



100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
(905) 727-3123
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
Memorandum
Councillor's Office

Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Board Meeting Highlights of September 27, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Councillor Michael Thompson

Date: November 26, 2024

Recommendation

- 1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of September 27, 2024, be received for information.**

Attachments

- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of September 27, 2024

Board Meeting Highlights

September 27, 2024

Announcements

- a) Chair Riepma welcomed new Board member Councillor Tara Roy-DiClemente from the Town of East Gwillimbury, who has been appointed in place of Mayor Hackson, who stepped down from the Board at the end of July. Chair Riepma also noted that Councillor Joe Gough from the Township of Ramara, who was not in attendance, has been appointed in place of Councillor Sherri Bell.
- b) CAO Baldwin advised that at the request of the City of Orillia Council, he made a deputation on September 23rd to advise of the Conservation Authority's programs and services, along with new legislation regarding the City's involvement in the programs and services.
- c) CAO Baldwin advised that staff continue to monitor blue-green algae blooms that have resurfaced in the lake in September, after first being seen in July. CAO Baldwin also advised that invasive water soldier has also been seen in well-established large clumps in Cook's Bay. Staff have been in regular contact with Provincial staff regarding both issues.

Presentations:

a) **Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy**

Integrated Watershed Management Implementation Coordinator, Kaitlyn Read, provided an overview of the draft Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy, noting this is a new requirement under Ontario Regulation 686/21 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for all conservation authorities to complete. In accordance with the regulation, the required components of this Strategy include:

1. Guiding principles to inform and frame the Strategy and goals to inform the design and delivery of the Conservation Authority's mandatory programs and services;
2. Summary of existing technical studies, monitoring programs, and other information that the Conservation Authority relies on to deliver its programs and services;
3. Review of the Conservation Authority's programs and services and identification of gaps that should be addressed to assist in better delivering on its mandate;
4. A process for periodic review and updating of the Strategy; and
5. Public and stakeholder consultation and publication of the Strategy.

The Strategy included a review of how the Conservation Authority's approach to watershed management has evolved as watershed issues and knowledge have changed since 1951, along

with a forecast on where it's heading based on emerging concerns. The Strategy not only demonstrates the rationale for existing programs and services, but it also identifies opportunities for the future based on continued and emerging stressors.

The following three guiding principles were developed to inform and frame the Strategy:

1. Programs and services are based on integrated watershed management and find the balance between economic and environmental needs.
2. Science-based decision-making and adaptive management will ensure that programs and services continue to protect people, property and natural resources for generations to come.
3. The watershed's natural resources are a shared responsibility. Partnership and collaboration will enable a clear, coordinated approach to sustainable resource management.

Five goals have been established under these guiding principles, which align with the Conservation Authority's current strategic plan:

1. Protect people, property, and resources from natural hazards through programs and services.
2. Effectively manage conservation lands and facilities to provide recreation and education opportunities that inspire an appreciation of nature.
3. Support and lead environmental science and research programs to provide the data necessary to inform watershed management decisions.
4. Identify and understand watershed resources and their stressors and develop and implement programs to address issues and threats.
5. Enhance and restore natural resources to improve their function and resilience for generations to come.

The programs and services review and gap assessment were completed through internal meetings and workshops, feedback from partners, and public consultation. In total, 331 individuals were engaged, and feedback was reviewed and incorporated into the Strategy development. Through the process, nine areas were identified where programs or services could either be expanded or new ones could be developed, in order to fill gaps and better address watershed stressors.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy Presentation](#)

b) Conservation Areas Strategy

Director, Conservation Lands, Philip Davies, provided an overview of the Conservation Authority's Conservation Areas Strategy, noting this is a new requirement under Ontario Regulation 686/21 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for all conservation authorities to complete. The regulation set out the required components of this Strategy, which include: A

conservation areas strategy, prepared on or before December 31, 2024 for all lands owned or controlled by a conservation authority, including any interests in land registered on title, that meet the requirements set out in section 10. Criteria to be included in the Strategy includes:

1. Objectives to inform land management decisions, including policies for acquisition and disposition;
2. Identification of mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services offered, and sources of financing;
3. Assessment of how lands augment natural heritage features and integrate with other public lands;
4. Classification of lands into categories according to use;
5. Process for periodic Strategy review;
6. Community engagement in the Strategy preparation; and
7. Posting to Authority website or other means for public access.

The uses of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's landholdings fall under three categories: conservation areas, management areas, and administrative offices.

Staff undertook a broad consultation process with engagement from staff, municipal, provincial and regional government stakeholders, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, as well as the general public through trailside events and an online engagement platform.

Information gathered was used to refine the Guiding Principles and develop the following draft Goal Statement that will inform land management, development and maintenance activities for the future: **To balance protection of the natural environment with providing safe and enjoyable passive recreation opportunities at well planned and maintained conservation areas.**

The following four guiding principles were then developed:

- i. Care and Protect
- ii. Collaborate and Connect
- iii. Plan for the Future
- iv. Strategic Management

Staff sought Board of Directors input through a survey and plan to table the final draft Strategy for approval at the November 2024 meeting.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Conservation Areas Strategy Presentation](#)

Staff Reports:

Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy

The Board received Staff Report No. 47-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's draft Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy and approved the draft Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy.

Conservation Areas Strategy

The Board received Staff Report No. 48-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Conservation Areas Strategy.

2024 Scanlon Creek Restoration Project Update

The Board received Staff Report No. 49-24-BOD regarding the Scanlon Creek Restoration Project status and financial update.

Scanlon Creek Nature Centre Construction: General Contractor Request for Proposal

The Board received Staff Report No. 50-24-BOD regarding the Request for Proposal process to retain a General Contractor to construct the new Scanlon Creek Nature Centre. The Board appointed a sub-committee of the Board of Directors, comprised of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the member representing the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, plus two additional members (Councillor Drodge and Councillor Harrison-McIntyre), to award the construction contract as outlined in the report.

Confidential Human Resources Matter

The Board endorsed Staff Report No. 51-24-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter.

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