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Town of Aurora
Memorandum
Councillor's Office

Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of January 24, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Councillor Michael Thompson

Date: February 25, 2025

Recommendation

- 1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of January 24, 2025, be received for information.**

Attachments

- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of January 24, 2025

Board Meeting Highlights

74th Annual General Meeting

January 24, 2025

Welcome and Greetings:

Chair Riepma welcomed everyone to the 74th Annual General meeting of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and acknowledged the Lake Simcoe watershed as traditional Indigenous territory. Chair Riepma welcomed new Board member from the Regional Municipality of York, Chairman and CEO Eric Jolliffe, who has been appointed in place of Chairman Wayne Emmerson, who retired at the end of November 2024.

2024 Year-end Presentations:

a) 2024 Year in Review

Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, congratulated staff on their many accomplishments of 2024, noting that staff are the reason for our success and what a privilege and honour it is to lead such a talented team. CAO Baldwin shared a video that captures the many highlights and accomplishments from 2024.

To view the video, please click this link: [2024 Year in Review Video](#)

These highlights and accomplishments are also captured in the [2024 Annual Report Infographic](#)

b) 2024 Restoration Accomplishments

Manager, Restoration, Christa Sharp, provided an overview of the Restoration Department's 2024 accomplishments, noting that the Conservation Authority funded over 100 restoration projects in 2024. A variety of critical on-the-ground projects were completed, including stormwater retrofits, low impact development features, community action projects, wetland habitat creation and agricultural projects. Projects are tracked for Key Performance Indicators, and these accomplishments include over 33 hectares of land being restored, over 3,960 metres of streambank being planted/stabilized, and 75% increased biodiversity and enhanced pollinator habitat.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [2024 Restoration Accomplishments Presentation](#)

Conclusion of 2024 Business:

Chair Riepma concluded the Year 2024 business and deemed the Chair vacant.

2025 Business:

The 2025 Business portion of the meeting was called to order by CAO Rob Baldwin, who served as Chair Pro Temp during the election of the Chair and Vice Chair for 2025.

Election of Officers for 2025:

City of Barrie Councillor Clare Riepma was re-appointed to the position of Chair for 2025, and Township of Oro-Medonte Mayor Randy Greenlaw was re-appointed to the position of Vice Chair for 2025.

Year 2025 Presentations

a) 2025 Capital and Operating Budget

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided an update on the 2025 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget, reminding Board members that in December 2024, they had approved the 2025 proposed Capital and Operating Budget for circulation to all participating and specified municipalities. Following which, the proposed budget was circulated to all participating and specified municipalities and was posted on the Conservation Authority's website for the required 30-day review period. With these requirements of O.Reg 402/22: Budget and Apportionment being met, CFO Critch sought the Board's approval of the 2025 Capital and Operating Budget, subject to the three required weighted votes as outlined in the regulation.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [2025 Capital and Operating Budget Presentation](#)

b) 2025 Annual Priorities

Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, provided an overview of the Conservation Authority's 2025 Annual Priorities, noting that 10 priorities have been identified for 2025. Some are the continuation of multi-year priorities, such as the New Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, the management of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve in the Town of Georgina, the continuation of critical lake ecology research, finalization of watershed indicators, and the Conservation Authority's digital strategy. Other priorities, such as developing an indigenous framework, developing a talent management strategy, rebranding, conducting a flood and low water response audit, and a targeted conservation authorities advocacy strategy, are new for 2025 and some will continue into 2026.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [2025 Annual Priorities](#)

Staff Reports

2024 Restoration Accomplishments

The Board received Staff Report No. 01-25-BOD regarding the Restoration Department's 2024 accomplishments.

2025 Capital and Operating Budget

The Board received Staff Report No. 02-25-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's 2025 Capital and Operating Budget and approved the 2025 Proposed 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 O.Reg.402/22: Budget and Apportionment, the 2025 budget, including the schedule of Category 1 Mandatory levies, was unanimously approved by weighted votes by those in attendance.

2025 Annual Priorities

The Board received Staff Report No. 03-25-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's 2025 Annual Priorities.

Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications for the Period January 1 through December 31, 2024

The Board received Staff Report No. 04-25-BOD regarding the total number of development applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2024.

2025 Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule

The Board received Staff Report No. 05-25-BOD regarding the 2025 meeting schedule. The Board remaining 2025 Board of Director' meetings will take place at 9:00 a.m. in person at the Conservation Authority's Newmarket offices on the following dates:

Friday, March 28th

Friday, September 26th

Friday, May 23rd

Friday, November 28th

Friday, July 25th

Friday, December 19th

Confidential Legal Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 06-25-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter.

To view the meeting's media release, please click the following link: [2025 Annual General Meeting](#)