



# 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 # 2025-10

**DATE:** December 11, 2025

**TIME:** 1:09 PM

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

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

ON SITE	REMOTE SITE
Eugene (Gene) Brahaney (Chair)	Rick English
Sherry Hamilton (Vice-Chair)	Bobbi Wright
Jim Alyea	Eric Sandford
Bob Mullin	

**REGRETS:** None

**STAFF:** Rhonda Bateman, Chitra Gowda, Gage Comeau, Anne Anderson, Corinne Ross

**GUESTS:** None

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brahaney at 1:09 p.m.

#### 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: G118/25      Moved by: Bob Mullin      Seconded by: Bobbi Wright  
THAT the agenda be approved with agenda items 16 and 17 be moved to the start of Staff Reports.

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: G119/25      Moved by: Rick English      Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton  
THAT the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

**8. Business arising from these minutes**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**9. Correspondence**

Director Hamilton complimented the wording of South Nation Conservation in their comments on the proposed consolidation of conservation authorities (CAs), including that historically the province of Ontario supported up to 50% of the income; however currently it is around 3%. She added that CAs have been asking for standardization from the province for a decade; and that the province has not provided a rationale for the consolidation. Rhonda Bateman, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), noted that comments from other conservation authorities would be used to inform LTC's comments, and that she is attending many meetings regarding the ERO comments.

Director Sandford asked if other municipalities would like to join the Centre Hastings delegation at the ROMA conference in January 2026 and Rhonda Bateman replied that she would ask if others would like to join. Director Sandford voiced concerns about consolidation of CAs leading to large sized boards, where small municipalities do not get a say. Rhonda Bateman noted that the proposed provincial agency is intended to be a corporation under the crown, but not a crown corporation.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**10. Monthly Payments Issued**

RES: G120/25      Moved by: Lynda Reid      Seconded by: Bobbi Wright  
THAT the list of payments issued in the total amount of \$198,209.85 for the month of November 2025 be received as information.

Carried

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

Director Hamilton asked about the number of permits in Cramahe Township. Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations, responded that the numbers have decreased.

- a. Summary of Permits for Period October 31 – November 28, 2025
- b. Planning and Regulations
- c. Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW) and Ontario Low Water Response (OLWR)

RES: G121/25      Moved by: Jim Alyea      Seconded by: Eric Sandford  
THAT the Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Reports be received as information.

Carried

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

November 2025 Newsletter

RES: G122/25      Moved by: Bob Mullin      Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon  
THAT the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Newsletter for November 2025 be received as information.

Carried

**13. Approval of Updated O. Reg. 41/24 Policy Document**

RES: G123/25      Moved by: Eric Sandford      Seconded by: Bobbi Wright  
THAT the proposed revisions and updates to the LTC Ontario Regulation 41/24 Policy, and the new Hearing Guidelines - Appendix F and Administrative Review – Appendix M documents presented at the Board meeting November 13, 2025, be approved and adopted pending no major changes required, following the 30-day Public Consultation period ending December 19, 2025.

Carried

**14. ERO Posting 025-1257 - Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities**

Rhonda Bateman, CAO, briefly described the ERO posting of the proposed consolidation of 36 conservation authorities (CAs) into seven regions. She noted her participation in several meetings including with the proposed new regional CA group, Conservation Ontario and eastern Ontario CAs. Director Hamilton and Rhonda Bateman attended the recent Conservation Ontario council meeting, and an MECP-led meeting held the week before. There are several good recommendations and ideas that are being discussed. LTC comments for the consultation will be sent to the LTC Board of Directors in the next week. The consolidation is proposed for January 2027. There is no indication of the closure of local offices. Director Sandford noted that the timeframe is aggressive. Director Alyea noted that the proposal has many unknowns and is difficult to comment on. Rhonda Bateman noted that Brighton and Cramahe passed council resolutions against the proposed consolidation.

RES: G124/25      Moved by: Eric Sandford      Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton  
THAT the Board approve the proposed resolution in the staff report and further that staff develop comments addressing the proposed regional consolidation of conservation authorities.

Carried

**15. 2025 Draft Business Plan**

Rhonda Bateman, CAO, acknowledged Corinne Ross' work on the Business Plan.

RES: G125/25      Moved by: Bob Mullin      Seconded by: Jim Alyea  
THAT the 2026 Draft Business Plan be accepted as information; and  
THAT upon the approval of the 2026 Budget, the Business Plan will be updated with the relevant financial information and distributed to our municipal partners.

