



LAKEHEAD REGION

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority held on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, via Microsoft Teams. 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
Allan Vis

REGRETS: 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 #92/20

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 #93/20

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

“THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Eighth Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, October 28, 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: Conservation Area Payment Recommendations for Board Consideration

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CONAREA-03-2020 related to increasing the generation of revenue at Conservation Areas and Forest Management properties.

Resolution #94/20

Moved by Andrew Foulds, Seconded by Trevor Giertuga

“THAT: Staff Report CONAREA-03-2020 be received.” CARRIED.

Resolution #95/20

Moved by Andrea Goold, Seconded by Umed Panu

“THAT: effective January 1, 2021, parking/day-use permit fees for Conservation Areas and publicly-accessible Forest Management Properties are \$5.00 per vehicle AND FURTHER THAT the Explore Card Parking Pass is \$40.00 +HST.” CARRIED.

Resolution #96/20

Moved by Joel Brown, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: effective January 1, 2021, in an effort to increase the generation of revenue to offset required municipal levy to operate Conservation Areas, the LRCA will engage in an aggressive public outreach and education program to educate the public regarding the parking fee and the importance of paying the fee.” CARRIED.

Resolution #97/20

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Joel Brown

“THAT: in an effort to reduce municipal levy required to support the operation of Conservation Areas, pay and display units will be installed in 2021 at Cascades and Mission Island Marsh Conservation Areas AND FURTHER THAT in conjunction with the installation, enforcement of payment of the parking fee will commence AND FURTHER THAT the three existing coin boxes at those areas be re-deployed at Little Trout Bay Conservation Area, Mills Block Forest and Wishart Forest.” CARRIED.

Resolution #98/20

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

“THAT: staff are directed to provide a Staff Report to the Board of Directors in 2022 providing options for consideration to increase the generation of revenue at all Conservation Areas and publicly accessible Forest Management properties.” CARRIED.

(b) File: 2021 Budget and Levy

Members reviewed and discussed the 2021 Budget and Levy.

Resolution #99/20

Moved by Andrew Foulds, Seconded by Trevor Giertuga

“THAT: the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority adopts the non-matching levy of \$1,517,462 AND FURTHER THAT all member municipalities are designated as benefitting and pay \$880,574 AND FURTHER THAT the City of Thunder Bay is designated as the sole-benefitting municipality for maintaining floodplain mapping, Neebing-McIntyre Floodway and Kaministiquia River erosion and pays \$636,888 AND FURTHER THAT each member municipality is to be advised of their apportionment of the non-matching levy.” CARRIED.

Non-Matching Funds Levy Portion - Weighed Recorded Vote Results:

Municipality	Member	Vote %	Vote
Conmee	Grant Arnold	1.54%	Yes
Dorion	Joel Brown	1.03%	Yes
Gillies	Rudy Buitenhuis	0.88%	Yes
Neebing	Erwin Butikofer	7.87%	Yes
O'Connor	Jim Vezina	1.65%	Absent
Oliver Paipoonge	Allan Vis	19.30%	Yes
Shuniah	Donna Blunt	17.73%	Yes
Thunder Bay	Andrew Foulds	12.50%	Yes
Thunder Bay	Trevor Giertuga	12.50%	Yes
Thunder Bay	Umed Panu	12.50%	Yes
Thunder Bay	Andrea Goold	12.50%	Yes

Resolution #100/20

Moved by Andrea Goold, Seconded by Umed Panu

“THAT: the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority adopts the matching levy of \$150,940 AND FURTHER THAT all member municipalities are designated as benefitting AND FURTHER THAT each member municipality is to be advised of their apportionment of the matching levy.” CARRIED.

Resolution #101/20

Moved by Umed Panu, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: in 2021 the following will be appropriated from the following reserves: Vehicle and Equipment Reserve \$1,400; Conservation Area Major Maintenance Capital Reserve \$45,496; Hazelwood Lake Dam Reserve \$100,000; and Forest Management Reserve \$1,619.” CARRIED.

Resolution #102/20

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Joel Brown

“THAT: the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2021 Budget Document, Version 2.0 for a total budget of \$2,620,547.” CARRIED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) File: 2019/20 Lakehead University – Arthur Shewchuk Memorial Bursary

Members were advised that the recipient of the 2019/2020 Lakehead University – Arthur Shewchuk Memorial Bursary was Hannah Aalto, who is enrolled in the HBSc (Applied Life Sciences) with specialization in Biomedical Sciences program.

(b) File: Lakehead Conservation Foundation Membership

Members reviewed and discussed correspondence received from Mr. Dave Gibbs, requesting to join the Lakehead Conservation Foundation.

Resolution #103/20

Moved by Erwin Butikofer, Seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis

“THAT: Mr. Dave Gibbs be nominated to the Lakehead Conservation Foundation.” CARRIED.

(c) File: Conservation Ontario Council

Correspondence received from Mr. Dave Turton, Chair, Maitland Conservation related to voting delegates and alternates on Conservation Ontario Council was noted.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report LM-06-2020 outlining the 2020 field maintenance season.

Resolution #104/20

Moved by Trevor Giertuga, Seconded by Andrew Foulds

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

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-08-2020 related to the LRCA’s successful funding application with MNRF regarding the LRCA’s Stewardship Program.

Resolution #105/20

Moved by Umed Panu, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: Staff Report No. CORP-08-2020 be received AND FURTHER THAT the CAO and the Chair are authorized to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for the Wetland and Shoreline Protection Project.” CARRIED.

