

July 8, 2008

Mr. Gord Miller
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
1075 Bay Street, Ste 605
Toronto, ON M5S 2B1

Dear Mr. Miller,

**Re: Request to Endorse the Ten Recommendations
Contained in the Environmental Commissioner's Report**

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Board of Directors, at their meeting held on Friday, June 27th, 2008, dealt with attached Staff Report No. 40-08-BOD regarding the above subject. The following resolution was passed::

Moved by: B. Drew

Seconded by: K. Ferdinands

BOD-08-080 **RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. -08-BOD be received; and
THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority support the ten recommendations contained in the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and request the appropriate provincial agencies take the appropriate actions to address these ten recommendations; and
THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requests its member municipalities to support the ten recommendations contained in the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and request the appropriate provincial agencies take the appropriate actions to address these ten recommendations; and
THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requests its member municipalities to continue to support the Authority's efforts in watershed planning and source water protection planning; and
FURTHER THAT this report and recommendation be forwarded to the Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities seeking support of these recommendations.**

CARRIED

Yours truly,

D. Gayle Wood, CMM III
Chief Administrative Officer
/Imc
Attachment

c: Hon. Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources
Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Energy & Infrastructure
Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
Hon. John Baird, Minister of Environment Canada
Clerks, Watershed Municipalities
Russ Powell, Central Lake Ontario Conservation
Rae Horst, Credit Valley Conservation
Ken Phillips, Conservation Halton
Paul Emerson, Grand River Conservation Authority
Steven Miazga, Hamilton Region Conservation Authority
Tony D'Amario, Niagara Region Conservation Authority
Brian Denney, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority



Staff Report No. 40-08-BOD
Page No. 1 of 4
File No.
Agenda Item No. 10 BOD-06-08

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: D. Gayle Wood
Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 13, 2008

SUBJECT: Request of the Grand River Conservation Authority's Board of Directors to Endorse their resolution supporting the Environmental Commissioner's 10 Recommendations as outlined in "Reconciling Our Priorities, Annual Report 2006-2007"

RECOMMENDATION: THAT Staff Report No. -08-BOD be received; and
THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority support the ten recommendations contained in the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and request the appropriate provincial agencies take the appropriate actions to address these ten recommendations; and
THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requests its member municipalities to support the ten recommendations contained in the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and request the appropriate provincial agencies take the appropriate actions to address these ten recommendations; and
THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requests its member municipalities to continue to support the Authority's efforts in watershed planning and source water protection planning; and
FURTHER THAT this report and recommendation be forwarded to the Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities seeking support of these recommendations.

Purpose of the Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide the Authority's Board of Directors with an outline of the 10 recommendations contained in the Environmental Commissioner's report entitled "Reconciling Our Priorities, Annual Report 2006-2007" and to seek their endorsement of these recommendations.

Background:

The Grand River Conservation Authority forwarded the attached correspondence and resolution of its Board of Directors to the Chairs of conservation authorities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, including the Chair of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. Briefly, the resolution of the Grand River Conservation Authority:

- ▶ supports the ten recommendations contained with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's annual report entitled "Reconciling our Priorities" released in December, 2007;
- ▶ asks the province to take prompt action in implementing these recommendations;
- ▶ asked the Greater Golden Horseshoe Conservation Authorities and their member municipalities to support the Environmental Commissioner's ten recommendations;
- ▶ requests member municipalities to incorporate sustainable water and environmental concepts in their Official Plans; and
- ▶ includes a request specific to the GRCA jurisdiction, seeking support for an update to the Grand River Basin Water Management Study focusing on sustainable water management, cumulative impacts of climate change and population growth on water quality and quantity.

Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Annual Report 2006-2007, Reconciling our Priorities

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Gord Miller, released his annual report entitled "Reconciling Our Priorities" in December 2007. This report identifies that the Provincial system through its legislation, policies and regulations promotes sound land use planning and protection of ecological values. However, the report identifies that when ecological values and economic, political and social priorities are factors in decision making, it is more often than not that a decision is made in favour of the latter priorities.

The report also identifies a need to revise existing legislation such as the *Mining Act* and the *Public Lands Act* to provide these pieces of legislation the tools needed to support solid ecological values.

The 10 recommendations contained in Mr. Miller's report are provided in the following table. Also provided are comments and a statement regarding the applicability of the recommendation for the LSRCA.

RECOMMENDATION	APPLICABILITY
Recommendation 1 - MNR speed up the process of wetland identification and evaluation into municipal official plans.	In January 2007, LSRCA identified some new PSWs and revised boundaries of some PSWs in LSRCA's jurisdiction. This information was provided to MNR. Municipalities are in various stages of incorporating this information into their planning documents.
Recommendation 2 - that the PPS be revised to prohibit new infrastructure in PSWs unless there are no reasonable alternatives and there will be no negative impacts.	The PPS excludes infrastructure projects requiring an EA from the definition of "development" and as such these projects are exempt from the provisions of the Natural Heritage and Water section of the PPS.

Recommendation 3 - that aggregate proposals conflicting with natural heritage or source water protection values be screened out early during the ARA approvals process.	This recommendation suggests that decisions in favour of protecting the environment be made over and above those which would support resource extraction.
Recommendation 4 - that the Growth Plan's intensification and density targets be increased.	This objective will reduce sprawl. However, increased growth and density will add to the stress placed on natural features within and adjacent to urban area.
Recommendation 5 - that the <i>Mining Act</i> is reformed to reflect land use priorities of Ontarians, including ecological values.	This recommendation does not have a direct impact for the LSRCA. It is nonetheless a good recommendation and is worthy of support.
Recommendation 6 - that the <i>Public Lands Act</i> is reformed to provide MNR with better tools to protect ecological values on Crown Lands.	With no Crown Lands within the Authority's jurisdiction, this recommendation is not directly applicable. Despite applicability, this is a worthwhile recommendation.
Recommendation 7 - a province-wide road salts management strategy be developed.	Managing the application of road salt will reduce its impact on the terrestrial and aquatic systems and also limit potential for groundwater contamination. This recommendation has many positive facets and would positively benefit the health of LSRCA's watershed.
Recommendation 8 - improve speed at which aggregate pits are rehabilitated, apply current legislation to grandfathered licences, and recommend the hiring of more aggregate inspectors.	Within LSRCA's jurisdiction, there are a number of aggregate operations, some that have grandfathered licences. This recommendation would result in all aggregate licences being resulted under the same rules. This is a positive recommendation and one that would be beneficial to LSRCA, particularly if the speed of rehabilitation can be improved upon.
Recommendation 9 - development of standards for the land application of stable pathogen-free sewage biosolids.	The application of sewage biosolids occurs within LSRCA's jurisdiction and the development of application standards would be beneficial.
Recommendation 10 - minimize cumulative effects of heavy atmospheric emitters through obtaining emission offsets and improve upon and update older Certificates of Approvals in heavily burdened airsheds.	Improving air quality has many positive benefits for the environment and natural resources as well as human health. This is a beneficial recommendation.

Issues:

Not all ten recommendations contained in “Reconciling Priorities” are directly applicable within LSRCA’s jurisdiction; they are nonetheless aimed at improving the state of the province’s natural environment through suggested changes to the land use decision making process. As such, it is recommended that the LSRCA’s Board of Directors support the ten recommendations contained in the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario annual report and request the province take the appropriate actions to implement the ten recommendations quickly.

Relevance to Authority Policy:

The Environmental Commissioner’s recommendations are consistent with the Authority’s mandate, strategic plan and policies.

Impact on Authority Finances:

There is no financial impact to the LSRCA in supporting the Environmental Commissioner’s recommendations.

Summary and Recommendations:

Staff would like to acknowledge that this Staff Report reflects that of the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority and the recommendations to their Board of Directors. The LSRCA thanks CLOCA for sharing their report. THAT Staff Report No. -08-BOD be received; and THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority support the ten recommendations contained in the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and request the appropriate provincial agencies take the appropriate actions to address these ten recommendations; and THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requests its member municipalities to support the ten recommendations contained in the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and request the appropriate provincial agencies take the appropriate actions to address these ten recommendations; and THAT the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requests its member municipalities to continue to support the Authority’s efforts in watershed planning and source water protection planning; and FURTHER THAT this report and recommendation be forwarded to the Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities seeking support of these recommendations.

