



**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE MATTAGAMI REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025 AT 4:40 PM,
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY OFFICE, TIMMINS, ONTARIO.**

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

1.0 Territorial Acknowledgement

2.0 Addition to the Agenda

7.6 Boreal Cycling Club Trail Development

3.0 Delegations and Presentations—None

4.0 Adoption of Minutes

4.1 Adoption of Minutes of February 5, 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-1694

Proposed by: Lorne Feldman

Seconded by: Bill Gvozdanovic

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority held on March 5, 2025 as described on pages 864 to 868 of the Minute Book are hereby approved as circulated.

April 9, 2025

Carried

5.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest—None

6.0 Reports

6.1 General Manager Report

The GM pointed out the inclusion of a trail counter report which is valuable information for use in completing funding applications.

6.2 Plan Input Report

Plan input and comments under O. Reg. 41/24, minor variances, consents, severances and legal inquiries were provided to the Board. C. Percival noted that MRCA permitting has been operating under the new regulation and new policies. The policies may require future amendments as situations arise that are not defined. The MRCA has implemented a more formal

process including pre-consultations. Upon inquiry, clarification was provided that there is one single regulation for all conservation authorities in the province, however each CA is responsible for developing their own policies based on local issues and concerns.

6.3 DWSP Report

The DWSP Lead updated the board on water education programs including a number of Yellow Fish Road events with elementary schools, and 2 Water Trivia events with high school students. The Water Trivia was developed as a result of a number of high school presentation requests, which were not engaging the students, and so far, it has been very successful.

6.4 Regulations Officer Report

The Regulations Officer announced that the Invasive Phragmites Control Funding application has been approved. A drone will be purchased to monitor the local invasive species. It was noted that the ongoing collaborations between MRCA and other CAs have been beneficial in sharing information and knowledge when MRCA does not have the expertise on staff.

6.5 Motion to Accept Administrative Reports

Resolution No. 2025-1695

Proposed by: Andrew Marks

Seconded by: Rock Whissell

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.

April 9, 2025

Carried

7.0 Items for Discussion

7.1 Conservation Areas / Trail Upkeep

The seasonal contractor started this week and is preparing equipment for summer. Wintergreen is proceeding with dissolution of their charity. They will become a volunteer committee of the MRCA and will continue their activities such as hiking days, gardens, etc. The development of the Conservation Area Trails Stewards Program will begin this year, with Wintergreen as an active partner. It was noted that trail grooming was a substantial cost over the past winter, with staff time being allocated almost every day and significant fuel costs.

7.2 Update on Leases and Agreements

The current property leases were presented to the Board. It was noted that the Timmins Little League lease has been revised and will replace the previous agreement.

7.3 Budget Variance Report

The GM was unable to present the Budget Variance Report due to the numbers not yet being input in the City of Timmins Vadim program for 2025.

7.4 Procurement Process

The GM presented the current procurement policy, noting that the MRCA uses the City of Timmins Purchasing Policy, where reference to the CAO means the MRCA General Manager and reference to Council means the Board of Directors. Discussion followed about the GM's request to consider the purchase of a used vehicle, rather than following the standard City procurement process of solely purchasing new. With the increased cost of trucks, budget considerations necessitate looking at other options. Leasing options were also discussed. The Board is amicable to looking at good quality used vehicles.

7.5 MPAC Reassessment

In the ongoing efforts to reduce administration costs, the GM reviewed all properties and submitted a number of requests for MPAC reconsideration. A substantial change was the combination of all Hersey Lake Conservation Area properties into one roll number. The results of the requests were presented to the Board noting that assessment values were reduced by almost 1/3. The final process requires sign-off from the municipality.

7.6 Boreal Cycling Club Trail Development

The GM and Regulations Officer continue to communicate with the Boreal Cycling Club about activities within the Hersey Lake Conservation Area. The club has requested permission to develop 3 single track cycling trails. The proposed areas were presented to the Board. Trails will be developed to the specifications required by the IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) standards. Their goal is to host future cycling competitions at the location, which would be beneficial for the community as a whole. It was noted that insurance is provided annually, and the current cycling volunteers have been open to communicating and abiding by direction from the MRCA.

8.0 Items for Decision

8.1 Land Management Policy

Updates to the Land Management Policy are based on Ontario Regulation 686/21 and updates to the Conservation Authorities Act.

Resolution No. 2025-1696

Proposed by: Andrew Marks

Seconded by: Bill Gvozdanovic

WHEREAS section 21(1)(c) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27 provides Conservation Authorities with the power to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise any land that it may require, and, to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of land so acquired; and

WHEREAS the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority has previously resolved to adopt the Land Management Policy; and

WHEREAS the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority has determined it is necessary to amend the Land Management Policy;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority Board adopt the Land Management Policy amendments as presented.

April 9, 2025

Carried

9.0 For Your Information

A brief discussion was held regarding the proposed updates to floodplain mapping mentioned in the GM Report. The GM clarified that in the current mapping, based on COOP imagery from 2016, the contouring appears to have picked up vegetation in certain areas. The MRCA now requires a survey with elevation data for new development in the areas where this discrepancy has been identified. Discussions took place with the previous mapping contractor and they are able to update based on new 2024 imagery and 2024 Lidar data. A funding application has been submitted for these updates and once completed, the new mapping would be incorporated in the City of Timmins Zoning By-law and their next OP update.

10.0 Date for Next Meeting – May 7, 2025

11.0 Adjournment

Resolution No. 2025-1697

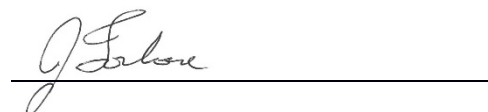
Proposed by: Rock Whissell

Seconded by: Lorne Feldman

THAT this meeting adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

April 9, 2025

Carried



Joe Torlone, Chair

May 7, 2025

Date