



# 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. 2023-01*

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

#### MEETING # 2025-07

**DATE:** September 11, 2025

**TIME:** 1:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Administration Office, 714 Murray Street, Trenton / Virtually

#### **DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

ON SITE		REMOTE SITE
Eugene (Gene) Brahaney (Chair)	Jim Alyea	Lynda Reid
Sherry Hamilton (Vice-Chair)	Jeff Wheeldon	Bobbi Wright
Mike Ainsworth		Eric Sandford

**REGRETS:** Bob Mullin, Rick English

**STAFF:** Rhonda Bateman, Chitra Gowda, Gage Comeau, Keith Taylor, Anne Anderson

**GUESTS:** None

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brahaney at 1:00 p.m. The Chair respectfully remembered the 9/11 tragedy that occurred at the World Trade Centre and other locations in the United States on September 11, 2001.

#### **2. First Nations Acknowledgement**

*"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 declared.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

RES: G86/25

Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon

Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations received for this meeting.

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

There was no public input at this meeting.

**7. Adoption of the Minutes**

RES: G87/25

Moved by: Jim Alyea

Seconded by: Mike Ainsworth

THAT the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

**8. Business arising from these minutes**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**9. Correspondence**

None received.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**10. Monthly Payments Issued**

RES: G88/25

Moved by: Lynda Reid

Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton

THAT the list of payments issued in the total amount of \$578,370.27 for the two months of July and August 2025 be received as information.

Carried

**11. Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Reports**

Director Ainsworth asked if any of the permit applications are from municipalities. Rhonda Bateman, CAO, responded that it depends on the nature of the permit. Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations, added that the relevant municipality's building department is copied on the permit. If the permit is not associated with the building department, then the permit is circulated to the municipality's planning department and other relevant agencies.

- a. Summary of Permits for Period June 27 – August 28, 2025
- b. Planning and Regulations
- c. Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW) and Ontario Low Water Response (OLWR)

RES: G89/25

Moved by: Bobbi Wright

Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton

THAT the Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Reports be received as information.

Carried

**12. Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Program**

July and August 2025 Newsletter

RES: G90/25

Moved by: Jim Alyea

Seconded by: Eric Sandford

THAT the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Newsletter for July and August 2025 be received as information.

Carried

**13. Pollution from Road Salt Application**

Director Alyea provided insights into liability considerations for municipalities, noting that road salt alternates are expensive and may not have the same effect as regularly used road salt. He added that the municipality of Quinte West has several best practices in place including a salt management plan and their trucks have GPS technology. Director Wheeldon noted that the staff report and recommendation do not indicate that road salt application should be stopped; but rather that a provincial standard should be established to apply road salt responsibly. He added that some jurisdictions do not have salt management plans. Director Hamilton added that the Township of Cramahe has GPS technology in their vehicles and monitors the application of road salt.

Keith Taylor, Source Protection Coordinator, clarified that the staff report and its recommendations are geared to private landowners. Rhonda Bateman, CAO added that the focus is on private parking lots; and that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority is leading these efforts.

RES: G91/25

Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon

Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton

THAT the Lower Trent Conservation Board draft a letter addressed to Premier Doug Ford, Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Attorney General Doug Downey asking the province to take action on road salt pollution; and

THAT the communication include recommended actions to establish provincial standards for winter road salt use and establish a "limited liability" approach to help curb winter road salt impacts; and

THAT the Lower Trent Conservation Board members request their respective municipalities to support this approach if they have not already done so.

Carried

**14. Mid Year Financials**

Director Ainsworth asked for an explanation of the overage of capital expenses under Conservation Lands department. Chitra Gowda, Manager, Corporate Services, explained that the capital expenses are high because of the purchases of a new heavy-duty truck, commercial lawnmower, and a galvanized dump trailer. She added that the capital reserve was approved for use per Board Resolution G30/25, in the amounts of \$10,000 for the new truck and \$16,000 for the new dump trailer. As well, a loan was received from the bank for \$82,000 towards the new truck. LTC is responsibly paying down the bank loan at \$1,534.70 per month starting June



2025 for 60 months. Chitra Gowda noted that the audited statement will reflect these amounts along with capital expenses incurred.

