

# 2023 Budget

February 2023 Version 3.0

PREPARED BY:

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VERSION		Approval Date	RESOLUTION #
2023 Version 1.0	Draft Budget for	August 31, 2022	#96/22
	consultation		
2023 Version 2.0	Draft Budget for	January 26, 2023	#20/23
	review of new		
	Board		
2023 Version 3.0	Non-matching Levy	February 22, 2023	#40/23
	Matching Levy	February 22, 2023	#41/23
	Reserve	February 22, 2023	#42/23
	Withdrawals		
	Budget Document	February 22, 2023	#43/23



#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2023 Draft Budget was presented to the Board on August 31, 2022 (Version 1.0) for consultation and again February 2023 (Version 2.0). Due to the end of the term of the Board in 2022, the approval of the budget was delayed until 2023, in order to provide the new Board the opportunity to review and approve the budget, with approval in February 2023.

The 2023 Budget document contains details for the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's (LRCA) planned operations and capital activity. The Budget has been set at \$2,892,484 which includes a total levy of \$1,793,799 of which all Member Municipalities pay \$1,077,302 with the remainder being sole-benefitting levy to the City of Thunder Bay (\$716,497).

It is noted that at the time of budget preparation confirmation had not been received that the long-standing provincial Section 39 Transfer Payment was forthcoming in 2023 from the province. For budget purposes, it has been assumed it will be provided. If funding does not materialize, staff will come back to the Board with a revised budget, including the use of Reserve Funds from the Operating Capital Category. It is noted that notification of provincial funding is consistently late. In 2022 the funding was confirmed in September.

The budget results in a 2.35% increase in levy-all in 2023 compared to 2022. The 2023 budget requires a 2.35% increase in order to maintain its current level of service, which is well below the current cost-of-living increases.

Financial pressures anticipated in 2023 include: significant increases to insurance costs (i.e., \$17,006 increase from 2021 to 2022); increase in fuel costs; and increased costs of goods and services due to inflation.

Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* within Bill 229, Schedule 6 and the released Phase 1 and 2 regulations have been incorporated into the budget. The 2023 budget has been reformatted to adhere to legislative changes that will come into effect for the 2024 budget. Programs have been categorized into three mandated categories including:

- Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services
- Category 2: Non-Mandatory Programs and Services at the request of a Municipality
- Category 3: Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

Highlights of the 2023 Budget expenditures include:

- Continuation of annual programming including:
  - Plan Input and Review,
  - Development Regulations,
  - Flood Forecasting and Warning,



- Operation and maintenance of LRCA owned properties,
- Stewardship, and
- Education programming.
- 10-year update of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study
- Capital improvements at the Conservation Areas
  - o Hurkett Pavilion: Concrete repair, roof repair
  - Hazelwood Lake Garage: replace soffit and facia
  - Hazelwood Lake Install new floating dock/kayak launch
  - o Little Trout Bay Dock repair
  - Little Trout Bay Pavilion: concrete repairs, roof repair
  - Silver Harbour Install new Pay and Display unit

The Watershed Stewardship Technician contract will continue for a full year using MNRF Transfer Payment funding and other funding. The Education Coordinator position will continue using non-levy funds. The Environmental Planner Intern position has transitioned to a permanent full-time position, as previously approved by the Board.

The total Budget Levy is summarized in Appendix A including the amount applicable to each Member Municipality. Appendix B outlines the cost for each Member Municipality based on per resident, per household and \$100,000 of assessed value.

Overall, the 2023 Budget reflects the short-term objectives of the Authority and considers long-term requirements to ensure the LRCA can provide sustainable benefits to the watershed residents.



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) budget for 2023 has been set at \$2,892,484 which includes a total levy of \$1,793,799 of which all Member Municipalities pay \$1,077,302 with the remainder being sole-benefitting levy to the City of Thunder Bay (\$716,497).

The budget results in a 2.35% increase in levy-all in 2023 compared to 2022. The 2023 budget requires a 2.35% increase in order to maintain its current level of service, which is well below the current cost-of-living increases.

The total Budget Levy is summarized in Appendix A including the amount applicable to each Member Municipality, which includes a summary of the breakdown between Operating and Capital. Appendix B outlines the cost for each Member Municipality based on per resident, per household and \$100,000 of assessed value.

Version 1.0 of the Draft Budget was presented for initial discussion at the August 31, 2022, Board Meeting and Draft Version 2.0 was presented at the January 26, 2023 Board Meeting. The levy was calculated at that time utilizing the 2022 Current Value Assessment (CVA) as the 2023 CVA was not available. Version 2.0 of the Draft Budget has been updated utilizing the 2023 CVA and reflects the actual levy for each municipality. Due to the end of the current term of the Board in 2022, the approval of the budget was delayed until 2023, in order to provide the new Board the opportunity to review and approve the budget, with approval in February 2023.

It is noted that at the time of budget preparation confirmation had not been received that the long-standing provincial Section 39 was forthcoming for the 2023/2024 fiscal budget year from the province. For budget purposes, it has been assumed it will be provided. If funding does not materialize, staff will come back to the Board with a revised budget, including the use of Reserve Funds from the Operating Capital Category. It is noted that notification of provincial funding is consistently late. In 2022 the funding was confirmed in September 2022 with the final agreement received in January 2023 for the period of April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.



## 2 BACKGROUND

The LRCA is a community-based environmental protection and advisory agency, established in 1954 (initially the Neebing Valley Conservation Authority) by the Province of Ontario at the request of municipalities in the Lakehead watershed. The LRCA's purpose is to provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in the Lakehead Watershed. Conservation Authorities undertake a broad range of programs, including: watershed management, erosion control, Flood Forecasting and Warning, recreation and land management, water level monitoring, Plan Input and Review, environmental education and stewardship. We improve quality of life by actively providing Conservation Areas for semi-passive recreation and environmental education opportunities.

Our integrated approach to resource management leads to a wide range of programs and projects, which are aimed at keeping our watersheds healthy. We improve quality of life by actively providing open space and protecting life and property from flooding and erosion, as well as restoring and conserving aquatic and natural habitats. In addition to serving our watershed residents, we also provide advice and counsel to all levels of government regarding natural hazards.

The LRCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities across Ontario, including one of five in Northern Ontario.

Historically Conservation Authorities were administered by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF); however, in 2018, Conservation Authorities were moved under the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). In September 2022, Conservation Authorities were moved back under the administration of MNRF.

#### 2.1 MANDATE

Conservation Authorities, created in 1946 by an Act of the Provincial Legislature, are mandated to ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario's water, land and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs.

In 2017, the LRCA adopted vision and mission statements and in January 2018, the LRCA adopted it first ever Five-Year Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2022. The Strategic Plan was updated in 2022 for the next five-year period (2023-2027). The Strategic Plan identifies four main priorities including: conserve and sustain; protect and support; connect and explore; and govern and enhance. LRCA's vision and mission statements are as follows:



Vision: A healthy, safe and sustainable Lakehead Watershed for future generations.

*Mission:* To lead the conservation and protection of the Lakehead Watershed.

Action items will be drafted taking into consideration the identified initiatives in the Strategic Plan, which will be incorporated into future work plans and budgets, as well as the overall business of the Authority.

#### 2.1.1 PURPOSE

With the passing of Bill 139 on December 12, 2017, a purpose statement was added to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, which states:

The purpose of this Act is to provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario.

#### 2.1.2 FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

Conservation Authorities are based on three fundamental principles:

- Municipal and Provincial partnership
- Local initiative and involvement
- Management of natural resources on a watershed basis.

#### 2.1.3 OBJECTS OF AN AUTHORITY

Per Section 20(1) of the Conservation Authorities Act,

The objects of an authority are to provide, in an area over which it has jurisdiction,

- a) the mandatory programs and services required under Section 21.1;
- b) any municipal programs and services that may be provided under section 21.1.1; and
- c) any other program or services that may be provided under section 21.1.2.

#### 2.2 ORGANIZATION DETAILS

#### 2.2.1 Area of Jurisdiction

The LRCA Area of Jurisdiction (2,719 square kilometres) includes:

- City of Thunder Bay
- Municipality of Neebing
- Municipality of Shuniah
- Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge



- Township of Conmee
- Township of O'Connor
- Township of Gillies
- Township of Dorion

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is responsible for areas outside the jurisdiction of the Authority.

The scientific boundary of the Lakehead Watershed is 11,526 square kilometres.

## 2.2.2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS/MEMBERS

Policy and budget decisions are made by a Board of Directors comprised of eleven members appointed by LRCA's Member Municipalities. The number of representatives appointed as Members of the LRCA Board of Directors is based on population as outlined in subsection 2(2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Per Bill 229, Schedule 6, as of the end of the 2022 term of the Board, at least 70% of the appointees to the Board must be municipal councillors, unless an exception has been granted by the Minister, at the request of a municipality (per Section 14(1.1), 14(1.2) of the Conservation Authorities Act). Therefore, unless an exception has been granted each Member Municipality must only appoint municipal councillors, with the exception being the City of Thunder Bay who has four Members. They will be required, at a minimum, to appoint three municipal councillors. Prior to this change, the City of Thunder Bay appointed two municipal councillors and two citizen appointees.

As of February 2, 2021 (per Section 17 (1.1)(1.2)(1.3) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*) the term of the Chair and Vice-Chair is limited to one year and they can serve for no more than two consecutive terms. Positions must rotate between participating municipalities; therefore, the Board cannot appoint the succeeding chair from the same municipality as the current chair. A Conservation Authority or a municipality can request permission for a longer term to the Minister.

Two exceptions have been granted by the Minister to date. For the 2022 election both the Chair and Vice-Chair were approved to continue their terms if so elected. Additionally, for the 2023 election, the Chair was approved to continue her term if so elected.

#### AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE

Per Bill 229, Schedule 6, as of February 2, 2021, the Minister may appoint an Agricultural Representative to the Board of Directors. If appointed the Agricultural Representative



can not vote on enlarging, amalgamating or dissolving an authority or any budgetary matter. Their term can be up to four years as determined by the Minister. At the time of budget preparation, it was unknown whether or not an Agricultural Representative would be appointed to the LRCA Board. Per diems for this position would be paid by the MECP.

#### 2.2.3 STAFF COMPLEMENT

In 2023, the Authority will have a full-time equivalent (FTE) staff complement of 12 who deliver the programs/services on behalf of the LRCA Board, which include:

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Finance Manager
- Watershed Manager
- Lands Manager
- Communications Manager
- Development Regulations Officer
- GIS/Water Resources Technologist
- Information Systems Coordinator
- Admin Clerk/Receptionist
- Financial Admin Assistant
- Field Operations Lead Hand
- Environmental Planner

Recurring contract employees that amount to an equivalent of 2.5 FTEs include:

- Education Co-ordinator (39 weeks)
- Floodway Labourer (39 weeks)
- Watershed Stewardship Technician (52 weeks)

Seasonal employees that amount to an equivalent of 2.0 FTEs include:

- Two Conservation Area labourers (15 weeks summer students)
- Two River Clean-Up labourers (14 weeks summer students)
- Assistant Water Resources Technologist (16 weeks summer student)
- Civil Technician (16 weeks summer student)
- Green Infrastructure Research Intern (16 weeks)

#### 2.2.4 Conservation Areas

The LRCA owns and maintains ten Conservation Areas, which provide semi-passive recreational use opportunities to the public and access to Lake Superior. The areas include:

- Hurkett Cove (Township of Dorion)
- Cascades (City of Thunder Bay)



- Silver Harbour (Municipality of Shuniah)
- Cedar Falls (Township of O'Connor)
- Little Trout Bay (Municipality of Neebing)
- Hazelwood Lake (unorganized Township of Gorham)
- MacKenzie Point (Municipality of Shuniah)
- Mission Island Marsh (City of Thunder Bay)
- Mills Block (City of Thunder Bay)
- Wishart (unorganized Township of Gorham)

In 2022, Mills Block Forest and Wishart Forest were renamed as Conservation Areas. Previously, they were referred to as Managed Forests.

Boat launches at Silver Harbour and Little Trout Bay Conservation Areas provide access to Lake Superior.

