



May LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
May 28, 2025, at 4:30 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

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

Member Present (Remote):

Greg Johnsen

Members Not Present

Grant Arnold, Sheila Hendrick

Also Present:

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer
Mark, Ambrose, Finance Manager
Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager
Melanie O'Riley, Administrative Clerk/Receptionist, recorder of Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

THAT: the Agenda be adopted as published.

Motion: #74/25

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 4th Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, be adopted as published.

Motion: #75/25

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

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

THAT: we now go into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) at 4:34 p.m.

Motion: #76/25

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

THAT: we go into Open Meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Motion: #77/25

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

THAT: the In-Camera Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority April 30, 2025 meeting be adopted as published.

Motion: #78/25

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

*THAT: Staff Report CORP-06-2025 is received **AND FURTHER THAT** effective June 1, 2025, the Watershed Stewardship Technician position will become a permanent full-time position.*

Motion: #79/25

Motion moved by Greg Johnsen and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. **CARRIED.**

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Letter from City of Thunder Bay re: Temporary Village Initiative

Correspondence received from John Collin, City Manager, City of Thunder Bay was noted.

7.2. Arthur Shewchuk Memorial Bursary

Members were advised that the 2024-2025 recipient of the Arthur Shewchuk Memorial Bursary was Destiny Eissner who is enrolled in the Bachelor of Engineering with Diploma and Co-op (Chemical Engineering) Degree Program.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Bathymetric Survey

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-03-2025 related to KGS' proposal to complete a bathymetric survey of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway.

***THAT:** KGS's proposal to complete a bathymetric survey of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway at a cost of \$33,600.00 plus HST be accepted **AND FURTHER THAT** the funds will be appropriated from the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway deferred fund.*

Motion: # 80/25

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

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report

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

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

***THAT:** having examined the accounts for the period April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025 cheque #3530 to #3560 for \$172,436.18 and preauthorized payments of \$183,196.37 for a total of \$355,632.55, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #81/25

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

11. REGULATORY ROLE

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

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

12.1. Communications Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the Dorion Bird Festival was very well attended with 88 people on Saturday and 66 people on Sunday. 116 different species of birds were sighted around the Dorion Township area.

It was noted that the 2025 Wine Tasting and Dinner event at Whitewater was very successful. Total profit of \$10,500 was raised for Environmental Education programming.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

It was noted that a significant blockage at the Diversion Structure was removed by the City of Thunder Bay as per the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway maintenance agreement.

It was noted that the LRCA partnered with the University of Waterloo to install "CoastReach" units at Mission Island Marsh and Hurkett Cove Conservation Areas. CoastReach encourages Conservation Area users to contribute important community science data through taking photos on the mounted units to document the Coast over time.

It was noted as per the Forest Management Plan, harvesting will begin in June within Block 2 of Wishart Conservation Area. It was also noted that the location of the harvesting is not near the public open area of the Conservation Area; therefore, the area will remain open to the public.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the Level I Low Water Condition was undeclared on May 6, 2025.

It was noted that Lake Superior's water level continues to be below average.

It was noted that Staff have conducted the annual inspection at the nine rain gauge stations maintained by the LRCA.

It was noted that Staff participated in the Lake Superior Partnership Management Committee call led by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the United States' Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

It was noted that LRCA Staff participated in the Kaministiquia River Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting at Fort William Historical Park.

It was noted that Staff have begun the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) sampling program facilitated by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

It was noted that funding from MECP was received to complete an education and shoreline restoration program to improve the understanding of cyanobacteria and harmful algal blooms in the Lakehead Watershed.

It was noted that funding was received from TD Friends of the Environment for a shoreline restoration project at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area. Shoreline restoration with native plants will improve the health of the lake through nutrient uptake and filtration.

It was noted that MECP had funded a project along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway near Waterford Street with a long-term goal to create a functioning riparian buffer along the entire Floodway Habitat Corridor.

It was noted that funding was received from MECP to complete a Culvert Assessment Project within the Municipality of Neebing.

It was noted that LRCA's Seeds for Conservation program was underway. Seeds that were sustainably harvested from LRCA's Conservation Areas in the fall were stratified over the winter and planted. The program produces locally sourced, native plants for restoration projects within the Lakehead Watershed.

It was noted that funding had been received from TC Energy to develop a demonstration rain garden on the south side of the LRCA Administration Office.

It was noted that the LRCA was contracted for a second year by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to monitor sea lamprey traps on the McIntyre and Neebing Rivers for the 2025 season.

It was noted that funding was received from the Invasive Species Centre to complete a project to map the location and size of Black Ash stands at selected Conservation Areas to determine if there is evidence of Emerald Ash Borer.

It was noted that funding was received from Parks Canada Lake Superior Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) for a project to implement a management strategy to address Narrow-Leaved Cattail within Hurkett Cove Conservation Area.

It was noted that funding through the Invasive Species Centre was continued in 2025 for the LRCA to lead and facilitate the Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites Collaboration. It was also noted that in 2024, the LRCA successfully managed twenty-three stands of invasive phragmites, covering an area of approximately 10,521 square meters.

It was noted that COA (Canada-Ontario Agreement) funding in the amount of \$40,000 was approved from the Ministry of Natural Resources to support the Superior Stewards – Shoreline Restoration Program.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Tammy Cook, CAO, attended the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual General Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with Conservation Ontario staff. Costs of attending the meeting were paid for by Conservation Ontario.

It was noted that funding was received from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund for the Planning and Regulation Technician position for a one-year internship.

14. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being 5:17 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.

Motion: #82/25

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


Chair


Chief Administrative Officer