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Town of Aurora
Memorandum
Councillor's Office

Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Board Meeting Highlights of June 23, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Councillor Michael Thompson

Date: September 5, 2023

Recommendation

- 1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of June 23, 2023, be received for information.**

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of June 23, 2023

Board Meeting Highlights

June 23, 2023

Announcements:

Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Executive Director, Cheryl Taylor, updated the Board on some recent fundraising news:

- a) The 34th Annual Conservation Dinner was held on June 14th. This sold-out event, attended by over 350 guests, generously supported the Foundation by raising over \$250,000! A big thanks to everyone for making it such a success.
- b) The Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor & Council's Golf Classic was held on June 16th. This year's charity of choice was the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. The tournament donated \$100,000, and we can't thank the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council and staff enough for this generous donation.
- c) The Connect Campaign has received its largest private donation. Mr. Paul Sadlon has donated \$850,000 to help build the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, and we are so honoured to receive this generous donation.
- d) The next planned event is the 5th Annual Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Golf Invitational being held on Monday, August 21st at Oakdale Golf and Country Club. This event is sold out, but anyone interested in sponsoring or volunteering may contact Lee Hanson @ l.hanson@lsrca.on.ca

Presentations:

a) 2024 Budget Assumptions

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided an overview of the 2024 proposed budget assumptions, first noting that the annual budget process begins mid year of the previous year with the Board's approval of budget assumptions. This sets a clear direction for budget targets, enables staff to work with municipal funding partners to secure preliminary budget approvals, and allows staff to build the 2024 budget while providing for Board of Directors' influence on the general direction of the budget, thereby strengthening the advocacy role of Board members at municipal budget presentations. He noted the principles guiding the recommendations include inflation and cost-of-living allowance in line with local comparators, adjusting for municipal funding challenges, use municipal targets to guide budget development where feasible, recommended investment in the Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan [Transformation 2022-2024](#) up to 1.5% increase, and long term funding for asset management to be addressed in a financial strategy being tabled in the fall with a small

placeholder to be included in the 2024 budget. GM Critch advised that changes to funding guidelines in Bill 229 will replace General Levy/Special Capital/Special Operating with:

- Category 1 (Mandatory: Core & Lake Simcoe Protection Plan), using CVA apportionment;
- Category 2 (requested by municipality), MOU required; and
- Category 3 (requested by Authority), MOU required.

Governance rules will require multiple budget votes, including new areas to vote on Lake Simcoe Protection Plan budget, and new rules on what is core will require budget changes to correct funding irregularities, resulting in increases for some funders and decreases for others.

The summary of budget recommendations for Board of Directors' approval included:

1. Inflation: up to 2.00%, only for applicable expenditures (2023: 4.0%);
2. Cost of Living Allowance: up to 2.00% (2023: 2.00%) plus applicable step increases;
3. Infrastructure levy for Asset Management: up to 0.50% (2023: 0.50% capital levy only);
4. Investment in Strategic Priorities: 1.50% (2023: 0.00%);
5. No new FTEs in 2024, unless fully funded from grants and/or fees, and salary review to be covered within funding envelopes; and
6. Mandatory expenditures: Up to 2.00% (2023 - Levy: 1.83%).

Once approval of the budget assumptions, staff will develop the 2024 budget and continue to look for efficiencies and cost savings. To learn more or to view this presentation, please click this link: [2024 Budget Assumptions Presentation](#)

b) The Conservation Authority's Role in Stormwater Management

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Don Goodyear, and General Manager, Development, Engineering and Restoration, Glenn MacMillan, provided an overview of the Conservation Authority's role in Stormwater Management, noting that stormwater is defined as excess or runoff water generated when it rains. Often seen as a waste product, stormwater should be viewed as a resource to manage. The Conservation Authority has a team of professionals (engineers, scientists, hydrologists, to name a few), who actively collaborate to manage stormwater runoff in the Lake Simcoe watershed through policy and research, exploring innovative technologies, and through urban restoration projects. Managing stormwater runoff is essential in protecting against flooding, and understanding it is a key component in supporting municipal partners to assess flood risk. It is also worth noting there's a difference between riverine flooding and urban flooding, and the drivers and opportunities for remediation and risk may differ.

As stormwater travels across the landscape, making its way to streams and rivers, and, ultimately Lake Simcoe, it picks up contaminants along the way; such as, sediments, phosphorus, other nutrients, chemicals, oils, greases, etc.

Urban stormwater runoff represents an estimated 28% of the phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe, and accordingly managing it is an area of focus for phosphorus load reduction and water quality maintenance in the lake. All urban areas across the watershed contribute to the stormwater phosphorus load.

Pre the 1980s, in historical urban areas, stormwater was generally piped to watercourses without quantity or quality controls. From the 1980s to approximately 2010, stormwater management typically relied on stormwater ponds for quantity and quality control to meet design objectives such as peak flow reduction, total suspended solids, and associated phosphorus removal.

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan developed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and released in 2008 introduced water quality policies that encourage a treatment train approach for stormwater management. This approach promotes Low Impact Development features that mimic the natural hydrologic cycle, moving away from reliance on stormwater management ponds alone. Since 2010, there has been an evolution from ponds to a treatment-train approach to manage stormwater.

The Conservation Authority has been providing leadership and expertise to promote environmentally sustainable development practices for stormwater management for almost two decades. To learn more, please click this link to view the presentation: [Stormwater Management Presentation](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

2024 Budget Assumptions

The Board approved Staff Report No. 31-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's recommended budget assumptions for the 2024 fiscal year.

The Conservation Authority's Role in Stormwater Management

The Board received Staff Report No. 32-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's role in stormwater management.

Conservation Authorities Act Transition - Quarterly Progress Report No. 5 for June 2023

The Board received Staff Report No. 33-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress Report No. 5 and approved the June 2023 Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress No. 5 for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Updates to Ontario Regulation 179/06 Implementation Guidelines

The Board received Staff Report No. 34-23-BOD and revised guidelines regarding the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Ontario Regulation 179/06 Implementation Guidelines and approved the revised 'Ontario Regulation 179/06 Implementation Guidelines' for implementation effective July 1, 2023.

Procurement results for Nature Centre Development Project: Owner's Representative Consultant

The Board received Staff Report No. 35-23-BOD regarding the results of Request for Proposal 2021-CL-0003 Owner's Representative Services for the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre Project and endorsed staff's recommendation to award the contract to CBRE. The Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to finalize a contract to retain the services of CBRE.

2023 Conservation Awards Recipients

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 36-23-BOD regarding the 2023 Conservation Awards Recipients and further selected the recipient for the George R. Richardson Award.

Confidential Human Resources Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 37-23-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter and approved the recommendations contained within the report.

Confidential Human Resources Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 38-23-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter and approved the recommendations contained within the report.

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