



March LRCA Board Meeting

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams
2025-03-26 16:30 - 18:00 EDT

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Declaration: "The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the lands on which we live and work are the traditional lands of the Anishinabek Nation and the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850. As partners in the conservation and protection of the Lakehead Watershed along with First Nations communities, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and other Indigenous peoples, the LRCA is committed to the common vision of a healthy, safe and sustainable Lakehead Watershed."

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

THAT: the Agenda is adopted as published.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

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THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 2nd Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 to be adopted as published.

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5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

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

THAT: we go into Open Meeting at _____ p.m. THAT: the In-Camera Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority February 26, 2025 meeting be adopted as published.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Emergency Heating Equipment Replacement at LRCA Administrative Building.....10

THAT : an emergency purchase of a new boiler and split wall mounted air conditioner/heating units with inverters be purchased from Allied Air, with the total cost being appropriated from the Administrative Maintenance Reserve, be approved.

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8.2. Lakehead Coastal Resilience Shoreline Management Plan - Project Award Recommendation.....12

THAT: the proposal submitted by _____ dated March 24,

2025 to complete the Lakehead Coastal Resilience Shoreline Management Plan be accepted for a cost of \$_____, not including HST be approved.

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8.3. Maps of Regulated Areas - Annual Update 2024.....15

THAT: Staff Report DEVREG-03-2025 be received AND FURTHER THAT the updates 1001 to 1020 to LRCA Screening Maps be approved.

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8.4. Strategic Plan Annual Report.....21

THAT: Staff Report STRAT-01-2025 be received.

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9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report.....32

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10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS.....33

THAT: having examined the accounts for the period February 1, 2025 to February 28, 2025 cheque #3487 to #3506 for \$12,699.33 and preauthorized payments of \$129,374.25 for a total of \$142,073.58, we approve their payment.

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12. PROJECTS UPDATE

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12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

None.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update.....45

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13. NEW BUSINESS

14. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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



February LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
February 26, 2025 at 4:30 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Albert Aiello, Robert Beatty, Donna Blunt, Rudy Buitenhuis, Dan Calvert, Trevor Giertuga, Sheelagh Hendrick, Greg Johnsen, Brian Kurikka, Jim Vezina

Members Present (Remote):

Grant Arnold

Also Present:

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer
Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager
Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager
Melanie O'Riley, Administrative Clerk/Receptionist, recorder of Minutes
John Collin, City Manager, City of Thunder Bay, part of Meeting
Deanna Walker, Manager, Reality Services, City of Thunder Bay, part of Meeting
Rilee Willianen, Encampment Response Plan Lead, City of Thunder Bay, 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: #35/25

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 71st Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 be adopted as published.*

Motion: #36/25

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

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

THAT: *we now go into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) at 4:32 p.m.*

Motion: #37/25

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

THAT: *we go into Open Meeting at 6:15 p.m.*

Motion: #38/25

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

THAT: *the In-Camera Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority January 29, 2025 meeting be adopted as published.*

Motion: #39/25

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

City of Thunder Bay representatives left the meeting.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Kam River Erosion Control, Victor Broadway - Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Plan – 2025

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report KAMEC-01-2025 related to Kam River Erosion Control, Victor Broadway Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Program.

THAT: Staff Report KAMEC-01-2025 be received.

Motion: #40/25

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

8.2. 2024 Victor Street Monitoring Reports

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report KAMEC-02-2024 related to the 2024 Victor Street Slope Monitoring Reports.

THAT: Staff Report KAMEC-02-2024 and the Victor Street Slope Monitoring Report, dated October 4, 2024, and the Victor Street Slope Monitoring Report, dated December 5, 2024 be received.

Motion: #41/25

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

8.3. 2024 Asset Management Plan Strategy Update

Members reviewed Staff Report LM-03-2025 related to updates to the 2024 Asset Management Plan Strategy.

THAT: Staff Report LM-03-2025 be received for information.

Motion: #42/25

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 January's Administration and Capital.

9.2. Administrative By-Law Update

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report Policy-By-Law No. 1, Administrative By-Law Version 6.0. The Administrative By-Law was amended to incorporate various updates as recommended by Conservation Ontario in order to improve and keep the document current.

THAT: Administrative By-Law No. 1/2018, Version 6.0 be approved.

Motion: #43/25

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

9.3. Conservation Authorities Act Hearing Guidelines Update

Members reviewed and discussed Policy-DEVREG-09-2025 related to the updated LRCA's *Conservation Authorities Act Hearing Guidelines* (Version 4.0) to reflect the various changes to the Act and the enactment of O.Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits.

THAT: Conservation Authorities Act Hearing Guidelines, Version 4.0 be approved.

Motion: #44/25

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

9.4. Remuneration of Members 2025 Policy Update

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report Policy-BOD-06-2025 which updated the per diem rate and provided the 2025 remuneration rate for Members per the policy.

THAT: Board Policy BOD-06: Remuneration of Members be amended as outlined in Staff Report Policy BOD-06-2025.

Motion: #45/25

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

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

THAT: having examined the accounts for the period January 1, 2025 to January 31, 2025 cheque #3459 to #3486 for \$88,507.82 and preauthorized payments of \$126,286.88 for a total of \$214,794.70, we approve their payment.

Motion: #46/25

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

11. REGULATORY ROLE

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

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

12.1. Communication Manager Projects Update

Members were advised that the LRCA will be participating at the CLE Spring Home & Garden Show in April.

Members were advised that the Education Coordinator will be conducting education programs in partnership with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board (TBCDSB) in March. A financial contribution of \$4,700 from TBCDSB was made to carry out the program.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

None.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that February 14, 2025 snow surveys indicated that the snow survey locations were slightly below average for snow depth and water content, when compared to the historical averages for February 15.

It was noted that the water level of Lake Superior continues to be below average.

It was noted that LRCA staff presented at the “2025 Invasive Species Forum” related to the Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites Collaboration. It was noted that LRCA Environmental Planner, Michelle Willows and Watershed Biologist, Jessie McFadden were awarded a “Leadership Award” by the Sault Ste. Marie-based Invasive Species Centre, a non-profit organization, on their efforts to remove and control invasive phragmites.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being 6:27 p.m. **AND FURTHER THAT** there being no further business we adjourn.

Motion: #47/25

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

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer



PROGRAM AREA	LAND MANAGEMENT	REPORT NO.	LM-06-2025
DATE PREPARED	March 18, 2025	FILE NO.	
MEETING DATE	March 26, 2025		
SUBJECT	Emergency Heating Equipment Replacement at LRCA Administrative Building		

RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Resolution

“THAT: an emergency purchase of a new boiler and split wall mounted air conditioner/heating units with inverters be purchased from Allied Air, with the total cost being appropriated from the Administrative Maintenance Reserve, be approved.”

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN (2023-2027)

n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to failure, the Triangle Tube Boiler unit which heats the Administrative Building and two split and wall mounted air conditioners with heating capabilities located in the front office area were replaced. The approximate cost of the equipment and installation is \$17,000.00 for the boiler unit and \$7,800.00 for the air units. Funds will be appropriated from the Administrative Maintenance Reserve for the replacements. Both assets were listed in the Asset Management Plan for replacement in 2027.

DISCUSSION

On March 6, 2025, the heat exchange unit within the current Triangle Tube Boiler which heats the LRCA Administrative Building failed. A strong natural gas odour was detected within the Boiler Room, which resulted in staff turning off the boiler and contacting Enbridge Gas. A technician then confirmed the gas leak. Allied Air then determined the failure was within the heat exchange unit. It was determined that several of the metal studs which secure the top lid of the heat exchanger warped and broke causing the seal on the unit to become compromised resulting in a natural gas leak. The unit was unable to be repaired and required replacement. It was also discovered at the same time that the two split wall mounted air conditioners with heating capabilities (air source heat pump) were also not operational due to a leak in the condenser coil within the outdoor unit and also required replacement. The boiler unit was replaced with the

current Triangle Tube Boiler model which outputs 3,999 BTUs and the two split wall mounted air conditioning/heating units were replaced by the equivalent Canadian made Napoleon brand units.

During the repair the office was heated with Allied Air supplied electric space heaters and other wall mounted air source heat pumps installed in the building.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of the new boiler is \$17,000.00 and split wall mounted air conditioner/heating units is \$7,800.00. Once actual costs are determined funds will be appropriated from the Administrative Maintenance Reserve. A follow up report will be forthcoming to the Board once actual costs are known. The Administrative Reserve has adequate funds to accommodate this expenditure. The Asset Management Plan will be reassessed in 2026 during the next scheduled update.

CONCLUSION

Due to failure, emergency replacements of the LRCA Administrative Office boiler unit and two split wall mounted air conditioning/heating units were completed.

BACKGROUND

The Triangle Tube Boiler unit was installed in 2010, the split wall mounted air condition units were installed in 2012. The boiler and units were both identified in the Asset Management Plan for replacement in 2027.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

N/A

PREPARED BY:

Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager

THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY:  Tammy Cook Chief Administrative Officer	DATE: March 19, 2025
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PROGRAM AREA	Floodplain Mapping	REPORT NO.	FPMAP-01-2025
DATE PREPARED	March 18, 2025	FILE NO.	9-12-4
MEETING DATE	March 26, 2025		
SUBJECT	Lakehead Coastal Resilience Shoreline Management Plan (Lake Superior Coastal Study)		

RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Resolution:

"THAT: the proposal submitted by _____ dated March 24, 2025 to complete the Lakehead Coastal Resilience Shoreline Management Plan be accepted for a cost of \$_____, not including HST be approved."

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Links to the Strategic Plan (2023-2027):

Conserve and Sustain:

- Engage stakeholders, the environmental community, and our watershed residents in a collective effort to protect, restore, and enhance our local environment through stewardship programs, strategies, and best management and sustainable practices.
- Manage land holdings through systemic evaluations, inventories, and strategies.
- Collaborate and partner with agencies and community organizations to take action in the protection of natural habitats and ecosystems, share decision-making, and address emerging issues that impact the health and sustainability of the Lakehead watershed.
- Increase the availability of data and knowledge to our partners and the public.

