

NICKEL DISTRICT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of General Board Meeting

Thursday, November 26, 2009

Room C-11
Tom Davies Square

Commenced: 4:06 p.m.
Adjourned: 5:48 p.m.

PRESENT: Bob Rogers, Chair
 Jacques Barbeau
 John Dennis
 Evelyn Dutrisac
 Anne Watelet

ALSO PRESENT: P. Sajatovic, N.D.C.A.
 D. Lenzi, N.D.C.A.

COMMUNICATIONS: Joe Cimino

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

Resolution 2009-80

Dutrisac - Watelet

That the November 26, 2009 agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a) October 15, 2009

Resolution 2009-81

Dutrisac - Watelet

That the minutes of the October 15, 2009 General Board meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

- b) Business Arising from Minutes

No items were dealt with as certain issues would be discussed further during the meeting as outlined in the agenda.

5. General Business

a) N.D.C.A. 2010 Budget Approval

General Board members by way of e-mail poll had previously approved the 2010 budget package as proposed. It was noted that based on that approval, Chair Rogers and P. Sajatovic had appeared before the City of Greater Sudbury's Finance Committee on November 16th. P. Sajatovic provided a detailed overview of the budget, including the Business Plan and Capital Plan and answered a number of questions. Member Barbeau noted that the N.D.C.A. had presented a very realistic and responsible budget proposal to the member municipality. It was noted that the municipality is expected to make final budget decisions on December 2nd. After a very thorough discussion, the following resolution was presented.

Resolution 2009-82

Dennis - Watelet

That the Nickel District Conservation Authority 2010 Budget including the Capital/Special Projects Plan and Business Plan, be approved in the total amount of \$976,121.

Carried.

Following up on the budget discussion, P. Sajatovic made a presentation to members related to undertaking renovations in the main office space at Tom Davies Square. It was noted that it had been many years since any work had been done and that this work would support the N.D.C.A.'s transition process. Members agreed with the recommendation and the following resolution was passed.

Resolution 2009-83

Dennis - Dutrisac

That the N.D.C.A. main office space in Tom Davies Square be rehabilitated at a total estimated cost of \$10,550,
AND FURTHER that this expense be charged back to the Levy Stabilization Reserve.

Carried.

Members then discussed the N.D.C.A.'s desire to eventually bring all staff together in one location as the re-organization process evolves over the next few years. Members agreed it is very important that the N.D.C.A. work very closely with our member municipality and in order to provide the most efficient customer service possible. Following a very positive discussion on the future vision for the N.D.C.A. operations, a resolution was presented.

Resolution 2009-84

Watelet - Barbeau

That the Nickel District Conservation Authority hereby requests that the City of Greater Sudbury when considering allocation of office space in the municipal complex, have due regard to the consolidation of N.D.C.A. operations and the availability of one central site to meet that requirement.

Carried.

b) N.D.C.A. Erosion Control Assistance Policy

Following a request at the October, 2009 General Board meeting by Member Watelet, information related to the N.D.C.A.'s current policy and program related to erosion control assistance was provided to members. Many of the issues and problems associated with this topic were discussed including the lack of funding for capital works, the fact that erosion on watercourses is extensive throughout the watershed and that the N.D.C.A. must look at this issue in a comprehensive manner when a delegation comes before the General Board. Members and staff engaged in a very productive discussion. In order to provide direction and assist in clarifying this matter a Working Group was struck. The group is comprised of members Dennis and Barbeau and staff. The working group has specific items to consider and will make an initial report to the General Board in either January or February, 2010.

c) Maley Land Survey Report

Information had been submitted to the N.D.C.A. that adjacent property owners may be encroaching on property owned by the Conservation Authority in the Maley Reservoir area. Del Bosco Surveying was authorized by the General Board to prepare a survey plan to identify the extent of the problem. P. Sajatovic had a plan available at the meeting and pointed out all the encroachments identified. Members undertook a very thorough discussion and directed staff to take specific action to protect the interests of the N.D.C.A. Based on the direction received and as a result of the discussion, a resolution was presented.

