



**LAKEHEAD REGION**  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**August LRCA Board Meeting Minutes**  
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority  
August 28, 2024 at 4:30 PM  
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:** Grant Arnold, Robert Beatty, Donna Blunt, Rudy Buitenhuis, Sheelagh Hendrick, Brian Kurikka

**Members Absent:** Albert Aiello, Dan Calvert, Greg Johnsen

**Members Present Virtually:** Trevor Giertuga, Jim Vezina

**Also Present:**

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer

Mark Ambrose, Finance Officer

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: #80/24**

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. **CARRIED.**

**3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

None.

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

*THAT: the amended Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Fifth Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 be adopted as published.*

**Motion: #81/24**

Motion moved by Rudy Buitenhuis an motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. **CARRIED.**

*THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Sixth Regular Meeting held on June 27, 2024 be adopted as published.*

**Motion: #82/24**

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Grant Arnold. **CARRIED.**

#### 5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

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

**Motion: #83/24**

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. **CARRIED.**

*THAT: we go into Open Meeting at 4:45 p.m.*

**Motion: #84/24**

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

*THAT: the In-Camera Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority April 24, 2024 meeting be adopted as published.*

**Motion: #85/24**

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

*THAT: Staff Report LM-04-2024 be received **AND FURTHER THAT** the LRCA decline the potential land donation in the Township of O'Connor.*

**Motion: #86/24**

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

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## 8. STAFF REPORTS

### 8.1. Silver Harbour Disc Golf Course

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CONAREA-02-2024 related to a partnership with Superior North Disc Golf to install an 18-hole Disk Golf Course at Silver Harbour Conservation Area.

***THAT:** Staff Report CONAREA-02-2024 be received **AND FURTHER THAT** an 18-hole Disk Golf Course be installed at Silver Harbour Conservation Area in partnership with Superior North Disc Golf.*

**Motion: #87/24**

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

### 8.2. Silver Harbour Dive Park - Mermaid Statue Installation

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CONAREA-03-2024 related to the installation of Luc Dupres' Mermaid Statues at Silver Harbour Dive Park.

***THAT:** Staff Report CONAREA-03-2024 be received **AND FURTHER THAT** the installation of Luc Dupres' donated Mermaid Statues at the Silver Harbour Dive Park be approved.*

**Motion: #88/24**

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

### 8.3. Contract Award for the Mills Block Re-Development Project, Contract Administration

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CONAREA-04-2024 related to awarding the contract to undertake the design and contract administration for the Mills Block Conservation Area Re-Development Project to JML Engineering Ltd.

**THAT:** the Contract for Mills Block Conservation Area Re-Development Project for design and contract administration be awarded to JML Engineering Ltd., for a cost of \$29,400.00 not including HST as outlined in their proposal dated August 26, 2024 **AND FURTHER THAT** funds will be appropriated from the Conservation Areas Capital Reserve.

**Motion: #89/24**

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

#### **8.4. Contract Award for Boulevard Wetland Project**

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report STEW-02-2024 related to awarding the contract to Serafini General Contracting for the construction of Wetland and Low Impact Development at Boulevard Lake funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the City of Thunder Bay.

**THAT:** the Contract for Construction of Wetland and Low Impact Development at Boulevard Lake be awarded to Serafini General Contracting at a cost of \$80,000 not including HST **AND FURTHER THAT** this will be paid for by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the City of Thunder Bay.

**Motion: #90/24**

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 June and July's Administration and Capital.

#### **9.2. 2025 Draft Budget**

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FIN-10-2024 related to approving the 2025 Draft LRCA Budget for consultation purposes. As outlined in O. Reg 402/22 the Budget approval process includes a consultation process with the Member Municipalities. It was noted that after approval the Draft Budget would be forwarded to each Member Municipality and posted on the LRCA's website.

*THAT: the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority approves the 2025 Draft Budget, Version 1.0, dated August 28, 2024, for consultation purposes.*

**Motion: #91/24**

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

## **10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS**

*THAT: having examined the accounts for the period June 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 cheque #3263 to #3298 for \$127,520.27 and preauthorized payments of \$143,788.48 for a total of \$271,308.75, we approve their payment.*

**Motion: #92/24**

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

*THAT: having examined the accounts for the period July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024 cheque #3299 to #3317 for \$26,115.97 and preauthorized payments of \$145,381.83 for a total of \$171,497.80, we approve their payment.*

**Motion: #93/24**

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. **CARRIED.**

## **11. REGULATORY ROLE**

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

## **12. PROJECTS UPDATE**

### **12.1. Communications Manager Projects Update**

It was noted that the Little Trout Bay Fish Derby alongside the 2024 Little Trout Day by The Bay was a success. There were twenty-five teams of two and the biggest fish caught was a 14-pound Lake Trout.

It was noted that the LRCA's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Event was a huge success, it was estimated that over 500 people attended. Feedback from the public and invited exhibitors all shared positive comments about the event.

It was noted that LRCA staff participated in the Thunder Bay Art Gallery Garden Tour. Staff acted as ambassadors of the Authority at the Hope and Memory Garden which is located on LRCA owned land.

### **12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update**

It was noted that LRCA staff completed a 60-meter-long boardwalk off the orange trail that provides access to a Low Shrub Fen Wetland at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area.

It was noted that LRCA staff constructed and installed steps at the shoreline of Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area allowing easier access to Lake Superior. The access is primarily used by the kite surfing community.

### **12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update**

It was noted that Lake Superior water levels remain near average for July.

It was noted that the Source Water Protection 2024-2027 transfer payment agreement for the drinking water source protection program was finalized by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Source Protection Branch.

It was noted that the Drinking Water Source Protection Best Practices project was finalized. The project developed fact sheets relating to Caring for Wells and Conventional Septic Systems; Private Wells; Septic Systems, which are available on the LRCA's website.

It was noted that the LRCA was granted \$39,500 from the Invasive Species Centre's Invasive Phragmites Control Fund for continued phragmites mapping and management in the region.

It was noted that \$70,250 in funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada was confirmed. This funding is for the continued rehabilitation of riparian habitat along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway.

## **13. NEW BUSINESS**

Tammy Cook, CAO, informed the Board that Blue Green Algae was confirmed by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to be present at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area. The area was posted with signage from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit advising of the presence for a period of two weeks.

Tammy Cook, CAO, will be attending the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Meeting in September 2024 as a new member of that Board.

**14. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on September 25, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

*THAT: the time being 5:40 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.*

**Motion: #94/24**

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. **CARRIED.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer