



# LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

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Registered Charitable Organization No. 107646598RR0001

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Board of Directors refers to the General Membership as set out in the Lower Trent Conservation Administrative By-Law No. 2021-01*

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### MEETING # 2022-08

**DATE:** October 13, 2022  
**TIME:** 7:54 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Administration Office, 714 Murray Street, Trenton / Virtually  
**PRESENT:**

ON SITE		REMOTE SITE
Eric Sandford (Chair)	Jim Alyea	Mike Filip
Mary Tadman	Bob Mullin	Lynda Reid
Mark Bateman (Vice-chair)	Gene Brahaney	
Don Clark	Rick English	

**ABSENT/REGRETS:** Mark DeJong

**STAFF:** Rhonda Bateman, Janet Noyes, Kelly Vandette

#### 1. Meeting called to order by the Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandford at 7:54 p.m.

#### 2. First Nation Acknowledgement by the Chair

*"This land is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnabek, Huron-Wendat, and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) peoples. We acknowledge our shared responsibilities and obligations to preserve and protect the land, air and water. We are grateful to have the privilege to meet, explore, and connect here on these shared lands. In the spirit of friendship, peace and respect, we extend our thanks to all the generations that came before us and cared for these lands - for time immemorial."*

#### 3. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

There were no pecuniary interests disclosed at this meeting.

#### 4. Approval of the Agenda

RES: G116/22

Moved by: Mark Bateman

Seconded by: Mary Tadman

THAT the agenda be approved as presented and amended to include under Item #9. Correspondence ([Attachment 1](#)).

Carried

**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations received for this meeting.

**6. Public Input (3 minutes per speaker)**

There was no Public Input or participation at this meeting.

**7. Adoption of the Minutes:**

RES: G117/22

Moved by: Mary Tadman

Seconded by: Don Clark

THAT the meeting minutes of September 8, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

**8. Business arising from these minutes**

The revisions to the proposed draft budget are covered under Item #18.

**STANDING ITEMS**

**9. Correspondence**

a. October 6, 2022 – Letter to MPP Ric Bresee, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

RES: G118/22

Moved by: Don Clark

Seconded by: Mary Tadman

THAT the letter sent to MPP Ric Bresee, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the October 3, 2022 meeting with five Conservation Authorities be received as information.

Carried

**10. Section 28, Ontario Regulation 163/06, Development Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses Regulation - Summary of Permits approved by staff for period from September 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022**

RES: G119/22

Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Don Clark

THAT the summary of Section 28 Permits pursuant to Ontario Regulation 163/06 approved by staff for the period from September 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022 be received as information.

Carried

**11. List of Monthly Payments Issued**

RES: G120/22

Moved by: Mark Bateman

Seconded by: Mike Filip

THAT the list of payments of cheques and electronic funds transfers (EFTs) in the total amount of \$55,068.40 for the month of September

2022 be received as information; and  
That the monthly payroll amount be included in the list of monthly  
payments issued report, henceforth.

Carried

## 12. Summary of Education and Outreach Activities

RES: G121/22

Moved by: Gene Brahaney

Seconded by: Rick English

THAT the summary of recent and upcoming education and outreach  
activities be received as information.

Carried

## 13. Updates

### a. Drinking Water Source Protection Update

Rhonda Bateman, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer shared that the Source Protection Committee met on October 4, 2022. The largest topic of conversation was the proposed policy wording changes for sewage works based on the new technical rules; as well, other policy changes and wording were proposed based on new technical rules.

It is anticipated that the TCC program coordinator will be outlining the Section 36 changes to the SPA meeting scheduled in November. Acceptance by the SPA Board is required prior to submission for pre-consultation with the MECP.

### b. Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Update

The September 2022 BQRAP Waterlogs newsletter was provided in the agenda package.

RES: G122/22

Moved by: Don Clark

Seconded by: Mike Filip

THAT the Drinking Water Source Protection Update; and  
THAT the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Update be received as  
information.

Carried

### c. Planning and Regulations Update

The Planning and Regulations report was provided in the agenda package.