Recommended by: _____
D. Gayle Wood, CMM III
Chief Administrative Officer

Lake Simcoe Clean Up Fund
Project Submissions - July 2, 2008

LSRCA File #	EC File #	Project Title	Approval Details	Municipality	Project Cost	LSCUF	Lead	Partners	Start Date	Completion Date	MP
LSCUF-003	LS08FNH03	Beaver River Erosion	Approval letter received	Township of Brock	\$28,635.00	\$13,285.00	Peter Burch	Durham/Durham Land Stewardship/Brock/Landowner/LSWQIP	July, 2008	September, 2008	Barry Devolin
LSCUF-006	LS08FNH06	Bogart Creek Stabilization	Approval letter received	York Region	\$60,500.00	\$11,200.00	Brook Piotrowski	LSRCA/York Region/LSCF	Spring, 2008	Fall, 2008	Belinda Stronach
LSCUF-008	LS08FNH07	Burnett Pond	Approval letter received	Town of Aurora	\$102,300.00	\$52,350.00	Christa Sharp	York Region/LSRCA/LSCF/Town of Aurora/YNPP	April, 2008	March, 2009	Belinda Stronach
LSCUF-007	LS08FNH08	Bogart Pond ByPass	Tech - Approved PROPEL- not approved	York Region	\$55,000.00	\$27,500.00	Christa Sharp	York Region/LSRCA/LSF/YES/Bogart Creek/YES/Bass Masters	April, 2008	November, 2008	Belinda Stronach
LSCUF-037	LS08FNH09	Conc. 2 - Septic System Upgrade and Repair	Tech - Approved Propel - Not approved	Township of Uxbridge	\$8,965.00	\$3,300.00	Lori McLean	Landowner/LSRCA/Durham Region	May, 2008	August, 2008	Hon. Bev Oda
LSCUF-031	LS08FNH10	Pangman Phoslock	Tech - Approved PROPEL- Not approved	York Region	\$55,000.00	\$27,500.00	Christa Sharp	York Region/LSRCA/LSCF/Bogart Creek Restoration Committee/MNR/YES/York	April, 2008	March, 2009	LuiTemelkovski
LSCUF-035	LS08FNH11	Scanlon Demo	Tech - Approved Propel - Not approved	Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$78,200.00	\$41,800.00	Christa Sharpe	LSCF Bradford W Gwillimbury	April, 2008	November, 2009	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-010	LS08FNH12	Eastern Creek-South Lake	Approval letter received	Town of Newmarket	\$225,150.00	\$85,950.00	Brook Piotrowski	LSRCA/LSCF/Southlake/YES/York Bassmasters/Bogart Creek/Helen McCrae Fndn	Spring, 2008	Fall, 2008	Belinda Stronach
LSCUF-001	LS08FNH13	Agricultural BMPs - Species @ Risk	Not recommended	Township of King	\$27,350.00	\$11,000.00	Christa Sharp	York Region/NCC/ORMP/Landowner	April, 2008	November , 2008	Hon. Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-017	LS08FNH16	Gordon Drain Manure Storage	Approval letter received	Durham Region	\$39,000.00	\$12,000.00	Lori McLean	Landowner/LSRCA/Durham Region	July, 2008	November, 2008	Barry Devolin
LSCUF-018	LS08FNH17	Highland Gate	Approval letter received	York Region-Aurora	\$55,000.00	\$24,000.00	Christa Sharp	York Region/LSRCA/LSCF/Club Link/YNPP	April, 2008	March, 2009	Belinda Stronach
