

Board Meeting Highlights

June 23, 2017

Announcements:

a) Honouring Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler, LSRCA Board Member

CAO Mike Walters, having recently participated in a meeting at the Town of Georgina to discuss ways in which to honour former Regional Councillor and LSRCA Board member Danny Wheeler who passed away in November 2016, was pleased to inform Board members that Georgina Council has approved renaming a Georgina student bursary and a Georgina Civic Centre boardroom, adding the Danny Wheeler Boulevard to their street name inventory list for future use, installing a plaque at De La Salle Park in this honour, as well as endorsing the Jackson's Point Harbourfront area as the preferred site for opportunities for recognition.

b) Journal Publication

CAO Mike Walters congratulated staff members for their article [Reducing Road Salt Application by Considering Winter Maintenance Needs in Parking Lot Design](#), that was published in the [Journal of Green Building](#) Vol. 12 Issue 2.

c) Water's Next Award

CAO Walters noted that LSRCA was a finalist in Water Canada Magazine's Water's Next Awards in the Project/Technology – Stormwater category for its parking lot work through Ryerson. The City of Guelph was this year's winner.

Presentations:

a) LSRCA's Natural Heritage Restoration Strategy

Natural Heritage Ecologist, Shauna Fernandes, provided the Board with an overview of LSRCA's Natural Heritage System Restoration Strategy. With LSRCA's vision in mind of a sustainable and resilient natural heritage system that supports natural heritage features and functions while providing services vital to human well-being, she noted the phases of the strategy include:

Phase 1 – Identification: to characterize and define the boundaries of the Core Features of the Natural Heritage System using policy rationale and scientific opportunities, such as woodlands, wetlands, watercourses, natural areas abutting Lake Simcoe (NAALS), and valleylands.

Phase 2 – Analysis: to establish targets for the Lake Simcoe watershed by investigating the relationships between the Phase 1 core features and the scientific principles or issues impacting Natural Heritage Systems to identify targeted areas that enhance the NHS.

Phase 3 – Implementation: to create a restoration strategy and report in collaboration with LSRCA's departments that will implement the protection, restoration and enhancement of the targeted NHS, as well as to establish a monitoring program for tracking implementation and to consult with watershed partners and stakeholders.

Ms. Fernandes noted that next steps include finalizing the Natural Heritage System Restoration Strategy, consulting with municipalities and other partners, and LSRCA Board approval in the fall of 2017. This presentation is available through the following link: [Natural Heritage System Restoration Strategy](#)

b) Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation

Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation (LSCF), Executive Director, Cheryl Taylor, provided the Board with an update on the activities of LSCF, noting their mission it to raise money to support a cleaner and healthier Lake Simcoe watershed through the funding of specific projects of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. She noted that funds raised in 2016 from events, grants, individuals and corporate sponsors totalled \$728,032. She went on to note that LSCF supported 16 LSRCA programs/projects, including a new monitoring vessel, wildlife safe passage project, and a number of education programs. Ms. Taylor also discussed fund raising efforts to date in 2017, as well as project and programs approved for supporting in 2017. This presentation is available through the following link: [Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Update](#)

c) Conservation Authorities Act

Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, provided the Board with an overview of the proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* as announced by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), noting that in the recently released document [Conserving Our Future: A Modernized Conservation Authorities Act](#), the five key areas of focus listed below have been identified:

1. Strengthening Oversight and Accountability
2. Increasing Clarity and Consistency in Programs and Service
3. Increasing Clarity and Consistency in Regulatory Requirements
4. Improving Collaboration and Engagement
5. Modernizing Funding Mechanisms

CAO Walters referenced the following key points outlined in the document:

- the Minister confirmed the important role of conservation authorities as watershed-based natural resource managers, as well as a commitment to explore options for updating provincial funding levels.
- MNRF remains the parent Ministry and the Minister has defined powers to which CAs must comply.
- Establishing a multi-ministry table to ensure increased coordination among provincial ministries regarding the wide range of support CAs provide to the multiple ministries.

- In respect to Governance, most of LSRCA already is in compliance with most recommendations but will need to establish a period of review for administrative by-laws.

CAO Walters also advised that a more detailed review is being conducted in order to produce a staff report for the July 28, 2017 Board of Directors meeting. This presentation is available through the following link: [Conservation Authorities Act Review](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received the following pieces of correspondence:

- a) Township of Ramara letter of June 5, 2017;
- b) Bob Lepp @ Assoc. letter of June 12, 2017;
- c) Anthony Usher letter of June 8, 2017, along with attachment of May 5, 2015; and
- d) LSRCA draft response to Anthony Usher dated June 15, 2017.

Budget Status Report

The Board received Staff Report No. 29-17-BOD, prepared by Manager, Finance, Katherine Toffan, which provided the Board with a summary of revenues and expenditures for the period ending May 31, 2017.

Lake Simcoe Memorandum of Understanding – Circulation Procedures for Applications under the Planning Act

The Board received Staff Report No. 30-17-BOD prepared by Manager of Planning, Charles Burgess, which provided the Board with an update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) between LSRCA and watershed municipalities in order to streamline the circulation procedures for all applications under the Planning Act and define the respective roles in the planning process, specifically as the roles relate to public health and safety and environmental protection.

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](#)