

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Dave Frayne, Paul Hodgins, Burkhard Metzger, Lorie Scott, Don Shipway, Bill Siemon, Ute Stumpf, Mike Tam, Janisse Zimmerman

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Montgomery, CKNX Radio

STAFF PRESENT

Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Davin Heinbuck, Ian Jean, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Tom Prout, Alec Scott, Mari Veliz, Kevin Worthington

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Frayne called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 56/13

**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Ute Stumpf**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the June 20, 2013 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting be approved.”

Carried.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this meeting or from the previous meeting.

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO AUDIO/VIDEO RECORD MEETING

There were no disclosures.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 57/13

**Moved by Janisse Zimmerman
Seconded by Bill Siemon**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on May 16, 2013 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

The matter of interest charges was referred to Committee of the Whole.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. a) Development Review

Andrew Bicknell, Regulations Coordinator prepared and presented the Development Review report pursuant to *Ontario Regulation 147/06 Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*. Through the application process, proposed developments within regulated areas are protected from flooding and erosion hazards. Staff granted permission for five *Applications for Permission* and eight *Minor Works Permit*.

1. b) Violation/Appeals Update

No updates.

MOTION #BD 58/13

Moved by Don Shipway

Seconded by Ute Stumpf

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors affirm the approval of applications as presented in Program Report #1 - Development Review.”

Carried.

2. Section 29 Conservation Authorities Act

Kate Monk, Stewardship & Conservation Lands Supervisor provided an update on activities at ABCA properties related to Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Patrol officers have laid a trespass charge for a dog off leash at Morrison Dam Conservation Area. There were no incidents reported during the spring wild turkey hunt. A significant encroachment situation has occurred in the Clinton East Conservation Area involving mowing trails, pruning trees, motorized vehicles, recreational trailer, tree stands, alteration to a watercourse and installing a large wooden ramp, building jumps using fill and removing topsoil to create a dirt bike course. The adjacent property owner has been issued orders for removal of property and restoration of the area. An MNR Conservation Officer and Species at Risk biologist are also involved in the investigation and restoration with the respect to the destruction of Species at Risk habitat.

Several Special Use Permits are in effect for research on ABCA properties. The studies encompass terrestrial surveys; maple tree and soil surveys looking at the impact of climate change on ecosystems; and emerald ash borer monitoring in North Middlesex as well as the release of a parasitoid in the Hay Swamp Management Area.

Staff received a request for permission to establish and use a trail for mountain biking at Clinton East Conservation Area. It is recommended to continue the current uses which allows only pedestrian access on these trails.

MOTION #BD 59/13

Moved by Bill Siemon

Seconded by Janisse Zimmerman

“RESOLVED, THAT the report and recommendations on current activities on ABCA lands pursuant to Section 29, *Conservation Authorities Act*, be approved as presented.”
Carried.

3. Invasive Species Strategy

Kate Monk provided the background and Executive Summary for the *ABCA Invasive Species Strategy*. The goals of the strategy are to help prevent new invasive species from entering the ABCA watershed and eliminate or reduce the spread of already present invasive species. Strategy components are prevention, management, monitoring, outreach and education.

MOTION #BD 60/13

Moved by Lorie Scott

Seconded by Paul Hodgins

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors approve the *ABCA Invasive Species Strategy* to address aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in the watershed.”

Carried.

4. Funding Request to Provincial and Federal Governments

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Supervisor reported that the Healthy Lake Huron partnership was formed to address water quality issues along Lake Huron’s southeast shore. The collaborative effort is led by the provincial Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Food, Municipal Affairs and Housing, federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada. Local representation includes County, Conservation Authority and Health Unit staff. Action plans for implementing best management practices in five priority watersheds have been created. A funding proposal has been developed for requesting provincial and federal financial support. The collaborative is looking for endorsement from agencies and stakeholders along the southeast shore of Lake Huron.

