

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Jenna Allain, Andrew Bicknell, Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Brian Horner, Kate Monk, Judith Parker, Tom Prout, Alec Scott

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Frayne called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 83/12

Moved by Lorie Scott

Seconded by Don Shipway

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the September 20, 2012 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.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 84/12

Moved by Lorie Scott

Seconded by Ute Stumpf

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on July 19, 2012 and August 16, 2012 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DELEGATION

Muriel Allingham and Bob Lewis of the Middlesex-Lambton Wind Action Group along with Douglas Allingham, attended the meeting to present concerns associated with the development of industrial wind farm projects. Jim Ginn asked for clarification regarding the presentation. Spokesperson, Muriel Allingham noted that she was providing information and then asking the Board to consider supporting a moratorium on industrial wind energy development because of the impact on the environment. Recently the Municipality of North Middlesex and County of Middlesex have passed resolutions requesting a moratorium. Highlights from her presentation stated that the turbines would be 503 feet tall. One blade assembly weighs 36 tonnes and there are only 12 buildings in the City of Toronto taller than the proposed turbine height. Impacts to groundwater are being monitored in the Chatham area and Mitchell's Bay, as there are significant changes to well water levels being identified. It was also noted that in the Watford area a turbine structure was located on a natural spring. Questions are arising whether the drilling and boring during construction of the turbines is impacting the groundwater aquifers.

According to NextEra, a natural heritage assessment is only conducted within a 120 m radius of a proposed turbine location. The directors were given a report entitled *Arran Lake Wetlands Complex: a study of a sensitive wildlife habitat under threat (2008)*, compiled by Keith Stelling, BA (Hons), MA and Dip Phyt, MCPP. She also cited the research of Dr. Scott Petrie, Executive Director of Long Point Waterfowl and Adjunct Professor at University of Western Ontario on potential impacts of wind turbine development on waterfowl.

In closing, the Board was asked to consider the environmental impacts of wind turbines and transmission lines as conservation is about diversity and keeping it in the watershed, not just the species at risk.

Chair Frayne thanked the delegation for the information presented and they left at 10:26 a.m.

PROGRAM REPORTS

2. Accessibility Project Presentation

Randy Wilson Architect addressed the Board with a progress report on options being investigated for upgrading the Administration Centre to meet future accessibility provincial requirements. Option # 1 was presented at the last meeting and according to the architect, the costing estimate is \$356,000. Option # 2 was presented using the existing entranceway and replacing the ramp with an addition that would have an elevator and steps. Mr. Wilson's costing estimate for this option is \$338,262.

Randy Wilson left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Janisse Zimmerman inquired whether Option #1 took into consideration job efficiencies with the relocation of staff impacted by creating an addition at ground level on the southwest side of the existing building. Tom Prout responded that the staff involved with upgrading the building for Option # 1 had been asked to provide input.

MOTION #BD 85/12

**Moved by Don Shipway
Seconded by Jim Ginn**

“RESOLVED, THAT staff be directed to proceed with discussing Option #1.”

Withdrawn.

Tom Prout advised that staff will meet with Randy Wilson to discuss further options and a follow-up report will be brought to the next meeting.

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 six *Applications for Permission* and 14 *Minor Works Permits*.

1. b) Violation/Appeals Update

- (i) Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Supervisor advised that the landowner who had been charged for filling in a gully along the lakeshore did not appear for the court date. The matter is being held over.
- (ii) The landowner who was in violation for installing a chairlift down the lake bank for accessibility to the beach has submitted an *Application for Permission*. Staff are reviewing.
- (iii) Staff are reviewing a matter in the Municipality of Bluewater where a laneway was built as a component of protection for the residence. The concern is that any future work does not compromise stability.

MOTION #BD 86/12

**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Jim Ginn**

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

Carried.

3. Parkhill Dam Channel Improvement Tender Results

Alec Scott, Water & Planning Manager presented the results of the tender opening for construction of channel improvements below Parkhill Dam.

MOTION #BD 87/12

Moved by Bill Siemon

Seconded by Jim Ginn

“RESOLVED, THAT the funding required to complete the channel improvements below Parkhill Dam project, estimated at \$33,515.80 including HST, be taken from the Flood and Erosion Control Maintenance Reserve in 2012 and repaid as part of the Project Levy in the 2013 budget, and

FURTHER, THAT the tender submitted by Robinson Farm Drainage Limited at a price of \$33,515.80 (including HST) be accepted, and

FURTHER, THAT staff proceed to sign the agreement for the work and complete the project.”

Carried.

4. Phragmites Control Contractor Selection

Kate Monk, Stewardship & Conservation Lands Supervisor advised that 60 people attended an information meeting on phragmites control in Thedford on September 15th. On-the-ground phragmites control is occurring this year in Grand Bend and Port Franks using herbicide application on ABCA, municipal and private land. This will be followed with rolling in some areas. ABCA staff received training in spraying phragmites and will be able to do so using back-pack sprayers or the ATV sprayer in the future. More expertise and equipment is necessary to control large areas such as in Port Franks.

