

DRAFT MINUTES
NWOPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Room 3031 CB, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario

Meeting Chair: Mike Grant

1. Official Opening of the Meeting (M. Grant)

Mike Grant officially opened the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NWOPA at 6:05 p.m. with 15 members attending (12 in person and 3 virtually).

2. Approval of the September 26, 2023 Agenda (M. Grant)

Rudy Wahl made a *motion* to approve the agenda of the September 26, 2023 NWOPA AGM. Shannon Zurevinski *seconded* the motion. The *motion* was unanimously carried.

3. Approval of the April 2, 2019 AGM Minutes (M. Grant)

Paul Nielsen made a *motion* to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019 NWOPA AGM. Bob Chataway *seconded* the motion. The *motion* was unanimously carried.

4. President's Report for 2019-2023 (M. Grant)

Mike Grant, President, NWOPA welcomed the membership to the AGM and discussed the following on the *attached report*.

5. Treasurer's Report for 2019-2022 (P. Nielsen)

The Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA) was incorporated as an Ontario Non-Profit Corporation on December 19, 1989. We are an all-volunteer organization with 10 board members. We employ a simple accounting system with all payments made by cheque and E-transfer with the exception of a few fixed costs like TBAYtel (Internet and Web Account) which are paid online. We do not process credit card or debit card payments (credit card payments have been handled by the OPA) but we now accept E-transfer and EFT payments. Our fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31. Our revenue comes from membership fees (the bulk of which were collected at the Showcase) and donations from Mining Day. Our GICs are interest bearing for a one-year term and are available to fund NWOPA into the future. Our current account balance was sufficient up until 2019 to fund the association for normal operations without having to withdraw funds from the maturing GICs.

From 2021 to 2022 (Covid years) with only the interest income and no membership fees being collected some funds were withdrawn to pay recurring costs (i.e. storage, directors insurance, and website & email fees). Mining Day payments and revenue are tracked separately but included in the NWOPA account.

2019 Fiscal Year:

BALANCE Dec. 31, 2018	<u>\$12,834.51</u>
BANK BALANCE Jan. 1, 2019	<u>\$12,834.51</u>
Total 2019 Credits	\$19,261.40
Total 2019 Debits	\$20,174.60
Current Account Balance to date	<u>\$11,921.31</u>
GIC 1 two-year Banks & Utilities	\$26,088.69
GIC 2 one-year term	\$20,160.32
Total Account Balance to date	\$58,170.32
Mining Day Balance	\$ 6,642.47
NWOPA Balance	\$ 5,278.84

2020 Fiscal Year:

BANK BALANCE Jan. 1, 2020	<u>\$11,921.31</u>
Total 2020 Credits	\$46,708.72
Total 2020 Debits	\$46,407.36
Current Account Balance to date	<u>\$12,222.67</u>
GIC 1 one-year term	\$21,186.60
GIC 2 one-year term	\$20,462.72
Total Account Balance to date	\$53,871.99
Mining Day Balance	\$ 5,693.24
NWOPA Balance	\$ 6,529.43

2021 Fiscal Year:

BANK BALANCE Jan. 1, 2021	<u>\$12,222.67</u>
Total 2021 Credits	\$42,153.29
Total 2021 Debits	\$45,954.62
Current Account Balance to date	<u>\$ 8,421.34</u>
GIC 1 one-year term	\$21,420.93
GIC 2 one-year term	\$20,687.81
Total Account Balance to date	\$50,530.08
Mining Day Balance	\$ 4,793.91
NWOPA Balance	\$ 3,627.43

2022 Fiscal Year:

BANK BALANCE Jan. 1, 2022	\$ 8,421.34
Total 2022 Credits	\$42,208.03
Total 2022 Debits	\$43,543.10
Current Account Balance to date	<u>\$ 7,086.27</u>
GIC 1 one-year term	\$18,463.77
GIC 2 one-year term	\$20,729.41
Total Account Balance to date	\$46,279.45
Mining Day Balance	\$ 3,830.47
NWOPA Balance	\$ 3,255.80

Summary of Account Holdings:

2019	\$58,170.32
2020	\$53,871.99
2021	\$50,530.08
2022	\$46,279.45

Paul Nielsen asked members if they had any questions; no questions were raised. Cyndee Komar mentioned that the storage unit and directors insurance were the larger expenses but the storage unit was given up this summer with the contents being stored in various locations free of charge. Mike Grant made a *motion* that the Treasurer's Reports be accepted. Bob Chataway *seconded* the motion. The *motion* was unanimously carried.

