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Town of Aurora

Memorandum

Councillor's Office

Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Board Meeting Highlights of March 24, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Councillor Michael Thompson

Date: May 16, 2023

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of March 24, 2023, be received for information.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of March 24, 2023

Board Meeting Highlights

March 24, 2023

Announcements:

- a) CAO Baldwin advised that the Source to Stream Conference was recently held with over 700 participants in attendance. The conference included great presentations by Conservation Authority staff, Chandler Eves on stormwater pond maintenance and monitoring and Pete Shuttleworth on a dam removal project in Kettleby, as well as a panel discussion by David Lembcke on environmental compliance approvals.

Presentations:

a) Watershed Planning

Integrated Watershed Management Specialist, Pam Strong, provided an overview of watershed planning, noting that among the first plans was the Upper Holland Conservation Report in 1953, with subsequent plans completed in the 1980s and 1990s. A subwatershed plan describes the current state, identifies stressors, and develops recommendations to address stressors and improve overall watershed health. More current plans were a coordinated effort covering the watershed, which were developed between 2010 and 2017 and have seen many successful collaborations and achieved close to 90% of their recommendations. As watershed conditions change and new technologies become available, staff are developing a more modernized approach allowing for streamlining of the process, enabling plans to remain more up to date. Ms. Strong shared the Conservation Authority's new webpage in development, noting next steps include developing site content, goal setting and recommendations, and the completion of a watershed-based resource management strategy.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Watershed Planning Presentation](#)

b) Fourth Quarter 2022 Unaudited Financial Report and 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided an overview of the 2022 unaudited financial results, as well as the 2023 proposed Capital and Operating Budget, noting a small year-end operational surplus position. He reviewed the various drivers contributing to the surplus and updated on reserve activity.

Next, Mr. Critch reviewed the budget process, noting the budget was built based on the assumptions approved by the Board in June 2022, as well as working with municipal funding partners. As of March 24th, 7 of the 9 funding partners had approved the ask for 2023, with the

two remaining approvals expected within the following week. He reviewed the Conservation Authority's 2023 annual priorities, which include:

1. Managing and implementing legislative changes in Bills 229 (2020) and Bill 23 (2022);
2. Continuing to develop the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging framework;
3. Developing a management plan and conducting community consultation for Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve;
4. Advancing design and construction of new Scanlon Creek Nature Centre;
5. Advancing business development opportunities for climate change and stormwater management;
6. Assessing and implementing necessary network security solutions; and
7. Implementing corporate records management and asset management financial strategies.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [2022 Financial Results and 2023 Budget Presentation](#)

c) Summary Overview regarding Bill 229

CAO Rob Baldwin reviewed the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act brought about in Schedule 6 of Bill 229 - Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020, which received royal assent in December 2020. Phase 1 included a categorization of programs and services into three categories: Category 1 - Mandatory Programs and services; Category 2 - Programs and activities undertaken by a conservation authority which are funded by a member municipality require that an agreement be in place; and Category 3 – Non-mandatory but considered critical in effective watershed management and serving the needs of key municipal partners and communities. Also included in Phase 1 is Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services, which covers having a transition plan in place to implement Phase 1 and 2, complete with timelines and approaches. The final element for Phase 1 is Rules and Conduct in Conservation Areas, which involves consolidating several regulations into one regulation for all conservation authorities around public use, prohibited activities, and permitted activities. Phase 2 brought about additional information requirements, including maintaining a governance webpage available to the public with Board member information, administrative by-laws, municipal funding agreements, annual auditor's report, as well as Board meeting schedule, agendas and minutes. Other requirements include a fee classes policy, determination of amounts owed by specific municipalities, as well as changes to the budgetary process.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Overview of Bill 229 Presentation](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Fourth Quarter 2022 Unaudited Financial Report

The Board received Staff Report No. 10-23-BOD regarding the Fourth Quarter 2022 Unaudited Financial Report.

2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget

The Board received Staff Report No. 11-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget and adopted the 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget and all projects therein. The Board further authorized staff to enter into agreements and/or execute documents with private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations or governments and their agencies for the undertaking of projects for the benefit of the Conservation Authority and funded by the sponsoring organization or agency, including projects that have not been provided for in the approved budget. As required by Ontario Regulation 139/96 (formerly O.S. 231/97), the 2023 Capital and Operating Budget was approved by weighted vote.

Summary Overview regarding Bill 229

The Board received Staff Report No. 12-23-BOD regarding a summary and overview of Bill 229.

Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2022

The Board received Staff Report No 13-23-BOD regarding monitoring of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2022.

Conservation Authorities Act Transition – Quarterly Progress Report No. 4 - March 2023

The Board received Staff Report No. 14-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress Report No. 4 and approved the March 2023 Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress No. 4 for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Chair and Vice Chair Exception Request under Section 17(1.3) of the Conservation Authorities Act

The Board approved Staff Report No. 15-23-BOD regarding the requirement for an exception request for the current Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for 2023. Accordingly, a request will be made to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to grant an exception under Section 17(1.3) of the Conservation Authorities Act for Chair Wayne Emerson and Vice-Chair Peter Ferragine to continue in their Board roles for 2023.

2023 Conservation Awards Program and Ceremony

The Board received Staff Report No. 16-23-BOD regarding the 2023 Conservation Awards Program and Ceremony.

Confidential Legal Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 17-23-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter.

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