



September LRCA Board Meeting Minutes
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
September 25, 2024 at 4:30 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Albert Aiello, Grant Arnold, Robert Beatty, Donna Blunt, Rudy Buitenhuis, Dan Calvert, Sheelagh Hendrick, Greg Johnsen, Brian Kurikka, Jim Vezina

Members Present Virtually: Trevor Giertuga

Also Present:

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer

Mark Ambrose, Finance Officer

Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager

Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager

Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager

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

Leo Desmoulin, 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: #95/24

Motion moved by Dan Calvert 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 Seventh Regular Meeting held on August 28, 2024 be adopted as published.

Motion: #96/24

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

5. DELEGATION

Mr. Leo Desmoulin presented to the Board his request to use the LRCA's "Triangle" property located off of Fort William Road to hold a one day event on October 6, 2024.

6. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

THAT: we now go into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) at 4:44 p.m.

Motion: #97/24

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

THAT: we go into Open Meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Motion: #98/24

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

THAT: the In-Camera Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority August 28, 2024 meeting be adopted as published.

Motion: #99/24

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

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that correspondence was received from the City of Thunder Bay regarding the 2025 Budget.

9. STAFF REPORTS

9.1. Administrative Review Policy

Members reviewed and discussed Development Regulations Policy DEVREG-04-2024 related to the process for Administrative Review under Section 8 of O. Reg. 41/24.

***THAT:** Development Regulations Policy DEVREG-04-2024, Process for Administrative Review under Section 8 of O. Reg. 41/24 be adopted.*

Motion: #100/24

Moved by Rudy Buitenhuis and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. **CARRIED.**

9.1.1. Conservation Lands Strategy Approval

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-10-2024 related to the Conservation Lands Strategy.

***THAT:** Staff Report CORP-10-2024 be received **AND FURTHER THAT** the Conservation Lands Strategy Version 1.0 be approved.*

Motion: #101/24

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

10. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

10.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report

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

11. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

***THAT:** having examined the accounts for the period August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024 cheque #3318 to #3348 for \$117,117.83 and preauthorized payments of \$138,395.56 for a total of \$255,513.39, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #102/24

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

12. REGULATORY ROLE

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

13. PROJECTS UPDATE

13.1. Communications Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the Fall Mushroom Hike was well attended with 39 people participating. The hike was led by fungi expert Dr. Leonard Hutchison of Lakehead University with the assistance of his grad student Ben Bohemier and former grad student Wren Mangelli.

Members were advised that Staff collaborated with mycology student Ben Bohemier on an advanced field mycology workshop featuring an innovative method of cataloguing mushroom and fungus samples for the purpose of DNA sequencing to improve the datasets of fungi in Northwestern Ontario.

Members were advised that the Communications Manager and Development Regulations Officer attended the Blake Hall 100th Anniversary Event in the Municipality of Neebing. LRCA's booth focused on regulations, flood warning system and stewardship.

It was noted that the third Neebing Birding Day event was held. This is part of a larger, self-drive, self-guided Sandhill Crane Festival that runs from September 8 - 27. Approximately 2,250 Sandhill Cranes were observed at time of writing.

13.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the consultant had started designing the new Parking Lot and AODA trail at Mills Block Conservation Area.

It was noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Superior North Disc Golf for the collaboration and development and maintenance of a Disc Golf Course at Silver Harbour Conservation Area had been signed.

13.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has updated the Provincial Ground Water Monitoring Network (PGMN) Exceedance Protocol. Previously, MECP would notify regarding all exceedances, going forward only new exceedances and repeat exceedances of anthropogenic origin (i.e., nitrates) will be subject to notification. Any exceedances previously reported and considered naturally occurring will not be subject to notification. It was clarified that referenced Neebing exceedances referred to the Neebing River PGMN well site and not the Municipality of Neebing.

It was noted that Lake Superior water levels were drier than average for the month of August.

It was noted that the Boulevard Lake Wetland project was on schedule. The project is a partnership between the LRCA and the City of Thunder Bay and generously funded by MECP's Wetland Conservation Partner Program.

It was noted that KGS Group had installed four level loggers on the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway and Staff have been trained on their operation. The level loggers record water levels along the Floodway to assist with the LRCA's Flood Forecasting Program as well as the Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance of the Floodway.

14. NEW BUSINESS

In response to Mr. Leo Desmoulin's deputation in regard to the use of LRCA owned Triangle property for a one-day event, the following resolution was adopted.

THAT: the Board of Directors approve Mr. Leo Desmoulin's land use request to hold a single event on the triangle property in 2024 provided all required permits, approvals and insurance are obtained AND FURTHER THAT the adjacent property owners are notified.

Motion: #103/24

Motion moved by Albert Aiello and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. **CARRIED.**

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 30, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being 5:24 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.

Motion: #104/24

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


Chair


Chief Administrative Officer