



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

10:00 a.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 April 16, 2026
7. **Business Out of the Minutes**
 - Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – Bill 97 Update – Davin Heinbuck
8. **Program Reports**
 - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg 41/24) – Jaden Schoelier
(b) Violations/Appeals Update – Andrew Bicknell
 - Report 2: IT Support/Upgrades Project – Tracey McPherson
 - Report 3: Claybird Gun Club Lease Renewal – Davin Heinbuck/Nathan Schoelier
 - Report 4: ABCA Transition Committee Appointments – Davin Heinbuck
 - Report 5: Regional Consolidation of CAs – Minister's Direction – Davin Heinbuck
9. **Presentation:** *Turtle Protection Program* – Rosalind Chang/Sheldon Paul (Huron Stewardship Council)
10. **Committee Reports**
 - Source Protection Committee – Abbie Gutteridge
 - Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee – Wayne Shipley
11. Correspondence
12. **New Business**
13. Committee of the Whole
14. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 18, 2026
July 16, 2026

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins (Via Zoom), Dave Jewitt, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Joey Groot, Dave Marsh

STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Bicknell, Tina Crown, Millie Ghorbankhani, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Jaden Schoelier, Nathan Schoelier, Mari Veliz

OTHERS PRESENT

Adam Skillen, *Skillen Investment Management*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ray Chartrand 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 32/26

**Moved Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the April 16, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting be approved.”

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 33/26****Moved by Adrian Cornelissen****Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 26, 2026, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESRegional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – Update and ERO Decision

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, provided an update regarding the regional consolidation of conservation authorities in Ontario. He noted that, on March 10, 2026, a decision was made regarding ERO 025-1257, following a 45 day posting. Over 5,600 submissions were received through the ERO posting, and in total there were more than 14,000 comments, resolutions, etc. submitted to the Province. The Province made the decision to consolidate Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities (CAs) into nine regional CAs, up from the original proposed seven regional CAs. Guiding principles include retaining local expertise, maintaining watershed-based boundaries and geographic alignment, reduced administrative duplication and the continuity of services.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), will be one of six CAs included in the Lake Huron Region CA. The other five include Maitland Valley CA, Saugeen Valley CA, Grey Sauble CA, Nottawasaga Valley CA and Lake Simcoe CA. Board representation for the region will come from upper and single-tier municipalities.

Some key points from the March 10 decision include that the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) establish transition committees for each region, with representation from each predecessor CA, and appoint Project Executives who will chair these committees, and will also serve as the first CAO of the region to ensure stability and continuity in leadership. The transition committees will develop transition plans for each region. A Board of Directors will be selected by participating municipalities for each region. There will be some guardrails established to prevent extraordinary financial, asset or employment decisions to help mitigate risk during the transition phase. In addition, there will be at least one or more Watershed Councils established for each region to ensure local priorities are identified and considered by the region.

The passing of legislation for these changes is expected in the next month, and CAs will have 90 days to appoint members to the transition committee. In early 2027, the nine regions will be formed through statutory amalgamation, and transition plans will be implemented. However, during this

time of change, ABCA staff will continue with all programs and services, and continue to work collaboratively with our local municipalities and community partners.

PRESENTATION

Adam Skillen, *Skillen Investment Management*, provided an update on ABCA investments. He noted that as per ABCA Board direction, they have been rotating GICs and equities back to their original target percentages. He noted that markets took a hit in March, but have come back up in April. In 2025, the portfolio increased by 7.8%, and that, to date, it is in a good position for 2026.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review

Jaden Schoelier, 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 6 *Applications for Permission* and 7 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Andrew Bicknell, Water and Planning Manager, did not have an update regarding ongoing violations.

MOTION #BD 34/26

**Moved by Steve Herold
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. Draft Annual Pay Grid Adjustment Policy

Davin Heinbuck reminded Directors that at the November 20, 2025 Board of Directors meeting, direction was given to develop a policy that ties ABCA’s pay grid adjustment to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). During the annual budget preparation, the standard practice for determining this adjustment had been to take an average of what ABCA’s municipal partners were adjusting for their employees, which generally reflected the CPI. This new policy notes that using a three-month average (May-July) would be desirable, as there can be significant month-to-month fluctuation. At no time, would the CPI result in a negative adjustment of the pay grid.

MOTION #BD 35/26

**Moved by Marissa Vaughan
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the attached policy for ABCA’s annual Pay Grid Adjustment, and

“FURTHER, THAT the annual pay Grid Adjustment Policy be used for budget preparations and approvals effective this date, April 16, 2026.”

Carried.

3. Ausable River Cut Conservation Area Master Plan (2026-2036)

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship, Conservation Lands and Education Manager, presented the final draft of the Ausable River Cut Conservation Area Master Plan to the Board of Directors. An earlier draft was presented to the Board, and since that time there has been public engagement for feedback, and any changes reflect that feedback. Upon approval, it will be available on the ABCA’s website.

MOTION #BD 36/26

Moved by Wayne Shipley

Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

“RESOLVED, THAT Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the Ausable River Cut Conservation Area Master Plan (2026-2036).”

Carried.

4. 1st Quarter Profit and Loss Statement

Tina Crown, Financial Services Coordinator, presented the 1st quarter profit and loss statement for the ABCA. In general, she noted that grant funding was coming through as expected, and that municipal levy billing would be upcoming in the 2nd quarter. She did note an increase in purchased services, which is due to consultation for the new hydrology model.

MOTION #BD 37/26

Moved by Wayne Shipley

Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the 1st Quarter Profit and Loss Statement as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Davin Heinbuck attended a briefing from the Province of Ontario and OPCA, which provided a little more information regarding the consolidation of conservation authorities. From that briefing it was noted that there will be several phases to the consolidation. Following the passing of Bill 97, which is expected soon, Phase 2 will begin, which will be a transition phase. This will last until early 2027, when amalgamation takes place (February 1, 2027), and will bring in Phase 3 – Transformation. The last phase could last two or more years.

Davin noted that some of the changes that came out of the ERO posting were the addition of Watershed Councils to retain local input, as well as some small changes to the boundaries of the new regions (now creating nine instead of seven). He noted that the initial amalgamation will be a change in name, meaning that all existing agreements, etc. will remain in place and now be with the new conservation authority region, and all employees will simply transfer over to the new entity. Davin suggested that if Bill 97 receives Royal Assent soon, then ABCA should be prepared to appoint two members to the Transition committee at the next Board of Directors meeting. In total, there will be at least 12 members on the transition committee (two from each predecessor CA), with the potential of an additional appointment from the OPCA. He noted that there will be an upcoming inventory of programs, to ensure that nothing gets overlooked in the transition.

Also of note, the 2027 budget for each predecessor CA will be developed by that CA with guidance from the OPCA, and should be approved before the end of the year; however, it may be wise to have it approved prior to upcoming municipal elections in October. Levies will be issued to the current member municipalities. Regarding governance, it has been suggested that each single and upper tier municipality will have a representative on the regional Board. The Province has provided some guidance and rules around appointment. It was noted that the Transition Committees will need to dedicate time and resources to engaging the counties, as they have traditionally had less dealing with conservation authorities. Davin also noted that Watershed Councils should be an avenue by which local interests can still be represented. It has been recommended that each predecessor CA have a Watershed Council.

MOTION #BD 38/26

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the update on the Provincial Briefing as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Wayne Shipley at 11:53 a.m.

Ray Chartrand
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

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

DRAFT

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: May 21, 2026
From: Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Subject: Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – BILL 97 Update
Report Type: INFORMATION

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Board of Directors receives this update on Bill 97: Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026.

Background

This report provides a written summary that is consistent with the presentation ABCA staff provided to members at the April 16, 2026, ABCA Board of Directors meeting. That presentation provided a condensed version of the slide deck titled: *Improving Ontario's Conservation Authority System: Technical Briefing for Conservation Authorities*. This was originally presented to CA General Managers and Board Chairs on April 9, 2026, by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). It is our understanding that this same or similar presentation was provided by the MECP to each of the municipalities within the watershed of a current conservation authority.

