

NICKEL DISTRICT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of Annual General Board Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Room C-11
Tom Davies Square

Commenced: 4:14 p.m.
Adjourned: 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Lin Gibson, Chairperson
Jennifer Davidson
Evelyn Dutrisac
Joscelyne Landry-Altmann
Mark Signoretti
Russ Thompson
Anne Watelet

ALSO PRESENT: P. Sajatovic, N.D.C.A.
L. Lachance, N.D.C.A.
J. Sewell, D.W.S.P.
N. Conroy, G.S.S.P.C.
Mr. & Mrs. R. Leblanc, Delegation
Fred Slade & Laurie Rossignol, Fred Slade & Associates,
Chartered Accountant

COMMUNICATION: Jacques Barbeau
Joe Cimino

1. Chairperson Gibson opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. Chairperson Gibson wished all members, staff and their families, a healthy and productive 2014.

Chairperson Gibson then advised that before proceeding with formal business, it was her pleasure and honour on behalf of the Nickel District Conservation Authority to make a special presentation to a current staff member. Linda Lachance, Administrative Assistant, completed 35 years of continuous service with the Conservation Authority as of January 1, 2014. Chairperson Gibson noted that this is a significant accomplishment and sincerely thanked Linda for her dedication and commitment. On behalf of everyone at the N.D.C.A., Chairperson Gibson presented Linda with a gift in recognition of and appreciation for 35 years service.

Linda thanked members present and commented on the many changes that have occurred at the N.D.C.A. since 1979. Chairperson Gibson again congratulated Linda and noted that another current staff member would be reaching the 35 year service milestone in May, 2014.

2. No declarations of conflict were declared by any member present.

3. Adoption of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

Resolution 2014-01

Watelet - Dutrisac

That the January 16, 2014 agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a) December 5, 2013

Resolution 2014-02

Watelet - Davidson

That the minutes of the December 5, 2013, General Board meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

b) Business Arising from Minutes

There were no items of business arising from the minutes to be dealt with.

5. .Election of Officers - 2014

Chairperson Gibson turned the Chair over to P. Sajatovic to conduct the election of officers for 2014. P. Sajatovic referred members to the information contained in the agenda package related to the procedures to be followed for electing officers of the N.D.C.A. With that, the floor was opened for the nomination of candidates for the position of Chair/Chairperson of the Conservation Authority.

Nominee
Lin Gibson

Nominator
Evelyn Dutrisac

No other nominations were received based on the election procedure. A motion to close nominations, was moved by Member Thompson and was seconded by Member Signoretti. Member Gibson agreed to stand and the following resolution was presented.

Resolution 2014-03

Thompson - Signoretti

That Lin Gibson be appointed Chair/Chairperson of the Nickel District Conservation Authority for the year 2014 and until the Annual General Board meeting of the Authority in 2015.

Carried.

The floor was then opened for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Conservation Authority for 2014.

Nominee
Mark Signoretti

Nominator
Joscelyne Landry-Altmann

No other nominations were received based on the elections procedure. A motion to close nominations was moved by Member Watelet and was seconded by Member Dutrisac. Member Signoretti agreed to stand and the following resolution was then presented.

Resolution 2014-04

Watelet - Dutrisac

That Mark Signoretti be appointed Vice-Chair of the Nickel District Conservation Authority for the year 2014 and until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2015.

Carried.

Chairperson Lin Gibson assumed the chair and sincerely thanked members for their support and commitment to work together as a strong team for the good of our watershed residents and natural environment.

6. Appointment of Signing Officers - 2014

Resolution 2014-05

Watelet - Dutrisac

That the signing officers for the Nickel District Conservation Authority for 2014, and until the Annual Meeting in 2015 be:

- a) Chair/Chairperson, OR
- b) Vice-Chair
- AND
- c) General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer.

Carried.

7. Bank Borrowing Resolution - 2014

Resolution 2014-06

Signoretti - Dutrisac

That for the year 2014, the signing officers as designated, be empowered to arrange any necessary borrowing from time to time, by promissory note, of funds necessary for approved Authority projects and programs, to a maximum amount of \$200,000.

Carried.

8. Appointment of Solicitor - 2014

Resolution 2014-07 Landry-Altmann - Signoretti

That Mr. J. D. Innes, an Associate in the legal firm Desmarais, Keenan, be appointed as the N.D.C.A.'s Solicitor for the Year 2014.

Carried.

9. Appointments to Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority - 2014

Resolution 2014-08 Signoretti - Davidson

That the following individuals are hereby appointed to the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority for 2014, and until the 2015 Annual General Board meeting:

- 1) Lin Gibson
- 2) Mark Signoretti
- 3) Jacques Barbeau
- 4) Joe Cimino
- 5) Evelyn Dutrisac
- 6) Joscelyne Landry-Altmann
- 7) Anne Watelet
- 8) Russ Thompson, and
- 9) Jennifer Davidson.

Carried.

