



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, June 18, 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 May 21, 2026
7. **Business Out of the Minutes**
 - Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – Regional Meeting 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: Planning and Regulations Open House/Partnership with University of Waterloo –
Andrew Bicknell/Elizabeth George (University of Waterloo)
 - Report 3: Risk Management Official Servicing Agreement – Andrew Bicknell/Donna Clarkson
 - Report 4: Stewardship Review – Angela Van Niekerk
 - Report 5: Huronview Innovative Drainage Demonstration – RFP Results – Mari Veliz
 - Report 6: Rock Glen Conservation Area - AED Donation – Nathan Schoelier
9. **Presentation: ABCA Wetland Restoration, 2008-2026** – Angela Van Niekerk/Ben Riggan
10. **General Manager's Report** – Davin Heinbuck
11. Committee Reports
12. Correspondence
13. **New Business**
14. **Committee of the Whole** – *property matter*
15. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings and Events

July 16, 2026

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

August 20, 2026

Budget Committee Meeting – 9:30 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Joey Groot, Steve Herold, Dave Jewitt, David Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jaden Hodgins

STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Bicknell, Rosalind Chang, Aaron Clarke, Tina Crown, Millie Ghorbankhani, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Tracey McPherson, Jaden Schoelier

OTHERS PRESENT

Sheldon Paul, *Huron Stewardship Council*

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 39/26

Moved Dave Jewitt

Seconded by Wayne Shipley

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the May 21, 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 40/26****Moved by Steve Herold****Seconded by David Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on April 16, 2026, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESRegional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – BILL 97 Update

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, provided an update regarding the regional consolidation of conservation authorities (CAs) in Ontario. He noted that, on March 26, 2026, Bill 97 was introduced, and then received Royal Assent on April 24, 2026. Schedule 3 of this Bill outlines the consolidation of CAs and the proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks provided timelines for the process in their presentation: *Improving Ontario’s Conservation Authority System: Technical Briefing for Conservation Authorities*.

Consolidation is planned to take place on February 1, 2027. The process for consolidation will involve two key phases: Transition (leading up to February 1, 2027), and Transformation (the period following consolidation or implementation period). At the time of consolidation, each current/predecessor CA will continue with all staff, partnerships, agreements, etc., under the new Regional Conservation Authority name. Participating Municipalities in the regional board will be single or upper-tier located within the watershed (fully or partly).

Transition Committees are to be set up for each new Regional Conservation Authority and will be comprised of the GM/CAO of each current CA, as well as a municipally elected member. These appointments to the committee will be made by current CAs within 90 days of Bill 97 receiving Royal Assent. Project Executives will chair each Transition Committee by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), and will become the first CAO of each region for 24 months, subject to the OPCA. Each Transition Committee will develop a transition plan with guidance from the OPCA, which will support the integration of the predecessor CAs, and will be implemented by the new Regional CA.

Existing Boards of Directors will remain in place until consolidation takes place, when it will transition to a Regional Board of single and upper-tier municipalities. Each new Regional CA will also have at least one watershed council, which may provide opportunity for local matters to be brought to the regional board.

The General Managers for the 6 consolidating CAs in the Lake Huron Regional CA (LHRCA) have had some early discussions, and will begin to meet more formally beginning on May 22. While this is in advance of the formation of the Transition Committee, it is expected to help provide a starting point from which this new partnership can grow.

MOTION #BD 41/26**Moved by Marissa Vaughan****Seconded by Joey Groot**

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

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS1. (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 5 *Applications for Permission* and 16 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Andrew Bicknell, Water and Planning Manager, did not have an update regarding ongoing violations. However, he noted that Planning and Regulations staff had their annual shoreline flight to take oblique photos of the shoreline, which helps them see changes from year to year.

MOTION #BD 42/26**Moved by Marissa Vaughan****Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“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. IT Support/Upgrades Project

Tracey McPherson, GIS/IT Coordinator reminded the Board that a project for IT/Support Upgrades was approved in the 2026 budget for \$20,000, with half from the Category 1 levy and the other half from IT reserves. The aim of the project is to find an IT partner/vendor to provide secure managed IT services and assessments. ABCA staff issued an RFP on February 20, 2026 to six service providers

located within southern Ontario, and received proposals from all six, which had a range of ongoing monthly costs for support services, as well as a maximum onboarding cost of \$21,000.

Staff selected ContinüIT CORP from Goderich, who also provides services to both the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Saugeen River Valley Conservation Authority. They come highly recommended and had the lowest ongoing monthly support rates and were the most flexible to work with our staff and current systems. However, there is a shortfall in project funding, as a new server had to be purchased. The projected deficit is \$11,000, and staff propose that this shortfall is funded by additional IT reserves.

MOTION #BD 43/26**Moved by Marissa Vaughan****Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, 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.”

Carried.**3. Claybird Gun Club Lease Renewal**

Davin Heinbuck noted that, since 1976, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) has maintained an agreement to allow the Claybird Gun Club (CGC) to use one of the Hay Swamp properties for its activities. The CGC is a registered not-for-profit group with its own Board of Directors and is subject to the regulations of the Chief Firearm Office. There has always been a good working relationship between the two organizations and there have been no recent complaints from the public. The current agreement is up for renewal, and it has been suggested that it be renewed until December 31, 2030, with an annual lease increase of 2.5% per year. It has been confirmed that there are no financial implications to ABCA’s insurance rate as a result of this agreement.

MOTION #BD 44/26**Moved by Joey Groot****Seconded by David Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors renew the agreement currently in place with the Claybird Gun Club for the period of June 1, 2026, until December 31, 2030.

Carried.**4. ABCA Transition Committee Appointments**

Davin Heinbuck reminded the Board that, as per Bill 97, current CAs must appoint 2 representatives to the Regional Transition Committee within 90 days of the bill receiving Royal Assent. Each CA is required to appoint its General Manager (or alternate), and one municipally elected Board member

to the Committee. Staff recommend that Davin Heinbuck and Chair Ray Chartrand be appointed to meet this requirement.

MOTION #BD 45/26

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Steve Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors appoint General Manger/Secretary-Treasurer, Davin Heinbuck, and Board Chair, Raymond Chartrand, to the Transition Committee for the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority.”

Carried.

5. Regional Consolidation of CAs – Minister’s Direction

Davin Heinbuck reported that, on May 1, 2026, the Minister’s Direction, made under S.1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act was issued regarding temporary restrictions to facilitate the transition to a regional CA watershed. This Direction places temporary restrictions on some staff and Board decisions during the Transition period from May 1, 2026 until February 1, 2027. A report detailing the various directions, as well as the Minister’s letter, are attached. In general, these directions are to prevent CAs from making large financial decisions that may inhibit a smooth transition. There is provision for emergency exceptions when human life, health or property may be impacted, and CAs can seek approval from the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) should they deem a decision necessary.

MOTION #BD 46/26

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Joey Groot**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives this update on the Minister’s Direction, dated May 1, 2026.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Rosalind Chang, Health Watersheds Coordinator, and Paul Sheldon from the Huron Stewardship Council, provided a presentation on turtle monitoring and protection work in the ABCA watershed. ABCA’s monitoring work has been ongoing since 2010, when community turtle monitoring began. Some of the work over the years has included providing turtle nest protectors, holding workshops, citizen reporting, egg removal and incubation where possible, and installing turtle exclusion fencing along a high mortality road in the Port Franks area. Huron Stewardship Council has been involved in species recovery, as well as education and outreach. Some of the integral turtle work they do is to protect the Wood Turtle, which is at extreme risk due to poaching. This work includes the Headstarting Program at the Toronto Zoo. This program allows nest to be incubated, and then the turtles will be reared for two years before release back to their habitat. This allows them to get through the most critical time when turtles are predated due to their small size. The most recent effort for turtle protection is the 2026 Adopt-a-Turtle Campaign to raise funding to support this

programming. It has been very well received so far, and will run until the Annual Turtle Hatchling Release on September 3.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 47/26

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held on March 25, 2026, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 48/26

**Moved by Joey Groot
Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting held on May 2, 2026, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Davin Heinbuck reported that ABCA Aquatic Biologist, Kari Jean contributed to an article for the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. This article tracks the changes in freshwater mussel populations over time in seven southwestern Ontario watersheds.
2. Davin Heinbuck noted that current CAs will be responsible for next year’s budget, and that the Province would like to have budgets approved prior to the end of the year. Due to the Municipal Election in 2026, staff feel it would be prudent to move the budget process a little earlier in the hope that it can be approved by the current Board prior to the election. It has been suggested that the Budget Committee meeting be held in August, so that the Budget can go to the regular Board meeting in September. If approved to go to the municipalities for the 30-day review at that time, then it could potentially be approved at the regular Board meeting in October. All Directors agreed with this process. It was also agreed that, as staff will not be able to use the May-July CPI average for budget preparation, staff should just use the most recent three monthly CPIs that are available.

MOTION #BD 49/26

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Budget Committee meeting be held on August 20, 2026.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Marissa Vaughan at 11:37 a.m.

Ray Chartrand
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

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

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: June 18, 2026
From: Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Subject: Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – Regional Meeting Update
Report Type: INFORMATION

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Board of Directors receives this update on the inaugural Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority planning meeting.

Background

Transition Committees are being established for each regional CA to guide the integration of participating Conservation Authorities into the new regional model. At the May 21st ABCA Board of Directors Meeting, Chair Ray Chartrand, and General Manager, Davin Heinbuck were appointed as ABCA representatives to the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA) Transition Committee.

On May 22nd, representatives appointed by CAs to the LHRCA Transition Committee met in Owen Sound for the first time to discuss how we can move forward together. In addition to ABCA, all the CAs in the LHRCA were represented, including, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. This meeting was in advance of the official launch of Transition Committees by the province, which is expected early this summer.

The meeting laid the groundwork for a relationship built on collaboration and optimism. A draft document of Guiding Principles for Transition is currently in development through this group. The document envisions a transition that will be guided by principles of accountable and transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, equitable representation, and local service responsiveness. The transition will prioritize service excellence, watershed-based and science-informed management, workforce stability, and the preservation of strong community relationships, while advancing digital modernization, and integration of operation among the current CAs within the LHRCA. Through a phased and adaptive approach, the transition will maintain business continuity, manage risks, and foster trust through clear communication, meaningful engagement, and ongoing accountability to member municipalities, partners, staff, and the watershed community.

