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Town of Aurora

## **Memorandum**

Councillor's Office

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**Re:** Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority  
Board Meeting Highlights of October 30, 2020

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Councillor Wendy Gaertner

**Date:** December 15, 2020

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### **Recommendation**

1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of October 30, 2020, be received for information.

## Board Meeting Highlights

October 30, 2020

### **Announcements:**

- a) Chair Emmerson offered condolences on behalf of the Board of Directors to Regional Councillor Vegh on the recent passing of his Mother.
- b) General Manager, Conservation Lands, Brian Kemp, thanked LSRCA's Education team for a successful fall Forest School amid the challenging times, noting many wonderful comments were received from parents of attending students.
- c) CAO Walters was pleased to advise that the process for LSRCA's next strategic plan is underway and is being led internally by our Communications team.

### **Presentations:**

#### **a) Third Quarter Financial Summary and Forecast**

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services, Mark Critch, provided a presentation on the Authority's third quarter 2020 financial summary and forecast, noting that business operations have been significantly impacted by COVID-19; however, management has taken immediate and measured action to address the changes and minimize the financial impact. He noted the projected deficit being forecast for 2020 has increased but was pleased to advise that additional municipal funding is not anticipated. The financial condition of LSRCA continues to remain strong, and staff are keeping a close eye on reserves and deferred revenue for year end.

He explained some of the impacts on 2020 outcomes, notably the education program outcomes were delivered using different methods – online learning pages, outdoor learning opportunities with Boards; planning applications are down year-over-year as site plan applications are steady, but subdivision plan applications are down 50%; spring planting has been deferred to 2021, and fall planting is taking place now with 1,470 trees and shrubs planted. Progress has been made on some capital projects through the year, some have been completed or are substantially complete.

Some key forecast assumptions for 2020 include that additional funding from municipal partners will not be required to cover projected operational deficit; deferred revenue will be utilized to finish priority annual operating work; most municipal funding partners are expected to pay their full funding notices for 2020; and draws from the rate stabilization will be utilized for the projected deficit at year end.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [2020 3rd Quarter Financial Update](#)

**b) Progress Update: Carbon Reduction Strategy**

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, and the Manager of Forestry and Greenspace Services, Phil Davies, provided an update on the progress made on implementation of the Authority's corporate carbon reduction strategy, designed to reduce our corporate carbon emissions from our day-to-day business. In 2018, staff established baseline emissions for the Authority operations using the year 2016 which totalled 69 tonnes. Staff identified several opportunities for significant reductions and as a result adopted an ambitious carbon reduction target of 42 tonnes or 60% of the total emissions to be achieved by 2026. Vehicle fleet travel was identified as having the single greatest opportunity for reductions and efforts to retool our current fleet vehicles as well as examining staff behaviour relative to vehicle use. Behavioural change initiatives were modelled around a rewards program, where the more behavioural changes staff made, the more rewards and potential prizes staff were eligible for. Next, steps were taken to green the Authority's mostly-leased fleet vehicles, and the entire passenger fleet now utilizes electric as well as hybrid electric vehicles. Six charging stations were installed to service the vehicles and allow staff and visitors opportunities to charge their vehicles when visiting our offices. The combined initiative has led to a reduction in carbon emissions of more than 21 tonnes in 2019. This means the Authority is well ahead of schedule having achieved more than 50% of its current target with still 6 more years to go to achieve the remaining balance.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [LSRCA Carbon Reduction Strategy Progress](#)

For more information on the Authority's corporate carbon reduction strategy, please contact Ben Longstaff at [b.longstaff@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:b.longstaff@lsrca.on.ca) or Phil Davies at [p.davies@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:p.davies@lsrca.on.ca).

**Correspondence and Staff Reports:****Correspondence**

The Board received the following correspondence:

- a) September 23, 2020 letter from Beard Winter to Mr. Kent Elson in response to his correspondence dated August 11, 2020 and September 17, 2020 (included in July Board agenda).

**Third Quarter Financial Summary and Forecast**

The Board received Staff Report No. 41-20-BOD regarding LSRCA's Third Quarter Financial Report and Year-End Forecast for the period ending September 30, 2020.

**Progress Update: Carbon Reduction Strategy**

The Board received Staff Report No. 42-20-BOD regarding the progress made on implementing LSRCA's corporate carbon reduction strategy.

**LSRCA 2021 Budget Update**

The Board received Staff Report No. 43-20-BOD regarding an update on LSRCA's 2021 Budget.

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