The province of Ontario is proceeding with its plans to consolidate Ontario's 36 CAs into 9 Regional CAs. The implementation of regional CAs is targeted for February 1, 2027. The consolidation may not be what ABCA advocated for, but we are committed to working constructively with the Province, CAs, Conservation Ontario, and our municipal partners to ensure that local watershed management is maintained through local service delivery. We will strive to both continue and enhance the progressive work of CAs that build healthy, sustainable, and resilient local watersheds and communities.

Timelines

Bill 97 was introduced on March 26, 2026, where Schedule 3 outlines the consolidation of CAs and proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. It received Royal Assent on April 24, 2026.

Of note, adjustments in timelines and scope may be made through regulations under the authority of the Lieutenant Governor Orders in Council (LGIC). These regulations will be introduced as we work through the consolidation process.

The following timelines are from the MECP presentation: *Improving Ontario's Conservation Authority System: Technical Briefing for Conservation Authorities*. Figure 1 below identifies two key periods, the period leading up to February 1, 2027, to be known as the 'Transition', and the period after February 1, 2027, called the 'Transformation', or implementation period.

Context: Improving Ontario's CA system

Ontario is taking action to build on the legislative and regulatory amendments made since 2019 to ensure CAs have the tools required to protect the communities they serve, supporting economic prosperity while balancing conservation and development needs.

The government is making improvements to Ontario's conservation authority system in multiple phases:

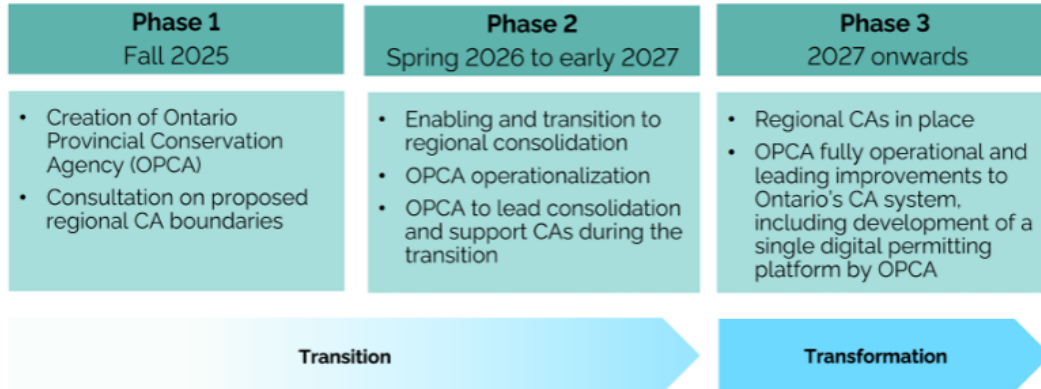


Figure 1. Context: Improving Ontario's CA system

The timeline of the key steps is provided below in Figure 2, 'Key Milestones'. The key steps and timelines for each agency or committee are provided in Figure 3, 'Key Steps in the Process'. Further details on these timelines are provided in the text of this report.

Key Milestones

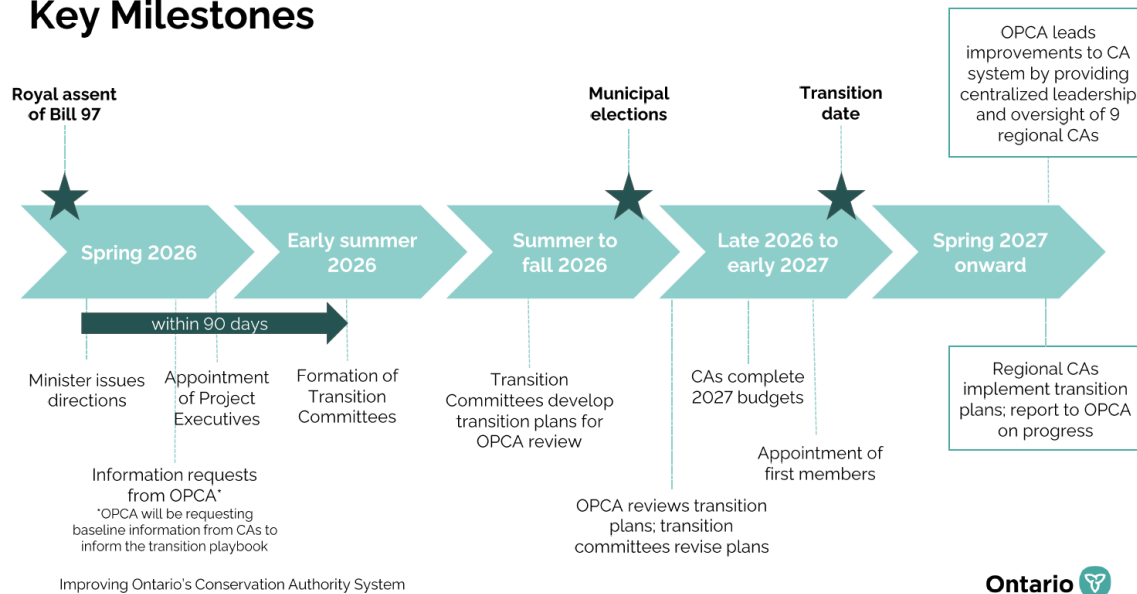


Figure 2. Key Milestones

Key Steps in Process

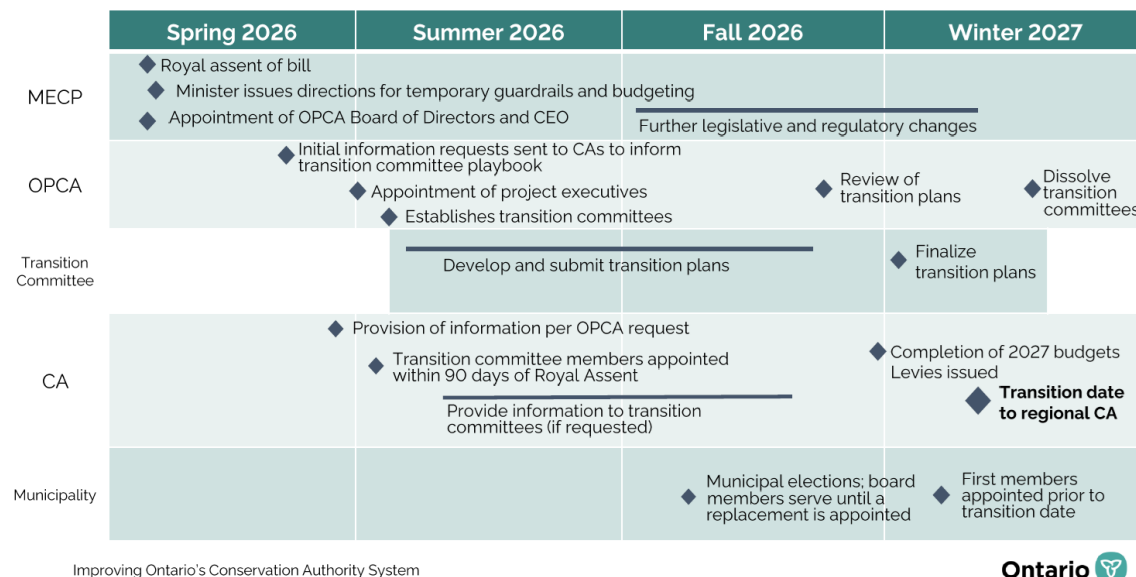


Figure 3. Key Step in Process

Transition Details and Rules for Amalgamation

1. The transition from the predecessor conservation authorities (current CAs) will be through Statutory Amalgamation. As of February 1, 2027 (or a date as defined in LGIC regulation), ABCA would continue as the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA).
2. LHRCA will assume all rights, obligations, assets and liabilities of the predecessor authorities.
3. All existing MOUs and agreements of the ABCA continue under the LHRCA. These include the Category 3 MOUs with each ABCA current member municipality.
4. Employment of ABCA employees is continuous into the LHRCA.
5. Participating municipalities of the LHRCA will be single-tier and upper-tier municipalities located fully within or partly within the LHRCA watershed.
6. Any advisory board of ABCA continues as an advisory board of the LHRCA.
7. Permit applications continue with the LHRCA, including any hearings or hearing requests.
8. All ABCA officers (Provincial Offences Officers) appointed under Section 30.1 of CA Act will become officers of the LHRCA. Proceedings initiated by ABCA would continue under LHRCA.

