

# NICKEL DISTRICT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, November 12, 2020**

Via Zoom

Commenced: 4:35 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:50 p.m.

PRESENT: Lin Gibson  
Steve Kaufman  
Jennifer Davidson  
Mike Jakubo  
Joscelyne Landry-Altman  
Geoff McCausland  
Anne Watelet

ALSO PRESENT: Carl Jorgensen, Secretary –Treasurer, General Manager  
Melanie Venne, Staff  
Bailey Chabot, Watershed Planner

COMMUNICATION: Bill Leduc

1. Chairperson Lin opened the meeting. She provided some updates about recent meetings, including the Nickel District Conservation Foundation annual general meeting, the NDCA finance and audit committee meeting, and Conservation Ontario meetings.
2. No declarations of conflict were made.
3. Adoption of Agenda/Addition to Agenda

**Resolution 2020-77**

**Jakubo – Watelet**

*That the agenda of the November 12, 2020 General Board Meeting be adopted as circulated.*

**Carried.**

4. Previous Meeting Minutes

a) Adoption of Minutes of October 8, 2020

**Resolution 2020-78**

**Watelet - Kaufman**

*That the minutes of the October 8, 2020 General Board Meeting, as circulated and reviewed, are approved.*

**Carried.**

- Board Member Davidson suggested one correction which shall be made by staff.
- Carl Jorgensen provided an update to an action item from the last meeting. The City has been informed that a new public member for the board will be required as per the resolution from the October meeting. Recruitment is however on hold until 2021.

5. General Business

a) Section 28/29 Report

**Resolution 2020-79**

**Davidson – Landry-Altman**

*That the report for permits issued under Sections 28 and 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act during the month of October 2020 is received.*

**Carried.**

b) Appointment to Audit and Finance Committee and Nickel District Conservation Foundation

Chair Gibson spoke to the importance of the two committees that currently have a vacancy. She also discussed their individual time requirements.

**Resolution 2020-80**

**Watelet - Kaufman**

*Be it resolved that Anne Watelet is appointed to the Audit and Finance Committee effective immediately.*

**Carried.**

The vacancy on the Nickel District Conservation Foundation will be discussed at an upcoming board meeting.

\*\* Member Jakubo left the meeting at this point.

c) Nickel District Conservation Foundation Update

Julie Houle, the director of advancement for the Nickel District Conservation Foundation provided a report to the Board regarding the recent annual general meeting and other activities. Carl discussed some of these activities, including plans for Giving Tuesday and a recently submitted proposal for federal funding.

*That the staff report on the Nickel District Conservation Foundation Annual General Meeting and Advancement Updates, dated November 6, 2020 be accepted as distributed.*

**Carried.**

d) Draft Budget Discussion

The NDCA Audit and Finance Committee met on November 2, 2020 to discuss the draft proposed budget. Carl went through all the sections of the budget including proposed expenditures and revenue streams for the various activities of the Conservation Authority. The proposed budget includes a return date of April 1, 2021 for the education program staff, contingent upon school field trips resuming. It also includes access to health and pension benefits for those staff on the organizational chart who currently do not. And, the 2021 budget includes a rebuild of the main web site that will likely require some funds from the Strategic Implementation reserve.

6. New Business / Upcoming

a) Conservation Authorities Act Changes

Chair Gibson informed the committee that on November 5, 2020, the Province introduced changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The changes were attached to a Budget bill and as such do not have the opportunity for public consultation.

The intention of these changes were to streamline permit application. But in fact, as Carl showed through various graphics, actually create more red tape and increase timelines.

Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities across the province are requesting that the Province remove schedule 6 (the *Conservation Authorities Act*) from Bill 229.

The Board had a lengthy discussion about the proposed changes and how they could lobby the province. The Board is intending to approach the City of Greater Sudbury Council to support the removal of schedule 6.

7. Adjournment

*That we do now adjourn.*

**Carried.**