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Town of Aurora
Memorandum
Councillor's Office

Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of November 18, November 25, and December 16, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Councillor Wendy Gaertner

Date: February 7, 2023

Recommendation

- 1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of November 18, November 25, and December 16, 2022, be received for information.**

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of November 18, November 25, and December 16, 2022

Special Board Meeting Highlights

November 18, 2022

Presentations:

a) Provincial Bill 23: More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

CAO Rob Baldwin provided a presentation on the proposed Provincial Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 as it impacts the *Conservation Authorities Act*. He reviewed the four central categories of proposed change, along with his comments on each category:

1. Proposed updates to the regulation of development for the protection of people and property from natural hazards in Ontario;
2. Focusing conservation authorities' role in the review of development related proposals and applications;
3. Freezing conservation authority fees; and

Identifying conservation authority lands suitable for housing and streamlining conservation authority severance and disposition processes that facilitate faster development.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Proposed Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 - Presentation](#)

Staff Report:

Provincial Bill 23: More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

The Board received Staff Report No. 40-22-BOD regarding Provincial Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 regarding Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and directed staff to provide a submission to Environmental Registry of Ontario No. 019-6141 based on comments within this report. The Board directed staff to submit a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks requesting that the Conservation Authorities Working Group be re-engaged.

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

Board Meeting Highlights

November 25, 2022

Presentations:

a) Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided a presentation on the Conservation Authority's Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-end Forecast, noting a minor operational deficit at Q3 of \$(13K), with a surplus position being projected by year-end. He went on to note that the 2022 annual operating priorities are progressing well, and the reserve activity is going to be in line with budget at year-end. Highlights for Q3 include a deficit for Greenspace Services related to property taxes in the Town of Georgina, which is being discussed, and a surplus in Planning and Development due to variances in open positions, new fees and year-to-date applications. Progress on capital investments for 2022 is going well, almost all projects complete, with some being completed by year-end, and some continuing into 2023 as expected.

Looking at the year-end forecast, he noted that any uncertainty around the impacts of Bill 23 is not factored in as it is unknown at this time, but he also noted no impacts on the year-end are anticipated with only a few weeks left to the end of the year. Volume of permit and development applications versus assumptions continues to be monitored. Other trends being monitored include interest rates on cash invested, legal fees and education revenue. An operational surplus of approximately \$35K is projected for year-end. He noted that total reserve balances are in a good position and growing.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report Presentation](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received the following items of correspondence:

- a) October 25, 2022 letter from Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding the Upper York Sewage Solution decision; and
- b) November 4, 2022 letter from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding More Home Built Faster plan and associated Environmental Registry postings.

Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast

The Board received Staff Report No. 41-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Third Quarter 2022 Financial Report and Year-end Forecast.

Computer Security Network Update

The Board received Staff Report No. 42-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority computer network security update.

Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario – Tourism Relief Fund

The Board received Staff Report No. 43-22-BOD regarding funding support from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario's Tourism Relief Fund towards the Beaver River Wetland Trail Improvements Project. The Board authorized the Conservation to enter into the associated Tourism Relief Fund Contribution Agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

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

Board Meeting Highlights

December 16, 2022

Announcements:

General Manager, Development, Engineering and Restoration, Glenn MacMillan, advised that staff held a webinar on the Conservation Authority's Engineering processes on November 30th. This was one of a number of webinars staff are hosting to inform and assist staff from member municipalities regarding technical submissions with a goal towards making submission and reviews run smoothly. He noted the webinar was well attended by approximately 180 participants from member municipalities. Other webinars have been or will be held on Hydrogeology, Ecology, Stormwater Management, and more.

Presentations:

a) Bill 23 Update

Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, provided an update on the enactment dates surrounding Bill 23, including those already in effect, such as the change in Minister now that Conservation Authorities are now back under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; minor changes around issuance of permits where a Minister's Zoning Order has been issued referred to as the "community infrastructure and housing accelerator", which means an accelerator type of permit follows the same rules as a Minister's Zoning Order permit.

Other updates for January 1, 2023 include a process change for the disposition of land, simplifying the process for conservation authorities to dispose of lands acquired under Section 39 and a freeze on Planning and Development fees.

More changes planned for 2023 include a prohibition on municipal and other programs and services related to reviewing and commenting on prescribed acts; the Minister's power to impose terms and conditions on a project of authority; and exceptions related to Planning Act for certain development activities and areas of municipalities.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Bill 23 Update](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Conservation Authorities Act Quarterly Transition Report No. 3

The Board received Staff Report No. 44-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress Report No. 3 and approved the December 2022 Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress No. 3 for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Lake Simcoe Preserve Update

The Board received Staff Report No. 45-22-BOD regarding an update on actions completed at the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve.

Planning and Development Fees Update

The Board received Staff Report No. 46-22-BOD regarding the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Planning and Development Fees update. The Board approved the proposed 2% increase to the current Planning and Development Fees as recommended for cost-of-living increase outlined in the Plan Review and Permitting Fee Review Report prepared by Watson & Associates, such increase to take effect December 30, 2022.

Confidential Human Resources Matter

The Board approved Confidential Staff Report No. 47-22-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter.

Confidential Legal Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 48-22-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter.

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