

NICKEL DISTRICT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of General Board Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Room C-12
Tom Davies Square

Commenced: 4:10 p.m.
Adjourned: 6:20 p.m.

PRESENT: Bob Rogers, Chair
Joe Cimino
John Dennis
Evelyn Dutrisac
Joscelyne Landry-Altmann
Anne Watelet

ALSO PRESENT: A. Bonnis, N.D.C.A.
P. Sajatovic, N.D.C.A.
Judy Sewell, DWSP
Melanie Beaudoin, NOHFC Intern

COMMUNICATIONS: Jacques Barbeau

1. Chair Rogers opened the meeting and welcomed all participants present.
2. No declarations of conflict were declared.
3. Adoption of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

Resolution 2009-28 Dennis - Watelet

That the April 16, 2009 agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) March 19, 2009

Resolution 2009-29 Dennis - Watelet

That the minutes of the March 19, 2009 General Board meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

b) Business Arising from Minutes

It was noted by Chair Rogers that a number of issues addressed in the March 19th minutes would be dealt with at the April 16th meeting. Clarification was requested concerning the status of the N.D.C.A.'s 2009/2010 (WECD) program applications. It was noted that verbal approval of the Nickeldale Dam repair project has been received from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Formal written approval and the allocation of provincial funding is expected very soon. The project applications for the Dam Safety Review reports have not been approved at this time, pending finalization of the funding list by the Ministry. This work will still need to be done in 2009 for the Nickeldale, Maley and Lake Laurentian Dams, even if the provincial share is not received. Options to deal with this situation, if necessary, will be presented to members at the May General Board meeting for their consideration.

5. General Business

a) Nickel District Conservation Foundation Funding Request

Resolution 2009-30

Dennis - Watelet

That the Nickel District Conservation Foundation be requested to provide \$11,000 to support the Lake Laurentian Environmental-Education Program activities in 2009.

Carried.

b) Drinking Water Source Protection Program Staffing

i) Communications Officer

A staff report had been distributed to General Board members outlining the process recently undertaken to hire a Communications Officer for this program. A very thorough discussion was held and many questions were answered related to the recommendation by staff. The following resolution was then presented.

Resolution 2009-31

Watelet - Dennis

That Brianne Carter be hired as the Drinking Water Source Protection Project Communications Officer effective May 4, 2009,

AND FURTHER that the Nickel District Conservation Authority Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority enter into a Term Employment Contract with the Communications Officer, based on guaranteed 100% funding from the province, for the maximum period of May 4, 2009 to March 31, 2012,

AND FURTHER that the wage rate category and other non-monetary benefits provided will be as approved by the Conservation Authority/Source Protection Authority for the duration of the Term Employment Contract for the Communications Officer.

Carried.

The successful candidate, Ms. Brianne Carter was then introduced to members and had an opportunity to outline for members her past experience in various communications jobs. Brianne thanked members for the support and expressed a strong desire to commence the very important work associated with the source protection project.

At the time this meeting agenda was prepared, it had been anticipated that another staff report would be presented recommending the hiring of a Water Resources Technician. However, all the required background work was not completed in time for this meeting. Therefore, members will be contacted by e-mail once a candidate is confirmed and can be recommended for hiring. This hiring process would then be confirmed by formal General Board resolution at the May, 2009 meeting.

c) Sudbury Children's Water Festival Strategic Plan

The Sudbury Children's Water Festival has been a collaborative community partnership since 2005 between various organizations. The Sudbury & District Health Unit has been the lead agency since the outset and the Nickel District Conservation Authority has been a major partner. Although the festivals have been very successful each year, the ability to sustain this creative water stewardship initiative has always been a challenge. Accordingly in 2008 the N.D.C.A. agreed to apply for a Water Sustainability Intern position through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Program. Melanie Beaudoin, the Intern hired in July, 2008 to work on developing a Sustainability Plan and sponsorship package, was present at the meeting. Melanie provided detailed background information on the work completed to date; short term successes in raising new funds for the festival; and the ways in which the seven-year plan will be distributed to potential funding partners. Chair Rogers sincerely thanked Melanie for being so dedicated to this project and for the excellent products delivered to date. Chair Rogers noted that various agencies/groups have supported Melanie's work including the Health Unit, the N.D.C.A., the City of Greater Sudbury's Healthy Community Cabinet and Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE). Members of the General Board were asked to provide Melanie with any contacts they may know of in the community who could be approached to provide support to this very important stewardship initiative.

d) Tangible Capital Assets Policy

Currently government and other public agencies use the accrual basis of accounting which means capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the year of acquisition. For the financial year ending December 31, 2009, government and other public agencies must recognize all tangible capital assets in their financial statements. The assets will then be amortized over their useful lives with related depreciation expenses recorded each year. The N.D.C.A, like other Conservation Authorities, needs a policy to guide this work. Members were advised that staff will work with the N.D.C.A.'s auditor to develop a process which will meet the requirements in a cost-effective and time appropriate manner. After a number of questions were answered, the following resolution was presented.

