

NICKEL DISTRICT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Via teleconference and Turbomeeting

Commenced: 4:37 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Lin Gibson, Chairperson
Geoff McCausland
Jennifer Davidson
Mike Jakubo
Bill Leduc
Joscelyne Landry-Altman
Paul Sajatovic
Anne Watelet

ALSO PRESENT: Carl Jorgensen, Secretary –Treasurer, General Manager
Melanie Venne, Staff
Anoop Naik, Water Resources Specialist
Bailey Chabot, Watershed Planner

COMMUNICATION: Steve Kaufman, Vice Chairperson, regrets

1. Chairperson Lin Gibson provided some opening remarks. Chair Gibson briefly reviewed the procedures of board meetings via teleconference. She also mentioned some of the remote meetings that have occurred since the last board meeting, including two Conservation Ontario directors meetings.

2. No declarations of conflict were made.

3. Adoption of Agenda/Addition to Agenda

Resolution 2020-47

Leduc – Landry-Altman

That the agenda of the May 14, 2020 General Board Meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

4. Previous Meeting Minutes

a) Adoption of Minutes of April 9, 2020

Resolution 2020-48

Sajatovic - Davidson

That the minutes of the April 9, 2020 General Board Meeting, as circulated and reviewed, are approved.

Carried.

There was no business arising from the April 9, 2020 minutes.

5. Investments Update, Gil Ciulini – RBC Dominion Securities

Gil Ciulini from RBC Dominion Securities gave a presentation on the state of the Authority's investments, especially in light of the current financial situation. The board had a few questions for him, and Gil provided details and explanations. In response to one request, Gil committed to sharing one of the graphs included in his deck. Lin thanked him for his ongoing work for the Authority.

6. General Business

a) Section 28/29 Report

Resolution 2020-49

McCausland - Leduc

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

Carried.

Bailey Chabot answered a few questions from the board about fees associated with the permits of April 2020.

b) Watershed Conditions Update

Anoop Naik provided an update on the watershed conditions, including some remaining snow pack in the very northern reaches of our watershed. All the major river systems peaked in early May and the small river systems are headed toward summer normal levels.

c) COVID-19 Update

Carl Jorgensen provided an update of activities during the pandemic and state of emergency. Staff are meeting regularly via zoom. Health and safety guidelines for working in a pandemic are being finalized.

Work regarding permitting and planning remains at a similar level. The tree planting program will occur in the next few weeks.

Member Landry-Altman had a question regarding proceeding to operate Camp Bitobig in the pandemic context and a group discussion ensued. Further guidance from the province is required and once received local guidance from Public Health Sudbury and Districts can be expected.

d) Purchasing By-law Revision

Resolution 2020-50

Sajatovic- Landry-Altman

That the purchasing policy be amended as described in the staff report.

Carried.

The amendment to the purchasing policy is to allow electronic internet-based tendering of bids. The original wording, regarding paper-based submissions, was also retained.

e) Financial Report, January to April 2020

Resolution 2020-51

Sajatovic- Davidson

That the financial update from the General Manager is received.

Carried.

Carl provided a report that compared the first four months of 2020 to the first four months of 2019. He provided details on some key line items.

f) Maley Dam Rehabilitation Tender

The Maley Dam Rehabilitation project is the first time the Authority has posted using the "Bids and Tenders" online platform to find a qualified contractor. Carl gave a demonstration and details about the platform. The project is scheduled to start in mid-July until March 2021. The tender process closes in early June.

g) NDCF Director Job Posting

The Nickel District Conservation Foundation recently posted for a Director of Advancement, i.e. an experienced fundraising specialist. The posting closes on May 22, 2020. Several members had concerns regarding the posting as it did not indicate the position was a contract vs. a permanent position, and also the short posting timeline. GM Carl indicated that the position would have an employment contract with key performance indicators that would need to be met. Some members wanted additional information and clarification that the GM committed to provide.

7. New Business / Upcoming

There was no new business.

8. In-Camera Session

Resolution 2020-52

Landry-Altman – Watelet

That we go in-camera at 6:07 p.m.

Carried.

*Member Leduc left the meeting at this time.

For the in-camera section of the meeting, members called into a private teleconference line; the TurboMeeting screen-sharing was not used.

At 6:25 p.m. the Board ended the in-camera session. There were no forthcoming resolutions from the in-camera discussion.

9. Adjournment

Resolution 2020-53

Davidson - McCausland

That we do now adjourn.

Carried.