We have a collective responsibility to make this transition successful, for our organizations, and for the communities we serve. All six organizations came prepared to work together.

ABCA Program Report

To: ABCA Board of Directors
Date: June 18, 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 #2026-17
NAME: Township of Lucan Biddulph
ADDRESS: Benn Drain, between Campanale Way & Walnut Street, Lucan
MUNICIPALITY: Lucan Biddulph (Biddulph)
PERMISSION TO: Replace sanitary sewer
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 29, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 5, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 4
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (2) PERMIT #2026-08
NAME: Municipality of South Huron
ADDRESS: B Line, approximately 0.35km south of Gore Road
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron (Stephen)
PERMISSION TO: Replace culvert structure

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| | COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: | March 18, 2026 |
| | PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: | May 11, 2026 |
| | NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: | 36 |
| | STAFF NAME: | Jaden Schoelier |
| (3) | PERMIT #2026-20 | |
| | NAME: Ryan Healy | |
| | ADDRESS: 32346 Sylvan Road, Thedford | |
| | MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex (West Williams) | |
| | PERMISSION TO: Construct accessory shop structure | |
| | COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: | May 21, 2026 |
| | PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: | May 26, 2026 |
| | NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: | 3 |
| | STAFF NAME: | Jaden Schoelier |
| (4) | PERMIT #2026-19 | |
| | NAME: County of Huron c/o Will Williams | |
| | ADDRESS: Bannockburn Line, Bayfield | |
| | MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley) | |
| | PERMISSION TO: Repairs to Boundary Bridge 14 on Bannockburn Line | |
| | COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: | April 20, 2026 |
| | PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: | May 11, 2026 |
| | NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: | 16 |
| | STAFF NAME: | Millie Ghorbankhani |
| (5) | PERMIT #2026-18 | |
| | NAME: M&M Painting Contractors Ltd. c/o Mark Vandergunst | |
| | ADDRESS: 331 Thames Road West, Exeter | |
| | MUNICIPALITY: South Huron (Stephen) | |
| | PERMISSION TO: Construct two buildings (contractor's shop & warehouse) and associated works | |
| | COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: | April 28, 2026 |
| | PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: | May 06, 2026 |
| | NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: | 07 |
| | STAFF NAME: | Millie Ghorbankhani |
| (6) | PERMIT #2026-21 | |
| | NAME: Paul & Colleen Overholt | |

ADDRESS: 73620 Laporte Street, Zurich
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)
PERMISSION TO: Construct a new house with an attached garage and associated works
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 29, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 25, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 19
STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani

Minor Permits

- (1) PERMIT #MW2026-29-A to F
NAME: Gosfield-Quadro Communications Inc.
ADDRESS: Various locations of Benn & Whitfield Drains within Town of Lucan
MUNICIPALITY: Lucan Biddulph (Biddulph)
PERMISSION TO: Install fibre optic cable via directional drill
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 28, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 1, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 3
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (2) PERMIT #MW2026-35
NAME: H&H Patio Enclosures
ADDRESS: Lot 349 – Paul Bunyan Lakefront Resort – 75559 Lidderdale Street, Bayfield
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)
PERMISSION TO: Construct awning structure over deck
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 5, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 8, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 3
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (3) PERMIT #MW2026-39
NAME: Thomas & Joanne Simac
ADDRESS: 10031 Wedd Road, Port Franks
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Construct deck with roof structure
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 26, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 27, 2026

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	1
STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier
(4) PERMIT #MW2026-38	
NAME: Dynamic Septic and Drainage (c/o Devon Webb)	
ADDRESS: 72197 Lakeshore Drive	
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Hay)	
PERMISSION TO: Replacement of a septic system	
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	May 22, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	May 26, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	2
STAFF NAME:	Ellen Westelaken
(5) PERMIT #MW2026-36	
NAME: Damon Farenick	
ADDRESS: 77975 London Road	
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)	
PERMISSION TO: Replacement of a septic system	
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	May 05, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	May 11, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	5
STAFF NAME:	Millie Ghorbankhani

ABCA Program Report

To: ABCA Board of Directors
Date: June 18, 2026
From: Andrew Bicknell, Manager of Water and Planning
Subject: Planning and Regulations staff to host Open House Session in partnership with University of Waterloo Coastal Research Group
Report Type: INFORMATION REPORT

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the report 'Planning and Regulations staff to host open house session in partnership with University of Waterloo Coastal Research Group.'

Background:

The ABCA has (as have all Conservation Authorities) been delegated by the Province of Ontario, the responsibility to provide planning and development comments relating to Natural Hazard matters under Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (PPS). Additionally, the Authority regulates naturally hazardous lands under Ontario Regulation 41/24. ABCA Water and Planning staff are regularly engaged with the public as a component of our duties. Any staff activity which serves to expand our public engagement and facilitates outreach and the development of positive relationships with the community is important such that staff and ABCA can provide the best service we can offer.

The ABCA Water and Planning department is planning to hold an Open House type session (ideally this summer) in partnership with the University of Waterloo Coastal Research Group.

The University of Waterloo Coastal Research Group is promoting the 'Georeach Citizen Science Program' and the project extension 'CoastReach.'

The work that University of Waterloo researchers are engaged in is of interest to ABCA.

Acquisition of temporal photography in strategic locations along the coastal zone of the lakeshore provides the opportunity to monitor changes along the coastline over time.

Monitoring coastal change over time is an important component to understanding the

effects of climate change, for example.

Understanding coastal change informs policy development and continued ABCA shoreline management activities and initiatives.

Having the University of Waterloo share their coastal research and programming will provide value to staff and ABCA. The CoastReach project should draw interest from the broader community and the public and help to promote interest and attendance at an upcoming information session. This partnership, and a jointly-held Open House, will provide an opportunity for enhanced outreach toward further promoting the services ABCA Water and Planning staff provide under our regulations and permitting, and plan input, programs.

The scheduling of an Open House is timely. It is an opportunity to introduce newer ABCA water and planning staff to the community.

It is an opportunity as well for Water and Planning staff to field inquiries concerning the newer Regulation 41/24 under the Conservation Authorities Act, and ABCA policies, and answer broader permitting type questions.

ABCA staff time and wages to conduct an open house is covered under normal program budgets.

This report is provided for information only.

Timing and Location of Open House Session(s) is yet to be determined;
Detailed Agenda yet to be developed.

Presentation by videoconference – Coastie – Georeach Citizen Science Programs
by Elizabeth (Libby) George;
Libby is a Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences,
University of Waterloo.

ABCA Program Report

To: ABCA Board of Directors
Date: June 18, 2026
From: Andrew Bicknell, Manager of Water & Planning
Donna Clarkson, DWSP Co-Supervisor
Subject: Risk Management Official Servicing Agreement
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorize the Chair and General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer to sign the Risk Management Official Servicing Agreement with interested municipalities.

Background:

Municipalities are required to implement the policies of the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Plans under the Clean Water Act, 2006. This means a municipality is required to appoint one or more Risk Management Officials / Inspectors and form a “Risk Management Office.” Risk Management Officials / Inspectors are certified by the province following training and successful completion of an examination. Municipalities may also delegate this responsibility.

Since the Plans’ approval in 2015, eight municipalities have delegated the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) to act as Risk Management Officials (RMO) and Risk Management Inspectors (RMI) on their behalf. The municipalities include Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, Bluewater, Central Huron, Huron East, Huron-Kinloss, Morris-Turnberry, North Huron and North Perth. There have been four multi-year agreements with these municipalities. The current agreement lapses at the end of December 2026 and participating municipalities have signaled a desire to again enter a multiyear agreement with the ABCA for delivery of RMO services. Staff have been in contact with municipalities and they have requested that the agreement be circulated to them in June or July, prior to the municipal election ‘lame duck’ period, rather than waiting until November.

The services provided under the agreements include:

- negotiate new Risk Management Plans (RMP’s) for activity changes/new provincial threat rules
- inspect implementation of existing RMPs
- update or rescind RMPs due to threat changes

- revise RMPs due to new owner/lease/activity changes
- monitoring Wellhead Protection Areas for prohibition/change of activity
- issuance of Section 59 notices, per Clean Water Act
- annual reporting per Clean Water Act (CWA section 81)

Like with previous agreements, the proposed renewal agreement outlines costs which includes a set base office/administration fee plus an additional amount which is a function of the number municipal wellhead protection areas (level of effort) associated with Part IV enforcement services (e.g. risk management plans, inspections, Issuance of Notices).

Through the agreement, the ABCA is providing a requested service to municipalities within the Source Protection Region. The cost structure (Appendix A) is based on a similar formula as in the current agreement and again, based on a fee for service model.

No ABCA program or operating levy supports the RMO services.

**RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT
FOR SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN PART IV ENFORCEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT made effective the first day of January 2027.

BETWEEN:

THE MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER OF THE FIRST PART

-and-

THE MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL HURON OF THE SECOND PART

-and-

THE MUNICIPALITY OF HURON EAST OF THE THIRD PART

-and-

THE MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS-TURNBERRY OF THE FORTH PART

-and-

THE MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH PERTH OF THE FIFTH PART

-and-

THE TOWNSHIP OF ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH OF THE SIXTH PART

-and-

THE TOWNSHIP OF HURON-KINLOSS OF THE SEVENTH PART

-and-

THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON OF THE EIGHTH PART

(hereinafter called “the Municipalities”)

- and -

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
(hereinafter called “the Authority”)

OF THE NINTH PART

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS this Agreement is being entered into pursuant to the *Clean Water Act*, 2006 (hereinafter called the "*Act*") for the purpose of appointing the Authorities as agents of the Municipalities with respect to the enforcement and jurisdictional rights under Part IV of the *Act* as part of implementation of the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan and the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan.

And Whereas the Authority is a Source Protection Authority for purposes of the Act and of this Agreement;

And Whereas the Municipalities are located within the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region as set out in Ontario Regulation 284/07.

IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual covenants herein contained, the parties hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE ONE GENERAL

Section 1.01: Source Protection Authorities

Under section 4 of the *Act*, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) and the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) serve as the Source Protection Authorities for the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Area and the Maitland Valley Source Protection Area respectively. Ontario Regulation 284/07 under the *Act* designates the participating municipalities for ABCA and MVCA when they act as the Source Protection Authorities under the *Act*.

Section 1.02: Part IV Requirements under the Act

The *Act*, provides that a municipality is responsible for Part IV enforcement of Source Protection Plans. The *Act* further provides that a municipality may enter into an agreement for the enforcement of Part IV by a board of health, a planning board, or a Source Protection Authority.

The Municipalities hereby appoint the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority as agent of the Municipalities to carry out enforcement under Part IV of the Act within their respective Municipality.

Section 1.03: Application

This Agreement shall be applicable to all lands located in the Municipalities that are subject to Part IV of the *Act*.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority hereby accepts the appointment and agrees to act as Agent of the Municipalities for the duties and enforcement responsibilities of Part IV of the Act for those lands located within the Municipalities that are situated within the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region, with the exception of the Municipality of Huron-Kinloss in which the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority hereby accepts the appointment and agrees to act as Agent of the Municipalities for the duties and enforcement responsibilities of Part IV of the Act for all lands within the Municipality of Huron-Kinloss.

Section 1.04: Duties

The Authorities shall faithfully carry out their duties hereunder on a fee for service basis in accordance with the *Act*, the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan (as amended from time to time) and the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan (as amended from time to time), this Agreement, and any other applicable legislation.

ARTICLE TWO DEFINITIONS

Section 2.01: Definitions

Unless otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, the words, phrases and expressions in this Agreement shall have the meanings attributed to them as follows:

1. In this Agreement:

- a) “*Act*” means the Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006*, as amended;
- b) “Agreement” means this document;
- c) “Parties” means the Authorities and the Municipalities;
- d) “the Regulation” means *Clean Water Act Regulation 287/07*
- e) “Risk Management Inspector” means a Risk Management Inspector appointed under Part IV of the *Act*;
- f) “Risk Management Official” means the Risk Management Official appointed under Part IV of the *Act*;
- g) “Source Protection Authority” means a Conservation Authority or other person or body that, under subsection 4 (2) or section 5 of the *Act*, is required to exercise and perform the powers and duties of a drinking water Source Protection Authority under the *Act*;
- h) “Source Protection Plan” means a drinking water source protection plan prepared under the *Act*.

ARTICLE THREE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 3.01: Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for all the powers and duties of an enforcement body under Part IV of the *Act*. The duties and powers **include but are not limited to** those listed in this Section.

The Authority shall:

- (i) Appoint such Risk Management Officials and Risk Management Inspectors as are necessary for the enforcement of Part IV of the *Act*.
- (ii) Provide mapping to the Municipalities and establish protocols in consultation with the Municipalities to ensure Part IV requirements are incorporated into the review of applications under the *Planning Act* and *Building Code Act*.
- (iii) Review applications under the *Planning Act* and *Building Code Act* as deemed necessary under the protocols referred to in (ii) and issue notices with respect to Restricted Land Use policies prior to those applications proceeding.
- (iv) Negotiate or, if negotiations fail, establish risk management plans with persons (business owners, landowners, tenants, and others) engaged or proposing to engage in an activity and at a location subject to the *Act*.
- (v) Review and accept risk assessments under the *Act*.
- (vi) Conduct inspections and use powers of entry on properties where reasonable and obtain inspection warrants from a court where required.
- (vii) Issue orders and notices, prosecute any offences under Part IV of the *Act* and exercise any other powers set out under Part IV of the *Act* to ensure compliance with the Part IV policies in the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan and the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan.
- (viii) Maintain records in accordance with the *Act* and make records available to the public when required to do so and to the Municipalities upon request.
- (ix) Prepare documentation and make provisions for staff to attend Environmental Review Tribunal Hearings.

(x) Report annually on activities as required under the *Act* and provide a copy of the annual report to the Municipalities.

Section 3.02: Responsibilities of the Municipalities

The Municipalities shall adhere to agreed upon protocols (including circulating certain applications to the Risk Management Official) to ensure Part IV requirements are incorporated into the review of:

- (i) building permit applications;
- (ii) applications under provisions of the Planning Act that are prescribed in section 62 of the Regulation; and
- (iii) generally, cooperate with and assist the Authority with the protection of safe drinking water.

Section 3.03: Information and Data Sharing

To facilitate implementation of this Agreement:

- (i) The Municipalities shall provide information and data required by the Authority to carry out its powers and duties under Part IV of the *Act*.
- (ii) The Authority shall provide records related to its powers and duties under Part IV of the *Act* to the Municipalities, upon request. In the event of termination of this Agreement, records will be transferred to their respective Municipalities.

**ARTICLE FOUR
COSTS**

Section 4.01: Responsibility for Cost of Service Delivery

The Municipalities are responsible for the costs of the enforcement of Part IV of the *Act*. The Municipalities shall pay the Authority as per Schedule A of this Agreement.

Section 4.02: Recovery of Extraordinary Costs

The Authority, through consultation with the Municipalities, will recover from the Municipalities costs incurred as a result of legal actions initiated by or against the Authority associated with executing its duties and powers under this Agreement and for costs associated with non-routine work including but not limited to enforcement orders, warrants, Environmental Review Tribunal Hearings and retention of third party experts. These costs are in addition to those outlined in Schedule A.

**ARTICLE FIVE
OFFICIALS AND INSPECTORS**

Section 5.01: Appointment

The Authority will appoint such Risk Management Officials and Risk Management Inspectors as are necessary pursuant to subsection 48 (2) of the *Act* and shall issue a certificate of appointment to the Risk Management Officials and Risk Management Inspectors as per subsection 48 (3) of the *Act*.

Section 5.02: Qualifications

The Risk Management Officials and Risk Management Inspectors will be qualified as prescribed by the Regulation.

**ARTICLE SIX
LIABILITIES AND INSURANCE**

Section 6.01: Insurance

The Authority shall provide and maintain Commercial/Comprehensive General Liability insurance subject to limits of not less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) inclusive per occurrence for bodily injury, death and damage to property including loss of use thereof.

The Authority shall provide and maintain Errors and Omissions insurance subject to limits of not

less than an annual aggregate of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00). Such insurance shall provide coverage for all errors and omissions made by the Authority, its officers, directors and employees in regard to the obligations of the Authority under this Agreement.

Such insurance shall be kept in force for the two years following termination of this Agreement.

Such insurance shall be in the name of the Authority and shall name the Municipalities as additional insured there under. Evidence of insurance satisfactory to the Municipalities shall be provided to the Municipalities prior to the commencement of work. The Authority shall annually provide the Municipalities with Certificate(s) of Insurance confirming that the said insurance policies are in good **standing**.

Section 6.02: Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)

The Authority will provide upon request, verification of WSIB coverage.

Section 6.03 Indemnification

The Municipalities agree to save harmless and indemnify the Authority, and its employees, agents, assigns, directors and officers (collectively, the 'Indemnified Parties') from and against any claims, costs, fees, losses, damages or expenses of every nature and kind whatsoever, including but not limited to governmental inquiries, administrative or judicial proceedings, which the Authority Indemnified Parties, might suffer, have imposed on, or incur in connection with or arising out of: this Agreement; any enforcement duties or responsibilities; or otherwise in connection with the *Act* or any regulations thereunder.

The Authority agrees to save harmless and indemnify the Municipalities, and its employees, agents, assigns, directors and officers (collectively, the 'Indemnified Parties') from and against any claims, costs, fees, losses, damages or expenses of every nature and kind whatsoever, including but not limited to governmental inquiries, administrative or judicial proceedings, which the Municipal Indemnified Parties, might suffer, have imposed on, or incur in connection with or arising out of the Authority failing to perform its duties or responsibilities under this Agreement.

ARTICLE SEVEN

TERM, RENEWAL, TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT

Section 7.01: Initial Term

This Agreement shall continue in force for a period of 3 years, commencing on the 1st day of January 2024, and ending the 31st day of December 2026.

Section 7.02: Deemed Renewal

This Agreement will automatically continue following the expiry of the term set out in Section 7.01 until it is:

- a. Superseded or replaced by a subsequent agreement; or
- b. Terminated in its entirety by either party by giving 90 days written notice.

Section 7.03: Termination

The Agreement may be terminated by either party with a minimum of 180 days written notice.

Section 7.04: Amendment

This Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement from time to time to reflect changes in programs, funding and personnel in both parties, or changes in provincial policy.

ARTICLE EIGHT MISCELLANEOUS

Section 8.01: Preamble

The preamble hereto shall be deemed to form an integral part hereof.

Section 8.02: Instrument in Writing

This Agreement shall not be changed, modified, terminated or discharged in whole or in part except by instrument in writing signed by the parties hereto, or their respective successors or permitted assigns, or otherwise as provided herein.

Section 8.03: Assignment

This Agreement shall not be assignable by either party.

Section 8.04: Force Majeure

Any delay or failure of either party to perform its obligations under this Agreement shall be excused and this Agreement is suspended if, and to the extent that, a delay or failure is caused by an event or occurrence beyond the reasonable control of the party and without its fault or negligence, such as, by way of example and not by way of limitation, acts of God, pandemics, fires, floods, wind storms, riots, labour problems (including lock-outs, strikes and slow-downs) or court injunction or order.

