



LAKEHEAD REGION

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, via teleconference. 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
Trevor Giertuga
Andrea Goold
Umed Panu
Jim Vezina
Allan Vis

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

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution #45/20

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

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

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolution #46/20

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Umed Panu

“THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Third Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, together with the In-Camera portion are adopted as published.”
CARRIED.

4. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

Resolution #47/20

Moved by Jim Vezina, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: we now go into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) at 4:39 p.m.” **CARRIED.**

Resolution #48/20

Moved by Joel Brown, Seconded by Andrea Goold

“THAT: we go into Open Meeting at 5:03 p.m.” **CARRIED.**

Resolution #49/20

Moved by Andrea Goold, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: the Staff Report LM-02-2020 be received AND FURTHER THAT the request put forth by Mr. Jody Bernst to donate land to the LRCA be declined.” **CARRIED.**

Resolution #50/20

Moved by Joel Brown, Seconded by Grant Arnold

“THAT: the Staff Report Fin-8-2020 be adopted AND FURTHER THAT the recommendation as amended contained therein be endorsed.” **CARRIED.**

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

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) File: Conservation Authorities Review

Members were advised that Conservation Ontario (CO) met with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) staff related to the ongoing *Conservation Authorities Act* review. Correspondence had been sent from AMO to the MECP requesting that the Ministry work with

AMO and CO staff, that co-created Memorandums of Understanding (for all non-mandated programs) template be prepared and that the Ministry follows up on improvements regarding Section 28 regulations.

It was noted that Conservation Ontario met with MECP Minister Yurek's Chief of Staff and Director of Policy on May 12th to discuss the status of the *Conservation Authorities Act* review. Conservation Ontario was advised that the review and analysis of the comments received through the consultations was near complete but due to COVID-19 it was uncertain as to when any new or amended regulations and/or legislation will be posted to the Environmental Registry.

(b) File: 2019 Annual Report

It was noted that the Annual Report had been printed was distributed in the Chronicle Journal on May 23, 2020.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) File: Lakehead University Arthur Shewchuck Memorial Bursary

Correspondence received from Lakehead University advising that Hannah Aalto, Applied Life Sciences in Biomedical sciences student, was the successful recipient of the Arthur Shewchuck Memorial Bursary was noted.

(b) File: MECP – Conservation Authority Questions Regarding Emergency Orders and Essential Business List

Correspondence received from MECP regarding Conservation Authority questions related to Emergency Orders and the Essential Business List related to COVID-19 was noted.

(c) File: Letter of Support for Conservation Authorities

A letter of support for Conservation Authorities to Honourable Doug Ford from 112 organizations calling on the government to retain the current mandate of the province's 36 Conservation Authorities in protection, restoring and managing the watershed where 95 percent of Ontarians reside was noted.

(d) File: Township of Dorion Representative on LRCA Board

It was noted that correspondence had been received from the Township of Dorion advising that due to the resignation as Reeve of long-standing Board member Ed Chambers, Council appointed Joel Brown for the remainder of the term. It was noted that Ed Chambers had served 24 years on the Board. A commemorative collage of pictures, certificate of acknowledgment and a thank you note was to be delivered to Ed by the Chair.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report STEW-01-2020 related to hiring a new Watershed Stewardship Technician Intern.

Resolution #51/20

Moved by Andrew Foulds, Seconded by Grant Arnold

*“THAT: Staff Report No. STEW-01-2020 be received **AND FURTHER THAT** the CAO is authorized to enter into a funding agreement with College and Institutes Canada to hire a Watershed Stewardship Technician Intern.” **CARRIED.***

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

Members were provided with the monthly Treasurer’s Report for April’s Administration and Capital.

Members were advised that a three-month radon test was conducted at the LRCA Administrative Office. Results indicated that levels were below the criterion.

It was noted that staff have begun the 2021 budget process and that the draft 2021 budget will be presented at the August Board Meeting.

Members were advised that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has once again contracted the LRCA to conduct four inspections of the Wolf River Sea Lamprey Barrier and portage in the Township of Dorion. The Lands Manager undertakes the inspections in conjunction with work/inspections of Hurkett Cove Conservation Area. After each inspection, a report is forwarded to the DFO.

9. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

Resolution #52/20

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

*“THAT: having examined the accounts for the period of April 1, 2020 to April 30, 2020 cheque #1936 to #1972 for \$158,614.95 and preauthorized payments of \$63,307.44 for a total of \$221,922.39, we approve their payment.” **CARRIED.***

10. REGULATORY ROLE

Members were provided with the Plan Input and Review Summary for the period April to May 20, 2020 and a Summary of Section 28 permits issued in 2020.

11. PROJECTS UPDATE

It was noted that the CAO attended virtually the annual Kam River Standing Advisory Committee meeting on May 5, 2020. Presentations were provided by OPG overviewing the past years operations and adherence to the Watershed Management Plan.

It was noted that the annual OPG Kam River Call test was completed by staff, as part of LRCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning responsibilities, on May 12, 2020.

Members were advised that staff declared a Level I Low Water Condition on May 12, 2020 based on recorded precipitation over the last three months.

It was noted that Great Lakes water levels continue to be well above average.

It was noted that Staff have released a Request for Proposal to four Consultants for services to provide an analysis of the existing erosion mitigation and slope stabilization measures along the bank of the lower Kaministiquia (Kam) River and to evaluate the long term access and egress of Victor Street, including the City's underground infrastructure, and the risk to adjacent private residential properties within the study area. The Study follows the Kam River Erosion Sites Inventory Report (KGS, 2019), and will review the causes of erosion, determine the viability and effectiveness of the existing measures, assess the cause and extent of slope instability, and develop options or concepts to mitigate potential risk to public and private property within the area.

It was noted that during the month of June, the LRCA will be flying the pride flag alongside the Canada and Ontario flags. The flag is a symbolic show of support which reaffirms the LRCA's position as a safe, inclusive work environment and non-discriminatory public spaces for all members of the community.

It was noted that the Lakehead Children's Water Festival has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was noted that the 2020 Ocean Bridge program has been rescheduled for Friday August 28, 2020, at Hurkett Cove Conservation Area. Tasks to be completed by the cohort group of 40-50 individuals aged 18-30 that make up the cohort include; filling in gaps of information from last year's bio inventory as well as the re-establishing of wild rice patches in the area. Participants will also conduct some observations to assist with the development of a shoreline erosion mitigation plan for possible future Ocean Bridge partnerships. Additionally, participants will participate in an LRCA-hosted education program and tentative Medicine Walks with Elder Tony DePerry. Ideally the re-established wild rice patches will lead to a possible annual fall harvest event and feast with local Indigenous communities.

Members were advised that the LRCA was once again successful in receiving a TD Friends of the Environment Fund grant, in the amount of \$7,000 for the purpose of the Living Classroom Program (seniors programming). The LRCA will host 6 workshops in the months of September, October and November. Staff will be monitoring the emergency orders and state of the pandemic

as the dates approach and will cancel/postpone workshops as required. Busing may also be cancelled this year.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Members directed staff to investigate other money collection mechanisms related to the Conservation Areas due to the fact that the money collected via coin boxes and the sale of Explore Cards represents an extremely low user pay ratio.

Resolution #53/20

Moved by Andrew Foulds, Seconded by Umed Panu

"THAT: Administration research other money collection mechanisms including but not limited to electronic fares and report back to the Board within a year." CARRIED.

13. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.

14. AJOURNMENT

Resolution #54/20

Moved by Jim Vezina, Seconded by Andrew Foulds

"THAT: the time being 5:24 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn." CARRIED.


Chair


Chief Administrative Officer