

NICKEL DISTRICT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 14, 2021

Via Zoom

Commenced: 6:20 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:28 p.m

PRESENT: Lin Gibson, Chairperson
Steve Kaufman, Vice Chair
Jennifer Davidson
Mike Jakubo
Joscelyne Landry-Altman

ALSO PRESENT: Carl Jorgensen, Secretary –Treasurer, General Manager
Melanie Venne, Staff
Bailey Chabot, Watershed Planner
Sarah Woods, Regulations Officer
Madison Keegans, Source Protection Program Manager
Daniela Stuewer, Environmental Education Program Manager

REGRETS: Bill Leduc
Geoff McCausland
Anne Watelet

1. Chairperson Lin opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. She remarked that this was her last meeting as Chair since the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks rejected Conservation Sudbury's exemption request that was discussed at a previous meeting. This will be discussed in further detail in item 6.

Lin thanked everyone for their support over her years as chair. She has enjoyed the role tremendously.

2. No declarations of conflict were made.
3. Adoption of Agenda/Addition to Agenda

Resolution 2021-55

Kaufman – Jakubo

That the agenda of the June 14, 2021 General Board Meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

4. Previous Meeting Minutes
 - a) Adoption of Minutes of May 13, 2021

Resolution 2021-56

Davidson - Kaufman

That the minutes of the May 13, 2021 General Board Meeting, as circulated and reviewed, are approved.

Carried.

b) Business arising from minutes

There was no new business arising from the May 13, 2021 minutes.

5. General Business

a) Permission under Section 28/29 Report

Bailey Chabot answered some clarification questions. She also remarked that construction season continues to be very busy for staff and permit volumes are higher than in previous years.

Resolution 2021-57

Davidson – Landry-Altman

That the report for permits issued under Sections 28 and 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act during the month of May 2021 is received.

Carried.

b) Request for a five year permit

Sarah Woods described the proposed development and the request for a five year permit. Permits beyond two years in length require board approval.

There was a lengthy discussion, with concerns being raised about pollution from blasting, noise concerns and the potential delay in construction with a five year permit. The board agreed to change the permit to 2 years in length.

Resolution 2021-58

Kaufman – Landry-Altman

That the General Board of the Nickel District Conservation Authority grant permission to Teranorth Construction for development at 0 Long Lake Rd for a period of 2 years, as described in the staff report dated June 2, 2021.

Carried.

** Member Jakubo abstained from this vote.*

c) Proposed Review Guidance for Wetland Interference

Bailey, Sarah and Carl introduced the new wetlands guidance document at the last board meeting. Further refinement of the document has occurred since and staff are ready for board approval. The document is largely based on a 2008 MNRF produced document, with some modification for local context.

Resolution 2021-59

Landry-Altman - Leduc

That the Board of Directors of the Nickel District Conservation Authority endorse, in full, the proposed "Direction on the Administration of O. Reg. 156/06 – Wetlands" as circulated and discussed.

And, that staff be directed to review applications for development in and adjacent to wetlands according to the direction provided in this document, effective immediately.

Carried.

d) Camp Bitobig COVID risk assessment and policies

Madison Keegans, on behalf of the Health and Safety Committee, presented the Infectious Disease Risk Assessment Report for activities at Camp Bitobig. The risk assessment is a tool developed by Public Services Health & Safety Association to evaluate the COVID risk to staff. A COVID policy was also written to ensure the safe delivery of camp for all involved.

Daniela Stuewer answered questions about Camp Bitobig preparations and accommodations in light of COVID. Board members congratulated staff on their detailed preparations for the return of camp.

Resolution 2021-60

Jakubo - Leduc

That the staff report on Camp Bitobig Infectious Disease Risk Assessment, dated June 3, 2021 be received as information.

Carried.

e) 2020 Audited Financial Statements

Mike Jakubo recapped the audit and finance committee meeting that occurred on June 3, 2021. The Committee asked the Auditor to make one clarification. The revised audited is presented at this Board meeting for Board approval.

Carl thanked the members of the audit and finance committee for their diligent work.

Resolution 2021-61

Jakubo – Landry-Altman

Given that the Audit and Finance Committee of the Authority met via teleconference with the appointed Auditor from KPMG on Thursday June 3 2021, to discuss the Draft Audited Financial Statements and

That, following a productive session, the Committee requested one clarification that has been since made and is included in the audit distributed to the Members prior to this meeting,

That the Audit and Finance Committee recommends that the General Board approves the 2020 Audited Financial Statements, therefore

Be it resolved that, the Audited Financial Statements for 2020 are approved as presented.

Carried.

f) Regulatory Proposals under the Conservation Authorities Act

Phase 1 of changes to the Conservation Authorities Act were recently released in an Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting for comment. The phase 1 changes focus on defining core mandate, improving governance, oversight and accountability. Conservation Sudbury's concern about these proposals relate to capacity to implement the changes, cost to implement the changes, the categories defined as mandatory or non-mandatory and the creation of public advisory boards.

