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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 June 26, 2020**

**To:**           Mayor and Members of Council

**From:**       Councillor Wendy Gaertner

**Date:**       September 29, 2020

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### **Recommendations**

- 1. That Council receive the correspondence for information.**



# Board Meeting Highlights

June 26, 2020

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a) Chair Emmerson noted that the Connect Campaign held a successful and well attended virtual meeting on June 24th to raise awareness of the need for a new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area for LSRCA's Education Program.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

a) **LSRCA's 2020 Budget Companion Document**

CAO Mike Walters provided Board members with a glimpse of LSRCA's 2020 Budget Companion Document, noting that the document talks about all LSRCA programs and services, providing an open and transparent picture of what we do, along with the costs to deliver services. Other details include outcomes for each program area, as well as workplans for 2020. CAO Walters proudly noted that this document is produced entirely inhouse by LSRCA's Communications department and that other conservation authorities have also begun producing their own budget companion document.

To view this document, please click this link: [LSRCA's 2020 Budget Companion Document](#)

b) **LSRCA Stories of Lake Simcoe: Science to Action**

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Ben Longstaff, noted that as Board members are aware, reporting on the health of Lake Simcoe, along with protecting and restoring the lake, is an important part of the work undertaken by LSRCA. It demonstrates our commitment and allows us to share results for residents and interested stakeholders. The need was identified to share this information with non-technical yet engaged groups, residents, municipal staff, etc., and a unique approach to story telling through on a web-based tool was created.

Communications Specialist, Nancie Knight, who led this initiative, shared this new product with Board members, noting this story series was created to inform, engage, and empower our local environmental groups and partners. This tool was selected so the already engaged audience could become more informed and use the information to take action in their own communities. The project team of GIS, Forestry, Restoration, Integrated Watershed Management and Communications worked collaboratively on this initiative. Ms. Knight took the Board through an online tour of the webpage.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Stories of Lake Simcoe: Science to Action](#)

To access this tool on our website, please click this link: <https://www.lsrca.on.ca/watershed-health/stories-of-lake-simcoe>

**c) Scanlon Creek Operations Centre Renovations Update**

General Manager, Conservation Lands, Brian Kemp, provided the Board with an update on the renovations at Scanlon Creek Operations Centre and was pleased to note that the renovations are very close to completion. He reviewed the project timelines, noting the project was tracking well at the beginning of 2020, then shut down for a month due to COVID-19. Construction recommenced May 19<sup>th</sup> and virtual site meetings were held every two weeks, and staff had constant daily contact with the contractors. The targeted project completion is July 6<sup>th</sup>. GM Kemp took the Board through a virtual tour of the renovated building, pointing out the many new features that now make this building fully accessible. He was pleased also to showcase the reuse of some emerald ash trees cut down due to the emerald ash borer, as well as the new watershed science workroom.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Scanlon Creek Operations Centre Renovations Update](#)

**CORRESPONDENCE AND STAFF REPORTS:**

**Correspondence**

The Board received the following pieces of Correspondence:

- a) LSRCA letter of May 5, 2020 to MECP and MNRF regarding the Pefferlaw Dam ownership;
- b) MECP letter of May 6, 2020 to LSRCA regarding the Pefferlaw Dam ownership;
- c) MNRF letter received June 12, 2020 to LSRCA regarding the Pefferlaw Dam ownership; and
- d) Conservation Ontario letter of June 3, 2020 to MECP regarding Conservation Authorities: Next Steps

**LSRCA Business Continuity and Operational Response to the COVID -19 Pandemic**

The Board received Staff Report No. 32-20-BOD, prepared by Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Walters, which updated the Board regarding LSRCA's business continuity and operational response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, please click the link below for LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage: <https://www.lsrca.on.ca/Pages/Board-Meetings.aspx>