

Board Meeting Highlights

March 22, 2019

Announcements:

- a) General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, provided Board members with the 2018 Lake Simcoe Subwatershed Plans Implementation Report, noting that much work has been done on implementing the subwatershed plans. He acknowledged the work of Bill Thompson, Manager, Integrated Watershed Managing, and his team and encouraged Board member to have a read. This report is to be distributed to member municipalities and is available on LSRCA's website through this link: [2018 Lake Simcoe Subwatershed Plans Implementation Report](#).

- b) General Manager, Conservation Lands, Brian Kemp, was pleased to announce that LSRCA's partnership with the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre on the Therapy in the Woods program has been acknowledged as a Leading Practice by Accreditation Canada. A Leading Practice is defined as a practice carried out by a health and/or social service organization that has demonstrated a positive change, is people centered, safe and efficient. Each submission undergoes a review and Leading Practices are acknowledged with a certificate and are shared in the Leading Practices Library, which is considered a knowledge sharing resource of innovative practices that have been identified through a rigorous evaluation process, and shared with the public, policy makers and organizations who are seeking ways to improve the quality of health services for all. General Manager Kemp recognized LSRCA's Manager, Education, Nicole Hamley, and her team of educators for their great work in partnership with RVH.

Presentations:

LSRCA's Draft 2019 Budget

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch provided a presentation regarding LSRCA Draft 2019 Budget, noting planning and development fees up due to volume, offset by higher than forecasted legal fees. LSPOP revenues have experienced delays, and Rate Stabilization Reserve was required in 2018 with repayment expected by 2020. Interest revenue exceeded budget for 2018, and the 2019 budget has been updated to reflect higher returns. He noted that staff was able to stay within the budget guidelines approved by the Board in May 2018, and he was pleased to report that 31 of the 42 strategic plan items have now been completed. He advised that he would be providing a report in April on reserves adequacy, which shows protection in the future for asset management.

To view the presentation, please click this link: [2019 Budget Presentation](#)

LSRCA's 2019 Annual Operating Plan Priorities

Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, provided an overview of LSRCA's 2019 Annual Operating

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lan priorities. The list of 11 priorities for 2019 includes:

1. Emergency Mapping and Flood Relief – this sophisticated digital system is a multi-year project to develop a capital strategy to identify oncoming storms and inform impacts to people, roads, etc.
2. Enhance Sediment and Erosion Control Activities – working with our municipal partners and BILD, looking at more stringent policy and new standards.
3. Smart, Sustainable Community Building Practices - working with building industry on better site design, accelerating the planning process by doing so, and making communities more sustainable.
4. Reporting Key Environmental Trends & Change - identifying new and emerging contaminants and develop key performance indicators.
5. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy - looking at the impact of carbon footprint.
6. Operational Review of LSRCA Programs and Services – done every four years to improve efficiencies, we look at what we are doing in an effort to streamline processes.
7. Asset Management – following York Region process, plan and reserve to be in place.
8. Talent Management – deals with performance appraisals and succession planning;
9. Improving Service Delivery: Plan Review – working with the Province to improve and streamline services; working with industry, including reporting back to public.
10. Renovation of the Scanlon Creek Operations Centre - to create a functional office space for staff with the ability to allow for some future growth.
11. Fundraising/Construction of New Education Centre – fundraising effort with a view to be shovel ready by 2021.

To view this report, please click this link: [Annual Operating Priorities 2019](#)

The Health of Lake Simcoe

Dr. Brian Ginn, Limnologist, provided an update on the current status and trends in the environmental health of Lake Simcoe, noting the LSRCA Lake Science Program was started in 2008 to address lake concerns of residents, fill data gaps left by other monitoring programs, and investigate new and emerging environmental issues on Lake Simcoe. Dr. Ginn stated that although phosphorus loads to the lake are variable, and above the 44 tonne LSPP target, they are being driven primarily by tributary inflows. Phosphorus concentrations within the lake, however, have improved since the 1980s, as have concentrations of deepwater oxygen. Invasive zebra and quagga mussels are impacting Lake Simcoe. LSRCA lake surveys in 2009 and 2015 show that although zebra mussels are now rare in Lake Simcoe, they have been replaced with quagga mussels that have invaded deepwater habitats that were unavailable to zebra mussels. Quagga mussels are further changing the ecology of the lake, increasing water clarity in spring and channeling more energy into deepwater habitats.

One impact of these invasive mussels and phosphorus reduction is an increase in water clarity that has increased the habitat available for aquatic plants. LSRCA surveys in 2008, 2013, and 2018 have identified several locations in the lake with high amount of plants. An invasive plant species, starry stonewort, was recorded in 2009 by LSRCA and has since been spreading across the lake. Further increases in this plant

will disrupt shallow water ecology and recreation on the lake. LSRCA has partnered with 25 other agencies in North America to develop management and control strategies for starry stonewort.

Climate change is further impacting Lake Simcoe with the warm water period increasing by 28 days since 1980, and the period of ice cover decreasing by 33 days since the 1800s. Run-off from winter salt use is increasing chloride concentrations in the lake and we will reach a critical level in 56 years. Although the health of Lake Simcoe is good, there are challenges related to climate and invasive species that need to be understood. Management options must treat underlying problems and these improvements will take time.

To view the presentation, please click this link: [The Health of Lake Simcoe](#)

Deputations:

Mr. Jack Gibbons, Chair, Lake Simcoe Watch, made a deputation to the Board regarding the Lake Simcoe Watch letter of January 31, 2019, which the Board received at their February 22, 2019 meeting.

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received a letter from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) dated February 25, 2019 in response to LSRCA's concerns on the future of Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Program.

LSRCA's Draft 2019 Budget

The Board approved Staff Report No. 13-19-BOD regarding LSRCA's 2019 Proposed Budget and adopted all projects therein. The Board authorized staff to enter into agreements and/or execute documents with private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations or governments and their agencies for the undertaking of projects for the benefit of LSRCA and funded by the sponsoring organization or agency, including projects that have not been provided for in the approved budget. As required by Ontario Regulation 139/96 (formerly O.S. 231/97), the recommendations and accompanying budget documents, including the schedule of matching and non-matching levies, were approved by weighted vote.

Response to Correspondence from Lake Simcoe Watch

The Board received Staff Report No. 14-19-BOD, prepared by Mike Walters, Chief Administrative Officer, which provided a response to the January 31st letter from Lake Simcoe Watch that the Board received at its February 22nd meeting. The Board directed to CAO to prepare a response to Lake Simcoe Watch on behalf of LSRCA. To view LSRCA's response to Lake Simcoe Watch, please click this link: [LSRCA's Response to Lake Simcoe Watch](#)

Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications - January 1 to December 31, 2018

The Board received Staff Report No. 15-19-BOD, prepared by Beverley Booth, Manager, Regulations, which provided a summary of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2018.

Changes to the Municipal Act that Allow for Amendments to Municipal Site Alteration By-laws

The Board received Staff Report No. 16-19-BOD, prepared by Beverley Booth, Manager, Regulations, and Ashlea Brown, Senior Environmental Regulations Analyst, regarding changes to the Municipal Act that allow for amendments to municipal Site Alteration By-laws.

LSRCA Conservation Awards Update

The Board received Staff Report No. 17-19-BOD, prepared by Katarina Zeppieri, Event and Marketing Specialist, which provided the Board with an outline of LSRCA's Annual Conservation Awards and a proposed date of Tuesday, November 5th for the 2019 Conservation Awards evening. Staff were directed to return with an alternate date.

Scanlon Creek Operations Centre Renovation Project Update

The Board received Staff Report No. 18-19-BOD, prepared by Brian Kemp, General Manager, Conservation Lands, regarding an update on the Scanlon Creek Operations Centre Renovation Project and the results of the recent post tender addendum. The Board approved a draw of \$400,000 from the asset management reserve to fund a portion of the project and directed staff to contract the works associated with the project to W.S Morgan.

Meeting Provincial Priorities for Reducing Regulatory Burden

The Board approved Staff Report No. 19-19-BOD, prepared by Mike Walters, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding meeting provincial priorities for reducing regulatory burden, which sought endorsement of three key solutions developed by the Conservation Ontario working group to: improve client service and accountability; increase speed of approvals; and reduce “red tape” and regulatory burden. The Board directed staff to work with Conservation Ontario and LSRCA clients to identify additional improvements for implementation as soon as possible.

BDO Canada LLP – Audit Planning Report for 2018 Annual Audit

The Board received Staff Report No. 20-19-BOD, prepared by Katherine Toffan, Manager, Finance, which provided the Board with BDO Canada LLP's Audit Planning Report for the 2018 Audit.

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](#)