



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

3:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Chair's Welcome and Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement Statement
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
5. Disclosure of intention to record this meeting by video and/or audio device
6. Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2025
7. Business Out of the Minutes
8. **Presentation – Audited 2024 Financial Statement** – Paul Seebach, *Seebach & Company*
9. **Program Reports**
 - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg 41/24) – Andrew Bicknell
(b) Violations/Appeals Update – Geoff Cade
 - Report 2: Process for Updating Conservation Areas Master Plans – Nathan Schoelier
 - Report 3: Conservation Education Update – Cassie Greidanus
 - Report 4: Flood Emergency Planning Meeting Update – Daniel King
10. Committee Reports
11. **General Manager's Report** – Davin Heinbuck
12. **Correspondence**
13. New Business
14. Committee of the Whole
15. Adjournment

Partner Appreciation Evening to Follow at Ironwood Golf Clubhouse

Upcoming Meetings and Events

April 17, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

May 15, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Please note: The Conservation Dinner has changed to an online auction, tentatively to be held May 11-15. Details to follow.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Joey Groot, Jaden Hodgins, Dave Jewitt, Dave Marsh, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Steve Herold, Wayne Shipley

STAFF PRESENT

Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Nathan Schoelier, Erik Strahl, Ellen Westelaken.

OTHERS PRESENT

Spencer Weldig

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 01/25

Moved Dave Jewitt

Seconded by Ray Chartrand

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the February 20, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting be approved as amended.”

Carried.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO RECORD

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 02/25

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on December 19, 2024, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

ELECTIONS

Chair Marissa Vaughan asked for a motion to appoint a chairperson for the elections.

MOTION 03/25

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT Davin Heinbuck be appointed as chairperson for the election proceedings.”

Carried.

Davin Heinbuck outlined the procedures prior to conducting the elections.

Appointment of Scrutineers

MOTION #BD 04/25

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT Abbie Gutteridge and Brian Horner be appointed as scrutineers.”

Carried.

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant.

Election of Chair

Nominations were called for the position of Chair for 2025. Marissa Vaughan nominated Ray Chartrand.

Davin Heinbuck called for nominations two more times.

MOTION #BD 05/25

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Joey Groot**

“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority be closed.”

Carried.

Ray Chartrand accepted his nomination with thanks, and Davin Heinbuck declared Mr. Chartrand, the representative for the Municipality of Huron East, as the Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority for 2025.

Election of Vice Chair

Nominations were called for the position of Vice Chair for 2025. Dave Jewitt nominated Adrian Cornelissen. Adrian Cornelissen nominated Dave Marsh.

Mr. Heinbuck called for nominations two more times.

MOTION #BD 06/25

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Bice Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority be closed.”

Carried.

Adrian Cornelissen accepted his nomination; however, Dave Marsh declined his nomination, but thanked the directors for their confidence. Mr. Heinbuck declared Mr. Cornelissen, representative for the Municipality of North Middlesex, as Vice Chair for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority for 2025.

Ray Chartrand again thanked the directors for their support and assumed the Chair.

APPOINTMENTS

Davin Heinbuck reminded the directors that last year both the auditor, financial institution and investment firm were appointed for a five-year period, so will not need to be reappointed this year. However, the solicitors used by the Authority need to be appointed. Davin recommended appointing the same four solicitors that were appointed in 2024.

MOTION #BD 07/25

**Moved by Dave Marsh
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the firms of Little, Masson & Reid, Exeter; Raymond & McLean, Exeter; Grant Inglis of Scott Petrie, LLP of London; and Fraser M. Kelly, London be appointed as the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority solicitors for 2025.”

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review

Ellen Westelaken, Water & Planning Technician, presented the Development Review report pursuant to Ontario Regulation 41/24 *Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits*. Through the application process, proposed developments within regulated areas are protected from flooding and erosion hazards. Staff granted permission for 8 *Applications for Permission* and 6 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade provided a brief update regarding a deck and storage area that was not permitted by the Board in 2024. The landowners appealed both the ABCA and Municipality's decisions to the Ontario Land Tribunal, and they are currently in some discussions. He also reminded the Board about a violation south of Hendrick Road where a large amount of fill was dumped over the bank. Staff are working with the landowner to try to resolve the violation.

MOTION #BD 08/25

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

"RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors affirm the approval of applications as presented in Program Report # 1 – a) Development Review and receive the verbal Violations and Appeals update as presented."

Carried.

2. Permit Application Authorization

Erik Strahl, Water & Planning Technician, and Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager presented an application for an addition and repairs to an existing residence located in an area of the shoreline where ABCA policy does not permit additions. Therefore, staff is unable to issue a permit. However, in working with the homeowners, Sue Brooks and Spencer Weldig, staff believe that this is a unique case and would not set a precedent. The house is in the shape of a 'U', and the proposed addition is a single story in the centre of the 'U', which already has a concrete slab. No grading changes or septic upgrades are required, and staff are satisfied that the work would not exacerbate dynamic beach hazards. Staff recommends that the Board authorize staff to issue the permit for this proposed development.

Chair Ray Chartrand asked to go into Committee of the Whole, briefly, to ask staff a few further questions regarding the development.

MOTION #BD 08/25

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 10:30 a.m. to discuss this permitting issue with Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck and Erik Strahl remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 09/25

**Moved by Dave Marsh
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors rise and report at 10:39 a.m.”

Carried.

Chair Chartrand invited Mr. Weldig to make any remarks to the Board if he wished. Mr. Weldig thanked the Board for their consideration, as well as staff.

MOTION #BD 10/25

**Moved by Marissa Vaughan
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorize staff to issue a permit for Application #2025-03.”

Carried.