Protect and Support:

- Increase capacity to issue relevant and timely flood messaging by utilizing technology and best practices to enhance the flood-readiness of our partners.
- Promote and implement programs to alleviate the impacts of climate change, habitat degradation, and threats to biodiversity.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Request for Proposal to complete a Lakehead Coastal Resilience Shoreline Management Plan was released on February 19, 2025 to six consultants including Hatch Ltd., Stantec, WSP, DHI Group, KGS Group and Zuzek Inc. Submissions are due on March 24, 2025 at 2:00 pm. Proposal

have not yet been received at the time of writing this Staff Report. Staff will review and evaluate all proposals submitted to provide a recommendation for proposal acceptance at the time of the March 26, 2025 Board meeting.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the project will be funded through Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Program (facilitated by Conservation Ontario) in the amount of \$651,000; the remaining 25% includes \$78,500 in-kind and \$153,500 from LRCA's Risk of Natural Hazard Deferred Fund. In-kind contributions include room rental, overhead, historical air photos and communication material.

DISCUSSION

A Request for Proposal (RFP) to complete a Lakehead Coastal Resilience Shoreline Management Plan was released on February 19, 2025 to six consultants including Hatch Ltd., Stantec, WSP, DHI Group, KGS Group and Zuzek Inc. Submissions are due on March 24, 2025 at 2:00 pm. The submitted bids will be reviewed by LRCA's CAO and the Watershed Manager once received. As outlined in the RFP, the bids will be scored based on set criteria. Staff will provide a recommendation for award at the time of the March 26, 2025 Board meeting.

The main goal of the project will be to map the Lake Superior Shoreline current and future flooding and erosion hazards and collectively develop a Shoreline Management Plan for use by both the applicable municipalities and the LRCA. Lake Superior flood and erosion hazard mapping has not been completed in the LRCA Area of Jurisdiction and is considered to be data gap for implementing the delegated responsibilities related to Section 28 Regulations and Plan Review. Currently, the 100-year flood elevation provided by MNR in their Technical Guidelines is used to delineate the flood hazard in conjunction with the 15-metre adjacent area. Erosion hazards if present, must be assessed by the individual proponent, as determined by a site visit by LRCA staff. It is anticipated that the deliverables will be used in the following mandatory program areas: Flood Forecasting and Warning, Plan Review, Development Regulations, CA Owned Land Management and Source Water Protection.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

LRCA partnered with Conservation Ontario in a joint funding application to NRCan. LRCA's total budget for the project is estimated to be \$883,500, with NRCan funding approximately 75% of the project (\$651,000). The remaining 25% will be funded by LRCA and includes \$78,500 in-kind, and \$153,500 in matching funds from the Risk of Natural Hazard Deferred Fund, which currently has approximately \$225,000 available. In-kind contributions include room rental, overhead, historical air photos and communication materials.

Budget Information:

- Requested amount from NRCan: **\$651,500**
- In-kind: **\$78,500**
- Cash from other sources: **\$153,500** (LRCA Risk of Natural Hazards deferred funds)
- Total project value: **\$883,500.00**

CONCLUSION

Staff will recommend a consultant be awarded the project at the time of the Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

Staff worked with Conservation Ontario and other Great Lake Conservation Authorities to submit a joint funding application to the Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Program being led by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). Staff Report CORP-03-2024 reviewed at the January 31, 2024 Board meeting explains the project and the funding program, and Resolution #24/24 resolved '**THAT: the Board of Director's support the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's application in conjunction with Conservation Ontario to Natural Resources Canada Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Program AND FUTHER THAT** the matching 25% funding will be acquired from the Risk of Natural Hazard Deferred Fund and in-kind contributions **AND FURTHER THAT** if the application is successful the CAO and Chair are authorized to enter into a Grant Agreement for the 'Lakehead Coastal Resilience Management Plan Pilot Project'."

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

None.

PREPARED BY: Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager

THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY:	DATE:
 Tammy Cook Chief Administrative Officer	March 20, 2025



PROGRAM AREA	Development Regulations	REPORT NO.	DEVREG-03-2025
DATE PREPARED	March 10, 2025	FILE NO.	11-6-3
MEETING DATE	March 26, 2025		
SUBJECT	Maps of Regulated Areas – Annual Update		

RECOMMENDATION

“THAT: Staff Report DEVREG-03-2025 be received AND FURTHER THAT the updates 1001 to 1020 to LRCA Screening Maps be approved.”

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Links to the Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027):

Protect and Support:

- *Create and update policies, guidance documents and technical data to streamline the LRCA approvals process that provides transparency of process and rules of service.*
- *Prioritize and promote the protection and management of natural hazards, wetlands and natural heritage features within the LRCA Area of Jurisdiction.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report marks the first annual update to LRCA's Maps of Regulated Areas and follows procedures listed in LRCA Policy DEVREG-08: *Maps of Regulated Areas under Section 4 of O. Reg. 41/24*. Since April 1, 2024, minor amendments to the regulated area have occurred based on:

1. The finalization of an update to LRCA's floodplain mapping completed by Water's Edge in 2024, and
2. Site-specific field investigations completed by LRCA staff to support the Plan Review and Section 28 Development Regulations program areas.

Table 1 (attached) summarizes the updates that have occurred between April 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. The draft updated Screening Maps are available in printed copy at the LRCA office for review (in the 'Meeting Room'). To track and reference changes to the mapping, LRCA have created a 'Change ID #' that is listed in Table 1; this value is linked to the Geographic Information System (GIS) metadata and can be found referenced on the Screening Map revision blocks.

Once the mapping updates are approved, LRCA staff will adopt the updated GIS layers for use in creating site specific maps used to facilitate the Plan Review and Section 28 program areas, the GIS layer in LRCAs Online Mapping Tool will be updated, and the updated Screening Maps will be uploaded to LRCAs website, available at the following link: <https://lakeheadca.com/regulations/screening-maps-1>

DISCUSSION

On April 1, 2024, the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CA Act) was amended, and Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits was enacted, bringing into force new legislative and regulatory requirements associated with Conservation Authority (CA) permitting including details regarding CA maps of regulated areas. The updated legislation requires CAs to update the maps of regulated areas annually and make the maps available to the public with a copy available at the CAs head office as well as posted to their website. On April 1, 2024, LRCA maps of regulated areas were updated to reflect the recent changes in legislation, most notably by delineating the regulated area around wetlands (“other areas”) to be consistent at 30 m, including around provincially significant wetlands (previously 120 m).

In response to the new legislative and regulatory requirements, LRCA staff created policy: DEVREG-08, Maps of Regulated Areas under Section 4 of O. Reg. 41/24 that was approved by the Board of Directors on January 29, 2025. This policy details how LRCA staff will undertake annual updates to its regulated area mapping including the recording and tracking of all required changes and updates of regulatory mapping produced. This first annual update of LRCA’s maps of regulated areas follows the procedures listed in the DEVREG-08 Policy.

Since April 1, 2024, minor amendments to the regulated area have occurred based on:

1. The finalization of an update to LRCAs floodplain mapping completed by Water’s Edge in 2024, and
2. Site-specific field investigations completed by LRCA staff to support the Plan Review and Section 28 Development Regulations program areas.

Water’s Edge was retained in 2023 to complete updates to the LRCA’s GIS floodplain mapping layers, and the hydrologic and hydraulic models for the watersheds within the City of Thunder Bay based on permits issued by the LRCA since 2015 (note, 2015 was the date of the first update to the floodplain mapping, McIntyre River, completed by HMM). The 2023 floodplain model/mapping update project was approved by the Board at the May 29, 2023 meeting (refer to Staff Report FPMAP-01-2023). Table 2 below summarizes the number of permits issued within the floodplain of each watershed between 2015 and 2022, if the hydrologic/hydraulic models were updated, and the number of locations where the mapping was required to be updated as part of this annual update.

Table 1. Summary of Water's Edge Floodplain Model/Mapping Updates, (2015-2022).

Watershed	Number of LRCA Permits Issued within Floodplain (2015 – 2022)	VO Model Updated (Hydrologic Model)	HEC-RAS Model Updated (Hydraulic Model)	Number of General Mapping Updates Required
McIntyre River	17	No	Yes	3
Neebing River	9	No	Yes	4
McVicar Creek	6	No	Yes	5
Kaministiquia River	0	No	No	0
Mosquito Creek	1	No	No	0
Pennock Creek	0	No	No	0
Total	33			12

In summary, three (3) locations along the McIntyre River watershed were updated, four (4) within the Neebing River watershed and five (5) within the McVicar Creek watershed. There were no changes required to the Kaministiquia River floodplain mapping, nor the Mosquito Creek or Pennock Creek mapping as a result of the Water's Edge study. The changes to the floodplain mapping completed by Water's Edge are considered minor in nature and no existing infrastructure is shown to be impacted by the minor changes to the flood and fill lines.

Site specific field investigations completed in 2024 by LRCA staff in support of the Plan Review and Section 28 Development Regulations program areas have also resulted in changes to the maps of regulated areas. A total of 8 minor changes were required to either wetlands, hazardous lands or watercourses. Details of the rationale for the update and reference to a property or file are included in Table 1 (attached) under 'Update Rationale'.

CONCLUSION

A total of 20 minor updates to LRCA's maps of regulated areas were undertaken in 2024. Updates consisted of minor changes to the extents of floodplain areas based on:

1. The finalization of an update to LRCA's floodplain mapping completed by Water's Edge in 2024, or
2. Site-specific field investigations to support LRCA's Plan Review and Section 28 Development Regulations program areas.

The updates did not impact any existing infrastructure (i.e., the floodplain extents did not change to impact existing infrastructure).

BACKGROUND

On April 1, 2024, the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CA Act) was amended, and Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits was enacted, bringing into force new

legislative and regulatory requirements associated with Conservation Authority (CA) permitting including details regarding CA maps of regulated areas (also referred to as Screening Maps). The updated legislation requires CAs to update the maps of regulated areas annually and make the maps available to the public with a copy available at the CAs head office as well as posted to their website.

Regulated Areas within the LRCA Area of Jurisdiction include:

- All watercourses that meet the definition in O. Reg. 41/24, including streams, rivers, creeks plus adjacent area,
- Wetlands that meet the definition in the *Conservation Authorities Act* plus 30 meters surrounding the wetland,
- In-land lakes and shorelines,
- 15 metres landward and one kilometre lakeward from the 100-year flood level of Lake Superior,
- Ravines, valleys, steep slopes, and talus slopes,
- Hazardous lands including unstable soil and bedrock, and
- Property zoned “Use Limitation”, “Hazard Land” and “Environmental Protection”.