As a private landowner, the LRCA pays property taxes to the Municipality/Township in which the land resides.

#### 2.2.5 OTHER LAND OWNED BY THE LRCA

The LRCA also owns and maintains one Forest Management property known as Williams Forest, which is in the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and is not open to the public. That property, as well as other Conservation Areas have Forest Management Plans under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive program (MFTIP), which provides some tax relief as well as provides a plan for proper long-term forest management. As warranted, harvesting occurs with revenue used to maintain the forest management area and the associated Forest Management Plans.

The LRCA also owns other conservation, floodplain and erosion lands as well as the banks and bed of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway. Property taxes are paid on all lands.

#### 2.2.6 WATERSHED MONITORING

The LRCA conducts a variety of watershed monitoring throughout the year including:

- Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program (in partnership with MECP)
- Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program (in partnership with MECP)
- Streamflow Gauges (in partnership with Water Survey of Canada)
- Precipitation Gauges (some in partnership with Water Survey of Canada)
- Neebing River Climate Change Monitoring Station (in partnership with MECP)
- Dorion Fish Culture Station Monitoring Station (new as of 2018, in partnership with MNRF)
- Bathing Beach Sampling (Hazelwood Lake and Mission Island Marsh)



- Blue/Green Algae Monitoring (Hazelwood, Mission, Hurkett, Silver Harbour)
- Snow Surveys
- Floodway Channel water level monitoring
- Ontario Low Water Response
- Green Infrastructure Research

## 2.3 SOURCES OF FUNDING

#### LRCA funding comes from several sources:

- Grant Revenue
  - MNRF Provincial Section 39 Transfer Payment
  - MNRF Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) (when applicable and approved, will be applied for in 2023)
  - MECP Source Water Protection
  - MNRF Wetland and Shoreline Protection within the Thunder Bay AOC Transfer Payment (2020-2025)
- Special Projects (programs/available funds vary from year to year)
  - o TD Friends of the Environment
  - o Enbridge
  - o Ontario Power Generation
  - Canada Summer Jobs
- Municipal Levy
  - o Levy All
  - Levy Sole-Benefitting
- Other Revenue
  - Interest
  - Department of Fisheries and Oceans Wolf River Weir Inspections
  - Coin Boxes/Pay and Display (new 2021) parking fees/day use fees at Conservation Areas
  - Explore Card sales
  - o Lakehead Conservation Foundation donation
  - o Multi-purpose Room rentals
  - Forest Management harvesting
  - Property Rentals
  - Mapping Service
  - o Donations
  - Lawyer Request Fees
  - o Development Regulation Permit Fees
  - o Plan Review Fees (new 2021)
  - School Programming Fees
  - Calendar advertising
  - Other



#### 2.3.1 GRANT REVENUE

#### 2.3.1.1 Provincial Section 39 Transfer Payment

The *Conservation Authorities Act* Section 39 Provincial "Operating" Grant funds the Conservation Authority in undertaking provincially mandated activities that include:

- 1. Flood/Erosion Operations (flood and erosion control structures, Flood Forecasting and Warning, ice management) and
- 2. Hazard Prevention (Plan Input, Hazard Information).

#### Eligible activities include:

- Flood and Erosion Operations
  - Operation of Flood Control Structures
  - o Routine/Minor Maintenance of Flood Control Structures
  - Preventative Maintenance of Flood Control Structures
  - Operation of Erosion Control Structures
  - Routine/minor Maintenance of Erosion Control Structures
  - o Preventative Maintenance of Erosion Control Structures
  - Flood Forecasting and Warning-System Operation
  - Ice Management
- Hazard Management
  - Plan Input (Official Plan/Amendment review only)
  - o Information (i.e., Watershed Planning/Technical Studies)
- Administration

Funds are provided by lump sum payment for work undertaken from April 1 to March 31 of any given year. Funding is contingent of having local matching levy from the Member Municipalities. Interim and Year End reports are submitted by the LRCA to the MNRF.

Between 1998 and 2019, Provincial Section 39 Transfer Payments to all 36 Conservation Authorities remained at the same level of \$7,400,000. In 2019, mid-way through the budget year, the Provincial Government announced a 48-50% funding cut to all Conservation Authority Section 39 Transfer Payments, effective for the current year. LRCA's transfer payment was reduced from \$292,380 to \$150,940, resulting in a funding reduction of 48% (\$141,440). This resulted in an emergency mid-year amendment to the budget, which resulted in a cancelation of all planned training, advertising, and capital expenditure spending at Conservation Areas as well as delaying some planned repairs. Funds were reallocated to ensure that the provincially mandated programs were still delivered.

At the time of budget preparation, no confirmation had been received that this long-standing Transfer Payment is forthcoming for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. For budget purposes, staff have budgeted as though the funding would be provided at the reduced



level of \$150,940. If this funding is not forthcoming, it is proposed to utilize funds from the Operating Capital Reserve, which was established to provide operating funds in the event of loss of funds in a given year. Notification of the approval of this funding is consistently delayed annually.

#### 2.3.1.2 Source Water Protection Funding

The MECP provides 100% funding to administer the Source Protection program through Provincial Transfer Payment, which is a program under the *Clean Water Act* to protect municipal drinking water systems, which there are two in the LRCA Area of Jurisdiction (i.e., Bare Point Water Treatment Plant (City of Thunder Bay) and Rosslyn Drinking Water System (Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge)).

This program runs on the Provincial fiscal year of April 1 to March 31 of any given year. For the first time, the program has been approved for two years (2022-2023 and 2023-2024). The approved budget for 2022-2023 is \$57,715 and for 2023-2024 is \$58,200 with a total FTE of 0.50 (0.2 FTE Information Systems Coordinator, 0.2 FTE Watershed Manager and 0.1 FTE Admin Clerk/Receptionist).

It is noted that if the Drinking Water Source Protection Transfer Payment was ever eliminated, the cost to administer this mandatory program would be applicable to the City of Thunder Bay and the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge as sole-benefitting municipalities.

#### 2.3.1.3 WATER AND EROSION CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

MNRF administers the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding program, which typically provides an annual five-million-dollar capital investment to fund major maintenance required to maintain Conservation Authority dams and other flood and erosion control structures.

The WECI program provides matching funding to Conservation Authorities for studies or major maintenance of water or erosion control structures that are either owned by, or maintained by Conservation Authorities. Local benefiting municipalities provide matching funds. A committee made up of five Conservation Authority representatives, one MNRF and one Conservation Ontario representative, oversees the program and determines the priority list of eligible projects based on need and level of risk.

Funding is not guaranteed year to year. The LRCA applies for funding when major maintenance or studies are required on the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway or if major maintenance (i.e., soil nailing) is required on City of Thunder Bay owned land on Victor Street along the banks of the Kaministiquia River.



Staff will be applying for WECI funding for the 10-year update of the Floodway Integrity Study in 2023, which if successful would fund 50% of the study. If the funding application is unsuccessful, staff will assess whether or not the project can be deferred.

#### 2.3.2 MUNICIPAL LEVY

#### 2.3.2.1 LEVY - ALL

Operation and Capital Project costs that benefit all Member Municipalities is levied to all Member Municipalities based on their proportion of the Modified Current Value Assessment (see Section 2.4).

#### 2.3.2.2 Sole- Benefitting Levy

A sole-benefitting levy is applied to a single Municipality for work undertaken by the LRCA upon which they are sole-benefitting. The operation and maintenance of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway and Victor Street erosion protection (City owned land) are included in the sole-benefitting levy of the City of Thunder Bay. Another example is the completion, updating or maintenance of floodplain mapping, where the municipality/municipalities upon which the watershed is located are levied for that cost of the project.

## 2.4 MODIFIED CURRENT VALUE ASSESSMENT (MCVA)

Modified Current Value Assessment (MVCA) means a method of apportioning an authority's operating and capital costs that is based on the MCVA of the properties within the authority's area of jurisdiction (as outlined in O. Reg. 402/22). Municipal Current Value Assessment values are modified for conservation authorities where only a portion of a municipality falls within an area of jurisdiction of an authority. Since the LRCA's Member Municipalities are geographically entirely within the LRCA area of jurisdiction, no modification of the CVA is required. The Modified Current Value Assessment (MCVA) data is provided by the MNRF annually, which is then used to calculate the levy-all for each Member Municipality. Each Conservation Authority has an Agreement regarding the use of Modified Property Assessment Information with MNRF. Generally, this data is received by the Conservation Authority in late August. Since adoption of the CVA method, the levy percentage for Member Municipalities fluctuates annually.

For population data, reliance on the information from Statistics Canada is used, as the information received within the MCVA is not reflective of the actual population in our Member Municipalities. Representation on the Board is determined by the population of the applicable Member Municipality as detailed in the *Conservation Authorities Act*.



#### 2.5 BUDGET APPROVAL PROCESS

The *Conservation Authorities Act* and O. Reg. 402/22 outline the process of approving Conservation Authority budgets, specifically the process of approving the annual Municipal levies.

### 2.5.1 O. Reg. 402/22: BUDGET AND APPORTIONMENT

O. Reg. 402/22: Budget and Apportionment specifies that the 2024 budget and all subsequent budgets must adhere to this regulation. It provides details on the budget process and municipal apportionment methods for levying participating municipalities and includes revocation of the previous regulations that governed municipal levies (O. Reg. 670/00 and O. Reg. 139/96). The 2023 budget has been prepared adhering to the upcoming legislative requirements.

The regulated budget process includes:

#### First Phase

#### Budget must include:

- All sources of revenue (other than municipal levy)
- Categorize operating expenses into Category 1, 2 and 3
- Categorize capital expenses into Category 1, 2 and 3
- Amount of levy for each Member Municipality
- Specify if the Authority considered opportunities to raise and use self-generated revenue to help finance the authority's operations, including the programs and services it provides, a description of what the authority considered

#### **Budget must:**

- Apply any relevant revenue to specific programs to offset levy
- Apply Modified Current Value Apportionment method to determine levy for each program
- Apply Benefit Based Apportionment method to sole benefitting programs (i.e., Floodway, Victor Street Erosion)

#### Second Phase

#### **Draft Budget Process:**

- 1. Notify all Member Municipalities of Draft Budget meeting if a Member Municipality will owe levy for Category 1 *Clean Water Act* programs and Services.
  - a. Advise of amounts owing or to be owed for Category 1 *Clean Water Act* programs and services.
- 2. Hold meeting to consider draft budget.
- 3. Hold vote on whether or not to approve the draft budget for consultation.



- a. If there is a levy for Category 1 *Clean Water Act* programs and services, hold a separate vote of Members from applicable municipalities for that portion of the draft budget.
- b. Vote is a one-member-one vote method.
- 4. Send Member Municipalities a copy of the Draft Budget and all financial information relating to the apportionment of operating and capital expenses.
- 5. Post a copy of the Draft Budget and financial information on Governance section of Authority's website.
- 6. Consult as necessary with Member Municipalities on draft budget in order to finalize final budget.

#### Third Phase

Final Budget Approval Process:

- 1. Notify all Member Municipalities of Budget meeting.
  - a. Notification must be at least 30 days prior to meeting.
  - b. Must include copy of most recent draft of the budget.
  - c. Must specify amount of levy for the given year.
- 2. Hold meeting to approve budget.
- 3. Hold a recorded vote to municipal levy/amounts owing.
  - a. If there are any Category 1 *Clean Water Act* apportionments, hold a vote with participating municipality representatives.
  - b. Weighted vote to approve municipal levy/amounts owing.
  - c. Authority can not send a notice of apportionment unless a vote has occurred.
- 4. Hold a recorded vote to approve final budget.
  - a. One -member-one vote to approve final Budget Document.
- 5. "Promptly" after the final budget process is approved, provide a copy of the final budget to the Minister and each Member Municipality.
- 6. Post final budget on the Authority's website in the Governance section.

#### 2.5.2 BUDGET APPROVAL METHODS

Quorum must be achieved to approve the budget (i.e., 6 of 11 members must be present. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

For each phase of the budget approval process, the following budget approval method shall be used:

- Draft Budget
  - Decide on whether to approve draft budget for consultation
    - one-member-one-vote method
- Final Budget
  - Municipal levy/amounts owing



- recorded weighted majority vote
- Budget document
  - recorded one-member-one-vote

#### Weighted Majority Vote:

As outlined O. Reg. 402/22 Section 19, a recorded weighted vote is to be conducted to approve the levy/amounts owing in the Final Budget.

The following rules apply:

- Each Members vote shall be weighted according to the ratio of the MCVA for applicable Member Municipality.
- Approval requires 51%, based on the weighted percentage of those present.
- In the case of a tie vote, the vote is lost.
- If a municipality appoints more than one member to the authority, each members' votes shall be equal to the municipality's weighted vote divided by the number of members the municipality appoints to the authority.
- A municipality shall not have a weighted vote of more than 50 percent of the total weighted value for all the votes to be cast unless the municipality appoints more than 50 percent of the members to the authority.
- Absent members percentage does not carry to the members present from their Municipality (only applies to the City of Thunder Bay, as they have four members).
- Must be a recorded vote.

For weighted voting, the weighting of the votes is based on the applicable year's MCVA values provided annually by the MECP. In the case of the City of Thunder Bay, where their MCVA apportionment is greater than 50%, their members are equally apportioned 50% of the total vote, as no one municipality can hold greater than 50 percent of the vote for the weighted majority vote.



#### Weighted Vote Allocations:

Municipality	# of Members	2023 CVA (%)	Vote %	
City of Thunder Bay 1		85.88	12.5	
	1		12.5	
	1		12.5	
	1		12.5	
Conmee	1	0.44	1.56	
Dorion	1	0.29	1.03	
Gillies	1	0.25	0.89	
Neebing	1	2.26	8.00	
O'Connor	1	0.47	1.66	
Oliver Paipoonge	1	5.50	19.48	
Shuniah	1	4.91	17.38	
TOTAL	11	100	100	

Example: Conmee =  $(0.44/(100-85.88)) \times 50$ 

#### One-Member-One-Vote Method:

A one-member one-vote (i.e. majority vote) is to be conducted to approve consultation of the draft budget and approval of the Budget Document. Each member present has an equal weighting of their vote.

#### Majority Vote Allocations:

Municipality	# of Members	% Vote		
City of Thunder Bay	1	9.09		
	1	9.09		
	1	9.09		
	1	9.09		
Conmee	1	9.09		
Dorion	1	9.09		
Gillies	1	9.09		
Neebing	1	9.09		
O'Connor	1	9.09		
Oliver Paipoonge	1	9.09		
Shuniah	1	9.09		
TOTAL	11	100		

#### 2.6 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

TBT Engineering Consulting Group completed the LRCA Asset Management Plan (AMP) in July 2016, which was updated in 2021 by KGS Group. The AMP provided insight into the current condition of the Authority's assets and a timeline indicating recommended repairs, maintenance and replacement of assets. The goal of the AMP is to provide a



strategy to achieve and maintain the desired level of services for each asset while maintaining financial goals.

The Asset Management Plan is updated every five years. The next update will occur in 2026.

#### 2.7 RESERVE POLICY

The Authority has an approved Reserve Policy (FIN-04) which outlines how the various reserves are to be managed. A summary of planned appropriations to and from Reserves is included in Section 4.

#### 2.8 PURCHASING POLICY

The LRCA approved Purchasing Policy (FIN-06), which was updated in 2019, guides all purchasing.

#### 2.9 LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The Lakehead Conservation Foundation was formed in 1987 as it became evident that funding from the Province of Ontario was decreasing. Since inception, the Foundation has donated \$816,290 towards these programs. Their annual contribution has been typically \$20,000 and is allocated for environmental education and other special projects.

Due to COVID-19 in 2021 the annual Dinner and Auction and the Wine Tasting Fundraising events were cancelled, and in 2022 the Dinner Auction was cancelled resulting in a loss in revenue of approximately \$20,000.00 each year, and subsequently no donation to the LRCA. The LCF is planning on hosting both events in 2023. Future donations will be determined based on the success of the events.

#### 2.10 CONSERVATION ONTARIO

Conservation Ontario (CO) is the network or umbrella organization of the 36 Conservation Authorities similar to the Association of Municipalities (AMO). Decisions made at CO Council Meetings do not bind individual Conservation Authorities unless specifically adopted by the Conservation Authority. CO advocates on behalf of the collective and has been instrumental during the transition from MNRF to MECP and during the current *Conservation Authorities Act* review process. Typically, both the Chair and CAO attend the quarterly CO Council Meetings; however, due to COVID-19 the meetings have been held virtually; however, are expected to go back to in-person in 2023. The LRCA pays an annual levy to CO.



#### 2.11 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In October 2021 the MECP released O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services and O. Reg. 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The purpose of the transition period is to provide conservation authorities and municipalities with the time to address changes to the budgeting and levy process based on the delivery of mandatory programs and services (Category 1), municipal programs and services (Category 2), and other programs and services (Category 3) and to reach agreements.

As required in O. Reg. 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements the following requirements have been completed:

- *Transition Plan* (November 24, 2021): Included a timeline/workplan to meet the requirements for the first and second phases of the transition period.
- *Inventory of Programs and Services* (February 28, 2022): List of all the programs and services that the authority was providing at that time, and those that it intends to provide as of January 1, 2024. Summarized programs into Category 1, 2 and 3 and detailed how they were funded.

The Act outlines programs areas which have been categorized into three categories:

#### 2.11.1CATEGORY 1 – MANDATORY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Mandatory programs and Services (as outline in the Act)

- **21.1** (1) An authority shall provide the following programs or services within its area of jurisdiction:
- 1. A program or service that meets any of the following descriptions and that has been prescribed by the regulations:
  - i. Programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards
  - ii. Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title.
  - iii. Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the Clean Water Act, 2006.
  - iv. Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities under an Act prescribed by the regulations.



3. A program or service, other than a program or service described in paragraph 1, that has been prescribed by the regulations on or before the first anniversary of the day prescribed under clause 40 (3) (i).

Within the budget the Mandatory Programs and Services are categorized under each of the following categories:

- Risk of Natural Hazards
  - Floodplain Mapping
  - Technical Studies
  - Communications and Outreach
  - Flood Forecasting and Warning
  - Drought and Low Water Response
  - Ice Management
  - Infrastructure: Neebing-McIntyre Floodway
  - o Infrastructure: Victor Street Erosion
  - Review of Proposal Under an Act
  - Plan Review Comments
  - Administering and Enforcing the Act (Section 28 Development Regulations)
- Conservation and Management of Lands
  - Conservation Areas
  - Administer Section 29 Regulations in Conservation Areas
  - Other owned land
- Source Protection
- Other Programs and Services
  - Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring: Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
  - Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring: Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network
  - Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy (new mandated requirement due December 31, 2024)

## 2.11.2CATEGORY 2 – NON-MANDATORY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AT THE REQUEST OF A MUNICIPALITY

Municipal programs and services (as outlined in the Act)

**21.1.1 (1)** An authority may provide within its area of jurisdiction municipal programs and services that the authority agrees to provide on behalf of a municipality



situated in whole or in part within its area of jurisdiction under a memorandum of understanding or such other agreement as may be entered into with the municipality in respect of the programs and services.

On November 28, 2022, the *More Homes Built Faster Act* (Bill 23) was passed and subsequently O. Reg. 596/22 (Prescribed Acts) came into affect on January 1, 2023. This legislation impacts the LRCA's Category 2 programs as outlined in the Inventory of Programs.

Within LRCA's current Inventory of Programs, the Category 2 programs included:

- Mapping Service
  - GIS mapping service provide to Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, Township of Dorion and the Lakehead Rural Planning Board, as a fee for service.
- Natural Heritage Planning Review
  - New proposed program that would provide natural heritage commenting on all planning applications within the City of Thunder Bay. Subject to approval by City Council.

Effective January 1, 2023, the following section was added to the *Conservation Authorities Act*:

**21.1.1 (1.1)** An authority shall not provide under subsection (1), within its area of jurisdiction, a municipal program or service related to reviewing and commenting on a proposal, application or other matter made under a prescribed Act.

Where the prescribed Acts are outlined in O. Reg. 596/22:

The following Acts are prescribed for the purposes of subsections 21.1.1 (1.1) and 21.1.2 (1.1) of the Act:

- 1. The Aggregate Resources Act.
- 2. The Condominium Act, 1998.
- 3. The Drainage Act.
- 4. The Endangered Species Act, 2007.
- 5. The Environmental Assessment Act.
- 6. The Environmental Protection Act.
- 7. The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.
- 8. The *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- 9. The Ontario Water Resources Act.
- 10. The *Planning Act*.



The new legislation prohibits the LRCA from providing the "Natural Heritage Planning Review" program as proposed to the City of Thunder Bay. Staff will be removing this program from the Inventory of Programs. The "GIS Mapping Service" program will continue to be offered to the applicable municipalities.

#### 2.11.3CATEGORY 3 – NON-MANADATORY PROGRAMS AND SERVIES

Other programs and services (as outlined in the Act)

**21.1.2 (1)** In addition to programs and services described in section 21.1 ad 21.1.1, an authority may provide, within its area of jurisdiction, any other programs and services that it determines are advisable to further the purposes of this Act.

**NEW AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023 - (1.1)** An authority shall not provide under subsection (1), within its area of jurisdiction, a program or service related to reviewing and commenting on a proposal, application or other matter made under a prescribed Act.

- **(2)** On and after the day prescribed by the regulations, if financing under section 25 or 27 by a participating municipality is necessary in order for the authority to provide such programs and service authorized to be provided under subsection (1), the program or service shall not be provided by the authority unless an agreement that meets the following criteria has been entered into between the authority and the participating municipality in respect of the program and service:
  - 1. The agreement must provide for the participating municipality to pay to the authority,
    - i. An apportioned amount under section 25 in connection with a project related to the program or service, or
    - ii. An apportioned amount under section 27 in respect of the program or service.
  - 2. The agreement must include provisions setting out on which the agreement terminates and a requirement that it be reviewed by the parties within the period specified in the regulations for the purpose of determining whether or not the agreement is to be renewed by the parties.
  - 3. The agreement must meet such other requirements as may be prescribed by the regulations.

Category 3 programs included in the budget include:

- Education
  - Environmental Education
  - Nature Interpretive Programming
- Stewardship



- Superior Stewards
- Tree Seedling
- Private Land Stewardship
- Environmental Research
  - Low Impact Development Research with PhD Student

#### 2.11.4 CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Services that apply to all program areas are considered an enabling service and are categorized as a separate budget category. They are considered to be applicable to all Member Municipalities and are part of the levy-all. Subservices within this category include:

- Corporate Services
  - Administration
  - Community Relations
  - Vehicle and Equipment Program
  - Information Technology Management
  - Corporate GIS

Currently the Conservation Authorities Act defines the following terms:

**Administration costs:** means salaries and travelling expenses of members and employees of an authority, office rent, maintenance and purchase of office equipment, expenses connected with exhibits, visual equipment and printed matter for educational purposes, all expenditures necessary for carrying out the objects of an authority other than capital expenses and maintenance costs of projects.

On July 1, 2023, the day named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, the definition of administration costs is repealed, and the following definition will be added:

#### **Operating expenses:** include,

- a) salaries, per diems and travel expenses of employees and members of an authority,
- b) rent and other office costs,
- c) program expenses,
- d) costs that are related to the operation or maintenance of a project, but not including the project's capital costs, and
- e) such other costs as may be prescribed by regulation.



## 3 2023 BUDGET

The 2023 Budget document contains details for the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's (LRCA) planned operations and capital activity. The Budget has been set at \$2,892,484 which includes a total levy of \$1,793,799 of which all Member Municipalities pay \$1,077,302 with the remainder being sole-benefitting levy to the City of Thunder Bay (\$716,497). The budget has a 2.35% levy-all increase compared to the 2022 approved budget.

