

# Ecological Offsetting Plan

Board of Directors' Meeting  
May 26, 2017

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**Lake Simcoe Region**  
conservation authority

# Ecological Offsetting

- Compensation for the unavoidable loss of natural heritage features from one area through the replacement or enhancement of features in another area
- Facilitates development on strategically important land, such as settlement areas, while upholding the principle of “no net loss”
- Addresses the environmental impacts of development
- Is only considered when there is no other option



# Background

**July 2007**

*Natural Heritage System for the Lake Simcoe Watershed* report (BOD approved)

**2007 onwards**

NHS report adopted and incorporated into Official Plans (e.g. Simcoe County, City of Barrie, Town of Innisfil, Town of East Gwillimbury, etc.)

Informal implementation of replacement strategy for loss of natural heritage features through the *Planning Act*

**April 2016**

Presentation and report to the BOD on formalizing the process with an Ecological Offsetting Plan (BOD resolution to consult with stakeholders)

# Consultation

## Non-government Organizations

- ✓ Ducks Unlimited Canada
- ✓ Nature Conservancy Canada
- ✓ Ontario Nature
- ✓ Couchiching Conservancy

## Environmental Consulting Firms

- ✓ Beacon Environmental
- ✓ Azimuth Environmental Consulting
- ✓ Skelton Brumwell & Associates

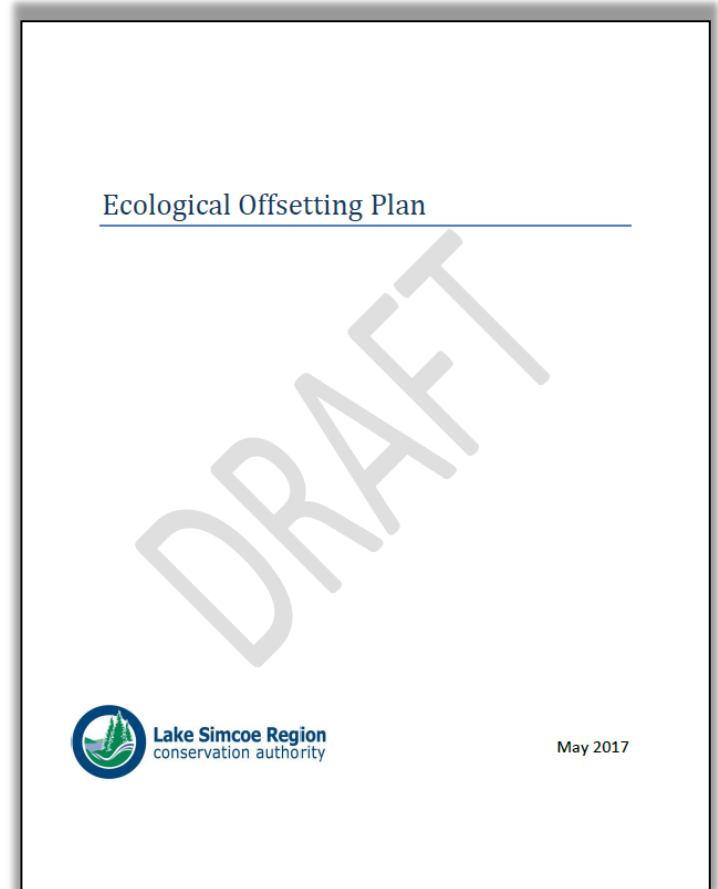
## Building Industry and Land Development Association

- ✓ BILD
- ✓ Malone, Given Parsons Planning
- ✓ Goodmans LLP
- ✓ MMM Group
- ✓ Dillon Consulting
- ✓ Burnside Group
- ✓ Savanta Environmental

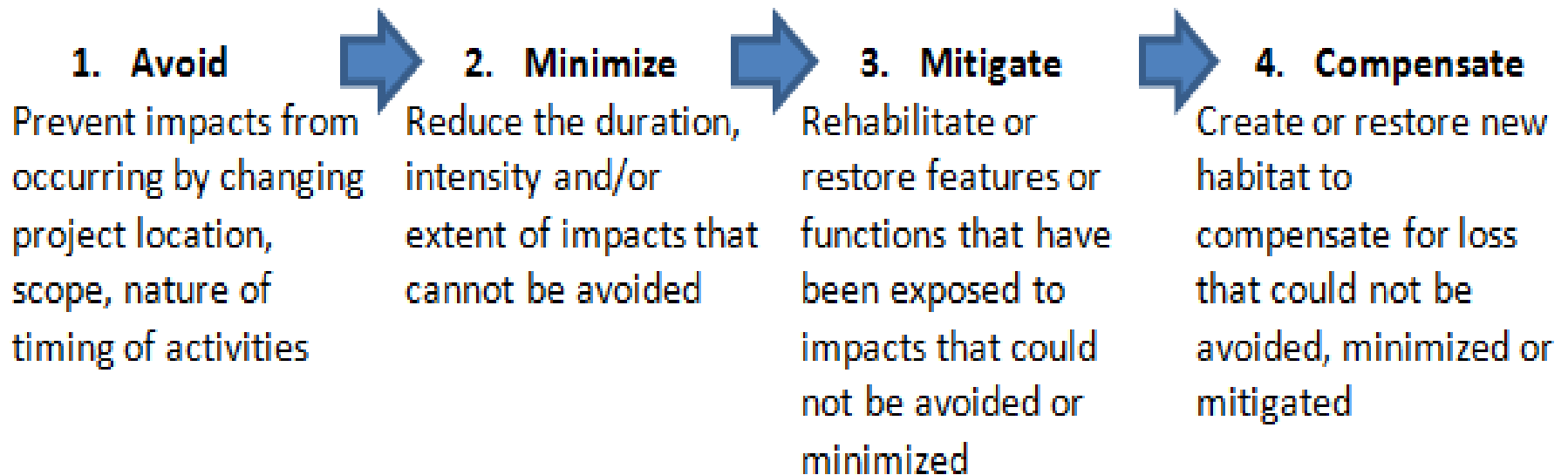
**Member Municipalities** – through the planning process

# Context

- Provincial Policy Statement
- Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
- Natural Heritage System for the Lake Simcoe Watershed report (2007)



# Mitigation Hierarchy



adapted from *Wetland Conservation in Ontario: A Discussion Paper*, MNRF, 2015

# Options for Compensation

## 1. Feature Replacement (preferred)

Woodland	2:1 replacement and Ecosystem Service Value (ESV)
Wetland	3:1 replacement and Ecosystem Service Value (ESV)

Woodland ESV = \$5,534/ha

Wetland ESV = \$16,588/ha

ESV values from **Lake Simcoe Basin's Natural Capital Report (2008)**

## 2. Cash-in-Lieu

Woodland	\$36,850/ha + ESV + 15% (land acquisition) + 5% (admin)
Wetland	\$84,260/ha + ESV + 15% (land acquisition) + 5% (admin)

Feature creation values are adapted from LSRCA restoration project costs and TRCA, NGO and private consulting estimates.

# Exceptions

Ecological Offsetting would **NOT** be required for:

- Permit applications under Ontario Regulation 179/06;
- Proposals that facilitate permitted agricultural uses;
- Construction of accessory structures; or
- Construction of single family dwellings on existing lots.



# Conclusions

The **Ecological Offsetting Plan** will:

- Provide a consistent, fair and transparent approach for implementing Ecological Offsetting
- Support strategic development in designated areas
- Ensure “no net loss” of natural heritage features in the Lake Simcoe watershed

