

Christopher R. Appleton



Feb. 2, 2017

Mayor and Council
City of Kawartha Lakes
City Hall, 26 Francis Street
Lindsay, Ontario K9V 5R8

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Council Meeting Tuesday Feb. 7, 2017
Item 9.1, KRCA Lake Management Plan Implementation, 2017

I write in support of the request by the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority to Council for funding regarding lake management plan implementation.

CKL is to be commended for its multi-year support of lake management planning. KRCA has established itself as a well-managed, progressive and community-minded organization. The combined efforts of KRCA, third party agencies and many community volunteers have resulted in state-of-the-art lake management plans, of which all parties should be proud. KRCA has done an excellent job of engaging a broad range of community interests in the formulation of the lake plans, and local residents and cottagers are active and supportive of this effort. This could not have happened without the steady support of City officials and Council, and I personally thank you for that support.

We all know that our lake resources are precious, and central to the continuing success of CKL. We are fortunate to have such a vital natural resource. The health of our lakes is important for many reasons, including source water for drinking and irrigation, and for fishing, boating, swimming and tourism in general. Council has recognized this importance by making the preservation and enhancement of our lake resources a central objective of the City's strategic plan. KRCA has now provided scientifically supported advice on ways to achieve that objective.

The development of lake management plans is an essential first step in the process of maintaining the health of our water resources. The next essential step is implementation of plan recommendations. Of course, not all recommendations can be implemented in one year, but it is essential to bring life to the plan so that it does not just gather dust on the shelf. It is

also important to preserve the momentum of this project, and to retain the expertise necessary for further progress. I find the implementation strategy presented to Council at this meeting to be reasonable, effective and well-considered. I support it wholeheartedly.

Of particular note is the leverage that KRCA can achieve in partnering with other funders for certain programs, if program funding is forthcoming from the City. In the result, if Council approves this funding request, KRCA will have access to significant third party funding for its implementation efforts, enabling it to work with an even more effective budget. KRCA has worked hard to obtain these co-funding commitments, and it would be a real waste to let that slip away.

This is a real and substantial opportunity to take great strides in the management of our lakes, and I urge Council to support KRCA in its implementation efforts by approving this request for funding. Failure to do so would be a missed opportunity, and could leave the lakes at risk of decline. It would result in loss of momentum, degradation of the efficacy of the scientific baseline data, and loss of expertise and engagement, all difficult to recover. Most importantly, it would be received with great disappointment by the many citizens and organizations that have put such effort into formulating the plans, who are undertaking their own local projects for environmental improvement, and who hope that the City will support worthy environmental policies.

Financially, failure to provide timely funding for implementation would result in the City receiving a nil return on its significant financial investment in KRCA's efforts to date. Although I recognize that the City faces significant financial pressures, in my respectful opinion this is an investment in our lakes that the City would be wise to continue supporting.

Thank you for receiving my comments, and for your consideration. I look forward to hearing a positive result from Council.

Sincerely,

Chris Appleton