

NICKEL DISTRICT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 12, 2019

Tom Davies Square, room C-12
200 Brady Street, Sudbury

Commenced: 4:35 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Lin Gibson, Chairperson
Jennifer Davidson
Steve Kaufman, Vice Chair
Joscelyne Landry-Altman
Paul Sajatovic
Anne Watelet

ALSO PRESENT: Carl Jorgensen, Secretary –Treasurer, General Manager
Sarah Woods, staff

COMMUNICATION: Mike Jakubo, regrets
Bill Leduc, regrets
Geoff McCausland, regrets

1. Chairperson Lin Gibson began the meeting by welcoming attendees and providing some opening remarks:
 - a. Carl and Lin will attend a Conservation Ontario Council meeting on September 30. Much discussion on Conservation Authority budgets and core mandate is anticipated.
 - b. This spring it was decided that Conservation Sudbury would not attend the Latonnell Conservation Symposium as a cost-saving measure. However, Dr. Peter Beckett will be addressing the symposium as a keynote speaker (suggested by CS staff) therefore Carl, Lin and perhaps Sarah are considering attending one day of the conference to attend his talk.
 - c. Lin participated in a Conservation Ontario Director's meeting teleconference on September 3 where there was some discussion about recent communications from the provincial government. CO is planning on launching an app related to Conservation Authority activities. Funding for this app was recovered from the private sector.
2. Member Kaufman indicated that he was involved two Section 28 permit applications listed under item 5. a). No other declarations of conflict were made.
3. Adoption of Agenda/Addition to Agenda

That the agenda of the September 12, 2019 General Board Meeting be adopted as circulated.

Member Watelet asked that the following item be added to the agenda:

7. c) Public Forum

Carried.

4. Previous Meeting Minutes

a) Adoption of Minutes of June 13, 2019

Resolution 2019-60

Sajatovic - Davidson

That the minutes of the June 13, 2019 General Board Meeting, as circulated and reviewed, are approved.

Carried.

b) Business arising from the meeting not addressed below

Under section 7. a) City of Greater Sudbury staff have indicated that they prefer to purchase the lands from Conservation Sudbury at market value and are working toward this option. There is nothing to bring forward to the board at this time.

Under section 7. b) Carl has shared a list of recipients from the 2019 round of WECl funding via the Dropbox folder.

5. General Business

a) Section 28/29 Report

Resolution 2019-61

Watelet - Davidson

That the report for permits issued under Sections 28 and 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act during the months of June, July and August 2019 is received.

The title of the report should read “June, July, August 2019” rather than “May 2019”. Member Kaufman abstained from voting. Some minor clarification was provided for one permit issued.

Carried.

b) Tree Planting Program

Sarah indicated that the federal government is now supporting the 50 Million Trees Program. Some changes have been made to the program that will result in a lower funding rate (it was \$1.50/tree, now down to approximately \$0.50/tree). Staff are currently working on an agreement with Enbridge (Union Gas) to have 38,000 trees planted. These funds can be used jointly to help cover the cost of the planting program for 2020.

c) Core Mandate

i) Budget 2020

Carl presented the current financial position of Conservation Sudbury, as compared to 2018 and as compared to the new budget adopted May 9, 2019.

Chairperson Gibson read an email sent by Member Jakubo this afternoon that spoke of the work done at the Audit and Finance Committee meeting earlier this week

"Please share with the Board that I was so pleased by the content of our discussions at the F&A meeting on Monday and believe the results of them in our budget will bring the Board the best fact based choices for moving forward in 2020! Reserves are an important part of our financial situation and while they are steady, they do need an evolution in their policy in order to conform to our current day challenges, infrastructure requirements and Board direction and I look forward to the F&A Committee being able to parse those options in the Fall"

As requested by the Audit and Finance Committee, Carl shared spreadsheets outlining different financial forecasts for 2020. If provincial funding is decreased or eliminated as of April 1, 2020 then a financial shortfall will result and costs savings will again need to be found, potentially from human resources reductions.

ii) Core mandate

Carl reminded the board of the timeline of events/communications this year and highlighted the next steps being taken by Conservation Ontario and other Conservation Authorities.

iii) Letter to MECP

Carl walked members through the draft outline of a proposed letter to be sent to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in response to their August 16, 2019 letter to Conservation Authorities. Members suggested adding more text that is specific to Conservation Sudbury watersheds (ex. Ramsey Lake – drinking water source) and also to shorten the letter to approximately 2 pages. It was also suggested to invite Minister Yurek to a future meeting of Conservation Sudbury. Chairperson Lin and Carl will work on a final version.

Member Landry-Altmann suggested speaking with the Mayor's office prior to requesting that they send a complementary letter.

It was agreed that we would attempt to meet with MPPs Jamie West and France Gélinas together.

Resolution 2019-62

Kaufman – Landry-Altmann

That the Chairperson will, on behalf of the Authority, submit a letter on or before September 20, 2019 to the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks based on the outline circulated and points discussed.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this letter is provided to the City of Greater Sudbury, to staff, to Conservation Ontario and to our local Members of Provincial Parliament.

Carried.

6. In-Camera Session

Resolution 2019-63

Landry-Altmann - Sajatovic

That we go in-camera at 5:55 p.m.

At 6:05 p.m. the Board ended the in-camera session with no resolutions forthcoming.

7. New Business / Upcoming

a) Low Impact Development grand opening

An invitation was distributed with the agenda package for the grand opening of the Low Impact Development project that Conservation Sudbury installed at the Countryside Sport Complex with funding support from Environment and Climate Change Canada. The event will be held in the evening around 6:30 or 7:00 p.m., details to follow. It will coincide with a meeting of the Community Action Network. This is a joint event; the City of Greater Sudbury will also be opening their storm water management pond and trail.

b) Watershed Planner interviews

Three candidates have been shortlisted and interviews are anticipated to occur over the next few weeks. Carl is currently coordinating times with the interview panel and applicants. The Planner will be in place as soon as their schedule permits.

Member Landry-Altman left the meeting at 6:30 p.m. during item 7c)

c) Public Forum

Member Watelet asked whether the board would be supportive of a public forum including a panel discussion to be held by the School of the Environment on the importance of both Conservation Sudbury and Lake Laurentian Conservation Area to the community. There is concern in the community because of recent cuts and potential future changes by the provincial government. It was agreed that it is premature to have such a discussion, but Carl could speak to faculty within the School to discuss the role of Conservation Sudbury. Such an event might be more appropriate next spring.

8. Adjournment

Resolution 2019-64

Watelet - Sajatovic

That we do now adjourn.

Carried.