LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

August LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
August 26, 2026, at 4:30 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present:
Robert Beatty, Donna Blunt, Dan Calvert, Sheelagh Hendrick, Greg Johnsen, Brian Kurikka, Jim Vezina

Members Not Present:
Albert Aiello, Grant Arnold, Rudy Buitenhuis, Trevor Giertuga

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

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: #84/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Greg Johnsen. ***CARRIED.***

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT: *the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Sixth Regular Meeting held on Thursday, June 25, 2026 be adopted as published.*

Motion: #85/26

Motion moved by Greg Johnsen 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

None.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area Deputation Considerations

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CONAREA-02-2026 related to the Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area Deputation provided by Gary Ramsdale at the June 25, 2026 Board Meeting.

THAT: *Staff Report CONAREA-02-2026 entitled Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area Deputation Considerations* ***AND FURTHER THAT*** *the staff recommendations in the report are approved.*

Motion: #86/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Greg Johnsen. ***CARRIED.***

8.2. Traffic Counter Report – 2025

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CONAREA-03-2026 related to the 2025 Traffic Counter Report. It was noted that approximately 39% of visitors pay the parking fee/day use fee via pay and display, coin box, online or Explore Card. It was also noted that revenue had decreased by 7% compared to 2024.

THAT: *the Staff Report CONAREA-03-2026 entitled Traffic Counter Report-2025 be received for information.*

Motion: #87/26

Motion moved by Greg Johnsen and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. ***CARRIED.***

8.3. Neebing McIntyre Floodway Vegetation Clearing and Site Grading - Consultant Services Award

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-03-2026 related to the Neebing/McIntyre Floodway Vegetation Clearing and Site Grading Project. As per Resolution #79/26, the Chief Administrative Officer had awarded the Contract for the Design, Tender and Contract Administration of the 2026 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Channel Vegetation Removal project to North Rock Engineering.

THAT: *for information and as per Resolution #79/26, the Chief Administrative Officer has awarded the Contract for the Design, Tender and Contract Administration of the 2026 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Channel Vegetation Removal project to North Rock Engineering.*

Motion: #88/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Greg Johnsen. ***CARRIED.***

8.4. Current River Floodplain Mapping - Proposal to Combine Phase I and Phase II in 2026

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FPMAP-02-2026 related to the Current River Floodplain Mapping, with Phase I and Phase II being completed together. It was noted that completing Phase I and Phase II combined would result in approximately a $25,000.00 (not including HST) cost saving.

THAT: *Phase I and Phase II of the Current River Floodplain Mapping study be completed in conjunction for a total cost of $232,048.00, not including HST.*

Motion: #89/26

Motion moved by Greg Johnsen and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. ***CARRIED.***

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report

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

9.2. Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities - August Update

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-07-2026 related to the Consolidation of Conservation Authorities August Update. It was noted that OPCA has hired 8 Project Executives to lead the consolidation of the 8 other regional Conservation Authorities. It was noted that Tammy Cook, CAO, will fill the role of both Project Executive and local CAO for the LRCA during the transition to NWORCA.

Members reviewed and discussed the LRCA's comments on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Posting #026-0740 which was included in the Staff Report CORP-07-2026. Comments will be submitted supporting the proposed NWORCA Board Structure.

THAT: *Report CORP-07-2026 entitled Consolidation of Conservation Authorities August Update, be received for information.*

Motion: #90/26

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. ***CARRIED.***

THAT: *proposed LRCA comments on Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Posting #026-0740 included in report CORP-07-2026 are approved* ***AND FURTHER THAT*** *the comments will be posted on the ERO.*

Motion: #91/26

Motion moved by Jim Vezina and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. ***CARRIED.***

9.3. 2027 Draft Budget

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FIN-10-2026 related to LRCA's 2027 draft budget, for consultation purposes. The 2027 Draft Budget proposed a 4.07% increase to levy-all compared to 2026, with the City's projected increase including their sole-benefitting levy at 11.17%. It was noted that the increase to the City of Thunder Bay is primarily due to recovering floodplain mapping fees paid by the LRCA to complete City of Thunder Bay requested updates to the Current River Floodplain Mapping. The final budget will be considered at the November Meeting. The Draft Budget will be distributed to all Member Municipalities.

THAT*: the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority approves the 2027 Draft Budget, Version 1.0, dated August 26, 2026, for consultation purposes.*

Motion: #92/26

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

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

THAT: *having examined the accounts for the period June 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026 cheque #3880 to #3902 for $143,403.19 and preauthorized payments of $174,642 for a total of $318,045.19, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #93/26

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

THAT: *having examined the accounts for the period July 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026 cheque #3903 to #3933 for $174,946.14 and preauthorized payments of $185,528.41 for a total of $360,474.55, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #94/26

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. ***CARRIED.***

11. REGULATORY ROLE

Members were provided with the Plan 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 Mills Block Conservation Area Grand Re-Opening was well attended and a huge success with the LRCA Chair and CAO, MPP Kevin Holland, Mayor Ken Boscoff, Paul Pepe all participating in the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

It was noted that all 10 Conservation Areas have new merchandise available for sale online or in person at the LRCA's Administrative Office.

It was noted that Silver Harbour Day was cancelled due to lack of participating organizations and staff capacity.

It was noted that the 2026 Little Trout Bay Fish Derby was a huge success with 27 teams registered. It was also noted that the number of spectators coming out for the weight-in has been steadily increasing over the last 3 years.

It was noted that the Communications Manager and Lands Manager will attend the Lakehead University student orientation on September 3, 2026.

It was noted that the LRCA will host a Tequila Tasting Fundraising Event at Whitewater Golf Course on October 9, 2026.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

Members were provided with an update on the completed Mills Block Conservation Area Re-Development project.

It was noted that trail brushing was completed Wishart Conservation Area and Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway annual inspection was conducted on July 24, 2026, with the City of Thunder Bay.

It was noted that the LRCA hosted a regional Water Day in conjunction with the Ontario Hydrometric Program Coordinating Committee.

It was noted that a Level I Low Water Condition was declared on August 17, 2026.

12.4. Stewardship Manager/Biologist Projects Update

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Members were advised that the LRCA will be changing their benefit provider on October 1, 2026.

14. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: *the time being 5:34 p.m.* ***AND FURTHER THAT*** *there being no further business we adjourn.*

Motion: #95/26

Motion moved by Robert Beatty and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. ***CARRIED.***

Donna Blunt
Chair

Tammy Cook
Chief Administrative Officer