



**LOWER TRENT REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Administrative By-law

No. 2023-01

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Preface

The *Conservation Authorities Act*, as amended by the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017*, provides direction for conservation authorities to make such by-laws as are required for its proper administration. Section 19.1 of the Act, sets out the requirements for by-laws. This Administrative By-law Model and Best Management Practices for Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest are designed to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 19.1.

Where municipal legislation conflicts with any part of this by-law (*e.g. Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* or the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* or a provision of a regulation made under one of those Acts), the provision of that Act or regulation prevails.

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Introduction

Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority is a non-share corporation, established under Section 3 of the *Conservation Authorities Act (the Act)*, with the objects to provide, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, programs and services designed for the purpose of furthering the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watershed(s) other than gas, coal and minerals.

Under *the Act*, municipalities within a common watershed are enabled to petition the province to establish a conservation authority. Members of the authority are appointed as representatives by the Participating Municipalities and are effectively directors also of the Authority.

- Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
- Municipality of Brighton
- Municipality of Centre Hastings
- Township of Cramahe
- City of Quinte West
- Township of Stirling-Rawdon
- Municipality of Trent Hills

An additional member may be appointed to the authority by the Minister as a representative of the agricultural sector.

The Vision for the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority, as set out in our Strategic Plan (2018), is:

Healthy Watersheds for Healthy Communities

Our Mission is:

To protect land, water and living things by working with and inspiring others.

The Members of the Conservation Authority form the General Membership of the Conservation Authority. The Members are bound by the Act and other applicable legislation. The Authority must always act within the scope of its powers. As a non-share corporation, the Authority has the capacity and, subject to the Act and other applicable legislation, the rights, powers and privileges of a natural person. The powers of a conservation authority to accomplish its objects are set out in the Act, including those identified under subsection 21(1):

Powers of authorities

- 21 (1) For the purposes of accomplishing its objects, an authority has power,
- (a) to research, study and investigate the watershed and to support the development and implementation of programs and services intended to further the purposes of this Act;

- (b) for any purpose necessary to any project under consideration or undertaken by the authority, to enter into and upon any land, with consent of the occupant or owner, and survey and take levels of it and make such borings or sink such trial pits as the authority considers necessary;
- (c) to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise any land that it may require, and, subject to subsections (2) and (4), to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of land so acquired;
- (d) despite subsection (2), to lease for a term of five years or less land acquired by the authority;
- (e) to purchase or acquire any personal property that it may require and sell or otherwise deal therewith;
- (f) to enter into agreements for the purchase of materials, employment of labour and other purposes as may be necessary for the due carrying out of any project or to further the authority's objects;
- (g) to enter into agreements with owners of private lands to facilitate the due carrying out of any project;
- (h) to determine the proportion of the total benefit afforded to all the participating municipalities that is afforded to each of them;
- (i) to erect works and structures and create reservoirs by the construction of dams or otherwise;
- (j) to control the flow of surface waters in order to prevent floods or pollution or to reduce the adverse effects thereof;
- (k) to alter the course of any river, canal, brook, stream or watercourse, and divert or alter, as well temporarily as permanently, the course of any river, stream, road, street or way, or raise or sink its level in order to carry it over or under, on the level of or by the side of any work built or to be built by the authority, and to divert or alter the position of any water-pipe, gas-pipe, sewer, drain or any telegraph, telephone or electric wire or pole;
- (l) to use lands that are owned or controlled by the authority for purposes, not inconsistent with its objects, as it considers proper;
- (m) to use lands owned or controlled by the authority for park or other recreational purposes, and to erect, or permit to be erected, buildings, booths and facilities for such purposes and to make charges for admission thereto and the use thereof;
- (n) to collaborate and enter into agreements with ministries and agencies of government, municipal councils and local boards and other organizations and individuals;
- (o) to plant and produce trees on Crown lands with the consent of the Minister, and on other lands with the consent of the owner, for any purpose;
- (p) generally to do all such acts as are necessary for the due carrying out of any project or as may be desirable to further the objects of the authority.

A. Definitions

“Authority” means the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority, also referred to as Lower Trent Conservation.

“Act” means the *Conservation Authorities Act*, R.S.O. 1990, chapter C.27.

“Chair” means the Chairperson as referenced in the Act and elected by the Members of the Authority.

“Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer” means the senior most staff position of the Authority who is responsible for roles specified in the Act for the Secretary-Treasurer.

“Fiscal Year” means the period from January 1 through December 31.

“General Membership” means all of the Members, collectively and effectively acting as directors as specified in the *Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* (ONCA).

“Levy” means the amount of costs apportioned to participating municipalities in accordance with the Act and Regulations under the Act.

“Majority” means half of the votes plus one.

“Members” mean the members appointed to the Authority by the participating municipalities in the Authority’s area of jurisdiction and act as directors as specified in the *Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* (ONCA).

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for administration of the Act.

“Non-matching Levy” means that portion of an Authority’s levy that meets the definition of non-matching levy as found in Ontario Regulation 139/96.

“Officer” means an officer of the Authority as empowered to sign contracts, agreements and other documents on behalf of the Authority in accordance with section 19.1 of the Act, which shall include the Chair, Vice-Chair, and the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer.

“Participating Municipality” means a municipality that is designated by or under the Act as a participating municipality in a conservation authority.

“Pecuniary Interest” includes the financial or material interests of a Member and the financial or material interests of a member of the Member’s immediate family.

“Staff” means employees of the Authority as provided for under Section 18(1) of the Act.

“Vice-Chair” means the Vice-Chairperson as elected by the Members of the Authority.

“**Weighted Majority**” means the votes of 51 per cent of those represented after the votes are weighted by the percentage that applies under Ontario Regulation 139/96 for Municipal Levies.

B. Governance

1. Members

a) **Appointments**

Participating Municipalities within the jurisdiction of the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority may appoint Members in accordance with Section 14 of the Act.

Members must reside in a Participating Municipality within the Authority’s area of jurisdiction . Participating municipalities must ensure that at least 70 percent of its appointees are selected from among the members of the municipal council or apply to the Minister for permission to appoint less than this percent. Additional appointees may include citizens as well as an additional member who may be appointed by the Minister as a representative of the agricultural sector.

Based on Section 2(2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the Participating Municipalities (listed below) currently appoint the following number of members:

Township of Alnwick/Haldimand	1 member
Municipality of Brighton	2 members
Municipality of Centre Hastings	1 member
Township of Cramahe	1 member
City of Quinte West	2 members
Township of Stirling-Rawdon	1 member
Municipality of Trent Hills	2 members

An additional member may be appointed to the authority by the Minister as a representative of the agricultural sector.