6. Elections of 3 Directors for 2023-2024 term and 5 Directors for 2023-2025 term (M. Grant)

Two directors remaining on the 2023-2024 board for the second year of their two-year term are Mike Grant and Cyndee Komar. Three directors will be elected for a one-year term (2023-2024) and five directors will be elected for a two-year term (2023-2025) in accordance with NWOPA's bylaws. Elections are staggered to allow the board to maintain a level of expertise at all times.

- Election of 3 Directors for a one-year term:
One nominated candidate listed on the NWOPA ballot was Rudy Wahl. Mike Grant asked for further nominations from the floor to add to the above ballot. As none were nominated, Mike asked for further nominations from the floor two more times. As there were no further nominations from the floor, one candidate was acclaimed for the 2023-2024 term.
- Election of 5 Directors for a two-year term:
Mike Grant asked for nominations from the floor with none yet listed on the ballot. Bob Chataway nominated Troy Gallik with Paul Nielsen seconding; Ruth Bjorkman nominated Katarina Bjorkman with Shannon Zurevinski seconding; and Shannon Zurevinski nominated Percy Clark with Ruth Bjorkman seconding. Mike asked for further nominations from the floor

two more times. As there were no further nominations from the floor, the three candidates were acclaimed for the 2023-2025 term.

The 2023-2024 NWOPA Board of Directors is:

Mike Grant	Troy Gallik
Cyndee Komar	Katarina Bjorkman
Rudy Wahl	Percy Clark

The officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) will be chosen by a vote at the first official board meeting (following shortly after this meeting).

7. Adjournment (M. Grant)

Mike Grant made a *motion* to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

President's Report for 2019 through 2023 (September 26, 2023 AGM)

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association.

The past four years have been a combination of roller-coaster, whirlwind and social turmoil. It has been rough and rewarding by turns for prospectors and grassroots explorers. If you follow the pundits expounding on the upheavals and opportunities predicted to follow from the shift to a low-carbon society, you have heard promises of an enormous growth in the need for metals and minerals. Yet we have not seen a fundamental change in Ontario's response to its regulatory regime; six generations of distrust engendered by the perspective that gave us the *Indian Act* will not be undone by the *Building More Mines Act*. We have seen nothing that promises to bring sanity to the exploration plans and permits regime.

Many of our members remain frustrated trying to navigate MLAS, the Mining Lands Administration System, especially those who are computer challenged. Last week I had an eye-opening experience when I sat down with a claimholder who was trying to determine just what the move to digital claims had gifted him with; and then try to apply banked assessment credits to the area he chose to keep. It took an hour to deal with 4 legacy claims; without significant assistance from very knowledgeable Mines Division staff here and in Sudbury, we would still be at it. The claimholder lucked into that level of support; those resources are not in sufficient supply to rescue everyone with a problem.

We are trying to work with the Ministry and government, federal and provincial, to be a voice for you, our members. However, when the provincial government replaced the Minister's Mining Act Advisory Committee with the current advisory group of mining company executives, it seemed to exemplify a disdain for the contribution of the boots-on-the-ground prospectors.

On February 28, NWOPA was part of a multi-constituent meeting convened to provide information, priorities and perspectives to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada. Foremost in our comments was the need for training materials and improved access to information from government databases regarding prospecting for critical minerals. Our written comments are appended to this report.

Some time ago, NWOPA was invited to take a seat on a roundtable that would provide comments to Hydro One as they commenced public outreach regarding their Waasigan powerline project; this line will run from Thunder Bay to Dryden and, in part, will ensure sufficient power for planned mine developments in the northwest. We were able to use this access to Hydro One to assist them to improve their outreach to claimholders along the planned route for the line.

We have been handicapped by the travails of the Ontario Prospectors Association. We relied on the OPA to organize an annual symposium from which we collected members and fees. For the past four years, the pandemic was largely to blame for the demise of the symposium. NWOPA does not have the resources to host a symposium on the scale to

which people became accustomed, if at all. Finding a new model to do business for the members will be a challenge for the new Board.

Normally the Board would meet monthly with the exception of July, August & December, to carry out the business of the association. Over the past four years, meetings have been on an as-needed basis.

NWOPA committees that directors served on since 2018 were:

1. Benevolent
2. Communications (Newsletter and Media)
3. Education, Events and Advocacy
4. Elections, Nominations, AGM
5. General Meetings
6. Land-use, Species at Risk
7. Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA)
8. Website/Facebook

Annually, NWOPA recognizes community service and exploration success and has celebrated the awards at a dinner during the mines and minerals symposium. The Awards Committee is empowered by, but operates separately from, the Board. Awards were suspended for 2019 and 2020, but were made again in 2021 and 2022; details of the winners are posted on the NWOPA website. Without the mines and minerals symposium, there has been no need for a committee to organize an Awards Ceremony.