RES: G92/25

Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon

Seconded by: Lynda Reid

THAT the Mid Year Financial Report be received as information.

Carried

**15. 2026 Budget Subcommittee - Preliminary Draft Budget**

Chitra Gowda presented two versions of the preliminary draft budget on behalf of the Budget Subcommittee of the Board. Director Alyea indicated that he would like to see the difference in current value assessment amounts between 2025 and 2026 and what this difference is adding to the budget. He added that the province cut funding to conservation authorities and downloaded responsibilities. Municipal budgets are stressed as well, for example recruitment of physicians.

Director Wheeldon recognized the importance of contextualizing the draft budget income and expenses; and emphasized that the main question is: what budget does LTC need to carry out its functions? He noted that the difference between the two versions is the inclusion of the position of conservation lands maintenance assistant in Version 1 but not in Version 2; and the use of surplus, if available, in Version 2. Director Alyea noted that Quinte West has several levies to consider, and that there needs to be a review of which position is justifiable.

Director Wheeldon asked Rhonda Bateman, CAO to relay the importance of the two positions of planning technician and conservation lands maintenance assistant. Rhonda Bateman explained that LTC currently has one planning related position; however with the larger subdivision files received the workload is much larger. Rhonda Bateman and Gage Conneau indicated that without a planning technician position, we may not be able to meet our targets on planning comments to our municipal partners, which may possibly result in decisions being taken to the lands tribunal.

Rhonda Bateman noted that the conservation lands maintenance assistant helps complete trails maintenance, hazard tree removal, and works with summer staff which immensely helps with workload issues. She added that LTC has received virtually no complaints in the past few years regarding conservation lands maintenance compared to when staffing levels were lower.

Director Ainsworth indicated that Version 2 is better than Version 1, but the budget needs to be reduced further as municipal budgets are tight. He added that the reserves are looking good.

Director Wheeldon said that an increase of 12% to the LTC budget does not equate to a 12% increase to the municipal budgets. He noted that he did not want to see the effectiveness of LTC reduced because a program is not properly funded. Director Sandford added that some expense increases are out of the control of LTC such as cost of living increases.

Director Wright indicated that certain expenses have been pushed back and surplus was being used instead. However, LTC cannot push back expenses any further and must recognize that costs are increasing all round. She added that it is the Board's commitment to staff to support

the work being completed in a timely manner; and that there is a duty to achieve the needs of the organization.

Director Hamilton said that there are stressors to municipalities including physician recruitment, and the residential tax base is being taxed further. For the LTC budget, the consideration is how we are meeting the needs of LTC. Underfunding the CA means possibly spending time and resources at Ontario Land Tribunal.

RES: G93/25 Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton  
THAT the preliminary draft budget be accepted and be circulated to the municipalities for consultation

Defeated

RES: G94/25 Moved by: Jim Alyea Seconded by: Mike Ainsworth  
THAT the preliminary draft budget be returned to the budget subcommittee for further modifications.

Carried

**16. CAO's Report**

RES: G95/25 Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon Seconded by: Lynda Reid  
THAT the CAO's Report be received as information.

Carried

**17. Members Inquiries/Other Business**

Director Hamilton said that Cramahe Township has hired a planner.

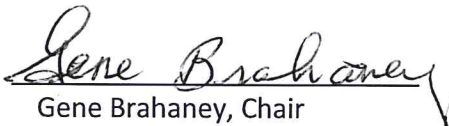
**18. Adjournment**

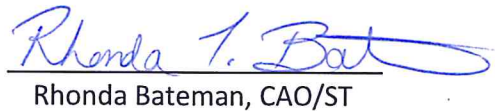
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RES: G96/25 Moved by: Lynda Reid Seconded by: Jim Alyea  
THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Time: 2:25 p.m.

  
Gene Brahoney, Chair

  
Rhonda Bateman, CAO/ST