

Board Meeting Highlights

May 24, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a) Manager, Education, Nicole Hamley was pleased to share with Board members two videos highlighting secondary students visiting LSRCA's Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. The videos speak to the wonderful partnership LSRCA has with the watershed school boards and how LSRCA is working to support secondary level kids and youth engagement:
- i. A group of students from King City Secondary School visited twice in April 2019 - Day 1 was Map, Compass and GPS course, one of the courses for certification for Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) students, and they returned on Day 2 for a nature photography workshop, as well as the new Climate Escape program, an outdoor program modelled after popular escape rooms. Please click this link to view the video: [King City SS Students at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area](#)
 - ii. A group of SHSM students enrolled in the Health & Wellness sector from three York Region secondary schools visited in March 2019 to take part in an Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) training course, where they tackled the question, "How might we increase children and youth health and wellness through access and opportunities for active experiences in nature and the outdoors? To view this video, please click this link: [SHSM Students from York Region](#)
- b) CAO Walters was very pleased to advise that the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation held its AGM on May 24th, and Debbie Conzelmann was once again named President, Marvin Geist was named Vice President, and Debbie Beatty was named Secretary/Treasurer.

PRESENTATIONS:

a) LSRCA's Freshwater Roundtable

Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, provided the Board with an overview of the Freshwater Roundtable - Engaging New Partners in Salt Reduction, noting that chloride concentrations have been increasing in Lake Simcoe, resulting in significant changes to our freshwater resources. LSRCA's Strategic Plan identified implementing a salt reduction strategy to halt the trend of increasing chloride concentrations in watershed tributaries.

A salt reduction strategy was completed in 2017, which identified the following eight objectives:

1. Support road management authorities in their pursuit of reductions in winter salt use;
2. Integrate salt management considerations in stormwater management planning;
3. Promote improved winter salt management practices in the private sector;
4. Lead by example in property management;
5. Promote commercial site design that includes consideration of winter maintenance practices;
6. Gain a greater understanding of liability management;
7. Increase awareness of the environmental impacts of winter salt;
8. Continue to conduct and support research and development.

Promoting improved winter salt management practices within the private sector was seen as a very important objective, as this sector does not have the same checks and balances on salt use that exist in the public sector, and an estimated 18% of salt used in the watershed is applied to commercial sector parking lots. LSRCA commissioned a consultant to interview senior managers at REITs and retail companies to better understand the motivations and barriers to adoption of best practices, and universally, the response from the property owners was that environmental reputation is an important part of their corporate brand, they recognize the paramount importance of protecting fresh water, and they are willing to consider alternative winter maintenance practices, if it doesn't increase their liability.

Participants were then invited to join a Freshwater Roundtable to collectively understand and promote the adoption of winter maintenance best practices in the commercial parking lot sector. The response was extremely positive, and the Roundtable includes staff from Federal, Provincial, municipal, and First Nations governments, commercial property owners, winter maintenance contractors, and the environmental community. The Roundtable is scheduled to meet approximately three times per year and is chaired by LSRCA and supported by staff. With support from the Roundtable members, LSRCA drafted a discussion paper. The discussion paper will be made available once endorsed by Roundtable members. To view this presentation, please click this link: [Engaging the Private Sector in Salt Reduction - Freshwater Roundtable](#)

b) Modernizing conservation authority operations - LSRCA's Comments on ERO No. 013-5018

CAO Mike Walters provided an overview of Province of Ontario's proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* as outlined in Environmental Registry of Ontario posting No. ERO#013-5018: *Modernizing Conservation Authority Operations; Conservation Authorities Act*, noting that the proposed amendments include:

- 1) Defining the core mandatory programs and services;
- 2) Increasing transparency in how CAs levy municipalities for mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services;

- 3) Updating the *Conservation Authorities Act* to conform to modern transparency standards.
- 4) Establishing a transition period for MOUs;
- 5) Enabling the Minister to appoint an investigator to investigate or undertake an audit and report on a CA; and
- 6) Clarifying the duties of CA Board members to act in the best interest of the CA.

CAO Walters provided an overview of LSRCA's comments as submitted in response to ERO No. 013-5018. LSRCA's comments can be found through this link: [LSRCA Comments on ERO No. 013-5018](#)

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Modernizing Conservation Authority Operations, ERO No. 013-5018 - LSRCA Comments](#)

CORRESPONDENCE AND STAFF REPORTS:

Correspondence

The Board received the following correspondence:

- a) Town of Wasaga Beach staff report dated May 9, 2019 regarding their comments on the Regional (County) Government Review, which recommends amongst other things dissolving the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority as well as the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

Freshwater Roundtable – Engaging New Partners in Salt Reduction

The Board received Staff Report No. 28-19-BOD prepared by Manager of Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, regarding the Freshwater Roundtable – Engaging new partners in salt reduction.

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

The Board received Staff Report No. 29-19-BOD, prepared by CAO Mike Walters, regarding LSRCA's comments on Environmental Registry of Ontario posting entitled Modernizing Conservation Authority Operations; *Conservation Authorities Act*, No. ERO#013-5018 and directed staff to submit final comments and circulate the comments to member municipalities, Conservation Ontario and the Lake Simcoe watershed MPPs.

LSRCA's Offsetting Policies Housekeeping Policies Amendments

The Board approved Staff Report No. 30-19-BOD, prepared by Acting Director of Planning, Melinda Bessey, regarding proposed amendments to LSRCA's Ecological Offsetting Plan, the Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Offsetting Policy, and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Water Budget Policy for 4.8-DP and 6.40-DP.

*Focusing Conservation Authority Development Permits on the Protection of People and Property
– ERO No. 013-4992*

The Board received Staff Report No. 31-19-BOD, prepared by General Manager, Planning & Development, Rob Baldwin, regarding LSRCA's comments in response to Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting No. 013-4992, Focusing Conservation Authority Development Permits on the Protection of People and Property. The Board directed staff to continue tracking and participating with Conservation Ontario and the Province potential changes or amendments and to provide updates to the Board of Directors as required.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, please click the link below for LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage: <https://www.lsrca.on.ca/Pages/Board-Meetings.aspx>