Project Executive

1. A Project Executive (PE) will be appointed by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) but will not be an employee of OPCA. OPCA may issue directions to the PE.
2. The PE will become the CAO of the LHRCA for 24 months, subject to the OPCA.
3. Should the OPCA decide that a PE is no longer the CAO of LHRCA, the OPCA may name a new CAO or, if not identified by the OPCA, the new Authority shall appoint a new CAO.

4. OPCA may establish and require payment of fees by new CA in respect to the PE appointment in their role as first CAO.
5. After transition, the PE takes direction from the LHRCA.

Transition Committees

1. One transition committee (hereafter referred to as the 'committee') per regional authority.
2. Committees are established by OPCA, with appointments occurring within 90 days of Bill 97 Royal Assent (April 24, 2026). Therefore, appointments are to be made by July 23, 2026.
3. Predecessor authorities (ABCA) will appoint one of their municipally elected members and the General Manager (or other senior staff) within 90 days, or the OPCA will appoint members.
4. OPCA may appoint additional members where advisable.
5. ABCA members may be replaced.
6. The OPCA will appoint the PE of the LHRCA to serve as Chair.
7. OPCA may dissolve a committee by notice in writing to the members of the committee and the LHRCA, with the effective date specified by the OPCA no earlier than the transition date.

Transition Plan

1. OPCA to issue directions to the committee to govern roles, responsibilities and procedures of the PE and the committee. This includes the preparation of the transition plan.
2. PEs could require information from the predecessor authority, with full cooperation from the committee.
3. Transition plans will be provided to the OPCA to consider revisions. Once no revisions are necessary, the Committee will provide a copy to the new Authority, and a copy to participating municipalities and the predecessor authorities. If the committee does not develop a transition plan, the OPCA will develop the transition plan.
4. The transition plan will support the step-by-step integration of the predecessor CAs including, but not limited to, HR, finance, assets, and IT.
5. The final transition plan is to be implemented by the LHRCA, who may request revisions of the plan to OPCA. The LHRCA will report to the OPCA on implementation progress.

Governance Details

1. Existing ABCA Board will remain in place until February 1, 2027, unless changed through regulation.
2. For the period from the municipal election date (October 26, 2026) through February 1, 2027, municipalities should fill vacancies on the Board if members wish to step down.
3. Participating municipalities in the LHRCA, effective February 1, 2027, will be the upper-tier and single-tier municipalities.
4. It is intended on the startup of the LHRCA, participating members representing the current ABCA watershed would include a member from each of Huron County, Lambton County, Middlesex County, and Perth County.

5. Member appointment calculations and methods will be set out in a forthcoming regulation. Representation will be a minimum of 1, and up to a maximum as prescribed by the regulation.
6. Each participating municipality will need to appoint their members to the LHRCA Board by January 31, 2027, the day before the transition date.
7. Method for determining the number of members shall be based on municipal population in proportion to the total population within the LHRCA.
8. Member appointments may follow other methods if agreed upon by all members, providing that the maximum numbers do not exceed the maximum prescribed in Item 5 (above), and any other criteria prescribed in regulation. This agreement must be provided to OPCA and posted on the LHRCA website.
9. Member municipalities can appoint non-elected representatives to the CA Board; however, considerations shall include experience in public administration, knowledge of conservation authorities, and any other criteria prescribed by regulation.
10. The ability of the Minister to appoint an agricultural representative to a CA Board continues with voting limitations on budgets or to enlarge, amalgamate and dissolve CAs.
11. Members appointments are for a term of up to 4 years, can be replaced by their appointing council, and are eligible for re-appointment.
12. Chairs and vice chairs may serve a term of two years, and not more than eight years total, whether served consecutively or otherwise.

Watershed Councils

1. Each new regional authority will establish one or more watershed councils to identify local priorities and interests and to ensure that they are considered in authority decision-making.
2. Regulation will define the specific requirements for composition, functions, powers, duties, activities and procedures.
3. Watershed councils could include indigenous, agriculture and development representation.

Next Steps

The General Managers of the 6 consolidating CAs within the LHRCA have had early discussions around the proposed change. More formal meetings are expected to begin on May 22, 2026, when the General Managers and Chairs of ABCA, Maitland Valley, Saugeen Valley, Grey Sauble, Nottawasaga Valley and Lake Simcoe Region meet in Owen Sound. This meeting is well in advance of the formation of the Transition Committee; however, it will help to provide a base from which communication and partnership can grow. It is expected that that majority of those present will be members of the 'to be formed' Transition Committee, that will help to guide and support the CAs into amalgamation.

The Transition Committee representation from ABCA has been discussed at the April 16, 2026, Board meeting; however, formal consideration will be made in an accompanying report to the Board for the May 21, 2026, members meeting.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: May 21, 2026
From: Andrew Bicknell, Manager of Water and Planning
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 #2026-14
NAME: Tim & Tracy Bush
ADDRESS: 32051 Sylvan Road, Parkhill
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex (West Williams)
PERMISSION TO: Construct building addition, attached garage, and associated work.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 31, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 20, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 10
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (2) PERMIT #2026-13
NAME: Nigel Gilby
ADDRESS: 1 Fifth Avenue, Bayfield
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (BAYCON)
PERMISSION TO: Construct residential and accessory structure addition
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 9, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 21, 2026

- NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (3) PERMIT #2026-16
NAME: Art Bos
ADDRESS: 74237AB Parr Line, Varna
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)
PERMISSION TO: Construct a finishing barn and associated works.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 19, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 22, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 25
STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani
- (4) PERMIT #2026-15 **
NAME: Brandon & Carla Huls
ADDRESS: 77899 Dryden Lane
MUNICIPALITY: Central Huron (Goderich)
PERMISSION TO: Construct alterations to the deck and cottage roof, foundation improvements, and associated works.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 10, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 16, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani
- (5) PERMIT #2026-12
NAME: Jeff Finkbeiner
ADDRESS: 70052 Shipka Line
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron (Stephen)
PERMISSION TO: Construct a swimming pool and install fencing, and associated works.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 24, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 02, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 8
STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani

Minor Permits

- (1) PERMIT #MW2026-16-A
NAME: Sandy Harrington
ADDRESS: 30 Shady Lane, Grand Bend
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Replace dock
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 3, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 7, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (2) PERMIT #MW2026-16-B
NAME: Gary Graham
ADDRESS: 21 Shady Lane, Grand Bend
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Replace dock
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 3, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 7, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (3) PERMIT #MW2026-20
NAME: Municipality of Lambton Shores
ADDRESS: Ausable River by the Port Franks Harbour / Marina
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Maintenance Dredging within the Ausable River
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 1, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 7, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (4) PERMIT #MW2026-21
NAME: Municipality of Lambton Shores
ADDRESS: Ausable River by the Port Franks Harbour / Marina
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shore (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Maintenance Dredging (Prop Wash) at Mouth of the Ausable River
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 1, 2026

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 7, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

- (5) PERMIT #MW2026-22
NAME: Municipality of Lambton Shores
ADDRESS: Parkhill Creek by the Grand Bend Harbour / Marina
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Maintenance Dredging within the Parkhill Creek
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 1, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 7, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (6) PERMIT #MW2026-23
NAME: Municipality of Lambton Shores
ADDRESS: Parkhill Creek by the Grand Bend Harbour / Marina
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Maintenance Dredging (Prop Wash) at Mouth of the Parkhill Creek
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 1, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 7, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (7) PERMIT #MW2026-26
NAME: Municipality of Lambton Shores
ADDRESS: 57 River Road, Grand Bend
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Repair Parkhill Creek Boat Launch
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: January 12, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 8, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 59
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (8) PERMIT #MW2026-27
NAME: Municipality of Lambton Shores
ADDRESS: 7574 Biddulph Street, Port Franks
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)

PERMISSION TO: Repair Ausable River Boat Launch
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: January 12, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 8, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 59
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

