



LAKEHEAD REGION

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority held on Wednesday, August 28, 2019, in the Authority Boardroom. The Chair called the Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Donna Blunt, Chair
Grant Arnold, Vice-Chair
Rudy Buitenhuis
Ed Chambers
Andrea Goold
Umed Panu
Allan Vis

REGRETS: Erwin Butikofer
Andrew Foulds
Trevor Giertuga
Jim Vezina

ALSO

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

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution #84/19

Moved by Andrea Goold, Seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis

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

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

3. RETIREMENT OF SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Members were advised of the retirement of Bob Hartley, Source Protection Committee Chair. The Board recognized Bob Hartley's 12 years of service as the Chair of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) and presented him with a plaque and framed photo.

It was noted that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is in the process of appointing a new Chair for the SPC.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolution #85/19

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Andrea Goold

"THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Sixth Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, together with the In-Camera portion are adopted as published." **CARRIED.**

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

Resolution #86/19

Moved by Andrea Goold, Seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis

"THAT: we now go into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) at 4:36 p.m." **CARRIED.**

Resolution #87/19

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Andrea Goold

"THAT: we go into Open Meeting at 5:55 p.m." **CARRIED.**

The purpose of the In-Camera Meeting pertained to personnel and legal matters.

It is noted that the completed 2019 Pay Equity/Compensation Review Study was presented by the consultant.

Resolution #88/19

Moved by Ed Chambers, Seconded by Grant Arnold

"THAT: Staff Report FIN-05-2019 is received AND FURTHER THAT Scenario #3 as amended be adopted with an effective date of January 1, 2020." **CARRIED.**

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) File: Dive Park at Silver Harbour Conservation Authority

It was noted that parking fees at Silver Harbour Conservation Area have been received from the diving community, which have been placed in envelopes noting the origin. Staff has begun tracking the diving community parking fees annually. It was also noted that Thunder Country Diving donated \$80.00 that was collected during a recent event held at Silver Harbour.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) File: Michael Gravelle, MPP Thunder Bay – Superior North

Correspondence received from Michael Gravelle, MPP, Thunder Bay – Superior North, thanking the Authority for the 2018 Annual Report was noted.

(b) File: Conservation Ontario

The minutes from the June 24, 2019 Conservation Ontario Council Meeting was noted.

(c) File: Letter to all Conservation Authorities from MECP

A letter from the Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks that was received via email on Friday August 16, 2019 at 6 p.m. was noted. Members were provided with Conservation Ontario's media release in response to the letter.

The MECP letter advises Conservation Authorities to begin to wind-down programs that are not considered to be core mandate and that CAs "do not proceed with any increases to your fees or levies". There has been extensive media coverage, including local interviews. Media articles circulated at the meeting.

Some of the main concerns related to the letter include:

- The Ministry has not defined what they consider "core mandate" programs.
- Changes to the act to define the categories of core mandate in the letter have not been proclaimed in legislation.
- The inability to increase levies or fees takes away the budget approval authority from the Board.
- Conservation Ontario has been working with the government on their proposed changes; however, there was no consultation with Conservation Ontario or Conservation Authorities prior to issuing the letter.

(d) File: Printed Material

Printed material was circulated.

8. STAFF REPORTS

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report STRAT-01-2019 related to the Strategic Plan progress between January 2018 and July 2019.

Resolution #89/19

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Ed Chambers

“THAT: Staff Report STRAT-01-2019 be received.” CARRIED.

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report POLICY-HS-10/11/12-2019 related to the Health and Safety Orientation, Incident Investigations and Return to Work Self-Assessment Policies.

Resolution #90/19

Moved by Ed Chambers, Seconded by Grant Arnold

“THAT: Health and Safety Policy HS-10-2019: Health and Safety Orientation be adopted.” CARRIED.

Resolution #91/19

Moved by Grand Arnold, Seconded by Ed Chambers

“THAT: Health and Safety Policy HS-11-2019: Incident Investigations be adopted.” CARRIED.

Resolution #92/19

Moved by Ed Chambers, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: Health and Safety Policy HS-12-2019: Return to Work Self Assessment be adopted.” CARRIED.

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report POLICY-GEN-14-2019 related to the Section 28 – Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

Resolution #93/19

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Ed Chambers

“THAT: General Policy GEN-14-2019: Section 28 – Compliance and Enforcement be adopted.” CARRIED.

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FLFOR-02-2019 related to the Whitefish River flood event which occurred on June 4, 2019.

Resolution #94/19

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Andrea Goold

"THAT: Staff Report FLFOR-02-2019 be received." **CARRIED.**

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

Members were provided with the monthly Treasurer's Report for expenses and revenues for June and July plus totals to date for Administration, Capital and Vehicle and Equipment Program.

