

Board Meeting Highlights

April 1, 2016

Announcements:

Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program (OMCIP) Funding Approval – Township of Brock

General Manager, Conservation Lands, Brian Kemp, was pleased to announce that the Township of Brock was recently awarded the funds required for the completion of the Beaver River Trail. This is a project that LSRCA staff have been working on with the Township of Brock staff.

Sponge City Initiative – China – May 2016

Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, advised that he has been invited to China to participate as a practitioner in China's Sponge City Pilot Project, which will see 16 cities participating in retrofitting and innovative urban design in dealing with rain water.

Conservation Ontario Queen's Park Day – March 10, 2016

Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, advised that he recently attended Conservation Ontario's Queen's Park Day, which was well attended by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and well represented by conservation authorities.

Deputations:

Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte Member of Parliament Alex Nuttall made a deputation to the Board of Directors regarding the Lake Simcoe/South-eastern Georgian Bay Clean-up Fund. MP Nuttall expressed concern that this fund will not continue beyond 2017 and requested that Board members give consideration to signing a petition to the House of Commons requesting that Parliament renew funding to support the clean-up efforts in Lake Simcoe and South-eastern Georgian Bay.

Presentations:

LSRCA Ecological Offsetting Guidelines

Development Planner, Lisa-Beth Bulford, provided a presentation on LSRCA's Ecological Offsetting Strategy, noting that staff have been working on a strategy for the replacement of any loss of natural heritage and hydrologic features resulting through Ontario's land use planning process under the *Planning Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*. She explained that currently there is no formal procedure to facilitate this process. Through the creation and implementation of LSRCA's Ecological Offsetting Guideline, it is the goal of LSRCA that clear direction will be provided to watershed stakeholders and municipal partners on how to achieve a net gain of natural heritage features within the watershed.

Ms. Bulford went on to note that the guideline will be aimed at creating consistency in areas within municipalities where pockets of forest or wetland surround proposed subdivisions. Two concepts will be proposed: i) replacement and ii) a financial model where an opportune location does not exist, funds will in place when an opportunity does arise.

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received two pieces of correspondence:

- a) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry letter of February 25, 2016 to Conservation Ontario regarding Phragmites; and
- b) Conservation Ontario's comments regarding the Waukesha Water Diversion Application.

LSRCA's Development of an Ecological Offsetting Guideline

The Board approved Staff Report No. 08-16-BOD, prepared by Rob Baldwin, General Manager, Planning & Development, which informed the Board regarding the development of LSRCA's Draft Ecological Offsetting Guideline and sought the Board's approval to continue to consult with internal and external stakeholders and municipalities for feedback on the Guideline, which will be brought back to the Board later in the year for approval.

2015 Reserves and Preliminary Unaudited Financial Statements

The Board approved Staff Report No. 09-16-BOD, prepared by Jocelyn Lee, General Manager, Corporate & Financial Services, which updated the Board of Directors regarding the review of the 2015 Preliminary Unaudited Financial Statements and provided recommendations regarding the appropriation of the resulting operational surplus to reserves.

LSRCA Conservation Awards 2016

The Board approved Staff Report No. 10-16-BOD, prepared by General Manager, Communications and Education, René Jarrett, which provided an overview of LSRCA's Annual Conservation Awards and recommended a date of Thursday, November 3rd for this year's event.

Current LSPP Grant Funding

The Board approved Staff Report No. 11-16-BOD, prepared by General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, which outlined provincial funding towards Lake Simcoe Protection Plan projects within LSRCA's Integrated Watershed Management Division.

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](#)