Section 8.05: Notices

Any notice, report or other communication required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing unless some other method of giving such notice, report or other communication is expressly accepted by the party to whom it is given and shall be given by being delivered or mailed to the following addresses of the parties respectively:

(a) To the Authority:

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
71108 Morrison Line
R.R. # 3
Exeter, ON N0M 1S5

(b) To the Municipalities:

Municipality of Bluewater
PO Box 250, 14 Mill Avenue
Zurich, ON N0M 2T0
Attention: Municipal Clerk / Chief Administrative Officer

Municipality of Central Huron
PO Box 400, 23 Albert Street
Clinton, ON N0M 1L0
Attention: Municipal Clerk / Chief Administrative Officer

Municipality of Huron East
PO Box 610, 72 Main Street
Seaforth, ON N0K 1W0
Attention: Municipal Clerk / Chief Administrative Officer

Municipality of Morris-Turnberry
PO Box 310, 41342 Morris Road
Brussels, ON N0G 1H0

Attention: Municipal Clerk / Chief Administrative Officer

Municipality of North Perth
330 Wallace Ave. N.
Listowel ON N4W 1L3

Attention: Municipal Clerk / Chief Administrative Officer

Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
82133 Council Line
R.R.#5
Goderich, ON N7A 3Y2

Attention: Municipal Clerk / Chief Administrative Officer

Township of Huron-Kinloss
21 Queen Street, P.O. Box 130
Ripley, ON N0G 2R0

Attention: Municipal Clerk / Chief Administrative Officer

Township of North Huron
Box 90, 274 Josephine Street
Wingham, ON N0G 2W0

Attention: Municipal Clerk / Chief Administrative Officer

Any notice, report or other written communication, if delivered, shall be deemed to have been given or made on the date on which it was delivered to any employee of such party, or if mailed, postage prepaid, shall be deemed to have been given or made on the third business day following the day on which it was mailed (unless at the time of mailing or within forty-eight hours thereof there shall be a strike, interruption or lock-out in the Canadian postal service in which case service shall be by way of delivery only). Either party may at any time give notice in writing to the other party of the change of its address for the purpose of this Agreement.

Section 8.06: Headings

The Section headings hereof have been inserted for the convenience of reference only and shall not be construed to affect the meaning, construction or effect of this Agreement.

Section 8.07: Governing Law

The provisions of this Agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario as at the time in effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the day and year first written above.

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Signature	Ray Chartrand	Chair	Date
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Signature	Davin Heinbuck	General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer	Date
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MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER

Signature	Paul Klopp	Mayor	Date
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Signature	Chandra Alexander	Clerk	Date
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I/We have authority to bind the Municipality.

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL HURON

Signature	Jim Ginn	Mayor	Date
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Signature	Steve Doherty	Clerk	Date
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I/We have authority to bind the Municipality.

MUNICIPALITY OF HURON EAST

Signature	Bernie MacLellan	Mayor	Date
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Signature	Meaghan McCallum	Clerk	Date
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I/We have authority to bind the Municipality.

MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS-TURNBERRY

Signature	Jamie Heffer	Mayor	Date
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Signature	Trevor Hallam	CAO-Clerk	Date
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I/We have authority to bind the Municipality.

MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH PERTH

Signature	Todd Kasenberg	Mayor	Date
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Signature	Lindsay Cline	Clerk	Date
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I/We have authority to bind the Municipality.

TOWNSHIP OF ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH

Signature	Glen McNeil	Mayor	Date
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Signature	Florence Witherspoon	Clerk	Date
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I/We have authority to bind the Township.

TOWNSHIP OF HURON-KINLOSS

Signature Don Murray Mayor Date

Signature Jennifer White Clerk Date

I/We have authority to bind the Township.

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

Signature Paul Heffer Reeve Date

Signature Carson Lamb Clerk Date

I/We have authority to bind the Township.

SCHEDULE 'A'

Part IV Enforcement / Risk Management Services Delivery Costs
January 01, 2027 through December 31, 2029

DRAFT

Appendix A

RMO Services Cost Per Participating Municipality

Municipality	Fixed Program Costs (Yearly Cost)	Number of WHPAs / wells	% of Workload based on # WHPAs	Est workload cost based on # WHPAs (per year)	Total Yearly RM Services Cost 2027	Total Yearly RM Services Cost 2028	Total Yearly RM Services Cost 2029	Total Fees 2027 - 2029
ACW	\$6,500	5	13%	3,590	\$10,090	\$10,340	\$10,600	\$31,030
Bluewater	\$6,500	2	5%	1,436	\$7,935	\$8,135	\$8,340	\$24,410
Central Huron	\$6,500	6	15%	4,308	\$10,810	\$11,080	\$11,355	\$33,245
Huron East	\$6,500	4	10%	2,872	\$9,370	\$9,605	\$9,845	\$28,820
Huron - Kinloss	\$6,500	8	21%	5,744	\$12,245	\$12,550	\$12,865	\$37,660
Morris Turnberry	\$6,500	3	8%	2,154	\$8,655	\$8,870	\$9,090	\$26,615
North Huron	\$6,500	4	10%	2,872	\$9,370	\$9,605	\$9,845	\$28,820
North Perth	\$6,500	7	18%	5,026	\$11,525	\$11,815	\$12,110	\$35,450
Total	\$52,000	39	100%	28,000	\$80,000	\$82,000	\$84,050	\$246,050

*WHPA = wellhead protection area, RM= Risk Management

Fixed Program costs include:

- Annual reporting per Clean Water Act
- Maintaining RMO certification requirements
- Maintaining Data Bases
- Support staff and IT
- Municipal staff support
- Answering property owner / operator questions
- Assist municipalities with Education policy
- Attend Provincial RMO mtgs; Training
- Advice re changes to well systems
- Attending Open Houses

Workload costs include:

- New RMPS as activity changes
- Inspect existing RMPs
- Revise RMPs due to new owner/lease/activity changes
- s.59 Notice issuance
- Monitor for prohibited activities
- Issue Orders
- Travel costs

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: June 18, 2026
From: Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands Specialist
Subject: Stewardship Funding Update
Report Type: INFORMATION REPORT

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the report: *Stewardship Funding Update* for information as presented.

Background:

Stewardship Funding Program: Canada Nature Fund Projects (CNF): Improving freshwater habitat for species at risk in the Ausable Bayfield watersheds.

The Ausable River Recovery Action Plan (2018) has reconfirmed that the two main threats to aquatic species at risk (SAR) in the Ausable River are nutrient enrichment and sediment deposition. The primary goal of this multi-year project is to improve aquatic habitat in the Ausable River and Bayfield River for SAR freshwater mussels and fishes.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) provided \$320,000 in funding for the 2025-2026 project year. Stewardship activities included working with watershed residents for up to seven wetland restorations; up to 17 tree planting sites; up to 1,200 acres of cover crops; and up to five sediment and nutrient reduction activities (fencing out livestock and WASCOS). As well as monitoring SAR fish and the SAR mussel fish hosts at six long term index stations and education and outreach in the Ausable and Bayfield River watersheds. We have had CNF funding for eight years but this is the last year.

Project activities below show the Funding Breakdown by Activity.

Stewardship Project Funding	\$137,685
Stewardship Program Delivery	\$81,300
Environmental Monitoring	101,015
TOTAL	\$320,000

CANADA NATURE FUND: YEAR to DATE SUMMARY (April 2025 - March 31, 2026)

Project Type	Available Funding	Approved Projects	Approved Funding	Remaining Funds
Wetland Restoration	\$26,400	4 projects	\$27,877.50	-\$1,477.50
Fragile Land Retirement	\$37,785	13 projects	\$37,042.50	\$742.50
Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Activities	\$26,000	17 projects	\$26,000	\$0
Cover Crops	\$47,500	54 projects	\$46,765	\$735
TOTAL	\$137,685	98	\$137,685	\$0

Funding rate is up to 50% of project costs. However, where projects meet the eligibility requirements of both programs the federal and provincial funding can be stacked to recover up to 100% of project costs.

Below is a summary of new projects approved by ABCA staff since the last Stewardship Report.

Applications for funding: WETLAND RESTORATION

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

CANADA NATURE FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3797	Mahon wetland	North Middlesex, East Williams, Lot 15, Con 19	Construction of one wetland at the back corner of the farm. Adjacent to wet woodlot and municipal drain in middle Ausable watershed.	\$15,230.72 Matched with MECP funds.
AB-3798	New Moon Community Homestead	North Middlesex, East Williams, Lot 23, Con 18 ECR	Construction of one wetland at the back of the farm in the floodplain hay field adjacent to treed sloped area and near the Ausable River. In the upper Ausable watershed.	\$9,000 Matched with MECP funds, DUC and ALUS Middlesex funds.
AB-3907	Pullen fencing around restored wetland	Central Huron, Hullet, Lot 14, Concession 1	Installation of 102m of fencing along the one side of the restored wetland to fence sheep out. This is in the Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1,675.37 Matched with HCWP.

AB-3883	Janmaat wetlands (2)	Central Huron, Hullet, Lot 13, Concession 1	Construction of two wetlands at the back of the farm, squaring of an acre of field, adjacent to a wet vegetated area in the Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1,971.41 Matched with HCWP and MECP funds.
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Total: \$27,877.50 of \$26,400 approved for term.

Applications for funding: FRAGILE LAND RETIREMENT (Tree Planting)

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

CANADA NATURE FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-4011	Charles Manuel	Middlesex centre, Lobo, Con 13, Lot 17	ABCA planted 91 trees and shrubs at private landowner site. Mixed species deciduous and coniferous large stock.	\$2050.00
AB-3957	Bob Tindall	Lucan -Biddulph, Biddulph, Con 3, Lot 14	ABCA planted 71 large stock conifer ball & burlap trees on private landowner property. Species include white cedar, white pine, norway spruce. Upper Ausable watershed.	\$1214.00
AB-3891	Paul Wraith	Middlesex Centre, London, Con 13, Lot 32	Landowner planted 40 mixed species large stock trees on private property. Nairn Creek watershed.	\$561.61
AB-3982	ABCA Rock Glen	Lambton Shores Bosanquet, Con SB, Lot 2	ABCA planted 400 tree seedlings at Rock Glen CA. Species include white pine, red cedar, bur oak. Lower Ausable watershed.	\$1400.00
AB-3936	Ruth Adams	North Middlesex, East Williams, Con 19, Lot 31	ABCA planted 110 mix species shrubs and trees at private landowner property. Nairn Creek watershed.	\$137.29
AB-3940	Jim Baynham	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 1 HRS, Lot 8	ABCA planted 370 trees at private landowner property. Mixed species seedlings and large stock trees. Bayfield Headwaters.	\$2285.25

