



LAKEHEAD REGION

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority held on Wednesday, August 26, 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
Erwin Butikofer
Andrew Foulds
Trevor Giertuga
Andrea Goold
Umed Panu
Allan Vis

REGRETS: Rudy Buitenhuis
Jim Vezina

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 #68/20

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Joel Brown

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

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolution #69/20

Moved by Umed Panu, Seconded by Andrew Foulds

“THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Fifth Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, together with the In-Camera portion are adopted as published.”
CARRIED.

4. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

Resolution #70/20

Moved by Trevor Giertuga, Seconded by Andrew Foulds

“THAT: we now go into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) at 4:32 p.m.” **CARRIED.**

Resolution #71/20

Moved by Erwin Butikofer, Seconded by Andrea Goold

“THAT: we go into Open Meeting at 4:45 p.m.” **CARRIED.**

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

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) File: Lakehead Conservation Foundation – Lakehead University Bursary

Correspondence was received from Lakehead University advising that the Lakehead Conservation Foundation Bursary was awarded to Robin Timms, who is in the final year for a Bachelor of Forestry degree.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-03-2020 related to LRCA’s preferred Sediment Management Option for the North Harbour site.

Resolution #72/20

Moved by Allan Vis, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

“THAT: the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority advise the Thunder Bay North Harbour Working Group that Sediment Management Option A (SMO-A): dredging and disposal at an on-site confined disposal facility, is the Authority’s preferred option for management.” **CARRIED.**

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report WM-01-2020 regarding the Wetland Delineation Project.

Resolution #73/20

Moved by Joel Brown, Seconded by Grant Arnold

“THAT: Staff Report WM-01-2020 be received AND FURTHER THAT the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority use available deferred funds for the Wetland Delineation Project.” **CARRIED.**

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

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

Members were provided with Staff Report CORP-04-2020: a summary of LRCA actions from March 17 to August 17, 2020 related to COVID-19.

Member were provided with a summary of the impacts of COVID-19 to Conservation Authorities, as summarized by Conservation Ontario.

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-05-2020 related to proposed amendments to the Administrative By-Law to allow for electronic participation outside of a declared emergency.

Resolution #74/20

Moved by Trevor Giertuga, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: Staff Report CORP-05-2020 is received AND FURTHER THAT the Administrative By-Law version 2.0 be amended to permit electronic open and closed Board of Director, Source Protection Authority and Section 28 Hearings meeting participation if warranted, provided quorum and public participation in open meetings when required can be met.” **CARRIED.**

A subsequent report will be brought back to the Board regarding Board Member responsibilities related to electronic in-camera meetings.

Members reviewed and discussed the 2021 Draft Budget. It was noted that the 2021 Current Value Assessment (CVA) numbers had not been provided from MECP at the time of writing.

As required by the City of Thunder Bay, the Draft 2021 Capital Budget was submitted on July 24, 2020. It was noted that the Operating Budget is due on September 4, 2020 with a meeting with the Executive Management team to be scheduled to discuss the Capital and Operating portions of the budget.

Members were requested to advise if their Township/Municipality would like a visit to a Council Meeting during September/October related to the 2021 Draft Budget.

The final 2021 budget will be presented to the Board at the November Meeting for approval.

9. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

Resolution #75/20

Moved by Andrea Goold, Seconded by Umed Panu

“THAT: having examined the accounts for the period of June 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 cheque #1983 to #2019 for \$120,064.99 and preauthorized payments of \$72,089.47 for a total of \$192,154.46 we approve their payment.” CARRIED.

Resolution #76/20

Moved by Andrew Foulds, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: having examined the accounts for the period of July 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020 cheque #2020 to #2038 for \$33,078.44 and preauthorized payments of \$64,922.94 for a total of \$98,001.38, we approve their payment.” CARRIED.

10. REGULATORY ROLE

Members were provided with the Plan Input and Review Summary for the Period of June to August 17, 2020 and a summary of Section 28 Permits issued in 2020 to date.