3. Workshop Renovation Tender Results

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship & Lands Manager, presented the results from the tender that was put out for the ABCA workshop renovations to meet the standards in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The workshop is primarily used to support field staff operations, but it is also used for several weeks of day camps each summer. MR Engineering and Design Ltd. (MRE) is the contractor responsible for overseeing and designing the renovation, as well as preparing and issuing the tender to contractors. The tender was issued on Monday, January 20, 2025 with a submission deadline of Friday, January 31, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Matt Runge from MRE, Davin Heinbuck, Nathan Schoelier, and Jeff Van Niekerk met at the ABCA office to open the tenders at 3:05 p.m. on January 31, 2025. Three bids were received (details in attached report), and it is recommended that the tender be awarded to Vanderlaan Construction, which had the lowest cost at \$125, 643.00 plus HST. The ABCA was successful with an application to the Enabling Accessibility Fund in the amount of \$100,000 toward the project, and included \$25,000 in the 2025 budget for this project. This does leave a shortfall of \$24,491.61, which staff recommend be used from the property management reserves.

MOTION #BD 11/25

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Marissa**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors awards the tender for the workshop alteration project 9ABCA-25-01) to Vanderlaan Construction in the amount of \$125, 643.00 plus HST, and

“FURTHER , THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the use of property management reserves to fund the balance of the project.”

Carried.

4. Linfield Wildlife Area Farmland Lease

Nathan Schoelier also presented the results from the tender for the lease of the farmland at Linfield Wildlife Area, which includes approximately 58 farmable acres. In the ABCA Conservation Lands Strategy (CLS) was the objective to review and update the agricultural lease agreement to promote the use of conservation agriculture best management practices, and to develop a strong working relationship between the tenant farmer and staff, with a common goal of progressive and sustainable agriculture. The tender opportunity was made publicly available from January 2 until January 27, 2025.

In total, 13 bids were received, which described a wide range of intended agricultural practices, as well as rental cost per acre. Through this process, staff determined that the bid submitted by Shawn Willert best meets the goals of the CLS, and achieves a balance between utilizing the agricultural practices that ABCA encourages, while meeting the sustainable and responsible financial goals. This would be a six-year lease at a rental rate of \$405 per acre. This bid exceeds the ABCA’s farmland revenue amount included in ABCA’s 2025 budget by \$4890.

MOTION #12/25

Moved by Dave Marsh

Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors award the Linfield Wildlife Area farmland lease to Shawn Willert in the amount of \$405.00 per acre, and

“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Linfield Wildlife Area farmland lease to commence February 20, 2025 and conclude December 31, 2030, and

FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the use of the funds that exceed the 2025 budgeted amount to implement stewardship projects at Linfield Wildlife Area.”

Carried.

5. Flood Model Update Consultant Selection

Daniel King, Water Resources Engineer, reported that the ABCA is in the process of updating the Flood Forecasting and Warning Software, and implemented an RFP opportunity. Two qualifying bids were received and from these, staff selected the bid from Innovative Defensive Options Inc., which submitted a lower cost. To fund this software update, the ABCA was successful with an application to the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) for 50% toward the project. The total cost to ABCA is expected to be \$80,000, which includes 10 % contingencies and consulting support. The original cost estimates were significantly higher at \$145,000. The project is designed to span over a two-year period. ABCA's 2025 budget included \$26,275 for this project. Based on this and the FHIMP funding, there may be a shortfall of approximately \$13,725, which could be taken from reserves. Board members asked about references for the winning bid, and Daniel noted that this person has worked with conservation authorities in the past, so is familiar with the specialized work that is needed for this model.

MOTION #BD 13/25**Moved by Joey Groot****Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors awards the contract to the Flood model update to Innovative Defensive Options inc. in the amount of approximately \$72,200 (including unrecoverable HST) over two years, and

"FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the use of reserves to fund the balance of the project; estimated to be approximately \$13,725, with the potential to replenish the reserve in the 2026 budget preparation."

Carried.**6. Permit Review Timelines**

Geoff Cade presented an annual report, which summarizes the ABCA's Ontario Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits. This report is a requirement of the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. The report confirms that staff of the ABCA continue to excel at bettering expected permit review timelines, and 96% of the permits were issued well before the time limit.

MOTION #14/25**Moved by Dave Marsh****Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the report on permit review timelines for information as presented."

Carried.

7. Unaudited Profit/Loss Statements – 2024

Tina Crown, Financial Services Coordinator, presented the unaudited statements of profit and loss from January 2024 through December 2024. The audited financial statements are anticipated to be ready in March.

MOTION #15/25**Moved by Joey Groot****Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the unaudited profit and loss financial statement for 2024 be received as presented.”

Carried.**STAFF PRESENTATION – MANAGING INVASIVE SPECIES FOR HEALTHY WATERSHEDS**

Nathan Schoelier presented ABCA’s management program for invasive species, specifically for phragmites, which have become prolific throughout Ontario. ABCA not only manages phragmites on ABCA owned lands and works with landowners for their properties, but also manages for several municipalities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**MOTION #BD 16/25****Moved by Dave Marsh****Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Striking Committee meeting held on January 29, 2025 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE****MOTION #BD 17/25****Moved by Dave Jewitt****Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 12: 02 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter, with Davin Heinbuck and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”

Carried.**MOTION #BD 18/25****Moved by Joey Groot****Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors rise and report at 12:19 p.m.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Reference: Letter of Resignation

File: P.1.1

Brief: A letter from Geoff Cade, announcing his intent to retire at the end of June, after a long career with Conservation Authorities in Southwestern Ontario. He thanked staff and the Board for support over the course of his career with ABCA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adrian Cornelissen noted that some municipalities are exploring the option of a “Canadian Made” policy regarding purchasing of supplies, etc., and wondered if ABCA staff had considered the same. Directors concluded that, at present, it seems prudent to wait on such a policy, but staff noted that they do try to purchase any supplies and services from within Ontario, if not within the local watershed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Ray Chartrand
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

*Copies of program reports are available upon request.
Contact Abigail Gutteridge, Corporate Services Coordinator*

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2024

DRAFT

SEEBACH & COMPANY
Chartered Professional Accountants

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (the "Authority") are the responsibility of the Authority's management and have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, established by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, as described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgment, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The Authority's management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded from loss, transactions are properly authorized and recorded, and reliable information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements. These statements are monitored and evaluated by the Authority's management. The Board of Directors meets with management and the external auditor to review the financial statements and discuss and significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval.

