



**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE MATTAGAMI REGION  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023  
AT 4:15 PM, CONSERVATION AUTHORITY OFFICE, TIMMINS, ONTARIO.**

**Present:** Rock Whissell      Andrew Marks      Joe Torlone  
Steve Black      Bill Gvozdanovic      David Vallier, General Manager  
Crystal Percival, DWSP Lead      Hack Waldon, Regulations Officer  
**Recorder:** Jennifer Bonsall

Chair R. Whissell called the meeting to order at 4:22

**1.0 Review of the Agenda—No additions**

**2.0 New Board Welcome and Orientation**

The GM welcomed all to the MRCA Board and thanked them for their interest in participating in the organization. Orientation binders were presented to all members and the GM provided a general overview of the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) changes, in particular the necessity for accountability and transparency. The GM noted that he is available to meet with Directors at any time if questions or concerns arise. It was also clarified that all meetings are open to public.

**3.0 MRCA Board Elections**

D. Vallier, MRCA General Manager (GM), assumed the Chair to conduct the 2023 Board elections.

*Resolution No. 2023-1572*

*Proposed by: Joe Torlone*

*Seconded by: Rock Whissell*

*BE IT RESOLVED that David Vallier and Jennifer Bonsall be appointed as scrutineers for the 2023 MRCA Board election of Chair and Vice-Chair.*

*January 4, 2023*

*Carried*

The GM called for nominations for Chair. R. Whissell nominated A. Marks.

B. Gvozdanovic nominated S. Black. There were no further nominations after being called three times.

*Resolution No. 2023-1573*

*Proposed by: Andrew Marks*

*Seconded by: Joe Torlone*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT nominations for MRCA Board Chair be closed.*

*January 4, 2023*

*Carried*

The GM asked A. Marks and S. Black if they were willing to accept the nomination for MRCA Board Chair. Andrew Marks declined the nomination. S. Black accepted the nomination and was therefore declared to be the Chair for 2023.

*Resolution No. 2023-1574  
Proposed by: Andrew Marks  
Seconded by: Rock Whissell*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Steve Black be appointed as MRCA Board Chair for 2023.*

*January 4, 2023*

*Carried*

The GM called for nominations for Vice-Chair. A. Marks nominated R. Whissell. There were no further nominations after repeating the call three times.

*Resolution No. 2023-1575  
Proposed by: Andrew Marks  
Seconded by: Steve Black*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT nominations for MRCA Board Vice-Chair be closed.*

*January 4, 2023*

*Carried*

R. Whissell accepted the nomination and was therefore declared Vice-Chair for 2023.

*Resolution No. 2023-1576  
Proposed by: Andrew Marks  
Seconded by: Steve Black*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Rock Whissell be appointed as MRCA Board Vice-Chair for 2023.*

*January 4, 2023*

*Carried*

The GM turned the meeting over to the Chair.

#### **4.0 Adoption of Minutes**

##### **4.1 Adoption of Minutes of November 3, 2022.**

*Resolution No. 2023-1577  
Proposed by: Joe Torlone  
Seconded by: Rock Whissell*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority held on November 3, 2022 as described on pages 774 to 778 of the Minute Book are hereby approved as circulated.*

*January 4, 2023*

*Carried*

**5.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**—None were declared

**6.0 Reports**

The GM explained that four reports are provided in advance of the meeting for review. Any concerns or questions that arise from the reports can be addressed during the meeting.

**6.1 Plan Input Report**

C. Percival noted that plan input activities are generally quiet at this time of the year. Plan input and comments under O Reg 165/06, minor variances, consents, severances, zoning by-law and public or legal inquiries were provided to the Board. Upon request, an explanation of Risk Management clearance notices was provided.

**6.3 DWSP Report**

C. Percival provided an overview of the reporting cycles for DWSP funding, the DWSP threats inventory updates, education and outreach activities and an update on the pending appointment of a new Source Protection Committee Chair. An explanation of the Drinking Water Source Protection Intake Protection Zones was also provided.

**6.4 Regulations Officer Report**

The GM provided a brief history of the shared Regulations Officer position for the Board. H. Waldon provided an update on completed training courses, ongoing complaints, MRCA enforcement activities and site alteration permitting. The recently completed legal opinion was reviewed for new Board members. The GM noted that the Site Alteration Agreement: Schedule A will be presented to City of Timmins Council shortly for an amendment.

