LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

June LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
June 25, 2026, at 4:30 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present:
Albert Aiello, Robert Beatty, Donna Blunt, Rudy Buitenhuis, Dan Calvert, Trevor Giertuga (part of Meeting), Sheelagh Hendrick, Jim Vezina

Members Present (Remote):
Grant Arnold, Greg Johnsen

Members Not Present:
Brian Kurikka

Also Present:
Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer
Mark Ambrose, Finance Manager
Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager
Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager
Melanie O'Riley, Administrative Clerk/Receptionist, recorder of Minutes
Gary Ramsdale (Deputation), 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: #77/26

Motion moved by Rudy Buitenhuis and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. ***CARRIED.***

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT: *the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 5th Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 be adopted as published.*

Motion: #78/26

Motion moved by Robert Beatty and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. ***CARRIED.***

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

No In-Camera meeting was held.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Delegation

Mr. Gary Ramsdale provided a delegation to the Board regarding recommendations to improve the Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area causeway boat launch area and parking lot.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Channel Vegetation Clearing - Design, Tender and Contract Administration

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-02-2026 related to permitting the Chief Administration Officer to award the Contract for the Design, Tender and Contract Administration of the 2026 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Channel Vegetation Removal project following a competitive Request for Proposal before the next scheduled Board Meeting on August 26, 2026.

THAT: *the Chief Administrative Officer is permitted to award the Contract for the Design, Tender and Contract Administration of the 2026 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Channel Vegetation Removal project following a competitive Request for Proposal process and before the next scheduled Board Meeting on August 26, 2026.*

Motion: #79/26

Motion moved by Rudy Buitenhuis and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. ***CARRIED.***

8.2. Conservation Lands Strategy - Action Item Tracking January 2025 to June 2026

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report LM-03-2026 related to the Conservation Lands Strategy Action Tracking program.

THAT: *Staff Report LM-03-2026 entitled Conservation Lands Strategy Action Tracking, January 2025 to June 2026, be received for information.*

Motion: #80/26

Motion moved by Robert Beatty and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. ***CARRIED.***

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report

Members were provided with the Monthly Treasurer's Report for May's Administration and Capital.

9.2. Preliminary 2027 Budget Levy Review

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FIN-09-2026 related to the 2027 preliminary budget levy.

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

THAT: *having examined the accounts for the period May 1, 2026 to May 31, 2026 cheque #3861 to #3879 for $289,689.86 and preauthorized payments of $172,013.46 for a total of $461,703.32, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #81/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. ***CARRIED.***

11. REGULATORY ROLE

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

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

12.1. Communications Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the 2026 Children's Water Festival was very successful with a total of 267 students from 12 different schools participating.

It was noted that the Mills Block Conservation Area Grand Opening Event will take place on July 9, 2026.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

It was noted that members and clients of the Northwest Community Health Centre assisted in a clean-up along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway (Thunder Centre) behind the LCBO to Home Depot.

It was noted that a Notice to Vacate was issued to a person(s) who had set up an encampment at Wishart Conservation Area. Members were provided with a verbal update at the meeting that the encampment person(s) had left the area.

It was noted that the final stages of the Mills Block Redevelopment Project were near completion.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that at the request of the City of Thunder Bay Engineering and Operations Division, LRCA staff have begun surface water sampling along Mosquito Creek and Pennock Creek.

It was noted that the annual Neebing-McIntyre Floodway inspection will take place on July 17, 2026.

It was noted that Staff participated in a virtual public meeting on June 10, 2026, for the Coastal Resilience Management Plan project which provided the public with an update on the project.

It was noted that Staff have begun bathing beach sampling at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area and Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area. Cyanobacteria (formerly known as blue-green algae) monitoring, sampling, and cyanotoxin testing will also be conducted weekly as part of the Bathing Beach Program.

12.4. Stewardship Manager/Biologist Projects Update

It was noted that an opening ceremony with Elder Cindy Crowe and project partners was held at the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Indigenous Community Medicine Garden, next to the Hope and Memory Garden was well attended on June 5, 2026. A memorial bench was installed within the Garden to honour Indigenous lives taken in the community. Local artist Shelby Gagnon will be painting the bench with community members in the next coming months.

It was noted that the LRCA's Stewardship Team had completed site visits for both streams of the 2026 Shoreline Protection Program. Funding was received by MECP for nine applicants to receive plants, through the cyanobacteria steam of the program, and up to 200 plants were allocated for shoreline restoration at Hurkett Cove Conservation Area. Funding was received from MNR for nine applicants to receive plants through the Thunder Bay Area of Concern stream and up to 200 plants were allocated for riparian restoration along the McIntyre River at Confederation College.

It was noted that the LRCA Stewardship Team hosted a spring native plant sale on June 12, 2026. Sales from that day and pre-sale plant kits totaled 632 native plants sold.

It was noted that on June 13, 2026, approximately 40 Scouts Canada volunteers joined LRCA staff to install an additional 250 plants in the LRCA Office Rain Garden.

It was noted that the LRCA received funding from the Thunder Bay Rotary Club for the installation of a cold frame greenhouse located at the LRCA Administration Office grounds.

It was noted that LRCA Stewardship staff planted 80 black and white spruce seedlings along the new path at Mills Block Conservation Area.

It was noted that the LRCA Office Pollinator Garden will be showcased during an upcoming Watershed Explores event, titled "Traditional Foods and Medicines" on July 15, 2026. This event was funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Donna Blunt, Chair, requested the Board Members and LRCA Managers to provide comments to her for Tammy Cook's, (CAO), annual performance review.

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report LM-04-2026 related to the contract award for the Design of a New Urban Conservation Area to JML Engineering Ltd.

THAT: *the contract for the Design of a New Urban Conservation Area be awarded to JML Engineering Ltd. at a cost of $41,600.00 not including HST* ***AND FURTHER THAT*** *$12,332.16 will be appropriated from the Urban Conservation Reserve.*

Motion: #82/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. ***CARRIED.***

Members discussed the Delegation provided by Mr. Gary Ramsdale regarding recommendations to improve the Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area causeway boat launch area and parking lot. Staff were directed to bring a Staff Report to the August Board Meeting related to the recommendations provided in the deputation.

14. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion: #83/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Dan Calvert. ***CARRIED.***

Donna Blunt
Chair

Tammy Cook
Chief Administrative Officer