(9) PERMIT #MW2026-18
NAME: County of Huron
ADDRESS: 77722A London Road, Huron East
MUNICIPALITY: Huron East (Tuckersmith)
PERMISSION TO: Install Stormwater Tile and Construct Solar Shed and Pump Station
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 8, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 10, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

(10) PERMIT #MW2026-10
NAME: Grand Bend Cruising Club c/o Guy Dietz
ADDRESS: 44 Green Acres Crescent, Grand Bend
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Maintenance Dredging of Boat Slip Area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 11, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 10, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 39
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

(11) PERMIT #MW2026-25
NAME: Seven Winds Marina c/o Gary Hubley
ADDRESS: 7572 Biddulph Street, Port Franks
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Maintenance Dredging of Boat Slip Area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 10, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 14, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

(12) PERMIT #MW2026-31
NAME: Brad Boere

ADDRESS: Paul Bunyan Lakefront Resort – Lot #83 - 75559 Lidderdale Street, Bayfield

MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)

PERMISSION TO: Replace existing trailer unit and deck

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 30, 2026

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 20, 2026

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 14

STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

(13) PERMIT #MW2026-33 **

NAME: Jim Young

ADDRESS: 27 Village Gate, Grand Bend

MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Stephen)

PERMISSION TO: Construct pool

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 23, 2026

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 28, 2026

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 3

STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

(14) PERMIT #MW2026-28

NAME: Doug Eckel

ADDRESS: 5 Parkside Ave., Zurich

MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Hay)

PERMISSION TO: Construct two decks

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 08, 2026

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 16, 2026

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 7

STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani

(15) PERMIT #MW2026-30

NAME: Harbour Lights Marina c/o Craig Neely

ADDRESS: Chart House Hill, Bayfield

MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)

PERMISSION TO: Maintenance Dredging and Post Maintenance

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 07, 2026

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 22, 2026

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 12

STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani

(16) PERMIT #MW2026-32

NAME: Municipality of Bluewater c/o Maggie Off

ADDRESS: Bayfield Harbour

MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)

PERMISSION TO: Maintenance Dredging and post installation for harbour slips.

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 08, 2026

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 22, 2026

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 11

STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026
From: Tracey McPherson IT/GIS Coordinator
Subject: IT Support/Upgrades Project
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the use of additional IT reserves, not budgeted for in 2026, and not to exceed \$11,000, to fund the balance of the project.

Background:

The IT/Support Upgrades Project was approved in the 2026 budget for \$20,000 with \$10,000 from the category 1 project levy and \$10,000 from reserves. The project aim was to find an IT partner/vendor to provide highly secure managed IT services, to conduct IT infrastructure assessments, and to recommend any upgrades required to keep our systems secure. The selected partner services costs, and results of the assessment help guide IT budgeting and the 5-year planning process.

RFP Process and Outcome

The ABCA issued an RFP on February 20, 2026, to six IT service providers located within southern Ontario. The purpose of the RFP was to solicit information about the company's experience, products, solutions, costs, and flexibility/compatibility to work with existing ABCA staff and systems.

All six services providers responded with written proposals outlining the required information including costs and recommended solutions. ABCA staff independently reviewed the proposals and ranked them according to the outlined evaluation criteria stated in the RFP. Ongoing monthly support costs from the 6 proposals ranged from \$ 1,350/month to \$8,126/month, with additional maximum onboarding costs at \$21,000. Staff interviewed 2 candidates that met our criteria, to get more information and discuss options and plans.

We have selected ContinüIT CORP from Goderich to be our Managed Service Provider. ContinüIT CORP provides services to both Maitland Vally CA and Saugeen River Valley CA, were highly recommended, had the lowest ongoing monthly support rates, and had the most flexibility to work with our staff and within our current systems.

Funds to Support the Work

ABCA staff set an initial budget amount of \$20,000 to find a Managed IT service provider and upgrade systems as recommended with \$10,000 coming from 2026 Operating Levy – Category 1 Project funding, and \$10,000 from reserves.

We have purchased a new server, as recommended late in 2025, using \$10,000 from the project. Three quotes were acquired for the server, and the server was purchased directly from the manufacturer. The balance of money for the server purchase came from the regular 1031 IT capital budget.

ContinüIT CORP is currently upgrading portions of our network security hardware and providing support for our servers. To complete all the network hardware upgrades and have all the workstations supported, additional funds are required.

The following table describes the available project funds, as well as expected expenditures:

Source	Revenue
2026 Category 1 Project – Levy	\$10,000
From Reserves 1031 Budget 2026	\$10,000
Total Funds Available	\$20,000
Services/Expenses/purchases	Expense
New server	\$16,715
Hardware deferred	(\$6,715)
Software/User licenses	\$ 2,000
ContinüIT monthly support fees to Dec. 2026	\$11,000
Network security hardware upgrades. Router/firewall, switches, Wireless Access Points	\$ 7,000
Onsite assessment and hardware setup fees	\$ 1,000
Total Expense	\$31,000
POTENTIAL PROJECT Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$11,000)

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: May 21, 2026
From: Davin Heinbuck, General Manager
Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship, Lands and Education Manager
Subject: Claybird Gun Club Lease Renewal
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority renew the lease with the Claybird Gun Club for the period of June 1, 2026, until December 31, 2030.

Background:

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) leases an area of one of its properties in Hay Swamp to the Claybird Gun Club (CGC) for firearm ranges, available for use by their members. CGC is a registered not-for-profit organization that is governed by a Board of Directors and is subject to the regulations of the Chief Firearm Office (CFO).

ABCA acquired the subject property in 1973, and CGC was founded in 1976; this relationship spans almost the entire duration that ABCA has owned the property. The ABCA has a good relationship with the club, and there have been no recent complaints from the public.

This arrangement is described through a formal lease; the conditions of the lease include:

- CGC must provide insurance with the ABCA named Additional Insured
- An Indemnification and Hold Harmless Clause in favour of ABCA
- CGC must provide written confirmation that the leased area meets all CFO requirements
- Only shot which complies with CFO and environmental regulations may be used
- CGC must provide ABCA with written approval from the Municipality of Bluewater confirming municipal approval to use part of Ausable Line
- The lease proposes a 2.5% increase to the 2025 annual rate and subsequently applies an annual increase of 2.5% for the duration of the lease. The rate is described in the following table.

Year	Rate
2026	\$3,123.50 + HST
2027	\$3,201.50 + HST
2028	\$3,281.50 + HST
2029	\$3,363.50 + HST
2030	\$3,447.50 + HST

Staff consulted with ABCA’s insurance broker and confirmed that there are no financial implications to ABCA’s insurance rate as a result of this lease.

Staff consulted with ABCA’s property solicitors to confirm the verbiage in the lease, particularly the Indemnification and Hold Harmless Clause, remain relevant and provide sufficient coverage.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: May 21, 2026
From: Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer
Subject: ABCA Transition Committee Appointments
Report Type: ACTION

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Board of Directors appoint General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Davin Heinbuck, and Board Chair, Ray Chartrand, to the Transition Committee for the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority.

Background

The ABCA Board received updates on the consolidation of conservation authorities at the April 16, 2026 Board meeting. Those updates included the proposed legislative amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act that were included in Bill 97: Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026, which was released on March 26, 2026. Bill 97 was passed on April 23, 2026.

The legislation outlines a structured transition process, which includes the establishment of Transition Committees for each new regional conservation authority. The Transition Committee's role is to guide and prepare for the amalgamation of the current CAs into the new Regional CA. The Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency will appoint Project Executives to serve as Committee Chairs and could appoint additional committee members. The Project Executive will then serve as the inaugural CAO of the new regional authority for a period of up to 24 months following consolidation.

Each current conservation authority is required to appoint its General Manager (or alternative), and one municipally elected Board member to the Transition Committee for the new Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority. Appointments must be made within 90 days of Bill 97 receiving Royal Assent. With Royal Assent occurring on April 24, 2026, the appointments shall be made not later than July 23, 2026.

This report seeks approval to appoint Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, and Ray Chartrand, Chair, to the Transition Committee to meet this requirement.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: May 21, 2026
From: Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Subject: Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – Ministers Direction
Report Type: INFORMATION

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Board of Directors receives this update on the Minister's Direction, dated May 1st.