Janet Noyes, Manager, Development Services and Water Resources, provided an update on the Wielenga trial held today. She described the process staff have taken to satisfy the legal requests for disclosure of information. The trial was adjourned to November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### d. Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW) and Ontario Low Water Response (OLWR) Update

Janet Noyes shared that current conditions are normal. There are no low water drought triggers and no flooding at this point.

Warkworth dam log operations are scheduled to be installed for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The consultants are working on the Operations Manual System.

Director English thanked staff for postponing the installation of the logs at Warkworth dam being the fall colours has resulted in a large number of visitors viewing the beautiful scene.

RES: G123/22

Moved by: Bob Mullin

Seconded by: Lynda Reid

THAT the planning and regulations updates; and  
THAT the flood forecasting and warning (FFW), and Ontario low water response (OLWR) updates be received as information.

Carried

## STAFF REPORTS

### 14. Risk Management Official Activity Pursuant to Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* Quarterly Report

RES: G124/22

Moved by: Lynda Reid

Seconded by: Mike Filip

THAT the Risk Management Official Activity Pursuant to Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* Quarterly Report for the period of July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022 be received as information.

Carried

### 15. Conservation Lands Quarterly Report

RES: G125/22

Moved by: Bob Mullin

Seconded by: Mark Bateman

THAT the Conservation Lands Quarterly Report for the period of July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022 be received as information.

Carried

### 16. *Conservation Authorities Act* O. Reg. 687 Quarterly Report

RES: G126/22

Moved by: Don Clark

Seconded by: Jim Alyea

THAT the *Conservation Authorities Act* O. Reg. 687 Quarterly Report for the period of July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022 be received as information.

Carried

### 17. 2022 Progress and Financial Report

The Progress Report was provided in the agenda package.

Kelly Vandette, Manager, Corporate Services spoke to the financial portion of the progress report. She advised that a surplus is projected for end of this year due to higher than expected planning and regulations revenue and costs savings due to staff turnover.

Rhonda Bateman asked the Board as to whether the interim progress report is a necessary publication or is the Annual Report sufficient. She noted that members receive more detailed monthly and quarterly updates on all program areas than the collection of numeric data in the

progress report. The financial progress report would still be supplied for period ending June 30<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> as that is an important indicator of fiscal spending and budget forecasting.

The Board members moved into discussion.

RES: G127/22

Moved by: Mark Bateman

Seconded by: Jim Alyea

THAT the 2022 Progress and Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2022 be received as information; and That the interim progress report be discontinued and the financial progress report schedule remain.

Carried

### 18. 2023 Business Plan and Budget (Draft)

Rhonda Bateman spoke to the 2023 Business Plan and Budget as provided in the agenda package. Staff managed to reduce the operations and capital levy budget to below 10% as requested at the previous board meeting. The proposed total levy budget would increase by 8.98%.

Rhonda Bateman asked the Board to keep in mind that the majority of staff at LTC are responsible for fulfilling job duties in more than one program area. In other words, they wear more than one hat, in some cases several hats. This allows for the distribution of workload and continued growth in experience and expertise. Cutting an existing staff member would have detrimental effects to our programs. She highlighted where savings and reduced/cut costs were found:

- Decreased COLA from 4% to 3% (~\$38K)
- Withdrew (~\$23K) Category 1 – cost allocation for Environmental Education Technician and recover through existing Youth Education funds for 2023; however, as a category 1, coverage for 2024 budget would be reinstated.
- Transferred (~\$110.5K) funding for 1.5 FTE 3 (temporary contracts) from levy to be drawn from surplus funds.
- Cut (~\$15.5K) for two conservation lands summer students. The search for alternate funding mechanisms for further Conservation Lands staffing will continue.

The Board members moved into discussion.

RES: G128/22

Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Mike Filip

THAT the Draft Lower Trent Conservation 2023 Business Plan and Budget, as presented, be circulated to the member municipalities as per provincial regulations.

Carried



**OTHER BUSINESS**

**19. CAO's Report**

RES: G129/22

Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Mary Tadman

THAT the CAO's Report be received as information.

