

# Board Meeting Highlights

December 16, 2016

## **Announcements:**

### **LSRCA New Board Member**

Chair Dawe announced that Georgina Deputy Mayor/Regional Councillor Naomi Davison has been newly appointed to LSRCA's Board of Directors to fill the position left vacant upon the passing of Georgina Deputy Mayor/Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler. Board members welcomed Regional Councillor Davison to the meeting.

## **Presentations:**

### **Enhancing Education and Celebrating Success**

Manager, Education, Nicole Hamley, and Outreach Educator, Dana Eldon, provided the Board with a presentation regarding Enhancing Education and Celebrating Success. LSRCA's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 Goal No. 3 states: Create a more connected and engaged watershed community through education and engagement. They outlined LSRCA's education services areas, which include Outdoor Education at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, Watershed-Wide Outreach Education, and Conservation Kids Summer Camp at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area. The Education team members highlighted their plans into 2017, which includes the launch of three additional Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) certification courses, teacher professional development workshops, Schoolscaping pilot with Simcoe County District School Board, and the Nature Backpack pilot project in Aurora & Newmarket public libraries. Board members expressed a particular interest in the Nature Backpack project in public libraries and requested additional information on how to get more municipalities involved. This presentation is available through the following link: [Enhancing Education and Celebrating Success](#).

### **Wildlife Safe Passage Program**

Integrated Watershed Management Specialist, Kaitlyn Read, provided the Board with her presentation on the Wildlife Safe Passage Project, a project geared at reducing the road mortality rate for migrating turtles, as well as other herptiles. The project began with monitoring of various locations for one year, the results of which saw 7.4 animals killed per week during spring and fall. By installing simple retrofit ecopassages (fencing) between wetland and upland habitat where turtles are likely to migrate, the post-installation monitoring showed a significant decline of over 90% in turtle deaths. Going forward, staff hopes to continue monitoring and encourage changes to municipal policy requiring ecopassages be installed where new roads pass through wildlife hotspots. Educating the public on the importance of road ecology, creating a guidance manual for ecopassage implementation in the Lake Simcoe watershed, as well as municipal Lunch and Learns, are some of the initiatives staff are working to achieve. This presentation is available through the following link: [The Wildlife Safe Passage Project](#).

### LSRCA 2017 Preliminary Budget

Manager, Finance, Katherine Toffan, provided the Board with a presentation on LSRCA's 2017 Preliminary Budget, noting that the budget is close to 90% final, but some numbers are still to come after year end. She outlined the assumptions and budget drivers, as well as changes in revenue funding and 2017 expenditures. CAO Walters noted that the Board Budget Committee held its first meeting in November, and staff look forward to the Committee's input. This presentation is available through the following link: [2017 Preliminary Budget](#).

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

#### Correspondence

The Board received a copy of a November 4, 2016 letter to Kim Gavine of Conservation Ontario from the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, regarding the *Invasive Species Act*.

#### Budget Status Report

The Board received Staff Report No. 50-16-BOD, prepared by Manager, Finance, Katherine Toffan, which provided the Board with a summary of revenues and expenditures for the period ending November 30, 2016, as it relates to the 2016 budget approved by the Board on April 29, 2016.

#### Offsetting Compensation Funding Reserves

The Board approved Staff Report No. 51-16-BOD prepared by General Manager, Planning & Development, Rob Baldwin, which sought the Board's approval on establishing three (3) new Offsetting Compensation Fund Reserves within the System Priorities and Program Reserves category within the existing Authority schedule of reserves.

#### Provincial Grants supporting Lake Simcoe Protection Plan-Related Projects

The Board received Staff Report No. 52-16-BOD prepared by General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, which provided the Board of Directors with a summary of new Grant Funding Agreements between LSRCA and the Province of Ontario for Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) related projects.

#### Subwatershed Plan and Implementation Plan for the Canal and Mitchell Lakes, Talbot River and Whites Creek Subwatersheds

The Board approved Staff Report No. 53-16-BOD prepared by Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Bill Thompson, which sought the Board's approval for the Subwatershed Plan and Implementation Plan for the Canal and Mitchell Lakes, Talbot River and Whites Creek subwatersheds.

### 2017 Conservation Lands Fee Schedule

The Board approved Staff Report No. 54-16-BOD prepared by General Manager, Conservation Lands, which provided the Board of Directors with an update on the existing Conservation Lands Fee Schedule and sought approval of the revised 2017 Conservation Lands Fee Schedule.

### LSRCA Mosquito Spraying Policy

The Board approved Staff Report No. 55-16-BOD prepared by General Manager, Conservation Lands, which provided the Board of Directors with an update on the existing mosquito spraying policy and to seek Board approval on the revised policy.

### Township of Ramara Correspondence of December 13, 2016

The Board approved an amended recommendation regarding Staff Report No. 56-16-BOD, which was prepared by CAO Michael Walters, to address correspondence from the Township of Ramara received December 13, 2016, whereby the Township advised LSRCA that Council passed a motion to no longer be a member municipality of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority effective January 1, 2017. The correspondence received by the Township of Ramara followed a presentation on LSRCA programs and services made to Ramara Council by the CAO, the General Manager, Planning & Development, and the Chair on December 12, 2016. The original recommendation in the staff report included sending the report to member municipalities, Conservation Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. The recommendation was amended to only be sent to the Township of Ramara, in an effort to provide the Township an opportunity to research and discuss its options as per Section 13.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act prior to notifying the other member municipalities, Conservation Ontario, MNRF and MOECC. The presentation made on December 12<sup>th</sup> is available through the following link: [LSRCA Presentation to Ramara Township - December 12, 2016](#).

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