

## Seebach & Company Chartered Professional Accountants

P.O. Box 758, 41 Ontario Street CLINTON, ONTARIO N0M 1L0 Tel:(519) 482-7979 Fax:(519) 482-5761 www.seebachandcompany.ca vbs@vbsca.ca

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority ("the Authority"), which are comprised of the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022 and the statements of operations, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at December 31, 2022, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards (PSAB).

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with PSAB, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT** (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due
  to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain
  audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of
  not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from
  error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the
  override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit
  procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an
  opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Seebach & Company
Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

Clinton, Ontario

Clinton, Ontario March 16, 2023

# AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31	2022	2021
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash	1,448,220	1,847,873
Marketable securities (note 2)	6,843,173	7,308,691
Accounts receivable	600,013	375,205
Due from related party (note 8)	7,917	412
	8,899,323	9,532,181
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	167,507	196,003
Deferred revenue (note 4)	1,322,720	1,367,944
	1,490,227	1,563,947
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	7,409,096	7,968,234
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets, net (note 3)	5,536,623	5,657,009
Prepayments	27,714	12,707
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (note 6)	\$ 12,973,433	\$ 13,637,950

On behalf of the Board:

## AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Revenue			
Deferred revenue - prior year (note 4)	1,167,732	1,367,944	1,142,888
General levy	1,119,184	1,119,185	1,109,677
Partnership contribution	984,037	993,239	1,188,485
User fees	749,209	763,990	753,272
Special levy	338,297	337,911	350,854
Provincial grant	341,706	476,006	532,982
Investment income	18,400	257,238	186,351
Rental	62,700	62,969	66,007
Donations	400	10,931	6,993
Miscellaneous	-	880	
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments		(599,878)	407,117
Deferred revenue - current year (note 4)	(564,660)	(1,322,720)	(1,367,944
	4,217,005	3,467,695	4,376,682
Expenditures (Schedule 1)			
Environmental monitoring	1,789,651	1,672,232	1,644,859
Corporate services	904,215	880,940	866,228
Floodplain management	391,063	359,956	337,932
Drinking water source protection	351,700	294,494	295,549
Stewardship	351,159	402,816	320,326
Recreation	278,982	166,102	209,644
Education	170,773	151,693	142,414
Property management	187,303	111,847	109,681
Vehicles and equipment	117,521	92,132	82,889
	4,542,367	4,132,212	4,009,522
Annual surplus (deficit)	(325,362)	(664,517)	367,160
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	13,637,950	13,637,950	13,270,790
Accumulated surplus, end of year (note 6)	\$ 13,312,588	\$ 12,973,433	\$ 13,637,950

## AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS

For the year ended December 31	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Annual surplus (deficit)	(664,517)	367,160
Amortization of tangible capital assets	176,173	181,703
Net acquisition of tangible capital assets	(55,787)	(41,589)
Decrease (increase) in inventory and prepaid expenses	(15,007)	(1,459
Increase (decrease) in net financial assets	(559,138)	505,815
Opening balance	7,968,234	7,462,419
Closing balance	\$ 7,409,096	\$ 7,968,234

# AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended December 31	2022	2021
Operating activities		
Annual surplus (deficit)	(664,517)	367,160
Amortization expense not requiring cash outlay	176,173	181,703
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	599,878	(407,117)
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	(224,808)	175,850
Decrease (increase) in due to/from related parties	(7,505)	15,112
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(28,496)	(36,816)
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	(45,224)	225,056
Decrease (increase) in inventory and prepaid expenses	(15,007)	(1,459)
Cash provided by (used for) operating activities	(209,506)	519,489
Capital activities		
Net disposals (purchases) of tangible capital assets	(55,787)	(41,589)
Cash provided by (used for) capital activities	(55,787)	(41,589)
Investing activities		
Disposal (purchase) of marketable securities	(134,360)	40,792
Cash provided by (used for) investing activities	(134,360)	40,792
Financing activities		
Principal repayments on long-term debt	-	(150,000)
Cash provided by (used for) financing activities		(150,000)
Increase (decrease) in cash position	(399,653)	368,692
Cash (overdraft) beginning of year	1,847,873	1,479,181
Cash (overdraft) end of year	\$ 1,448,220	\$ 1,847,873

## AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## For the year ended December 31, 2022

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority ("the Authority") was created through an Order-in-Council that was approved by the Administrator of the Government of the Province of Ontario, dated July 30, 1946, under the authority of the Conservation Authorities Act 1946. The Act sets out that the objects of the Conservation Authority are to establish and undertake, in its area of jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, as a non profit organization, is exempt from income taxes under the Income Tax Act of Canada.