The financial statements have been audited by Seebach & Company, independent external auditors appointed by the Authority. The accompanying Independent Auditor's Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Authority's financial statements.

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Davin Heinbuck
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer



Brian Horner, CPA, CA
Financial Services Supervisor

March 20, 2025

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, 2024 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, 2024, 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.

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
March 20, 2025

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31	2024	2023
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash	1,997,421	1,430,901
Marketable securities (note 2)	7,766,026	7,183,177
Accounts receivable	109,611	585,531
Due from related party (note 7)	1,479	5,534
	<u>9,874,537</u>	<u>9,205,143</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	170,371	182,493
Deferred revenue (note 4)	1,268,133	1,198,470
	<u>1,438,504</u>	<u>1,380,963</u>
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	8,436,033	7,824,180
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets, net (note 3)	5,691,913	5,646,296
Prepayments	29,051	28,998
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (note 5)	<u>\$ 14,156,997</u>	<u>\$ 13,499,474</u>

On behalf of the Board:

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue			
Deferred revenue - prior year (note 4)	1,146,870	1,198,470	1,322,720
Operating levy	1,440,622	1,440,623	1,402,705
Partnership contribution	829,580	1,352,313	1,317,679
User fees	864,390	822,212	814,836
Special levy	91,054	91,052	84,400
Provincial grant	435,070	622,932	455,142
Investment income	61,000	407,377	269,376
Rental	62,028	63,122	61,775
Donations	1,000	2,588	186,899
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	-	353,809	259,693
Deferred revenue - current year (note 4)	(678,894)	(1,268,133)	(1,198,470)
	<u>4,252,720</u>	<u>5,086,365</u>	<u>4,976,755</u>
Expenditures (Schedule 1)			
Environmental monitoring	1,539,407	1,610,282	1,792,127
Corporate services	1,086,867	1,019,018	1,007,270
Floodplain management	421,820	286,588	305,705
Drinking water source protection	359,705	322,152	317,167
Stewardship	527,424	557,641	477,832
Recreation	277,476	272,729	230,955
Education	139,250	125,555	114,136
Property management	176,833	155,232	131,976
Vehicles and equipment	125,330	79,645	73,546
	<u>4,654,112</u>	<u>4,428,842</u>	<u>4,450,714</u>
Annual surplus (deficit)	(401,392)	657,523	526,041
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	<u>13,499,474</u>	<u>13,499,474</u>	<u>12,973,433</u>
Accumulated surplus, end of year (note 5)	<u><u>\$ 13,098,082</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 14,156,997</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 13,499,474</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS

For the year ended December 31	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Annual surplus (deficit)	657,523	526,041
Amortization of tangible capital assets	166,514	173,285
Net acquisition of tangible capital assets	(212,131)	(282,958)
Decrease (increase) in inventory and prepaid expenses	(53)	(1,284)
Increase (decrease) in net financial assets	611,853	415,084
Opening balance	7,824,180	7,409,096
Closing balance	<u>\$ 8,436,033</u>	<u>\$ 7,824,180</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended December 31	2024	2023
Operating activities		
Annual surplus (deficit)	657,523	526,041
Amortization expense not requiring cash outlay	166,514	173,285
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(461,582)	(259,693)
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	475,920	14,482
Decrease (increase) in due to/from related parties	4,055	2,383
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(12,122)	14,986
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	69,663	(124,250)
Decrease (increase) in inventory and prepaid expenses	(53)	(1,284)
Cash provided by (used for) operating activities	<u>899,918</u>	<u>345,950</u>
Capital activities		
Net disposals (purchases) of tangible capital assets	<u>(212,131)</u>	<u>(282,958)</u>
Cash provided by (used for) capital activities	<u>(212,131)</u>	<u>(282,958)</u>
Investing activities		
Disposal (purchase) of marketable securities	<u>(121,267)</u>	<u>(80,311)</u>
Cash provided by (used for) investing activities	<u>(121,267)</u>	<u>(80,311)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash position	566,520	(17,319)
Cash (overdraft) beginning of year	<u>1,430,901</u>	<u>1,448,220</u>
Cash (overdraft) end of year	<u><u>\$ 1,997,421</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,430,901</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2024

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:

	2024	2023
Cash and equivalents	321,149	370,475
Certificates of Deposit	2,308,202	2,305,501
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	1,545,265	1,269,414
Equity Mutual Funds	3,591,410	3,237,787
	<u>\$ 7,766,026</u>	<u>\$ 7,183,177</u>

The marketable securities have a cost of \$6,864,648 (2023 : \$6,635,607) 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:

	2024	2023
Project grants	897,745	898,136
Part IV Enforcement	60,012	75,543
Special levy	88,134	50,251
Drinking Water Source Protection	34,720	-
User fees	187,522	174,540
	<u>\$ 1,268,133</u>	<u>\$ 1,198,470</u>

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 years is follows:

	2024
2025	\$ 19,680
2026	20,080
2027	20,480
2028	20,890
2029	21,308
Thereafter (2030 - 2038)	<u>212,007</u>
	<u>\$ 314,445</u>

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 \$13,669 (2023 : \$12,310) 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:

	2024	2023
Financial Position		
Total assets	\$ 8,922,338	\$ 7,294,353
Total liabilities	<u>1,420,786</u>	<u>1,440,111</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$ 7,501,552</u>	<u>\$ 5,854,242</u>
Results of Operations		
Total revenues	\$ 1,215,414	\$ 363,512
Total expenses	<u>328,104</u>	<u>316,149</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 887,310</u>	<u>\$ 47,363</u>

The total liabilities include an amount payable to Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority in the amount of \$1,479 (2023 : \$5,534) 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 \$760,000 (2023 : \$145,000) that were recorded as a direct increase in Net Assets.

The total expenses include contributions of \$78,302 (2023 : \$60,916) 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 2024 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.