LSCUF-019	LS08FNH18	Holland Landing Riparian Improvement	Tech - Re-submit PROPEL - Not Approved	Town of East Gwillimbury	\$110,000.00	\$55,000.00	Christa Sharp	York Region / LSRCA / LSCF / Town of East Gwillimbury	April, 2008	November, 2009	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-020	LS08FNH19	Holland Landing Riparian Planting	Approval letter received	Town of East Gwillimbury	\$21,000.00	\$6,500.00	Christa Sharp	York Region/ LSRCA / LSCF / Landowner/East Gwillimbury	April, 2008	March, 2009	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-021	LS08FNH20	Holland Marsh Riparian	Approval letter received	Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$8,210.00	\$4,600.00	Christa Sharp	LSWIP/LSRCA/Simcoe Planting/Holland Marsh Drainage/Landowners	April, 2008	November, 2008	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-022	LS08FNH21	Hotchkiss Creek	Approval letter received	City of Barrie	\$695,000.00	\$315,000.00	Andrea Gynan	Barrie/LSWQIP/LSRCA	May, 2008	September, 2009	Patrick Brown
LSCUF-023	LS08FNH22	Innisfil Beach Park Shoreline & Dock/Boat Ramp Improv.	Not recommended	Town of Innisfil	\$240,000.00	\$139,000.00	Andrea Gynan	Innisfil/LSRCA/Development Cmnty/York Region	May 1 2008	March 3, 2009	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-025	LS08FNH23	Keffers Marina	Re-submit	Town of Georgina	\$229,000.00	\$145,000.00	Peter Burch	MNR/DFO/LSCF/Town of Georgina/York Region	June, 2008	June, 2008	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-026	LS08FNH24	Kidd's Creek*	Approval letter received	City of Barrie	\$450,000.00	\$78,750.00	Andrea Gynan	LSWQIP/LSRCA/Barrie	May, 2008	October, 2008	Patrick Brown
LSCUF-027	LS08FNH26	Lagoon City Shoreline Management	Approval letter received	Township of Ramara	\$7,725.00	\$3,825.00	Andrea Gynan	LSRCA/Ramara/North Simcoe Stewardship Council/Landowners/Simcoe County	May, 2008	March, 2009	Bruce Stanton
LSCUF-028	LS08FNH28	Livestock Access Restriction	Approval letter received	Durham Region	\$4,620.00	\$1,140.00	Peter Burch	Landowners / Durham Region			Barry Devolin
LSCUF-029	LS08FNH30	Maskinonge Adopt a Watershed	Approval letter received	Town of Georgina	\$76,800.00	\$48,800.00	Peter Burch	LSRCA/MNR/MOE/Town of Georgina/YES/Friends of the Maskinonge	May, 2008	April, 2009	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-044	LS08FNH34	Western Creek	Tech - Re-submit PROPEL - Not Approved	Town of Newmarket	\$325,000.00	\$175,000.00	Brook Piotrowski	York Region/LSCF/LSRCA	Spring, 2008	Fall, 2008	Belinda Stronach
LSCUF-032	LS08FNH36	Portage Manure Storage	Approval letter received	City of Kawartha Lakes	\$25,158.00	\$6,000.00	Lori McLean	Landowners / Kawartha Lakes / Environmental Farm Plan / LSRCA	July, 2008	October, 2008	Barry Devolin
LSCUF-033	LS08FNH37	Ramara Creeks Stewardship Plan	Approval letter received	Towship of Ramara	\$132,600.00	\$66,300.00	Andrea Gynan	Landowners Township of Ramara Simcoe County	May, 2008	March , 2009	Bruce Stanton

