



Special LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
December 16, 2025, at 4:00 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

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

Members Present Virtually:

Grant Arnold

Members Not Present:

Greg Johnsen

Also Present:

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer

Mark, Ambrose, Finance Manager

Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager

Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager

Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager

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

Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

Samantha Yew, Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The Chair introduced special guests Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and Samantha Yew, Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

THAT: the Agenda be adopted as published.

Motion: #139/25

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

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Members received correspondence from LRCA's Member Municipalities: Municipality of Shuniah, Township of O'Connor, Township of Dorion, City of Thunder Bay, Municipality of Neebing, Township of Conmee and Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge who had passed resolutions related to the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities as outlined in Environmental Registry of Ontario posting ERO #025-1257. All resolutions opposed the consolidation of the LRCA within the proposed "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority" and supported the LRCA becoming the "Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority".

Correspondence was also received from the Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors (NOLUM), Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) also related to the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities as outlined in Environmental Registry of Ontario posting ERO #025-1257, supporting the LRCA's position to not consolidate and become the Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority.

5. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

It was noted that on Friday, December 11, 2025, CAO Tammy Cook, Chair Donna Blunt and Vice-Chair Jim Vezina participated in a Zoom Meeting with the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Honourable Kevin Holland, Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products and four of their staff, to discuss Environmental Registry of Ontario posting ERO #025-1257 – Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. LRCA advised of their passed resolution opposing the current boundary configuration of Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority and their recommendation that the LRCA form the "Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority". Rational to support the position was also provided during the meeting.

During the Special Meeting, Mr. Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency gave an overview of the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). He also discussed the proposed consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities and the Environment Registry of Ontario posting ERO #025-1257 – Proposed boundaries for the

regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. LRCA staff and Board Members advised of LRCA's position on the posting and the rationale for why the province is encouraged to support the request.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being 4:48 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.

Motion: #140/25

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

Donna Blunt
Chair

Tammy Cook
Chief Administrative Officer