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**Schedule of Continuity of Accumulated Surplus**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Balance, beginning of year	Appropriations From Operations	Appropriations To Operations	Balance, end of year
Internally restricted surplus				
Property Management	377,801	41,741	-	419,542
Flood and Erosion Control				
Major Maintenance	800,038	101,292	-	901,330
Vehicles and Equipment	119,725	37,187	-	156,912
Barrier-Free Trails, Facilities	144,196	11,317	(11,000)	144,513
Outdoor Education	194,062	7,902	-	201,964
Administration IT	91,522	14,819	-	106,341
Stewardship Endowment	5,600,655	509,963	(102,821)	6,007,797
Administration Building	234,475	13,187	(6,150)	241,512
Operating Reserve	159,935	-	(7,677)	152,258
	<u>7,722,409</u>	<u>737,408</u>	<u>(127,648)</u>	<u>8,332,169</u>
Tangible capital assets	5,646,295	212,131	(166,513)	5,691,913
Working capital	<u>130,770</u>	<u>2,145</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,915</u>
	<u><u>\$ 13,499,474</u></u>	<u><u>951,684</u></u>	<u><u>(294,161)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 14,156,997</u></u>

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Land	Land Improvements	Buildings	Motor Vehicles	Computer Equipment	Equipment	Furniture and Fixtures	Flood and Erosion Control Structures & Trails	TOTAL Net Book Value 2024	TOTAL Net Book Value 2023
Cost										
Balance, beginning of year	2,792,094	324,189	2,059,288	236,024	420,383	272,828	103,347	6,642,527	12,850,680	12,602,873
Add: Additions during the year	178,349				11,342	22,680	1,629		214,000	282,958
Less: Disposals during the year						(15,618)			(15,618)	(35,151)
Balance, end of year	<u>2,970,443</u>	<u>324,189</u>	<u>2,059,288</u>	<u>236,024</u>	<u>431,725</u>	<u>279,890</u>	<u>104,976</u>	<u>6,642,527</u>	<u>13,049,062</u>	<u>12,850,680</u>
Accumulated Amortization										
Balance, beginning of year		257,669	1,091,457	163,210	382,453	199,637	97,297	5,012,661	7,204,384	7,066,250
Add: Amortization during the year		6,420	37,209	19,081	12,014	16,529	1,667	73,594	166,514	173,285
Less: Accumulated amortization on disposals						(13,749)			(13,749)	(35,151)
Balance, end of year	<u>-</u>	<u>264,089</u>	<u>1,128,666</u>	<u>182,291</u>	<u>394,467</u>	<u>202,417</u>	<u>98,964</u>	<u>5,086,255</u>	<u>7,357,149</u>	<u>7,204,384</u>
Net Book Value of Tangible Capital Assets	<u>2,970,443</u>	<u>60,100</u>	<u>930,622</u>	<u>53,733</u>	<u>37,258</u>	<u>77,473</u>	<u>6,012</u>	<u>1,556,272</u>	<u>\$ 5,691,913</u>	<u>\$ 5,646,296</u>

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

Schedule 1

For the year ended December 31	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Wages and benefits	2,784,579	2,851,480	2,747,679
Technical fees	354,215	314,110	407,441
Amortization of tangible capital assets	162,071	166,514	173,285
Program supplies	244,534	304,675	273,040
Partnership commitments	296,436	392,402	447,037
Repairs and maintenance	132,792	63,348	66,626
Memberships, dues, and fees	58,213	59,448	62,128
Property taxes	57,176	51,891	51,655
Insurance	89,024	87,119	87,339
Office	139,002	22,608	20,737
Utilities	44,945	38,407	39,331
Board of Directors	29,474	21,100	36,919
Travel	14,843	20,714	15,782
Training	27,154	17,621	9,945
Advertising and promotion	9,518	10,092	5,145
Rental	11,932	6,798	6,400
Interest and bank charges	5,683	515	225
Transfer to reserve	66,921	-	-
Capital asset additions	125,600	-	-
	<u>4,654,112</u>	<u>4,428,842</u>	<u>4,450,714</u>

**AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

DRAFT

SEEBACH & COMPANY
Chartered Professional Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenue and expenditures (the "statement") for the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (the "Program") for the year then ended December 31, 2024. The statement of revenue and expenditures has been prepared by management of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

In our opinion, the financial information in the statement of revenues and expenditures of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program for the year ended December 31, 2024, is prepared, in all material respects, 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 Program 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.

Basis of Accounting and Restrictions on Use

The statement is prepared for the purpose of providing information to the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority or the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.

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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement as a whole is 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.

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.

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
March 20, 2025

**AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

For the year ended December 31	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue			
Provincial grant	251,504	306,284	148,833
Deferred revenue - prior year	99,975	-	120,595
Interest income	1,000	2,183	3,763
Deferred revenue - current year	(84,580)	(34,721)	-
	<u>267,899</u>	<u>273,746</u>	<u>273,191</u>
Expenditures			
Wages and benefits	198,079	205,837	212,914
Technical fees	23,500	25,849	21,161
Board of Directors	13,689	7,642	9,937
Office	20,604	19,284	16,260
Rental	7,000	7,227	7,317
Utilities	1,407	1,380	1,380
Travel	1,100	2,296	2,110
Vehicles and field equipment	1,020	174	383
Advertising and promotion	800	835	203
Memberships, dues and fees	-	759	512
Program supplies	50	2,329	791
Uniforms	350	88	178
Training	300	46	45
	<u>267,899</u>	<u>273,746</u>	<u>273,191</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: March 20, 2025
From: Andrew Bicknell, Acting Water and Planning Supervisor
Subject: Applications for Permission
Ontario Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors affirm the approval of the permits issued by ABCA staff as outlined in the *Applications for Permission* Program Report.

The following *Applications for Permission* have been issued by staff since the last Board of Directors Meeting.

