



LAKEHEAD REGION

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, via Microsoft Teams and teleconference line 1. The Chair called the Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Donna Blunt, Chair
Grant Arnold, Vice-Chair
Joel Brown
Rudy Buitenhuis
Erwin Butikofer
Andrew Foulds
Andrea Goold
Umed Panu
Jim Vezina
Allan Vis

REGRETS: Trevor Giertuga

ALSO

PRESENT: Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer
Mark Ambrose, Finance Manager
Gail Willis, Watershed Manager
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager
Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager
Melanie O'Riley, Receptionist/Admin Clerk, recorder of Minutes

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution #78/20

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Allan Vis

"THAT: the Agenda is adopted as published." **CARRIED.**

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolution #79/20

Moved by Joel Brown, Seconded by Umed Panu

“THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Sixth Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 be adopted as published.” CARRIED.

4. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

An in-camera session was not held.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) File: Draft 2021 Budget

Members were provided with an updated Draft Budget Summary with the 2021 Current Value Assessment (CVA) numbers which resulted in changes to each Member Municipalities levy. It was noted that the draft budget was prepared with a 0% municipal levy increase. The final budget will be presented at the November meeting for consideration and approval.

It was noted that an electronic meeting with the City of Thunder Bay Executive Management Team was scheduled for October 9, 2020 to discuss the Capital and Operating portions of the budget.

(b) File: Administrative By-Law

Members reviewed and discussed the Staff Report CORP-06-2020 regarding a review of the Administrative By-Law regarding confidentiality during electronic in-camera meetings.

Resolution #80/20

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Andrea Goold

“THAT: Staff Report CORP-06-2020 be received for information.” CARRIED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) File: Minister’s Direction to Conservation Authorities during the COVID-19 Outbreak

Members were provided with the amended Minister’s Direction to Conservation Authorities permitting them to hold an electronic meeting to amend their Administrative By-Laws outside of a declared emergency, which would then permit them to continue to allow electronic participation in meetings and hearings outside of declared emergencies. It was noted that the LRCA’s Administrative By-Law was amended during the August 26, 2020 for this purpose during an electronic meeting that was permitted due to the City of Thunder Bay being under a declared emergency.

(b) File: Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative

Correspondence from the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to Conservation Ontario regarding Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative and the *Conservation Authorities Act* review was noted.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report WM-02-2020 related to the 2020 Hazelwood Lake Bacteriological Water Quality Report.

Resolution #81/20

Moved by Erwin Butikofer, Seconded by Andrew Foulds

"THAT: the Staff Report WM-02-2020 be received AND FURTHER THAT the recommendations contained therein are endorsed." **CARRIED.**

- *Funds and personnel permitting, bacteriological water quality monitoring at Hazelwood Lake should be continued in the summer of 2021.*
- *Further testing of field parameters should be continued in succeeding years to determine normal ranges and trends for the Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area.*

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

Members were provided with the monthly Treasurer's Report for August's Administration and Capital.

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report PIR-02-2020 regarding the implementation of Plan Input and Review user fees. Tammy Cook, CAO, gave a brief power point presentation.

Resolution #82/20

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Allan Vis

"THAT: Staff Report PIR-02-2020 be received AND FURTHER THAT effective January 1, 2021 User Fees for Plan Input and Review comments will be charged as outlined in the report AND FURTHER THAT Memorandums of Understanding will be executed with each Member Municipality and the Lakehead Rural Planning Board for the Plan Input and Review Program." **CARRIED.**

Members concurred that the 2020 LRCA Christmas Social be cancelled this year due to COVID-19.

9. **PASSING OF ACCOUNTS**

Resolution #83/20

Moved by Joel Brown, Seconded by Umed Panu

“THAT: having examined the accounts for the period of August 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 cheque #2039 to #2061 for \$73,480.83 and preauthorized payments of \$63,559.71 for a total of \$137,040.54, we approve their payment.” CARRIED.

10. **REGULATORY ROLE**

Members were provided with the Plan Input and Review Summary for the Period of August to September 24, 2020 and a summary of Section 28 Permits issued in 2020 to date.

11. **PROJECTS UPDATE**

Members were advised that the LRCA’s Living Classroom Programs had begun and all programs were effectively fully booked, with primarily new participants. The program itinerary included topics such as Fish & Aquatics, Birds & Birding, Fall Photography Workshop, Trees & Fall Colours, Medicine Walk and iNaturalist & Bryophytes.

The Fall Mushroom Hike occurred at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area on Sunday, September 13. The event, which was once again led by Dr. Leonard Hutchison of Lakehead University, was fully booked with 20 participants, and was very well received. Due to the popularity, a second hike occurred on September 23.

Members were advised that LRCA staff have been partnering with Lakehead University on a couple of different projects including: a guided hike along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway for a group of international master’s students from the forestry department; are developing a comprehensive project for a class revolving around the hypothetical development of Wakefield Common as a Conservation Area.

It was noted that Staff led a group of Confederation College students on a guided hike along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway with a focus on iNaturalist and Citizen Science.

It was noted that the Communications Manager and Education Coordinator hosted a virtual Nerd Nite, presented by Science North, on September 22.

It was noted that on September 1, staff attended a press event at Cascades Conservation Area regarding the Wayfinder trails app, which the LRCA has been involved with since its initial development. Wayfinder was the recipient of a Trillium grant to allow for further development of the app, including educational components that the Education Coordinator has helped to develop; the LRCA will be able to utilize the app for our own educational programs.

It was noted that on September 4, the LRCA hosted the 2020 Ocean Bridge youth cohort at Hurkett Cove Conservation Area. Twelve individuals from Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba participated. Elder Tony DePerry was on-site and led a Medicine Walk.

It was noted that the Lake Superior water levels continue to be above average. A Shoreline Condition Statement remains in effect due to the high levels.

It was noted that the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority undeclared the Level II Low Water Condition on September 8, 2020.

Members were advised that a new floating dock was installed on September 1, 2020 at Hurkett Cove Conservation Area. The dock was fully funded through a financial Transfer Payment Agreement with Parks Canada.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

14. AJOURNMENT

Resolution #84/20

Moved by Andrew Foulds, Seconded by Jim Vezina

“THAT: the time being 5:26 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.” CARRIED.


Chair


Chief Administrative Officer