The total number of members of the Authority, and the number of members that each participating municipality may appoint, shall be adjusted as required to ensure compliance with the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Section 2(2) if the municipalities that are participating municipalities change or the population of a participating municipality changes to the degree that it would affect membership allotment.

Collectively, the appointed Members for the purposes of this by-law are also referred to as the General Membership.

b) **Term of Member Appointments**

In accordance with Section 14 of the Act, a Member shall be appointed for a term of up to four years at the discretion of the appointing municipal council; such term beginning at the first meeting of the Authority following his or her appointment and ending immediately before the

first meeting of the Authority following the appointment of his or her replacement. The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the appropriate municipality in advance of the expiration date of any Member's term, unless notified by the municipality of the Member's reappointment or the appointment of his or her replacement. A Member is eligible for reappointment. A Member can be replaced by a Participating Municipality at the municipality's discretion prior to the end of their term by advising the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer in writing prior to permitting voting privileges for any newly appointed member. The Minister will define the term for the Member they appoint as a representative of the agricultural sector.

There are no provisions for alternates to participate as voting members on the Authority or any other committee of the Authority.

c) Powers of the General Membership

Subject to the Act and other applicable legislation, the General Membership is empowered without restriction to exercise all of the powers prescribed to the Authority under the Act. In addition to the powers of an authority under S.21 of the Act for the purposes of accomplishing its objects, as referenced in the introduction of this By-law model, the powers of the General Membership include but are not limited to:

- i. Approving by resolution, the creation of Committees and/or Advisory Boards, the members thereof and the terms of reference for these Committees and/or Advisory Boards;
- ii. Appointing a Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer;
- iii. Terminating the services of the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer;
- iv. Approving establishing and implementing regulations, policies and programs;
- v. Awarding contracts or agreements where the approval of the Authority is required under the Authority's purchasing policy.
- vi. Appointing an Executive Committee and delegate to the Committee any of its powers except:
 - The termination of the services of the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer,
 - The power to raise money, and
 - The power to enter into contracts or agreements other than those contracts or agreements as are necessarily incidental to the works approved by the Authority.
- vii. Approving by resolution, any new capital project of the Authority;
- viii. Approving by resolution, the method of financing any new capital projects;
- ix. Approving details on budget allocations on any new or existing capital projects;
- x. Approving of the total budget for the ensuing year, and approving the levies to be paid by the Participating Municipalities;
- xi. Receiving and approving the Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor for the preceding year;
- xii. Authorizing the borrowing of funds on the promissory note of the Authority in accordance with subsection 3(5) of the Act;

- xiii. Approving by resolution, any proposed expropriation of land or disposition of land, subject to the requirements under the Act;
- xiv. Approving permits or refusing permission as may be required under any regulations made under Section 28 of the Act, including the delegation of this responsibility to staff consistent with Ontario Regulation 163/06;
- xv. Holding hearings required for the purpose of reviewing permit applications, and advising every applicant of their right to appeal the decision to the Minister through the Mining and Lands Tribunal;

d) Member Accountability

Participating Municipalities appoint Members to the Authority as their representatives. Members have the responsibilities of Directors of the corporation that is the Authority. While the Chief Administrative Officer and/or Secretary-Treasurer and other staff of the Authority are responsible for the day-to-day operations, the General Membership is responsible for matters of governance, ensuring compliance with applicable legislation, ensuring appropriate policies are in place, and for financial soundness of the Authority.

Every member and officer in exercising his or her powers and discharging his or her duties to the Authority shall act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Authority and exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

All Members have the responsibility to be guided by and adhere to the Code of Conduct (Appendix 1) and Conflict of Interest Policy (Appendix 2), as adopted by the Authority. Additionally, the agricultural representative appointed by the Minister will be required to follow the provincial ethical framework set out for government public appointees in the Management Board of Cabinet's Agencies and Appointments Directive.

Members are responsible for:

- i. Attending all meetings of the Authority;
- ii. Understanding the purpose, function, and responsibilities of the Authority;
- iii. Being familiar with the Authority's statutory and other legal obligations;
- iv. Setting strategic direction for the Authority, in conjunction with the administration;
- v. Supporting the goals and objectives of the Authority's programs and policies;
- vi. Keeping his/her respective municipality informed of Authority programs, projects, and activities;
- vii. Being prepared to discuss issues at Authority meetings.

e) Applicable Legislation

In addition to the Act, the Members are subject to other legislation including, but not limited to:

- *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*
- *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: and,*
- *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010*

If any part of the by-law conflicts with any provision of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* or the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* or a provision of a regulation made under one of those Acts, the provision of that Act or regulation prevails. The same applies to conflicts between these By-laws and the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* except where dictated by the *Conservation Authorities Act* in which case *the Act* prevails.

f) Relationship Between Members and Staff

The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer shall manage the operations of the organization, including all employees of the Authority. The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for directing, coordinating, and evaluating the development and execution of the annual business plan and budget, programs, policies, and decisions consistent with the direction set out in the Strategic Plan and as directed by the Authority. The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is accountable to the Authority, working cooperatively to achieve the goals established by the Members.

The General Membership will ensure that a process exists for regular performance evaluations of the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer. The review will be conducted at least annually, and will be documented in writing.

2. Officers

The Officers of the Authority, and their respective responsibilities, shall be:

Chair

- Is a Member of the Authority;
- Presides at all meetings of the General Membership (and Executive Committee if applicable);
- Calls special meetings if necessary;
- Acts as a public spokesperson on behalf of the General Membership;
- Serves as signing officer for the Authority;
- Ensures relevant information and policies are brought to the Authority's attention;
- Keeps the General Membership apprised of significant issues in a timely fashion;
- Provides direction to Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer with respect to setting agendas for Board meetings, as required;
- Provides direction and support, as may be required, to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer to ensure policies, programs, and projects adopted by the Authority and/or prescribed by legislation are implemented;
- Performs other duties when directed to do so by resolution of the Authority.

Vice-Chair

- Is a Member of the Authority;
- Attends all meetings of the Authority (and Executive Committee if applicable);
- Carries out assignments as requested by the Chair;

- Understands the responsibilities of the Chair and acts as Chair immediately upon the death, incapacity to act, absence or resignation of the Chair until such time as a new Chair is appointed or until the Chair resumes his/her duties;
- Serves as a signing officer for the Authority.

Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Responsibilities of the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer as assigned by the Authority include, but are not limited to the following:

- Is an employee of the Authority;
- Attends all meetings of the General Membership (and Executive Committee if applicable) or designates an acting CAO if not available;
- Works in close collaboration with the Chair and Vice-Chair and keeps them apprised of relevant information and significant issues in a timely fashion;
- Develops a strategic plan for approval by the General Membership and implements short and long-range goals and objectives;
- Is responsible for the management of the operations of the Authority, including all staff and programs of the Authority;
- Ensures resolutions of the Authority are implemented in a timely fashion;
- Develops and maintains effective relationships and ensures good communications with Participating Municipalities, federal and provincial government ministries/agencies, Indigenous communities, other conservation authorities, Conservation Ontario, stakeholders, community groups, and associations;
- Serves as a signing officer for the Authority.

3. Absence of Chair and Vice-Chair

In the event of the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair from any meeting, the members shall appoint an Acting Chair who, for the purposes of that meeting, has all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the Chair.

4. Representatives to Conservation Ontario Council

The Authority may appoint up to three Representatives to Conservation Ontario Council ("Council"), designated as Voting Delegate and Alternate(s). Council will consist of the Voting Delegates appointed by each Member Conservation Authority. The Voting Delegate and Alternate(s) shall be registered with Conservation Ontario annually. The appointments will be made at the Annual Meeting of the Authority.

5. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be held at the Annual Meeting of the Authority in accordance with the Authority's Procedures for Election of Officers (Appendix 3). Successors to the position of Chair and Vice-Chair shall be a Member from a different municipality from the incumbent.

5.1 Maximum Term for Chair and Vice-Chair

The term of office for the Authority Chair and Vice-Chair is a maximum of two (2) consecutive years.

6. Appointment of Auditor

The General Membership, at its Annual Meeting, shall appoint an auditor for the coming year in accordance with Section 38 of the Act.

7. Appointment of Financial Institution

The General Membership, at its Annual Meeting, shall appoint a financial institution to act as the Authority's banker by Resolution.

8. Appointment of Solicitor

The General Membership, at its Annual Meeting, shall appoint a solicitor to act as the Authority's legal counsel by Resolution.

9. Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor

The General Membership, at its Annual Meeting, shall receive and approve the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor annually for the previous fiscal year, which is based on the calendar year.

The Authority shall forward copies of the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor to Participating Municipalities and the Minister in accordance with Section 38 of the Act and will make the Audited Financial Statements available to the public.

10. Borrowing Resolution

If required, the Authority shall establish a borrowing resolution and such resolution shall be in force until it is superseded by another borrowing resolution.

11. Levy Notice

The levy due to the Authority from participating municipalities shall be communicated to those municipalities in accordance with the Act and any applicable Regulations.

12. Signing Officers

All deeds, transfers, assignments, contracts, and obligations entered into by the Authority shall be signed by the signing officers of the Authority.

The signing officers of the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, and Manager, Corporate Services.

Payments incidental to all works, services, or goods purchased by the Authority to a maximum as set out in the Purchasing Policy will be signed or authorized by any two of the four Signing Officers, while payments which exceed the maximum set out in the Purchasing Policy will be signed by at least one of the Chair or Vice-Chair and one of the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer or Manager, Corporate Services.

The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer or the Manager, Corporate Services are empowered to authorize transfer of funds between the Authority bank accounts.

The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer may sign documents on behalf of the Authority which create obligations within approved spending authorizations as set out in the Purchasing Policy and, as necessary, may sign agreements and documents for the ongoing operations of the Authority and its programs such as the Drinking Water Source Protection Program and the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan.

All deeds, land transfers, assignments, contracts, and obligations entered into by the Authority, not specified above, will be signed by one of the Chair or Vice-Chair and one of the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer or Manager, Corporate Services.

The borrowing of funds necessary for the approved projects and programs of the Authority may be arranged, pursuant to the borrowing resolution, by one of the Chair or Vice-Chair and one of the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer or Manager, Corporate Services.

Signing authority may be delegated to staff by the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer for purchases within approved budgets and/or as set out in the Purchasing Policy of the Authority.

Signing authority that was authorized by any previous Administration Regulation, By-law or Policy is superseded by this by-law.

13. Executive Committee

The Authority may appoint an executive committee at the first meeting of the General Membership each year in accordance with the Section 19 of the Act.

14. Advisory Boards and Other Committees

In accordance with Section 18(2) of the Act, the Authority shall establish such advisory boards as required by regulation and may establish such other advisory boards or committees as it considers appropriate to study and report on specific matters.

The General Membership shall approve the terms of reference for all such advisory boards and committees, which shall include the role, the frequency of meetings, and the number of members required.

Resolutions and policies governing the operation of the Authority shall be observed in all advisory board and committee meetings.

Each advisory board or committee shall report to the General Membership, presenting any recommendations made by the advisory board or committee.

The dates of all advisory board and committee meetings shall be made available to all Members of the Authority.

15. Remuneration of Members

The Authority shall establish a per diem rate from time to time to be paid to Members for attendance at General Meetings and Advisory Board or Committee meetings, and at such other business functions as may be from time to time requested by the Chair, through the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer.

A single per diem will be paid for attendance at more than one meeting if they occur consecutively on the same day.

The Authority shall reimburse Members' reasonable travel expenses incurred for the purpose of attending meetings and/or functions on behalf of the Authority. A per-kilometre rate to be paid for use of a personal vehicle shall be approved by Resolution of the General Membership from time to time. Requests for such reimbursements shall be submitted within a timely fashion and shall be consistent with Canada Revenue Agency guidelines.

Remuneration of the Member appointed by the Minister as a representative of the agricultural sector is at the expense and discretion of the Province.

If no quorum is present at a General Meeting, or any other meeting of the Authority, the per diem and travel expenses shall be paid to those in attendance.

The per diem rate and travel allowances will be reviewed at least every four years, or at the request of the Authority.

16. Records Retention

The Authority shall keep full and accurate records including, but not limited to:

- i. Minutes of all meetings of the Authority, including registries of statements of interests in accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*;
- ii. Assets, liabilities, receipts, and disbursements of the Authority and Financial Statements and Reports of the Auditors;
- iii. Human Resources Files for all employees and Members as applicable;
- iv. Workplace Health and Safety documents including workplace inspections, workplace accidents, investigations, etc.;
- v. Electronic Communications including emails;
- vi. Contracts and Agreements entered into by the Authority;
- vii. Strategic Plans and other documents providing organizational direction;
- viii. Projects of the Authority;
- ix. Technical Studies and data gathered in support of Programs of the Authority;
- x. Legal Proceedings involving the Authority;
- xi. Incidents of personal injury or property damage involving the Authority and members of the public.