*A Coastal Assessment was provided as part of the application

**Work commenced without a permit

Major Permits

(1)	PERMIT #2023-25P	
	NAME: Sugarbush Campground	
	ADDRESS: 33900 Sugarbush Rd., Bayfield	
	MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater	
	PERMISSION TO: renewal of generic permission	
	COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	January 29, 2025
	PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	February 5, 2025
	NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	6
	STAFF NAME:	Erik Strahl

Minor Permits

- (1) PERMIT #MW2025-01
NAME: Dave Forte Family Holdings Corp.
ADDRESS: 13 Tuyl St. , Bayfield, ON.
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: Site Alteration in a regulated area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: January 13, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: January 16, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 3
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (2) PERMIT #2023-80A (Renewal)
NAME: The Municipality of Bluewater
ADDRESS: West end of Colina Street Road Allowance
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: For the purposes of installing armour stone shore protection and associated work.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 5, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 5, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (3) PERMIT #MW2024-75
NAME: Mike and Lynne Rivard
ADDRESS: 27 Aruba Lane
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: Construct a roof over extension and associated work
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 21, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 27, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl

- (4) PERMIT #MW2025-02
NAME: The Municipality of North Middlesex c/o Sam Shannon
ADDRESS: Moray Drive
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex
PERMISSION TO: Watermain relocation through Steeper Extension Drainage Works
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 11, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 12, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (5) PERMIT #MW2025-04 A-D
NAME: Lynx Planning and Engineering
ADDRESS: Various Location in West Perth (qty = 4)
MUNICIPALITY: West Perth
PERMISSION TO: Fibre Optic Cable installations beneath watercourses.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: Jan 21, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 11, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 16
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (6) PERMIT # MW2025-07
NAME: Enbridge Gas Inc. (c/o Caitlin Collins)
ADDRESS: 33905 Gendron Street
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: Install gas main in a regulated area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: January 31, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 14, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 11
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken
- (7) PERMIT # MW2025-08
NAME: Dynamic Septic and Drainage (c/o Devon Webb)
ADDRESS: 74841B Dr. George Smith Ave.
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: Install a replacement septic system
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 14, 2025

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	February 19, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	3
STAFF NAME:	Ellen Westelaken

- (8) PERMIT # MW2025-13
NAME: Hurondale Excavating (c/o Josh Dougall)
ADDRESS: 69728 Airport Line
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron
PERMISSION TO: Install a replacement septic system
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:
STAFF NAME:

March 6, 2025
March 10, 2025
2
Ellen Westelaken

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: March 20, 2025
From: Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Lands Manager
Subject: Process for Updating Conservation Areas Master Plans
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the process for updating conservation areas master plans detailed in this report.

Background:

The Conservation Lands Strategy (CLS), approved November 2024, is an overarching strategy to guide future management planning. The CLS includes management goals, objectives, considerations, and challenges, as they relate to Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's (ABCA) entire landholdings. The CLS provides general direction, but it does not provide specific direction for individual properties.

Conservation area master plans contain site-level management information and are the vehicle for guiding specific direction for individual properties. Not all conservation areas have a master plan, and the most recent update to plans was 2004. The CLS included an implementation item of updating all master plans prior to 2030.

The 2025 budget included funds for updating the master plans for Ausable River Cut Conservation Area (ARCA), Morrison Dam Conservation Area (MDCA), and Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA). It is important to consider the needs of the environment, and the needs of the community when updating the master plans. To capture the needs of the community, the opportunity for community input will be provided, which will help to direct the master plan, and subsequently, property management. To capture this important information, the following process is proposed:

- 1) Staff will consult the CLS to develop a draft master plan. The public and stakeholders were consulted during the preparation of the CLS, which provides a strategic framework for management planning. Further to the CLS, staff will utilize their expertise and information from past master plans, when available, and other resources, to effectively develop the draft version.
- 2) The draft master plan will be presented to the Board of Directors for input, and to approve the draft plan to be made available for public and stakeholder feedback.
- 3) The draft plan will be made available for public and stakeholder engagement. To dedicate staff resources most effectively, and encourage relevant feedback, engagement efforts will focus on

property visitors, local residents, and appropriate stakeholders. Various methods will be employed, including online platforms, and one-to-one sessions, to ensure meaningful engagement.

4) Staff will summarize the feedback that is received, and incorporate it into the final version of the master plan accordingly.

5) The final version will be provided to the Board of Directors for approval. Upon approval, it will be made publicly available on the ABCA website.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: March 20, 2025
From: Cassie Greidanus, Conservation Education Coordinator
Subject: Conservation Education Update
Report Type: INFORMATION REPORT

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the Conservation Education Update for information as presented.

Introduction:

Conservation Education is continuing to see growth in all areas and to balance this growth, our largest announcement for this mid-year update is the hiring of Julie Stellingwerff as our Education Instructor. Julie returns to ABCA after taking 10 years to grow her family and career is a variety of aspects. While at ABCA from 2005-2014 Julie took leadership roles in growing the department and coordinating Camp Sylvan. Now, as Education Instructor, Julie is working part-time, with varied hours which allows her flexibility to continue working with the school boards as an occasional teacher and with her family, while also doing the work she loves as an outdoor educator.

Education Updates

- Owl Prowl held November 15, 2024 saw attendance of 111 people and with funding from ABCF, WILD Ontario brought two owls for community viewing.
- AMDSB hosted two environmental forums in the fall of 2024, a day for elementary students and one for secondary. Students learnt about what a watershed is, it's significance and issues relating to water and soil health.
- Oaks and Acorns saw registration being full within 4 hours of posting it. With 16 families registered we ranged from about 7-10 families weekly at the event. Children aged 18 months – 4 years learned about a new topic each week with hands-on activities activated all of their senses!
 - With a bit of extra funding remaining, we worked with Huron EarlyON and Exeter Library to provide two winter days.
 - This funding was provided by ABCF and SCF South Huron Vitality Fund
- School Programs were extremely busy this past fall, between September 17 and November 1:
 - 49 school programs
 - 1224 students taught
 - Most popular programs: Fossils, Species at Risk, Growth and Changes in Plants and Animals, Pond Study
- Winter programs have had a rocky few months due to the high number of bus cancellation

days.