AB-3976	Wayne Hodgins	Lucan-Biddulph, Biddulph, Con 1, Lot 35	ABCA planted 70 mixed species large stock trees on private landowner property.	\$2305.00
AB-3983	Gerhard Kress	Lucan-Biddulph, Biddulph, Con 2, Lot 31	ABCA planted 105 mixed species ball and burlap trees. Species include white cedar, tamarack, white spruce. Little Ausable watershed.	\$2022.70
AB-3981	Lambton Shores – Thedford Legacy Centre	Lambton Shores, Bosanquet, Con 4, Lot 20	ABCA and volunteers planted 300 trees at the Thedford Legacy Centre. Lower Ausable watershed.	\$6000.00
AB-3961	Brian Larocque	North Middlesex, Williams, Con 2, Part Lot 8	Landowner planted 190 mixed species tree seedlings on private property. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$831.99
AB-3971	Michel Larouche	North Middlesex, Williams, Con 2, Lot 8	Landowner planted 17 large stock trees on private property. Species include white cedar and sugar maple. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$1600.00
AB-3939	Pullen	Central Huron, Hullet, Con 1, Lot 14	ABCA planted 160 large stock mixed species trees on private landowner property. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$4383.00
AB-3974	Scott Thomson	Adelaide-Metcalf, Adelaide, Con 3 NER, Lot 18	ABCA planted 245 large stock ball and burlap trees on private landowner property. Species include white cedar and norway spruce. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$1546.00
AB-	Various landowners	Over 12 sites, previous wetlands and current wetland restoration projects as well as enhancement of the OAC, The Cut, Warner Preserve.	Planted 7,758 native plants around wetlands along wet edge and upland spoils after wetland restorations were completed.	\$10,705.66 matched with HSP and MECP.

Total: \$37,042.50 of \$37,785 approved for term.

Applications for funding: SEDIMENT & NUTRIENT REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

CANADA NATURE FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3932	Adelaide-Metcalfe (Topping Drain)	Adelaide-Metcalfe, Adelaide, Lot 7 & 8, Con 3 NER	Construction of nine berms to hold back water, allow sediment to settle out, reducing flooding and sediments going into the Ausable River in the Middle Ausable Watershed.	\$5,000
AB-3808	Bayfield River Flats	Bluewater, Stanley, Lot Plan 147, Con Mill Property	Bank stabilization completed along approximately 54m of bank of the Bayfield River that erodes each year. This will hold soils, reducing sediments entering the Main Bayfield River.	\$5,000
AB-3800	Bycraft	Middlesex Centre, Lobo, Lot 9, Con 10	Construction of two berms to hold back water, allow sediment to settle out, reducing flooding and sediments going into the Nairn Creek watershed.	\$5,000
AB-3884	Dale	Middlesex Centre, Lobo, Lot 10, Con 10	Construction of two berms to hold back water, allow sediment to settle out, reducing flooding and sediments going into the Nairn Creek Watershed.	\$5,000
AB-3861	Vanhie	Adelaide-Metcalfe, Adelaide township, Lot 22, Con 3 NER	Construction of three berms to hold back water, allow sediment to settle out, reducing flooding and sediments going into the Middle Ausable watershed.	\$6,000

Total: \$26,000 of \$26,000 approved for term.

Applications for funding: COVER CROPS

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

CANADA NATURE FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3813	Nathan Cann	South Huron, Usborne, Lot 25, Con 7	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 30 acres. Species include oats, radish, sunflower, peas. Ausable Headwaters watershed.	\$450

AB-3814	Nathan Cann	South Huron, Usborne, Lot 35, Con 4	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 40 acres. Species include oats, radish, sunflower, peas. Black Creek watershed.	\$600
AB-3816	Nathan Cann	South Huron, Usborne, Lot 26, Con 6	Over winter single species rye cover crop planted after soybeans. 50 acres. Ausable Headwaters, sub-watershed.	\$750
AB-3819	Strang Farms c/o Mike Strang	South Huron, Usborne, Con 1, lot 26	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 70 acres. Species include oats, peas, sunflower, buckwheat. Black Creek watershed.	\$1050
AB-3820	Strang Farms c/o Mike Strang	South Huron, Usborne, Con 6, Lot 27	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 80 acres. Species include oats, peas, sunflower, buckwheat. Ausable Headwaters watershed.	\$750
AB-3825	H&B Farms Inc. c/o Harold Van Doornik	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 4 HRS, Lot 2 & 3	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 90 acres. Species include flax, nyjer, phacelia, sunflower, Austrian winter peas (awp), faba beans, chickling veld. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1350
AB-3826	H&B Farms Inc. c/o Harold Van Doornik	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 4 HRS, Lot 10	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 100 acres. Species include flax, nyjer, phacelia, sunflower, Austrian winter peas (awp), faba beans, chickling veld. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$565
AB-3827	Van Doornik Farms Ltd. c/o Steve Van Doornik	Huron East, Tuckersmith. Con 4 HRS, Lot 4	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 100 acres. Species include oats, awp, faba beans, vetch, nyjer, flax, phacelia. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1500
AB-3832	Jeff Allan	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 1, Lot 26	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 26 acres. Species include radish, buckwheat, crimson clover, oats. Bannockburn watershed.	\$390
AB-3833	Jeff Allan	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 3, Lot 27	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 43 acres. Species include radish, buckwheat, crimson clover, oats. Bannockburn watershed.	\$645
AB-3834	Jeff Allan	Bluewater, Stanley, Con 1, Lot 11	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 18 acres. Species	\$270

			include radish, buckwheat, crimson clover, oats. Bannockburn watershed.	
AB-3835	Alex Melady	Huron East, McKillop, Con 1, Lot 21 & 22	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 88 acres. Species include oats, peas, radish. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1320
AB-3836	Pat Melady	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 2 HRS, Lot 1 & 2	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 93 acres. Species include oats, peas, radish. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1395
AB-3837	Pat Melady	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 1 HRS, Lot 9	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 36 acres. Species include oats, peas, radish. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$105
AB-3839	Coleman Farms c/o Brandon Coleman	Bluewater, Stanley, Con. 1, Lot 1	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 96 acres. Species include oats, peas, sunflower. Bannockburn watershed.	\$1440
AB-3840	Coleman Farms c/o Brandon Coleman	Bluewater, Stanley, Con 1 & 2, Lot 1&2	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 55 acres. Species include oats, peas, sunflower. Bannockburn watershed.	\$60
AB-3841	David Ross	North Middlesex, East Williams, Con. 3 ECR, lot 4	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 27 acres. Species include oats, peas, sunflower. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$405
AB-3842	David Ross	North Middlesex, East Williams, Con 2 ECR, Lot 5	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 45 acres. Species include oats, peas, sunflower. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$675
AB-3843	David Ross	North Middlesex, East Williams, Con. 5, Lot 12	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 26 acres. Species include oats, peas, sunflower. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$390
AB-3844	Tyler & Summer Papple	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con. 6 HRS, Lot 9	Over winter single species rye cover crop after corn. 44 acres. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$660
AB-3845	Papple Farms Ltd.	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con. 7 HRS, Lot 10 & 11	Over winter single species rye cover crop after corn. 100 acres. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1500
AB-3851	Dave Murray	Bluewater, Stanley, Con 5, Lot 8	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 65 acres. Species include oats, radish, peas. Bannockburn	\$975

			watershed.	
AB-3852	Darlene Carnochan	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con. 3 HRS, Lot 20	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 94 acres. Species include oats, sunflower, peas. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1410
AB-3853	Jacob Williams	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con. 2 ELR, Lot 37	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 96 acres. Species include oats, radish, peas. Bannockburn watershed.	\$1440
AB-3854	Breimer Farms Ltd.	North Middlesex, East Williams, Con 20 ECR, Lot 21	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 13 acres. Species include oats, peas, faba beans, phacelia, sunflowers, flax. Upper Ausable watershed.	\$195
AB-3855	Don Boersma	Bluewater, Hay, Con. 4, Lot 10	Over winter single species rye cover crop after corn. 37 acres. Black Creek watershed.	\$555
AB-3857	Don Boersma	Bluewater, Hay, Con 2, Lot 6	Over winter single species rye cover crop after corn. 17 acres. Black Creek watershed.	\$255
AB-3847	Jo Van Loon (887514 Ontario Ltd.)	West Perth, Hibbert, Con 4, Lot 27	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 73 acres. Species include oats, peas, sunflower, radish. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1095
AB-3848	Van Loon Farms Ltd.	West Perth, Hibbert, Con. 7, Lot 11	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 97 acres. Species include oats, peas, sunflower, radish. Ausable Headwaters watershed.	\$1455
AB-3888	Ed Van Esbroeck	South Huron, Osborne, Con. 6, Lot 11 & 12	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 33 acres. Species include oats, peas, radish. Little Ausable watershed.	\$495
AB-3869	Mike Yeo	North Middlesex, East Williams, Con 6 BF W, Lot 15 & 16	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 37 acres. Species include oats, peas, faba beans, sunflower, flax. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$555
AB-3870	Mike Yeo	North Middlesex, East Williams, Con 6 BF WPT, Lot 16 & 16	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 67 acres. Species include oats, peas, faba beans, sunflower, flax. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$945
AB-3893	Jeremy Van Esbroeck	South Huron, Osborne, Con 6, Lot 12	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 93 acres. Species include oats, peas, radish. Little Ausable	\$1395

			watershed.	
AB-3894	Jeremy Van Esboreck	Bluewater, Hay, Con 1, Lot 28 & 29	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 56 acres. Species include oats, peas, radish. Bannockburn watershed.	\$105
AB-3896	Calvin Charbonneau	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Con 10, Lots 20, 21, 22	Over winter multi-species cover crop planted after wheat. 35 acres. Species include oats, sunflower, radish, awp, crimson clover. Upper Ausable watershed.	\$525
AB-3897	Ian Murray	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 10, Lot 2	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 85 acres. Species include oats, radish, crimson clover. Bannockburn watershed.	\$1275
AB-3898	Eric Devlaeminck	Lucan-Biddulph, Biddulph, Con 1, Lot 7	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 57 acres. Species include oats, radish, awp, clover, sunflower. Upper Ausable watershed.	\$855
AB-3899	Eric Devlaeminck	South Huron, Stephen, Con 1, Lot 13	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 55 acres. Species include oats, radish, awp, clover, sunflower. Upper Ausable watershed.	\$825
AB-3900	Jim Handyside	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Con 2, Lot 11	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 25 acres. Species include oats, radish, awp, clover, sunflower. Upper Ausable watershed.	\$375
AB-3902	Vandewalle Family Farm	West Perth, Hibbert, Con 3, Lot 10	Over winter single species winter wheat cover crop after edible beans. 79 acres. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1185
AB-3903	Vandewalle Family Farm	West Perth, Hibbert, Con. 2, Lot 9	Over winter single species winter wheat cover crop after edible beans. 44 acres. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$315
AB-3905	Rollinlea Farms Ltd. c/o Jamie McBride	South Huron, Osborne, Con 3, Lot 9	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 89 acres. Species include oats, radish, peas. Upper Ausable watershed.	\$1335
AB-3908	Joe Dewan	Lucan-Biddulph, Biddulph, Con 5 S, Lot 25	Over winter single species oats cover crop after soybeans. 101 acres. Little Ausable watershed.	\$1515
AB-3911	Kaumanns Farms Ltd. c/o	Lucan-Biddulph, Biddulph, Con 3, Lots 3, 4, and 5	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 100 acres. Species	\$1500