Members reviewed and discussed the 2020 Draft Budget, a presentation was provided to review the work plan and preliminary budget for 2020. It was noted that the 2020 Current Value Assessment (CVA) numbers had not been provided from the MNRF at the time of writing; therefore, the levy values will change in the final version of the budget document based on the 2020 CVA. It is also noted that the Draft Budget was completed prior to the MECF letter of August 16, 2019.

As required by the City of Thunder Bay, the Draft 2020 Capital Budget was submitted on July 26, 2019. It was noted that the Operating Budget is due on September 6, 2019 with a meeting with the Executive Management Team scheduled for October 3, 2019 to discuss the Capital and Operating portions of the budget.

Members were advised to ask if their Township/Municipality would like a visit to a Council Meeting during September/October related to the 2020 Draft Budget.

The final 2020 budget will be presented to the Board at the November Meeting for approval. It was noted that in previous years, the budget approval occurred in February.

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

Resolution #95/19

Moved by Andrea Goold, Seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis

"THAT: having examined the accounts for the period of June 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019 cheque #1669 to #1696 for \$63,713.17 and preauthorized payments of \$76,419.77 for a total of \$140,132.94, we approve their payment." **CARRIED.**

Resolution #96/19

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Andrea Goold

***“THAT:** having examined the accounts for the period of July 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019 cheque #1697 to #1727 for \$214,457.78 and preauthorized payments of \$64,823.02 for a total of \$279,280.80, we approve their payment.”* **CARRIED.**

11. REGULATORY ROLE

The Plan Input and Review for the period from June 27, 2019, to August 28, 2019, was circulated.

The Permits issued under the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses for the period from June 27, 2019, to August 28, 2019, were circulated.

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

It was noted that Fisheries and Oceans Canada conducted their annual sea lamprey trapping program at the Neebing River Weir. They have reported only catching 15 this year, which may indicate a reduction in the population or a reflection of the variable spring water levels.

It was noted that Staff met with representatives from Parks Canada and WSP for an orientation meeting between all parties to discuss the Hurkett Cove Birding Tower. WSP was hired by Parks Canada to administer the project. Staff then met with Parks Canada and WSP on-site at Hurkett Cove Conservation Area to determine the best site for the proposed birding tower. Further updates to the Board will be provided as this project progresses.

It was noted that approximately 270 people attended Hazelwood Lake Family Fun Day on Sunday, July 21, 2019.

It was noted that approximately 350 people attended Silver Harbour Day on Saturday, August 24, 2019. A verbal update was provided at the Meeting.

Members were advised that the Fall Mushroom Hike is scheduled for Sunday, September 15 and will feature a talk from Dr. Leonard Hutchison at the LRCA Administrative Office, followed by a guided hike at Mills Block Forest.

It was noted that the LRCA hosted its first-ever Medicine Walk as part of the TD Friends of the Environment-funded Living Classroom Program. The event featured a smudging ceremony and guided hike, both lead by Elder Tony DePerry, and was co-hosted with the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre (TBIFC).

It was noted that the LRCA staff hosted two guided hikes for the Thunder Bay 55+ Centre. The first was held at Cascades Conservation Area and focused on plant identification. The second was held on August 27 at Mills Block Forest.

It was noted that Staff will have an information table at the Maadaadizi event at Marina Park on Saturday, September 7, 2019.

It was noted that Staff will have an information table at the Lakehead University International Student Orientation Event on Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

Members were advised that a Flood Watch was issued on August 14, 2019 in response to the increasing high water levels on Lake Superior. The beginning of August water level was 2 centimetres higher than the previous beginning of August record set in 1950. The level is currently 35 centimetres above average for August (1918-2018) and 22 centimetres higher than the level last year. The current water level is approximately 36 centimetres lower than the 100-year flood level for Lake Superior. Assuming average water supply conditions, Lake Superior is expected to continue to rise in August. Staff will continue to monitor conditions and issue Flood Messages as warranted. Photos that compare Lake Superior water level at an all-time low in 2007 and high in 2019 were circulated.

It was noted that on August 6, 2019, LH North demobilized the crane and turbidity curtain from the Neebing/McIntyre Floodway dredging site. An underwater survey of the bottom of the floodway channel was completed by Hatch, which confirmed that the sediment had been removed to the proper depth within the contract limits. The dredging activities were completed in six weeks (June 24 to August 6). Work to be completed by the end of the year includes the replacement of the recreational trail, paving the new path to William Street, and site cleanup. It is planned that the dredged sediment will remain on-site to dewater until the end of October 2019, at which time the dry sediment will be hauled to Port Authority lands.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. NEXT MEETING


Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at 4:30 p.m.

15. AJOURNMENT

Resolution #97/19

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Andrea Goold

"THAT: the time being 6:36 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn." CARRIED.


Chair


Chief Administrative Officer