- Snowshoe rentals: at least 6 full days of rentals from schools.
 - One day spent at Pinery Provincial Park with Hillside Elementary School in partnership with St. Clair Region CA.
- Spring Water Awareness Program – 9 school programs with 165 students taught. This is the second year we have done the primary escape room program and have received positive feedback over the structure of the program.
- PA Day Tea Tasting at Exeter Library – There was a great interest in doing this program again in the evening for other audiences.
- Day Camps:
 - March Break Day Camps had 8 campers attend with a flexible schedule due to construction in the shop, students learned about survival skills, wildlife, birds, water quality and more.
 - To aid in camper well-being, Mercedes Prout was hired for the week as Day Camp Assistant.
 - Summer Day Camp registration was extremely popular. 115/120 spots are taken in our 6 weeks of programming with over 20 children on our waitlist.
 - Field trips are planned thanks to a generous discount from Wave Limo & Tours. Two at RGCA and one at Hullett Marsh.
 - Special events will include two visits from Safari Sam with Sam's Scales and Tails, as well as a Turtle Release with Huron Stewardship Council.
 - We are excited to welcome back both our day camp staff from last year: Elizabeth Cade as our Day Camp Leader and Kayley Thompson as our Day Camp Counsellor.

Coming up:

- Oaks and Acorns will be running two sessions this May. Tuesdays at MDCA and Thursdays with our new partners at Lambton EarlyON at Warner Preserve.
 - We will also be doing a variety of "pop-up" days with Huron EarlyON across the watershed.
- With funding from SCF Grand Bend we will be hosting youth tree planting events at both Warner and Triebner Tract with Grand Bend Public School, Eco Exeter and Big Brothers Big Sisters South Huron
- 5 or 6 events planned with Big Brothers Big Sisters South Huron to provide activities for individuals on their long waitlist. This will include a few different plantings, GPS programming, pond studies and more.
- Envirothon is planned for April 24 and May 7 at MDCA. The rotating topic this year is Forestry Stewardship.
- April 30th – Specialist High Skills Major training with Goderich District Collegiate Institute where students in the environmental field will go on a bus tour, stopping at a variety of locations to speak to environmental specialists about shoreline erosion.
 - Guests include: Ben Woodward (Masters student at University of Waterloo); Kerry Kennedy (Lake Huron Coastal Centre); Daniel King and Natha

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: March 20, 2025
From: Dan King, Water Resources Engineer; Christie Brown, Water Resources Technologist; and Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Subject: Flood Emergency Planning Meeting
Report Type: INFORMATION REPORT

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the Flood Emergency Planning Meeting report for information as presented.

Background:

The 2025 annual Flood Emergency Planning meeting was held in person on February 24, 2025. ABCA Member Municipalities and other stakeholders in emergency flood response were invited to attend and participate in the meeting. The 22 attendees included reps from 7 watershed municipalities as well as staff and/or CEMC from all Huron County, Lambton County and Middlesex county, and 2 other Conservation Authorities.

ABCA staff members presented or led discussion on the following agenda items:

- Welcome and Opening Remarks by Ray Chartrand – ABCA Chair
- Roles and Responsibilities in Flood Emergencies - Davin Heinbuck, ABCA
- Feature Presentation – From Watches to Warnings and Everything in Between – James Bryant & Lina Florian, ERCA
- Watershed Conditions Update and Flood Outlook – Christie Brown
- Discussion and Closing remarks

Discussion Highlights:

Following the meeting, we always ask our partners if they feel that it is worthwhile hosting this flood emergency planning meeting. Attendees acknowledged the importance of holding this event each year and for many, they use this as a reminder to revisit their emergency plans. Additionally, the ability to make in-person connections amongst the partners, is fundamental to emergency preparedness.

The meeting notes and attendees are attached for your information.

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting
February 24, 2025, 1:00 pm, Legion Hall, Exeter
Meeting Notes

AGENDA

1) Opening Remarks, Ray Chartrand, Chair ABCA Board of Directors - 1:00 pm

ABCA Chair Ray Chartrand welcomed everyone to the meeting with a land acknowledgement. He had the attendees make introductions and briefly discussed the purpose of the meeting. Chair Chartrand emphasized the importance of inter-agency communication during flooding events. He solicited feedback at the end of today's session, and introduced the three speakers for the event.

2) Roles and Responsibilities and ABCA Flood Emergency Plan, Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, ABCA

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, provided a summary of the history of the watershed including key areas that have been identified as susceptible to flooding. He expanded on the hierarchy of floodplain management, from planning to regulations to emergency response. In that he acknowledged that much of the built environment preceded the regulations, so we are left with the responsibility to message and warn about flooding. Davin then outlined the key players (the province (MNRF), the municipalities, Conservation Authorities) and their respective roles in the comprehensive flood forecasting and warning program. He presented the contents of the 2025 Flood Emergency Plan, specifically the roles and responsibilities of each partner (Province, Municipality, CA) in a flood emergency. He also emphasized that ABCA maintains a rotating schedule for a Flood Duty Officer who can be reached on a 24 hr emergency line.

In addition to the contents of the Flood Emergency Plan, he provided photographic examples from both recent and past flooding events throughout the watershed. He explained that the three most common types of flood events that we see are heavy rains, rain and snowmelt, and ice jams. With lake levels being near or exceeding record highs in previous years, there were examples of lake and coastal flooding. These examples ranged from events in 2006 to 2024.

5) FEATURE PRESENTATION – From Watches to Warnings and Everything After: Unpacking the Essex Flood Event – August 2023, James Bryant P.Eng. and Lina Florian, ERCA

James Brian and Lina Florian, who are engineers with the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), was the feature speaker of this year's meeting. Mr. Bryant and Ms. Florian presented on a flooding event in their watershed from 2023. Moisture from the remnant of Hurricane Hillary fell on soil that had been pre-wetted by previous rainfall resulting in a quick response of runoff

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting
February 24, 2025, 1:00 pm, Legion Hall, Exeter
Meeting Notes

over one of the flattest landscapes in Southern Ontario. They showed how the rainfall event greatly exceeded the regulatory standards, and typical rainfall events for the ERCA watershed. The town of Harrow, which had flooded in 1989 was again significantly impacted by this event in 2023. Flood damage was related to a historical re-direction of watercourses for agricultural purposes undertaken in the 1800s, and overwhelmed local sewage and storm infrastructure capacity by up to fourteen (14) times. Significant road closures impacted 21 km of roads, stranding multiple communities in addition to Harrow.

