



LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

February LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
February 25, 2026, at 4:30 PM
Thunder Bay Centennial Conservatory – 1601 Dease Street

Members Present:

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

Members Not Present:

Albert Aiello, Trevor Giertuga

Also Present:

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer
Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager
Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager
Jessie McFadden, Stewardship Manager/Biologist
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: #31/26

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

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 72nd Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 be adopted as published.

Motion: #32/26

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

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

No In-Camera meeting was held.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Correspondence received from the Township of Nipigon related to their submission regarding ERO posting #025-1257: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities supporting the LRCA's position to become the Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority was noted.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Kam River Erosion Control - Victor-Broadway - Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Plan 2026

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report KAMEC-01-2026 which outlined the Kam River Erosion Control – Victor Broadway – Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Plan for 2026.

THAT: Staff Report KAMEC-01-2026 be received.

Motion: #33/26

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

8.2. Victor Street Monitoring Reports – 2025

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report KAMEC-02-2026 related to the 2025 Victor Street Monitoring Reports.

THAT: Staff Report KAMEC-02-2026 and the Victor Street Slope Monitoring Report, dated August 29, 2025, and the Victor Street Slope Monitoring Report, dated December 12, 2025 be received.

Motion: #34/26

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

8.3. Forest Management Plan: Annual Summary 2025

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FORM-01-2026 which summarized the 2025 Forest Management Program. It was noted that the current LRCA Forest Management Plan expires on December 31, 2026; therefore, the Managed Forest Plan will be updated in 2026.

THAT: Staff Report FORMG-01-2026 be received.

Motion: #35/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. **CARRIED.**

8.4. Asset Management Plan Update 2025

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report LM-03-2026 which summarized the Asset Management Plan projects completed in 2025. It was noted that the Asset Management five-year update will be completed in 2026.

THAT: Staff Report LM-03-2026 be received for information.

Motion: #36/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. **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. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule Update

Members reviewed and discussed a proposed update to the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule.

THAT: the 2026 LRCA Board Meeting Schedule, dated February 25, 2026 be approved.

Motion: #37/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. **CARRIED.**

9.3. 2026 Remuneration of Members

Members reviewed and discussed Board Policy BOD-06: Remuneration of Members related to an update to the Policy.

THAT: Board Policy BOD-06: Remuneration of Members be amended as outlined in Staff Report Policy BOD-06-2026.

Motion: #38/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. **CARRIED.**

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

THAT: having examined the accounts for the period January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026 cheque #3765 to #3795 for \$78,009.99 and preauthorized payments of \$130,443.89 for a total of \$208,453.88, we approve their payment.

Motion: #39/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. **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. Communication Manager Projects Update

Members were advised that the LRCA will have a booth at the CLE Spring Home and Garden Show which will take place on April 10 – 12, 2026.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

None.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the February 17, 2026, snow surveys indicated that the snow survey locations were slightly above average for snow depth and water content (except for Pennock Creek that was slightly below average for snow depth only) when compared to the historical averages for February 15th.

It was noted that LRCA staff gave a presentation on February 18th on the 2026 online Invasive Species Forum about "Managing Invasive Cattail for Northern Wild Rice Restoration in Lake Superior Provincially Significant Wetland."

It was noted that the Stewardship Program received confirmation of funding for the following projects in 2026: Shoreline Protection Program from MNR; Cyanobacteria monitoring and stewardship program from MECP; tree seedlings and shrubs for Wishart Conservation Area re-plant from Tree Canada; 2026-2029 Hurkett Cove invasive cattail monitoring and management from Parks Canada.

It was noted that a new partnership had been formed between LRCA and MNR Fish and Wildlife to study Common Carp in Hurkett Cove Conservation Area.

Funding received from the Invasive Species Centre was used to survey Black Ash and Emerald Ash Borer at five of LRCA's landholdings.

It was noted that Seeds for Conservation had collected seed from 40 different native species, with cold stratification processes initiated in February. A new partnership was formed with Lakehead University students to conduct germination trials assessing the viability of seed collected using standard testing protocols which were completed.

13. NEW BUSINESS

The Watershed Manager provided a verbal update related to expanding the scope of previously approved work with KGS Group to prepare design options to repair erosion at the outlet of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Channel. It was noted that funding had been secured from the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) fund for 50% of the cost of the project.

THAT: *the Engineering Scope Change for the Design of Replacement Structure and Channel Improvements on the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway by KGS Group for a cost of \$65,500.00 not including HST be approved.*

Motion: #40/26

Motion moved Rudy Buitenhuis and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. **CARRIED.**

14. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. Location to be confirmed prior to meeting due to LRCA Boardroom renovations.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being 4:55 AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.

Motion: #41/26

Motion moved by Jim Vezina and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. **CARRIED.**



Chair



Chief Administrative Officer