



# Board Meeting Highlights

May 22, 2020

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a) CAO Walters advised that LSRCA's Education Team received a letter of thanks and appreciation from Simcoe County District School Board for their ability to overcome this year's challenges and continue to provide online learning. CAO Walters thanked the Education Team for their innovation during these challenging times and also thanked the Communications Team for their assistance with all the far-reaching online learning that LSRCA has been able to produce.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **a) Reopening Plan for Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Conservation Areas**

General Manager, Conservation Lands, Brian Kemp provided an overview of LSRCA's planned approach to reopening its conservation areas. Providing background, he noted that after a tough decision, all LSRCA Conservation Areas were closed on March 24<sup>th</sup> in an effort for LSRCA to do its part with social distancing and comply with provincial direction. On May 1<sup>st</sup> working with municipal partners East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Uxbridge, a few LSRCA trails with direct connectivity to municipal trails were opened. Municipal staff assisted with the opening and monitoring of these trails. On May 11<sup>th</sup> with the Province opening conservation reserves for day use, LSRCA began working on a plan to reopen its conservation areas to provide limited day use. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Province further eased restrictions to include the opening of dog parks, etc. LSRCA is proceeding with its plan to reopen all conservation areas by May 29<sup>th</sup> excluding all amenities except the Bark Park at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

GM Kemp explained that steps to reopening included finalizing safety measures to keep staff safe, assessing all properties for hazards such as felled branches and trees, potholes, etc. He was pleased to note that properties for the most part are in good condition. New signage regarding restrictions and visitor etiquette is being installed, and enhanced maintenance will continue once properties are open. Staff will continue to keep municipal partners including park staff and bylaw enforcement updated on any property issues.

GM Kemp went on to note that timing for the reopening of conservation area facilities and amenities is unknown at this time but will coincide with provincial and medical health direction. Staff will continue to monitor properties and are prepared to close them again if restrictions and visitor etiquette is not adhered to.

Mayor Hackson thanked GM Kemp on behalf of the residents of East Gwillimbury, who are thankful for the opened trails, noting that East Gwillimbury staff enjoyed working with LSRCA staff and will continue to be available for ongoing assistance as needed.

Councillor Gaertner asked about garbage in the conservation areas. GM Kemp noted they are trying to balance the need of garbage facilities versus safety of staff having to handle the garbage, and conservation area messaging includes asking the public to take home anything they bring, garbage included.

Chair Emmerson asked if staff have a sufficient supply of personal protective equipment, and GM Kemp noted that most items are available but finding sufficient face masks has been challenging. Chair Emmerson noted that York Region's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kurji, advised that a homemade, double layered cloth mask is a good substitute, and Mayor Barton advised that he has a source for masks should one be required.

Chair Emmerson thanked Board members for their assistance and patience and sent a thank you out to all LSRCA and municipal staff working on getting trails and conservation areas reopened.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [LSRCA Conservation Areas Reopening Plan](#)

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND STAFF REPORTS:**

#### Correspondence

There were no items of Correspondence for this meeting.

#### LSRCA Business Continuity and Operational Response to the COVID -19 Pandemic

The Board received Staff Report No. 28-20-BOD, prepared by Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, which updated the Board regarding LSRCA's business continuity and operational response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Customer Service Strategy and Report on Timelines

The Board received Staff Report No. 29-20-BOD, prepared by Acting Director, Regulations, Ashlea Brown, which outlined LSRCA's customer service strategy and report on timelines.

#### Continued Improvements to Service Delivery –

#### Recommendations for assist Lake Simcoe Development Industry and Partner Municipalities

The Board approved Staff Report No. 30-20-BOD, prepared by General Manager, Planning & Development and Watershed Restoration Services, Rob Baldwin, which recommended updates in the Planning and Development area to assist in accelerating development industry and municipal projects.

#### Confidential Land Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report 31-20-BOD regarding a confidential land matter, and the Board approved the recommendations contained within the report.

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>