10. Conservation Ontario Council Appointments - 2014

Resolution 2014-09 Davidson - Landry-Altmann

That the Nickel District Conservation Authority's appointments to Conservation Ontario for the Year 2014, and until the 2015 Annual General Board meeting, are as follows:

- 1) Voting Representative - Lin Gibson
- 2) Council Alternate - Mark Signoretti, and
- 3) Second Alternate - Paul Sajatovic.

Carried.

11. Appointments to N.D.C.A. Regulations Review Committee - 2014

P. Sajatovic provided information related to the roles and responsibilities of the Regulations Review Committee. The committee work pertains to the N.D.C.A.'s responsibilities under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. After this clarification, a resolution was tabled.

Resolution 2014-10

Thompson - Watelet

That the following individuals are hereby appointed to the N.D.C.A. Regulations Review Committee for 2014, and until the 2015 Annual General Board meeting:

- 1) Evelyn Dutrisac
- 2) Anne Watelet
- 3) Jacques Barbeau
- 4) Mark Signoretti.

Carried.

12. Appointments to Nickel District Conservation Foundation - 2014

Three members from the General Board have to be appointed to the Conservation Foundation each year. The Chairperson is an ex-officio member of the N.D.C.F. Following a brief discussion, a resolution was tabled.

Resolution 2014-11

Signoretti - Dutrisac

That the following members from the N.D.C.A. General Board are appointed to the Nickel District Conservation Foundation for 2014, and until the 2015 Annual General Board meeting:

- 1) Jennifer Davidson
- 2) Anne Watelet
- 3) Mark Signoretti.

Carried.

13. Adjustments to Rates & Expenses - 2014

The N.D.C.A. has a policy to adjust certain rates and expenses for each new year. Members discussed the recommended changes to the specific rates and expenses listed. Following the discussion, a resolution was presented.

Resolution 2014-12

Watelet - Dutrisac

That adjustments to rates and expenses for 2014 as outlined in the staff report dated December 31, 2013, be approved and be implemented immediately.

Carried.

14. General Business

a) Property Matter - Nickeldale Dam and Reservoir/Mitchell Street

At the September, 2013 N.D.C.A. General Board meeting, Mr. & Mrs. Leblanc attended to discuss this matter with members. Since that time a number of developments occurred related to this matter. P. Sajatovic updated members and a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Leblanc had been distributed to all General Board members. Many issues were discussed at this meeting and N.D.C.A. staff was directed to follow up with Conservation Authorities staff at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources with regard to the possible sale of the N.D.C.A. owned property. As well, the potential to enter into an easement agreement will be explored. This matter will be placed on the February, 2014 General Board meeting agenda for further consideration. Mr. & Mrs. Leblanc will be invited to attend the February meeting as well.

b) N.D.C.A./N.D.C.F. Audit Services (2013 Audit)

In November, 2012, the N.D.C.A. General Board had approved a resolution awarding audit services for the N.D.C.A. and N.D.C.F. to Fred Slade and Associates for 2013 to 2015 with an option for 2016 and 2017. The N.D.C.A. had recently been advised by the auditor that an issue had arisen which would require them to resign effective immediately. Fred Slade and Laurie Rossignol were in attendance at the General Board meeting to provide additional information and to answer any questions from General Board members. P. Sajatovic advised that interim action had to be taken now in order to complete the 2013 audits. Further, the N.D.C.A. will now have to reissue the Request for Audit Services Proposal later this year to retain an auditor of record. Recommendations were presented to members for their consideration. After a number of questions were answered, the following resolution was presented.

Resolution 2014-13

Thompson - Dutrisac

That based on the staff report dated December 31, 2013 and as there is an immediate need to proceed with the 2013 audits, the following course of action is hereby approved by the N.D.C.A. General Board:

- 1) That the resignation of Fred Slade and Associates as the Auditor of record be accepted effective immediately,

- 2) That Edward A. Jakubo, Chartered Accountant be retained to complete the 2013 audits for the N.D.C.A. and N.D.C.F. based on their e-mail submission dated December 23, 2013, and
- 3) That the Request for Audit Services process be initiated no later than April, 2014 with a recommendation to be brought forward at the June, 2014 N.D.C.A. General Board meeting for consideration and final approval by General Board members.

Carried.

c) 2014 Action/Work Plan

Conservation Sudbury - Nickel District Conservation Authority is tasked to deliver conservation based services to protect and manage our watersheds. Services are customer focused, based on funding and staffing capabilities. In that regard, a proposed action/work plan was presented to General Board members. P. Sajatovic provided an overview of the plan and noted that this is a very important document which is used by the members to measure the success of the annual work plan to be delivered by the staff. Members had a number of questions following which a resolution was presented.

Resolution 2014-14

Dutrisac - Watelet

That the 2014 Action/Work Plan for the Nickel District Conservation Authority as distributed be approved,

AND FURTHER that the General Manager provide detailed update reports to outline the progress made in achieving the strategic operational priorities outlined.