	Hilmar Kaumanns		include oats, peas, sunflower. Upper Ausable watershed.	
AB-3912	Zehetner Farms Ltd.	South Huron, usborne, con. 1, Lot 34	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat (14 species blend). 105 acres. Black creek watershed.	\$1575
AB-3919	Robert Wardell	Adelaide metcalfe, Adelaide, Con 3 NER, Lot 25	Over winter single species oat cover crop after soybeans. 49 acres. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$735
AB-3921	Roy Bloomfield	Middlesex Centre, London, Con 11, Lot 31	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat (14 species blend). 46 acres. Nairn creek watershed.	\$690
AB-3922	Roy Bloomfield	Middlesex Centre, London, Con 11, Lot 32	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat (14 species blend). 38 acres. Nairn creek watershed.	\$570
AB-3926	Hillcreek Farms Ltd. c/o Derek Kootstra	39689 Vanastra Road, RR5, Clinton, N0M 1L0	Over winter single species cereal rye cover crop after corn. 100 acres. Main Bayfield watershed.	\$1290
AB-3927	Kurtis Cambell	North Middlesex, East Williams, Lot 15, Con 11	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat. 44 acres. Species include oats, daikon radish, crimson clover. Lower Ausable watershed.	\$660
AB-3935	Claussen Farms Ltd. c/o Hauke Claussen	Bluewater, Stanley, Lot 15 &14, Con 2	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat (10 species mix). 143 acres. Bannockburn watershed.	\$2145
AB-3979	Beaumont Farms Ltd. c/o Chris Wood	West Perth, Logan, Con 4, Lot 24	Over winter multi-species cover crop after wheat (8 species mix). 150 acres. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$2250

Total: \$46,765 of \$47,500 approved for term.

Background:

Stewardship Funding Program: Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP): Improving habitat for aquatic species at risk in the Ausable Bayfield watersheds.

The Ausable River Recovery Action Plan (2018) has reconfirmed that the two main threats to aquatic species at risk (SAR) in the Ausable River are nutrient enrichment and sediment deposition. The primary goal of this multi-year project is to improve aquatic habitat in the Ausable River and Bayfield River for SAR freshwater mussels and fishes.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) provided \$80,000 in funding for the 2025-2026 project year. Stewardship activities included working with watershed residents for up to two wetland restorations and or sediment and nutrient reduction activities (WASCoBs); up to three tree planting sites and or up to 525 ha of cover crops. As well as monitoring SAR fish and the SAR mussel fish hosts at up to ten long term index stations over the three years and provide some education and outreach in the Ausable and Bayfield River watersheds. This is the first year of a three-year funding agreement.

Project activities below show the Funding Breakdown by Activity.

Stewardship Project Funding	\$21,000
Stewardship Program Delivery	\$20,500
Environmental Monitoring	38,500
TOTAL	\$80,000

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: YEAR to DATE SUMMARY (April 2025 - March 31, 2026)

Project Type	Available Funding	Approved Projects	Approved Funding	Remaining Funds
Wetland Restoration / Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Activities	\$9,000	1 wetland	\$8,446.08	\$553.92
Fragile Land Retirement / Cover Crops	\$12,000	7 projects	\$12,553.92	-\$553.92
TOTAL	\$21,000	8	\$21,000	\$0

Funding rate is up to 50% of project costs. However, where projects meet the eligibility requirements of both programs the federal and provincial funding can be stacked to recover up to 100% of project costs.

Below is a summary of new projects approved by ABCA staff since the last Stewardship Report.

Applications for funding: WETLAND RESTORATION

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3934	Teeple wetland	North Middlesex, West Williams, Lot 21, Con 7	Construction of one wetland at the edge of forest and field in Lower Ausable watershed.	\$8,446.08 Matched with MECP funds.

Total: \$8,446.08 of \$9,000 approved for term.

Applications for funding: FRAGILE LAND RETIREMENT (Tree Planting)

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3977	Brekelmans	North Middlesex, Williams, Con 8, Lot 1	ABCA planted 790 trees on private landowner property. Mixed species seedlings and tall stock. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$3105.75
AB-3956	Brown	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Con 8, Lot 27	Landowner planted 100 tree seedlings and shrubs on private property. Species include white pine, norway spruce, red oak, staghorn sumac. Upper Ausable watershed.	\$126.56
AB-3962	Getty	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Con 3, Lot 23.	Landowner planted 100 tree seedlings on private property. Species include Tamarack and sycamore. Little Ausable watershed.	\$129.95
AB-3964	Goldsworthy	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 2 HRS, Lot 31 & 32	ABCA planted 80 large stock trees on private landowner property. Species include sugar maple, bur oak, basswood, tulip tree, sycamore.	\$3038.57
AB-3960	Handyside	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Con 2, Lot 11.	Landowner planted 25 large stock trees on private property. Species include autumn fantasy, bur oak, red	\$457.50

			oak, tulip tree. Upper Ausable watershed.	
AB-3855	Morrison	North Middlesex, East Williams, Con 6 BF, Lot 6	Landowner planted 25 large stock trees on private property. Species include white pine, hemlock, sugar maple. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$317.50
AB-	Clinton Rain Garden	Central Huron, Tuckersmith, Lot 44, Con 1 HRS	Planted some new plants for Clinton Rain Garden to soak up rain events, filter water and reduce flooding and erosion downstream for Main Bayfield watershed.	\$428.52
AB-3934	Teeple wetland restoration and others	North Middlesex, West Williams, Lot 21, Con 7	Seed for around wetlands along wet edge and upland spoils after wetland restorations were completed.	\$4,253.57
	Supplies for tree planting	Various sites	Cocomats and Tree wraps	696.00

Total: \$12,553.92 of \$12,000 approved for term.

Background:

Stewardship Funding Program: Great Lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF): Increasing wetlands and forest cover on marginal lands to improve Lake Huron watershed.

The Great Lakes are the foundation of Ontario's economic prosperity, social well-being and ecological health. The Great Lakes Local Action Fund objectives are to improve water quality, reduce flooding, erosion, and sedimentation, buffer and improve biodiversity and increase community awareness.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) provided \$100,000 in funding for 2025 to restore up to 26 sites and 25 acres of land by creating five wetlands, tree planting and adding native plants and seed to increase diversity and increase community awareness of the importance of nature-based solutions through social media.

Project activities below show the Funding Breakdown by Activity.

Stewardship Project Funding	\$68,000
Stewardship Program Delivery	\$32,000
TOTAL	\$100,000

GREAT LAKES LOCAL ACTION FUND: YEAR to DATE SUMMARY (January 15, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025)

Project Type	Available Funding	Approved Projects	Approved Funding	Remaining Funds
Wetland Restoration	\$32,000	6 projects	\$33,543.08	-\$1,543.08
Fragile Land Retirement	\$36,000	19 projects	\$34,456.92	\$1,543.08
TOTAL	\$68,000	25	\$68,000	\$0

Funding rate is up to 50% of project costs. However, where projects meet the eligibility requirements of both programs the federal and provincial funding can be stacked to recover up to 100% of project costs.

Below is a summary of new projects approved by ABCA staff since the last Stewardship Report.

Applications for funding: WETLAND RESTORATION

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

GREAT LAKES LOCAL ACTION FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3795	Johnson			\$5,606.98
AB-3797	Mahon wetland	North Middlesex, East Williams, Lot 15, Con 19	Construction of one wetland at the back corner of the farm. Adjacent to wet woodlot and municipal drain in middle Ausable watershed.	\$1,000 matched with Canada Nature Fund
AB-3798	New Moon Community Homestead	North Middlesex, East Williams, Lot 23, Con 18 ECR	Construction of one wetland at the back of the farm in the floodplain hay field adjacent to treed sloped area and near the Ausable River. In the upper Ausable watershed.	\$10,142.30 matched with Canada Nature Fund and DUC and ALUS
AB-3883	Janmaat wetlands (2)	Central Huron, Hullet, Lot 13, Concession 1	Construction of two wetlands at the back of the farm, squaring of an acre of field, adjacent to a wet vegetated area in the Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$2,164.53 matched with Huron Clean Water Project and Canada

				Nature Fund
AB-3796	Linfield Tract	Bluewater, Stanley, Lot 15, Con 11	Three rock chutes added at edge of field to slow water and drop out soil to reduce erosion through woodlot.	\$8,415.55
AB-3933	Conlin	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Lot 3, Con 3	Meandering swale and buffer to filter water and nutrients from barn.	\$1,584.45
M-4296	Oakes	Central Huron, Goderich, Con Maitland, Lot 67 & 68	Buckthorn management at edge of woodlot and within woodlot that is adjacent to the retired 18 acres and planted in trees around the wetland restorations.	\$2,886.19 matched with Huron Stewardship Council and Huron Clean Water Program
	Native plants	Various restorations	Native plants planted at sites for filtering and adding diversity.	\$1,743.08

Total: \$33,543.08 of \$32,000 approved for term.