NWOPA participated at the annual Northwest Trappers Convention each year it has been held. We see this is an opportunity to broaden our reach to other land users.

NWOPA has continued to be a sponsor of Thunder Bay Mining Day with some members of the Board volunteering to sit on the organizing committee. We have also managed Mining Day's finances through the dedication of Paul Nielsen. After a four-year hiatus, Mining Day returned in June of this year. It was a great success and I want to extend thanks and congratulations to all the volunteers and the exhibitors for an enormous success. Planning for the 8th annual festival begins next week.

Planning has started for the 2023 Christmas Party. It will be joint with Women in Mining and the local CIM chapter; it will follow the format of the successful 2022 event.

For keeping up to date with all of our activities and upcoming events, please keep your membership current and visit our website.

In closing, I would like to thank the NWOPA Executive & Directors for their hard work and dedication to NWOPA over these four years of turmoil:

Ruth Huber, is stepping down due to commitments to a growing family;
Dorothy Campbell, is stepping down to focus on work and family;
Pam Coles, is stepping down to dedicate her efforts to Mining Day, work and family;

Breanne Beh and Dan Lafontaine, are stepping down due to growing family and work commitments;
Shannon Zurevinski who is stepping down due to increased responsibilities at Lakehead;
Rudy Wahl, who is our constant reminder of the “joys” of MLAS;
Cyndee Komar, who has been our Secretary for decades;
and especially this year, Paul Nielsen, who is stepping down after 25 years as Director & Treasurer.

In recognition of Paul’s years of service, we have a small token of our gratitude. Personally, I recommend that a sizable portion should go to Helene for bearing with NWOPA while NWOPA leaned on Paul.

Mike Grant, President, NWOPA

Comments to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada by the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association at a multi-constituent meeting in Thunder Bay on February 28, 2023.

1. If new discoveries are a priority, then grassroots prospectors—not just Junior Companies—need support through training and incentives. The Geological Survey of Canada must co-operate with the Ontario Geological Survey to provide information on such topics as:
 - the geological provenance of each critical mineral;
 - the nature and interpretation of geophysical and geochemical indicators of these minerals;
 - the re-assessment of both Survey’s existing data to identify areas recommended for exploration for such minerals;
 - the collection of new geophysical and geochemical data in areas where appropriate information is incomplete;
 - the timely publication of all this information and data at prices affordable to individual prospectors.
2. If Canada has a strategic priority that will bar foreign, State-controlled entities from investing in exploration for and development of critical minerals, the exploration sector (at least) will need alternate investment sources; some form of financial support is required to help fund these critical-minerals projects. A variety of (low-interest) loans, grants or domestic tax incentives, or some mix of these, should be put in place in a timely manner.
3. The word “if” was purposely used regarding a purported strategy to exclude certain foreign investment in “critical” minerals. However, Canada’s record on this is perplexing and confusing. Much was made in the general media of the forced divestment in the junior company Power Metals Corp., by Sinomine Rare Metals Resources Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Sinomine Resources Co. Ltd. Yet we understand that on the day that Canada announced its critical-mineral strategy, it also approved

the sale of the world-class tantalum-caesium deposit in Manitoba to this same, Chinese state-entity. No grand announcement heralded this governmental decision. Actions speak louder than policy papers; this sale has raised a considerable shadow over Canada's commitment to the critical-minerals endeavour.

4. A point that may fall more within Ontario's jurisdiction than Canada's is the current state of regulation regarding mine development and closure. Historically, most deposits of the listed critical minerals have been small compared to the large, base metal mines (and some gold mines) for which existing regulations were developed. This speaks to a need to revisit environmental assessment and mine-closure regulations that are more appropriate for the smaller operations that are anticipated.
5. Without access to land for prospecting, the critical-mineral strategy will be wishful thinking. Therefore we plead with Canada and Ontario to take a much more pro-active role in the resolution of disagreements between Canada's Indigenous communities and both prospectors and the mineral exploration sector. The type of wholesale withdrawal of mining lands from prospecting and exploration, as recently undertaken by Ontario in response to disagreements over land use, is anathema to the successful delivery of the critical-minerals initiative. Ontario's exploration regulations have proven to be a similar impediment, at least here in Northwestern Ontario.

Canada has responsibility for Indigenous people; we submit that this means Canada must lead reconciliation efforts. Canada also purports to support the discovery and development of minerals critical to the long-term growth and health of Indigenous communities and the national economy. To achieve this goal, Canada must take a more direct role in reconciling the differences between prospectors and Indigenous people.

On Behalf of the Directors and Members,
Mike Grant, President