### 1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared by the management of the Authority in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for organizations operating in the local government sector as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

Significant aspects of accounting policies adopted by the Authority are as follows:

- a) Accrual basis of accounting
  - Revenues and expenses are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting recognizes revenues as they are earned and measurable, and recognizes expenditures as they are incurred and measurable as a result of receipt of goods or services and the creation of a legal obligation to pay.
- b) Investments
  - The marketable securities (consisting of equities, bonds, mutual funds and cash) are recorded at their current market value. Realized and unrealized gains and losses, arising on the recognition of market value, are recorded in the year that they occur.
- c) Inventory
  - Inventory representing items purchased for resale, is expensed to the respective program during the year.
- d) Tangible capital assets
  - Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. The cost of a contributed asset is considered to be equal to its fair market value at the date of contribution.
  - The cost of a tangible capital asset is charged directly to the project or program. For items recorded as a capital purchase, an internal charge rate is calculated which is designed to recover all operating costs plus replacement costs. Projects or programs are then assessed by the internal rate which is applied based on usage records for the item involved. On an annual basis, the net revenue and expenses that are reported determine the appropriation to or from the internally restricted surpluses (Note 8).

In addition, the cost of any equipment that was leased from the private sector was allocated to current projects or programs.

## 1. Accounting policies (continued)

#### d) Tangible capital assets (continued)

Amortization is provided over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The rates used are as follows:

Category	Amortization
	Period
Land	not applicable
Land improvements	50 - 75 years
Buildings	50 - 75 years
Linear assets	50 years
Equipment & machinery	10 - 60 years
Furniture	10 - 40 years
Vehicles	8 - 10 years
Information technology	5 - 8 years

#### e) Contributed capital assets

Contributed capital assets are recognized as assets and revenue at fair value at the time they are received.

#### f) Deferred revenue

Revenue restricted by legislation, regulation or agreement and not available for Authority purposes is reported as deferred revenue on the statement of financial position. The revenue is reported on the statement of financial activities in the year in which it is used for the specified purpose.

## g) Revenue recognition

Government funding including transfers, municipal capital and operating levies, grants, contract services and management fees are recognized in the financial statements when the payments are authorized and all eligibility criteria have been met, except when there is a stipulation that gives rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability. In that case, the funding is recorded as deferred revenue and recognized as revenue as the stipulations are met.

Authority generated revenues including property rental income, contract services, admissions and parking, permits, environmental assessments, programs, events, program and event sponsorships, product sales and membership fees are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related services are performed. Amounts collected for which the related services have not been performed are recorded as deferred revenue and recognized as revenue when the related services are performed. Unrestricted donations are recorded as revenue in the period they are received or receivable, when a reasonable estimate can be made of the amount involved. Externally restricted donations are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized. Donated tangible capital assets are recorded at fair market value, when fair market value can be reasonably estimated.

#### h) Government transfers

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenues in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met, and reasonable estimates can be made.

#### i) Accumulated surplus

Appropriations are made from operations to accumulated surplus for future expenditures and contingencies for such amounts as are deemed appropriate, upon approval of the Board of Directors.

## 1. Accounting policies (continued)

## j) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the period, and the accompanying notes. Due to the inherent uncertainty in making estimates, actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### 2. Marketable securities

The marketable securities, stated at fair value, consist of the following:

	2022	2021
Cash and equivalents	444,015	305,812
Certificates of Deposit	2,390,462	2,391,027
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	982,522	1,128,947
Equity Mutual Funds	3,026,174	3,482,905
	\$ 6,843,173	\$7,308,691

The marketable securities have a cost of \$6,554,683 (2021: \$6,453,143) at year end.

### 3. Tangible capital assets

For additional information, see the Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets information on the tangible capital assets of the Authority by major class, as well as for accumulated amortization of the assets controlled.

#### 4. Deferred revenue

Grants and other amounts that are received in advance of directly related expenses are deferred and recognized as revenue when the expenses are incurred. The amounts deferred in the current and prior year are as follows:

	2022	2021
Project grants	850,540	1,015,895
Part IV Enforcement	87,299	87,121
Special levy	73,601	108,630
Drinking Water Source Protection	120,595	47,262
Donations	15,000	34,898
User fees	175,685	74,138
	\$ 1,322,720	\$ 1,367,944

### 5. Accumulated surplus

The accumulated surplus has been segregated into the following respective categories and are all internally restricted by either management or the Board of Directors.

