

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE MATTAGAMI REGION  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 AT 4:30 PM,  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY OFFICE, TIMMINS, ONTARIO.**

**Present:** Rock Whissell Bill Gvozdanovic – via Zoom  
Andrew Marks Joe Torlone  
David Vallier, General Manager

**Regret:** Lorne Feldman  
**Recorder:** Jennifer Bonsall

- 1.0 Territorial Acknowledgement**
- 2.0 Addition to the Agenda—None**
- 3.0 Delegations and Presentations—None**
- 4.0 MRCA Board Elections**

*Resolution No. 2025-1669  
Proposed by: Joe Torlone  
Seconded by: Rock Whissell*

*BE IT RESOLVED that David Vallier and Jennifer Bonsall be appointed as scrutineers for the 2025 MRCA Board election of Chair and Vice Chair.*

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

D. Vallier, MRCA General Manager (GM) assumed the Chair to conduct the 2025 Board elections. The GM called for nominations for Chair. R. Whissell nominated J. Torlone. There were no further nominations after being called three times.

*Resolution No. 2025-1670  
Proposed by: Andrew Marks  
Seconded by: Rock Whissell*

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

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

J. Torlone accepted the nomination and was therefore declared to be the Chair for 2025.

*Resolution No. 2025-1671  
Proposed by: Rock Whissell  
Seconded by: Andrew Marks*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Joe Torlone be appointed as MRCA Board Chair for 2025.*

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

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

*Resolution No. 2025-1672*

*Proposed by: Andrew Marks*

*Seconded by: Joe Torlone*

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

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

R. Whissell accepted the nomination and was therefore declared to be the Vice-Chair for 2025.

*Resolution No. 2025-1673*

*Proposed by: Joe Torlone*

*Seconded by: Andrew Marks*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Rock Whissell be appointed as MRCA Board Vice-Chair for 2025.*

*January 9, 2025*

*Carried*

At the request of the 2025 Chair, the GM returned the meeting to the Vice Chair.

## **5.0 Adoption of Minutes**

### **5.1 Adoption of Minutes of November 14, 2024.**

*Resolution No. 2025-1674*

*Proposed by: Andrew Marks*

*Seconded by: Bill Gvozdanovic*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority held on November 14, 2024 as described on pages 847 to 850 of the Minute Book are hereby approved as circulated.*

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

## **6.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest—None**

## **7.0 Reports**

### **7.1 General Manager Report**

The GM noted that NOHFC application progress is waiting for approval from Hydro One to move forward. Discussions are progressing with Lake Shore Gold regarding a multi-year funding option for trail maintenance. The Rotary Trail is the priority for 2025 trail work.

The Board recommends that ‘Wall of Fame’ type recognition board be developed to recognize donations.

### **7.2 Plan Input Report**

Plan input and comments under O. Reg. 41/24, minor variances, consents, severances and legal inquiries were provided to the Board.

### **7.3 DWSP Report**

A summary of recent DWSP activities was provided to the Board.

### **7.4 Regulations Officer Report**

The GM added that no update has been received to date on the legal inquiry initiated by City of Timmins By-law for clarification on historical drainage issues.

### **7.5 Motion to Accept Administrative Reports**

*Resolution No. 2025-1676*

*Proposed by: Joe Torlone*

*Seconded by: Andrew Marks*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Administrative Reports, consisting of the General Manager’s Report, Plan Input Report, the Drinking Water Source Protection Report, and the Regulations Officer Report have been received by the Board for information purposes.*

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

## **8.0 Items for Discussion**

### **8.1 Conservation Areas / Trail Upkeep**

Grooming is ongoing at both Gillies Lake and Hersey Lake Conservation Areas. Workplans are being prepared for summer projects. It was noted that larger projects will be sourced out to contractors. Student postings will be made public in January. The Board requested that an inquiry be made to our insurance provider about limiting liability when groomed trails are icy.

## 8.2 Gillies Lake Boardwalk

The inspection is expected to begin as soon as they can get onto the ice. The final inspection report will be provided to the Board once received.

## 8.3 33 Evans Street

A request has been received from the owner of 33 Evans St. to purchase the abutting property owned by MRCA at 57 Evans St. The Board is amicable to the sale as long as staff ensure that the property owner abides by all floodplain regulations.