Carried

**16. 2026 Budget**

Director Alyea and Director Reid noted City of Quinte West council discussions to decrease the municipal allocations in the LTC 2026 budget. Director Alyea also reiterated the budget pressures that the municipality faces to support external agencies.

Director Alyea, Director English and Director Ainsworth asked if the hiring of the engineering position could be deferred considering that the proposed consolidation could impact the position. Rhonda Bateman, CAO, clarified that the position is filled and is a non-management, frontline position and that the provincial government's direction to CAs is to continue frontline services as usual. She also noted that the LTC budget increase is only 0.08% of the Quinte West budget increase.

Director Alyea said that the proposed consolidation leading to potential removal of several CAO positions at conservation authorities would imply the removal of board of director members. Director Wheeldon said that a watershed agency's representation should be based on the land within the jurisdiction and costs based on population. He added that the increase in the LTC budget relevant to the City of Quinte West budget is very low and encouraged the board to pass the budget as is. He expressed concern about budget reduction impacting our service and capacity.

The Board of Directors carried out a recorded vote as required in accordance with O. Reg. 402/22 to confirm the budget municipal apportionment amounts. The vote is weighted based on the Municipal Assessment values within the Lower Trent Conservation watershed which is provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

MUNICIPALITY	DIRECTOR	VOTE YES	VOTE NO	Apportionment % (Weighting) for 2026
Twp. Alnwick/Haldimand	Mike Ainsworth	✓		10.4787
Municipality of Brighton	Bobbi Wright	✓		8.0141
Municipality of Brighton	Jeff Wheeldon	✓		8.0141
Mun. of Centre Hastings	Eric Sandford	✓		2.2709
Twp. of Cramahe	Sherry Hamilton	✓		8.3733
City of Quinte West	Lynda Reid		✓	21.3762
City of Quinte West	Jim Alyea		✓	21.3762
Twp. of Stirling-Rawdon	Bob Mullin	✓		3.7753
Mun. of Trent Hills	Gene Brahaney	✓		8.1606
Mun. of Trent Hills	Rick English	✓		8.1606
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>

Apportionment present at the meeting	100%
Apportionment voting in favour of the motion	57.2476%
Apportionment voting against the motion	42.7524%
Apportionment absent from the Meeting	0%

RES: G126/25      Moved by: Eric Sandford      Seconded by: Bob Mullin  
 THAT the 2026 Municipal Apportionment operations and capital amount of \$1,862,460 be approved.

Carried

**17. Capital Asset Management Plan**

Chitra Gowda, Manager, Water Resources, provided a presentation, as attached, to the Board on the new Capital Asset Management Plan. Chair Brahaney noted the importance of having such a plan to protect and maintain capital assets. Director Wheeldon thanked the efforts of staff in preparing the plan and reminded the Board that it remains responsible and liable for maintaining assets needed and ensuring adequate funds for the same.

RES: G127/25      Moved by: Bobbi Wright      Seconded by: Bob Mullin  
 THAT the Draft Capital Asset Management Plan be accepted as information and that it be considered for implementation in 2027; and

THAT the Capital Asset Management Plan be included in future budget preparations.

**18. CAO's Report**

Rhonda Bateman, CAO, noted the resignation of Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations. She thanked him for his hard work and dedication to LTC and that he would be missed. Gage Comeau said that it was a tough decision, and that due to family reasons he will be working closer to his home at a consulting firm. He said that LTC is an amazing place to work and will miss it. The Directors thanked Gage, acknowledging his hard work and said that he will be missed.

RES: G128/25

Moved by: Bobbi Wright

Seconded by: Rick English

THAT the CAO's Report be received as information.

**19. Members Inquiries/Other Business**

A complaint about the view at Warkworth Dam was discussed. Rhonda Bateman, CAO, indicated that the engineering firm that carried out the dam safety study was consulted on. The engineer has recommended no change to current operations for aesthetic reasons. The Directors agreed that the engineer's recommendation must be followed for insurance and liability reasons.

**20. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RES: G129/25

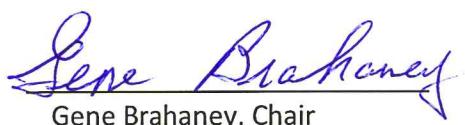
Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Eric Sandford

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Time: 2:46 p.m.



Gene Brahaney, Chair



Rhonda Bateman, CAO/ST