Carried

**20. Members Inquiries/Other Business**

Rhonda Bateman reminded members of their obligation under the Act for continued attendance at Board of Directors meetings until the municipality appoints a new member after the election.

Director English shared that municipal candidates for Trent Hills were questioned as to whether there was duplication in roles between municipal Planning and Building and Lower Trent Conservation – the unanimous response from candidates was no.

Director Alyea commented that the number of appeals brought to the Board have been more excessive over the past few years and asked if this was a result of stricter assessments made by staff.

Rhonda Bateman responded that, in the past, there may have been less communication regarding the option for a Hearing. Staff negotiate with applicants to prevent Hearings. Director Alyea responded that more individuals came forward as delegations as opposed to holding Hearings.

Director Clark commented on the impacts of flooding recently in Florida and the insurance costs associated with these events. He commented on the importance of the role for conservation and appreciates the time and work LTC and the Board does. Director Alyea responded that Director Clark's comments regarding flooding and wetlands in Florida were in reference to the earlier Hearing.

**21. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RES: G130/22

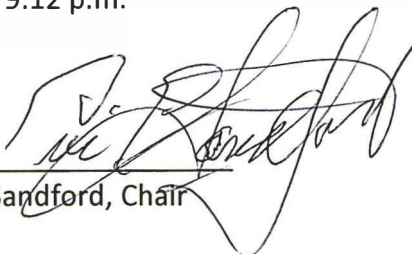
Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Mary Tadman

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Time 9:12 p.m.



Eric Sandford, Chair



Rhonda Bateman, CAO/ST



Cataraqi  
conservation



Crowe Valley  
Conservation



LOWER TRENT  
CONSERVATION



October 6, 2022

MPP Ric Bresee,  
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Whitney Block Rm 5501,  
99 Wellesley St W,  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear MPP Bresee,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the five Conservation Authorities in your riding on Monday October 4<sup>th</sup> in Madoc. It was a pleasure to have such fulsome discussions on Conservation Authority matters. We appreciated your understanding of Conservation Authority operations and your willingness to discuss opportunities and concerns raised.

We wanted to offer a summary of our discussions and some proposed recommendations (Appendix) for moving forward.

### **Natural Hazards Management in Rural Communities:**

- Conservation Authorities are on-the-ground agents implementing provincial mandates to manage the risk of natural hazards across Ontario watersheds. Every Conservation Authority has unique geography and requires a broad range of resources to review urban and rural development proposals, including unique modelling and mapping to understand the risk of extreme events. Proactive planning coupled with regulatory review is utilized to reduce impacts on property, ensure property values are commensurate with existing development and permit appropriate growth activity in the right location to reduce social disruption, save lives and protect property. This has been reaffirmed with the recent changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- Conservation Authorities rely on municipal levy, local and government partnerships to fund the programs and services required to sustainably meet the mandate of managing natural hazard risks. Significant funding cuts have reduced the proactive planning, retention of technical staff, stifled expansion of staffing resources, real-time monitoring, emergency operations, and long-term maintenance of critical infrastructure required to meet this mandate. Current allocations are stagnant and have never matched inflation or the increasing costs needed to safely operate or maintain required infrastructure.
- Areas with larger urban populations often have the resources to meet the needs of developing predictive modelling, updating risk mapping, and assessing the risk and response to natural hazards. This creates a divide across the province and leaves small and rural communities vulnerable because they do not have an adequate tax base capable of funding required for capital expenditures and operational resources for Conservation Authorities. These are the communities that live on the

*Working with Local Communities to Protect our Natural Environment*



Member of Conservation Ontario  
Representing Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities

shorelines, have historical properties in the floodplain, and have the highest economic development potential.

