



LAKEHEAD REGION

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, via Microsoft Teams. The Chair called the Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

REGRETS:

- Trevor Giertuga

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
- Rosy Brizi, Auditor, Grant Thornton LLP (part of Meeting)
- Allan McKittrick, Lawyer, McKittrick's (In-Camera portion only)

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution #51/21

Moved by Allan Vis, Seconded by Umed Panu

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

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolution #52/21

Moved by Andrea Goold, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

“THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Third Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 are adopted as published.” CARRIED.

4. 2020 AUDIT REPORT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2020 Audit Report and Financial Statements from the Authority's Audit firm of Grant Thornton LLP Thunder Bay were presented. Rosy Brizi, Auditor from the Audit Firm presented the Statements and answered any questions.

Statements will be forwarded to all Member Municipalities.

Resolution #53/21

Moved by Erwin Butikofer, Seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis

“THAT: the 2020 Audit Report and Financial Statements are adopted as presented AND FURTHER THAT each Member Municipality will be forwarded a copy of the final version.” CARRIED.

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

Resolution #54/21

Moved by Joel Brown, Seconded by Grant Arnold

“THAT: we now go into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) at 5:20 p.m.” CARRIED.

Resolution #55/21

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Joel Brown

“THAT: we go into Open Meeting at 6:06 p.m.” CARRIED.

Resolution #56/21

Moved by Umed Panu, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: the In-Camera Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority’s, March 31, 2021 meeting be adopted as published.” CARRIED.

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

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Confederation College Bursary

Correspondence from Confederation College advising that Jonathon Fogolin, a Civil Engineering Technician was the recipient of this year’s Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Award was noted.

8. STAFF REPORTS

None.

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

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

Members were advised, as per the Tangible Capital Asset Policy, staff are required to review the policy every five years. It was concluded that no changes were required.

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

Resolution #57/21

Moved by Andrea Goold, Seconded by Andrew Foulds

“THAT: having examined the accounts for the period March 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021 cheque #2213 to #2260 for \$98,109.90 and preauthorized payments of \$81,443.89 for a total of \$179,553.79 we approve their payment.” CARRIED.

11. REGULATORY ROLE

Members were provided with the Plan Input and Review Summary for the period of March 2021 to April 20, 2021 and advised that there were no new Section 28 permits issued since the last meeting.

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

Members were provided with the 2020 Annual Report for approval. Once printed the Report will be distributed via the Chronicle Journal on Saturday, May 29, 2021. The other physical copies the Authority is obligated to provide will be mailed out as soon as possible.

Resolution #58/21

Moved by Joel Brown, Seconded by Allan Vis

“THAT: the 2020 Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Annual Report be approved.”
CARRIED.

It was noted that the LRCA’s complimentary in-class Watershed Connections and Arbor Week programs will be held virtually this year, similarly to how the Spring Water Awareness Program (SWAP) was delivered (i.e., a pre-recorded virtual presentation distributed to classes/schools).

It was noted that funding may be provided by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to sponsor the LRCA’s complimentary school programming for 2021, in addition to the typical programs already sponsored by OPG (i.e., Water Festival, Waterfowl Viewing Day/Bird Festival, Viewing Scopes, Calendar, etc.).

It was noted that the LRCA was successful in receiving \$10,000.00 in funding from the TD Friends of the Environment Fund for the new Watershed Explorers program. The programs are planned to run similarly to the former Seniors/Living Classroom programs, with LRCA staff and an invited expert guest speaker leading a guided hike at one of the LRCA’s Conservation Areas or Forest management Properties. It was noted that In-person programs will only be held once the stay-at-home order has been lifted and it is safe and responsible for the LRCA to host in-person events.

It was noted that the LRCA’s Education Coordinator will be leading a citizen science initiative, along with local experts from the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, Lakehead University, and the public, involving the collection of frog call data at Mills Block Forest.

Members were advised that as part of the annual Walk for Alzheimer’s fundraising initiative, the Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay will be placing temporary informational signage along several LRCA trails during their virtual walking program throughout the month of May.

It was noted that the LRCA partnered with several other organizations to create a series of climate change fact sheets, which are available on the LRCA website. The Education Coordinator will continue working with Lakehead University to co-lead this group (Thunder Bay Climate Change Connection) toward new goals, including potential funding opportunities, reduction of programming overlap and more effective partnerships.

Members were provided with 32nd annual Spring Melt Meeting Minutes, which was held virtually due to COVID-19.

It was noted on April 14 and 22, 2021, the LRCA conducted its annual inspections of the tipping bucket rain gauges.

It was noted that the April 15, 2021 snow surveys indicated that there was no snow recorded at McVicar Creek, Current River, and Pennock Creek snow survey locations. Typical depths for this date range from 5.2-24.7 centimetres.

It was noted that the Lake Superior water levels remain above average.

It was noted that LRCA staff were successful in receiving \$35,000 in donations from the RBC Foundation through their RBC Tech for Nature program to implement the new Green Stormwater Infrastructure Monitoring and Action Plan (GSI MAP) project. The overall goals of the GSI MAP project is to build a community-led early warning program with real-time monitoring of water levels and a volunteer rain gauge network, and to assess the effectiveness of green stormwater infrastructure facilities (also known as LID's) to reduce flooding and pollution within the McVicar Creek watershed.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

15. AJOURNMENT

Resolution #59/21

Moved by Jim Vezina, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

“THAT: the time being 6:33 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business THAT we adjourn.” CARRIED.

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer