



# LAKEHEAD REGION

## CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority held on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, in the Authority Boardroom. The Chair called the Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Donna Blunt, Chair  
Grant Arnold, Vice-Chair  
Rudy Buitenhuis  
Erwin Butikofer  
Andrea Goold  
Umed Panu  
Allan Vis  
Jim Vezina

**REGRETS:** Ed Chambers  
Andrew Foulds  
Trevor Giertuga

**ALSO PRESENT:** Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gail Willis, Watershed Manager  
Mark Ambrose, Finance Manager  
Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager  
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager  
Melanie O'Riley, Receptionist/Admin Clerk, recorder of Minutes

### 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution #106/19

Moved by Umed Panu, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

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

### 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolution #107/19

Moved by Erwin Butikofer, Seconded by Umed Panu

***"THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Eighth Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 be adopted as published." CARRIED.***

**4. IN-CAMERA AGENDA**

An In-Camera meeting was not held.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) File: Printed Material

Printed material was circulated.

**7. STAFF REPORTS**

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report WM-03-2019 related to the 2019 Bathing Beach program at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area.

Resolution #108/19

Moved by Umed Panu, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

***"THAT: the Staff Report WM-03-2019 be received AND FURTHER THAT the recommendations contained therein are endorsed." CARRIED.***

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report LM-02-2019 related to the 2019 River Clean-Up Program. The Lands Manager gave a brief presentation outlining the program.

Resolution #109/19

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Allan Vis

***"THAT: Staff Report LM-02-2019 be received for information." CARRIED.***

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-04-2019 related to the 2019 Summer Maintenance Record for the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway.

Resolution #110/19

Moved by Allan Vis, Seconded by Grant Arnold

***“THAT: Staff Report NMFC-04-2019 be received for information.” CARRIED.***

#### **8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Members were provided with the monthly Treasurer’s Report for expenses and revenues for September plus totals to date for Administration, Capital and Vehicle and Equipment Program.

It was noted that the Canada Revenue Agency has confirmed that the LRCA’s Section 28 permits are exempt from HST, therefore HST will no longer be charged on permits.

It was noted that the Minister of MECP has requested individual meetings with all 36 Conservation Authorities, with him (If available) and his staff to discuss the programs and services provided by the individual Conservation Authorities. The CAO and Chair are scheduled to participate in a teleconference on November 7, 2019.

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report PIR-02-2019 regarding transitioning the Plan Input and Review program to a fee for service funding model.

Resolution #111/19

Moved by Erwin Butikofer, Seconded by Jim Vezina

***“THAT: the cost to provide the delegated Plan Input and Review mandatory program transitions to a fee for service funding model in order to reduce the municipal levy required for the program AND FURTHER THAT staff prepare a report outlining a transition plan including a fee structure, method for collection of fees and an effective date.” CARRIED.***

#### **9. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS**

Resolution #112/19

Moved by Grant Arnold, Seconded by Jim Vezina

***“THAT: having examined the accounts for the period of September 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019 cheque #1761 to #1780 for \$109,953.82 and preauthorized payments of \$64,090.36 for a total of \$174,044.18, we approve their payment.” CARRIED.***

## **10. REGULATORY ROLE – Circulation Binder**

The Plan Input and Review for the period from September 26, 2019, to October 30, 2019, was circulated.

The Permits issued for the period from September 26, 2019, to October 30, 2019, were circulated.

## **11. PROJECTS UPDATE**

Members were advised that due to record lake levels, high winds and wave uprush associated with the October 21, 2019 storm, extensive damage was sustained to the boardwalk and shoreline trail at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area. The boardwalk and shoreline portion of the trail were previously closed to the public; however, additional measures have been taken to restrict access to the areas. Removal of the damaged sections of the Boardwalk was completed by Adam Campbell Trucking at no charge. It was noted that the Insurance Company has been notified. A structural engineer will be hired in the Spring to assess, and at which time a decision will be made on repair, removal or reconstruction. Photos circulated.

It was noted that the Communications Manager was interviewed by CBC Radio's Gord Ellis at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area regarding Conservation Area upkeep and maintenance, vandalism and especially lack of payment for parking at Conservation Areas.

It was noted that the Lands Manager has painted all of the coin boxes bright colours to make them more noticeable. On October 15, 2019, Alloy Technical Welding donated the materials and their time to re-install the coin box at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area that was damaged and subsequently removed in 2011.

It was noted that in 2020, a trail counter will be placed on the LRCA Lookout Trail at Little Trout Bay Conservation Area to gauge the volume of users on the trail since connecting to the Nature Conservancy of Canada trail. A sign will be installed at the parking area reminding users of the \$2.00 parking fee.

The Communications Manager is working on developing the LRCA's Communication Strategy as per the 2019 LRCA Strategic Plan 2018-2022; once completed and Board-approved, it will be utilized to assist with Explore Card marketing.

It was noted that staff are working with Parks Canada regarding the possibility of a floating, removable dock and accessible kayak launch being installed at Hurkett Cove Conservation Area. Funds would be provided by Parks Canada to purchase the dock, with LRCA staff responsible for the annual installation.

It was noted The LRCA's 2019 Living Classroom programming has now concluded. Six different programs were held on Thursdays throughout the year, between May and October.

It was noted that 2019 Fall Waterfowl Viewing Day was held on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area. The event was sponsored by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the guided hike portion was led by Brian Ratcliff. Approximately 30 people attended the event.

It was noted that staff sold enough advertisements to fund the printing of 10,000 copies of the fundraising calendar as well as raising approximately \$520.00 after all expenses, which exceeds last year's calendar revenue.

Members were advised that the 2019 Christmas volunteer social is being held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at the LRCA Administrative Office.

Members were advised that the tickets to the 2020 Conservation Dinner & Auction were available. The event will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020 at The Da Vinci Centre. Staff have received verbal confirmation that the WestJet Gift of Flight and a Robert Bateman signed print will be donated as auction items.

Members were advised that the Lake Superior Shoreline Flood Watch was updated on October 10, 2019 in response to the high-water levels on Lake Superior.

Members were provided with an update related to the William Street Floodway Channel Dredging Project. A total of 4,526 cubic metres of dredged sediment from the Floodway Channel was delivered to the Thunder Bay Port Authority. The trail has been re-paved and has been reopened to the public.

It was noted that the Annual Floodway Inspection took place with the City of Thunder Bay.

It was noted that the 2019 Structure Inspections have been completed.

It was noted that a Low Water Response Meeting was not held this year for members of the Water Response Team due to the lack of provincial funding for the program and the fact that we have not been in a low water condition this year.

It was noted that on October 15, 2019, LRCA staff held a meeting with several agencies to discuss the Whitefish River flood event that occurred on June 4, 2019. Fourteen people attended the meeting from the Township of Gillies, Gillies Fire Rescue, Township of O'Connor, Lakehead District School Board, Whitefish Valley Public School, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of Transportation, Ontario Provincial Police, and staff from the LRCA. Discussion focused on opportunities for improvements to the flood warning system, inter-agency and methods of communication, engaging volunteers to monitor conditions, school emergency and evacuation plans, emergency preparedness for residents and potential funding.

Several actions were discussed and it was recommended that Whitefish Valley Public School be added to the Flood Message distribution list, the School Boards and the Whitefish Valley Public School Principal be added to the call out list for all Flood Warnings, and Whitefish Valley Public School define their criteria for school closures during flood events.

Members were advised that Indigenous 101 Training hosted by the Township of Conmee was attended by staff.

It was noted that staff attended the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) official trail opening. Additionally, staff attended the official trail opening ceremonies on-site at the NCC Memory Road location. The joint signage was installed in the Little Trout Bay Conservation Area pavilion.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 27, 2019, at 4:30 p.m.

14. AJOURNMENT

Resolution #113/19

Moved by Jim Vezina, Seconded by Erwin Butikofer

***"THAT: the time being 5:18 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn." CARRIED.***

  
Chair

  
Chief Administrative Officer