LRCA’s maps of regulated areas were originally created in 2005 following Conservation Ontario’s Guidelines for Developing Schedules of Regulated Areas. Fifteen (15), 1:20,000 scale maps were developed within LRCA’s area of jurisdiction organized by the geographic townships within each of the member municipalities. Since their development, the maps have been used in facilitating LRCA’s Plan Review and Section 28 Development Regulations program areas. The maps have been updated since 2005 when required based on changes in legislation, site specific field investigations and information, new studies (e.g., floodplain mapping), etc.).

On April 1, 2024, LRCA’s maps of regulated areas were updated to reflect the updated legislation (O. Reg. 41/24), namely, by delineating the regulated area around wetlands (“other areas”) to be consistent at 30 m, including around provincially significant wetlands (previously 120 m).

This annual update includes changes to the maps of regulated areas that occurred between April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 based on information from the Water’s Edge Project (updates to floodplain models and mapping between 2015 and 2022) and based on LRCA staff site specific field investigations.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

- Table 1: Maps of Regulated Areas – LRCA Annual Update, 2024. Summary of Updates Completed, April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.
- Water’s Edge Reports to be circulated at the meeting.
- Draft Updated Screening Maps – Available for Review in the ‘Meeting Room’ of LRCA’s Office

PREPARED BY: Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager

THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY:	DATE:
	March 20, 2025
Tammy Cook	
Chief Administrative Officer	

Revision Date	LRCA Change ID*	Municipality	Geographic Township	LRCA Screening Map ID#	Feature(s) Edited	Location	Explanation of Change	Update Rationale	LRCA Staff Completed Update	X	Y
2024-05-28	1001	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	PSW, Evaluated Wetland	Marina Park	Added a PSW, evaluated wetland and 30m buffer	LRCA Wetland evaluation was completed by MW & JM for the City of Thunder Bay - Marnia Park	SD	335415.6555	5366084.127
2024-07-30	1002	Needing	Scoble	11	Hazard Land, Stream	11 Podre's Road East	Removed hazard land, re-aligned stream	Site visit - creek in different location then mapping based off site visit - MS (July 2024). Potential Purchaser - Misc. File. Moore, Chris	SD	306073.3481	5349485.425
2024-09-10	1003	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Evaluated Wetland	1091 Central Avenue	Removed evaluated wetland and buffer	Wetland does not have a surface water connection and is hydraulically isolated - Forum Development -Stantec. Gen. Inquiry (December 2024)- Site visit MS & MH- 2024	SD	331489.9647	5364224.689
2024-11-12	1004	Oliver Paipoonge	Oliver & Paipoonge	2 & 3	Hazard Land	OPG Kakabeka Dam	Added regulated area based on hazardous slope	October 2024 MS/MH site visit - Misc File - Kakabeka Falls Generating Station Redevelopment Project	SD	306199.9875	5363947.131
2024-12-04	1005	Gillies	Gillies	10	Hazard Land, Unevaluated Wetland	21 McKechnie Road	Removed hazard land and unevaluated wetland	Wetland does not have surface water connection and is hydraulically isolated - Nov. 2024 - site visit MS & MH - Misc File - 21 McKechnie Rd, Hymers	SD	300029.4146	5354250.918
2025-01-10	1006	Oliver Paipoonge	Oliver	2	Evaluated Wetland	8 Wideman Drive	Removed evaluated wetland and buffer	Wetland does not have a surface water connection and is hydraulically isolated. Desk top exercise. Potential Purchaser - Gen Inquiry - June 2024	SD	315869.2778	5364767.974
2025-01-14	1007	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Evaluated Wetland	300 Owen Drive	Edited evaluated wetland and buffer	Wetland boundary corrected based off of MS site visit - July 2024 - LRCA Permit 71/24 - Owen, Thomas	SD	327861.6319	5365789.652
2025-02-06	1008	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	River Street	Updated a section of floodplain at River St	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, McVicar Creek	SD	335833.1593	5368053.738
2025-02-06	1009	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	Hinton Avenue	Updated a section of floodplain at Hinton Ave	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, McVicar Creek	SD	334586.2892	5369311.764
2025-02-06	1010	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	Belton Street	Updated a section of floodplain at Belton St	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, McVicar Creek	SD	334721.0991	5371895.829
2025-02-06	1011	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	788/822 Onion Lake Road	Updated a section of floodplain at Onion Lake Rd	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, McVicar Creek	SD	334458.1867	5373753.06
2025-02-06	1012	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	Hazelwood Drive	Updated a section of floodplain at Hazelwood Dr	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, McVicar Creek	SD	331447.1309	5372502.154
2025-01-27	1013	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	1450 Nakina Drive	Updated a section of floodplain at Con College	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, McIntyre River	SD	332198.4905	5363328.296
2025-01-27	1014	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	Golf Links Road	Updated a section of floodplain at Golf Links Rd	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, McIntyre River	SD	332418.8816	5367522.292
2025-01-27	1015	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	Woodcrest Road	Updated a section of floodplain at Woodcrest Rd	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, McIntyre River	SD	331046.0243	5368114.156
2025-01-27	1016	City of Thunder Bay	Needing	5	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	Edward Street North	Updated a section of floodplain at Edward St N	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, Needing River	SD	331311.404	5361892.397
2025-01-27	1017	City of Thunder Bay	Needing	5	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	4065 Garden Avenue	Updated a section of floodplain at Garden Ave	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, Needing River	SD	326477.9123	5361484.343
2025-01-27	1018	City of Thunder Bay	Needing	5	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	Mapleward Road	Updated a section of floodplain at Mapleward Rd	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, Needing River	SD	325646.7657	5362827.663
2025-01-27	1019	City of Thunder Bay	McIntyre	4	Flood & Fill Line/Polygon, Reg Area	Law Road	Updated a section of floodplain at Law Rd	Floodplain Model Mapping Update, Waters Edge Study 2023, Needing River	SD	322771.4558	5372879.458
2025-02-27	1020	City of Thunder Bay	Needing	5	Unevaluated Wetland, Evaluated Wetland	3053 20th Side Road	Updated UW to EW, boundary change	NorthWinds Environmental Services - Lacewood Wetland Study Sept 2024 - Fairview Estates/Lacewood Subdivision - 58T-17501	SD	324882.1911	5360635.968



PROGRAM AREA	Strategic Plan	REPORT NO.	STRAT-01-2025
DATE PREPARED	March 17, 2025	FILE NO.	49-4-2
MEETING DATE	March 26, 2025		
SUBJECT	Strategic Plan Annual Report, January 2024 - December 2024		

RECOMMENDATION

"THAT: Staff Report STRAT-01-2025 be received."

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

All sections.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority adopted its second Strategic Plan for the period of 2023-2027. This report and attached summary table summarizes completed actions for the period of January 2023 to December 2024. This is the second summary report for the LRCA Five-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Future summary reports will be completed each January summarizing progress of the 2023-2027 Five-Year Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan for 2023-2027 was completed internally and adopted by the Board of Directors on November 23, 2022 (Resolution #126/22).

DISCUSSION

This report summarizes the key action items that have been completed by the Authority during 2024.

The attached Strategic Plan Action Item Tracking Table goes into detail breaking down completed and proposed action items under each of the four priorities of the Strategic Plan and each priority's corresponding initiatives.

2024 was the second year of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan was valuable as a guidance document for staff during 2024. Staff were successful in completing new initiatives and action items that emerged from the most recent strategic planning process, as outlined in the attached summary document.

Overall, the Strategic Plan continues to help staff achieve the primary goal of effective and

efficient public engagement, increasing awareness of the Authority, reaffirming commitment to accountable and transparent governance, continuing to protect people and property from the natural hazards of riverine flooding and erosion through robust natural hazards programs, maintaining a stable financial model, and a strong commitment to the well being of staff.

While the creation of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan includes many new initiatives, there is some carry-over from the completed 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. Some of the initiatives from the completed Strategic Plan still have relevance for the next five years and will continue to serve as guideposts for staff to follow. The completed Strategic Plan also served as an excellent starting point and template for the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

The completed Conservation Lands Strategy and Watershed-Based Resources Management Plan will be utilized in conjunction with the Strategic Plan to further achieve the goals and objectives of the LRCA during this current Strategic Plan phase and into the future.

Some outstanding action items that will carry over into the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan include:

- **Conserve & Sustain**
 - Explore KBA status at Hurkett Cove and Mission Island Marsh
- **Protect & Support**
 - Lake Superior Shoreline flood hazard assessment and management plan (subject to funding)
 - Develop a predictive flood model (Coastal Study currently underway)
 - Create a flood access and egress policy
 - Create protocol for issuing Lake Superior shoreline high water level messaging (as part of the Coastal Study)
 - Create a wetland policy
 - Meet with MNR regarding flooding issues within shared watersheds
- **Connect & Explore**
 - New Hazelwood Lake trailhead signage
 - New trail development at Cedar Falls and Cascades
 - New outhouses at Hazelwood Lake
 - Stairs and railings at Hazelwood Lake dock area
- **Govern & Enhance**
 - Create land acquisition policy (completed)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONCLUSION

The Strategic Plan is instrumental in directing workplans and projects in an effort to achieve the goals as set out in the Strategic Plan. The primary focus of the Authority for the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan period is effective and efficient public engagement, increasing awareness of the Authority, reaffirming commitment to accountable and transparent governance, continuing to protect people and property from the natural hazards of riverine flooding and erosion through robust natural hazards programs, maintaining a stable financial model, and a strong commitment to the well being of staff.

BACKGROUND

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Five Year Strategic Plan 2018-2022 was adopted by the Board on January 31, 2018 (Resolution #14/18). Since its adoption, the Strategic Plan has served as a tool for the Board and staff of the LRCA to help guide decision-making processes and project development during the five-year Strategic Plan period.

The LRCA Five-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027 was completed by staff in consultation with the Board of Directors during 2022 and was adopted by the Board on November 23, 2022 (Resolution #126/22).

