



LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

May LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
May 29, 2024 at 4:30 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Donna Blunt, Rudy Buitenhuis, Dan Calvert, Trevor Giertuga, Greg Johnsen, Brian Kurikka, Jim Vezina

Members Present (Virtual): Grant Arnold

Members Absent: Albert Aiello, Robert Beatty, Sheelagh Hendrick

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

Rosy Brizi, Grant Thornton LLP, part of Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was amended to reflect that no In-Camera Meeting was going to be held.

THAT: the Agenda be adopted as amended.

Motion: #64/24

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. **CARRIED.**

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 4th Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 be adopted as published.

Motion: #65/24

Motion moved by Dan Calvert 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 Conservation Ontario comments on the “Regulation detailing new Minister’s Permit and Review powers under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.”

Members discussed correspondence received from Conservation Ontario related to the “Regulation detailing new Minister’s Permit and Review powers under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.”

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. GIC Purchase

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FIN-08-2024 related to the purchase of a GIC.

THAT: the purchase of \$6,500,000 GIC for one year maturing May 8, 2024, at a rate of 4.86% be approved.

Motion: #66/24

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka and motion seconded by Dan Calvert. **CARRIED.**

8.2 Audited Financial Statements

Members reviewed and discussed the draft Audited Financial Statements, presented by Rosy Brizi, Grant Thornton LLP.

THAT: *the 2023 Audit Report and Financial Statements are adopted as presented AND FURTHER THAT each Member Municipality will be forwarded a copy of the final version.*

Motion: #67/24

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. **CARRIED.**

8.3 NMFC-04-2024 Neebing McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study Report

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-04-2024 related to the final Neebing McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study Report.

THAT: *the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study completed by KGS Group, May 2024, be approved.*

Motion: #68/24

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

8.4 CORP-08-2024: Conservation Area Strategy

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-08-2024 regarding the first draft of LRCA's Conservation Area Strategy, presented by Michelle Willows, Environmental Planner.

THAT: *Staff Report CORP-08-2024 be received.*

Motion: #69/24

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka 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 April's Administration and Capital.

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

THAT: having examined the accounts for the period April 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024 cheque #3210 to #3242 for \$168,825.31 and preauthorized payments of \$ 171,306.12 for a total of \$340,131.43, we approve their payment.

Motion: #70/24

Motion moved by Jim Vezina and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. **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 Dorion Birding Festival was successful. 77 people participated on the first day and 51 people participated on the second day. 101 species of birds were sighted.

Members were advised that the Wine Tasting Event was successful with 80 tickets sold. The event generated a profit of \$6,800.00 after expenses.

It was noted that the Lakehead Conservation Foundation will not be holding a Dinner Auction in 2025 and will be exploring other fundraising opportunities.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

Members were advised that as per the Forest Management Plan for Wishart Conservation Area, Block 2 will be harvested during the summer and fall month of 2024. It was noted that there are no active trails in Block 2; therefore, the Wishart Conservation Area will not be closed to the public.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that on May 10, 2024 the LRCA downgraded the Level II Low Water Condition to a Level I Condition.

It was noted that LRCA Staff participated in the Lake Superior Partnership Management Committee meeting and the Kaministiquia River Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting.

Members were advised that the Provincial (Stream Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) sampling program had begun for the season.

Members were advised that the LRCA Greenhouse had been filled with hundreds of native perennial seedlings grown from sustainably harvested seeds from LRCA's Conservation Areas. A plant sale is planned for early June, with funds raised going to the Stewardship Program.

It was noted that LRCA staff met with the funders from the Invasive Species Centre to discuss Invasive Phragmites Management in the Thunder Bay area.

It was noted that the Hurkett Cove Invasive Cattail project is pending final approval through Parks Canada.

It was noted that the Shoreline Protection Program has reached capacity for the 2024 season.

Members were advised that the LRCA had been contracted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to monitor the sea lamprey traps on the McIntyre and Neebing Rivers for the 2024 season. A permanent trap (currently portable traps are used) is scheduled to be installed at the Neebing River weir by DFO in 2024.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being 5:54 p.m. **AND FURTHER THAT** there being no further business we adjourn.

Motion: #71/24

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


Chair


Chief Administrative Officer