MOTION #BD 61/13

Moved by Janisse Zimmerman

Seconded by Lorie Scott

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority endorse the implementation of the work identified in the five priority watersheds (Lambton Shores, Main Bayfield, Bayfield North, Glenn Garvey, Pine River), and

FURTHER, THAT we would like to invite the Province of Ontario and Environment Canada to support this collaborative rural economic development effort and contribute to a sustainable future for our communities, and

FURTHER, THAT we respectively request the Province of Ontario and Environment Canada to contribute \$3.76 million a year for five years, for a total of \$18.8 million dollars, to implement best management practices in the five priority sub-watersheds along the south east shore of Lake Huron.”

Carried.

5. Policy for Drain or Watercourse Enclosures

Davin Heinbuck, Lands & Water Technologist reported that there has been an increase in the number of proposals and actual enclosures (or tile in) of both natural watercourses and municipal drains. The primary reason for the enclosures are improving farming efficiencies in the agriculture sector. The negative and cumulative effect of enclosures of watercourses and drains is emerging as a significant concern in environmental impacts on a subwatershed. The current ABCA policy does not require a permit but provides an advisory role under the *Drainage Act* process. However, Ontario Regulation 147/06 gives ABCA the right to require a permit for enclosures of open drains and natural watercourses since it involves alterations to a watercourse. In response to the question on associated fees, Tom Prout responded that the current ABCA fee schedule addresses the permitting process.

MOTION #BD 62/13

Moved Bill Siemon

Seconded by Mike Tam

“RESOLVED, THAT effective June 21, 2013, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority require a proponent of a drain or watercourse enclosure to obtain a permit from the ABCA under Ontario Regulation 147/06 *Development, Interference to Wetlands & Alteration to Shoreline and Watercourse Regulation*, and

FURTHER, THAT all applicable requirements of Ontario Regulation 147/06 apply to the application.”

Carried.

6. Ontario Community Environmental Fund

Ian Jean, Forestry & Land Stewardship Specialist advised that the ABCA was successful in submitting an application to the Ministry of Environment’s Ontario Community Environmental Fund for funding to support environmental education, community outreach and on-the-ground projects such as tree planting and wetlands restoration.

MOTION #BD 63/13

Moved by Lorie Scott

Seconded by Don Shipway

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors authorize the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority to enter into the Grant Funding Agreement with the Province of Ontario for the project *Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority’s Linking Uplands to the Ausable River and Grand Bend Project* to support education, outreach, tree planting and wetland restoration in the Ausable River and Parkhill Creek watersheds.”

Carried.

7. Accessibility Project Summary

Brian Horner, Financial Services Supervisor prepared a financial summary of the Accessibility Barrier Free Washroom and Door renovation project. Tom Prout presented the report noting that the project came in under budget.

MOTION #BD 64/13

**Moved by Bill Siemon
Seconded by Paul Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the accessibility project financial summary report be approved as presented.”

Carried.

8. Spring Tree Planting Program

Ian Jean, Forestry & Land Stewardship Specialist presented a summary of the 2013 spring tree planting program. There were 55,400 trees planted which is comparable to other years. ABCA staff planted trees for 34 landowners and organized projects at Dublin Lions Park and in Clinton with students from five Clinton schools. 133 watershed landowners picked up and planted their own tree orders. Funding assistance was received through Habitat Stewardship Program, Huron Clean Water, Ausable River COA, Middlesex Clean Water or Trees Ontario. Trees Ontario is now the largest provider of funds in the watershed.

PRESENTATION

Kevin Worthington, Web/Database Programmer gave a demonstration on upgrades he is completing to the ABCA internal geoportal mapping system. The project will integrate the ABCA's various databases together to increase efficiencies for staff. This project was possible through funding received from the federal Career Focus employment program. There may be opportunity in the future to share some elements of the mapping information through agreements with the member municipalities.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tom Prout provided a written report with a brief update on the progress of various projects, staff training and development, upcoming meetings, events or activities over the previous month.

