



LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

714 Murray Street, R.R. 1, Trenton, Ontario K8V 0N1

■ Tel: 613-394-4829 ■ Fax: 613-394-5226 ■ Website: www.ltc.on.ca ■ Email: information@ltc.on.ca

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 # 2026-04

DATE: May 14, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT/REGRETS: Rick English

STAFF: Rhonda Bateman, Chitra Gowda, Scott Robertson, Massimo Narini, Mike Wilson

GUESTS: None

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hamilton at 1:00 p.m. The Chair expressed condolences and sends prayers to Board member Rick English and family for the loss of their family member.

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 as amended

RES: G52/26

Moved by: Mike Ainsworth

Seconded by: Lynda Reid

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: G53/26

Moved by: Eric Sandford

Seconded by: Bob Mullin

THAT the Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of April 9, 2026 be adopted.

Carried

8. Business arising from these minutes

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

9. Correspondence

CAO/Secretary Treasurer Rhonda Bateman provided an update to items a) and b): past Source Protection Committee (SPC) Chair Jim Hunt has applied to MECP for the same position.

Rhonda Bateman also provided an update to item c): the Premier's office invited LTC to meet regarding road salt liability mitigation. Rhonda Bateman, Keith Taylor and Bill Thompson from Lake Simcoe Region CA met with an advisor to the Premier on May 13, 2026. LTC's continued encouragement to the MECP Minister and the Attorney General on this matter was supported. LTC did not receive a response from the Attorney General's office, who administers the Occupier's Liability Act, the relevant Ontario legislation.

Rhonda Bateman provided a detailed walk through of the item d): MECP direction effective May 1, 2026, which places guardrails on several governance and operational aspects including agreements, extensions, lands, and staffing. She sent three follow up questions to the Chief Conservation Executive's Office (CCEO): (1) can existing lease agreements for properties owned by LTC be extended up to 2 years – response from CCEO is yes; (2) for external agreements that are less than 2 years term, can contract staff be hired if their position was funded through the agreement – response from CCEO is yes; (3) are land donations allowed – response from CCEO is yes but to keep in touch with the CCEO for specifics. Director Mullin noted that land donations could come with conditions. Rhonda Bateman added that LTC would need to clear it through the OPCA. Director Alyea asked if legal expenses incurred, when accepting land donations, are allowed. Rhonda Bateman responded that LTC has a reserve for legal expenses, however OPCA would need to be consulted upon and informed of such costs. Director Ainsworth asked if the day to day budget will be alright, and Rhonda replied that LTC is good to follow the 2026 budget as approved. Chair Hamilton noted that there could be a non-disclosure agreement required for

Transition Committee members. Director Sandford indicated concern for the drinking water source protection program and wants to know about program continuity.

RES: G54/26

Moved by: Lynda Reid

Seconded by: Gene Brahaney

THAT the correspondence as provided in the agenda package be received as information.

Carried

STAFF REPORTS

10. List of Monthly Payments Issued

Director Alyea asked about the issue with counterfeit cheques. Manager of Corporate Services and Water Resources Chitra Gowda explained that LTC's bank notified her of identifying counterfeit cheques with numbers duplicating issued cheques. Chitra Gowda added that more frequent checking of the banking activities is happening, and there has been no financial loss to LTC. The bank has advised LTC to switch to mainly electronic forms of payment, which is being phased in.

RES: G55/26

Moved by: Jim Alyea

Seconded by: Mike Ainsworth

THAT the list of payments issued in the total amount of \$296,484.83 for the month of April 2026 be received as information.

Carried

11. Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Update

Director Alyea asked if LTC is monitoring a property along Barcovan Beach through the permit process. Development and Regulations Lead Scott Robertson responded that LTC is aware and is monitoring as it relates to the permit process.

RES: G56/26

Moved by: Jim Alyea

Seconded by: Eric Sandford

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

Carried

12. Monitoring Report

Massimo Narini, Watershed Services Specialist, provided a presentation on the 2025 Annual Watershed Monitoring Report. Chair Hamilton asked if it is known which species of benthics are absent in Colborne Creek because of a large difference in the overall diversity in 2025 compared to previous years and the causes. Massimo Narini responded that such a detailed analysis required more time and that it is one of the goals for the 2027 Watershed Report Card to complete additional analysis. Rhonda Bateman added that it would be helpful to obtain grant funding to support detailed analysis. Director Ainsworth asked if LTC explores the potential point sources of high E. coli concentrations within the surface water samples. Massimo Narini replied that this could be explored in the future with additional funding for lab analysis costs and that the locations that E. coli samples are collected remain the same each year for long-term reporting. Director Ainsworth asked if trout were affected by water temperatures. Massimo replied that while LTC monitors water temperature throughout the watershed, fish are not monitored directly.