**6.5 Motion to Accept Administrative Reports**

*Resolution No. 2023-1578*

*Proposed by: Bill Gvozdanovic*

*Seconded by: Rock Whissell*

*THAT the Administrative Reports, consisting of the Plan Input Report, the Drinking Water Source Protection Report and the Regulations Officer Report have been received by the Board for information purposes.*

*January 4, 2023*

*Carried*

## **7.0 Items for Discussion**

### **7.1 Conservation Areas /Trail Upkeep**

The GM reviewed grooming processes for MRCA owned properties and the trail agreements that are in place with private property owners. The rain storm in November caused a substantial amount of damage throughout the trail network. Two MRCA staff and one contractor were able to clear more than 1,000 downed trees over 10 km of trail during 1 week, which will allow the public some trail usage throughout this winter. The remaining clearing will take place in the spring. Lake Shore Gold kindly donated funds to hire the contractor in order to get the trails open as quickly as possible. Discussion followed about current policies and procedures regarding homeless encampments on MRCA lands.

### **7.2 CAA Amendments / More Homes Built Faster**

The GM provided a general overview of the CAA amendments and changes required between 2019-2024. The expectation is that Conservation Authorities (CAs) will focus on providing input on hazards lands, flood forecasting and warning, managing conservation lands and drinking water source protection with attention to accountability, transparency and better working relationships with municipalities and formal agreements for activities beyond those mandated. It was noted that the MRCA has no Category 3 services, the Site Alteration Agreement is the only Category 2 service and all other activities fall under Category 1. An overview of Bill 23: More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 was provided including the changes to provincially significant wetland (PSW) evaluation. Staff will continue to provide input on development on hazard land, and permitting will still be required for development near water or PSWs. All Ministry requirements have been completed as requested to date.

### **7.3 Bart Thomson Walking Trail Lights**

The 28 lights are along properties owned by MRCA, City of Timmins and Northern College. Previous repairs have not been successful in solving the ongoing problems. Recommendations have been received to install Techno Posts to reduce the frost heaving each year. The work has been quoted at \$1,750/light. It was noted that there are no formal maintenance agreements for the lighting, but the City of Timmins pays the electricity. Communication from the time of installation identified that the college would not take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the lights. Several unsuccessful funding applications have been submitted over the years to cover the repair costs, with another one in place for 2023. The Board recommends the GM arrange for a meeting of all stakeholders, including the Board Chair, to formalize the future maintenance requirements and discuss funding requirements.

### **7.4 MRCA Strategic Plan – Next Steps**

The four pillars of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan were reviewed along with the accompanying operational plan. The GM noted that some items were stalled due to COVID-19, and the plan does not incorporate the requirements of the CAA amendments. The GM will schedule a meeting

of the Board the review and amend the 2023 plan to include legislated activities and to begin strategic planning of the next 4 years.

## **8.0 Items for Decision—None**

## **9.0 For Your Information**

### **9.1 Integrated Watershed Management**

Under the CAA amendments, a Watershed Management Plan is required. The GM is partnering with Lake Shore Gold, Glencore and Newmont to develop an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Mattagami Watershed and sub-watersheds applicable to the companies involved. A scope has been developed and is under review. Many CAs publish Watershed Report Cards based on 5-year data collection. Smaller CAs without staff capacity and complete data have provided information to Conservation Ontario in 2022 for inclusion in a Watershed Story Map. In future years, the MRCA will use data from the Integrated Watershed Management partnerships to develop an MRCA Watershed Report Card.

### **9.2 Timmins Recreational Trail Committee (TRTC)**

The GM reviewed the history of the TRTC for new members and provided an update on plans to develop a partnership to engage stakeholders in a comprehensive trail development and maintenance program. The GM noted that a substantial amount of work was able to be completed in 2022 due to a successful funding application.

## **10.0 Date for Next Meeting — 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, 2023**

## **11.0 Adjournment**

*Resolution No. 2023-1579*

*Proposed by: Andrew Marks*

*Seconded by: Rock Whissell*

*THAT this meeting adjourn at 5:46 p.m.*

*January 4, 2023*

*Carried*

  
Steve Black, Chair

February 1, 2023  
Date