Such records shall be retained and protected in accordance with all applicable laws and the Records Retention Policy of the Authority as approved by the General Membership from time-to-time.

17. Records Available to Public

Records of the Authority shall be available to the public as required pursuant to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act* (MFIPPA) and further to O.Regulation 400/22 Information Requirements..

The Authority has delegated its responsibilities as head of the Authority for the purposes of MFIPPA to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer.

18. By-law Review

In accordance with the Act, these by-laws shall be reviewed by the Authority every four years, or earlier if required, to ensure the by-laws are in compliance with the Act and any other relevant law, as per Section 19.1 of the Act. The General Membership shall review the by-laws on a regular basis to ensure best management practices in governance are being followed.

19. By-law Available to Public

In accordance with the Act, the Authority shall make its by-laws available to the public on the Authority's website. By-laws shall also be available for review by any member of the public at the Authority's administration centre or provided in alternative formats, in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, if requested by interested parties.

20. Enforcement of By-laws and Policies

The Members shall respect and adhere to all applicable by-laws and policies (for example, the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest). The Authority may take reasonable measures to enforce its by-laws and policies, including the enforcement mechanisms under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*. Should an investigation be conducted regarding the alleged breach:

- an opportunity will be provided to the affected member to respond to the allegation;
- the findings of the investigation and the affected member's response will be communicated to the General Membership in a closed meeting;
- the appointing municipality or the appointing Minister shall be notified of the outcome of the investigation.

21. Indemnification of Members, Officers and Employees

The Authority undertakes and agrees to indemnify and save harmless its Members, Officers and Employees and their heirs and legal representatives, respectively, from and against all costs, charges and expenses, including all amounts paid to settle an action or satisfy any judgement, reasonably incurred by any such Member, Officer or Employee in respect of any civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding to which any such Member, Officer or Employee is made a

party by reason of being a Member, Officer or Employee of the Authority (except in respect of an action by or on behalf of the Authority to procure a judgment in its favour) if:

- such Member, Officer or Employee acted honestly, in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Authority and within the scope of such Member's, Officer's or Employee's duties and responsibilities, and,
- in the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty that such Member, Officer or Employee had reasonable grounds for believing that the conduct was lawful.

C. Meeting Procedures

The Meeting Procedures below governing the procedure of the Authority shall be observed in Executive Committee and Advisory Board meetings, as far as they are applicable, and the words Executive Committee or Advisory Board may be substituted for the word Authority as applicable. When the Authority is sitting as a Hearing Board, hearings will meet the requirements of the Statutory Powers and Procedures Act SPPA, the details of which are specified in the LTC's Hearing Procedures.

1. Rules of Procedure

In all matters of procedure not specifically dealt with under the Act and this By-law, the procedures set out in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order will be followed.

2. Notice of Meeting

The General Membership shall approve a schedule for regular meetings in advance. The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer or designate shall send Notice of regular meetings to all Members at least seven calendar days in advance of a meeting. Notice of all regular or special meetings of the General Membership or its committees shall be made available to the public as soon as possible after its delivery to General Membership.

Notice of any meeting shall indicate the time and place of that meeting and the agenda for the meeting.

- i. The Authority shall generally meet nine times per year including one meeting prior to March 1st. Meetings will not generally be held in January or August.
- ii. Authority meetings shall normally be held at the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority's Administration Office.
- iii. Authority meetings will generally be scheduled on the second Thursday of the month, at a consistent time agreed upon by the Authority.

All material and correspondence to be dealt with by the Authority at a meeting will be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer 14 calendar days in advance of the meeting where it is to be dealt with.

The Chair may, at his/her pleasure, call a special meeting of the Authority as necessary on three calendar days notice in writing or email. That notice shall state the business of the special meeting and only that business shall be considered at that special meeting. Any member, with 50% support of the other members, may also request the Chair to call a meeting of the Authority and the Chair will not refuse.

The Chair or the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer may, by notice in writing or email delivered to the members so as to be received by them at least 24 hours before the hour appointed for the meeting, postpone or cancel any meeting of the General Membership, Executive Committee (if applicable), Advisory Board, or other committee until the next scheduled date for the specific Advisory Board or committee affected.

The Chair or the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer may, if it appears that a storm or like occurrence will prevent the members from attending a meeting, postpone that meeting by advising as many members as can be reached or, if warranted, hold the meeting electronically provided quorum and public attendance can be met. Postponement shall not be for any longer than the next regularly scheduled meeting date.

3. Meetings Open to Public

All meetings of the General Membership and Executive Committee (if applicable) shall be open to the public. Where possible, the Authority will provide for alternative means for the public to participate in meetings electronically.

A meeting or part of a meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered is identified in the closed meeting section of the Agenda or arises during a meeting requiring that it be closed to the public at the time that the matter is raised at a meeting, and the subject matter meets the criteria for a closed meeting as defined in this by-law.

4. Agenda for Meetings

Authority staff, under the supervision of the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, shall prepare an agenda for all regular meetings of the Authority that shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests
- Approval of the Agenda
- Delegations
- Adoption of the Minutes
- Business arising from the Minutes
- Correspondence
- Staff Reports
- Other Business
- In-camera Session (as required)

The agenda for special meetings of the Authority shall be prepared as directed by the Chair.

Agendas for meetings shall be forwarded to all Members at least seven calendar days in advance of the meeting. Such agendas shall be made available to the public on the Authority's website at the same time, unless the meeting is closed to the public in accordance with this by-law. Such

agendas shall also be available in alternative formats, in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, if requested by interested parties.

5. Quorum

At any meeting of the General Membership, a quorum consists of one-half of the Members appointed by the Participating Municipalities. At any Executive Committee (if applicable), advisory board or committee meeting, a quorum consists of one-half of the Members of the Executive Committee (if applicable), advisory board or committee. NOTE: the Member appointed by the Minister to represent agricultural interests is not part of quorum.

If there is no quorum within one half hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the Chair for the meeting shall declare the meeting adjourned due to a lack of a quorum, or shall recess until quorum arrives, and the recording secretary shall record the names of the Members present and absent.

If, during an Authority or Advisory Board or Committee meeting, a quorum is lost, then the Chair shall declare that the meeting shall stand recessed or adjourned until the date of the next regular meeting or other meeting called in accordance with the provisions of this by-law. Agenda items including delegations present may be covered and presented and issues discussed, but no formal decisions may be taken by the remaining Members which do not constitute a quorum.

Where the number of Members who are disabled from participating in a meeting due to the declaration of a conflict of interest is such that at that meeting the remaining Members are not of sufficient number to constitute a quorum, the remaining number of Members shall be deemed to constitute a quorum, provided such number is not less than two.

6. Order of Business

The business of the Authority shall be taken up in the order in which it stands on the agenda unless otherwise decided by a majority of those Members present.

No Member shall present any matter to the Authority for its consideration unless the matter appears on the agenda for the meeting of the Authority or leave is granted to present the matter by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present.

7. Debate

The Authority shall observe the following procedures for discussion/debate on any matter coming before it:

- a) A Member shall be recognized by the Chair prior to speaking;
- b) Where two or more Members rise to speak, the Chair shall designate the Member who has the floor, who shall be the Member who in the opinion of the Chair was first recognized;
- c) All questions and points of discussion shall be directed through the Chair;

- d) Where a motion is presented, it shall be moved and seconded before debate;
- e) No Member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave from the Chair, except in explanation of a material part of the speech;
- f) No Member shall speak more than 5 minutes without leave of the Chair;
- g) Any Member may ask a question of the previous speaker through the Chair;
- h) The Member who has presented a motion, other than a motion to amend or dispose of a motion, may speak again to the motion immediately before the Chair puts the motion to a vote;
- i) When a motion is under debate, no motion shall be received other than a motion to amend, to defer action, to refer the question, to take a vote, to adjourn, or to extend the hour of closing the proceedings;
- j) When a motion is under consideration, only one amendment is permitted at a time.

8. Matters of Precedence

The following matters shall have precedence over the usual order of business:

- a) a point of order;
- b) a matter of privilege;
- c) a matter of clarification;
- d) a motion to suspend a rule of procedure or to request compliance with the rules of procedure;
- e) a motion that the question be put to a vote;
- f) a motion to adjourn.

9. Members' Attendance

The Authority shall provide a listing of each Member's attendance at scheduled meetings of the Authority to the respective Municipality at least annually.

Upon a Member's vacancy due to death, incapacity or resignation occurring in any office of the Authority, the Authority shall request the municipality that was represented by that Member appoint a Member replacement.

Should a Member be absent from three (3) consecutive meetings or five (5) meetings in a year, the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, under direction of the Authority, will consult with the Member and respective municipality regarding the absence.

If a Member is unable to attend any meeting and wishes to bring any additional information or opinion pertaining to an agenda item to the General Membership, the Member shall address in writing or email to the Chair or Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer such correspondence prior to the start of the meeting. The correspondence shall be read aloud by the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer without comment or explanations.

10. Electronic Meetings and Participation

Electronic meetings are permitted and the Meeting Procedures identified in this by-law apply.

A Member can participate electronically in a meeting that is open or closed to the public and in either case may be counted in determining whether or not a quorum of members is present at any point in time. Electronic meetings must permit all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. For open electronic meetings, the public must be able to attend the meeting electronically and be able to observe all the Members can hear and see at the meeting. Electronic participation will not be allowed at the Annual General Meeting of the Board or at any meeting where the yearly budget is being considered unless a member municipality or part thereof is under a Declared Emergency.

Discussions held by electronic means, outside of an electronic meeting (e.g., E-mail polls) may be used to provide direction to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, in special cases to address time-sensitive matters, when an in-person meeting is not feasible.

When the Authority has provided direction via electronic means, the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, or designate, will confirm the direction provided in writing.

When the Authority has provided direction via electronic means, the matter will be discussed at the next Authority meeting, and a resolution passed to ratify the decision.

11. Delegations

Any person or organization who wishes to address the Authority may make a request in writing or email to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer. The request should include a brief statement of the issue or matter involved and indicate the name of the proposed speaker(s). If such request is received at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of a scheduled meeting, the delegation shall be listed on the published agenda.

Any person or organization requesting an opportunity to address the Authority, but not having made a written request to do so in the timelines specified above, may be heard during the Public Input portion of the agenda.

Except by leave of the Chair or appeal by the leave of the meeting, delegations shall be limited to one (1) speaker for not more than 10 minutes.

Members of the public are to submit a written request to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer at least four (4) business days prior to the scheduled Authority meeting, should they wish to address or ask questions about items on the agenda, and must indicate the business to be discussed, number of delegates, and other pertinent information.

Generally, no more than three (3) delegations will be heard at a meeting; in the event of an extraordinary number of delegations, the Chair may call a Special Meeting.

Members of the public in attendance at a meeting will be provided an opportunity to speak on any matter of their choosing. The speaker will be limited to one topic and presentations are not to exceed three minutes in length.

Any actions arising from a delegation or other public input will be communicated in writing to the contact person by the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer or his/her delegate.

12. Annual Meeting

The Authority shall designate one meeting of the General Membership each year as the annual meeting. It will be scheduled before the 1st day of March and will generally be the first meeting of the Authority in the calendar year. The Annual Meeting shall include the following items on the agenda, in addition to the normal course of business:

- a) the introduction of new members;
- b) the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair;
- c) the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the Prior Year;
- d) appointment of a Solicitor, External Auditor, Financial Institution, Signing Officers, and representation on Conservation Ontario; and
- e) Borrowing Resolution.

13. Meetings with Closed "In Camera" Sessions

Every meeting of the General Membership, Executive Committee and Advisory Boards, if applicable, shall be open to the public as per Section 15(3) of the Act, subject to the exceptions set out below.

Meetings may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to:

- a) The security of the property of the Authority;
- b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including employees of the Authority;
- c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Authority;
- d) Labour relations or employee negotiations;
- e) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals (e.g. Local Planning Appeal Tribunal), affecting the Authority;
- f) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege;
- g) A matter in respect of which the General Membership, Executive Committee, Advisory Board or committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another act;
- h) Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the Authority by Canada, a province or territory, or a Crown agency of any of them;
- i) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the Authority, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- j) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the Authority and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- k) A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority.

The Authority shall close a meeting if the subject matter relates to the consideration of a request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and the designated head of the authority for the purposes of MFIPPA is present.

Before holding a meeting or part of a meeting that is to be closed to the public, the Members shall state by resolution during the open session of the meeting that there will be a meeting closed to the public and the general nature of the matter to be considered at the closed meeting. Once matters have been dealt with in a closed meeting, the General Membership shall reconvene in an open session.

The General Membership shall not vote during a meeting that is closed to the public, unless:

- a) the meeting meets the criteria outlined in this by-law to be closed to the public; and
- b) the vote is for a procedural matter or for giving directions or instructions to Officers, employees, or agents of Authority.

Any materials presented to the General Membership during a closed meeting shall be returned to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer prior to departing from the meeting and shall be treated in accordance with the Authority's procedures for handling confidential material.