Background

The following is a summary of the attached Minister's direction (the 'Direction') made under S.1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act that was issued on May 1, 2026, regarding temporary restrictions to facilitate the transition to a regional CA watershed. The Direction places temporary restrictions on certain staff and Board decisions during the transition period from May 1, 2026, to February 1, 2027, unless extended by regulation.

The following decisions will require written authorization from the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) CEO, or the Ministry's Chief Conservation Executive if an OPCA CEO has not yet been named:

1. Changes to by-laws, unless the amendment is administrative and does not change the substance or legal effect of the by-law. ABCA's was updated and approved in 2025.
2. Changes to senior leadership, including hiring, termination, or changes to the terms of employment for the General Manger/Secretary-treasurer, or department managers.
3. Termination of staff essential to mandatory programs such as flood forecasting and warning, ice management, flood and erosion infrastructure, plan review, and enforcement.
4. Increasing the number of staff unless staff are already in the approved 2026 budget.
5. Changes to the organizational structure through departmental changes.
6. Land acquisition, lease, sale, or other disposal of land owned by the authority.
7. Service contracts, whether providing or acquiring, where the duration exceeds 2 years or the total cost exceeds the \$500,000.
8. Major capital expenditures, acquisition, or disposition of property, including equipment or vehicles, in exceedance of \$500,000 if not identified in the 2026 approved budget.

Management will review any upcoming matters to determine the process in regard to the 'Direction' and if necessary, will incorporate these requirements into internal processes and timelines.

The CAA provides that if an authority makes a decision in contravention of a 'Direction' issued under S. 1.14 (1)(a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the 'Direction' is void.

Emergency exception

Exceptions for items 7 and 8 above, include emergency decisions made to alleviate immediate danger to human life, health or property, and does not include decisions to renew or extend existing agreements for services that were in place prior to May 1, 2026.

Where action is taken to address an immediate danger to human life, health, or property, the authority may proceed without prior authorization for the listed service, property, or capital items. If this action should occur, OPCA shall be notified within 3 business days, and be provided with an explanation of the emergency decision.

Requests

For any decision subject to the 'Direction', that requires the approval of the OPCA CEO, the authority may make a request for authorization by including the following required information:

1. A description of the decision that the CA is seeking authorization to make, including details of the proposed decision and why the proposed decision is subject to the 'Direction'.
2. A resolution of the authority supporting the proposed decision.
3. An explanation for why authorization should be granted, including any risks associated with deferring the proposed decision until after the transition date.
4. Any information about relevant dates for the proposed decision, including any considerations around urgency or the time-sensitive nature of the proposed decision.

Decision

The OPCA CEO may either grant authorization or deny authorization, in whole or in part within 30 days of receiving the completed request. A denial may be issued where the proposed decision is determined to not be in the best interest of the future regional CA, or where it would be more appropriate to defer the decision to the future regional conservation authority. The decision will be given in writing and will include a rationale for the decision if denied in whole or in part.

Reconsideration

There is no process for reconsideration of an OPCA CEO decision on a request for authorization under the Direction. If a request for authorization is denied or only partially approved, the authority may resubmit at a later date if circumstances changed in a way that would support an authorization.

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 314-6790

357-2026-1281

May 1, 2026

TO: Conservation Authorities Chairs, GMs/CAOs, and municipalities

SUBJECT: Minister's direction under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*
(re: temporary restrictions)

I am writing with regards to the transition of Ontario's conservation authority system to a consolidated regional model. The *Plan to Protect Ontario Act* (Budget Measures), 2026 received Royal Assent on April 24, 2026 and pursuant to my authority under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), I am issuing a direction to conservation authorities – please see attached to this letter as Attachment A (the "Direction").

The intention of this Direction, which is effective from May 1, 2026 to the transition date under the CAA (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations), is to apply temporary restrictions on significant financial, asset or employment decisions to mitigate risk and ensure a stable transition to the new regional structure.

This Direction applies to certain conservation authority decisions related to: governance, organizational or staffing changes; the acquisition and disposition of lands; significant capital transactions; and the provision or acquisition of goods or services. For the decisions specified in this Direction, conservation authorities will be required to seek authorization from the chief executive officer of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (or the Chief Conservation Executive of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks if the chief executive officer has not yet been appointed), before the authority can make the decision. This Direction applies to all current conservation authorities, as listed in Appendix A to the attachment. Further guidance on the process to obtain authorization is set out in Appendix B to the attachment. The CAA provides that if an authority makes a decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

Page 2.

These measures are not intended to interfere with the regular day-to-day business and operations of conservation authorities. If you are contemplating whether or not this Direction applies to a conservation authority decision under consideration, if you have any questions regarding this Direction, or if you are looking to request authorization for a conservation authority decision that may be covered under this Direction, please contact the Chief Conservation Executive at CCEO@ontario.ca and copy the Conservation Authorities Section at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at ca.office@ontario.ca.

Continuity for communities is a core principle of this transition. These time-limited measures are intended to ensure there aren't any service disruptions during transition and to ensure that the transition to consolidation is smooth and successful with minimal disruptions to conservation authorities' governance, programs and services. Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration as we work to improve the conservation authority system in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long, sweeping underline.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Enclosures

c: The Honorable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Attachment A

Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (this "Direction")

Section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act provides the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks with the authority to issue a direction to a conservation authority in relation to various matters for the purpose of facilitating the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities. The types of directions that can be issued by the Minister are set out in clauses 1.14 (1) (a) to (d):

- (a) prohibiting the authority from making a decision in relation to its exercise of any of its powers under this Act or any other Act in the circumstances specified in the direction and subject to any specified conditions;
- (b) requiring the authority to give notice, in accordance with the direction, of a decision that it has made;
- (c) requiring the authority to send notices under subsection 25 (2), 27 (3) or 27.2 (3) by the date specified in the direction;
- (d) governing budgetary and apportionment matters relating to the authority that are otherwise addressed in a regulation made under clause 40 (1) (c), (e) or (f) or clause 40 (3) (k).

Section 1.14 further provides that an authority that receives such a direction shall comply with the direction within the time specified in the direction.

If an authority makes decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

Pursuant to the authority of the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under clauses 1.14 (1) (a) and (b), the conservation authorities set out under Appendix "A" to this Direction (the "**authorities**" or each, an "**authority**") are hereby directed as follows:

Decisions prohibited unless authorization obtained (direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a))

1. Commencing on the Effective Date and until the transition date, an authority is prohibited from making a decision to do any of the following unless the authority obtains written authorization from the chief executive officer of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency ("OPCA CEO") in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 4:

- i. Amending an authority's by-laws made under section 19.1 of the CAA, unless the amendment is administrative in nature and does not affect the substance or legal effect of the by-law (e.g. updating references, dates, and terminology; name or title changes; and making obvious corrections where the intended meaning is clear).
- ii. Any of the following related to employment:
 - a. Terminating the employment of a permanent or temporary employee who serves in a senior leadership position, including the authority's chief administrative officer or general manager, its secretary treasurer, and any departmental directors if applicable.
 - b. Filling a vacancy for (i.e. temporarily or permanently) or making any changes to the terms and conditions of employment for any senior leadership position as referred to in sub-subparagraph a.
 - c. Terminating the employment of any employee who serves in a leadership position related to or who are essential to the provision of the following mandatory programs and services described in the following provisions of O. Reg. 686/21 made under the CAA: flood forecasting and warning (section 2), ice management (section 4), infrastructure (section 5), plan reviews (sections 6 and 7) and the administration and enforcement of Parts VI and VII of the CAA (section 8).
 - d. Increasing the total number of employees of the authority unless the increase was already included in the authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year.
- iii. Changing the organizational structure of the employees of the authority, including creating, merging, or eliminating departments.
- iv. Acquiring, by purchase, lease or otherwise, any land or to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any land owned by the authority.
- v. Acquiring services from a person or body where:
 - a. the duration of the provision of the service exceeds 2 years in length,
or
 - b. the total cost of the service exceeds the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's operating expenses, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This does not include a decision to renew or extend an agreement for a service that a person or body was providing to the authority prior to the Effective Date.