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

- Strategic Plan Action Item Tracking Table January 2024 to December 2024

PREPARED BY:

Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager

REVIEWED BY:

THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY:  Tammy Cook Chief Administrative Officer	DATE: March 20, 2025
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2023 - 2027 LRCA STRATEGIC PLAN: Action Item Tracking – January 2024 - December 2024

CONSERVE & SUSTAIN		PROTECT & SUPPORT		CONNECT & EXPLORE		GOVERN & ENHANCE	
<i>Enhance the management and sustainability of natural habitats and ecosystems through an integrated approach.</i>		<i>Safeguard people, property and communities through robust watershed management.</i>		<i>Maximize intergenerational educational, engagement, and recreational opportunities through strong collaborations.</i>		<i>Distinguish the organization as a leader in environmentally-sustainable practices and responsible stewardship.</i>	
INITIATIVES → Action Items		INITIATIVES → Action Items		INITIATIVES → Action Items		INITIATIVES → Action Items	
<i>Engage stakeholders, the environmental community, and our watershed residents in a collective effort to protect, restore, and enhance our local environment through stewardship programs, strategies, and best management and sustainable practices.</i>		<i>Increase capacity to issue relevant and timely flood messaging by utilizing technology and best practices to enhance the flood-readiness of our partners.</i>		<i>Provide spaces, opportunities and experiences that focus on physical and mental well-being through a connection to the land.</i>		<i>Continue to commit to accountable and transparent organizational governance.</i>	
Proposed	Completed	Proposed	Completed	Proposed	Completed	Proposed	Completed
2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sixth and seventh sites (Waterford and Hope & Memory) to be restored as part of the Floodway habitat restoration Neebing Weir riparian restoration Hazelwood Lake Shoreline Restoration Cyanobacteria Shoreline Protection Program Development of invasive species strategy Nest box monitoring program Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Invasive Species management 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third year of Superior Stewards Shoreline Protection Program Balmoral Bridge Floodway Habitat Corridor project Various invasive species pulls throughout watershed Continued work at Fisherman's Park West coastal wetland restoration Boulevard Lake Shoreline Naturalization Project Mountdale Boat Launch riparian planting Pool 6 Shoreline Planting Narrowleaf Cattail monitoring and mapping project Continued Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites 	2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore daily flood planning cycle automation Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create protocol for issuing Lake Superior Shoreline high water level messaging 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Damage Centre mapping created for all floodplain mapped watersheds 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mills Block re-development project Install new outhouse at Hazelwood Create partnership agreement with TBCDSB Install mermaid statues at Silver Harbour Dive Park Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop urban CA at office location 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repaved AODA loop trail and parking lot at Cascades New Silver Harbour Dive Park AODA washroom at Cascades 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated work on Mills Block parking lot expansion Installed new outhouse at Cascades Held the first-ever Little Trout Bay Fishing Derby Initiated partnership for disc golf at Silver Harbour 	2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Admin By-Law Update Hearing Guidelines Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Admin. By-Law Updated Fees Policy 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created Conservation Areas/Lands Strategy Created Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy Created Administrative Review Policy Created Section 28 Permit Timelines policy Created Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy Completed all required legislative changes as outlined by the Province

2023 - 2027 LRCA STRATEGIC PLAN: Action Item Tracking – January 2024 - December 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued work at Fisherman's Park West Continued planting and maintenance of Boulevard Lake Wetland Ongoing collaboration with Parks Canada and NCC on Hurkett Cove Cattail project Continue Seeds for Conservation Program Continue Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites Collaboration monitoring and management 	<p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative community meetings LRCA native plants grown and planted First year of Seed Collection Program Final year of Shoreline Protection Program Continued work at Fisherman's Park West Revegetation of Lake Superior waterfront shoreline along Water Street Fifth site (Redwood) restored as part of the Floodway habitat restoration Launched Seeds for Conservation program Ongoing Invasive Species management Continued Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites Collaboration Hurkett Cove Invasive Cattail monitoring and management project Engineered wetland creation at Boulevard Lake 				
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2023 - 2027 LRCA STRATEGIC PLAN: Action Item Tracking – January 2024 - December 2024

<i>Manage land holdings through systemic evaluations, inventories, and strategies.</i>		<i>Create and update policies, guidance documents and technical data to streamline the LRCA approvals process that provides transparency of process and rules of service.</i>		<i>Engage diverse stakeholders through effective communications, outreach, and education initiatives.</i>		<i>Find and implement efficiencies and streamline processes across all program areas.</i>	
<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LRCA property wetland assessments • Conservation Area ecological inventories • Create Land Inspection policy Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore KBA status at Hurkett Cove and Mission Island Marsh • Traffic Counter Surveys • Bathing Beach Studies at Mission Island Marsh and Hazelwood Lake Conservation Areas • Cyano Bacteria Monitoring at Conservation Areas 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Areas Inspections • Mills Block orchid assessment and inventory • Initiated biodiversity assessment of Admin. Office property • Initial Cyano bacteria monitoring in Conservation Areas 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created Conservation Areas Strategy • Created Land Acquisition/Disposition Policy • Jim Jessiman Nature Preserve Wetland Assessment 	2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Hearing Guidelines Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a predictive flood model (subject to funding) • Create a wetland policy • Create a flood access and egress policy 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floodplain mapping update 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created Administrative Review Policy • Created Section 28 Permit Timelines and Compliance Reporting Policy • Update Rules of Procedure for Permit Application Review and Approval • Created Interim Guidelines for the Administration and Implementation of O. Reg. 41/24 • Created Transitional Procedures and Guidelines (180/06 to 41/24) • Created Pre-Submission and Complete Application Policy • Created Maps of Regulated Areas Policy • Initiated Lakehead Coastal Resilience Management Plan 	2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete website re-design project • Create partnership agreement with TBCDSB Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly updates in Member Municipality monthly newsletters • Regular digital newsletter updates 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted CA Visitor Survey 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held the LRCA's 70th Anniversary Celebration event • Initiated website re-design project • Held first-ever "trivia night" event 	2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Remuneration of Members Policy Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitization of records 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated RRSP Policy • Joined OMERS • Merged deferred funds for greater financial efficiency 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Tangible Capital Assets policy • Created Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy • Updated Corporate Services Policy • Created Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy • Created Conservation Lands Strategy

2023 - 2027 LRCA STRATEGIC PLAN: Action Item Tracking – January 2024 - December 2024

Collaborate and partner with agencies and community organizations to take action in the protection of natural habitats and ecosystems, share decision-making, and address emerging issues that impact the health and sustainability of the Lakehead watershed.		Continue maintaining and enhancing flood control infrastructure in an effort to minimize the impacts of riverine flooding, erosion, and sedimentation.		Grow partnerships, collaborations and relationships with new and existing partners who share the LRCA's Vision and Mission.		Maintain a stable model of financial resiliency based on capacity, capabilities, and public expectations by maximizing new funding opportunities, fundraising and self-generated revenue.	
Proposed	Completed	Proposed	Completed	Proposed	Completed	Proposed	Completed
2025 Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea Lamprey mitigation program • Hope and Memory Garden collaborative project • 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiated partnership opportunities with the City of Thunder Bay and Lakehead University for LRCA to supply native seeds for use in local habitat projects 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began Sea Lamprey mitigation program • Initiated Hope and Memory Garden collaborative project • Seeds for Conservation program launched 	2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual sediment monitoring 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floodway integrity study initiated • Diversion Channel Survey • Close cut clearing in Diversion Channel 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real time monitoring devices installed on the Floodway • Flood message colours painted on Diversion Structure • Overtopping Banks Assessment • Integrity Study Completed 	2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create partnership agreement with TBCDSB Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed new event with Dorset Pier Mental Health 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held the first-ever Little Trout Bay Fishing Derby • Initiated partnership for disc golf at Silver Harbour • Initiated Hope and Memory Garden collaborative project • Created Hope and Memory Garden SOP 	2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create partnership agreement with TBCDSB Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pay and display units upgraded to accept debit and tap • Installed pay and display unit at Silver Harbour 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

2023 - 2027 LRCA STRATEGIC PLAN: Action Item Tracking – January 2024 - December 2024

<i>Increase the availability of data and knowledge to our partners and the public.</i>		<i>Prioritize and promote the protection and management of natural hazards, wetlands and natural heritage features within the LRCA Area of Jurisdiction.</i>		<i>Manage and enhance recreational areas for current and future generations through robust land management, efficient maintenance programs and reinvestment in the land.</i>		<i>Build upon and nurture a healthy, diverse, and positive workplace through a dynamic culture of learning, safety, inclusion, and mental well-being.</i>	
Proposed	Completed	Proposed	Completed	Proposed	Completed	Proposed	Completed
2025 • Ongoing •	2023 • Fish contaminants education and outreach project • Created new fact sheets: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Regulated Areas Maps○ Fish Consumption○ Invasive Cattails○ Invasive Phragmites○ Updated Mills Block, Wishart, Conservation Areas and General Inquiries 2024 •	2025 • Ongoing •	2023 • Two staff became certified as Ontario Wetland Evaluation System Evaluators • Pool 6 site wetland evaluated 2024 •	2025 • New outhouses at Hazelwood Lake • Signage re-design and sign design guidance • Pool 6 site wetland evaluated Ongoing • New Hazelwood Lake trailhead signage • New trail development at Cedar Falls and Cascades • Stairs and railings at Hazelwood Lake dock area • New Silver Harbour entrance sign	2023 • Installation of EZ Dock accessible kayak launch at Hazelwood Lake • Installation of Pay and Display at Silver Harbour • Installation of Memorial Bench at Hazelwood in memory of Dave Olson • Re-decking and levelling of dock at Little Trout Bay • Guard rail repairs at Hazelwood • Infographic signage installed at all CAs • Block barrier installed in parking lot at Little Trout Bay • Additional staff trained as Provincial Offences Officers • Installed fishing line recycling units at select CAs 2024 • Created Conservation Areas/Lands strategy • Create Land Acquisition and	2025 • Completion of 5 Health & Safety Policies • Participation in Health and Safety Excellence Program • Office ergonomics assessment • Pay equity and pay scale review Ongoing •	2023 • Office plumbing upgrade • Office electrical upgrade • Installation of EV Charger at office • Completed Competent Supervisor Training • Created 4 new Health and Safety Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sharps○ Participation○ First Aid○ Communication 2024 • Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC)Training • Establishment of the JHSC

2023 - 2027 LRCA STRATEGIC PLAN: Action Item Tracking – January 2024 - December 2024

					Disposition Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port-a-Potty at Hazelwood Lake • Installation of EZ Dock accessible kayak launch at Little Trout Bay • New Cascades Entrance Sign 		
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	Promote and implement programs to alleviate the impacts of climate change, habitat degradation, and threats to biodiversity.				Continue to work with Indigenous partners and community members to incorporate traditional knowledge and practices into programming and organizational decision-making.
Proposed	Completed				
2025 • Ongoing •	2023 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiated Lakehead Coastal Resilience Shoreline Management Plan • Final year of Shoreline Protection Program • Continued work at Fisherman's Park West • Revegetation of Lake Superior waterfront shoreline along Water Street • Fifth site (Redwood) restored as part of the Floodway habitat restoration • Launched Seeds for Conservation program 				

