



**February LRCA Board Meeting**  
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority  
February 28, 2024 at 4:30 PM  
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:**

Albert Aiello, Grant Arnold, Donna Blunt, Rudy Buitenhuis, Dan Calvert, Sheelagh Hendrick, Brian Kurikka, Jim Vezina

**Members Present (Remote):**

Robert Beatty, Trevor Giertuga

**Members Absent:**

Greg Johnsen

**Also Present:**

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer

Mark Ambrose, Finance Officer

Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager

Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager

Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager

Melanie O'Riley, Administrative Clerk/Receptionist, recorder of Minutes

Michelle Willows, Environmental Planner, part of meeting

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*THAT: the Agenda be adopted as published.*

**Motion: #30/24**

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Albert Aiello. **CARRIED.**

**3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

*THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 70th Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 be adopted as published.*

**Motion: #31/24**

Motion moved by Albert Aiello and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. **CARRIED.**

#### **5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA**

No In-Camera Meeting was held.

#### **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None.

#### **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **7.1. Proclamation of Provisions of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and approval of O. Reg. 41/24 and update of O. Reg. 686/21**

Members reviewed and discussed correspondence received from Jennifer Keyes, Director of Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). Ms. Keyes was informing all Conservation Authorities of the proclamation of provisions of the *Conservation Authorities Act* as well as the approval of Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, and amendments to O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services made under the Act, all of which come into effect on April 1, 2024.

#### **8. STAFF REPORTS**

##### **8.1. Conservation Areas Survey**

Michelle Willows, Environmental Planner, presented to the Board the results of the online Conservation Areas Survey that was conducted between November 8, 2023 to December 8, 2023. It was noted that 866 responses to the survey were received. Most comments and suggestions were very positive. The survey will be used in the development of the Conservation Areas Strategy which is mandated to be completed by December 31, 2024.

*THAT: Staff Report CONAREA-01-2024 be received.*

**Motion: #32/24**

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Albert Aiello. **CARRIED.**

## **8.2. Victor Street Erosion 2023 Summary**

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report KAMEC-01-2024 which summarized the 2023 Victor Street Erosion Program.

*THAT: Staff Report KAMEC-01-2024 be received.*

**Motion: #33/24**

Motion moved by Albert Aiello and motion seconded by Dan Calvert. **CARRIED.**

## **8.3. 2023 Victor Street Monitoring Reports**

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report KAMEC-02-2024 related to the Victor Street Slope Monitoring Report.

*THAT Staff Report KAMEC-02-2024 and the Victor Street Slope Monitoring Report, dated August 10, 2023, and the Victor Street Slope Monitoring Report, dated November 24, 2023 be received.*

**Motion: #34/24**

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Albert Aiello. **CARRIED.**

## **8.4. 2023 Hazard Tree Removal Program**

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report LM-01-2024 which summarized the 2023 Hazard Tree Removal Program.

*THAT: Staff Report LM-01-2024 be received for information.*

**Motion: #35/24**

Motion moved by Grant Arnold and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. **CARRIED.**

## **8.5. 2023 Forest Management Plan: Annual Summary**

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FORMG-01-2024 which summarized the 2023 Forest Management Program.

*THAT: Staff Report FORMG-01-2024 be received.*

**Motion: #36/24**

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka and motion seconded by Grant Arnold. **CARRIED.**

## **9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report**

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

### **9.2. Remuneration of Members 2024 Update**

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-05-2024 which provided the remuneration rate for Members per Policy BOD-06.

*THAT: Staff Report CORP-05-2024 Remuneration of Members 2024 Update be received.*

**Motion: #37/24**

Motion moved by Grant Arnold and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. **CARRIED.**

## **10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS**

*THAT: having examined the accounts for the period January 1, 2024 to January 31, 2024 cheque #3131 to #3154 for \$108,647.08 and preauthorized payments of \$115,728.87 for a total of \$224,375.95, we approve their payment.*

**Motion: #38/24**

Motion moved by Rudy Buitenhuis and motion seconded by Grant Arnold. **CARRIED.**

## **11. REGULATORY ROLE**

Members were provided with the summaries of the Plan Input Review program and Section 28 permits issued since the last meeting.

## **12. PROJECTS UPDATE**

### **12.1. Communications Manager Projects Update**

Members were advised that the 2024 Conservation Dinner & Auction raised \$21,000 in profit after expenses.

Members were advised that Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager and Michelle Willows, Environmental Planner, successfully completed Part I and Part II of the Joint Health and Safety Committee certification training.

The Tree Seedling Program is scheduled to start on April 5, 2024. It was noted that Hill's Greenhouse had offered to donate the trees for the program in 2024 and requested that all earned revenue be used to fund Educational Programming.

It was noted that on August 24, 2024 the LRCA will be co-hosting along with the Municipality of Neebing a Fishing Derby on August 4<sup>th</sup> which coincides with the LRCA "Little Trout Day by the Bay" event.

### **12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update**

None.

### **12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update**

It was noted that the February 15, 2024 snow surveys indicated that the snow survey locations continued to be below average for snow depth and water content, when compared to the historical averages for February 15, and that the Level II low water advisory was still in effect.

It was noted that the LRCA's Watershed Biologist presented at the 2024 Invasive Species Forum about the Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites Collaborative, which was a virtual, week-long event that brought attention to invasive species issues, research, and advances in prevention and management occurring across Canada.

It was noted that seeds collected by LRCA's Environmental Technician and Watershed Biologist from the LRCA's Conservation Areas are growing at the City of Thunder Bay's Centennial Conservatory to an effort to provide City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead University and LRCA restoration projects with accessible native plants which have been adapted to the region and ecotype.

Members were provided an update on Stewardship Projects with secured funding for 2024; funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) will be used to restore riparian habitat along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway; the last year of a 4-year funding agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will be used to revegetate ten sites along the Lake Superior shoreline; Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) funding will be used to create, in partnership with the City of Thunder Bay, an engineered wetland at Boulevard Lake to manage stormwater, improve water quality and offer fish habitat; MECP and ECCC funding will continue to restore habitat at Fisherman's Park West; mature shoreline plantings will be installed along the Lake Superior shoreline and surrounding the new Water Street Overlook (installed by the City); and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has contracted the LRCA to service the sea lamprey traps on the Neebing and McIntyre Rivers.

## **13. NEW BUSINESS**

Members were advised that Tammy Cook, CAO, and Jessie McFadden, Watershed Biologist, presented to the Thunder Bay District Municipal League on February 29, 2024 in Nipigon related to challenges in Conservation.

Members were advised that office space has been rented to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). The NCC employee will work from the LRCA Office 3 days a week in the winter months and 1 day a week in the summer months. The agreement ends on December 31, 2024.

**14. NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

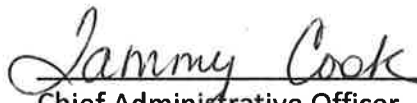
**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**THAT:** *the time being 5:30 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.*

**Motion: #39/24**

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. **CARRIED.**

  
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Chair

  
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Chief Administrative Officer