Lake Simcoe Clean Up Fund
Project Submissions - July 2, 2008

LSRCA File #	EC File #	Project Title	Approval Details	Municipality	Project Cost	LSCUF	Lead	Partners	Start Date	Completion Date	MP
LSCUF-034	LS08FNH38	Roches Point Eco Park	Approval letter received	Town of Georgina	\$50,650.00	\$17,150.00	Peter Burch	LSCF/Roches Point Community Association/ Local Residents/Town of Georgina	May, 2008	September, 2009	Hon. Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-038	LS08FNH39	Shellswell Creek	Approval letter received	Oro-Medonte	\$25,653.00	\$9,830.00	Andrea Gynan	Landowners/OroMedonte/ Simcoe County	May, 2008	March, 2009	Bruce Stanton
LSCUF-040	LS08FNH40	Sibbald Creek Restoration Project	Approval letter received	York Region	\$37,840.00	\$16,490.00	Peter Burch	Landowners DFO/MNR/York Region	May, 2008	November, 2008	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-041	LS08FNH42	Sophia Creek	Approval letter received	City of Barrie	\$121,000.00	\$60,500.00	Andrea Gynan	Barrie/LSWQIP/LSRCA	June, 2008	October, 2008	Patrick Brown
LSCUF-042	LS08FNH43	Talbot River Erosion	Approval letter received	Township of Brock	\$13,860.00	\$5,760.00	Peter Burch	DFO/Durham Land Stewardship/LSWQIP/Landowner	July, 2008	September, 2008	Barry Devolin
LSCUF-043	LS08FNH45	Walter Drive Erosion Control	Approval letter received	Town of Georgina	\$15,730.00	\$6,155.00	Christa Sharp	York Region/ LSRCA/LSCF/YNPP/Georgina	April, 2008	November, 2008	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-015	LS08FP04	George Richardson Stormwater Retrofit	Approval letter received	Town of Newmarket	\$675,000.00	\$300,000.00	Brook Piotrowski	York Region/LSCF/Newmarket	Spring, 2008	Fall, 2008	Belinda Stronach
LSCUF-024	LS08FP09	Innisfil WPCP Pilot	Tech - Approved PROPEL - Not approved	Town of Innisfil	\$280,000.00	\$185,000.00	Rob Baldwin	LSRCA/Innisfil/BILD/Developers/Tech Suppliers	Fall 2008	March 31 2009	Hon Peter Van Loan
LSCUF-013	LS08FRM07	Flow Monitoring Enhancement	Not recommended	Watershed Wide	\$415,000.00	\$150,000.00	Rob Baldwin	City of Barrie MOE Water Survey of Canada	Thursday, May 01, 2008	March 31 2009	All
LSCUF-014	LS08FRM08	Geologic-Bathymetric Mapping	Not recommended	Lake simcoe	\$185,000.00	\$120,000.00	Rob Baldwin	LSRCA/York Region/Geologic Survey of Canada/Ontario Geologic Survey/Univ of Rhode Island	May 1 2008	November 15 2008	Hon Peter Van Loan Patrick Brown
LSCUF-004	LS08FRM09	BMP Inventories	Approval letter received	Watershed Wide	\$145,000.00	\$60,000.00	Rob Baldwin	LSRCA/LSWQIP/York Region	Thursday, May 01, 2008	November 30 2008	all
LSCUF045	LS08FRM10	Lake Simcoe Near Shore Monitoring	Approval letter received	Watershed Wide	\$475,000.00	\$200,000.00	Rob Baldwin	MOE/MNR/Trent/Queens/York/ Gartner Lee	May 1 2008	Feb 28 2009	all
LSCUF-009	LS08FRM12	Catchment Level Nutrient	Not recommended	Watershed Wide	\$235,000.00	\$110,000.00	Rob Baldwin	LSRCA/York Region/Barrie/Innisfil	Thursday, May 01, 2008	December 15 2008	all
LSCUF-030	LS08FRM14	Musselman Phoslock	Not recommended	Whitchurch Stouffville	\$165,000.00	\$85,000.00	Rob Baldwin	LSWQIP LSCF Whitchurch Stouffville	Thursday, May 01, 2008	December 15 2008	LuiTemelkovski
LSCUF-039	LS08FRM15	Shoreline Management Plan	Tech - Re-submit PROPEL - Not Approved		\$220,000.00	\$100,000.00	Rob Baldwin	LSRCA/Municipalities/MNR/MMAH/DF O/EC	Thursday, May 01, 2008	September 30 2008	Hon. Peter Van Loan Patrick Brown

Total Officially Approved \$3,491,431.00 \$1,405,585.00

Officially Approved with confirmation letter
Not Officially Approved
No Decision
Not Recommended
Re-Submit

Total - Projects Submitted \$6,119,946.00 \$2,780,685.00

TTL - N/O Approved Projects \$0.00 \$0.00

Total - No Decision \$477,165.00 \$285,100.00

FNH: non-point source and fish habitat
FP: point source and fish habitat
FR: research and monitoring

*Kidd's Creek Requested LSCUF Funding of \$225,000