2023 - 2027 LRCA STRATEGIC PLAN: Action Item Tracking – January 2024 - December 2024

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing Invasive Species management • Continued Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites Collaboration • Hurkett Cove Invasive Cattail monitoring and management project • Engineered wetland creation at Boulevard Lake 		
<i>Align watershed decision-making with stakeholders both within and outside of the jurisdiction.</i>				
<i>Proposed</i>		<i>Completed</i>		
2025 • Ongoing • Meet with MNRF regarding flooding issues within shared watersheds	2023	2024 • Continued Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites Collaboration • Initial Cyano bacteria monitoring in Conservation Areas •		
<i>Build organizational capacity to provide new and developing program areas.</i>				
<i>Proposed</i>		<i>Completed</i>		
2025 • Ongoing •	2023	2024 • Continued fish contaminant study partnership with Fort William First Nation 2025 •		
<i>Build organizational capacity to provide new and developing program areas.</i>				
<i>Proposed</i>		<i>Completed</i>		
2025 • Hire Planning & Regulations Technician position • Ongoing •	2023	2024 • Hired Watershed Stewardship Technician Intern • Watershed Biologist became full-time permanent position		

2023 - 2027 LRCA STRATEGIC PLAN: Action Item Tracking – January 2024 - December 2024

						<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-aligned IT and GIS program areas
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2025 TREASURER'S REPORT MONTHLY EXPENSES				
	2025 BUDGET	February	TOTAL TO DATE	BALANCE REMAINING
REVENUE				
Provincial Grants	316,923	1,982	89,943	226,980
Municipal Levy	1,913,993	-	1,913,993	-
Self Generated	684,785	85,114	129,609	555,176
Other Revenue	1,659,262	110,809	125,459	1,533,803
TOTAL REVENUE	4,574,963	197,905	2,259,005	2,315,958
EXPENSES				
Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services				
Corporate Services	895,324	56,656	143,710	751,614
Risk of Natural Hazards	2,085,099	24,304	62,851	2,022,248
Conservation and Management of Lands owned and controlled by the Authority	1,044,201	27,397	57,130	987,071
Source Water Protection	55,883	7,080	19,266	36,617
Other Programs and Services	22,104	562	2,385	19,719
Total Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services	4,102,611	115,999	285,343	3,817,268
Category 2 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services at the Request of a Municipality				
Mapping Services	18,527	-	-	18,527
Total Category 2 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services at the Request of a Municipality	18,527	-	-	18,527
Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services				
Education	99,481	4,901	10,175	89,306
Stewardship	354,344	12,416	26,201	328,143
Other		-	-	-
Total Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services	453,825	17,317	36,375	417,450
Total All Expenses	4,574,963	133,316	321,718	4,253,245



March 26, 2025

Moved By

Seconded By

"THAT: having examined the accounts for the period February 1, 2025 to February 28, 2025 cheque #3487 to #3506 for \$12,699.33 and preauthorized payments of \$129,374.25 for a total of \$142,073.58, we approve their payment."

3487	Allied Air Systems	Boiler adjustment	209.05
3488	Atikokan Economic Development Corporation	Participating Partner	10.00
3489	Municipality Of Oliver Paipoonge	Draft Subdivision Reimbursed did not go forward.	2,000.00
3490	Municipality Of Shuniah	Property Taxes	875.09
3491	Void	Void	0.00
3492	RAS Maintenance Services	Office Cleaning	386.43
3493	Sportop Marketing	Staff position jackets	2,965.85
3494	Thunder Bay Answering Service Inc.	Answering Service	277.36
3495	United Way	Community Volunteer Fair -February 26-27, 2025	20.00
3496	Walleye Media Inc	Advertising in the Walleye magazine	335.61
3497	Capstone Development and Training	PON refresher course training for R. Gilliam, R. Harris, M. Willows	180.80
3498	Gary Davies	4 duck nesting boxes	70.06
3499	Innovated Solutions	March Firewall Security	872.93
3500	Minister of Finance..	Property Taxes	252.70
3501	Municipality Of Neebing	Property Taxes	56.59
3502	Municipality Of Oliver Paipoonge	Property Taxes	1,743.22
3503	Township of O'Connor	Property Taxes	46.44
3504	Mark Ambrose	Petty cash	310.10
3505	Englobe Corp.	Victor St Monitoring Nov 2024	1,887.10
3506	Thunder Bay District Municipal League	Mar 6 Workshop	200.00
			<hr/> 12,699.33
PA	Payroll and Per Diems		86,434.91
PA	Royal Bank Group Retirement RRSP and TFSA		1,663.92
PA	RWAM and Lifeworks Benefits		4,844.39
PA	Enbridge		-
PA	Synergy North		-
PA	Esso		968.40
PA	Visa Routine Monthly Expenses		14,778.97
PA	Banking and Visa Fees		423.26
PA	Postage		-
PA	Omers January		19,973.50
PA	Photocopier Lease		286.90
PA	Property Taxes		-
PA	GIC		<hr/> 129,374.25
			<hr/> 142,073.58

Res# _____/25

Chair

Monthly Plan Input/Review and Fill Regulations Administration

February 1 to 28, 2025

Municipality	Minor Variance (A)	Consent (B)	Official Plan	Official Plan Comprehensive Review	Zoning By-Law (Z)	Subdivisions	Clearances	Reality Services	Lawyer Inquiries	Letter of Opinion (Other)	Total
City of Thunder Bay					Z-13-2024			279 Bay Street 635 Fulton Blvd 218 Vickers Street N 420 Leslie Ave	304 105th Street 201 106th Street	1112 Russell Street	
Total	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	2	1	8
Oliver Paipoonge		1B/01/25			ZBLA01-2025						
Total	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
O'Connor											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neebing					Z01-2025						
Total	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shuniah	A24-4										
Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Conmee											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gillies											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorion											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Planning Board		1B/02/2025									
		1B/03/2025									
	Total	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Monthly Total	1	3	0	0	3	0	0	4	2	1	14

Monthly Plan Input/Review and Fill Regulations Administration March 1 to 20, 2025

Municipality	Minor Variance (A)	Consent (B)	Official Plan	Official Plan/ Zoning By-Law Comprehensive Review	Zoning By-Law (z)	Subdivisions	Clearances	Reality Services	Lawyer Inquiries	Letter of Opinion (Other)	Total
City of Thunder Bay					Z-01-2025			Elizabeth Street Laneway 1700 Neebing Avenue			
	Total	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Oliver Paipoonge					ZBLA02-2025						
	Total	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
O'Connor											
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neebing											
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shuniah											
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Conmee											
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Gillies											
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorion											
	Total	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rural Planning Board											
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monthly Total	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	6



Monthly Project Update

MEETING DATE	March 26, 2025
STAFF NAME	Ryan Mackett
POSITION	Communications Manager

2024 Annual Report

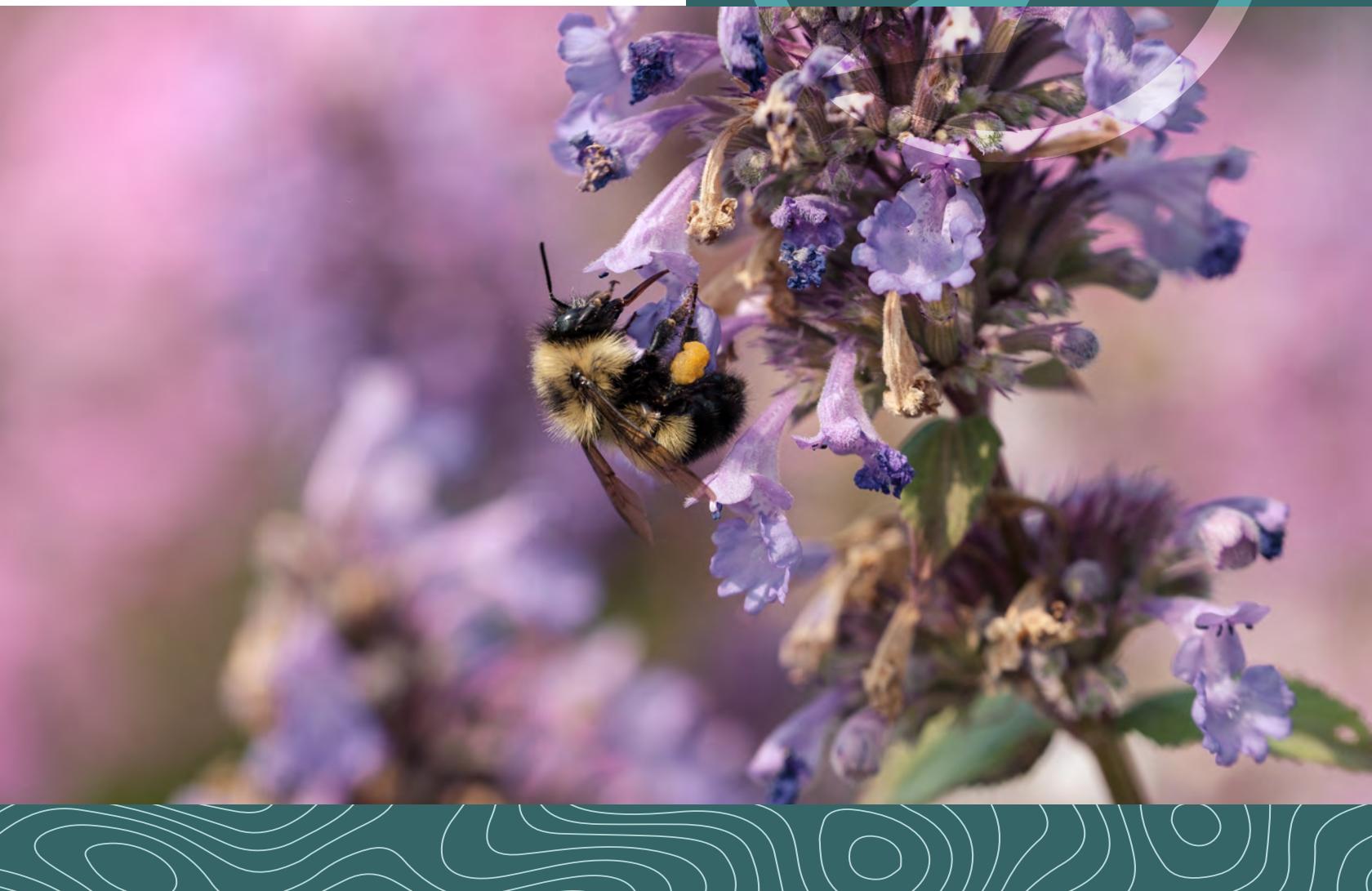
The DRAFT 2024 Annual Report will be provided at the Meeting for your review. If you have any comments or changes, please notify Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager, at the Meeting. The final annual report will be provided at the April Board Meeting for Board approval, and then will be sent to the printers. It is tentatively scheduled to be distributed by the Chronicle Journal on Saturday, May 31, 2025.