A meeting of the Authority, executive committee, advisory board, or other committee may also be closed to the public if:

- a) the meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the Members, and
- b) at the meeting, no Member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the Authority, the executive committee, advisory board, or other committee.

Proceedings of the closed session will be recorded and brought forward for approval at the next meeting of the Authority.

14. Voting

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act:

- a) each Member, including the Chair, is entitled to one vote, and
- b) a majority vote of the Members present at any meeting is required upon all matters coming before the meeting.

The Minister appointed agricultural representative shall not have a vote on a resolution to enlarge an authority's area of jurisdiction; or a resolution to amalgamate an authority with another authority; or a resolution to dissolve the authority; or a resolution relating to any budgetary matter.

If any Member who is qualified to vote abstains from voting, they shall be deemed to have voted neither in favour nor opposed to the question, which will not alter the number of votes required for a majority.

On a tie vote, the motion is lost.

Interrelated motions shall be voted on in the order specified in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Unless a Member requests a recorded vote, a vote shall be by a show of hands or such other means as the Chair may call. No question shall be voted upon more than once at any meeting, unless a recorded vote is requested.

If a Member present at a meeting at the time of the vote requests immediately before or after the taking of the vote that the vote be recorded, each Member present taken alphabetically by surname with the Chair voting last, except a member who is disqualified from voting by any Act, shall announce his or her vote openly answering "yes" or "no" to the question, and the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer or designate shall record each vote.

At the meeting of the Authority at which the Non-Matching Levy is to be approved, the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer or designate shall conduct the vote to approve of Non-Matching Levy by a Weighted Majority of the Members present and eligible to vote, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 139/96.

Where a question under consideration contains more than one item, upon the request of any Member, a vote upon each item shall be taken separately.

Except as provided in Section B, Paragraph 6 of this By-law (Election of Chair and Vice-Chair), no vote shall be taken by ballot or by any other method of secret voting, and every vote so taken is of no effect.

There are no provisions for proxy voting for any meetings of the Authority.

15. Notice of Motion

Written notice of motion to be made at an Authority, executive committee, advisory board, or committee meeting may be given to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer by any Member of the Authority not less than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the date and time of the meeting and shall be forthwith placed on the agenda of the next meeting. The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer shall include such notice of motion in full in the agenda for the meeting concerned.

Recommendations included in reports of advisory boards or committees that have been included in an agenda for a meeting of the General Membership or Executive Committee (if applicable), shall constitute notice of motion for that meeting.

Recommendations included in staff reports that have been included in an agenda for a meeting of the General Membership or Executive Committee (if applicable), shall constitute notice of motion for that meeting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any motion or other business may be introduced for consideration of the Authority provided that it is made clear that to delay such motion or other business for the consideration of an appropriate advisory board or committee (or Executive Committee as applicable) would not be in the best interest of the Authority and that the introduction of the motion or other business shall be upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the Members of the Authority present.

16. Motion to Reconsider

If a motion is made to reconsider a previous motion, a two-thirds majority vote shall be required in order for reconsideration to take place. If a motion to reconsider is passed, the original motion shall then be placed on the agenda at a future meeting to be debated and voted upon, and the result of that vote, based on a simple majority, shall supersede.

A motion to reconsider will not be required for reconsideration of a matter if more than four Authority meetings have passed since the motion was originally voted on, as it will be considered new business. Decisions which contractually bind the Authority shall not be reconsidered.

17. Duties of the Meeting Chair

It shall be the duty of the Chair, with respect to any meetings over which the Chair presides, to:

- a) Preserve order and decide all questions of order, subject to appeal; and without argument or comment, state the rule applicable to any point of order if called upon to do so;
- b) Ensure that the public in attendance does not in any way interfere or disrupt the proceedings of the Members;
- c) Receive and submit to a vote all motions presented by the Members, which do not contravene the rules of order or regulations of the Authority;
- d) Announce the results of the vote on any motions so presented;
- e) Adjourn the meeting when business is concluded.

18. Conduct of Members

Members shall maintain a high standard for conduct and, at all times, comply with applicable laws and the Authority's Code of Conduct (Appendix 1).

No Member at any meeting of the Authority shall:

- a) Speak in a manner that is discriminatory in nature based on an individual's race, ancestry, place of origin, citizenship, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, colour, marital status, family status or disability;
- b) Leave their seat or make any noise or disturbance while a vote is being taken or until the result is declared;
- c) Interrupt a Member while speaking, except to raise a point of order or a question of privilege;
- d) Speak disrespectfully or use offensive words against the Authority, the Members, staff, or any member of the public;
- e) Speak beyond the question(s) under debate;
- f) Resist the rules of order or disobey the decision of the Chair on the questions of order or practices or upon the interpretation of the By-laws.

19. Expulsion from Meeting

The Chair shall have the power to expel from a meeting any Member of the Authority or other person who is guilty of improper conduct at such meeting and, in the case of the exclusion of a Member of the Authority, the reasons for such exclusion shall be entered in the minutes.

In the case of an apology being made by the offender, the Member may, by vote of the Authority, be permitted to retake their seat.

20. Minutes of Meetings

The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer shall undertake to have a recording secretary in attendance at meetings of the Authority, the Executive Committee (if applicable), and each advisory board or committee. The recording secretary shall make a record in the form of minutes of the meeting proceedings and, in particular, shall record all motions considered at the meeting.

If a recording secretary is not present in a closed session, the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer shall take notes of any direction provided, for endorsement by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Minutes of all meetings shall include the time and place of the meeting and a list of those present, and shall state all motions presented together with the mover and seconder and voting results.

The Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer or designate shall include draft minutes of the previous meeting, available to each Member of the Authority, at the same time as agendas for the next meeting are distributed. Should a meeting not be scheduled for the next month, the draft minutes will be circulated to each Member of the Authority no later than 30 calendar days after the meeting.

Minutes will be reviewed and approved, with or without amendments, at the next meeting.

Minutes of authority Board Meetings or executive committee are to be posted to the LTC website within 30 days of a meeting. Minutes that have not been approved will be titled "Draft" until the approved minutes have been approved by the Board of Directors.

After the minutes have been approved by resolution, original copies shall be signed by the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer and copies of all non-confidential minutes shall be posted on the Authority's website. Such minutes shall also be available for review by any member of the public at the Authority's administration centre or provided in alternative formats, in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, if requested by interested parties. A copy of approved Authority Board meeting minutes will be distributed to all Clerks of each member municipality.

