

Board Meeting Highlights

September 24, 2021

Announcements:

- a) CAO Rob Baldwin provided an update on the newly acquired Georgina lands known as Maple Lake Estates, noting the purchase and sale agreement has been signed; however, Minister Clark must remove the subdivision designation through a Minister's Zoning Order, and until this takes place the land has not yet been transferred to the Authority. A Board report regarding plans for this land will be brought forward once the Authority officially owns the land.
- b) General Manager, Conservation Lands, Brian Kemp was pleased to advise that a purchase and sale agreement was recently signed regarding an additional 137 acres of provincially significant wetland to the Beaver River Conservation Area. The property is located east of the trail and north of Highway 7. He noted that funding support from Region of Durham, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, and the Authority's land acquisition reserve made this acquisition possible.
- c) General Manager, Conservation Lands, Brian Kemp was pleased to advise that Nicole Hamley, Manager of Education, was recently successful in securing a contract with the Simcoe County District School Board to provide Environmental Education to Grade 4 students for the next three years. This is a great achievement which will see about 70 classes per year for the next three years, involving about 15,000 students in total.
- d) The Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Executive Director, Cheryl Taylor, provided an update on the 32nd Annual Conservation Dinner held on September 22nd. She thanked staff, volunteers and all in attendance for making it a successful evening. She noted that with COVID protocols in place, participation was down about one third; however, it is anticipated that the fundraising goal of \$200,000 was still met. The new Connect Campaign 2021 video that was shared with the Board can be viewed by clicking the following link:
<https://www.lakesimcoefoundation.ca/connect-campaign/2021-update>.

Deputations:

a) Georgina Island Fixed Link

Mr. Michael Jacobs of Cambium Indigenous Professional Services, and Project Manager for the Georgina Island Fixed Link project, provided the Board with an overview of the proposed Georgina Island Fixed Link project, which is a planned bridge from Georgina Island to mainland Georgina. He reviewed the timeline dating back pre 2008 where discussions were held and

Federal commitments were made; however, nothing happened at that time. In 2018 a formal resolution was made by Band council to complete a fixed link by 2030.

Cambium Indigenous Professional Services was engaged in 2019, and in turn engaged WSP for a technical assessment to create a fixed link project plan. Council's resolution for the protection of the community, its citizens and lake are all top priorities of the project. The current ferry system is nearing the end of its life and negatively impacts the lake. The proposed fixed link will require 3.3km of roadway, comprised of 800m of causeway, followed by 700m of elevated bridge, followed by another 800m of causeway to mainland.

He reviewed the timeline, noting it is hoped a community impact assessment will be completed by end of 2024, with a bridge operational by the end of 2026. Seeking input from all stakeholders including the Authority and its scientific knowledge of the lake will be critical to the project's success. Community meetings and discussions with Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and various government agencies are being held. A website has been set up where interested community members can sign up for updates (<https://www.gifixedlink.com/>)

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Georgina Island Fixed Link Project](#).

a) Holland Marsh Treatment Facility Update

Mr. Mike Rabeau of the Regional Municipality of York provided the Board with an overview of the Holland Marsh Treatment Facility and its relation to the Upper York Sewage Solutions project, noting that the Upper York Sewage Solutions is a project to service sewage in York Region (Aurora, EG, Newmarket) that has three components: i) a water reclamation facility to treat sewage and discharge a higher quality water into the Holland Marsh providing a major improvement in water quality; ii) the York Durham Sewage System Forcemain Twinning Project, which has already been constructed; and iii) the phosphorus offsetting project as directed by the Province. In 2014, York Region submitted an Environmental Assessment to the Ministry for a phosphorus offsetting project, a \$25 million investment aimed at retrofitting stormwater ponds to move enough phosphorus to create at 3:1 ratio net benefit for the watershed; however, continued approval delay creates uncertainties for the Region to deliver the program prior to commissioning of water reclamation centre.

Mr. Rabeau advised that in 2017, York Region initiated a partnership with the Authority and local municipalities to prepare for the Project Specific Phosphorus Offset Program through a Phosphorus Removal Demonstration project. In 2018, York Region was made aware of a phosphorus removal opportunity in the Holland Marsh and in partnership with the Authority submitted an Expression of Interest to the Infrastructure Canada Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Funding for a potential Holland Marsh Phosphorus Removal Facility project. The project was submitted as a potential alternative technology to the Project Specific Phosphorus Offset Program, and in July 2020, Infrastructure Canada invited York Region to submit a formal

application for Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Funding. This application was approved in principle in November 2020.

The Holland Marsh Phosphorus Removal Facility Project was submitted as an alternative technology to the stormwater retrofits on the principles that the facility would achieve a higher level of phosphorus removal than stormwater retrofits; the project would leverage Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation funding and Upper York Sewage Solutions project funding (development charges) to build the facility. This proposed alternative technology would require the Ministry approval upon the Upper York Sewage Solutions Environmental Assessment approval. Disaster and Mitigation funding will provide 40% of the eligible cost for the project, and Environmental Assessment approval and further discussions would be required to ensure the balance of funding for the project. He went on to note that the project includes a new treatment facility and upgrades to the existing Art Janse Pumping Station, and the location, capacity and technologies of the treatment facility will be determined by a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study. The cost of the facility is estimated in the range of \$40 million. York Region's ability to implement the Holland Marsh Phosphorus Removal Facility is contingent upon the Upper York Sewage Solutions Environmental Assessment approval to secure a funding source. Steps required to implement the project include a Class Environmental Assessment study, including consultation with regulatory agencies, stakeholders and Indigenous peoples, detailed design and regulatory permitting, and construction to meet the objectives of the Project Specific Phosphorus Offset Program of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Environmental Assessment. To view this presentation, please click this link: [Holland Marsh Treatment Facility](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received a letter from the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the withdrawal of request for Minister's review of Authority Permit No. OP.2021.027 - Oro Station dated July 23, 2021.

Update: Bill 229 Regulatory Proposal and *Conservation Authorities Act* Amendments

The Board received Staff Report No. 45-21-BOD regarding Bill 229 Regulatory Proposal and *Conservation Authorities Act* Amendments.

Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study for the Proposed Highway 400 – Highway 404 Link (Bradford Bypass)

The Board received Staff Report No. 46-21-BOD regarding the Environmental Assessment Study for the proposed Bradford Bypass.

Kennedy Street, Aurora, Stream and Wetland Creation Project

The Board received Staff Report No. 47-21-BOD regarding the Kennedy Street Stream and Wetland Creation Project in Aurora and approved funding for the project through the Authority's Ecological Offsetting Cash in Lieu funds and Restoration Assistance as outlined in the report.

Confidential Land Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 48-21-BOD regarding a confidential land matter and approved the recommendations contained within the report.

Confidential Human Resources Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 49-21-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter and approved that the recommendations contained within the report.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, visit [LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage](#).