CLE Spring Home & Garden Show

For your information the event will be running on Friday, April 11 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Saturday, April 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 13 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Shifts are approximately 1.5 hours. Please speak with Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager, if you are interested in working any of the proposed volunteer shifts that weekend.



LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sheelagh Hendrick City of Thunder Bay	Rudy Buitenhuis Township of Gillies	Brian Kurikka Municipality of Neebing	Vice-Chair Jim Vezina Township of O'Connor	Chair Greg Johnsen City of Thunder Bay	Chair Donna Blunt Municipality of Shuniah	Chair Robert Beatty Municipality of Dorion	Chair Dan Calvert Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge	Albert Aiello City of Thunder Bay (absent)	Grant Arnold Township of Conmee (absent)	Trevor Giertuga City of Thunder Bay (absent)
--	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

STAFF

Tammy Cook	Chief Administrative Officer
Melissa Hughson	Watershed Manager
Mark Ambrose	Finance Manager
Ryne Gilliam	Lands Manager
Ryan Mackett	Communications Manager
Melanie O'Riley	Administrative Clerk/Receptionist
Gayle Little	Financial Administrative Assistant
Roman Augustyn	Information Systems Coordinator
Scott Drebit	GIS/Water Resources Technologist
Michelle Sixsmith	Development Regulations Officer
Ryan Harris	Field Operations Lead Hand
Michelle Willows	Environmental Planner
Jessie McFadden	Watershed Biologist
Rachael Zacharias Bezanson	Education Coordinator (<i>Contract</i>)
Ashley Brimmell	Watershed Stewardship Technician Intern
Amanda Donolovitch	Labourer (<i>Seasonal</i>)

Various seasonal, contract and intern positions are also filled, as needed, on an annual basis.

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the lands on which we live and work are the traditional lands of the Anishinabek Nation and the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

As partners in the conservation and protection of the Lakehead Watershed along with First Nations communities, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and other Indigenous peoples, the LRCA is committed to the common vision of a healthy, safe and sustainable Lakehead Watershed.



Chair Donna Blunt, Mayor Ken Boshoff and CAO Tammy Cook at the ceremonial LRCA flag raising at Thunder Bay City Hall in recognition of the LRCA 70th Anniversary.

Message from Donna Blunt, LRCA Chair

It was another successful year for the Authority in 2024. I'd like to extend my gratitude to my fellow Board members for their continued support and confidence in me to act as Chair for another year. I'd like to thank the Minister of Natural Resources for allowing me to run for Chair once again. We have a fantastic Board that works extremely well together and is efficient in our decision making, thanks in large part to the professional and knowledgeable Administration and hard-working staff of the Authority, who do an excellent job every year to make the LRCA such a well-run organization with great teamwork. I very much enjoyed working with the Board and staff during 2024, and I was exceptionally proud to be able to celebrate the LRCA's 70th Anniversary as Chair. I look forward to continuing to work with this great group of people into the future.

Message from Tammy Cook, LRCA CAO

Text.



CONSERVE & SUSTAIN

Enhance the management and sustainability of natural habitats and ecosystems through an integrated approach.



Ashley Brimmell and Jessie McFadden with the Inspiration Award.



LU international students volunteering at Boulevard Lake.



OPG volunteers helping with a shoreline planting by the Floodway.



The Hope & Memory Garden, located along the Floodway.

In 2024, the LRCA's Seeds for Conservation program officially launched. The program sustainably harvests seed native to Northwestern Ontario from the LRCA's ten Conservation Areas for use in ongoing stewardship initiatives. Seeds and plants raised from seed collected have been provided to City of Thunder Bay, Ontario Native Women's Association, Fort William First Nation, EcoSuperior, Lakehead University, and Confederation College. Approximately 4,500 plants were grown, and the initiative was awarded the Inspiration Award at the Conservation Areas Workshop in October, as voted on by peers from the 36 other Conservation Authorities in the Province.

A 3-hectare engineered wetland was installed along the shoreline of Boulevard Lake in 2024, with funding from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Wetland Conservation Partner Program and the City of Thunder Bay. This stormwater management project will address water quality concerns in Boulevard Lake by redirecting the flow of three storm drains into a wetland, providing filtration of runoff prior to entering the lake. The wetland habitat will also provide terrestrial and aquatic habitat for fish, birds, amphibians, and pollinators. Over 5,000 native plants installed will offer natural filtration and ecosystem services. The planting was made possible thanks to volunteers from Confederation College, Lakehead University, La Verendrye, and Enbridge Gas.

The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Habitat Corridor project continued in 2024 restoring the riparian habitat along the banks of the Floodway within the Thunder Bay Area of Concern. The long-term goal of the project is to create a functioning riparian buffer along the entire Floodway Corridor, while creating ecologically diverse wildlife habitat and a vibrant greenspace for pollinators, birds, and wildflowers to thrive.

Work continued at Hurkett Cove Conservation Area related to invasive cattail remediation. Invasive Narrowleaf Cattail was mapped in Hurkett Cove late summer 2023. In 2024, Wild Rice was mapped to compare to the spread of Cattail. Aquatic and benthic surveys, along with a Autonomous Recording Unit installation for bird and amphibian observations was also completed in 2024.

The LRCA has engaged key stakeholders to form the Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites Collaboration, to inform the current status of invasive phragmites in the region, develop an integrated long-term plan for its management, and collaborate on its removal. This has resulted in the management of 23 stands of phragmites (approximately one hectare) during 2024.

The LRCA's popular Tree Seedling Program was a huge success in 2024, facilitating the planting of 13,350 tree seedlings in the Lakehead Watershed. In 2024, Hill's Greenhouses donated all seedlings sold through the program as a fundraiser for the LRCA's education program.



STEWARDSHIP



HECTARES OF HABITAT RESTORED

Along Lake Superior, Neebing River, Neebing-McIntyre Floodway, McVicar Creek, and Current River.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED

Through 14 volunteer events, including shoreline clean-ups, invasive species pulls, planting days, and landowner interest in Shoreline Protection Program.



INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGED

Purple Loosestrife; Himalayan Balsam; Tatarian Honeysuckle; Reed Canary Grass; Invasive Phragmites; Common Tansy; Invasive Cattails; Forget-Me-Nots.



KILOGRAMS OF NATIVE SEEDS DISPERSED

By volunteers along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway and Current River.



METRES OF SHORELINE REHABILITATED

Through stewardship program projects and initiatives.



HABITAT STRUCTURES INSTALLED

Structures include owl nesting boxes.



NATIVE PLANTS GROWN

By LRCA staff for installation at various stewardship projects throughout the region; 35 native seed species collected from Conservation Areas.



NATIVE PLANTINGS

Over 55 different native species of trees, shrubs and perennials planted.



REPORT SUSPECTED BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms have become a growing problem within the Thunder Bay District affecting many inland freshwater lakes. Cyanobacteria is a microscopic plant-like organism that can produce Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS) in warm nutrient-rich streams, rivers, or lakes. Assume all suspicious algal bloom are potentially toxic and report observations to the Spills Action Center.

REPORT SUSPECTED BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS TO THE SPILLS ACTION CENTRE:

Visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/report-pollution-and-spills>
Toll Free: 1-800-268-6060



Cyano bacteria bloom caused from agricultural runoff.



Cyano bacteria bloom as a result of nutrient loading.



PROTECT & SUPPORT

Safeguard people, property and communities through robust watershed management.



Water level identification colours painted on the Diversion Structure.



Staff inspecting newly installed water level loggers on the Floodway.



Spring ice conditions on the Neebing River on April 2, 2024.



Staff conducting soil sampling as part of a wetland evaluation.

As part of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program the LRCA issued one flood message on May 21, 2024 (Flood Watch) related to a rainfall event; however, no significant flooding occurred. The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway did not divert during 2024.

The LRCA's bi-monthly snow survey program continued in 2024 at three historic snow survey locations (Hazelwood Lake, Vibert Road, and McVicar Creek). This program has been conducted as part of the Flood Forecasting and Warning program since 1974. Snow depth and water content were well below average during the winter of 2023/2024. This resulted in the Level I Low Water Condition that was declared in August 2023 being upgraded to a Level II Low Water Condition at the beginning of 2024, as received precipitation was below 60% of average. The Low Water condition was undeclared after spring freshet. After well below average precipitation over the summer months, a Level I Low Water condition was again declared in October, which remained in effect for the rest of 2024.

During 2024, an automated water level monitoring system was installed to collect water level readings at various points along the Diversion and Floodway channels that digitally log water level data and automatically send the data to the LRCA office. The system provides accurate measurements of water levels that will be used to calibrate floodplain modelling in the future.

In the Fall of 2024, the upstream side of the Diversion Structure was painted in a design to mimic the colours of the Flood Forecasting and Warning System (Green: Normal; Yellow: Water Safety/Flood Outlook Statement; Orange: Flood Watch; Red: Flood Warning). The coloured stripes correspond with known elevations; therefore, providing a visual reference during flood events and in photo documentation of the corresponding return period.

In 2024, 92 permits were issued under O. Reg. 180/06 and O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits and 361 consultations were undertaken with landowners related to planning and permits. This is the greatest number of permits issued by the LRCA in a single year. Additionally, staff provided 967 property maps related to property inquiries. The development regulations administered by the LRCA, along with the plan review program, is intended to work with landowners to direct development away from natural hazards through a proactive approach which reduces the need to financially or physically rescue people from the impacts of flooding or erosion. The mapping tool on LRCA's website is available to determine if property contains any regulated area.



FLOOD MESSAGES

0

WATER SAFETY STATEMENTS

High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, hikers, canoeists, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.

0

FLOOD OUTLOOK STATEMENTS

Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions.

1

FLOOD WATCH

Indicates that there is the potential for flooding within specific watercourses and municipalities.

0

FLOOD WARNINGS

Indicates that flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

2

LEVEL I LOW WATER CONDITION

Declared on May 10, 2024, and was undeclared on June 5, 2024; Declared on October 10, 2024 and remained in effect for remainder of 2024.

1

LEVEL II LOW WATER CONDITION

Declared on January 3, 2024; downgraded to Level I on May 10, 2024.



PLANNING & PERMITS



92

PERMITS ISSUED

Under Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits.



145

PLANNING ACT COMMENTS

As per delegated commenter role regarding Section 5.2 (Natural Hazards) of the Provincial Planning Statement.



967

PROPERTY MAPS ISSUED

Maps are provided to illustrate regulated features on properties and during pre-consultation.



361

GENERAL INQUIRIES

Property, planning and permit consultations.



CONNECT & EXPLORE

Maximize intergenerational educational, engagement, and recreational opportunities through strong collaborations.



Luc Despres of Despres Metal Artwork with his creation at Cascades.



A misty morning at the first-ever Little Trout Bay Fishing Derby.



A school group enjoying an education program at Hazelwood Lake.



Birders participating at the 2025 Dorion Birding Festival.

Field staff were kept extremely busy throughout the year with the regular maintenance and upkeep of LRCA's ten Conservation Areas, in addition to some special projects. A new, accessible concrete outhouse was installed at Cascades Conservation Area in 2024, along the repaved trail adjacent to the picnic shelter. A floating dock with an accessible floating kayak launch was installed at Little Trout Bay Conservation Area. The new dock provides another option for paddlers, in addition to the well used floating docks installed at Hurkett Cove and Hazelwood Lake. Based on received user feedback, a port-a-potty was installed near the kayak launch at Hazelwood Lake. A new simple boardwalk to a wetland was created as an offshoot of the Orange Trail at Hazelwood Lake, and a pet waste bag dispenser was added along the trail at Cascades.

The LRCA was extremely excited to have been able to once again secure the services of local artist Luc Despres of Despres Metal Artwork to create a sculptural entrance sign at Cascades Conservation Area. Continuing in a similar style previously utilized by Despres for his work at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area, the new Cascades sign serves the dual purposes of both a prominent entrance way sign as well as a work of public art. It has to be seen in person for the full effect. The sculpture was installed in November of 2024.

Luc Despres also donated several concrete mermaid sculptures, which will be sunk at the Silver Harbour Dive Park during 2025 to act as both a scuba diving feature and fish habitat.

Staff had an extremely busy event season in 2024, including a well attended 70th Anniversary Celebration in July at LRCA's Administrative Office and the first-ever Little Trout Bay Fishing Derby in August. The Second Annual Dorset Pier Outdoor Health and Wellness Day was held at Cascades in September, and the Dorion Birding Festival occurred at the end of May. With the generous support of the TD Friends of the Environment Fund, staff were able to host a series of Watershed Explorer Programs, including outdoor guided hikes with expert guest speakers on a wide range of topics including birds and birding, plants and wildflowers, fish and aquatics, and more. The LRCA also hosted its first-ever trivia night, in collaboration with Dawson Trail Craft Brewery. Be sure to follow the LRCA on Facebook and Instagram and sign up for our e-newsletter to stay up to date on all future events, workshops, fundraisers, and information sessions.

The LRCA's outdoor environmental education program experienced continued growth in 2024, reaching over 3,300 participants through our staff-led education and nature interpretive programs for schools, organized clubs and groups, and the general public. Educators are encouraged to book educational outdoor field trips to Conservation Areas through the LRCA website, or to reach out to staff at education@lakeheadca.com.

OUTREACH & EVENTS

3,310

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Estimated number of participants in our outdoor education and nature interpretive programs.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

→ 1,858

SPRING WATER AWARENESS

→ 462

WATERSHED CONNECTIONS

→ 214

ARBOR WEEK

→ 297

CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

→ 297

WATERSHED EXPLORERS

→ 182

91

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Includes Environmental Education programming such as school field trips to Conservation Areas and in-class presentations.

15

WORKSHOPS

Includes Nature Interpretive Programs such as guided hikes and nature-based programming.

22

PUBLIC EVENTS

Includes events such as the Dorion Birding Festival, Fall Waterfowl Viewing Day, Neebing Fish Derby, etc.

33

TRADESHOWS & PRESENTATIONS

Includes LRCA appearances at other community events, as well as presentations to the community.

22

GUEST SPEAKERS

Expert guest speakers assist with the delivery and development of specialized education and outreach programs.

517K+

ESTIMATED VISITORS TO CONSERVATION AREAS (based on partial data)

COMMUNITY

12

CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Copperfin Credit Union
- Dawson Trail Craft Brewery
- Despres Metal Artwork
- Enbridge
- Griffon Association
- Hill's Greenhouses
- Invasive Species Centre
- Lakehead Conservation Foundation
- Ontario Power Generation
- Parks Canada
- Richardson Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment Fund

40

PRIVATE DONORS

Generous contributions from members of the public towards education, Conservation Areas projects, land donations, and more.

75

75

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Adelaide Butterfly Garden	Haveman Brothers Forestry	Canada	TB District Health Unit
Age BIG	Hill's Greenhouses	Neebing Emergency Services	TB District Stewardship Council
Blue Sky Strategic Group	Hope & Memory Garden	Neebing Fire & Rescue Assn.	TC Energy
Blue-Green Labs	Invasive Species Centre	North Shore Steelhead Assn.	Thunder Bay 55+ Centre
Boy Scouts	Kay Lee Photography	North/South Consultants	Thunder Bay Field Naturalists
City of Thunder Bay	KBM Resources Group	N. Ontario Heritage Fund	Thunder Bay Rotary Club
Confederation College	Lake Superior NMCA	Ontario Nature	Thunder Country Diving
Conservation Ontario	Lakehead University	Ontario Parks	Township of Comree
Copperfin Credit Union	LU Faculty of Education	Ontario Power Generation	Township of Dorion
D&R Sporting Goods	Magnus Theatre	Parks Canada	Township of Gillies
Dark Forest Photographic	Metis Nation of Ontario	Red Rock Indian Band	Township of O'Connor
Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans	Ministry of Natural Resources	Regional Food Dist. Assn.	United Way
Dorset Pier Mental Health	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	TB Remedial Action Plan	Upriver Running
EarthCare	Ministry of Transportation	Resolute Forest Products	Urban Greenscapes
EcoSuperior	Municipality of Neebing	Richardson International	Waterfront Trail Rotary
Enbridge	Municipality of Oliver	Roots to Harvest	Community Action Team
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Paipoonge	Royal Bank of Canada	Wildlife Conservation Society
Fort William First Nation	Municipality of Shuniah	Science North	Woodland Heritage NW
Harris Ecological Consulting	Nature Conservancy of	Superior Seed Producers	Catholic District School Board



GOVERN & ENHANCE

Distinguish the organization as a leader in environmentally-sustainable practices and responsible stewardship.



Tammy Cook and Donna Blunt receive a donation from Erin Knight.



LRCA staff participating in the Spring Up to Clean Up program.



Ceremonial cake cutting at the LRCA's 70th Annual General Meeting.



CAO Tammy Cook speaking at the 70th Anniversary Celebration.

The LRCA celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2024, commemorating 70 years of conservation excellence. The LRCA, originally formed as the Neebing Valley Conservation Authority, was founded in 1954.

The Lakehead Conservation Foundation (LCF) presented the LRCA with a substantial contribution in the amount of \$30,000 in 2024, thanks to the successful fundraising efforts of the annual Conservation Dinner & Auction and annual Wine Tasting & Dinner at Whitewater. \$20,000.00 has been designated for the LRCA's environmental education and nature interpretive program, which relies on charitable donations, special grants, corporate sponsorships, and self-generated user fees in order to operate. The additional \$10,000 contribution has been earmarked for an exciting new project anticipated to begin in 2026.

One of the biggest changes to the LRCA was that as of April 1, 2024, a new Minister's regulation came into effect (Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits), replacing O. Reg. 180/06: Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses. This coincided with the proclamation of associated sections within the *Conservation Authorities Act*. As a result, various policies were enacted by the LRCA and the Regulatory Mapping used in the administration of the regulations was updated. The LRCA's role in the administering of development regulations within its area of jurisdiction has not been meaningfully impacted.

In accordance with new regulatory compliance requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the LRCA developed a Conservation Lands Strategy, Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy and a Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy. Several other policies were created, updated, and/or amended during 2024, including interim guidelines, transitional procedures, administrative review, complete application and compliance reporting policies related to O. Reg. 41/24; updating of the Tangible Capital Assets Policy, Corporate Services Policy and the Source Protection Committee Procedural Manual.

The LRCA established a Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) with two certified members in 2024. The JHSC has been working towards further enhancing the LRCA's Health and Safety Program.

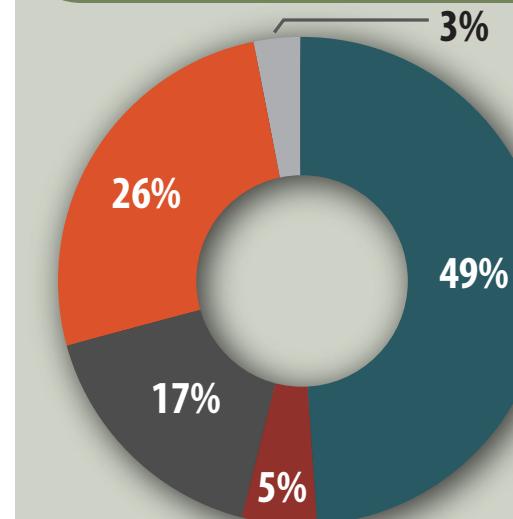
In an effort to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations of the LRCA's ten Conservation Areas, staff increased enforcement during 2024 resulting in demonstrable results. Parking payment/Explore Card compliance has increased from 2023, and fewer instances of other regulation infractions occurred. Five LRCA staff members are designated as Provincial Offences Officers, with three designated for Section 29 (Conservation Areas) regulations enforcement and two designated for Section 28 (development regulations) enforcement. Provincial Offences Officers allow staff to more efficiently and effectively encourage compliance with regulations under the purview of the Authority.