All matters arising out of Authority meetings, and supporting technical reports, shall form part of the public record and shall be available for public review immediately upon request. Exceptions to the foregoing include matters discussed in closed sessions.

21. Hearing Board Meetings

- a) Subject to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the Hearing Board is empowered and instructed to conduct Hearings for regulations passed pursuant to Section 28(1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- b) The Hearing Board shall consist of all Members of the Authority, and meetings of the Hearing Board shall be scheduled, as required, at the call of the Chair.
- c) Unless provided for under the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority's Hearing Guidelines, the regulations, policies, and procedures governing the Authority shall be observed in Hearing Board meetings, as far as they are applicable, and the words Hearing Board shall be substituted for the word Authority, where such is applicable.

D. Approval of By-law and Revocation of Previous By-law(s), Policies & Procedures


Administrative By-law 2021-01, approved by the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority on March 11, 2021, Resolution No. G34/21, is hereby repealed;

By-law number 2023-01 shall come into force on the 9th day of March, 2023.

INTRODUCED ON: March 9, 2023

APPROVED ON: March 9, 2023
(Resolution No. G41/23)

Signed:



Bob Mullin , Chair

March 14, 2023
Date



Rhonda Bateman, Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

March 14, 2023
Date

E. Appendices to the Administrative By-law

Appendix 1 - Code of Conduct

1. Background

The Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority demands a high level of integrity and ethical conduct from its General Membership. The Authority's reputation has relied upon the good judgement of individual Members. A written Code of Conduct helps to ensure that all Members share a common basis for acceptable conduct. Formalized standards help to provide a reference guide and a supplement to legislative parameters within which Members must operate. Further, they enhance public confidence that Members operate from a base of integrity, justice, and courtesy.

The Code of Conduct is a general standard. It augments the laws which govern the behaviour of Members, and it is not intended to replace personal ethics.

This Code of Conduct will also assist Members in dealing with confronting situations not adequately addressed or that may be ambiguous in Authority resolutions, regulations, or policies and procedures. Additionally, the agricultural representative appointed by the Minister will be required to follow the provincial ethical framework set out for government public appointees in the Management Board of Cabinet's Agencies and Appointments Directive.

2. General

All Members, whether municipal councillors or appointed representatives of a municipality, or whether appointed by the Minister as a representative of the agricultural sector, are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the Authority.

All Members shall serve in a conscientious and diligent manner. No Member shall use the influence of office for any purpose other than for the exercise of his/her official duties.

It is expected that Members adhere to a code of conduct that:

- i. upholds the mandate, vision, and mission of the Authority;
- ii. considers the Authority's jurisdiction in its entirety, including their appointing municipality;
- iii. respects confidentiality;
- iv. approaches all Authority issues with an open mind, with consideration for the organization as a whole;
- v. exercises the powers of a Member when acting in a meeting of the Authority;
- vi. respects the democratic process and respects decisions of the General Membership, Executive Committee (if applicable), Advisory Boards, and other committees;
- vii. declares any direct or indirect pecuniary interest or conflict of interest when one exists or may exist; and

- viii. conducts oneself in a manner which reflects respect and professional courtesy and does not use offensive language in or against the Authority or against any Member or any Authority staff.

3. Gifts and Benefits

Members shall not accept fees, gifts, hospitality, or personal benefits that are connected directly or indirectly with the performance of duties.

4. Confidentiality

The Members shall be governed at all times by the provisions of the *Municipal Freedom and Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

All information, documentation or deliberations received, reviewed, or taken in a closed meeting are confidential.

Members shall not disclose or release by any means to any member of the public, either in verbal or written form, any confidential information acquired by virtue of their office, except when required by law to do so.

Members shall not permit any persons, other than those who are entitled thereto, to have access to information which is confidential.

In the instance where a Member vacates their position on the General Membership, they will continue to be bound by MFIPPA requirements.

Particular care should be exercised in protecting information such as the following:

- i. Human Resources matters;
- ii. Information about suppliers provided for evaluation that might be useful to other suppliers;
- iii. Matters relating to the legal affairs of the Authority;
- iv. Information provided in confidence from an Aboriginal community, or a record that if released could reasonably be expected to prejudice the conduct of relations between an Aboriginal community and the Authority;
- v. Sources of complaints where the identity of the complainant is given in confidence;
- vi. Items under negotiation;
- vii. Schedules of prices in tenders or requests for proposals;
- viii. Appraised or estimated values with respect to the Authority's proposed property acquisitions or dispositions;
- ix. Information deemed to be "personal information" under MFIPPA.

The list above is provided for example and is not exhaustive.

5. Use of Authority Property

No Member shall use, for personal purposes, any Authority property, equipment, supplies, or services of consequence other than for purposes connected with the discharge of Authority duties or associated community activities of which the Authority has been advised.

6. Work of a Political Nature

No Member shall use Authority resources for his/her election or re-election campaign to any position or office within the Authority or otherwise.

7. Conduct at Authority Meetings

During meetings of the Authority, Members shall conduct themselves with decorum. Respect for delegations and for fellow Members requires that all Members show courtesy and not distract from the business of the Authority during presentations and when others have the floor.

8. Influence on Staff

Members shall be respectful of the fact that staff work for the Authority as a whole and are charged with making recommendations that reflect their professional expertise and corporate perspective, without undue influence.

9. Business Relations

No Member shall borrow money from any person who regularly does business with the Authority unless such person is an institution or company whose shares are publicly traded and who is regularly in the business of lending money.

No Member shall act as a paid agent before the Authority, the Executive Committee (if applicable) or an advisory board or committee of the Authority, except in compliance with the terms of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

10. Encouragement of Respect for the Authority and its Regulations

Members shall represent the Authority in a respectful way and encourage public respect for the Authority and its Regulations.

11. Harassment

It is the policy of the Authority that all persons be treated fairly in the workplace in an environment free of discrimination and of personal and sexual harassment. Harassment of another Member, staff, or any member of the public is misconduct. Members shall follow the Authority's Harassment Policy as approved from time-to-time.

Examples of harassment that will not be tolerated include: verbal or physical abuse, threats, derogatory remarks, jokes, innuendo or taunts related to an individual's race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical or mental disabilities, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation. The Authority will also not tolerate the display of pornographic, racist, or offensive signs or images; practical jokes that result in

awkwardness or embarrassment; unwelcome invitations or requests, whether indirect or explicit and any other prohibited grounds under the provisions of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

12. Breach of Code of Conduct

Should a Member breach the Code of Conduct, they shall advise the Chair and Vice-Chair, with a copy to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, as soon as possible after the breach.