#### **BUDGETED REVENUE**

The LRCA draws revenue from a variety of sources:

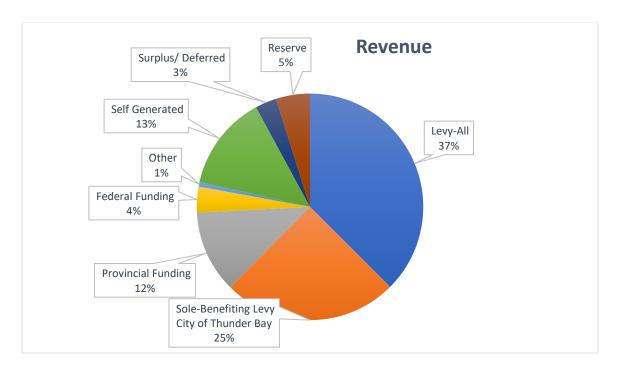
- Municipal levies
- Provincial transfer payments (MNRF)
- Other Transfer Payments for specific purposes (i.e., Source Water Protection)
- User fees (i.e., parking fees, education programs, permit fees, etc.)
- Reserves and prior years deferred revenue
- Donations from the Lakehead Conservation Foundation
- Other miscellaneous sources of revenue (i.e., property rental, interest, etc.)
- Other funding sources (vary from year to year)

<sup>\*</sup>See Section **2.3 – Sources of Funding** for a detailed analysis



### Projected Revenues by category:

#### FIGURE 1: 2023 PROJECTED REVENUES



Significant revenue sources budgeted for 2023 include the following:

- \$1,077,302 Levy-all
- \$716,497 Levy City of Thunder Bay (sole-benefitting)
- \$150,940 MNRF Section 39 Provincial Transfer Payment
- \$40,000 MNRF Shoreline Stewardship
- \$31,700– ECCC Floodway Corridor Wildlife Habitat
- \$12,955 ECCC Mountdale Boat Launch
- \$15,500 ECCC Waterfront Shoreline Restoration
- \$32,000 ECCC Boulevard Lake Naturalization Project
- \$57,716 MECP Source Water Protection
- \$100,000 Interest income

Other grants that the LRCA intends to apply for in 2023 include:

- TD Friends of the Environment (\$20,000)
- Canada Summer Jobs (\$10,566)

This budget has been prepared based on estimates of potential revenue from various funding sources, which will be dependent on successful funding applications. Some of the projects included in the budget will only be completed if grant funding is successfully



obtained. Additional applications for other programs may be completed as funding becomes available throughout the year.

## CONSIDERATION OF OPPORTUNITIES TO RAISE AND USE SELF-GENERATED REVENUE

Per O. Reg. 402/22, Section 13(2)8, the budget must provide a description of what opportunities the authority considered to raise and use self-generated revenue to help finance the authority's operations, including the programs and services it provides.

Currently the LRCA's self generated revenue is derived from fee for service and user fees from the following sources:

- Interest
- Mapping Service (Category 2 program)
- Education programming fees (Category 3 program)
- Plan Input fees
- Section 28 Permit fees
- Lawyer Inquiry fees
- Explore Card sales
- Coin boxes for parking/day use fees at:
  - Mills Block Forest
  - Little Trout Bay
  - Cedar Falls
  - Hurkett Cove
  - Wishart Forest
  - Silver Harbour
  - Hazelwood Lake
- Pay and Display Units for parking fees at (enforced under City of Thunder Bay Parking By-Law)
  - Mission Island Marsh
  - Cascades
  - Silver Harbour (new as of 2023)

Due to the increased revenue generation from the installed pay and display units at Cascades and Mission Island Marsh, in 2023 in an effort to increase revenue generation at Silver Harbour Conservation Area, a pay and display unit will be installed to collect the \$5.00 Day Use fee, which will be enforced under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

The Fee Schedule will be reviewed annually to determine the annual fee rates, as approved by the Board. On December 28, 2022 a Minister's Direction was issued to Conservation Authorities prohibiting them from changing fees related to reviewing and commenting on planning and development related proposals or land use planning



policies, or fore permit issued by the Conservation Authority for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Increased revenue will used to offset levy and reinvest in amenities provided at Conservation Areas.

#### **BUDGETED EXPENDITURES**

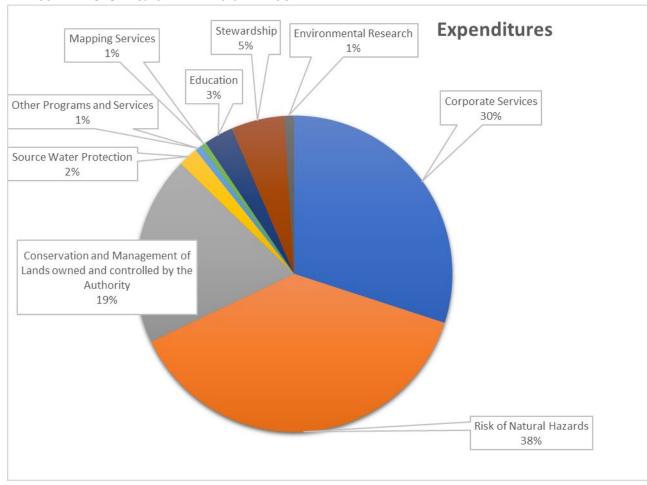
The 2023 Budget is categorized into nine categories as listed below:

Projected Expensed by category include:

- 1) Corporate Services
- 2) Risk of Natural Hazards
- 3) Management, Operations and Maintenance of Authority Owned Lands
- 4) Drinking Water Source Protection
- 5) Other Programs and Services as described in Section 21.1(2) of the Act
- 6) Mapping Services
- 7) Education
- 8) Stewardship
- 9) Environmental Research



FIGURE 2: 2023 PROJECTED EXPENSES BY PROGRAM





## 3.1 CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Services include programs that apply to all programs and services and the general overall management of the organization.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Expenditures	\$637,471	1				
Annual	\$637,471	Travel and training (admin staff)				
		Wages and benefits (admin staff)				
		Insurance				
		Professional fees, subscriptions, memberships				
		Conservation Ontario levy				
		Security monitoring				
		Vehicle rental				
		Board Member allowance (per diems, travel,				
		meeting expenses)				
		Audit fees				
		Latornell Conference				
		Legal fees				
		Bank fees				
		Computer equipment and software Photocopying				
		Postage				
		Stationery and office supplies				
		Utilities				
		Annual Report				
		Telephone				
		Northern Ontario Safety Group				
		Health and Safety Training				
One-Time						
Revenue	\$637,471					
Grants	\$150,940	MNRF Section 39				
Self-Generated	\$111,788	·				
		\$2,000, SWP Admin Fee \$8,375, Various Revenues				
		\$1,413				
Levy-All	\$333,843					
Prior Year Surplus	\$40,900					



#### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Community Relations applies to all programs and includes: promoting the Authority; media relations; website; creation of publications (i.e., fact sheets, annual report, etc.) and other materials; and watershed-wide communication and promotion of LRCA and its programs to watershed residents, municipalities, and other agencies. Annually the LRCA produces a calendar, which is fully funded by paid advertising.

Expenditures	\$108,471				
Annual	\$108,471	Staff wages			
		Vehicle rental			
		Advertising			
		Training			
		Booth rentals			
		Promotional items			
		Website			
		Calendar Expenses (\$6,000)			
One-Time					
Revenue	\$108,471				
Grants					
Other	\$6,700	Other Revenue \$700, Calendar Revenue			
		\$6,000			
Levy-All	\$101,771				
Prior Year Surplus					



#### **VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM**

The Vehicle and Equipment Program is utilized to internally charge LRCA programs vehicle related usage costs to self fund all vehicle and equipment costs, including replacement, in the form of a Reserve.

The following table illustrates the 2023 Vehicle and Equipment Program Budget for revenue and expenses, which shows the actual revenue and expenses for the previous three years. The projected surplus at the end of the financial year is to be transferred into the Replacement of Vehicle/Equipment Reserve.

## Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 2023 Vehicle and Equipment Budget

	2023	2022	2021	
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	
Revenue:				
Vehicle rental recoveries	33,000.00	35,750.00	36,600.00	
Equipment rental recoveries	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
	36,000.00	38,750.00	39,600.00	
Expenses:				
Insurance	5,000.00	4,800.00	4,400.00	
Vehicles:				
Repairs and maintenance	5,000.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	
Annual safety check	900.00	900.00	900.00	
Licenses	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Fuel	9,000.00	7,800.00	7,775.00	
Equipment:				
Fuel	2,300.00	1,500.00	1,400.00	
Repairs and maintenance	3,500.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	
Small Tools	500.00	500.00	500.00	
·	26,700.00	25,000.00	23,475.00	
Transfer to V/E Reserve	9,300.00	13,750.00	16,125.00	

#### **Reserve for Vehicle/Equipment Replacement**

Budgeted Purchases from Reserves:

Utility Trailer	3,000.00
Riding Lawn Mower	7,005.00
Walk behind Sickle Mower	5,537.00
Total	15,542.00



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Information Technology Management is provided to all programs and services. It includes all hardware and software and is managed by the Information Systems Coordinator.

Expenditures	\$44,177	
Annual	\$44,177	Staff wages
		Accounting Software
		Adobe upgrades
		Bitdefender upgrade
		Office 365 upgrade
		Dalto Alto Cloud Backup
		Computer purchases
		Travel and Training
One-Time		
Revenue	\$44,177	
Grants		
Other		
Self-Generated		
Levy-All	\$44,177	
Prior Year Surplus		

# **CORPORATE GIS**

Corporate GIS is provided to all programs and services. It includes the overall management of data and GIS software and is managed by the Information Systems Coordinator.

Expenditures	\$26,298	
Annual	\$25,780	Staff wages
		ESRI Software
		Hardware
One-Time		
Revenue	\$26,298	
Grants		
Other		
Self-Generated		
Levy-All	\$26,298	
Prior Year Surplus		



#### 3.2 CATEGORY 1: MANDATORY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Two summer students will be hired in 2023 for 16 weeks including: a Water Resources Technologist Assistant and a Civil Technician.

The Water Resources Technologist Assistant will assist the GIS/Water Resources Technologist and Development Regulations Officer with the following program areas:

- PGMN
- PWQMN
- Bathing Beach Sampling
- Filing and data management.

The Civil Technician will continue with the Culvert Analysis Project that was initiated in 2021 in the Municipality of Neebing. In rural areas within the LRCA's Area of Jurisdiction, where there is no completed floodplain mapping, the civil technician using available tools such as the Ontario Flow Assessment Tool and culvert sizing estimating methods will assess existing water crossings and their capacity to provide access and egress during various return period flood events. Data for the project will be complied from existing Asset Management data complied by the respective Township/Municipality. information will be compiled into a report(s) categorized by Township/Municipality, summarizing the findings including identifying features that may impact access and egress (i.e., undersized culverts, dead end roads, etc.) and the location of critical infrastructure such as schools, etc. This information will be used by the LRCA when commenting on Planning Applications and Permit Applications; will be provided to the respective Township/Municipality for use in asset management (i.e., prioritize the replacement of water crossings that do not provide access and egress) and emergency planning (i.e. emergency access routes, etc.). It is anticipated that the work within the Municipality of Neebing will continued in 2023, after which the next Township/Municipality report will be started.

# 3.2.1 RISK OF NATURAL HAZARDS

Mandatory Programs and Services related to the risk of natural hazards.

# FLOODPLAIN MAPPING

The Regulatory Floodplain is the approved standard used in a particular watershed to define the limit of the flood plain for regulatory purposes. Adaptive watershed management requires a preventative and proactive approach to address the potential impacts of urbanization and climate change.



The Authority completed various floodplain mapping studies, which are currently used during the administration of the Regulations and for Plan Input and Review purposes. When the studies were completed, partial funding was provided under a variety of government funding programs. The studies were completed between 1979 and 1985, with McVicar Creek updated in 1995.

In recent years, utilizing National Disaster Mitigation Funding, updates to floodplain mapping studies were completed including:

- McIntyre River (2015),
- Neebing River (2018),
- McVicar Creek (2019),
- Kam River (2020),
- Pennock Creek, (2020),
- Mosquito Creek, (2020).

Completed studies are shared with applicable Member Municipalities for use by the engineering departments, for asset management and to be incorporated into their Official Plan and Zoning By-Law.

It is important for the recently updated Watershed hydraulic models to be updated regularly to reflect newly installed/modified infrastructure, such as culverts and bridges, and other changes that are proposed or permitted through the regulations process. Protocols for updating the hydraulic model are needed to ensure that updates are performed efficiently and on a regular schedule with clear communication between the LRCA, Municipality and the Consultant updating the models. A Consultant will be hired to complete the updates to the models. Any changes to the watersheds allowed through the regulation process, or otherwise identified, will be tracked by LRCA and sent to the Consultant. As the anticipated updates will occur within the City of Thunder Bay, the costs will be part of a sole-benefitting levy to the City of Thunder Bay.

Expenditures	\$46,346	
Annual	\$46,346	Maintenance of current models and
		annual updates to existing models
Revenue	\$46,346	
Grants		
Other		
Levy-Sole Benefitting City of	\$46,346	
Thunder Bay		
Prior Year Surplus		



# **TECHNICAL STUDIES**

Studies, mapping and data collection to understand the risks related to natural hazards including how those risks might be affected by climate change. Development of plans and policies to support the delivery of programs.

Expenditures	\$2,216	
Annual	\$2,216	Staff wages
Revenue		
Grants		
Levy-All	\$2,216	
Prior Year Surplus		

# COMMINICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Promoting public awareness of natural hazards including flooding, drought and erosion including: public events and materials; social media services; website; and media relations.

In 2023, the Authority will purchase an augmented reality table to enhance the learning experience. The augmented reality table is an interactive teaching tool designed to show in real-time the affect of rainfall events. The table utilizes a projector, a special camera, and a computer with a high-performance graphics card. The sand in the table can be physically manipulated to simulate topographical features; the camera scans the contours of the sand and projects a corresponding digital contour map onto the surface. Shadows cast by hands over top of the sand then cause "rainfall events" which can then simulate flooding, lakes, rivers, and watersheds. Additionally, the ability to have accurate topographical plates of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway 3D printed can be utilized to simulate the operations of the Floodway. This technology was first observed by staff at the Conservation Areas Workshop. Lakehead University, who would be hired to design and build the table for the LRCA, has brought their table to the Lakehead Children's Water Festival. This table will be utilized as an interactive teaching tool for communicating to the public the effects of stormwater, how watersheds work, and how the LRCA helps protect people and property from the natural hazard of flooding.

Expenditures	\$15,645	
Annual	\$10,645	Staff wages
		Clothing Allowance
One-Time	\$5,000	Augmented Reality table
Revenue	15,645	
Grants		
Levy-All	\$15,645	
Prior Year Surplus		



# FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING

This includes procedures undertaken by the LRCA required to reduce this risk of loss of life and property damage due to flooding through the forecasting of flood events and the issuing of flood messaging (i.e., Watershed Conditions Statements, Flood Watch and Flood Warnings) to prepare those who must respond to the flood event. Additionally, this includes development and implementation of a comprehensive system developed to guide and implement Flood Forecasting and Warning activities, to effectively manage flood control structures and to provide guidance during the response to a flood.

# Annual measures include:

- Operation and maintenance of stream flow gauges and precipitation gauges
- Snow surveys
- Spring Melt Meeting with Member Municipalities and applicable agencies
- Maintaining Flood Forecasting and Warning System Manual
- Monitor weather conditions 365 days per year
- Issuance of Flood Messaging as warranted
- Attend the annual Provincial Flood Forecasting Workshop
- Collect streamflow and precipitation data (partnership with Water Survey of Canada)
- Facilitate the CoCoRaHS program (volunteer-based precipitation monitoring program)
- Participate in Ontario Power Generation's Kaministiquia River Dam Safety Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
- Post flood event meetings and reports

Expenditures	\$46,730	
Annual	\$46,730	Staff wages
		Vehicle rental
		Materials and supplies
		Insurance
		Staff training (Flood Forecasting workshop, WISKI training)
		WISKI software annual maintenance fees
		Computer and office equipment, network repairs
		Boot Allowance
		Clothing Allowance
One-Time		
Revenue	\$46,730	
Grants		
Other		



Levy-All	\$46,730	
Prior Year Surplus		

# DROUGHT AND LOW WATER RESPONSE

In conjunction with the MNRF, the Authority administers the Ontario Low Water Response program within the LRCA area of jurisdiction, which is a response plan to minimize the effects of drought. The program includes condition monitoring and analysis and technical support to the Water Response Team representing major water users and decision makers who recommend drought response actions.

Expenditures	\$4,023	
Annual	\$4,023	Staff wages
		Materials and equipment
Revenue	\$4,023	
Grants		
Other		
Levy-All	\$4,023	
Prior Year Surplus		

#### ICE MANAGEMENT

Ice Management is a new program area, as outlined as a mandatory program. The program will be developed in 2023. The program will involve inspecting ice issue areas, identifying risks and support for any required mitigation. Prior to December 31, 2024, an Ice Management Plan is mandated to be developed.

Expenditures	\$8,046	
Annual	\$8,046	Staff Wages
Revenue		
Grants		
Other		
Levy-All	\$8,046	
Prior Year Surplus		

# INFRASTRUCTURE: NEEBING-MCINTYRE FLOODWAY

#### **OPERATING**

This category includes costs associated with the operation and minor maintenance of flood control structures, the primary purpose of which is to provide protection to life and property. This includes all costs related to the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway. Overall, flood control services provide watershed residents with an effective and efficient system that will reduce their exposure to the threat of flood damages and loss of life.



Expenditures	\$175,275	
Annual	\$175,275	Annual structural inspections of Neebing
		Weir and Diversion Structure
		Floodway water level monitoring
		Minor maintenance (tree removal, minor
		repairs, etc.)
		Hiring of two summer students (14 weeks)
		to complete Floodway maintenance
		Staff wages
		Vehicle rental
		Materials and supplies
		Insurance
		Property Taxes
One-Time		
Revenue	\$175,275	
Grants		
Other		
Self-Generated	\$500	CLE Land Rental
Levy	\$174,775	
Sole-Benefiting City		
of Thunder Bay		
Prior Year Surplus		

#### CAPITAL

This category includes costs associated with the capital and major maintenance of flood control structures, the primary purpose of which is to provide protection to life and property. This includes all costs related to the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway. Overall, flood control services provide watershed residents with an effective and efficient system that will reduce their exposure to the threat of flood damages and loss of life.

The Floodway has provided 39 years of continuous operation since completion in 1984. In 2023, a consultant will be hired to update the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study, which is updated every 10 years. The study will be a comprehensive review of the original design assumptions versus the actual observed and predicted performance. The schedule of long-range maintenance will be reviewed as part of the study and will be used to confirm future required funds to maintain the integrity of the Floodway.



Expenditures	\$506,377	
Annual	\$356,377	Annual Levy to deferred for future use
One Time	\$150,000	Floodway Integrity Study
Revenue	\$506,377	
Grants	\$75,000	WECI will be applied to for 50% of the cost of the study. If not successful, the full cost will be funded by current year levy.
Other		
Levy- Sole-Benefiting City of Thunder Bay	\$431,377	A constant amount is levied annually, with funds not needed in the given year placed in a deferred fund for future years in order to avoid the highs and lows when major maintenance is required. LRCA staff maintains a timeline for major maintenance required on the Floodway, which is used to calculate required future funds needed in order to provide a consistent and manageable annual levy to the City of Thunder Bay. As the Floodway is an essential part of mitigating the risk to life and property, the LRCA must guarantee funds are available to ensure the integrity of the Floodway is maintained.

Some of the larger (over \$100,000) major maintenance expected to be required in the next 10 years include:

- 2023 Integrity Study (completed every 10 years)
- 2024 Diversion Channel Dredging
- 2025 Dredging Island Drive to CPR Bridge
- 2028 Dredging Balmoral Sediment Trap
- 2031 Dredging Island Drive to Lake

The 2023 Integrity Study will review current estimated maintenance dates and costs that will inform future budgets.

Major maintenance projects are eligible for Provincial Transfer Payment Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding which the LRCA applies for the year the work is undertaken; however, the allocation of WECI funds varies year-to-year and is not guaranteed year-to-year; therefore, total costs of major maintenance are used in determining required future funds. Any additional funding obtained through WECI will result in the levy being carried forward for future year's projects and adjusting the long-



term projections accordingly. The future of the WECI program is unknown due to the change in Ministry oversight of Conservation Authorities, and the change in government.

# INFRASTRUCTURE: VICTOR STREET EROSION

# **OPERATING**

This category includes costs associated with the minor maintenance of erosion control structures on City of Thunder Bay owned land on Victor Street and protection of City owned infrastructure along Kam riverbank. The primary purpose of which is to provide protection to life and property. Overall, erosion control services reduce watershed resident's exposure to the threat of property damages and loss of life. This area has historically been managed/monitored on behalf of the City of Thunder Bay.

Expenditures	\$20,541	
Annual	\$20,541	Victor Street soil nailing, slope inspection (2x/year)
		Staff wages
One-Time		
Revenue	\$20,541	
Grants		
Self-Generated		
Levy	\$20,541	
Sole-Benefiting City of		
Thunder Bay		
Levy-All		
Prior Year Surplus		

#### CAPTIAL

This category includes costs associated with the capital and major maintenance of erosion on City of Thunder Bay owned land on Victor Street, the primary purpose of which is to provide protection to life and property. Overall, erosion control services reduce watershed resident's exposure to the threat of property damages and loss of life. The main erosion control structure is the soil nailing completed along Victor Street on City of Thunder Bay land to protect Victor Street and the adjacent infrastructure.

In 2019 the Kaministiquia River Erosion Sites Inventory Report was completed which delineated the 100-year erosion rate along the Kaministiquia River within the City of Thunder Bay. Within the report, it was identified that Victor Street was within the 100-year erosion hazard, based on the completed methodology. A detailed analysis of the area was recommended to look at the risk to Victor Street and adjacent infrastructure, including long-term recommendations related to access and egress to the area. This study was completed in 2020; recommendations will be incorporated into future budgets in consultation with City of Thunder Bay Engineering.



Expenditures	\$43,458	
Annual	\$43,458	Amount to be deferred for future use.
One Time		
Revenue	\$43,458	
Grants		
Levy	\$43,458	
Sole-Benefiting City of		
Thunder Bay		
Levy-All		
Prior Year Surplus		

# REVIEW OF PROPOSALS UNDER AN ACT

As a mandatory program, staff will provide input to the review and approval processes under other applicable law (i.e., *Aggregate Resources Act, Drainage Act, Environmental Assessment Act,* etc.) with comments related to natural hazards, wetlands, watercourses and Section 28 permit requirements.

Expenditures	\$2,842	
Annual	\$2,842	Staff wages
Revenue		
Grants		
Other		
Levy-All	\$2,842	
Prior Year Surplus		

# **PLAN REVIEW COMMENTS**

Conservation Authorities are delegated the responsibility from MNRF to comment on all *Planning Act* applications processed by their Member Municipalities as to the applications adherence to Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (i.e., natural hazards).

This category includes reviewing comprehensive updates to Member Municipality Official Plans and Zoning By-laws; site specific amendments to Official Plans and Zoning By-laws; subdivision applications; site plan control; consent applications; minor variances, etc. It is noted that the LRCA does not have any additional agreements with any of its Member Municipalities for the review of natural heritage. Comprehensive Official Plan and Zoning By-Law reviews are eligible for Section 39 Transfer Payment; however, due to the province under funding core mandate programming, no transfer payment is allocated for this mandated review.



Effective January 1, 2021, the LRCA began charging a Fee for Service for all Plan Review comments. The generated revenue will be used to reduce levy required to administer this delegated program. A few years of revenue will be required to fully predict future years generated revenue, which will fluctuate annually depending on the volume of *Planning Act* applications received by our Member Municipalities.

Effective January 1, 2023 a Minister's Direction as part of the *More Homes Built Faster Act* 2022 (Bill 23) was issued to Conservation Authorities to not change fees related to reviewing and commenting on planning applications for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 23, 2023; therefore, fees charged to applicants for planning comments will not be changed through the legislated period.

Expenditures	\$88,093	
Annual	\$88,093	Staff wages
		Training
		Legal Fees
One time		
Revenue	\$88,093	
Other	\$40,783	Canada Summer Jobs \$5,283, Planning Fees
		Revenue \$35,500,
Levy-All	\$47,310	
Prior Year Surplus		

# ADMINISTERING AND ENFORCING THE ACT (SECTION 28 DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS)

The Development Regulations category includes the costs and revenues associated with administering Ontario Regulation 180/06: Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, which includes: permit application review, inspections, permit issuance, enforcement and follow-up. Also, which may include defending appeals and conducting Hearings.

Effective January 1, 2023 a Minister's Direction as part of the *More Homes Built Faster Act* 2022 (Bill 23) was issued to Conservation Authorities to not change fees related to permits issued by Conservation Authorities for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 23, 2023; therefore, fees charged to applicants for development permits will not be changed through the legislated period.



Expenditures	\$137,950	
Annual	\$137,950	Staff wages
		Training and travel
		Legal Fees
		Engineering Support
		Provincial Offences Officer supplies
		Professional Fees
One-Time		
Revenue	\$137,950	
Self-Generated	\$ 30,283	Lawyer property inquiries \$4,000,
		Development Regulation Permit fees
		\$21,000, Canada Summer Jobs \$5,283
Levy-All	\$107,667	
Other		
Prior Year Surplus		

# 3.2.2 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LANDS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE LRCA

Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority.

# **CONSERVATION AREAS**

#### **OPERATING**

This includes all expenses and revenue associated operation and minor maintenance of land owned and/or managed by the Authority. In total, the LRCA owns 2,600 hectares of land, including Conservation Areas, administrative office lands, flood and erosion prone land and conservation lands.

The Conservation Areas provide an opportunity for the watershed residents for semipassive activities such as hiking, nature appreciation, photography, fishing, etc. Of the eight Conservation Areas, five provide access to Lake Superior with three being adjacent to Provincially Significant wetlands. Comments on planning applications near Conservation Areas will be provided by the LRCA.

The Bathing Beach monitoring program will continue at Hazelwood Lake and Mission Island Marsh Conservation Areas, which monitors *E. coli* levels in conjunction with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit. Additionally, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) monitoring will continue in 2023. The confirmed presence of cyanobacteria (Microcystins) within the conservation areas in 2022, specifically Mission Island Marsh



and Hazelwood Lake, has warranted a second year of data collection. Continued testing will solidify LRCA's understanding of cyanobacteria within selected Conservation Areas, while protecting visitors and their pets from Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS). Further, the study will contribute to a greater understanding of how cyanobacteria are influencing the Lakehead Watershed. Continued testing will involve the use of Eurofin's Algal Toxin (Microsystins) Test Strip Kit for Recreational Water and continued Microscopy Work provided by Blue-Green Labs.

In 2023, staff will continue working on the mandatory Conservation Area Strategy (due December 31, 2024).

In 2021, pay stations were added to Mission Marsh and Cascades Conservation Areas in order to increase generated revenue. The first full year of having pay stations at Mission Marsh and Cascades Conservation Areas has resulted in a significant increase in revenue at the respective Conservation Areas. This increase in revenue is anticipated to continue in the years ahead. This has prompted the Authority to add a pay station at Silver Harbour Conservation Area in the 2023 budget in order to increase revenue generation at the Conservation Area.

Expenditures	\$290,828	
Annual	\$270,828	Staff wages
		Clothing allowance
		On-going maintenance
		Garbage removal
		Sanding/salting of parking areas
		Outhouse rentals
		Property Taxes
		Credit Card usage fees
One-Time	\$20,000	Pay Station installation at Silver Harbour
		Conservation Area
Transfer to Reserve		
Revenue	\$290,828	
Deferred	\$42,112	
Other		
Levy-All	\$170,876	
Self-Generated	\$77,840	Explorer Cards, Pay-Station, Coin Box
		Revenue
Prior Year Surplus		



#### CAPITAL

This fund is used for major maintenance and capital investment at the Conservation Areas. In 2021, KGS Group updated the LRCA's Asset Management Plan (AMP), which assessed the current condition, annual maintenance and major repairs required to the Authority's assets. LRCA staff have analyzed the AMP and prepared a long-term schedule of capital repairs, which has been used to provide a consistent and manageable annual levy. It was identified in the AMP that there are some major repairs required to ensure the integrity and safety at our Conservation Areas. In addition, other major capital requirements were identified to be completed in the near future to avoid conditions deteriorating.

Minor repairs as outlined in the AMP will occur in 2023, along with the installation of a new floating dock with kayak launch at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area at the causeway lake access point. This new amenity will make it easier for the public to launch their boats. Additional funds have been allocated to the deferred Cascades parking lot/trail repaving project which was deferred in 2022 due to only one overpriced bid being received for the project. An application to NOHFC is also being prepared to seek additional funding for the project to potentially offset the project costs in 2023.

Expenditures	\$161,800	
Annual		
One-Time	\$141,800	Hurkett Pavilion Roof Repair (\$6,200)
		Hazelwood Garage Replace Soffit and Fascia (\$2,000)
		Little Trout Bay Pavilion repairs (\$2,500)
		Little Trout Bay Dock repairs (\$12,450)
		Hazelwood Lake Dock/Kayak Launch
		installation at causeway (\$10,700)
		Repairs (\$7,950)
		Cascades parking lot/trail (\$70,000)
Transfer to Reserve	\$20,000	Hazelwood Lake Dam Reserve (\$20,000)
Revenue	\$161,800	
Grants		
Other		
Levy-All	\$61,800	
Transfer from Reserve	\$100,000	



# ADMINISTER SECTION 29 REGULATIONS IN CONSERVATION AREAS

Enforcement and compliance in Conservation Areas, related to Conservation Areas Regulations and Parking by-law enforcement in the City of Thunder Bay and Conservation Area Regulation enforcement in Conservation Areas.

Expenditures	\$9,827	
Annual	\$9,622	Staff wages
		Enforcement Supplies
One-Time		
Revenue	\$9,827	
Grants		
Other		
Levy-All	\$9,827	
Self-Generated		
Prior Year Surplus		

# OTHER OWNED LAND

Operation and minor maintenance in other Conservation Authority owned land (i.e. forest management property, floodplain lands, etc.). In 2023, staff will work on completing the mandatory Land Inventory (due December 31, 2024).

The Authority owns and maintains one Forest Management property (William's Forest) and has Forest Management Plans on 10 property holdings, which guide the management of the areas as well as reduce property taxes through the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) administered by MNRF.

The Forest Management Reserve is used for activities related to the forest management properties, including maintaining Forest Management Plans and for promoting greening activities. The Reserve is maintained from previous year's revenue for future purchases of forest management properties and forest management related expenditures.

In 2023, some harvesting may be undertaken in William's Forest subject to contractor availability and market conditions. Harvesting is planned in Wishart Conservation Area early in 2023.

Expenditures	\$45,956	
Annual	\$40,956	Wages (\$9,484)
		Property taxes (Williams, Wishart, Mills Block
		Forests), Office Building, other lands
		Routine Maintenance (\$6,000)



One-Time	\$5,000	Registered Professional Forester, Tree Seedlings for Wishart
Revenue	\$45,956	
Grants		
Other	\$1,000	
Levy-All	\$39,956	
Self-Generated	\$5,000	Wishart Harvesting Revenue
Prior Year Surplus		

#### OFFICE CAPITAL AND OPERATING

This fund is used for long-term capital repairs of the LRCA Administration Facility. In 2021, the Authority updated the Asset Management Plan (AMP) that provides guidance on the long-term maintenance and major capital repairs to maintain the integrity and safety of the building. The AMP was used to plan upgrades and repairs over the next five years. As a result, LRCA staff have completed a long-term plan for the timing of significant repairs, which is used to provide a consistent and manageable annual levy. This levy does not include any additional capital plans; it is only to maintain the building in its current condition.

Expenditures	\$55,000	
Annual	\$ 15,000	Maintenance of grounds, buildings, and equipment
		Emergency repairs as needed
One Time	\$40,000	Replace man door garage (\$2,500), Repoint and parging building (\$12,500), update domestic water pipes (\$12,500), exterior stairs/handrails/ramp, LED sign (\$2,000), backflow valve connection (\$10,500)
Revenue	\$55,000	
Grants		
Other		
Levy-All	\$35,000	
Transfer from Reserve	\$20,000	

Per the 2021 AMP, some of outstanding larger projects that are expected to be completed include:

- Short-Term (1-5 years):
  - Replace heating pumps
  - o Air Conditioner units for Board and Multipurpose room
  - o Exhaust Fans replaced
  - Plumbing insulate piping throughout building
  - Repointing brick siding for damaged areas



- Replace foundation on front signage
- Plumbing fixtures
- Mid-Term (5-10 years):
  - Replace windows and parging
  - Hot water heater
  - o Radiators and unit heater replacement
  - A/C and thermostat control replacement
  - Replace unit ventilators at end of life
  - Replace A/C heads and outdoor condensing units
  - Flooring
  - Major heating repairs (piping and boiler)
- Long-term (10-20 years):
  - Exterior doors and handrails
  - Eaves trough and downspouts
  - Parking lot replacement
  - o Patio stone area
  - Shingles and roof repairs
  - o Detached Garage Replacement
  - Refrigerant Piping for Cooling Units

# 3.2.3 SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

This category refers to programs and services related to the Authority's duties, functions and responsibilities as a Source Protection Authority under the *Clean Water Act*, 2006.

The Source Water Protection program commenced in 2005 with 100% funding provided from the MECP with the goal of completion of Source Protection Plans for municipal drinking water systems. Within the Lakehead Watershed, there are only two municipal drinking water systems: City of Thunder Bay Bare Point Water Treatment Plant and the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Rosslyn Village Drinking Water System.

The Lakehead Source Protection Plan was approved on January 16, 2013, with an effective date of October 1, 2013. The Source Protection Plan contains a series of policies developed by the Source Protection Committee in consultation with the local community to protect municipal drinking water sources from existing and future drinking water threats. The Plan describes the actions that must be taken by various implanting bodies to protect surface water and groundwater sources that supply municipal drinking water.

The affected municipalities are responsible to implement the Source Protection Plans and must adhere to the policies including providing annual reports to the Source Protection Authority (i.e. LRCA Board). The Source Protection Authority is then required to assess the municipal annual reports and report annually to the MECP.



The current Agreement, which provided funding for two years between the LRCA and MECP will expire on March 31, 2024. It provides funding for administration and 0.5 FTE salary and benefits. The Source Protection Authority (i.e. LRCA Board) is responsible for maintenance of the Source Protection Committee, submission of Annual Reports to MECP, maintenance and retention of data and files (i.e. 15-year retention requirement) related to this program, which began in 2005. There is an expectation by MECP that each Source Protection Authority maintain qualified staff to ensure that the Plan remains current.

Expenditures	\$58,974	
Annual	\$58,974	Staff wages (0.2 FTE Watershed Manager, 0.2 FTE Information Systems Coordinator, 0.1 FTE Administrative Assistant)
		Travel and per diem expenses to attend Chair's meetings
		Source Protection Committee (member per diems, room rental, agenda costs)
		Administration Fee
One-Time		
Revenue	\$58,974	
Grants	\$58,974	MECP Transfer Payment
Other		
Levy-All		
Prior Year Surplus		

# 3.2.4 OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

# PROVINCIAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING NETWORK (PGMN)

The Authority in partnership with the MECP participates in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program (PGMN).in which LRCA monitors eight groundwater monitoring wells. LRCA staff collect samples and submit them to the MECP laboratory for analysis. Laboratory costs and sample shipping costs are paid by the MECP. The data not only provides data for the LRCA area of jurisdiction, but it is also the only sampling completed in northern Ontario.