ADMINISTRATION



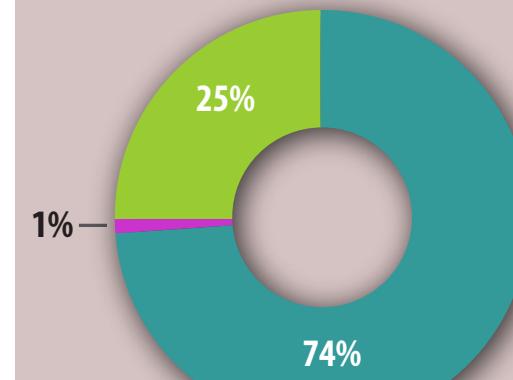
FUNDING SOURCES



49%	\$1,491,321	MUNICIPAL LEVY
		<i>CATEGORY 1 PROGRAMS ONLY</i>
26%	\$777,725	SELF-GENERATED REVENUE & DONATIONS
		<i>CATEGORY 1: \$684,500 CATEGORY 2: \$16,835 CATEGORY 3: \$76,390</i>
17%	\$509,278	PROVINCIAL FUNDING
		<i>CATEGORY 1: \$327,203 CATEGORY 3: \$182,075</i>
5%	\$154,217	FEDERAL FUNDING
		<i>CATEGORY 3 PROGRAMS ONLY</i>
3%	\$101,327	OTHER FUNDING
		<i>CATEGORY 1: \$6,145 CATEGORY 3: \$95,182</i>
\$3,033,868		TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES

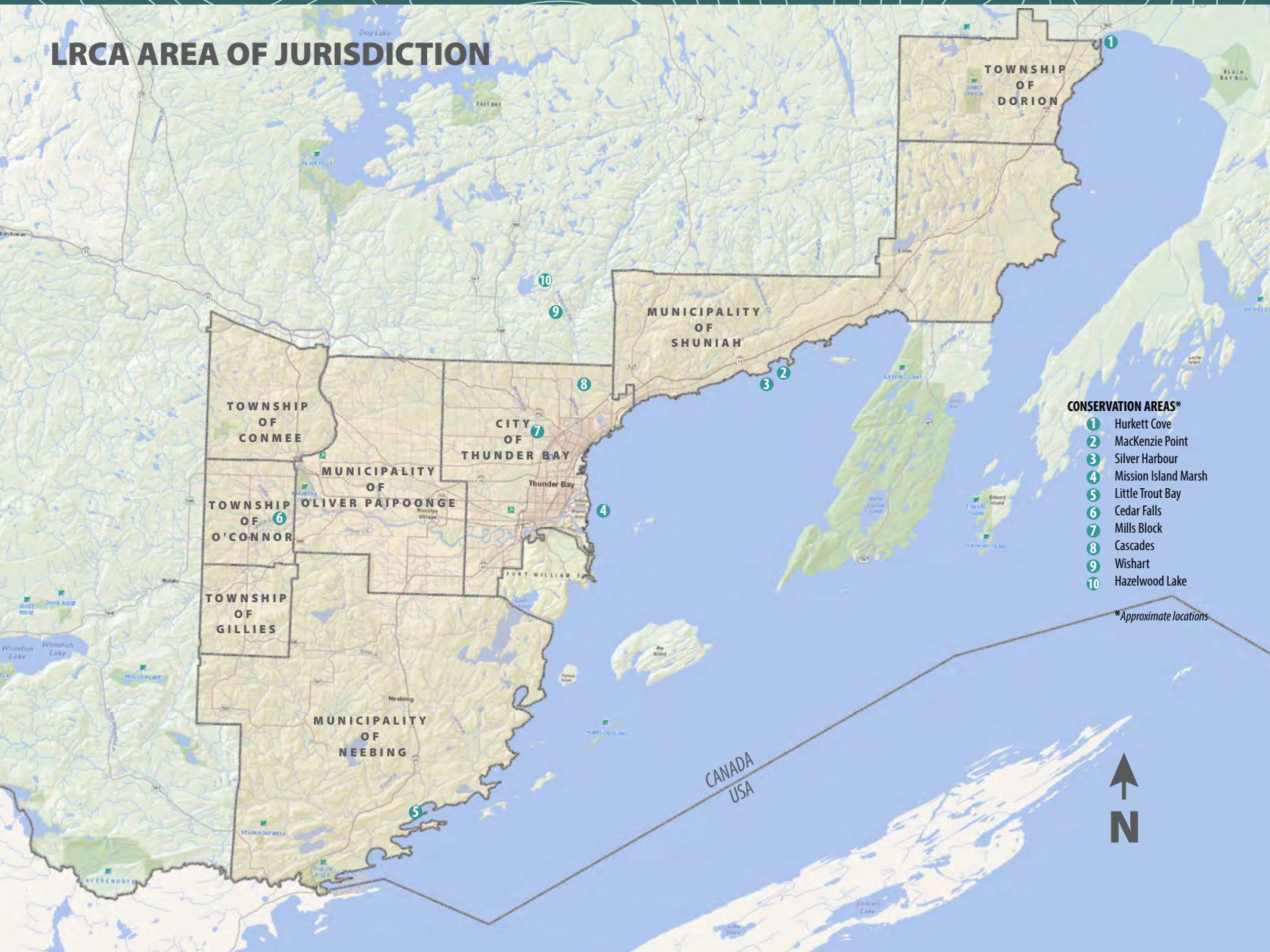


FUNDING SOURCE ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM AREA



CATEGORY 1: Mandatory Programs & Services	CATEGORY 2: Non-Mandatory Programs & Services at the Request of a Municipality	CATEGORY 3: Non-Mandatory Programs & Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Services Risk of Natural Hazards Management, Operation & Maintenance of LRCA-Owned Lands Source Water Protection Other Programs & Services (PGMN; PWQMN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Mapping Service (Oliver Paipoonge; Dorion; Lakehead Rural Planning Board) Surface Water Sampling Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship Environmental Education & Nature Interpretive Programming Invasive Species Seeds for Conservation

LRCA AREA OF JURISDICTION



"CONSERVE TODAY... FOR A BETTER TOMORROW"

LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

130 Conservation Road
PO Box 10427
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8

Phone: (807) 344-5857
Fax: (807) 345-9156
E-mail: info@lakeheadca.com
www.lakeheadca.com



[f](https://www.facebook.com/lakeheadregion) [i](https://www.instagram.com/lakeheadregion/) [@](https://twitter.com/lakeheadregion)lakeheadregion



Monthly Project Update

MEETING DATE	March 26, 2025
STAFF NAME	Melissa Hughson
POSITION	Watershed Manager

Planning & Development Regulations Technician

A new full-time permanent position for a Planning and Regulations Technician with the LRCA has been established. Coralie Côté has been hired to fill the position; she started on March 3, 2025.

Source Protection Committee Meeting

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) held a meeting on March 5, 2025, to discuss the 10th Annual Progress Report, which is due to the MECP on May 1, 2025. Section 36 updates were also discussed, as well as general items of interest concerning source water protection in our area of jurisdiction.

Annual Report – Staff have completed the mandated standardized forms and the 2024 annual progress reporting as required on the Electronic Annual Reporting (EAR) online tool, as well as the update to the annual report in LRCA's format. The LRCA's Annual Report will be posted to the source protection website as it provides a more comprehensive summary of the source protection program.

The SPC members reviewed the annual reports, and it was the consensus that the Lakehead Source Protection Plan was meeting its objectives. The SPC has until April 17, 2025, to provide any additional comments to staff, which will then be incorporated into the final report, prior to the next Source Protection Authority Meeting that will be held immediately following LRCA's regular Board Meeting on April 30, 2025.

Section 36 Updates – Section 36 updates to the Source Protection Plan (SPP) and the SPP policies were discussed. The updates consist of minor administrative updates to policies and SPP. A second SPC meeting will be scheduled for the fall of 2025 to approve the Section 36 updates and move to public consultation.

Source Protection Authority Meeting

A Source Protection Authority Meeting will be held immediately after the April 30, 2025 Board Meeting. This meeting will receive and adopt the 10th Annual Progress Report, which is prepared annually by the Source Protection Authority and submitted to the Director of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) prior to May 1st, as required in the *Clean Water Act*.

Snow Surveys and Lake Levels

The March 15, 2025 snow surveys (taken on the 14th as the 15th was a Saturday) indicated that the snow survey locations are slightly below average for snow depth and water content when compared to the historical averages for March 15. The snow depth results were:

- Current River – 45.7 cm (14% below average snow depth)
- McVicar Creek – 30.7 cm (14% below average snow depth)
- Pennock Creek – 23.2 cm (31% below average snow depth) and

This averages to approximately 20% below the historical average for depth for March 15th. The water content results were on average 8% below average for the three snow courses, with an equivalent water content ranging from 101.2 mm at Hazelwood (Current River), 30.7 mm at McVicar Creek, and 23.2 mm at Pennock Creek. The next snow survey measurements will be taken on April 1, 2025.

Lake Superior's beginning of March level was 17 cm below its period-of-record (1918-2022) beginning of month average, and 14 cm below last years level in March. Ice cover on Lake Superior as of March 17, 2025, was less than 10%, which is well below the average of approximately 40% coverage for this time of year.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Program

A Flood Watch message was issued on March 14, 2025 for the Lakehead Region and remained in effect until Monday, March 17, 2025. Rainfall and above freezing temperatures were forecast for the weekend; combined snowmelt and rainfall could cause significant runoff due to the frozen ground, ditches and waterways. The public was advised to pay attention to local forecasts, and exercise caution in and around area waterways. The CAO completed interviews on March 14, 2025 regarding the Flood Watch messaging with CBC News and TB Newswatch.

35th Annual Spring Melt Meeting

The Authority will be holding the 36th Annual Spring Melt Meeting on March 31, 2025. Each Member Municipality has received an invitation. Municipalities flood contact information has been updated and LRCA's Flood Warning Booklet has been updated.

The annual meeting is held to discuss the spring melt conditions and to keep the lines of communication open with staff and personnel who may be involved during a flood emergency. The updated Flood Warning Booklet will be distributed and mailed to those in attendance and others on the flood contact list not in attendance. All Flood Warning System Binder holders will be receiving their annual update by mail as well. Board Members are welcome to attend the meeting.