Applications for funding: FRAGILE LAND RETIREMENT (Tree Planting)

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

GREAT LAKES LOCAL ACTION FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-4011	Charles Manuel	Middlesex centre, Lobo, Con 13, Lot 17	ABCA planted 91 trees and shrubs at private landowner site. Mixed species deciduous and coniferous large stock.	\$2050.00
AB-3953	Vilis Family Wildlife Area	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Con 16, Lot 12	ABCA facilitated school planting at Vilis. 30 trees planted. Species include sugar maple, bur oak, tulip tree. Large stock potted trees. Upper Parkhill watershed.	\$1007.50
AB-3812	Steven Walper	South Huron, Stephen, Con Ausable, Lot 10	ABCA staff planted watercourse buffer between drain and cropped field on private landowner property. 200 trees planted. Species include Norway spruce and	\$3235.00

			white pine ball and burlap. Lower Parkhill watershed.	
AB-4012	Warner Preserve	Lambton Shores Bosanquet, Con LRE, Lot 4 & 5	Volunteers planted 105 native wildflowers and plants at the Warner Preserve. Lower Parkhill watershed.	\$132.74
AB-3783	Paul Baker	West Perth, Hibbert, Con 3, Lot 15	ABCA planted treed buffer in low lying, wet area of agricultural field. 80 Mixed species b&b and potted trees. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1499.00
AB-3754	Jerry & Brenda Dejong	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 3 HRS, Lot 25	ABCA staff planted tall stock mixed species deciduous and conifer b&B trees throughout floodplain. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$867.50
AB-3965	Rien & Anja de Regt	Middlesex Centre, Lobo, Con 9, Lot 18	ABCA staff planted 500 mixed species tree seedlings with tractor planter and by hand in buffer along waterway. Nairn Creek watershed.	\$1406.25
AB-3777	John Godbolt	Lucan Biddulph, Biddulph, Con 4, Lot 16	ABCA staff infilled 250 trees in old apple orchard. Mixed species seedlings used. Little Ausable watershed.	\$987.50
AB-3781	Michel Larouche	North Middlesex, Williams, Con 2, Lot 8	ABCA planted 75 mixed species trees around wetland and in naturalized areas across property. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$1431.25
AB-3784	Lumsden	North Middlesex, Williams, Con 8, Lot 8	ABCA planted 185 mixed species large stock trees in buffer area along creek.	\$2995.50
AB-3779	McLellan	North Middlesex, West Williams, Con 9, Lot 25	ABCA planted 150 mixed species tree seedlings on private landowner property.	1212.50
AB-3751	Curtis Schlosser	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 6 ELR, Lot 31	ABCA planted 100 large stock deciduous and conifer trees along river. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$1550.00

AB-3750	Pamela Raab	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Con 2 HRS, Lot 14	ABCA planted 500 trees in as reforestation project in retired field. Mixed species seedlings planted using ABCA tractor planter. Bayfield Headwaters watershed.	\$2080.90
AB-3866	Ryan Timmermans	Adelaide Metcalfe, Adelaide, Con 2 SER, Lot 11	ABCA staff planted 240 trees in windbreak between two cropped fields. Species include white cedar and white pine. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$1740.00
AB-3958	Jeff Vanhie	North Middlesex, West Williams, Con 7, Lot 7	Landowner purchased trees from ABCA to infill plast tree planting project completed by ABCA. Middle Ausable watershed.	\$2116.25
AB-3969	Steve Jennison	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Con 5 WCR, Lot 19	ABCA planted 240 large stock trees and seedlings along eroding bank. Lower Parkhill watershed.	\$865.00
AB-3619	McNamee – Serenity Nature Preserve	South Huron, Stephen, Con 18, Lot 11	ABCA planted 5000 trees to retire portion of agricultural field. ABCA tractor planter used to plant mixed species seedlings. Lower Parkhill watershed.	\$3135.78
AB-3762	Muller Farms	South Huron, Stephen, Con 19, Lot 16	ABCA planted 330 trees in field windbreak between two agricultural fields. Lower Parkhill watershed	\$4960.00
AB-3753	Hugh Ryan	South Huron, Stephen, Con SB, Lot 22	ABCA planted 280 mixed species seedlings at back of farm to connect forest cover and create wildlife corridor. Upper Parkhill watershed.	\$1184.25

Total: \$34,456.92 of \$36,000 approved for term.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: June 11, 2026
From: Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager
Subject: Huronview Innovative Drainage Demonstration – RFP Results
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors accept the proposal in the amount of \$110, 740 (including HST) from Parker and Parker Ltd. to complete the installation of the sub irrigation infrastructure at the Huronview Demonstration Farm.”

Background:

As discussed in February 2026, the ABCA secured funding to support the Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association to install a sub-irrigation project at the Huronview Demonstration Farm. The design was finalized by a committee comprised of drainage contractors, BM Ross, the Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA), and the University of Guelph.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to recommend the installation of the **sub-irrigation system**. Funding for the project has been secured from the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA).

The works include mobilization (demobilization) (1), the installation of a pump (2), irrigation line (3) and the connection of existing retention areas and reconstruction of the outlet (4) (Figure 1 for overall design).

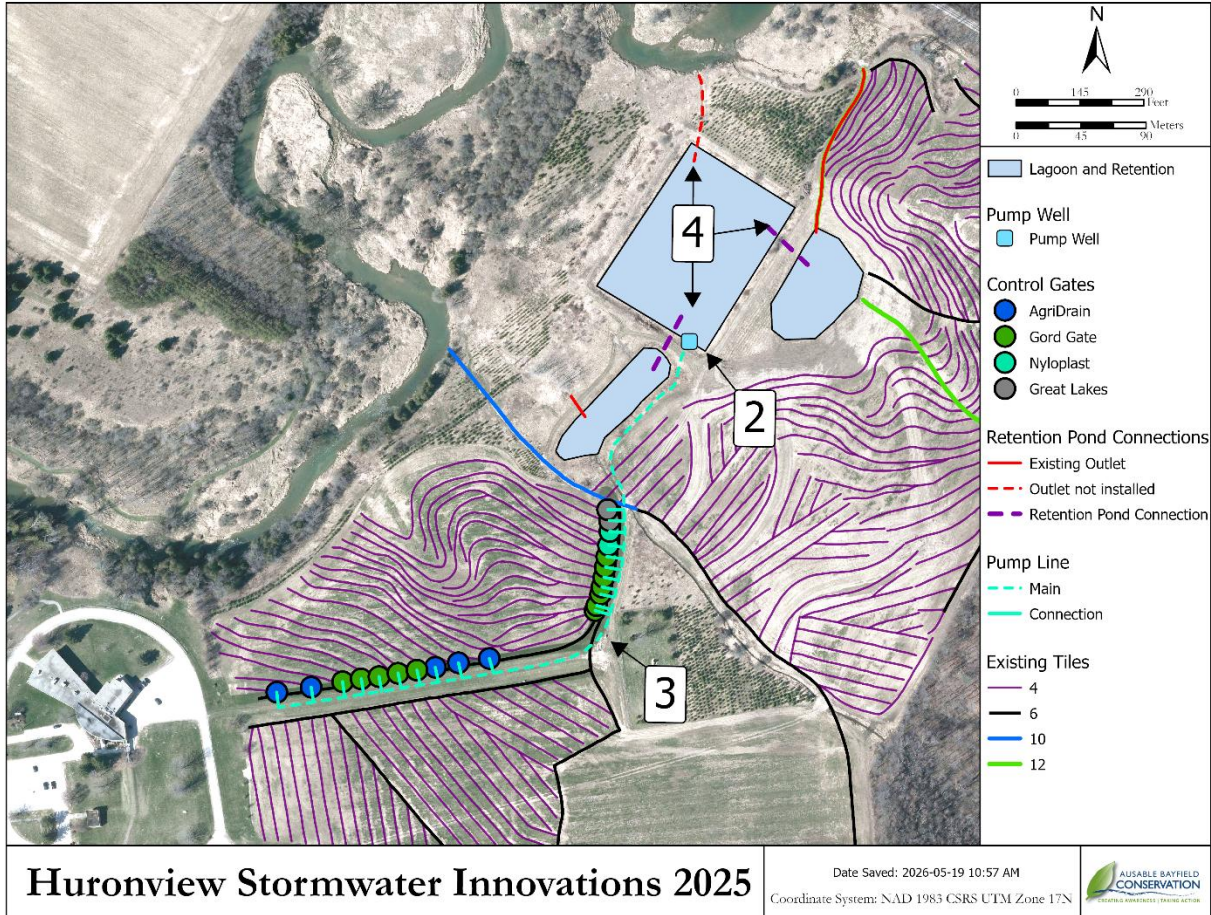


Figure 1: The main components of the installation of the irrigation system include: 1) equipment mobilization (not depicted), 2) a pump to be installed in the retired lagoon (17,000m³), 3) a 4" irrigation line to be routed from the retired lagoon to 21 control gates servicing a 7.2 acre field, and 4) the connection of the smaller retention areas (west retention area – 200m³ and east retention area - 1325m³) to the retired lagoon and an outlet from the retired lagoon.

A scoped request for proposals was submitted to three (3) contractors previously involved with the Huronview Demonstration Farm. The tender submitted by Parker and Parker for the Huronview Demonstration Sub Irrigation at a price of \$110, 740 (including HST) was the only submission. Staff have reviewed the proposal and it meets all technical requirements and falls within the approved budget from the OMAFA agreement.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: June 18th, 2026
From: Stacey Palen, Workplace Safety Specialist
Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Lands Manager
Subject: Rock Glen Conservation Area – AED Donation
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors accepts the donation of two Automated External Defibrillators and two housing units for Rock Glen Conservation Area from the Dave Mounsey Fund.

Background:

Patrick Armstrong, founder and Executive Director of the Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund engaged Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) to express interest in donating Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA). The Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund was created in 2009 to honor fallen first responders and military members by donating public-accessible AEDs in their memory. The fund was established in memory of OPP constable Dave Mounsey, who died in 2006 following a line of duty collision while responding to a call in Huron County.

