

NICKEL DISTRICT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Via Zoom

Commenced: 4:35 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:45 p.m

PRESENT: Lin Gibson, Chairperson
Steve Kaufman, Vice Chair
Jennifer Davidson
Mike Jakubo
Bill Leduc
Geoff McCausland
Anne Watelet

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

REGRETS: Joscelyne Landry-Altman

1. Chairperson Lin opened the meeting. She mentioned some of the meetings she has been attending lately, on behalf of the board, including the Source Protection Committee meeting and the Nickel District Conservation Foundation meeting. Both groups will be presenting to the board in the coming months.
2. No declarations of conflict were made.
3. Adoption of Agenda/Addition to Agenda

Resolution 2021-29

Kaufman – Davidson

That the agenda of the March 18, 2021 General Board Meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

4. Previous Meeting Minutes

- a) Adoption of Minutes of February 11, 2021

Resolution 2021-30

Jakubo - McCausland

That the minutes of the February 11, 2021 Annual General Board Meeting, as circulated and reviewed, are approved.

Carried.

b) Business arising from minutes

At the annual general meeting in February, two members were appointed to the Nickel District Conservation Foundation. There is still one vacant seat on that committee for a board member.

5. General Business

a) Permission under Section 28/29 Report

Resolution 2021-31

Leduc - Kaufman

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

Carried.

b) Planning Statistics Report for 2020

Bailey Chabot presented some statistics planning applications in 2020. In the last fiscal year there were over 400 planning applications and most fell into the minor variance and consent categories.

Resolution 2021-32

Kaufman - McCausland

Be it resolved that the staff report on Planning Review Files, 2020 Statistics, dated March 4, 2021 is received.

Carried.

c) Regulations Review Committee Appointment

At the annual general board meeting in February, Anne Watelet temporarily took a position on the Regulation Review Committee. Member McCausland was previously on the committee, and this resolution was carried forward to see if any other members had an interest in sitting on this committee.

Resolution 2021-33

Jakubo – Leduc

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) Steve Kaufman
- 2) Bill Leduc
- 3) Geoff McCausland

Carried.

d) Update to Planning Policy

Sarah Woods provided a staff report detailing a new policy amendment. The amendment would clarify language around the size of additions to non-conforming structures. Carl and Sarah responded to question and provided clarification.

Resolution 2021-34

Kaufman - Davidson

Whereas currently section 7.3 of the Flood Plain Management Criteria and section 2.1.2 of the Special Policy Area of the Settlement of Dowling (Appendix 1 of the Flood Plain Management Criteria) speak to non-conforming structures in floodplains, meaning that these structures were in place prior to the implementation of board-approved policies, and

Whereas the interpretation of this policy is difficult and problematic for staff and proponents,

Therefore be it resolved that the General Board directs staff to adopt the interpretation of the policies as recommended in the Staff Report on this matter, dated March 4, 2021, in reviewing applications for additions to existing non-conforming structures in floodplains.

Carried.

e) Proposed New Program at Lake Laurentian Conservation Area

Daniela and Carl explained the details of this new proposed program for Lake Laurentian. Forest therapy, is a slow and mindful immersion into nature activity, that has been offered at a few other Conservation Authorities. Daniela has seen a need in our community for this type of program. The staff report detailed the financial implications and the type of training required to offer Forest Therapy walks.

Resolution 2021-35

Watelet – Davidson

That the General Board allocates up to \$6000 from the Strategic Initiatives Reserve and supports the launch of the Forest Therapy program in the current year.

Carried.

f) Request for Exclusion by Minister of MECP from CA Act Sec 17 (1.1.) and (1.2)

Carl explained the background of this request. Section 14 and 17 of the Conservation Authorities Act was proclaimed into law in February 2021 and these sections set some limitation to the appointments of the Board of the CA.

As such, the Board, through Carl, will be submitting a letter to the Minister of the Environment for exemptions to section 17. This requested exemptions would allow for chairs and vice chairs to serve four year terms, instead the suggested two year terms. An exemption from section 14 is required to come from City Council and Carl will be moving forward with requesting this.

Resolution 2021-36

Kaufman – Jakubo

That the letter of Request for Exception by the Minister of MECP from CA Act Sec 17 (1.1) and (1.2) as presented in the Staff Report dated March 9, 2021 is endorsed.

Carried.

A recorded vote was completed for this resolution. All members in attendance voted in favour of the resolution.

6. In Camera

Resolution 2021-37

Watelet - Kaufman

That we go in-camera at 5:35 p.m.

Carried.

At 6:42 p.m. the board came out of in-camera with direction to staff on one topic.

7. Adjournment

Resolution 2021-38

Watelet - Davidson

That we do now adjourn.

Carried.