Resolution 2009-85

Dennis - Watelet

That the Plan of Survey as proposed by Del Bosco Surveying related to illegal encroachments on portions of N.D.C.A. owned land in the Maley Reservoir be received,

AND FURTHER that staff is hereby authorized to enter into discussions with each adjacent property owner where an encroachment has been confirmed by the survey,

AND FURTHER that final recommendations on removing all of the confirmed encroachments be presented to the General Board at the January 2010 meeting.

Carried.

d) N.D.C.A. Transition to Integrated Watershed Management and Greater Sudbury Climate Change Consortium

Background information material had been distributed to members. Chair Rogers and P. Sajatovic provided additional overview within the context of the presentation made to City Council on November 12th and the budget presentation on November 16th. Chair Rogers emphasized that this vision is the future of the N.D.C.A. for the benefit of our natural environment, member municipality and watershed residents. P. Sajatovic noted that on November 25th the Province of Ontario's Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation delivered its report to the Minister of the Environment. Dr. David Pearson was Co-Chair of the Expert Panel. Based on portions of this report, it is very clear that the N.D.C.A.'s lead role in the community-based Greater Sudbury Climate Change Consortium is a very important initiative, and is supported by the work of the panel as the type of locally driven actions which will be necessary to deal with the changed climate we face. Chair Rogers noted that detailed action on these transition items at the N.D.C.A. will occur in 2010 when the Strategic Planning Process gets underway and when the first meeting of the Consortium Managing Partners is held.

e) Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alteration to Shorelines/Watercourses and Fisheries Files Report

The activity report and staff recommendation for General Board endorsement had been distributed to members. Member Dennis noted a potential problem in the report. Staff will review and report back at the December General Board meeting. Based on the clarification requirement, the proposed resolution was amended with the approval of the Mover and Seconder.

Resolution 2009-86

Watelet - Dutrisac

That the N.D.C.A. Permits 2009-34 to and including 2009-40, issued in October, 2009, be approved as outlined in the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines/Watercourses and Fisheries Files report, with the exception of 2009-38 until clarified.

Carried.

f) N.D.C.A. Tangible Capital Assets Policy Development

P. Sajatovic updated members on the status of this initiative. The N.D.C.A. policy and inventory is being worked on as time permits. The N.D.C.A.'s Auditor is actively engaged and aware of the current situation. Work will continue and members will be kept up-to-date on the status as it relates to the N.D.C.A.'s financial reporting responsibilities.

g) Source Protection Planning Updates

i) Bill 212 - Amendments to Clean Water Act

Conservation Authorities and Source Protection Authorities were only recently advised that the Province is proceeding with amendments to the Clean Water Act as part of an omnibus piece of legislation, Bill 212 - The Good Government Act. Initial review of the proposed amendments seemed to indicate they were administrative in nature and designed to clean up minor issues/discrepancies. However, once more detail emerged certain amendments were more than administrative and could be substantive. Conservation Authorities, Source Protection Authorities, and Conservation Ontario moved to request the Province delete from Bill 212 the unacceptable amendments. N.D.C.A. members discussed the issue and passed the following resolution.

Resolution 2009-87

Watelet - Dutrisac

That whereas the Province by way of The Good Government Act (Bill 212) is proposing amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA) that would remove existing powers and responsibilities of the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority (GSSPA), to provide comments on key CWA documents including the Terms of Reference, Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan prepared by the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee (GSSPC),

AND FURTHER that whereas these amendments identified as clauses 10 (2)(b), 17 (2)(b), and 29 (1)(b), would limit the ability of the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority to consider local watershed specific concerns within the contents of these documents and to refer these concerns to the Minister of the Environment,

AND FURTHER that the Nickel District Conservation Authority (N.D.C.A.)/G.S.S.P.A. hereby endorses the submission from Conservation Ontario to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs regarding Bill 212 dated November 18, 2009,

AND FURTHER that the N.D.C.A. General Board/G.S.S.P.A. hereby declares its opposition to the said amendments and requests that they be removed from Bill 212,

AND FURTHER that the N.D.C.A. General Board/G.S.S.P.A. hereby intends to forward this resolution to its member municipality, the City of Greater Sudbury; the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, M.P.P. Sudbury; the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment; the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources; and Chair Dick Hibma, Conservation Ontario.

Carried.

ii) N.D.C.A./G.S.S.P.A. Post - 2012 Implementation Activities

Following the workshop session held on September 26th, a strategy for moving forward was presented to members. It was noted that as the first step in continuous engagement with our member municipality, a presentation will be made to City Council in February, 2010. As well, the framework for a Sudbury Model - Post-2012 Source Protection Planning implementation has been developed for further discussion. It is imperative that the Sudbury model be finalized and submitted to the Province no later than March 31, 2011 as Source Protection Plans must be submitted to the province by August 2012 at the latest. Members of the N.D.C.A., G.S.S.P.A. and G.S.S.P.C. will work closely with our member municipality to develop the necessary strategy.

iii) December 8, 2009 Joint G.S.S.P.C./G.S.S.P.A. Presentation

Bruce Davidson, Co-founder and spokesman for The Concerned Walkerton Citizens Group that was formed in direct response to the Walkerton water tragedy will be making a presentation. The presentation begins at 10:30 a.m. in Room C-10 at Tom Davies Square. The primary objective of the presentation is to extend outreach and education regarding the consequences of failing to protect drinking water from source to tap. It will also assist Source Protection Committee members as they move into the policy development phase of the Source Protection Planning Process in 2010. Due to the space limitations for the presentation, widespread advertising will not occur, however, staff from the City, Provincial government departments and members of the G.S.S.P.A. have been invited to attend what will be a very informative session.

h) Latornell Conservation Symposium Report

The Latornell Conservation Symposium was held from November 18th to 20th in Alliston. Over 1,000 people attended the highly regarded conference. This year's

theme was, "The Currency of Ecology", which was very timely in terms of emerging issues such as climate change mitigation/adaptation, etc. Chair Rogers reported on the significant benefit of having N.D.C.A. members and staff attend each year subject to time and funding availability. It was also noted that most of the presentations made will eventually be posted on the portion of the Conservation Ontario website devoted to the Latornell Conservation Symposium.

6. In-Camera Matters

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

7. New Business

a) Erosion Control Emergency Repairs

The N.D.C.A. had to undertake emergency repairs on a section of Nolin Creek near the site of the former Steelworkers Hall. Most of the work is complete, however, member Watelet reported on some concerns she has with the current conditions at the site. P. Sajatovic reported that no funds have been released and that the consultant would be immediately contacted and directed to have the contractor take care of the final cleanup and restoration. Members will be advised when this is done to the N.D.C.A.'s satisfaction..

b) Generic Regulations Videoconference Meeting

All Conservation Authorities had Generic Regulations approved in 2006-2007. Over time all Authorities must develop new policies and procedures to support the regulation. This is a very time consuming but important process. The five northern Conservation Authorities have decided to work together on this task in order to share resources and experiences in developing the necessary policies. In this regard, the first videoconference meeting will be held on December 14th and the process to continue this work will be discussed. P. Sajatovic and Dennis Lenzi, Regulations Officer, will participate. Chair Rogers and Vice-Chair Dennis were also invited to attend if available.

c) Next Meeting

The next N.D.C.A. General Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10th. This is the annual Christmas dinner meeting and will bring members, staff and special guests together to celebrate the season and the work of the N.D.C.A. throughout 2009.

No other business was transacted.

8. Adjournment

Resolution 2009-88

Watelet - Dutrisac

That we do now adjourn.

Carried.