Resolution 2009-32

Cimino - Watelet

That the Nickel District Conservation Authority develop a Tangible Capital Asset Policy for review and approval by the General Board no later than the June, 2009 regularly scheduled board meeting,
AND FURTHER that this policy guide the work to recognize the N.D.C.A.'s tangible capital assets in the audited financial statement beginning as of the year ending December 31, 2009.

Carried.

e) Whitson River Erosion (Felix Street, Val Caron)

A written staff report from A. Bonnis to the General Board was provided. A. Bonnis provided a verbal update to members on this problem and the actions of the property owner which have lead to the current situation, involving illegal channelization work having been done without formal approval from the necessary regulatory agencies. The property owner is now requesting financial assistance from the N.D.C.A. to retain a professional engineer to assist with developing a plan to rectify the problem. The property owner would be responsible for all costs associated with the works then to be done to correct the problem. After a very thorough discussion, with many questions directed to Mr. Bonnis and based on the written and verbal information previously provided by Mr. Bonnis, a resolution was presented.

Resolution 2009-33

Cimino - Watelet

That the Nickel District Conservation Authority provide a maximum of \$2,000.00 to retain the professional engineering services of S.A. Kirchhefer Ltd. to do restoration design work related to an erosion problem on the Whitson River adjacent to a property at 1352 Felix Street, Val Caron.

Defeated.

f) N.D.C.A. Climate Change Position Paper

Following the adoption of this position paper at the March, 2009 General Board meeting, work began on developing a Climate Change Adaptation Partnership Model and Action Steps. Chair Rogers and P. Sajatovic outlined the upcoming activities planned including meeting with City staff and a presentation to be made by Chair Rogers and Dr. Liette Vasseur at the April 27th Conservation Ontario Council Meeting. Chair Rogers committed to keep General Board members updated on the progress of this initiative and seek input/approvals as necessary.

g) Environmental Education Programming - Future Directions for Lake Laurentian

Chair Rogers and P. Sajatovic outlined to members an exciting opportunity which exists at this time to energize the Lake Laurentian Environmental Education Program and take it to a new level for all users. A detailed background report was provided for members and Chair Rogers spoke as a passionate champion for this proposed initiative. Chair Rogers also noted that he would contribute his 2009 honorarium if necessary, to support the work suggested. After a very positive and thorough discussion with many questions answered, the following resolution was passed.

Resolution 2009-34

Landry-Altman - Cimino

That the N.D.C.A. make application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Program to hire an Intern for a one-year term to work on future directions for the Lake Laurentian Environmental-Education Program based on the report to General Board members dated April 6, 2009,

AND FURTHER that if the NOHFC application is approved, and an Intern is hired, the N.D.C.A. commit a maximum of \$7,000 from the Levy Stabilization Reserve in 2009/2010 to support this work.

Carried.

h) Spring Run-Off Report

A. Bonnis reported on current conditions and the heavy runoff experienced in early April in many parts of the watershed due to heavy rain and snowmelt. The consequences of that runoff and the responses were discussed. It was noted that the N.D.C.A. continues to be concerned about how quickly the melt from the northern headwaters of the major rivers will proceed. This is being closely monitored by all agencies involved. It was also noted that Chair Rogers, A. Bonnis and P. Sajatovic had attended a meeting on April 15th involving City staff from Infrastructure Services, Emergency Services and Fire Services related to how and when assistance is provided to watershed residents who may experience overland flooding at any time of the year. Chair Rogers indicated that it was a very positive start and that each agency has been tasked to do followup work in advance of the next meeting to be held in early June to continue work on taking a proactive approach for our citizens.

6. In-Camera Matters

A resolution to go in-camera to deal with a personnel matter was presented.

Resolution 2009-35

Dennis - Watelet

That we go in-camera at 6:06 p.m.

Carried.

At 6:16 p.m., the Chair of the in-camera session rose to report that no resolutions would be forthcoming at this time related to the discussion held.

7. New Business

i) Lake Laurentian Conservation Area

Member Cimino indicated that a citizen had recently spoken with him about the limitations in accessing parts of the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area due to gates having to be locked. P. Sajatovic responded to the inquiry and noted the issues which contribute to this operational decision. Members concurred that resource limitations are a problem. Chair Rogers noted that the planned work to enhance the environmental-education programs at Lake Laurentian could also explore possible strategies to solve the problems faced in this regard.

ii) Next Meeting - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the N.D.C.A. General Board will be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2009, at 4:00 p.m., in Room C-12, Tom Davies Square.**

No other business was transacted.

9. Adjournment

Resolution 2009-36

Dennis - Watelet

That we do now adjourn.

Carried.