- vi. Providing a service to a person or body where:
- a. the duration of the provision of the service exceeds 2 years in length,
or
 - b. the total amount to be charged for the service exceeds the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's revenues, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This does not include a decision to, renew or extend an agreement for a service that the authority was providing to the person or body prior to the Effective Date.

- vii. Incurring a capital cost in connection with a project or purchasing, leasing or otherwise acquiring personal property, including materials, equipment and vehicles, where:
- a. in the case of a lease, the duration of the term of the lease exceeds 2 years in length,
or
 - b. the total amount of the capital cost or purchase, lease or other acquisition would exceed the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's tangible capital assets, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This direction does not apply if the capital cost or acquisition is contemplated for a particular program or service identified in the authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year and the total capital cost or acquisition amount is within the budgeted amount for the program or service.

- viii. Selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of or dealing with personal property, including materials, equipment and vehicles, where:
- a. in the case of the lease, the duration of the term of the lease exceeds 2 years in length,
or
 - b. the total amount of the lease or other disposition or dealing would exceed the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's tangible capital assets, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

2. Despite paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs 1. v to viii do not apply to a decision of an authority that is made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, the health of any persons, or to property.

3. For greater certainty, paragraph 1 does not apply to a decision of an authority to execute an agreement that has the effect of implementing a decision made by the authority before the Effective Date.
4. The following conditions must be satisfied before an authority is authorized to make a decision that is subject to paragraph 1:
 - i. The authority must request authorization from the OPCA CEO to make the decision, in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Direction.
 - ii. The authority must receive written authorization from the OPCA CEO to make the decision. If authorization for the request is granted only in part, the authority must ensure that its decision does not exceed the scope of the authorization.
5. For the purposes of paragraph 4, the authority must request authorization to make a decision that is subject to paragraph 1 by submitting the following information to the OPCA CEO:
 - i. A description of the decision that the authority is seeking authorization to make, including details of the proposed decision and why the proposed decision is a decision that is subject to paragraph 1.
 - ii. A resolution of the authority supporting the proposed decision.
 - iii. An explanation for why authorization should be granted, including any risks associated with deferring the proposed decision until after the transition date.
 - iv. Any information about relevant dates for the proposed decision, including any considerations around urgency or the time-sensitive nature of the proposed decision.
6. The authority must provide any additional information about the request to the OPCA CEO at the OPCA CEO's request.

**Notice of a decision that an authority has made to address an emergency
(direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (b))**

7. Commencing on the Effective Date and until the transition date, where the authority makes a decision that is not subject to paragraph 1 by reason that the decision is made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, health, or property, the authority must give notice to OPCA CEO within 3 business days after making the decision.
8. The notice mentioned in paragraph 7 must describe the decision that was made and explain how the decision that was made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, the health of any persons, or to property.

General

9. In this Direction, a reference to the OPCA CEO means the Chief Conservation Executive of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, if a chief executive officer of OPCA has not yet been appointed.
10. In this Direction, a reference to an authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year means the authority's final budget for the 2026 calendar year that was approved prior to the Effective Date. For greater certainty, if an authority has not yet approved its final budget for the 2026 calendar year prior to the Effective Date, the authority does not have an approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year for the purposes of this Direction.
11. The authority must ensure that any employee of the authority who is responsible for or involved in making a decision that is subject to this Direction is made aware of this Direction, and the authority must require these employees to take all steps necessary to ensure the authority complies with this Direction.
12. This Direction applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction.
13. For greater certainty, this Direction also applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction when such conservation authorities are meeting as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.
14. This Direction is effective from May 1, 2026 (the "**Effective Date**") to the transition date, within the meaning of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations).
15. This Direction may be amended in writing from time to time at the sole discretion of the Minister.



Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
May 1, 2026

Appendix A

LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

Ausable Bayfield CA	Lower Trent Region CA
Cataraqui Region CA	Maitland Valley CA
Catfish Creek CA	Mattagami Region CA
Central Lake Ontario CA	Mississippi Valley CA
Credit Valley CA	Niagara Peninsula CA
Crowe Valley CA	Nickel District CA
Essex Region CA	North Bay-Mattawa CA
Ganaraska Region CA	Nottawasaga Valley CA
Grand River CA	Otonabee Region CA
Grey Sauble CA	Quinte Region CA
Halton Region CA	Raisin Region CA
Hamilton Region CA	Rideau Valley CA
Kawartha Region CA	Saugeen Valley CA
Kettle Creek CA	Sault Ste. Marie Region CA
Lake Simcoe Region CA	South Nation River CA
Lakehead Region CA	St. Clair Region CA
Long Point Region CA	Toronto and Region CA
Lower Thames Valley CA	Upper Thames River CA

Appendix B

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR THE MINISTER'S DIRECTION ISSUED UNDER SECTION 1.14 OF THE CAA

The following sets out additional information and guidance for authorities in relation to the Minister's Direction issued May 1, 2026 under s. 1.14 of the CAA.

The ministry strongly encourages conservation authorities to contact the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) at CCEO@ontario.ca if an authority is uncertain about the scope, application or requirements of this direction. OPCA can help clarify whether a proposed decision is subject to this Direction and how the authority can ensure it complies with this Direction.

As paragraph 11 of the Direction provides, if any decisions covered by the Direction are made by employees of the authority, the authority has the obligation to ensure that their employees are aware of this Direction and that the authority seeks prior authorization in accordance with the Direction before the decision is made.

The CAA provides that, if an authority makes a decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

Request and OPCA CEO Decision Process

Making a Request

After a conservation authority determines that a proposed decision requires authorization from the OPCA CEO, the authority may make a request for authorization via email to CCEO@ontario.ca containing the following required information:

- A description of the decision that the authority is seeking authorization to make, including details of the proposed decision and why the proposed decision is a decision that is subject to paragraph 1 of the Direction.
- A resolution of the authority supporting the proposed decision.
- An explanation for why authorization should be granted, including any risks associated with deferring the proposed decision until after the transition date.
- Any information about relevant dates for the proposed decision, including any considerations around urgency or the time-sensitive nature of the proposed decision.

Any notices of decisions required to be given to OPCA CEO under paragraph 7 of the Direction should also be sent via email to CCEO@ontario.ca.

Confirmation of Receipt

Once the OPCA (or Office of the Chief Conservation Executive (OCCE) if the OPCA CEO has not yet been appointed), receives a request from the authority that includes the required information, the authority will be notified by OPCA that the request has been received and the timeline for a decision. The OPCA will also inform the Ministry's Conservation Authorities Section (CAS) (via ca.office@ontario.ca) that a request for written authorization has been received. In addition, if the authority provides notice under paragraph 7 of the Direction of a decision made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, health, or property, the OPCA will inform the CAS.

If, upon review by the OPCA CEO, it is determined that a decision is not subject to the requirement for prior written authorization, the authority will be notified as soon as possible that the decision is not subject to this Direction.

Consideration of Request

The OPCA CEO will endeavour to make a decision on the request in a timely manner and not more than 30 calendar days from the day of receiving the request that is accompanied with the required information. Where the complexity of the request or the need for additional information necessitates, written notice will be provided to the authority by the OPCA of any additional time needed to issue a decision.

The OPCA CEO may consult on an authority's request with the relevant transition committee and project executive that has been appointed by OPCA for that authority. . The OPCA CEO may also require the authority to provide additional information if needed to support their consideration of the request.

Decision

The OPCA CEO may make the following types of decisions on a request for written authorization:

- Grant authorization to the authority to proceed with making the decision that was the subject of the request, in whole or in part (i.e., authorize the authority to proceed in a more limited manner than what was requested).
- Deny authorization, including in circumstances where, in the opinion of the OPCA CEO, the decision would not be in the best interest of the future regional conservation authority, or it would be more appropriate to defer the decision to the future regional conservation authority.

The decision of the OPCA CEO on the request will be given in writing to the authority and will include a rationale for the decision if the decision is to deny authorization or only grant authorization in part. The Ministry's CAS will also be notified of the OPCA CEO's decision.

