

# Board Meeting Highlights

April 28, 2017

## Announcements:

### **Congratulations René Jarrett!**

Vice Chair Richard Simpson, CAO Mike Walters, and Chair Geoffrey Dawe were pleased to present LSRCA's General Manager, Communications & Education, René Jarrett, with a gift as they acknowledged and thanked her for her many contributions to LSRCA, as well as to other conservation authorities, during her career. René, who is set to retire on May 5<sup>th</sup>, will be greatly missed by LSRCA staff, Board members, and many business partners. Board members wished René much relaxation and happiness in the coming years.



*Presenting René with a Gift*

*Left to right: from LSRCA's Vice Chair, Councillor Richard Simpson, CAO Mike Walters; General Manager, Communications & Education René Jarrett, and Chair, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe*



*Left to right: from LSRCA's CAO Mike Walters; Vice Chair, Councillor Richard Simpson; Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Bill Thompson; General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff; and Chair, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe*

### **Friends of the Credit Award of Merit**

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, was pleased to announce that LSRCA, along with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, received an Award of Merit at the Credit Valley Conservation's annual Friends of the Credit Conservation Awards, recognizing leadership and collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries to improve water quality and promote sustainable parking lot and salt management practices.

**Presentations:**

a) LSRCA 2016 Audit Findings by BDO Canada LLP

Mr. Michael Jones, representing LSRCA’s Audit firm, BDO Canada LLP, attended the meeting to report to the Board on the audit of LSRCA’s 2016 Financial Statements. Mr. Jones noted that no significant issues were found during the audit and that BDO Canada received great cooperation from LSRCA’s staff throughout the audit. He went on to note that it is the opinion of BDO Canada LLP that the financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority as at December 31, 2016 and the results of its operations, changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

b) LSRCA Rural Restoration Program

Manager, Forestry and Stewardship, Philip Davies, provided the Board with a presentation regarding revisions to LSRCA’s Rural Restoration program, noting a priority action in LSRCA’s Strategic Plan is to develop a new Urban Restoration Program and update the Rural Stewardship Program in 1 year. He noted that the program has been delivering rural restoration programming across the watershed primarily through the Landowner Environmental Assistance Program (LEAP), which provides both technical and financial support to landowners across the watershed.

Mr. Davies went on to note that a workplan to facilitate the rural program update was developed that included a number of consultations and reviews. Recommendations from these consultations and reviews led to the establishment of three Restoration Focus Areas outlined below, which ensure that project outcomes contribute to meaningful, measureable impacts on the landscape:

<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Project Areas</b>
<b>Water Quality Improvement (WQI)</b>	<b>Protection and restoration of water quality</b> Streambank erosion, water temperature, nutrient inputs, barrier removal, sediment loading
<b>Soil Conservation (SC)</b>	<b>Protection and restoration of soil quality</b> Addressing water and wind erosion
<b>Natural Heritage Enhancement (NHE)</b>	<b>Protection, restoration and enhancement of natural heritage systems</b> Wildlife habitat, biodiversity, expanding, connecting and buffering natural heritage features

## **Correspondence and Staff Reports:**

### **Correspondence**

The Board received a copy of LSRCA's letter to the Hon. Kathleen Wynne requesting her support regarding the transfer of development rights regarding the Maple Lake Estates site. The Board also received a copy of LSRCA's response from Hon. Kathleen Wynne, which advised that the matter would be best dealt with by the Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

### **LSRCA 2016 Draft Audited Financial Statements**

The Board approved Staff Report No. 16-17-BOD, prepared by Manager, Finance, Katherine Toffan, which provided the Board with an update regarding the review LSRCA's 2016 Draft Audited Financial Statements and sought the Board's approval of appropriations to and from reserves from operations.

### **LSRCA's Rural Restoration Program**

The Board approved Staff Report No. 17-17-BOD prepared by Philip Davies, Manager, Forestry and Stewardship, which updated the Board regarding LSRCA's Rural Restoration Program and sought the Board's approval on proposed adjustments to the project grant categories.

### **Progress Report: New Education and Training Facility, Scanlon Creek Conservation Area**

The Board approved Staff Report No. 18-17-BOD prepared by General Manager, Communication and Education, Reneé Jarrett, which not only provided progress on the multiyear capital project to replace the existing Nature Centre facility at LSRCA's Scanlon Creek Conservation Area with a new education and training facility, but also identified key outcomes of work completed to date and planned milestones and timelines.

### **LSRCA's 2017 Proposed Budget**

The Board approved Staff Report No. 19-17-BOD prepared by Manager, Budget and Business Analysis, Susan McKinnon, regarding LSRCA's 2017 Proposed Budget. LSRCA's 2017 Budget was then approved by weighted vote, unanimously by those in attendance.

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](#)