Mr. Bryant and Ms. Florian outlined the technical work that their team undertook after the event to delineate the extent of flooding, and presented maps they created that showed what structures were impacted to support both municipal and private applications to the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) program and to private flood insurance. There was also some discussion of the disconnect between expectations and reality with the amount of funds that were released from that program, based on the amount of damage.

3) ABCA Watershed Conditions, Christie Brown, Water Resources Technologist

Christie Brown, ABCA Water Resources Technologist, provided an overview of the current watershed conditions with respect to:

- Showed a recent NOAA Satellite photo and discussed that there is approximately 100 mm of Snow-Water Equivalent (SWE) in an average 45 cm snowpack which could be released quickly or slowly depending on the type of weather we have for the spring melt event. Based on the current forecast the outlook is a gradual melt.
- River ice – formed on most major rivers in early February. Monitoring has shown between 9-12 in, and since then the thickness has likely increased.
- Ice jams – due to the presence of river ice there is risk of ice jams this spring
- MNR is forecasting little activity in the next two days. ABCA staff are monitoring the approximately 15 mm or rain forecast for Mar 4-5. Whether this rain coincides with significant contribution from the snow pack, or ice breakup and risk of ice jams will greatly depend on temperatures.
- Lake Huron water level – The lake is currently near the long-term mean, with regular seasonal variation expected.

Closing Remarks, Ray Chartrand

Chair Chartrand thanked each of the presenters for their contributions, and with Davin emphasized that the ABCA appreciates attendees feedback on content for future meetings.

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting
February 24, 2025, 1:00 pm, Legion Hall, Exeter
Meeting Notes

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 pm.

Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
David Kester	Bluewater
Mayor Paul Klopp	Bluewater
Brady Nolan	Central Huron
Jeff Lipskie	Central Huron
Lina Florian	Essex Region Conservation Authority
James Bryant	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Andrew Maver	Huron County
Ray Chartrand	Huron East
Dale Lyttle	Huron Perth Public Health
Jay VanKlinken	Lambton County
David Larkin	Lambton County Public Health
Nick Verhoeven	Lambton Shores
Jeff Little	Lucan Biddulph
John Elston	Middlesex County
Kent Ferguson	North Middlesex
Mayor George Finch	South Huron
Alyssa Keller	South Huron
Jeremy Becker	South Huron
Shane Timmermans	South Huron
Rebekah Msuya-Collison	South Huron
Will Morrow	Upper Thames River Conservation
Jess Penz	Upper Thames River Conservation
Abbie Gutteridge	ABCA
Christie Brown	ABCA
Daniel King	ABCA
Davin Heinbuck	ABCA
Derek Dolmage	ABCA
Erik Strahl	ABCA
Jackson Janmaat	ABCA
Michael Bax	ABCA
Tim Cumming	ABCA

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: March 20, 2025
From: Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer
Subject: General Managers Report
Report Type: INFORMATION REPORT

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the General Managers Report for information as presented.

Introduction

I am pleased to provide the Board of Directors with a brief update on ABCA projects, programs, partnership updates, funding opportunities and activities over the winter. Information about Conservation Ontario(CO) and some of its activities on behalf of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities will also be included when new information is available. If you have any questions feel free to discuss with me. This is not an inclusive list, only some highlights.

Conservation Ontario

Conservation Ontario Council meetings have been set for 2025. The Annual General Meeting will be April 14th, followed by quarterly meetings on June 23rd, September 22nd, and December 8th.

December 9th, 2024, CO Council approved the amendments to the "Conservation Authorities Act Model Hearing Guidelines". Legislative and regulatory amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* ("CA Act") came into effect on April 1, 2024, including the new Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits). New and amended processes related to hearings under the CA Act were introduced. This work is part of Conservation Ontario's efforts to support CAs with implementation of the amended *Conservation Authorities Act* and O. Reg. 41/24.

Conservation Authorities University (CAU) program will run once again in 2025-26. The CAU Executive Development Program is a training program for Conservation Authority CAO/GMs and senior staff (both new and experienced). The program is designed to share best practices and experiences to strengthen the network and the collaboration across CAs, with a focus on Governance, Public Administration, and Conservation Authority Business Areas.

ABCA Meetings and Special Events

1. Board and Staff Years of Service Awards, and the Conservationist of the Year Award, will be presented at the annual Partner Appreciation Evening on Thursday, March 20, 2025.
2. A Communications Strategy Committee is working on a long-term document to update our communications and public engagement program, to build upon our communications successes, and to identify ways to further maximize performance including social media engagement.
3. ABCA hosted a Flood Emergency Planning Meeting on February 24th (March Board Report).
4. Christie Brown and Daniel King attended the UTRCA Flood Coordinators Meeting on January 15th.
5. Planning and Regulations staff hosted Lambton Shores planning staff to make formal introductions and enhance collaboration between the municipality and the CA.
6. Ellen Westelaken has met with South Huron Staff to discuss park options within Exeter.
7. Brooklyn Rau and Nathan Schoelier attended the first Huron Clean Water Project meeting (HCWP) of 2025. 48 projects were presented, requesting approximately \$85,000 in grant funding, with a total project value of approximately \$184,000. All projects were approved.
8. Brooklyn attended the Mid-western Ontario Ag show on Feb. 20th, in Clinton, representing the HCWP. It was well attended with many landowners visiting the booth to learn more about funding and projects available to them.
9. Nathan attended a workshop hosted by Thames Talbot Land Trust, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Ontario Nature, that invited landowners to learn more about land protection options.
10. Nathan represented ABCA at the Municipality of West Perth's Community Day in Mitchell. ABCA, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority jointly hosted a booth at the event.
11. Rosalind Chang is representing ABCA on the Huron County Community Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Working Group. The first of 3 meetings was January 23rd.
12. In partnership with Huron Soil and Crop, Hope Brock and Mari Veliz hosted the 10th annual Cover Crop Workshop on February 7th with approximately 30 producers attending.
13. Ben Riggan and Cristen Watt attended the virtual ONFARM forum on February 6th.
14. Kari Jean attended a Species at Risk Fish Recovery Team meeting.
15. Rosalind and Hope Brock working with Kettle Point's Hillside School to coordinate some turtle education and planting events.
16. Christie helped facilitate a Snowshoe program at the Pinery with SCRCA and Hillside School (Kettle & Stony Point) on February 4. Approximately 50 kids from Senior Kindergarten-Grade 8.
17. Oaks and Acorns received funding to provide a 4-week program at the Warner Preserve this spring and we will be doing this in partnership with Lambton EarlyON.
18. Summer Day Camp is nearly fully booked. Currently 105/120 spots filled with 14 individuals on the waitlist for the weeks that are at maximum capacity. Camps will run for 6 weeks and will include field trips. We will also be welcoming back Elizabeth Cade as our Day Camp Lead and Kayley Thompson as our Day Camp Counsellor.
19. Spring Water Awareness Programs (SWAP) are ongoing, and running into March this year due to the number of snow day and bus cancellations.

