



August LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
August 27, 2025, at 4:30 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

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

Members Present Virtually:

Grant Arnold

Members Not Present:

Albert Aiello, Trevor Giertuga

Also Present:

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer
Mark, Ambrose, Finance Manager
Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager
Melissa Hughson, Watershed 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: #91/25

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

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Sixth Regular Meeting held on Thursday, June 26, 2025 be adopted as published.

Motion: #92/25

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

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

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

Motion: #93/25

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

THAT: we go into Open Meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Motion: #94/25

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

THAT: the In-Camera Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority May 28, 2025 meeting be adopted as published.

Motion: #95/25

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

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Memo from MECP regarding transition of Conservation Authority Program from MNR to MECP

Correspondence was received from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks advising that the responsibility of the province's conservation authority program had transitioned from the Minister of Natural Resources to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) through Orders in Council.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Floodway Diversion Channel - Design of Channel Improvements in Diversion Channel

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-06-2025 related to awarding the contract for a detailed design of channel improvements on the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway to KGS Group.

***THAT:** the Contract for Detailed Design of Channel Improvements on the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway by KGS Group for a cost of \$67,500.00 not including HST be approved.*

Motion: #96/25

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

8.2. Traffic Counter Report – 2024

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CONAREA-03-2025 related to the 2024 Traffic Counter Report. It was noted that approximately 47% of all visitors pay the parking fee/day use fee via pay and display, coin box, online or Explore Card. It was also noted that revenue had increased by 10% compared to 2023.

***THAT:** the Staff Report CONAREA-03-2025 be received.*

Motion: #97/25

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

8.3. Neebing McIntyre Floodway - Lyon's Drainage Outlet Improvements (Culverts to Bridge)

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-05-2025 related to authorizing the City of Thunder Bay to remove the existing Lyon's drainage channel outlet culverts along the north bank of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway and install a new clear-span bridge at the same location.

***THAT:** the City of Thunder Bay is authorized to remove the existing Lyon's drainage channel outlet culverts along the north bank of the Neebing McIntyre Floodway and install a new clear-span bridge at the same location, with the requirement that the City of Thunder Bay is responsible for all future maintenance of the infrastructure.*

Motion: #98/25

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

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report

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

9.2. 2026 Draft Budget

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FIN-09-2025 related to the LRCA's 2026 draft budget, for consultation purposes. The 2026 Draft Budget proposed a 3.5% increase to levy-all compared to 2025, with the City's projected increase including their sole-benefitting levy at 2.6%. The final budget will be considered at the November Meeting.

***THAT:** the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority approves the 2026 Draft Budget, Version 1.0, dated August 27, 2025, for consultation purposes.*

Motion: #99/25

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

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

***THAT:** having examined the accounts for the period June 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025 cheque #3581 to #3607 for \$60,298.67 and preauthorized payments of \$160,385.64 for a total of \$220,684.31, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #100/25

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

***THAT:** having examined the accounts for the period July 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025 cheque #3608 to #3636 for \$58,956.43 and preauthorized payments of \$156,534.25 for a total of \$215,490.68, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #101/25

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

11. REGULATORY ROLE

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

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

12.1. Communications Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the 2025 Silver Harbour Day was a success with approximately 230 people in attendance.

The 2025 Little Trout Bay Fish Derby was a success with 28 teams participating. It was noted that there was great support from local sponsors.

It was noted that LRCA staff have partnered with Rose N Crantz coffee to create a unique special blend coffee for the LRCA to be used as a fundraiser with the Lakehead Conservation Foundation to support the environmental education program. The coffee will be available to order on LRCA's website.

It was noted that Staff participated at Lakehead University's student orientation on August 28, 2025 to promote the LRCA's Conservation Areas and to encourage students to apply for summer employment next summer.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

It was noted that ten trees of various types were planted at Cascades Conservation Area.

It was noted that forestry operations within Block 2 at Wishart Conservation Area are ongoing.

It was noted that there had been an increase in encampments along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway. Nine encampments were identified and using the Board approved Standard Operating Procedure had been dealt with.

Staff have noticed an increase in spray paint vandalism at Mission Island Marsh, Silver Harbour and Hurkett Cove Conservation Areas. Staff have removed or covered up the graffiti and continue to monitor all Conservation Areas.

It was noted that in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC), the LRCA will participate in a dedication ceremony for the new permanent sea lamprey trap at the Neebing Weir on September 11, 2025.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

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

It was noted that the first public open house for the Lakehead Coastal Resilience Management Plan project was held on July 16, 2025, at the LRCA administration office.

It was noted that the LRCA's Stewardship team had planted, in the spring, over 4,000 native trees, shrubs and perennials in various locations in the city. It was also noted that 1,500 of those plants were grown by the LRCA's Seeds for Conservation Program.

It was noted that through the Cyanobacteria Shoreline Protection Project, 11 participants received individualized shoreline consultation and free native plants from the LRCA for shoreline restoration on their blue-green algae affected properties.

It was noted that a Bathing Beach Advisory was posted on August 26, 2025, at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area, due to elevated levels of *e.coli* present in water samples taken on Monday, August 25, 2025. The LRCA will continue to sample until acceptable results are achieved and will then end the advisory.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on September 24, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being 5:21 p.m. **AND FURTHER THAT** there being no further business we adjourn.

Motion: #102/25

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


Chair


Chief Administrative Officer