

Board Meeting Highlights

November 24, 2017

Announcements:

a) *LSRCA in Lake Simcoe Living Magazine*

CAO Mike Walters provided Board members with the latest edition of Lake Simcoe Living magazine, which features LSRCA in two articles: Are We Ready? (P18-19); and Hatching Friendships through Fish (P22-23).

b) *LSRCA 2018 Budget Presentations*

CAO Mike Walters noted that 2018 Budget presentations to the various member municipal Councils are underway and going well. He thanked the General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch for accompanying him and providing valuable support.

c) *Bill 139, Conservation Authorities Act Review*

CAO Walters noted that Bill 139, the *Conservation Authorities Act* review, received 3rd reading on November 23rd. At this time, the Bill was not voted, and it is unknown when the vote will take place.

Presentations:

a) *Effective Communications*

LSRCA Communications Specialists Nancie Knight and Melissa Rosato provided the Board with an overview of methods used at LSRCA to effectively communicate regarding available funding on behalf of the Stewardship and Restoration departments, noting there are three rules to communicating; i) Reaching the right person, ii) with the right message, and iii) in the right way.

LSRCA's Communications department spends considerable time identifying by market research who needs to be reached and ensuring each person receives the message that is relevant to his/her lifestyle. Accordingly, LSRCA will no longer refer to its funding program as the 'Landowner Environmental Assistance Program' or LEAP, and instead have outlined more clearly defined funding categories that are all described under the Funding & Expertise page on LSRCA's website: <http://www.lsrca.on.ca/funding>.

The Communications Specialists outlined their 2018 promotional plans, which include communicating with the Communications Departments of our municipal partners, and encouraged Board members to share information of LSRCA's funding program within their local municipalities. For more information, please contact Nancie Knight @ n.knight@lsrca.on.ca or Melissa Rosato @ m.rosato@lsrca.on.ca or by calling 905-895-1281.

b) Salt Reduction Strategy Update

Manager, Environmental Science and Monitoring, David Lembcke provided the Board with an update on LSRCA's Salt Reduction Strategy, noting that a priority action in LSRCA's strategic plan is to 'Implement a Salt Reduction Strategy to halt the trend of increasing chloride concentrations in the watershed'. This initiative is being led by Bill Thompson, Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, with David Lembcke and his team providing science and monitoring. He used a chart showing that in 2012 a total of 100,000 T of salt was applied in the Lake Simcoe watershed, distributed as follows: 39% on local roads, 27% on regional roads, 18% on parking lots, 14% on provincial highways, and 2% on residential properties. These results showed that a salt reduction strategy needed to engage all public road agencies, as well as private agencies.

Mr. Lembcke noted that a municipal salt working group was formed and led by Bill Thompson to engage and share information. In these discussions, the question arises as to whether salt can be replaced with sand. Studies show that sand application on highways has little to no improvement, as it only takes 10-12 vehicles moving at highway speeds to move the sand to the shoulder of the road. Sand was shown to be best used in slower traffic areas such as parking lots and sidewalks; however, while sand is cheaper than salt to purchase, sand is shown to be more costly when the clean-up costs, such as street sweeping and catch basin clean out, are factored in. Other factors are that sand will smother wildlife habitats and can pick up phosphorus and move it around. Sand studies continue and are ongoing.

He noted that monitoring of a commercial parking lot for three years has shown that salt is not uniformly applied and is over-applied in trouble spots (i.e. spots with regular freeze/thaw cycles that are salted daily). Discussions have taken place around the design of parking lots, and simple features can be incorporated into the design around better movement of melting ice. Feedback is being shared with winter contractors, as there is little information to inform contractors what the right amount of salt is. He went on to note that a Bi-National Salt Forum was recently held, which LSRCA co-hosted with US Consulate and the World Wildlife Federation-Canada (WWF), which included presentations from government, academia, and private sectors from Canada & US. Forum outcomes include WWF spearheading a public outreach campaign and LSRCA convening a Commercial Sector Salt Roundtable. To view this presentation, please click this link: [Salt Reduction Strategy Update](#). For more information, please contact David Lembcke @ d.lembcke@lsrca.on.ca or Bill Thompson @ b.thompson@lsrca.on.ca or either by phone at 905-895-1281.

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

There were no Correspondence items for this meeting.

Budget Status Report

The Board received Staff Report No. 47-17-BOD, prepared by Manager, Finance, Katherine Toffan, which provided the Board with a summary of revenues and expenditures for the period ending October 31, 2017. General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch provided a brief presentation to address

the budget status report, as well as the recommended changes to financial reporting for the Board of Directors. He provided a high level summary of LSRCA's financial position, noting that year-to-date the financials are on track with \$64K (0.4%) deficit, and reserves are to be drawn at year-end. He went on to note that some capital projects will run into 2018. He also noted that in 2018 programs and financials will change to reflect the move from four pillars to harmonization with seven service areas.

GM Critch outlined his recommendations going forward, noting that staff will continue to monitor LSRCA's financial position and will update assumptions, develop measures and performance metrics, and review reserve adequacy. He referred to the recommended changes to reports and schedule for reporting for 2018 and welcomed feedback. Board members noted their preference is to know the financial position at any given time and to be made aware of any issues in a timely manner to avoid surprises. To view this presentation, please click this link: [Financial Progress](#)

Financial Reporting to the Board of Directors – Recommended Changes to Reports and Schedules

The Board approved Staff Report No. 48-17-BOD, prepared by General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch, regarding improvements to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority financial reporting to the Board of Directors effective January 2018.

Regulation Limit Mapping Update Protocol

The Board approved in principle Staff Report No. 49-17-BOD prepared by Manager, Engineering, Tom Hogenbirk, regarding a proposed protocol for regular updates to the Regulation Limit Mapping. The resources required to complete the yearly updates of the mapping will be addressed through the budget process for 2018 and beyond.

Change in Appointment of Solicitors for 2017

The Board approved Staff Report No. 50-17-BOD regarding adding the firm of Barriston LLP to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's list of Solicitors effective November 24, 2017. Mr. Ken Hill of Hill Hunter Losell LLP, who is set to retire at year-end, is to be recognized at the December 15, 2017 Board of Directors' meeting for his more than 35 years of excellent service.

Durham Regional Forest - Standing Timber Sale Tender – DRF-2017-001

The Board approved Staff Report No. 51-17-BOD regarding the Durham Regional Forest Tender DRF-2017-001 be received; and FURTHER THAT tender DRF-2017-001 be awarded to Gee Lumber and Logging.

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](#)