Should a Member allege that another Member has breached the Code of Conduct, the said breach shall be communicated to the Chair, with a copy to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, in writing. In the absence of the Chair, or if a Member alleges that the Chair has breached the Code of Conduct, the said breach shall be communicated to the Vice-Chair, with a copy to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, in writing.

Should a member of the public or a municipality allege that a Member has breached the Code of Conduct, the party making the allegation will be directed to follow the notification procedure outlined above.

Any breach, or alleged breach, of the Code of Conduct shall be investigated in accordance with the Enforcement of By-laws and Policies procedure outlined or referred to in the Authority's Administrative By-law.

13. Complaints

If a Member has questions or issues surrounding reports, projects, operational concerns or complaints, such questions should be directed through the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer.

If a Member is approached by the public with inquiries/complaints regarding operational matters, the Member is encouraged to contact the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer who, in turn, can contact the individual for review/resolution.

Appendix 2 - Conflict of Interest

1. Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

The Authority Members commit themselves and the Authority to ethical, businesslike, and lawful conduct when acting as the General Membership. The Authority and the Members are bound by the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*. This appendix to the by-law is intended to assist Members in understanding their obligations. Members are required to review the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* on a regular basis.

Additionally, the agricultural representative appointed by the Minister will be required to follow the provincial ethical framework set out for government public appointees in the Management Board of Cabinet's Agencies and Appointments Directive.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Where a Member, either on his or her own behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter and is present at a meeting of the Authority, Executive Committee (if applicable), advisory board, or committee at which the matter is the subject of consideration, the Member:

- a) shall, prior to any consideration of the matter at the meeting, disclose the pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof;
- b) shall not take part in the discussion of, or vote on, any question in respect of the matter;
- c) shall not attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question; and,
- d) shall file a written statement of the Conflict of Interest and its general nature with the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer .

3. Chair's Conflict of Interest or Pecuniary Interest

Where the Chair of a meeting discloses a conflict of interest with respect to a matter under consideration at a meeting, another Member shall be appointed to chair that portion of the meeting by Resolution.

4. Closed Meetings

Where a meeting is not open to the public, a Member who has declared a conflict of interest shall leave the meeting for the part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration.

5. Member Absent

Where the interest of a Member has not been disclosed by reason of their absence from the particular meeting, the Member shall disclose their interest and otherwise comply at the first meeting of the Authority, Executive Committee (if applicable), advisory board, or committee, as the case may be, attended by them after the particular meeting.

6. Disclosure Recorded in Minutes

The recording secretary shall record, in reasonable detail, the particulars of any disclosure of conflict of interest or pecuniary interest made by Members, and whether the Member withdrew from the discussion of the matter. Such record shall appear in the minutes/notes of that particular meeting of the General Membership, Executive Committee, advisory board or committee, as the case may be.

6B. Registry Maintained for Public Inspection

The Authority shall maintain a registry in which shall be kept:

- a) A copy of each statement filed under Section 2d) of this policy; and,
- b) A copy of each declaration recorded in the Minutes.

The registry shall be available for public inspection.

7. Breach of Conflict of Interest Policy

Should a Member breach the Conflict of Interest Policy, they shall advise the Chair and Vice-Chair, with a copy to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, as soon as possible after the breach.

Should a Member allege that another Member has breached the Conflict of Interest Policy, the said breach shall be communicated to the Chair, with a copy to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, in writing. In the absence of the Chair, or if a Member alleges that the Chair has breached the Conflict of Interest Policy, the said breach shall be communicated to the Vice-Chair, with a copy to the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, in writing.

Should a member of the public or a municipality allege that a Member has breached the Conflict of Interest Policy, the party making the allegation will be directed to follow the notification procedure outlined above.

Any breach, or alleged breach, of the Conflict of Interest Policy shall be investigated in accordance with the Enforcement of By-laws and Policies procedure outlined or referred to in the Authority's Administrative By-law.

Appendix 3 - Procedure for Election of Officers

1. Timing of Elections

The election of the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair shall be held yearly at the Annual Meeting.

2. Voting

Voting shall be by secret ballot and no Members may vote by proxy.

3. Acting Chair

The General Membership shall appoint the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, or another person who is not a voting Member, as Acting for the purpose of Election of Officers.

4. Scrutineer(s)

The appointment of two scrutineers is required for the purpose of counting ballots, should an election be required. All ballots shall be destroyed by the scrutineers afterwards. The Acting Chair shall call a motion for the appointment of the scrutineers, who may be any person other than a Member.

5. Election Procedures

The Acting Chair shall advise the Members that the election will be conducted in accordance with the Act as follows:

- a) The elections shall be conducted in the following order:
 - i. Election of the Chair, who shall be a Member appointed by a participating Municipality to the Authority
 - ii. Election of the Vice-Chair, who shall be a Member appointed by a participating Municipality to the Authority
- b) The Acting Chair shall ask for nominations to each position;;
- c) Only current Members of the Authority who are present may vote;
- d) Nominations shall be called three (3) times and will only require a mover;
- e) The closing of nominations shall require both a mover and a seconder;
- f) Each Member nominated shall be asked to accept the nomination. The Member must be present to accept the nomination unless the Member has advised the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer in writing or by email in advance of the election of their willingness to accept the nomination.

If one Nominee:

- g) If only one nominee, the individual shall be declared into the position by acclamation.

If More than One Nominee:

- h) In the event of an election, each nominee shall be permitted not more than three (3) minutes to speak for the office, in the order of the alphabetical listing by surnames.
- i) Upon the acceptance by nominees to stand for election to the position of office, ballots shall be distributed to the Members by the scrutineers for the purpose of election and the Acting Chair shall ask the Members to write the name of one individual only on the ballot.
- j) The scrutineers shall collect the ballots, leave the meeting to count the ballots, return and advise the Acting Chair who was elected with more than 50% of the vote.

A majority vote shall be required for election. If there are more than two nominees, and upon the first vote no nominee receives the majority required for election, the name of the person with the least number of votes shall be removed from further consideration for the office and new ballots shall be distributed. In the case of a vote where no nominee receives the majority required for election and where two or more nominees are tied with the least number of votes, a special vote shall be taken to decide which one of such tied nominees' names shall be dropped from the list of names to be voted on in the next vote.

Should there be a tie vote between two remaining candidates, new ballots shall be distributed and a second vote held. Should there still be a tie after the second ballot, a third vote shall be held. Should there be a tie after the third vote, the election of the office shall be decided by lot drawn by the Acting Chair.

The Acting Chair for the election shall hand over control of the meeting to the newly elected Chair following election of the Vice-Chair.