MOTION #BD 88/12

Moved by Lorie Scott

Seconded by Janisse Zimmerman

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority select Dover Agri Serve to conduct phragmites control in 2012 and 2013 in situations when the ABCA does not have the equipment or expertise. Authorization levels and details of the quotation will follow ABCA Personnel Regulation 29 (Purchasing and Quotation Procedures)with the exception of the number of quotations received.

Carried.

5. Drinking Water Stewardship Program Update

Kate Monk presented a progress update on the Early Response and Early Actions phase of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program for the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region. Efforts are ongoing to promote the program to public and eligible landowners.

6. PTTW Permit Holder Meeting

Alec Scott provided an update on the ABCA Water Response Team activities this year. With no spring runoff and a dry April and May, a Level 1 Low Water Advisory for all of the watersheds in the ABCA was issued in May. In early August, the ABCA WRT issued a Level 2 low water advisory. A meeting was organized with Ministry of Environment for all surface water and surface water/groundwater Permit to Take Water holders within the Hay Swamp Water Management Area. The current low water conditions were outlined and the permit holders were encouraged to discuss the concept of an Irrigation Advisory Committee.

7. Ag Land Survey Tender Report

The tender from 1633552 Ontario Inc. was accepted at the last meeting for sale of the agriculture properties and one residential lot at Parkhill Conservation Area. The ABCA is now in the process of applying for six severances and rezoning for submission to the Municipality of North Middlesex these parcels of land. Three tenders were received for services to carry out surveying of the properties for reference plans. The tender from Doug Culbert Surveying was accepted.

MOTION #BD 89/12

**Moved by Bill Siemon
Seconded by Lorie Scott**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Program Reports #5 - 7 be received as information.”

Carried.

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 90/12

**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Bill Siemon**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes from the Source Protection Committee meeting held July 4, 2012 and July 12, 2012 and the Source Protection Authority meeting held August 16, 2012 be approved as presented.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Thank you
File: A.5.1
Brief: A note of thanks from Cathie Brown, former Project Manager for the ABMV Drinking Water Source Protection project acknowledging gratitude for an enriching work experience.

- b) Reference: Thank you
File: S.1
Brief: Thank you to Kate Monk, ABCA Stewardship & Conservation Lands Supervisor from Deputy Mayor for Lambton Shores, Elizabeth Davis-Dagg for assistance with the phragmites control project in Port Franks.
- c) Reference: Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
File: A.7.42
Brief: News release announcing that the United States Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and Canada's Minister of the Environment Peter Kent signed the newly amended Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement that is a model of binational cooperation to protect the world's largest surface freshwater system and the health of the surrounding communities.
- d) Reference: Transfer Payments
File: F.3
Brief: Notice from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources of a number of reductions to grants available to conservation authorities. Areas affected are the Section 39 Operating Transfer Payment grant which will be reduced by \$152,000 and affects two CAs. The ABCA payment will remain intact. The \$133,00 Special Provincial Contingency Fund available to the 36 conservation authorities has been eliminated. In addition, MNR is temporarily reducing the capital funding for Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects by 50% for a 2 year period.
- e) Reference: Biennial Tour
File: A.7.4.1
Brief: Tom Prout reported that the 2012 Biennial Tour was a success and expressed thanks to Grey Sauble and Saugeen Conservation Authorities for hosting the event.
- f) Reference: Thank you
File: A.5.1
Brief: Thank you from the Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron for allowing them to utilize the trail for the annual South Huron Trail Run.
- g) Reference: Ontario Municipal Board decision
File: L.2.30
Brief: In the matter of an appeal to Ontario Municipal Board by Mr. Paul Fournier, notice of a decision was delivered by J.P. Atcheson, on a motion for costs against Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. The OMB concluded it would not order awarding costs for Mr. Fournier. The matter came before the OMB due to the Municipality of Bluewater Council not rezoning lands to permit the development of a recreational residence with accessory structures.

NEW BUSINESS

The directors were reminded of the following upcoming events: Councillor Information Workshop on September 27; A.D. Latornell Symposium on November 14-16; and the ABCA Budget Committee meeting on October 11.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**MOTION #BD 91/12**

**Moved by Paul Hodgins
Seconded by Lorie Scott**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 12:10 p.m. to discuss a property matter with Brian Horner, Kate Monk, Tom Prout and Judith Parker remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 92/12

**Moved by Mike Tam
Seconded by Bill Siemon**

“RESOLVED, THAT Committee of the Whole rise at 12:20 p.m. and receive the information on the property matter as presented.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Dave Frayne
Chair

Judith Parker
Corporate Services Coordinator

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