## 8.4 Policy Manual O. Reg. 41/24

The GM reviewed changes to the Regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act noting that the individual Conservation Authority (CA) regulations were combined into one common regulation. Each CA is responsible to develop their own guidance policies and procedures for the implementation of that regulation. A draft will be provided to the Board for review prior to the February meeting. The Board inquired if there were any notable changes or omissions in O. Reg. 41/24 specific to northern CAs to which the GM reviewed the development process which included members from the northern CAs.

## 9.0 Items for Decision

The GM reviewed the Conservation Authorities Act requirement for a Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy, a Conservation Area Strategy and a Land Inventory. Draft documents were shared with local stakeholders and posted publicly on the website for 30 days with additional messaging requesting comments shared through social media outlets.

### 9.1 Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy

*Resolution No. 2025-1676*

*Proposed by: Andrew Marks*

*Seconded by: Joe Torlone*

*WHEREAS the provincial government passed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act in 2021, including the addition of Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services; and*

*WHEREAS a required component of O. Reg 686/21 is the development and implementation of a watershed-based resource management strategy;*

*LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority Board hereby adopts the MRCA Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy 2024 as presented.*

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

## 9.2 Conservation Area Strategy

*Resolution No. 2025-1677*

*Proposed by: Joe Torlone*

*Seconded by: Bill Gvozdanovic*

*WHEREAS the provincial government passed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act in 2021, including the addition of Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services; and*

*WHEREAS a required component of O. Reg 686/21 is the development of a conservation area strategy for all lands owned or controlled by the authority; and*

*WHEREAS the conservation area strategy identifies objectives to inform the Authority's decision making related to owned and controlled lands;*

*LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority Board hereby adopts the MRCA Conservation Area Strategy 2024 as presented.*

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

## 9.3 Delegated Authority

*Resolution No. 2025-1678*

*Proposed by: Andrew Marks*

*Seconded by: Bill Gvozdanovic*

*WHEREAS the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority (MRCA) is responsible for administering the Conservation Authorities Act and protecting, restoring, and managing the natural resources within its jurisdiction; and*

*WHEREAS O. Reg 41/24 authorizes the MRCA to regulate development activity in areas of natural hazards including flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches and unstable soil and bedrock, as well as areas associated with river or stream valleys; and*

*WHEREAS it is necessary to establish an efficient and transparent process for the review, approval, and issuance of permits in accordance with the MRCA's regulatory responsibilities;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority hereby delegates authority to the General Manager to:*

- 1. Establish procedures and guidelines for the review and approval of permit applications in compliance with applicable laws and policies.*
- 2. Approve and issue permits under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act & O. Reg 41/24;*

3. Deny applications that do not meet regulatory requirements or pose unacceptable risks to natural resources or public safety; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this delegation of authority shall be exercised in accordance with the following conditions:*

1. Compliance with all applicable statutes, regulations, and approved policies of the MRCA;
2. Regular reporting to the MRCA Board of Directors on the permits issued, denied, or subject to appeals;
3. Decisions that may be appealed, where the MRCA staff are recommending refusal, will be determined by the Authority Board; and
4. Maintenance of adequate records and transparency in the decision-making process.

*BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT this delegation shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the MRCA Board of Directors.*

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

#### 9.4 Compressed (4-day) Work Week

*Resolution No. 2025-1679*

*Proposed by: Bill Gvozdanovic*

*Seconded by: Andrew Marks*

*WHEREAS, the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority (MRCA) is committed to promoting work-life balance and operational efficiency; and*

*WHEREAS, the adoption of a compressed work week aligns with the company's objective to enhance employee satisfaction and productivity while maintaining compliance with labour laws and industry standards; and*

*WHEREAS, a compressed work week will involve employees working the required number of hours over fewer days, subject to the company's operational needs and applicable regulations;*

*LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors, after due consideration, hereby approves the implementation of a compressed work week schedule for eligible employees, effective January 8, 2025.*

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

The Board requests that a follow up review of the compressed work week, similar to this year's including a staff survey, take place again in one year.

#### **10.0 For Your Information – None**

#### **11.0 Date for Next Meeting – February 5, 2025**

**12.0 Adjournment**

*Resolution No. 2025-1680*

*Proposed by: Joe Torlone*

*Seconded by: Andrew Marks*

*THAT this meeting adjourn at 5:16 p.m.*

*January 7, 2025*

*Carried*

  
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Joe Torlone, Chair

February 5, 2025

Date