The two donated AEDs would consist of LIFEPAK CR2 units, along with two housing units: one mobile case to be kept in the Gate House and one AIVIA 200 outdoor cabinet to be mounted on the exterior of the Museum. The outdoor cabinet provides access to an AED for emergency use by community members. Cardiac arrest can happen anywhere, at any time, to anyone. In a cardiac arrest emergency, every second matters — prompt access to an AED can significantly improve the chances of survival while emergency responders are enroute. The AED is housed in an Aivia 200 Outdoor Cabinet that is temperature-regulated and alarmed to ensure the device remains secure and ready for use when needed.



Figure 1: Example of an AIVIA 200 Outdoor Cabinet



Figure 2: Example of a mobile case

The AED currently located at RGCA has exceeded its recommended service life and is due for replacement. The units would be gifted to ABCA from the Dave Mounsey Fund in memory of two Arkona men from World War 2. ABCA would take full ownership of the units after donation.

The proposed donation is valued at more than \$6000. ABCA would be responsible for installing the electrical equipment to service the outdoor unit. Sisler Electrical Inc. of Arkona quoted the required electrical work to be \$689 plus HST.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: June 18, 2026
From: Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Subject: General Managers Report
Report Type: INFORMATION

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 spring. 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

The CO AGM was held on April 27th, 2026. Elections for CO council were held, and the following positions were filled for 2026. Chair, Dave Barton (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority), Vice Chair, Ed McGugan (Maitland Valley Conservation Authority), Vice Chair, Pat Warren (Kawartha Conservation) Director, Rob Baldwin (Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority), Director, Samantha Lawson (Grand River Conservation Authority), and Director, Brad McNevin (Quinte Conservation).

Summaries of the materials related to the CA Consolidation were shared, including the ERO submission process and comments, and Bill 97, which was presented March 26th, and received Royal Assent on April 24th. ABCA's General Manager has ensured that ABCA's Board of Directors and staff have been informed throughout the process to date, and kept current as more content on consolidation comes forward.

In addition to the financial statement, committee representation, program reports and updates, the AGM provided each CA an opportunity to highlight one or two programs in celebration of 80 years of conservation. ABCA's focus was on community and partnerships, and projects such as Huronview, Healthy Lake Huron and the Ausable River Recovery were highlighted.

ABCA Meetings and Special Events

1. The 36th Annual Conservation Auction was held online from April 9 – 16, 2026. The ABCF 50-50 Raffle took place on April 16 at 4:00 p.m. Total funds raised were over \$30,000.
2. Partner Appreciation Evening and the staff and Board Years of Service Awards was held on March 26th. Keynote speaker was Shawn Staton, from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Conservationist of the Year was awarded to William Dunlop.
3. For ABCA's 80th anniversary (1946-2026), we are continuing to present Decades Awards: March (1940s - Municipalities), April (1950s - Pinery Provincial Park), May (1960s MNR – Reforestation).
4. Tim Cumming attended an Earth Day Event in Goderich on Saturday, April 18, 2026 with a booth for Healthy Lake Huron (Land to Lake) – Clean Water, Clean Beaches Partnership.
5. The South Huron Trail Run returns in 2026, on Sunday, August 30th. Tim has created a new web microsite at <http://www.southhurontrail.com/>
6. The Exeter Lions annual fishing derby was held on May 2nd. Over 250 people registered with 10 Trout caught. Funds are raised through the Conservation Auction (ABCF and Exeter Lions).
7. Ellen Westelaken and Donna Clarkson attended the Risk Management Official (RMO) Seminar held at Credit Valley Conservation Authority on March 11, 2026.
8. Donna and Ellen have been meeting with member municipalities to provide Annual Reports on RMO services, as well as updates regarding changes in the Clean Water Act. RMO 3-year service agreement expires at the end of this year, and renewal discussions are ongoing.
9. Tracey McPherson attended CACIS (Conservation Authority Collaborative Information Session) workshop where IT/GIS professionals share information, processes, ideas and challenges.
10. Brooklyn Rau and Reese Thompson have been facilitating Huron County Phragmites Management Area Working Group meetings.
11. Nathan Schoelier, Ian Jean and Brooklyn attended the Conservation Ontario Forestry and Land Stewardship Meeting at Black Creek Village on March 10-11th.
12. Rosalind Chang delivered turtle education and protection programs at Hillside School in Kettle Point.
13. Kari Jean, Angela Van Niekerk and Mari Veliz reviewed, provided comments and supplied data for a five year progress report for the Ausable River Action Plan for our Fisheries and Oceans Canada partners.
14. With Rick Kootstra, Mari presented on the Huronview Demonstration Farm to Huron County Council and Hensall District Coop
15. Angela presented on native plants at Exeter Library for 'Seedy Saturday' on April 18th.
16. Rosalind has joined the Coastal Wetlands Working Group, creating connections and resources for the Ausable River Estuary work.
17. Hope Brock and Kari hosted a turtle nest protector workshop in Port Franks on May 21st.
18. Rosalind and Angela hosted a booth at the Lakeshore Eco-Network Native Plant Sale at the Lambton Heritage Museum on May 2nd. Education was provided to the public on native plants, wetlands, turtle conservation and general stewardship. Over 100 people came to the booth.

19. Envirothon workshop was April 1st, with the competition on April 8th. Two teams from Huron-Perth made it to Provincials at the end of May: Central Huron Secondary School (first place) and Mitchell District High School (second place).
20. Cassie Greidanus was a panel presenter in a CA-based information session on Day Camps at CA's, giving a rural perspective to smaller-scale day camp operations.
21. Cassie completed 7 library programs throughout march break, educating over 160 people.
22. Daniel King, Christie Brown and Davin, hosted the Southwestern Ontario Flood Forecasting Alliance (SWOFFA) on April 14th.
23. Jaden Schoelier, Millie Ghorbankhani and Andrew Bicknell attended a virtual CA Coastal Network bi-annual meeting where CAs share unique challenges within their watershed
24. Daniel attended the 10th International Conference on Flood Management held May 20-22 at Western University. Attendees from multiple CAs and CO were in attendance.
25. Andrew has met with a policy representative from MNR to discuss draft revisions to the (Chapter 7) Great Lakes St. Lawrence River System and Large Inland Lakes Technical Guide.

ABCA Projects, Programs and Studies

1. Ellen and Donna conducted sit visits for Risk Management Plan inspections and threat verification and have been discussing well updates with the municipalities of Central Huron, North Perth, and Minto. These will require Section 34 amendments.
2. ABCA entered into an agreement to deliver the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) in our watershed through March 31, 2028. RALP is a federal-provincial program targeted to increase environmental resiliency on farms. ABCA allocations support on-farm berms and erosion control measures, tree planting and wetland restoration. The agreement provides up to \$650,000 in funding for project implementation with \$72,000 to support program administration.
3. Nathan worked with Huron County, and the Huron Clean Water Project (HCWP) to develop a "wind-down" plan for the HCWP, as directed by County Council. This plan was moved by County Council on April 22nd. The plan is to support tree Planting, Wetland Restoration, Invasive Species Management and Forest Management Plans in 2026.
4. Lambton County approved the Land Stewardship Program which will support wetland restoration, community tree planting projects, well decommissioning, cover crops, forest management plans, invasive species management, erosion control, and living snow fences.
5. Spring tree planting has been completed. There were 29 projects within the ABCA watershed and an additional 11 projects in the Maitland watershed for a total of 40 projects completed.
6. Jeff Van Niekerk and Reese Completed the remaining bridge work required at Bannockburn. The bridge spans over 120 feet.
7. Siding work has been completed on the new privies at Clinton, Bannockburn, and Lucan CAs.
8. Mari is supporting the Healthy Lake Huron Tech Team, made up representatives from the five Lake Huron conservation authorities, the local health units, OMAF, MECP, and the Canada Water Agency. We will be working on developing priority areas and actions, reviewing existing data, funding opportunities and key performance indicators.

9. Sunset Community Foundation South Huron has donated \$3,500 in support of a spring and fall Oaks and Acorns program. Cassie attended the awards ceremony on May 27th where she highlighted the work being done with Oaks and Acorns. Oaks and Acorns was fully subscribed with 15 families attending each program with 47 children attending.
10. Annual inspections of ABCA's flood and erosion structures has been completed by Daniel, Christie, and Jeff. This work informs future maintenance.
11. Michael Gibbs continues to make improvements to the new HEC HMS Flood Forecasting hydrology model that will populate data from WISKI into the HEC HMS model.
12. Christie completed annual spring groundwater sampling for 3 wells (2 shallow; 1 sinkhole) for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN).
13. Planning and Regulations staff have reviewed recently acquired shoreline oblique photos to compare with previous years to scope changes or to get a sense of unauthorized development.

ABCA Training

1. Brooklyn, Cassie and Reese are attending the Young Conservation Professionals Leadership Program. The leadership program is a year-long personal and professional development program serving Ontario's conservation and environmental sector.
2. Ian completed the Ontario Tree Marker Refresher Course in Huntsville on May 19th and 20th. This certification is a provincial accreditation for good forest management, provided every 5 years.
3. Jaden, Christie, Daniel - HEC-HMS flood forecasting hydrology model training on March 19th.
4. All staff received annual CPR training this spring, and where required, first-aid.
5. Water and Safety Training provided internally to Healthy Watersheds staff.
6. Davin has completed the Conservation Authorities University executive development course.

Other Items

1. Elizabeth Cade will be joining us again this summer as the Healthy Watersheds Student from May 4th to August 28th.
2. Kayley Thompson is back as our Day Camp Leader for 2026.
3. Ben Harter has accepted the position of Junior Conservationist from July 6th through August 28th.
4. Team ABCA raised \$1,155 for Big Brothers and Sisters of South Huron bowling event.
5. Ellen enrolled in an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Webinar and is working through creating her own EFP to expand her knowledge and skillsets that can be shared with landowners.
6. Kari has reviewed and contributed as a co-author (along with Fisheries and Oceans Canada colleagues) to a scientific paper – 'Abundance Trends Within the Freshwater Mussel Assemblages of Seven Major Southwestern Ontario Rivers', which will be published in the near-future.
7. Healthy watersheds staff have spearheaded the Adopt-A-Turtle campaign, with help from Sheldon Paul of the Huron Stewardship Council. Elizabeth Cade has created a social media campaign for the summer, and packages for campaign donors.