RES: G57/26 Moved by: Jim Alyea Seconded by: Gene Brahaney
THAT the Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) 2025 Annual Monitoring Program report be received as information.

Carried

13. Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Program

RES: G58/26 Moved by: Lynda Reid Seconded by: Bob Mullin
THAT the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Newsletter for April 2026 be received as information.

Carried

14. Provincial Offences Officer Appointment

Director Reid asked if the appointment would interfere with the position duties. Rhonda Bateman responded that the position requires the appointment as part of the assigned duties. Director Brahaney noted that in the past, Ontario Provincial Police would accompany LTC staff on certain site visits and asked if that was so currently. Rhonda Bateman responded that there have been no recent such joint visits and that it is site specific when required. Mike Wilson, Senior Hydrogeologist, was sworn in under oath as per the recommendation. Members congratulated him.

RES: G59/26 Moved by: Eric Sandford Seconded by: Jim Alyea
THAT Mike Wilson be appointed as a Provincial Offences Officer for the purpose of performing enforcement and offence related functions under Part VII of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Section 28.5 and 29 Regulations and the *Trespass to Property Act* within the area of jurisdiction for Lower Trent Conservation, effective during his employment with Lower Trent Conservation.

15. Transition Committee

Director Ainsworth asked if there is a terms of reference for the Transition Committee. Rhonda Bateman responded that a terms of reference has not been provided. The consulting firm EY is developing a playbook to amalgamate CAs. Director Ainsworth asked if existing boards would review the playbook and the CAO said she was unsure. Chair Hamilton noted that there may be the requirement for Transition Committee members to sign a non disclosure agreement, and that she would share information accordingly, and requested Board members to assist with the review. She added that some discussions would need to be in closed sessions of the board. Director Brahaney asked about the role of the five deputy ministers appointed to the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and the CAO responded that they would be agency directors giving direction.

RES: G60/26 Moved by: Mike Ainsworth Seconded by: Lynda Reid
THAT Chair Sherry Hamilton and CAO Rhonda Bateman be appointed as the members on the Transition Committee.

16. CAO's Report

Chair Hamilton described her visit to the Children's Water Festival along with Rhonda Bateman and Director Reid. She expressed admiration for the work done to educate children. Director Sandford added that he went as well and that the event was well organized, and educated around 700 children. He noted that MP Chris Mallette was present and very enthused by the event, acknowledging the work of LTC staff and ENSS high school student volunteers. Director Alyea said that he had been to the event in the past and that it is very interesting. Chair Hamilton summarized that the Children's Water Festival is an incredibly important initiative, and that we need to continue to inspire young people.

Director Mullin noted the federal funding for summer staff. Rhonda Bateman acknowledged the significant increase in this funding for this year.

RES: G61/26 Moved by: Bob Mullin Seconded by: Jim Alyea
THAT the CAO's Report be received as information.

17. Closed Session

RES: G62/26 Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon Seconded by: Jim Alyea
THAT the Board go in to Closed Session under Section 239(2)(b) and (2)(c) of the Municipal Act, 2001 regarding Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including (municipal) employees; and a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

Carried

Time: 2:23 p.m.

RES: G63/26 Moved by: Eric Sandford Seconded by: Jim Alyea
THAT the Lower Trent Conservation Board of Directors return to the regular meeting session.

Carried

Time: 2:47 p.m.

RES: G64/26 Moved by: Eric Sandford Seconded by: Gene Brahaney
THAT Rhonda Bateman discuss the direction of the LTC Board with the Municipality of Brighton.

Carried

18. Members Inquiries/Other Business

None.

19. Adjournment


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RES: G65/26 Moved by: Mike Ainsworth Seconded by: Bob Mullin
THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Time: 2:48 P.M.


Sherry Hamilton, Chair


Rhonda Bateman, CAO/ST