- Conservation Authorities are focusing on their mandatory programming and there are insufficient funds available across rural communities to effectively protect people and property from natural hazards. In fact, there is not enough funding to adequately maintain a baseline standard for rural Conservation Authorities.
- To create a consistent baseline and effective implementation of provincial mandates across the province, a change in funding strategy is required to support rural communities.
- One important aspect of completing our mandate is a strong governance model. Conservation Authorities are challenged with maintaining quorum and engagement across our Board of Directors in rural communities when citizen appointments are not approved through Ministry exemption, as required by the Act. These members are dedicated, skilled, have exceptional attendance and relieve Council members who have multiple commitments to truly advocate for watershed and municipal goals around the table. It is recommended the Ministry review and process municipal requests expeditiously and support communities who have strong citizen applicants engaged with Council, otherwise vacancies on Boards cause delays in ongoing business approvals and limit progress on mandated activities.

We would like to encourage further dialogue with Conservation Authorities in other areas of the province to get a bigger picture of the issues in different parts of the province. We will be able to assist in creating opportunities for such meetings to occur. We believe that in-person discussions are helpful in establishing trusting relationships.

Thank you once again for meeting with us and we appreciated the openness of the communication.

Respectfully,

Katrina Furlanetto,  
CAO Cataraqui Conservation  
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Tim Pidduck,  
GM, Crowe Valley Conservation  
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Rhonda Bateman,  
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Brad McNevin,  
CAO, Quinte Conservation  
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c.c. Boards of Directors – CRCA, CVCA, LTC, MVCA, QC



## APPENDIX

### Recommendations

As representatives of smaller Conservation Authorities in eastern Ontario, the following are recommendations for Ministry consideration that will significantly reduce the implementation barrier to achieving the province's mandate of protecting people and property from natural hazards:

#### 1. Support effective implementation of water control and erosion infrastructure (WECI) to promote public safety

- a. Creates a successful platform to complete projects by ensuring a competitive bidding process for successfully retaining consultants and allowing major repairs to be completed within the provided fiscal without expanding the funding envelope
- b. Supports health and safety of Conservation Authority employees, community residents, and ensure long-term management of current structures is achievable
- c. Addresses Priority #3: Enhance Flood Preparedness of the Ontario Flooding Strategy recommendations

**Action:** Review WECI to expand the implementation timeframe for successful WECI grant projects to a minimum of two-years and revisit the scoring system for ranking repeated project submissions.

#### 2. Support the development of floodplain mapping across Ontario

- a. Reduces the risk of rural community vulnerability to flooding events by knowing where and how to develop across watersheds
- b. Supports efficient development approval processes by having available hazards mapping, reducing the need for individual studies, and streamlining permitting of applications to get more projects in the ground faster
- c. Addresses Priority #1: Understand Flood Risks of the Ontario Flooding Strategy recommendations

**Action:** Develop a multi-year provincial program to prioritize small and rural municipalities for floodplain hazard mapping initiatives

#### 3. Reduce community vulnerability to natural hazards across watersheds

- a. Creates a consistent baseline for rural communities by reducing the risk of natural hazards
- b. Provides Conservation Authorities with the capacity and resiliency to have backup staff (retain and attract the appropriate talent) before an emergency, the ability to operate structures in real-time, and respond to the higher frequency of major climate events
- c. Addresses Priority #1: Understand Flood Risks of the Ontario Flooding Strategy recommendations

**Action:** Revisit the funding model used to apportion current MNRF Section 39 (Natural Hazard Grant) allocations to provide sufficient financial support for small and rural conservation authorities to attain a minimum level of capacity to deliver provincially mandated programs and services.

#### 4. Proactively identify solutions to changes in water quantity and quality

- a. Supports actions to prevent and reduce identified algae blooms
- b. Supports the development of drought management plans and actions residents can employ to better protect their property and access to resources

- c. Ensures there are resilient resources for the development proposals needed to address the housing shortage in rural communities
- d. Promotes active tourism in lake country supporting economic development in rural communities
- e. Addresses Priority #5: Invest in Flood (and Drought) Risk Reduction of the Ontario Flooding Strategy recommendations

**Action:** Expand infrastructure funding eligibility activities to include predictive modelling and risk analysis for adapting to climate change (e.g., drought and flooding conditions) across Ontario.