Where an authority's proposed decision is authorized by the OPCA CEO, or where the proposed decision has been authorized but only in part, this in no way compels the authority to proceed with the decision. In all cases, the authority retains the sole power to determine whether to proceed with any decision that has been authorized by the OPCA CEO.

Reconsideration

There is no process for reconsideration of an OPCA CEO decision on a request for authorization under the Direction.

An authority whose request for authorization is denied or granted only in part may request authorization again in accordance with the Direction at a later date if the circumstances have changed and the authority believes that these changes in circumstances would support the granting of authorization.



Ausable Bayfield
Maitland Valley
Source Protection Region

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2026

Clinton Fire Station, 401 Beech Street Clinton ON

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Ellen Foran, Dave Frayne, Paul Heffer, Doug Hocking, Roland Howe, Philip Keightley, Alyssa Keller, Allan Rothwell, John Thompson, Joy Rutherford, Jennette Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carol Leeming

LIAISONS PRESENT

Davin Heinbuck – Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison
Phil Beard – Maitland Valley SPA Liaison

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Abigail Gutteridge, Ellen Westelaken

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Matt Pearson

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Dave Frayne called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2026-03-01

**Moved by Rowland Howe
Seconded by Philip Keightley**

“That the agenda for the March 25, 2026 meeting be approved.”

Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2026-03-02

Moved by Paul Heffer

Seconded by Allan Rothwell

“THAT the SPC minutes from October22, 2025 be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) shared a one page “placemat,” which outlines some of the successes of Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) program over the last seven years, as derived from annual reporting.
2. A Letter was shared on March 10, 2026 from MECP Minister McCarthy to Conservation Authority Chairs, regarding conservation authority consolidation.
3. A CTV News article covered the shutdown of an unlicensed snow dump in the Township of Wilmot, due to concerns of salt, oil and gas, which have the potential for affects for a recharge area and significant intake zone for drinking water

CHAIR’S UPDATE

Acting Chair Dave Frayne asked Matt Pearson to provide an update on SPC Chair reappointment. Matt noted that he was contacted by the MECP to update his information. While he has not yet been reappointed, there has been some progress.

PROGRAM UPATE

Donna Clarkson, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Program Co-Supervisor, provided a program update to SPC members. She reminded Committee members that there were no current amendments to the Source Protection Plans underway. However, two new wells have been drilled in Harriston and Palmerston. The Town of Minto has hired a consultant to complete the groundwater modelling for the wellhead protection

area, and the technical work is expected to be completed by September 2026. An amendment will then be needed for the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan (SPP). In addition, there is a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment underway for the Atwood drinking water system, to determine if an additional water supply is needed.

The Municipality of Central Huron plans to upgrade the Dundass well to serve more than five residences, which will make it subject to requirements under the Clean Water Act, as well as the Safe Drinking Water Act. Therefore, if everything goes ahead as planned, a wellhead protection area will need to be delineated, and updates will need to be made to the Ausable Bayfield SPP. Timelines for this work are yet to be determined.

Donna provided some more details on the SPP Chairs appointment process, noting that three Chairs have now been reappointed (two in 2026), while 16 remain vacant. The Province has not provided a timeline for the remaining appointments.

Donna reported on various education and outreach efforts in the ABMV Source Protection Region. She noted that Tim Cumming, Communications Coordinator, has provided local municipalities with a proposed public information campaign (2025-2027) for drinking water source protection. To date, eight municipalities have participated in the campaign, which has had more than 11,000 views. Tim has also been reformatting longer videos into shorter reels to reach new audiences.

Finally, Donna reported on the consolidation of conservation authorities, from 36 into nine regions. She noted that there was still uncertainty regarding the effect it would have on Drinking Water Source Protection. It has been reported that the program will continue; however, there will possibly be changes needed to the Clean Water Act, especially with respect to source protection authorities, Committees and source protection region boundaries, as they are based on current conservation authority boundaries.

CHANGES TO THE CLEAN WATER ACT

Donna Clarkson reported that the Province of Ontario posted proposed changes to the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (CWA) to the Environmental Registry of Ontario. It received Royal assent in November 2025, however, the date the changes take effect is yet to be determined. Some of the key changes include:

- 1) Under certain circumstances Source Protection Authorities may approve some SPP amendments under Section 34 of the Act, which should result in faster approvals for minor changes. These circumstances are still to be determined.
- 2) 120-day Approvals (or returns to the source protection authority for revision) of source protection plan amendments by the Minister.
- 3) Standardized language in prescribed instrument (PI) policies, and removing the ability for PI policies to prohibit existing activities. The intent is to have standardized language across Source Protection Plans and increase consistency across Ontario.

There are also proposed changes to the regulations under the CWA and *Safe Drinking Water Act*, with the intent of making it quicker and easier to revise local source protection plans. Changes include removing the requirement for pre-consultation and allowing minor administrative amendments to proceed without approval or consultation; standardized PI policy wording, which may limit PI policies that can be included in the source protection plans; and, amending 'Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems in Source Protection Areas' (O. Reg 205/18) to allow the SPA, with advice from the municipality, to recommend that water can be supplied in a new system before amendments to the SPP are made.

In general, these changes are mostly positive, and should allow for more efficient timing on amendments to the SPP.

SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – 2025 PROGRESS REPORT

Donna Clarkson reported on the 2025 Progress Report for SPP implementation for the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region. This report provides the Source Protection Committee and Source Protection Authority with data to gauge the effectiveness of the policies and implementation progress, and also informs the standardized reports that must be submitted annually to the Province. It was noted that of the 129 Risk Management Plans (RMPs) that have been established to date, 62 remain in effect. For many of the RMPs, the threats identified have been eliminated or the operation no longer meets the requirement for significant threats.

Along with regular Education and Outreach activities for the region, there were several highlights in 2025. These include sharing the Conservation Ontario video recognizing 25 Years of Source Protection in Ontario, which commemorates 25 years since the Walkerton tragedy, the Children's Groundwater Festival in the Township of Minto, as well as numerous social media posts that gained good traction online.

Regarding Municipal Reporting, only Bruce County official plan needs to be updated, but it is currently in the consultation process. Municipalities are also into their third cycle of septic inspections. In 2025, 83 were inspected, and 14 remain outstanding. Eight of nine municipalities have installed Drinking Water Protection Zone signs. Also, Huron East updated their Salt Management Plan in 2025 to include wellhead protection areas, and other municipalities have reported that they have drafted Salt Management Plans to comply with the new road salt application policy.

Lastly, the MECP has reported that they screened Prescribed Instrument applications in 2025, none of which were significant drinking water threats. In total, 86% of significant drinking water threats in the ABMV Source Protection Region have been addressed. Prior to 2024, all threats had been addressed; however, due to SPP amendments, additional threats were introduced.

9TH ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Donna Clarkson presented the Annual Progress Report for the Drinking Water Source Protection program, which needs to be submitted to the Province by May 1, 2026. This progress report needs to first be submitted to the Source Protection Authorities for approval. The report shows the progress on six categories, including policy implementation, municipal progress, septic inspections, risk management plans, Provincial progress, and Source Protection awareness. Staff are pleased to report that all categories are Progressing Well.

MOTION #SPC: 2026-03-03

Moved by Allen Rothwell

Seconded by Jennette Walker

“THAT the ABMV Source Protection Committee endorse report #10b: Annual Progress Report 2025, and

“FURTHER, THAT the Source Protection Committee direct staff to present the 2025 Annual Progress Report to the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Authorities for submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.”

Carried.

ROCKS & WATER – HYDROGEOLOGY 101

Source Protection Committee member, Joy Rutherford, made a presentation to the Source Protection Committee to give them the basics of hydrogeology, as it is the basis of the Drinking Water Source Protection program. She provided information on the structure of the geology of the region, as well as the way water moves through the aquifer. Many of the SPC members found this presentation helpful to their understanding of water movement.