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-09-2020 related to LRCA’s application to the MECP’s Great Lakes Local Action Fund.

Resolution #106/20

Moved by Allan Vis, Seconded by Andrea Goold

“THAT: The Board of Director’s support the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority’s applications to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks’ Great Lakes Local Action Fund AND FURTHER THAT if the application is successful the CAO and the Chair are authorized to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement for the Fisherman’s Climate Change Awareness Park Project and the Mountdale Climate Change Awareness Park Project.” CARRIED.

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-11-2020 related to LRCA’s project proposal to the MMAH’s National Disaster Mitigation Program – Intake 6 Funding.

Resolution #107/20

Moved by Joel Brown, Seconded by Grant Arnold

“THAT: The Board of Director’s support the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority’s project proposal to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing National Disaster Mitigation Program - Intake 6 Funding AND FURTHER THAT if the project proposal is successful the CAO and the Chair are authorized to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement for the Flood Prediction Model Project.” CARRIED.

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

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

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-10-2020 related to proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* contained in Schedule 6 of Bill 229.

On November 5, 2020, within Bill 229, Schedule 6, the Province introduced a number of changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CA Act) and the *Planning Act* that significantly either limit or completely change the role of Conservation Authorities to protect Ontario's environment and ensure people and property are safe from natural hazards. The changes are expected to result in delays and red tape around permitting and planning applications and appeals; resulting in a significant gap in the land use planning system; and remove the Member Municipalities ability to appoint citizen appointees to the Board, determine by election of length of the term of the Board's elected Chair; as well as a variety of other changes.

Staff encouraged all Member Municipalities to pass resolutions supporting the removal of Schedule 6 from Bill 229 and sending correspondence to the Premier of Ontario and Ministers of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Natural Resources and Forestry, Finance, and Municipal Affairs and Housing advising of the Board's support of the removal of Schedule 6 from Bill 229.

It was noted at the time of the Meeting the Township of O'Connor, Municipality of Neebing, City of Thunder Bay and Municipality of Shuniah had or were considering passing supporting resolutions.

Resolution #108/20

Moved by Trevor Giertuga, Seconded by Joel Brown

"WHEREAS the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act – Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act;

AND WHEREAS the proposed changes will limit Conservation Authorities ability to ensure people and property are protected from natural hazards and result in short- and long-term negative impacts to the environment;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors request the removal of Schedule 6 from Bill 229, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Judith Monteith Farrell MPP, Michael Gravelle MPP, and Ministers of Environment Conservation and Parks, Natural Resources and Forestry, Municipal Affairs and Housing and Finance and all Member Municipalities of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority."** CARRIED.*

Resolution #109/20

Moved by Erwin Butikofer, Seconded by Andrew Foulds

"THAT: the Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to transfer funds within the 2020 budget AND FURTHER THAT the revised Treasurer's Report will be presented at the Annual Meeting." CARRIED.

Resolution #110/20

Moved by Allan Vis, Seconded by Andrea Goold

"THAT: the Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to transfer unexpended funds to project balances where required AND FURTHER THAT this is required to facilitate the preparation of the 2020 financial statements." CARRIED.

Members were provided with the 2021 Meeting Agenda format. It was noted that the 2021 Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 starting at 4:30 p.m.

9. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

Resolution #111/20

Moved by Umed Panu, Seconded by Grant Arnold

"THAT: having examined the accounts for the period of October 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020 cheque #2095 to #2118 for \$84,190.82 and preauthorized payments of \$145,294.98 for a total of \$229,485.80, we approve their payment." CARRIED.

10. REGULATORY ROLE

Members were provided with the Plan Input and Review Summary for the period of October to November 18, 2020 and a summary of Section 28 Permits issued in 2020 to date.

11. PROJECTS UPDATE

Members were advised that the LRCA was successful in becoming a semi-finalist for the \$5,000.00 Tbaytel For Good grant, which is the voting round for the funding program. A total of five semi-finalists are eligible to receive one of two available \$5,000.00 grants.

It was noted that the Communications Manager participated in the Conservation Areas Workshop virtually and gave a virtual site tour of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's Conservation Areas.

It was noted that the 2021 LRCA Fundraising Calendars were received.

It was noted that all the LRCA's education programs have been completed for 2020. It was estimated that 493 participants took part in the programs, school field trips and workshops, with an additional 2,028 participants participating via a virtual format.

Due to COVID-19, Hill's Greenhouses has informed the LRCA that they would not be able to supply seedlings for the LRCA 2021 tree seedling program; therefore, the program has been cancelled for 2021.

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 Staff have begun the annual snow surveys, which are completed twice a month from November until May at three historical snow survey locations Hazelwood, Pennock Creek (off Vibert Road) and McVicar Creek.

It was noted that as part of the Riparian/Nearshore Wildlife Habitat Project staff have held a series of virtual meetings with interactive activities and tools for stakeholders to help prioritize reduced/degraded wildlife habitat areas in Thunder Bay's Area of Concern. The next phase of the project will be to compile stakeholder feedback and provide recommendations for higher priority sites to enhance, restore and create wildlife habitat within the Area of Concern.

12. NEW BUSINESS.

None.

13. NEXT MEETING

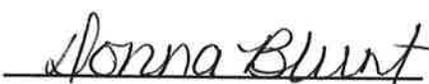
The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, starting at 4:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #112/20

Moved by Erwin Butikofer, Seconded by Joel Brown

"THAT: the time being 5:39 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn." **CARRIED.**


Chair


Chief Administrative Officer