11. PROJECTS UPDATE

It was noted that the LRCA was successful in securing funding from TC Energy for two different programs: \$5,000.00 towards the LRCA environmental education program and \$1,500.00 for emergency COVID-19 PPE funds to purchase masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc.

It was noted that Staff have applied to the Federal Enabling Accessibility Fund – Small Component program with a request for \$100,000.00 to enhance accessibility at Cascades Conservation Area. The project, if successfully funded, will complete the re-paving of the existing paved trail (which will be brought up to modern AODA wheelchair accessibility compliance), as well as the installation of a new wheelchair accessible concrete vault toilet.

It was noted that both the Hazelwood Lake Family Fun Day/Little Trout Day by the Bay were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Members were provided with a Geocaching update.

It was noted that the Fall Mushroom hike will occur on Sunday, September 13. Group size will be limited for demonstration and identification purposes and for physical distancing purposes.

It was noted that on July 19, 2020, Dan Fulton and volunteers from his Urban Greenscapes group, volunteered their time to weed and maintain the pollinator garden located at that LRCA Administrative Office. Dan is a local monarch butterfly and pollinator garden expert.

It was noted that on July 14, 2020 members from Enbridge Gas completed repairs on the damaged pedestrian bridge at Mills Block Forest which had been vandalized in March.

It was noted that Staff had been contacted by the Canadian Coast Guard in regards to their Vessels of Concern Program, in which they are gathering information related to wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels in the Lake Superior Area, that may present a potential threat to individuals or the environment. They are reviewing the vessels located adjacent to the LRCA's Hurkett Cove Conservation Area north of the property located on the MNRF Shoreline Reserve.

It was noted that staff anticipate a contract with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to carry out wetland, riparian, and nearshore wildlife habitat mapping and assessment within the Thunder Bay Area of Concern (AOC).

It was noted that staff anticipate a transfer payment agreement from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to implement a shoreline restoration and stewardship program (i.e., Superior Stewards). The program will provide landowners with professional consultation and planting plans to identify and implement on-the-ground projects that will improve water quality and shoreline/streambank erosion issues and environmental impairments. The LRCA's greenhouse will be utilized to cultivate and grow native plants for this program. The total project cost to be received from MNRF is \$40,000.00, including HST.

It was noted that staff will be working in partnership with the Thunder Bay Stewardship Council and the City of Thunder Bay to develop and implement shoreline restoration plan and demonstration site that will incorporate shoreline naturalization and bioengineering techniques along the shoreline of Lake Superior at Fisherman's Park West. The shoreline restoration demonstration site will be used to cultivate an awareness of the LRCA's new Shoreline Restoration Program (i.e. Superior Stewards). The total project cost to be received from the Thunder Bay Stewardship Council is \$25,000.00, including HST.

It was noted the Lake Superior water levels continue to be above average.

It was noted that the declared Level II Low Water Condition on June 1, 2020 has extended into the month of August due to below average precipitation received in July.

It was noted that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is proposing to update the technical rules for assessing source water protection vulnerability and risk under the *Clean*

Water Act, 2006. These proposed updates would help ensure that source water protection efforts are supported by current science and that the quality of Ontario's drinking water continues to be protected, as committed to in the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.

It was noted that an Environmental Officer from MECP sent a sample from Amethyst Harbour that was suspect of a blue green algae bloom. The sample was sent to the ministry lab for algae identification and toxins analysis. The results were non-detect for algae/toxins. Amethyst Harbour is in the Lakehead source water protection area and is located approximately 24 kilometers upstream of the City of Thunder Bay Bare Point Water Treatment Plant. As a precaution, MECP Safe Drinking Water staff have contacted the Manager of Compliance and Quality Control from the Bare Point Plant.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #77/20

Moved by Erwin Butikofer, Seconded by Trevor Giertuga

"THAT: the time being 5:27 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn." CARRIED.


Chair


Chief Administrative Officer