SPC MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

John Thompson reported that he was disappointed in the Province's decision to consolidate conservation authorities. He also reported that Huron County Council made the decision to cut the Huron Clean Water Project Funding in the budget. Rowland Howe provided a brief update on the "salt shortage" this winter. Allan Rothwell reported that he attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference in January, and noted that there were many interesting delegations, and that conservation authority consolidation was a reoccurring topic. Mary Ellen Foran noted that she has completed the Pesticide Safety Instructor Course, and that a slide on DWSP was included. She noted that many farmers still don't know about DWSP, and so she hopes to continue to provide more education. She also mentioned that there was a workshop for agricultural representatives on Source Protection Committees this winter. She could not attend, but Carol Leeming was in attendance. Doug Hocking mentioned that he attended a virtual Ontario Groundwater Seminar, and noted that there was a short presentation on the work at the Huronview Demonstration Farm. Jennette Walker expressed concerns for the cuts at Huron County, including the Huron Clean Water Project, and the Huron Stewardship Council work.

LIAISON UPDATES

Phil Beard, from Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, noted that it was the MVCAs 75th Anniversary, which will be commemorated with a new pavilion at Wawanosh Conservation Area.

Davin Heinbuck provided a brief update from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. He noted ABCA is celebrating it's 80th Anniversary in 2026, and is recognizing significant partners in conservation for each decade. He also noted that ABCA held their AGM in February, and Ray Chartrand (Huron East) was re-elected as Chair, and David Marsh (Lambton Shores/Warwick) was elected as Vice Chair. Davin also reported that there were more than 14,000 submissions to the Province, 5000 through the ERO Posting, regarding the consolidation of conservation authorities.

Lori Collins, Huron Perth Public Health, was not able to attend the meeting, but sent an update, which Donna Clarkson provided. She noted that the beach sampling program would run again through the summer months. She also reported that as a result of an audit of non-municipal drinking water sources, some new educational materials have been produced. Additionally, they are increasing public awareness about the new online water testing portal.

Finally, Donna Clarkson reported that the ABMV Source Protection Region has a new program analyst at the MECP, Sam Anderson, who could not attend today's meeting, but will hopefully be able to join a meeting soon.

NEXT MEETING

Depending on any progress with some of the potential amendments that are forthcoming, there could be a meeting held in June. Staff will keep SPC members apprised of a meeting date.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Rowland Howe at 11:38 a.m.

Dave Frayne
Acting Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

MINUTES

ARKONA LIONS MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, May 4, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Rock Glen Conservation Area
Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT

Glenn Stott - Arkona Lions Club

Wayne Shipley – Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)

Dave Marsh – ABCA

MEMBERS ABSENT

Adam Wisniewski – Arkona Lions Club/Museum Curator

Doug Crocket – Arkona Lions Club

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew Meyer – County of Lambton

Nathan Schoelier, Abigail Gutteridge, Mike Bax – ABCA Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Glenn Stott called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #MC 1/26

“RESOLVED, THAT the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee agenda for May 4, 2026 be approved.”

Carried by Consensus.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #MC 2/26

Moved by Dave Marsh

Seconded by Wayne Shipley

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting November 4, 2025 be approved.”

Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

2026 OPERATIONS

Mike Bax provided a brief summary of the 2025 season at Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA). He noted that there were more than 46,000 visitors recorded for the year, and approximately 44,000 of those were during the months in which the conservation area is staffed (May – October). There were fewer passes for the RGCA sold in 2025, but pavilion rentals were up over the previous season. There are already a couple of pavilion rentals booked for 2026. The Museum guest book is also a good way to gage usership of RGCA facilities and the museum. In 2025, there were 2,562 line entries that noted visitors from 52 unique countries, 11 provinces or territories, and 21 states from the USA.

Mike noted that in 2026, staff are continuing to encourage more visitors in the shoulder seasons, and will be focusing on selling more passes for both individuals and families. Two new staff members will be joining Mike at RGCA in 2026. Tesa DeValk will be starting in June as the RGCA Assistant, and Brynn Vanderkant will begin toward the end of June as RGCA Attendant for 8 weeks.

There will be several projects at RGCA in 2026. A hydro pole replacement should be happening soon, and there will be some restructuring of the trail around the top of the falls. The trail work is scheduled for the latter half of September, so it won't interfere with the busiest summer months. The work should only take one week. There will also be some erosion repair work on the mid-level crossing. The erosion was noticed this winter, and Mike has kept vehicles off the crossing until the repair work can be completed. Staff recently received the permit for the work, and are just waiting on appropriate weather conditions to complete the work. Finally, staff will be assisting in the work at the Museum, associated with the Lambton's Creative County Grant.

CREATIVE COUNTY GRANT

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Stewardship, Conservation Lands and Education Manager, reminded the committee that the Arkona Lions Museum was successful in receiving Lambton County's Creative County Grant in 2025-26. This grant is available for three years, and staff will be applying again in the following years. Matching funds had to be provided by both the Arkona Lions and ABCA. In total, there is \$10,000 available for the Museum this year.

The original plan was to use this money to have internet brought to the Museum. However, the cost estimate of \$16,000 provided by local internet provider, Eastlink, was well over budget. Staff will continue to look into other options, such as satellite internet. An application was also made to the Masters of Public History department at Western University, to retain a student to help with the Museum. Unfortunately, this application was unsuccessful. Therefore, the management committee needs to find other ways to utilize this year's funding.

Andrew Meyer, Lambton County, has been helping the committee find the best use for this funding, and has offered Lambton County staff resources to assist in upgrades to the Museum. Several options were suggested during the meeting. Staff and Museum volunteers are looking into the cost of installing a ramp from the upper level into the lower level of the museum, which will help make the space more accessible. Committee members also mentioned the uneven concrete at the Museum entrance, and thought that any funds left from the ramp could be used to either repair or replace the concrete walkway. Andrew agreed that this would be a good use of the funding, and that it would make sense to deal with these structural changes to the Museum in the first year of funding, then begin to implement a new floor plan in the second year.

County staff have offered to help draft a floor plan to help the flow of the museum. Andrew noted that they can work on this floor plan over the next several months, to be approved at the next Museum Committee meeting in the fall. It was agreed that it would help the flow of the Museum if the geological and fossil related displays remained in the upper level, and that the Indigenous History displays move down to the lower level. The lower level will also retain an open area that can be used for education programming. The ramp will require the bleacher seating to be removed, but as it is not currently used by ABCA Education Staff, this should not be an issue. Finally, it was suggested that a Land Acknowledgement Statement should be developed for the museum and displayed in the entryway. This could also be completed in 2026.

It was confirmed that the structural work on the Museum will not take place until late June at the earliest, as on June 14, 2026, Arkona is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. The Museum will be open for guests that day, with Lions Club volunteers on hand at the Museum.

2026 EVENTS

a) Ted Baxter Day

As Chair Glenn Stott reported that Ted Baxter Day will not officially take place in 2026, due to the events already planned for Arkona's 150th Anniversary

b) Antique Car Show

Mike Bax reported that the annual car show is planned for September 19, 2026. Last year there were fewer entries into the car show, with 66 cars and 92 participants, including Lions Club volunteers. RGCA offered free entry until noon the day of the show, and then offered free entry to any visitors who stated they were there to attend the car show. Staff will be doing the same in 2026. Tim Cumming, ABCA

Communications Coordinator, has offered to do some media posting for the event if the Lion's Club would like assistance with advertising. This event will coincide with the timing of the work on the trail near the falls, but Nathan noted that access to the falls would still be available.

HERITAGE SARNIA LAMBTON

Chair Glenn Stott had no update for Heritage Sarnia Lambton.

MUSEUM CURATOR REPORT

Chair Glenn made a few remarks on behalf of Adam Wisniewski, Museum Curator. He noted that Bob O'Donnell was still involved in inviting groups to the Museum, even though he is currently living in British Columbia. He has let the Lions know that a group from the University of Toronto will be visiting the Museum, along with Hungry Hollow this spring. There is also a Sparks group who will be attending the Museum in May. Mike has noted that he will begin to open the Museum on weekends during the next few weeks, as weekends are the busiest times at RGCA at present.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Andrew Meyer reminded the Museum Committee that next year's application for the Creative County Grant is next October-November, so an application can be approved at the fall Museum Committee meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., unless the Chair calls an earlier meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Glenn Stott adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Glenn Stott
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator