepared by Director, Regulations, Beverley Booth, which requested Ms. Amanda Mason be appointed as an Enforcement Officer for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

#### Modernizing Conservation Authority Operations; Conservation Authorities Act posting ERO#013-5018

The Board received Staff Report No. 26-19-BOD, prepared by CAO Mike Walters, which provided an update on the proposed Environmental Registry of Ontario posting entitled Modernizing Conservation Authority Operations; *Conservation Authorities Act*, No. ERO#013-5018 and directed staff to provide draft comments to the Board of Directors for review on May 13, 2019, with final submission to the Province on May 20, 2019. Staff was directed to report back to the Board of Directors at their May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with final comments as submitted and to circulate to member municipalities.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, please click the link below for LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage: [LSRCA Board Meetings](#)