Board members had many comments about these proposals. Members agreed that Conservation Sudbury should be submitting comments about the specific local issues. Carl will distribute a draft response to Members before submitting them to the ERO.

Resolution 2021-62

That the Board receives the staff report on Comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario for posting 019-2986 dated June 11 2021,

And further, that Conservation Sudbury submit comments to the Environmental Registry posting detailing the concerns of our organization.

Carried.

g) Nomination of a new member of the Nickel District Conservation Foundation

Resolution 2021-63

Given that the Members of the Nickel District Conservation Foundation have endorsed a candidate based on a recently received application for membership, and

That the Foundation's by-laws require the approval of the General Board of the Authority for admission of a new member, therefore

Be it resolved,

That Bruce Hennessy is admitted as a member of the Nickel District Conservation Foundation.

Carried.

h) WECI Funding, Junction Creek box culvert repair

It was previously mentioned that Anoop Naik had applied for funding through MNRF's WECI program to continue the repair of the Junction Creek box culvert that crosses underneath the downtown core. The request for funding was successful and work will occur this year. Funding from MNRF program covers 50% of the project cost.

Resolution 2021-64

That the Board receives the staff report regarding the Junction Creek Box Culvert Rehabilitation dated June 10, 2021, and

That the transfer payment agreement for the WECI grant from the MNRF is authorized by the Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer, and

That the 2021 capital levy and the Water Control Preventative Maintenance Reserve are utilized as required in the completion of the project.

Carried.

6. Nomination of Officers and other affected appointments

In March 2021 the board submitted a letter to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to request an exception to recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act that would require Chairs and Vice-Chairperson's to rotate every two years. Last week correspondence from the Minister was received denying this request. As a result, elections are required at this meeting.

As per our Administrative By-laws, Carl Jorgensen acted as the Chairperson during the elections.

a) Appointment of Chairperson

Mike Jakubo nominated Steve Kaufman. Steve accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations therefore Steve was acclaimed.

Resolution 2021-65

That Steve Kaufman is appointed as Chairperson of the Nickel District Conservation Authority until the Annual General Meeting of 2022.

And further, that resolutions 2021-16 and 2021-22 from the February Annual General Meeting are updated to reflect the appointment of Steve Kaufman as Chairperson.

Carried.

b) Appointment of Vice-Chairperson

Joscelyne Landry-Altman nominated Lin Gibson. Lin accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations therefore Lin was acclaimed.

Resolution 2021-66

That Lin Gibson is appointed as Vice-chairperson of the Nickel District Conservation Authority until the Annual General Meeting of 2022.

And further, that resolutions 2021-16 and 2021-22 from the February Annual General Meeting are updated to reflect the appointment of Lin Gibson as Vice-Chairperson.

Carried.

Note: At this time Secretary-Treasurer Carl removed himself from chairing the meeting and Chairperson Kaufman assumed this role for the balance of the meeting.

c) Appointment of a member to the Audit and Finance Committee

With Anne Watelet's resignation from the board there is a vacancy to be filled on this Committee. Lin Gibson nominated Jennifer Davidson, who accepted.

Resolution 2021-67

Landry-Altman - Davidson

That the following Members are appointed to the Audit and Finance Committee of the Nickel District Conservation Authority until the Annual General Meeting in 2022

1) Jennifer Davidson

- 2) Steve Kaufman
- 3) Mike Jakubo

Carried.

d) Appointment of a member to the Regulation Review Committee

With Steve Kaufman's nomination to the position of Chair there is a vacancy on this Committee. Lin Gibson volunteered for the position.

Resolution 2021-68

Jakubo - Gibson

That the Members listed below are appointed to the Regulation Review Committee of the Nickel District Conservation Authority until the Annual General Meeting in 2022,

- 1) Lin Gibson
- 2) Bill Leduc
- 3) Geoff McCausland

Carried.

7. New Business

a) Summer Board Meetings

Resolution 2021-69

Landry-Altman - Gibson

Be it resolved that the meetings of the Nickel District Conservation Authority scheduled for July and August 2021 will be cancelled, but may proceed at the call of the Chairperson if required.

Carried.

b) Resignation of member, Anne Watelet

Lin Gibson spoke for a moment to thank Anne Watelet for her years of service to the Conservation Authority General Board. Member Watelet will be resigning as of July 1, 2021.

8. In Camera

Resolution 2021-70

Davidson – Landry-Altman

That we go in-camera at 8:41 p.m.

Carried.

At 9:25 p.m. the Members concluded the in-camera portion of the meeting. Direction was provided to staff on a human resources matter

9. Adjournment

Resolution 2021-71

Jakubo - Gibson

That we do now adjourn.

Carried.