MOTION #BD 65/13

**Moved by Don Shipway
Seconded by Bill Siemon**

“RESOLVED, THAT the General Manager's report be received as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 66/13

**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Janisse Zimmerman**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of Water Response Team meeting held on May 7, 2013 and the motions therein be approved as presented.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Thank you
File: A.5.1
Brief: A thank you note from Mary Lynn MacDonald in appreciation of support during the loss of her father.
- b) Reference: Bayfield Breeze
File: A.5.1
Brief: Copy of article in the online newsletter Bayfield Breeze, featuring ABCA Healthy Watershed Technicians, Hope Brock and Abigail Gutteridge at the launch of the *Community Plan to Protect Main Bayfield Watershed*.
- c) Reference: Thank you
File: A.5.1
Brief: A note of appreciation to staff from Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group for the assistance received in undertaking recent Port Franks projects to address the removal of phragmites.
- d) Reference: CACIS Conference
File: A.5.1
Brief: Report prepared by Tracey McPherson on the annual Conservation Authorities Collaborative Information Session (CACIS) conference for GIS/IT staff. Ministry of Environment staff were impressed with the information management work CA's are doing. Of interest was the threats verification database, ABCA GIS Specialist Aaron Clarke, developed for source water management.
- e) Reference: Great Lakes Advisory Group
File: A.7.1
Brief: Conservation Ontario have appointed Mari Veliz, Alec Scott and Kate Monk as technical staff on the Great Lake Water Quality Advisory Science Priorities Committee 2013-2016 initiative.
- f) Reference: Thank you
File: A.5.1
Brief: Thank you from Gabe Ferguson, Co-Chair of the Bi-National Conference to Mari Veliz for assisting in the success of the recent conference held in London.
- g) Reference: Environment Canada
File: W.11.14.1

Brief: Notice from Hon. Peter Kent, Minister of Environment of approval of funding for a project to maintain and sustain healthy ecosystems. Details will be made in a pending funding announcement.

h) Reference: Species at Risk Stewardship Fund

File: W.7.17.1

Brief: Notice from Ministry of Natural Resources that the application to 2013/14 Species at Risk Stewardship Fund for the *Recovery of Species at Risk in the Ausable River Watershed* was approved.

i) Reference: Herbicide 2,4,5-T

File: S.29.6

Brief: Correspondence from David O'Toole, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources that the independent panel has released investigative report on potential effects of the herbicide on health.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tom Prout advised that a resolution made at the April 11, 2013 meeting should be amended because of a clerical omission. The original mover and seconder were in agreement to the friendly amendment.

MOTION #BD 67/13

Moved by Paul Hodgins

Seconded by Ute Stumpf

“RESOLVED, THAT the Motion #BD 42/13 be amended in the second clause to add Part Lot 4, Concession 5 ECR.”

Carried.

2. Janisse Zimmerman reported that the Municipality of Bluewater Council were questioning why costs associated with water quality sampling at 5 sites within the municipality were not treated like other water sampling across the watershed, and why upstream municipalities don't contribute to the expense of sampling. Tom Prout suggested that Bluewater council send a resolution to the Board of Directors so this request can be considered during budget discussions.
3. Chair Dave Frayne expressed appreciation to Bill Siemon, retiring director representing Huron East, for his six years on the Board of Directors and the thought provoking comments he would bring to the table.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 68/13

Moved by Bill Siemon

Seconded by Don Shipway

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:35 a.m. for property and personal matters, with Alec Scott, Tom Prout and Judith Parker remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 69/13

Moved by Paul Hodgins

Seconded by Lorie Scott

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors rise and report at 11:55 a.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 70/13

Moved by Bill Siemon

Seconded by Don Shipway

“RESOLVED, THAT staff proceed with the personal matter as discussed.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 71/13

Moved by Lorie Scott

Seconded by Janisse Zimmerman

“RESOLVED, THAT effective September 1, 2013 the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority commence to charge member municipalities applicable interest on overdue accounts.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Dave Frayne
Chair

Judith Parker
Corporate Services Coordinator

*Copies of Program Reports are available upon request.
Contact Judith Parker, Corporate Services Coordinator.*