The respective funds and the utilization of the said funds are described as follows:

- Property Management Forest management, conservation area maintenance and capital improvements.
- Flood and Erosion Control Major Maintenance To offset the costs of the dam erosions and control structure repairs.
- Vehicles and Equipment Purchase of the fleet's vehicles, a tractor and other work machinery as well as computers, scientific equipment and monitoring stations.
- Barrier Free Trails Capital purchases, or improvements to create barrier free trails on conservation lands or lands where a partnership exists.
- · Outdoor Education Staff's time and capital items that support education programs.
- Administration IT Information technology improvements to the Morrison Dam office and buildings.
- Stewardship Endowment Securement of property, implementation and maintenance of stewardship practices. Additional funds were transferred in 2014, the majority of which related to the capital gain realized on the sale of properties during the year.
- · Administration Building Capital improvements to the Morrison Dam office and buildings.
- Operating Reserve Internally restricted surpluses, relating to specific departments, to be used for future expenditures.

For additional information, see the Schedule of Continuity of Accumulated Surplus.

### 6. Lessor commitment

The Authority has a lease contract with Great Canadian Hideaway Inc. for approximately 230 acres of land at the Parkhill Campground. The lease term expires in 2038. Basic rental revenue over the subsequent vears is follows:

	2022
2023	\$ 18,920
2024	19,300
2025	19,680
2026	20,080
2027	20,480
Thereafter (2028 - 2038)	254,205
	\$ 352,665

In addition to the rental revenue noted above, the Authority includes in its rental revenue the appropriate annual costs for taxes and insurance.

In addition, to the campground rent noted above, the Authority collects a percentage rent on an annual basis. The percentage rent is 5% of gross revenue in excess of \$250,000. In the current year \$9,457 (2021: \$9,496) was received for percentage rent.

## 7. Related entity

Letters Patent incorporating the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation under the Canada Corporations Act were granted on June 1, 1974. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority exercises significant influence over the Foundation as it approves the appointment or reappointment of members to the Foundation. The Foundation aids the Conservation Authority in the cultivation and advancement of conservation in the Province of Ontario by providing funding for conservation projects that would otherwise not be undertaken by the Conservation Authority.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation's financial information has not been consolidated in the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's financial statements. The financial position of the Foundation is as follows:

	2022	2021
Financial Position		
Total assets	\$ 3,835,367	\$ 3,718,905
Total liabilities	1,398,488	1,234,119
Total net assets	\$ 2,436,879	\$ 2,484,789
Results of Operations		
Total revenues	\$ 111,320	\$ 249,661
Total expenses	159,230	100,447
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ (47,910)	\$ 149,214

The total liabilities include an amount payable to Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority in the amount of \$7,917 (2021: \$412) for items purchased by the Authority, as well as contributions for education and barrier-free trails and facilities.

During the year, the Foundation received a donation of lands in the amount of \$0 (2021 : \$1,458,500) that were recorded as a direct increase in Net Assets.

The total expenses include contributions of \$17,208 (2021:\$24,654) to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. There were also \$5,546 (2021:\$5,966) in amounts that were received by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, which were donated to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

## 8. Financial instrument risk management

#### Credit risk

The Authority is exposed to credit risk through its cash, trade and other receivables, and short-term investments. There is the possibility of non-collection of its trade and other receivables. The majority of the Authority's receivables are from users and government entities. For trade and other receivables, the Authority measures impairment based on how long the amounts have been outstanding. For amounts outstanding considered doubtful or uncollectible, an impairment allowance is setup.

## Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Authority will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority has a planning and a budgeting process in place to help determine the funds required to support the Authority's normal operating requirements on an ongoing basis. The Authority ensures that there are sufficient funds to meet its short-term requirements, taking into account its anticipated cash flows from operations and its holdings of cash and cash equivalents. To achieve this aim, it seeks to maintain an available line of credit balance as approved by the Board, at a minimum, expected requirements.

#### Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as foreign exchange rates or interest rates will affect the Authority's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to control market risk exposures within acceptable parameters while optimizing return on investments.

#### Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority is exposed to interest rate risk arising from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect the variable rate of temporary borrowings and long-term liabilities and the value of fixed rate long-term liabilities.

There has been no significant changes from the previous year in the exposure to risk or policies, procedures and methods used to measure risks.

#### 9. Budget amounts

Under Canadian public sector accounting standards, budget amounts are to be reported on the statement of operations for comparative purposes. The 2022 budget amounts for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority approved by the Board are unaudited and have been restated to conform to the basis of presentation of the revenues and expenditures on the consolidated statement of activities.

## 10. Financial impact of COVID-19 pandemic

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Subsequently, the Province of Ontario issued a state of emergency limiting the number of people in a gathering and requiring rolling closures and lockdowns of non-essential business for an indeterminate period of time. The dynamic nature of the COVID-19 crisis makes it impossible to predict the impact this will have on the organization's operations, cash flows and financial position. The Membership and management will continue to monitor the situation and reflect the impact in the financial statements as appropriate.

## **AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

## **Schedule of Continuity of Accumulated Surplus**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Balance, beginning of year	Appropriations From Operations	Appropriations To Operations	Balance, end of year
Internally restricted surplus				
Property Management	395,846	1,393	(37,045)	360,194
Flood and Erosion Control				
Major Maintenance	797,257	30,586	(99,035)	728,808
Vehicles and Equipment	149,110	9,191	(8,754)	149,547
Barrier-Free Trails, Facilities	117,312	7,319	(5,571)	119,060
Outdoor Education	193,356	-	(4,333)	189,023
Administration IT	104,799	_	(8,126)	96,673
Stewardship Endowment	5,746,211	-	(370,751)	5,375,460
Administration Building	128,741	16,744	(8,576)	136,909
Operating Reserve	215,396		(53,374)	162,022
	7,848,028	65,233	(595,565)	7,317,696
Tangible capital assets	5,657,007	55,787	(176, 173)	5,536,621
Working capital	132,915	-	(13,799)	119,116
	\$ 13,637,950	121,020	(785,537)	\$ 12,973,433

# AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Land	Land Improvements	Buildings	Motor Vehicles	Computer Equipment	Equipment	Furniture and Fixtures	Flood and Erosion Control Structures & Trails	TOTAL Net Book Value 2022	TOTAL Net Book Value 2021
Cost Balance, beginning of year	2.622.094	275.911	2.059.288	199.271	385.041	260.268	102,686	6,642,527	12.547.086	12.567,316
Add: Additions during the year Less: Disposals during the year	2,022,094	40,832	2,059,266	199,271	8,219	6,075	661	6,642,527	55,787	41,589 (61,819
Balance, end of year	2,622,094	316,743	2,059,288	199,271	393,260	266,343	103,347	6,642,527	12,602,873	12,547,086
Accumulated Amortization										
Balance, beginning of year		246,263	1,016,924	151,221	356,221	176,493	94,242	4,848,713	6,890,077	6,770,193
Add: Amortization during the year Less: Accumulated amortization		5,153	37,298	20,472	13,892	15,873	1,511	81,974	176,173	181,703
on disposals										(61,819)
Balance, end of year	-	251,416	1,054,222	171,693	370,113	192,366	95,753	4,930,687	7,066,250	6,890,077
Net Book Value										
of Tangible Capital Assets	2,622,094	65,327	1,005,066	27,578	23,147	73,977	7,594	1,711,840	\$ 5,536,623	\$ 5,657,009

## AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

Schedule 1

For the year ended December 31	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Wages and benefits	2,590,316	2,679,609	2,464,584
Technical fees	343,450	332,653	325,553
Amortization of tangible capital assets	178,955	176,173	181,703
Program supplies	170,631	254,612	191,695
Partnership commitments	544,960	306,182	496,027
Repairs and maintenance	166,613	90,736	70,463
Memberships, dues, and fees	57,901	52,542	56,058
Property taxes	62,096	49,294	46,987
Insurance	71,150	77,761	69,114
Office	133,813	21,753	24,748
Utilities	38,598	37,474	33,682
Board of Directors	25,221	21,567	20,108
Travel	14,352	7,386	6,597
Training	22,962	10,985	9,100
Advertising and promotion	8,327	7,150	7,690
Rental	11,243	6,077	4,622
Interest and bank charges	4,628	258	791
Transfer to reserve	45,055		-
Capital asset additions	52,096	<b>₩</b> 3	H
	4,542,367	4,132,212	4,009,522