Expenditures	\$8,262	
Annual	\$8,262	Vehicle rental
		Wages
		Materials and equipment
One-Time		



Revenue	\$8,262	
Grants		
Other		
Levy-All	\$8,262	
Prior Year Surplus		

# PROVINCIAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK (PWQMN)

The Authority in partnership with the MECP participates in the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) program, in which LRCA monitors six surface water locations. LRCA staff collect samples and submit them to the MECP laboratory for analysis. Laboratory costs and sample shipping costs are paid by the MECP. The data not only provides data for the LRCA area of jurisdiction, but it is also the only sampling completed in northern Ontario.

Expenditures	\$8,097		
Annual	\$8,097	Vehicle rental	
		Wages	
		Materials and equipment	
One-Time			
Revenue	\$8,097		
Grants			
Other			
Levy-All	\$8,097		
Prior Year Surplus			

# WATERSHED BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Prior to December 31, 2024, Conservation Authorities are mandated to develop a Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy. The Strategy will develop guiding principles and objectives that inform the design and delivery of programs and services the CA is required to provide; collate/compile existing resource management plans, watershed plans, studies and data; strategy development, implementation; and annual reporting. A review of programs and services provide for the purposes of compliance with the regulations and Section 21.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Also, it will develop a process for periodic review including procedures to engage/consult with stakeholders and the public. Strategy development must include a stakeholder and public consultation component and be made available to the public.

Developing guiding principles and objectives that inform the design and delivery of programs and services the CA is required to provide. Collate/compile existing resource management plans, watershed plans, studies and data. Strategy development, implementation and annual reporting. A review of programs and services provide for the purposes of compliance with the regulations



and Seciton 21.1 of the CA Act. Develop process for periodic review including procedures to engage/consult with stakeholders and the public. Strategy development must include a stakeholder and public consultation component. Make available to the public.

Expenditures	\$3,266	
Annual	\$3,266	Wages (Environmental Planner)
One-Time		
Revenue	3,266	
Grants		
Other		
Levy-All	\$3,266	
Prior Year Surplus		

# 3.3 CATEGORY 2: NON-MANDATORY PROGRAMS AT THE REQUEST OF A MUNICIPALITY

# **MAPPING SERVICE**

The LRCA offers for a fee, a mapping service to our Member Municipalities who choose to participate. LRCA staff maintain the hardware and software required to provide a webbased mapping service that provides mapping capabilities to its users. Additionally, maps are created are updated, by request for a Member Municipality (i.e. Official Plan/Zoning By-Law Comprehensive Updates, etc.). Revenue from this service is used to maintain equipment and supplies related to GIS.

Expenditures	\$16,311	\$16,311		
Annual	\$16,311	Staff Wages		
		Portion of ESRI License		
		Plotter and computer expense		
One-Time				
Revenue	\$16,311			
Grants				
Other	\$16,311	Oliver Paipoonge \$12,350, Dorion \$650, Lakehead Rural Planning Board \$3,000, other \$311		
Levy-All				



# 3.4 CATEGORY 3: NON-MANDATORY PROGRAMS

# 3.4.1 EDUCATION

# **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

The Environmental Education program provides curriculum-based educational presentations and field trips to Conservation Areas and within school classrooms. The non-mandatory (i.e., not related to the risk of natural hazards) education program is operated with 100% other funding (no levy). The program covers a wide array of topics including watersheds, various natural heritage, and natural science topics such as birds, trees, aquatics invertebrates, and other topics, many of which are tied directly to Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum expectations. As a private landowner, the LRCA is uniquely positioned to provide meaningful, impactful outdoor education programming utilizing Conservation Areas as "living classrooms". Watershed stewardship best practices and fostering a sense of wonder and appreciation for the natural world is the goal of the education program, as the best way to inspire people to care about the natural world and the environment is to give them meaningful educational and recreational experiences.

It is anticipated that normal fundraising efforts will be fully implemented in 2023 after having to cancel many fundraising events due to COVID-19. Staff will also continue to seek out other streams of revenue for this program.

Expenditures	\$38,831	\$38,831		
Annual	\$38,831	Education Coordinator position (39 weeks)		
		Vehicle rental		
		Educational expenses (guest speakers,		
		supplies, safety items, etc.)		
One-Time				
Revenue	\$38,831			
Grants	\$6,700	OPG Donation (\$6,700)		
Self-Generated	\$32,131	Various fundraising (\$25,000), School		
		Program Fees (\$5,131), Living Classroom		
		Donations (\$2,000)		
Levy-All				
Prior Year Surplus				

# NATURE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING

Event programming development and execution on LRCA owned. Programs/events within Conservation Areas vary year to year; however, the Dorion Bird Festival is held annually at Hurkett Cove Conservation Area.



Expenditures	\$61,607	\$61,607		
Annual	\$61,607	Staff Wages		
		Hazelwood Lake Family Fun Day		
		Fall Water Viewing Day		
		Silver Harbour Day		
		TD Programming		
		Dorion Bird Festival		
One-Time				
Revenue	\$61,607	51,607		
Grants	\$57,000	TD Friends of the Environment, (\$20,000), OPG (\$1,000), TC Energy (\$13,000) Enbridge (\$5,000), Dorion Bird Festival Ticket Sales (\$18,000)		
Self-Generated				
Levy-All				
Prior Year Surplus	\$4,607			

# 3.4.2 STEWARDSHIP

The objective of the stewardship program is to promote and encourage landowners to become stewards of their own land. Programs enable private landowners to restore their riparian and shoreline lands; plant trees on private land; and facilitate stewardship projects on LRCA/municipally owned lands to implement restoration and naturalization of on-the-ground projects. Projects vary year to year depending on funding and need in the watershed. Stewardship projects are funded from various provincial and federal funding sources. No levy is used for the Stewardship Program.

# SUPERIOR STEWARDS PROGRAM

In 2023, the Watershed Stewardship Technician will continue to implement the LRCA's Shoreline Protection Program (Superior Stewards), which focuses on rehabilitating shoreline and riparian zones on private property within the Thunder Bay Area of Concern. The program provides landowners with a shoreline assessment, educational materials, individualized planting plans, up to 100 plants, and planting implementation support. Planting native vegetation enhances shoreline and riparian zones, rehabilitates, and maintains healthy shoreline habitat, provides erosion protection, and improves water quality. The objective of the Superior Stewards program is to raise landowner awareness of riparian and shoreline stewardship principles and implement restoration and naturalization of on-the-ground projects. The restoration projects range from



terrestrial/aquatic plantings, invasive plant species removal, green infrastructure techniques, species-at-risk habitat enhancement/protection, general habitat enhancement, and/or pollinator habitat creation.

Expenditures	\$40,000	
Annual	\$40,000	Staff Wages \$18,042
		Materials \$21,958
One-Time		
Revenue	\$ 40,000	
Grants	\$40,000	MNRF Transfer Payment – Wetland and Shoreline Protection within the Thunder Bay AOC
Other		
Levy-All		
Prior Year Surplus		

# TREE SEEDLING PROGRAM

In partnership with Hill's Greenhouse, the LRCA administers a Tree Seedling Program, which provides the opportunity for the public to purchase locally grown tree seedlings to plant in the watershed. As of 2021, over 151,000 trees have been accessed through the program. Wages for this program are funded by past generated revenue from harvesting on LRCA owned land. This program's goal is to achieve a no net loss of trees in the overall watershed by providing trees to plant to the public to offset any harvesting on LRCA owned land.

Expenditures	\$9,629	
Annual	\$9,629	Staff wages
		Purchase Tree Seedlings (\$6,000)
Revenue	\$9,629	
Grants		
Self-Generated	\$6,000	Tree Seedling Sales
Levy-All		
Reserve	\$3,629	Forest Management Reserve

# PRIVATE LAND STEWARDSHIP

In order to promote stewardship on LRCA/municipally owned lands, staff apply for funding for a variety of projects annually. The following restoration projects are planned in 2023:



- In partnership with the City of Thunder Bay, the Coastal Wetland Rehabilitation Project at Fisherman's Park West involves the development and implementation of a new coastal wetland in the southern area of the park along the shoreline of Lake Superior. The goal of the project is to enhance aquatic habitat within the existing coastal wetland.
- In partnership with the City of Thunder Bay, the Riparian Habitat Restoration Project at the Mountdale Boat Launch will be continued in 2023. The project aims to restore the riparian habitat along the Kaministiquia River by eradicating invasive and planting native species and implementing green infrastructure to reduce impacts from stormwater runoff and bank erosion.
- The Floodway Corridor Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project will be continued in 2023 and involves the remediation of three sites on LRCA owned lands along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway corridor. The project aims to enhance riparian habitat by planting native vegetation and managing invasive species through volunteer clean-up and planting events.
- In partnership with the City of Thunder Bay, the Boulevard Lake Naturalization Project is a three-year project that involves introducing an expanded vegetated buffer zone along the Boulevard Lake shoreline at the new playground, as well as incorporating low impact development techniques. The project will include youth and community education opportunities related to the importance of fresh water.

Expenditures	\$108,595			
Annual	\$108,595	Staff Wages \$31,505		
		Materials \$77,090		
One-Time				
Revenue	\$108,595			
Grants	\$31,900	Coastal Wetland Rehabilitation at		
		Fisherman's Park West		
	\$12,995	ECCC Great Lakes Protection Initiative –		
		Riparian Habitat Restoration at Mountdale		
		Boat Launch		
	\$31,700	ECCC Great Lakes Protection Initiative –		
		Floodway Corridor Wildlife Habitat		
		Restoration		
	\$32,000	Boulevard Lake Naturalization Project		
Levy-All				
Prior Year Surplus				



# 3.4.3 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH PROJECT

As part of a multi-year research project, the LRCA is partnering with Lakehead University and the University of Minnesota to support Brant Muir, a prospective PhD student, with a paid internship partly funded through the Mitac's Accelerate Program and funding from the RBC Foundation. His research proposal and PhD study focuses on green infrastructure facilities and practices (GI) that captures, filters, and reduces stormwater runoff within the McVicar Creek watershed. Brant will work terms in the summers of 2022 to 2025 and completed the initial research work of collecting water quality baseline data prior to the GI installations that are planned by the City of Thunder Bay (i.e., nine GI facilities are planned in 2022-23). Brant's research internship project for his PhD will be expanded with an overarching goal to determine how green infrastructure reduces peak runoff and improves water quality by comparing pre and post GI construction facility water quality sampling results and water quantity data with stormwater management modeling simulated results (PC SWMM).

Expenditures	\$10,000	
Annual	\$10,000	Mitac contribution
One-Time		
Revenue	\$10,000	
Grants		
Other	\$10,000	RBC Foundation
Levy-All		
Prior Year Surplus		



# 4 RESERVE APPROPRIATIONS

The Authority's Reserve Policy sets goals for the Board Designated Reserves and the terms and conditions for their use. As outlined in the Policy, planned appropriations to and from reserves will be outlined in the Budget Document annually, and will be approved through the budget approval process.

Unplanned appropriations to and from reserves throughout the year will require Board approval, unless they meet the terms outlined in the Reserve Policy.

Reserve shortfalls from the determined "Target Reserve Level" as outlined in the Policy will be outlined in the Budget Document, and if warranted, appropriations to a reserve will be proposed to achieve the Target Reserve Level.



# 4.1 PERCENTAGE OF TARGET RESERVE LIMIT REACHED

The Reserve Policy indicates that if any reserve category is less than 50% of the targeted reserve, the Board of Directors, in the absence of any extraordinary circumstances, should consider adopting an annual budget that includes a projected surplus sufficient to rebuild the reserve category over a defined period to its targeted reserve level.

Reserve	Reserve Level as of December 31, 2022	Reserve Limit	Target Reserve Level	% of Target Reserve Level
Operating Capital	\$1,213,249	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	110
Administrative Facility - Maintenance	\$546,671		Adequate funds available to complete annual regular maintenance, emergency repairs and major maintenance per the AMP	
Administrative Facility - New Facility	\$32,310		Adequate funds available to construct a new Administration Facility	
Vehicle and Equipment	\$39,844	\$125,000	Adequate funds available to purchase required vehicles and equipment	
Insurance Deductible	\$30,000		\$30,000	100
Legal Fees Conservation Area Major Maintenance Capital	\$120,839 \$491,819		\$100,000 As forecasted in Asset Management Plan	121
Hazelwood Lake Dam	\$20,000		\$250,000	8
Forest Management	\$140,672			
Land Acquisition	\$251,296			



# 4.2 2023 PLANNED APPROPRIATIONS TO AND FROM RESERVES

Reserve	Appropriations to Reserve	Appropriations from Reserves
Operating Capital		
Administrative Facility -		\$20,000
Maintenance		
Administrative Facility -		
New Facility		
Vehicle and Equipment	\$9,300	\$15,542
Insurance Deductible		
Legal Fees		
Conservation Area Major		\$100,000
Maintenance Capital		
Hazelwood Lake Dam	\$20,000	
Forest Management		\$3,629
Land Acquisition		



# 5 CONCLUSION

The 2023 Budget document details the LRCA's capital and operating plans for the upcoming year. It is the opinion of staff that the current budget is reflective of the Authority's short-term goals and the long-term requirements.



# **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

# Suggested Resolutions:

# Recorded Weighted Vote:

"THAT: the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority adopts the non-matching levy of \$1,642,922 AND FURTHER THAT all member municipalities are designated as benefitting and pay \$926,425 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 pays \$716,497 AND FURTHER THAT each member municipality is to be advised of their apportionment of the non-matching levy."

# Majority Vote:

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

**"THAT:** in 2023 the following will be appropriated from the following reserves: Administrative Office Maintenance \$20,000; Vehicle and Equipment Reserve \$15,542; Conservation Area Major Maintenance Capital Reserve \$100,000; and Forest Management Reserve \$3,629."

**"THAT:** the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2023 Budget Document, Version 3.0 for a total budget of \$2,892,484. "

**APPENDIX A:** 

**2023 BUDGET** 



Figure 3: 2023 Budget Summary

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 2023 Draft Budget Version 2.0									
	Annual Cost Source of Funding Sole-Benefiting								
Program	Levy-All	Levy City of Thunder Bay	Provincial Funding	Federal Funding	Other	Self Generated	Surplus/ Deferred	Reserve	Total Cost 2023
	Levy All	munuci buy	Tunung	Teacrai ranang	Other	Generatea	Deletted	NCSCI VC	2023
Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services Corporate Services									
Administration	333,493	-	150,940	-	-	111,788	41,250	-	637,471
Community Relations	101,771	-	-	-	700	6,000	-	-	108,471
Vehicle and Equipment Program	-	-	-	-	-	36,000	-	15,542	51,542
IT	44,177	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,177
Corporate GIS	26,298	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,298
	505,739	-	150,940	-	700	153,788	41,250	15,542	867,959
Risk of Natural Hazards		45.245							46.246
Flood Plain Mapping	- 2 216	46,346	-	-	-	-	-	-	46,346
Technical Studies  Communications and Outreach	2,216 15,645	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,216 15,645
Flood Forecasting and Warning	46,730	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46,730
Drought and Low Water Response	4,023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,023
Ice Management	4,023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,023
Ice Management Plan	4,023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,023
Infrastructure: Neebing-McIntye Floodway	-	606,152	75,000	-	500	-	-	-	681,652
Infrastructure: Victor Street Erosion	-	63,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	63,999
Review of Proposals under Act	2,842	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,842
Plan Review Comments	47,310	-	-	5,283	-	35,500	-	-	88,093
Administering and Enforcing the Act (Section 28)	107,667	-	-	5,283	-	25,000	-	-	137,950
Risk of Natural Hazards	234,479	716,497	75,000	10,567	500	60,500	-	-	1,097,542
Conservation and Management of Lands owned and controlled by the Authority									
Conservation Areas	170,876	_	-	-	-	77,840	42,112	-	290,828
Conservation Areas Capital	61,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	161,800
Administer Section 29 Regulations	9,827	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,827
Other Owned Land	74,956	-	-	-	1,000.00	5,000.00	42,112	20,000 <b>120,000</b>	100,956
Course Water Bushestier	317,459	-	-	-	1,000	82,840	42,112	120,000	563,411
Source Water Protection  Source Water Protection		-	58,974	-	_			_	58,974
Source Water Hotection		-	58,974	-	_	-		_	58,974
Other Programs and Services			20,37 :						30,314
Watershed Resource Management Strategy	3,266	-	-	-	-	-		-	3,266
Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN)	8,262	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,262
Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)	8,097	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,097
	19,625	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,625
Total Category 1	1,077,302	716,497	284,914	10,567	2,200	297,128	83,362	135,542	2,607,511
Category 2 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services at the re	quest of a Mu			ı					
Mapping Services	-	-	-	-	-	16,311	-	-	16,311
Natural Heritage Planning Services	-	-	-	-	-	16,311	-	-	46.244
Total Catagory 2		-	_	_		16,311	-	-	16,311 16,311
Total Category 2		-				10,311			10,311
Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services				<u> </u>					
Education									
Environmental Education	-	-	-	-	6,700	32,131	- 4.607	-	38,831
Nature Interpretive Programming	-	-	-	-	6,700	57,000 <b>89,131</b>	4,607 <b>4,607</b>	-	61,607 <b>100,438</b>
Stewardship		-	-	-	6,700	03,131	4,007	-	100,436
Superior Stewards Program	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	40,000
Tree Seedling Program	-	-	-	-	-	6,000	-	3,629	9,629
Mountdale Boat Launch	-	-	12,995	-	-	-	-	-	12,995
Floodway Corridor Wildlife Habitat	-	-	-	31,700	-	-	-	-	31,700
Waterfront Shoreline Restoration (potential ECCC funding)	-	-	-	15,500	-	-	-	-	15,500
Fisherman's Phase II (potential ECCC funding)	-	-	-	16,400	-	-	-	-	16,400
Boulevard Lake Naturalization	-	-	-	32,000	-	-	-	-	32,000
	-	-	52,995	95,600	-	6,000	-	3,629	158,224
Environmental Research					40.000				40.000
Environmental Research	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000 <b>10,000</b>
Total Category 3	-	-	52,995	95,600	10,000 16,700	95,131	4,607	3,629	10,000 268,662
							•		
Total	1,077,302	716,497	337,909	106,167	18,900	408,570	87,969	139,171	2,892,484



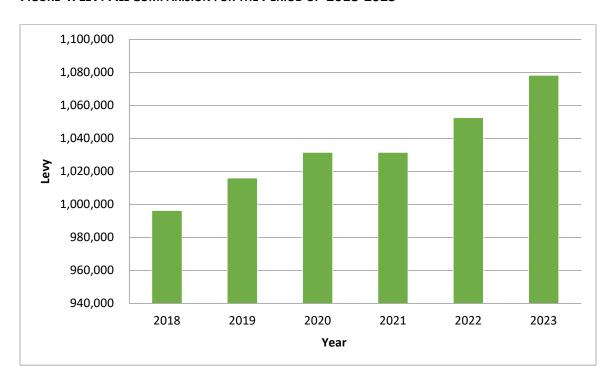


FIGURE 4: LEVY ALL COMPARISION FOR THE PERIOD OF 2018-2023

Figure 4 compares the levy-all fluctuations for the period of 2018-2023. In 2019, the long-standing Section 39 transfer payment was reduced from \$292,380 to \$150,940, which required a mid-year adjustment to the budget and also affected all future budgets. As a result of financial pressures on our Member Municipalities and the effects of COVID-19, 0% levy-all increases were implemented in 2020 and 2021.

Minimal to no increases are feasible in the short term but are not realistic for the long-term operation of the Authority. The 2023 budget requires a 2.35% increase in order to maintain its current level of service, which is consistent with cost-of-living increases.

# APPENDIX B: LEVY COST COMPARISON



FIGURE 5: 2023 COMPARED TO 2022 BUDGET LEVY- ALL COMPARISON

MUNICIPALITY	2023 CVA %	TOTAL LEVY 2023	<b>LEVY 2022</b>	Change	% Change
Thunder Bay	85.88%	925,238	904,875	20,363	2.25%
Conmee	0.439%	4,726	4,605	121	2.63%
Dorion	0.286%	3,076	3,097	-21	-0.68%
Gillies	0.250%	2,690	2,613	77	2.95%
Neebing	2.258%	24,323	23,509	814	3.46%
O'Connor	0.471%	5,078	4,914	164	3.34%
Oliver Paipoonge	5.496%	59,212	57,478	1,734	3.02%
Shuniah	4.916%	52,959	51,522	1,437	2.79%
TOTAL	100.00%	1,077,302	1,052,613	24,689	2.35%

The City of Thunder Bay total levy payable will also include their sole-benefitting levy.

The following table summarizes the annual levy cost per household, per resident and cost per \$100,000 of assessed value of property. It is noted that the resident numbers represent permanent residents and does not factor in seasonal residents.

Figure 6: Levy Cost

Municipality	Levy All	Number of	Cost Per	Number	Cost per	Current Value	Cost per
	2023	Households (2016)	Household	of Resident	Resident	Assessment \$ (2023)	\$100,000
***Thunder Bay	\$1,641,736	57,146	\$28.73	121,621	\$13.50	14,148,855,269	\$11.60
Conmee	\$4,726	327	\$14.45	816	\$5.79	72,279,070	\$6.54
Dorion	\$3,076	128	\$24.03	316	\$9.73	47,524,000	\$6.47
Gillies	\$2,690	201	\$13.38	474	\$5.68	41,138,785	\$6.54
Neebing	\$24,323	1,166	\$20.86	2,055	\$11.84	371,959,871	\$6.54
O'Connor	\$5,078	272	\$18.67	663	\$7.66	77,667,095	\$6.54
Oliver Paipoonge	\$59,211	2,289	\$25.87	5,922	\$10.00	905,494,420	\$6.54
Shuniah	\$52,959	2,130	\$24.86	2,798	\$18.93	809,877,315	\$6.54

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>City of Thunder Bay Includes Sole Benefiting Levy

16,474,795,825

# APPENDIX C: PASSED RESOLUTIONS



Thursday, Febru	uary 22, 2023	1)
Moved by	Affrer	1
Seconded by	hud	

**THAT:** the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority adopts the non-matching levy of \$1,642,922 **AND FURTHER THAT** all member municipalities are designated as benefitting and pay \$926,425 **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 pays \$716,497 **AND FURTHER THAT** each member municipality is to be advised of their apportionment of the non-matching levy.

Chair		



February 22, 2023

Moved by

Seconded by

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

Municipality	Member	Vote %	Vote
Conmee	Grant Arnold	1.56%	Yes
Dorion	Brent Cadeau	1.03%	N/A
Gillies	Rudy Buitenhuis	0.89%	Yes
Neebing	Brian Kurikka	8.00%	Yes
O'Connor	Jim Vezina	1.66%	Yes
Oliver Paipoonge	Dan Calvert	19.48%	Yes
Shuniah	Donna Blunt	17.38%	Yes
Thunder Bay	Sheelagh Hendrick	12.50%	Yes
Thunder Bay	Trevor Giertuga	12.50%	Yes
Thunder Bay	Albert Aiello	12.50%	Yes
Thunder Bay	Greg Johnsen	12.50%	Yes

(Approval requires 51%, based on the weighted percentage of those present)

Chair

dl Bluf

Res # 40 /23



Moved by

Seconded by

**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.

Chair

Res # 4/ /23



Moved by

Seconded by

**THAT:** in 2023 the following will be appropriated from the following reserves: Administrative Office Maintenance \$20,000; Vehicle and Equipment Reserve \$15,542; Conservation Area Major Maintenance Capital Reserve \$100,000; and Forest Management Reserve \$3,629.

Chair

Res # 42 /23



Moved by

Seconded by

**THAT:** the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2023 Budget Document, Version 3.0 for a total budget of \$2,892,484.

Chair Y



Moved by

Seconded by

**THAT:** having examined the accounts for the period January 1, 2023 to January 31, 2023 cheque #2783 to #2809 for \$28,164.55 and preauthorized payments of \$129,386.36 for a total of \$157,550.91, we approve their payment.

Chair