20. Cassie Greidanus is on the Rekindle Education Conference committee and has been helping to plan the 2025 conference at Bluewater Education Centre near Wiarton.
21. Envirothon registration has opened and we have many schools this year interested in bringing multiple teams due to the positive experience they had last year! It will be hosted once again at Morrison Dam Conservation Area this spring.

ABCA Projects, Programs and Studies

1. Daniel reviewed removals as per a court order by Shmuel Farhi at their property with Andy and confirmed the restoration is complete as per the order.
2. Daniel has been working with contractors to replace the roof of the control structure at the Parkhill Dam. This was jointly funded through the WECl program.
3. Andrew Bicknell is reviewing the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) funding program and criteria, associated with updated Flood mapping in higher-risk areas.
4. Mike Bax has been visiting several of ABCA's properties this winter, making a positive presence in the community, and educating the public about the rules in place at conservation areas.
5. Ian Jean is working with landowners requiring Managed Forest Plan renewals for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). The MFTIP term is 10 years, at which time plans must be reviewed and re-submitted.
6. Over 5000 acres of cover crops were enrolled to the cover crop programs that ABCA administers. All the programs, except the Boost program, which focuses on the Bayfield River area, are fully allocated. Applications for the 2025-26 programs will be accepted in June.
7. Hope Brock continues to assist Huron Soil and Crop Improvement Association (HSCIA) with their cover crop trial and provided slides for the HSCIA AGM and upcoming Cover Crop Workshop.
8. Mari presented edge of field water quality results with the UTRCA and LTRCA for the virtual ONFARM forum with 130 participants.
9. Kari and Angela VanNiekerk continue to work on reporting and coordination of our Canada Nature Fund (CNF) agreement (2022-2026). This funding supports stewardship, education and monitoring projects in the Ausable River, Bayfield River and Lake Huron tributaries.
10. ABCA was awarded a contract from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to audit unrated municipal drain classification data collected in 2024 by 8 agencies (Conservation Authorities and consultants). Drain classification is meant to streamline drain maintenance. Kari and Christie have been working on verifying and summarizing all fisheries and flow data for the audit report.
11. Kari has been working on 2024 bio monitoring data organization (fish, mussels, habitat) including data entry to databases and reporting for funding and permitting partners. In this review, an Eastern Pondmussel was confirmed, a first for ABCA. It is also a Species at Risk.
12. Rosalind and Mari finalized a proposal for the Old Ausable Channel. This project would test wetland enhancement techniques in the OAC, and steer potential future restoration.

13. Rosalind has been working with the Municipality of Lucan Biddulph to plant a new Low Impact Development in Clandeboye.
14. Angela participated in the Hillman Marsh Coastal Wetland Workshop. They were asking for feedback for monitoring Coastal Wetlands.
15. Annual Progress Reporting on Source Protection Plan implementation is complete. Donna Clarkson completed annual reports for Risk Management Officials (8 municipalities).
16. Elizabeth Balfour coordinated recruitment of a new Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Drinking Water Source Protection Committee (SPC) member, representing the environmental sector. Joy Rutherford has been appointed to the SPC as the new Environment sector rep.
17. Donna has field verified properties in WHPAs for salt and snow storage threats.
18. Walkerton-25 commemoration: Donna and Tim Cumming have been taking part in a working group lead by Conservation Ontario, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Walkerton tragedy (May 2000). Plans are underway for a video to reflect on the event and subsequent achievements in water protection. The expected release of the video is April 2025.

ABCA Training

1. Aaron Clarke continues to train staff in the use and application of the WISKI software.
2. Ben has completed the Agricultural Erosion Control Structures course.
3. Jeff VanNiekerk, Reese Thompson, and Mike Bax participated in several training modules to further build their knowledge and skillset for enforcement-related work.
4. Derek Dolmage is currently upgrading his licence to operate heavy equipment.
5. Standard First Aid & CPR AED training for staff was held on February 25th.

Other Items

1. Minor flooding occurred over the Christmas Holidays – 2 Flood Outlook/Water Safety messages released, prompting river watch crews and support from Field Services staff.
2. In the first two months of 2025 (January-February), ABCA staff issued seven news releases (with positive coverage in print, broadcast and online media); published content to the abca.ca website (with almost 20,000 views); published more than 180 social media posts to more than 7,000 followers on four social media platforms (with more than 160,000 impressions for those posts); and issued four e-newsletter editions (surpassing industry performance benchmarks for average open rates and average click rates).
3. Geoff has completed the ABCA's annual report to the Information and Privacy Commissioner.
4. Education has extended an offer of employment to Julie Stellingwerff as our new Education Instructor. Julie worked at ABCA in the education department from 2006-2015 and was a key member in our Camp Sylvan initiatives. Julie is working part time and started on February 19th.