Carried.

d) Chairperson's/General Manager's 2013 Joint Report

Reports from Chairperson Gibson and P. Sajatovic highlighting the key outcomes and major initiatives throughout 2013 had been distributed to members. Members had many questions and comments. Member Landry-Altman requested that further information related to the Fast Flowing Water Program be included in the reporting. It was agreed that the information would be immediately added before distribution and posting. Chairperson Gibson again thanked all members, staff, partners and donors for the fantastic support throughout 2013. A resolution was then presented for consideration by members.

Resolution 2014-15

Landry-Altman - Dutrisac

That the joint Chairperson's/General Manager's 2013 Report be received as presented,

AND FURTHER that copies of the report be sent to members of City Council, the local media outlets, and be posted on the N.D.C.A. website.

Carried.

e) Friends of Lake Laurentian (FLL) Steering Committee Update

Friends of Lake Laurentian Steering Committee Chair Mark Signoretti presented a verbal update on some of the major activities planned for 2014. This includes recruiting four more Patrons in 2014; continuing to use various methods of advertising and promotion to expand the membership base and number of community donors; building a volunteer driven sub-committee structure to implement a number of key initiatives; working to support the Lake Laurentian multi-year signage plan, etc. General Board members thanked all the "Friends" and encouraged everyone to support our community jewel.

f) Greater Sudbury Climate Change Consortium Update

Member Jennifer Davidson began her update by reporting on a workshop that had been held on January 15, 2014. The workshop was held to engage consortium members and other partners in planning and implementing the Friends and Neighbours (F.A.N.S.) initiative. Member Davidson reported in detail on the outcomes from the workshop and next steps. A summary report highlighting the workshop outcomes will be sent to General Board members. Updates on the work of the consortium during 2014 will be presented to N.D.C.A. members on a continuing basis throughout this year.

g) Nickel District Conservation Foundation Update

P. Sajatovic who also serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Conservation Foundation, provided an update on the anticipated activities during 2014. These include recruiting 4 or 5 new members; continuing to raise funds to support the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area; and supporting the Friends of Lake Laurentian. It was noted that N.D.C.F. Chair Chris Melchior and Vice-Chair Jill Smith are now also members of the Friends of Lake Laurentian Steering Committee.

h) Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines/Watercourses Report (Section 28) - December, 2013

The one permit in the December 2013 report drew questions from members. The specific application and N.D.C.A. Section 28 permit approval was discussed in detail. Member Landry-Altman advised that an upcoming public meeting was being held to discuss the subject development proposal. P. Sajatovic advised that N.D.C.A. staff will be at that public meeting to answer any questions that may arise pertaining only to the Conservation Authority's mandate. After all questions had been answered, the following resolution was tabled.

Resolution 2014-16

Davidson - Landry-Altman

That N.D.C.A. Permits 2013-60, issued in December, 2013, be approved as outlined in the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines/Watercourses and Fisheries Files report.

Carried.

15. In-Camera Matters (Personnel/Legal/Property)

No in-camera items were dealt with at this meeting.

16. New Business

a) Community Builders Awards - February 20, 2014

As the recipient of the 2012 award in the Environment Category, Conservation-Sudbury - N.D.C.A. is committed to supporting this initiative. A sponsorship will be taken in the souvenir program and tickets will be purchased for any member who wants to attend. Chairperson Gibson and P. Sajatovic will be attending this year's celebration.

b) Fast Flowing Water (FFW) Program

Chairperson Gibson and FFW Sub-committee Chair Landry-Altman provided updates related to the program. The promotional video and marketing package are new completion. These products will be used to expand the use of the program across the province. A meeting with the Minister of Education is still being pursued to discuss the possibility of embedding this program in the provincial curriculum. Chairperson Gibson noted that the program package, including the video, will be presented at the March 31st Conservation Ontario Council meeting. Member Landry-Altman suggested, now that the program curriculum package has been in local schools for almost two years, that a survey of French and English schools be done to assess the use and benefit that teachers are finding. This will be done immediately with a report back to the General Board as soon as possible.

c) Flooding Impacts/Insurance Industry

Member Landry-Altman raised an issue that has been brought to her attention dealing with insurance availability/renewal in flood prone areas. P. Sajatovic asked Member Landry-Altman to forward the information to staff who would do some further investigation and report back as soon as possible.

d) N.D.C.A Land Management/Disposal Policies

Member Watelet brought forward a concern pertaining to this issue in relation to the property matter which had been dealt with earlier in the meeting. Member Watelet encouraged members to review the policies and procedures which have to be followed by the N.D.C.A. when considering land management/disposal requests. Chairperson Gibson agreed that this is a very important matter and directed staff to prepare a background report for discussion at an upcoming General Board meeting. P. Sajatovic advised that this report will be ready for discussion at the March 6, 2014 General Board meeting.

e) Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled General Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13th, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in Room C-12 at Tom Davies Square.

No other business was transacted.

17. Adjournment

Resolution 2014-17

Landry-Altman - Davidson

That we do now adjourn.

Carried.