

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Doug Cook, Dave Frayne, Wayne Hall, Bob Harvey, Burkhard Metzger, Brian Ropp, Mike Tam

DIRECTORS ABSENT

George Irvin

STAFF PRESENT

Hope Brock, Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Megan Leedham, Kate Monk, Judith Parker, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Ross Wilson,

OTHER PRESENT

Sue Haskett - Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association
Leslie Myers - Beach O Pines Association
Bob Montgomery - CKNX Radio
Adam Skillen - Skillen Investment Management

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Burkhard Metzger called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 26/18

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Doug Cook**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the April 19, 2018 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority 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 PROCEEDINGS

None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 27/18

**Moved by Dave Frayne
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 22, 2018 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PRESENTATION

Adam Skillen of Skillen Investment Management attended the meeting to give an update on the performance of the investment income portfolio which was amended a year ago to include 35% equities; 65% bonds with the addition of some common shares. There has been success in the cumulative returns over the four years and it is recommended that there be no further changes at this time. The directors concurred with the recommendation. Mr. Skillen was thanked and he left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review

Meghan Tydd-Hyrnyk presented the Development Review report pursuant to Ontario Regulation 147/06 Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses. Through the application process, proposed developments within regulated areas are protected from flooding and erosion hazards. Staff granted permission for 6 *Applications for Permission* and 4 *Minor Works Permits*.

1. (b) Violation/Appeals Update

Staff reported there were no further updates on violations.

MOTION #BD 28/18

**Moved by Doug Cook
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

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

Carried.

2. Appointment of Officers

Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager reported that the officers appointed to enforce regulations made under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* needs to be updated due to staff changes. He also noted that Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator has successfully completed training as a Provincial Offences Officer for enforcement under the *Provincial Offences Act*.

MOTION #BD 29/18

**Moved by Dave Frayne
Seconded by Brian Ropp**

“RESOLVED, THAT the following staff be appointed as officers for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of Ontario Regulation 147/06 - General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Water and Planning Manager, Regulations Coordinator, Planning and Regulations Officer, and Water Resources Coordinator, and

FURTHER, THAT Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator, be appointed as a Provincial Offences Officer for Ontario Regulation 147/06, and

FURTHER, THAT the following staff be appointed as signing officers for the purpose of issuing permits under Ontario Regulation 147/06 - General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, Water and Planning Manager, Planning and Regulations Officer, and Regulations Coordinator.”

Carried.

3. Flood Emergency Planning Meeting

Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator presented a report on the Flood Emergency Response meeting that was held on March 20, 2018. Participants were the flood and emergency response personnel from the watershed municipalities, counties, OPP, health units and neighbouring conservation authorities. Key note speakers were Steve Jackson of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Chris Harrow, Town of Minto Fire Chief. They spoke on the Harriston flooding event on June 22 & 23, 2017 when 100 to 160 mm of unpredicted rain fell in the watershed causing major flooding and evacuations in Harriston. The mayor declared a state of emergency and 6 homes were evacuated using the fire department’s water rescue team. Damages are still being determined.

5. Watershed Report Card (2018)

Hope Brock Healthy Watersheds Technician thanked the Board for their support of the work to prepare and complete the 2018 Watershed Report Card. Along with the full report, there are individual booklets for the 16 sub-watersheds and a summary brochure reporting the forest, water, and soil conditions. Each director was given a package with the sub-watershed booklets pertaining to their municipality and brochures that can be shared with fellow councillors and ratepayers. The documents are available on the ABCA website and Conservation Ontario has compiled all watershed report cards from across the province at <http://watershedcheckup.ca/>

Quarterly Profit/Loss Statement

Brian Horner presented the quarterly financial statement to March 31, 2018.

PRESENTATION

Ross Wilson, Water and Soils Resource Coordinator and Abbie Gutteridge, Healthy Watersheds Technician gave an informative presentation on soil health in the ABCA watershed. When the latest *Conservation Strategy* was completed by the community, soil health was listed as a vital component in a healthy watershed. Up until five years ago, there was virtually no data gathered on soil health in the watershed. In 2013 a comparison study was done on two side by side farms in the Gully Creek sub-watershed. The topography was sloped and one producer used conventional tillage and had erosion problems, while the other producer farmed using conservation management practices. Of the data gathered, one distinctive result was the difference in yield. The conventional tillage yield for corn was 65 bu/acre while the conservation managed crop was 201 bu/acre.

OMAFRA has produced *New Horizons-Ontario's Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy* which ABCA staff provided comments during the EBR posting. Another initiative led by OMAFRA, MVCA, ABCA and UTRCA is the gathering of data on land, tillage, cropping practices and erosion risks over the past six years. For this project, ABCA has been monitoring the Gully Creek subwatershed.

To look at soil health on a larger scale is the Watershed Soil Monitoring Pilot Project. The purpose was to seek a method to start reporting on soils under agriculture production. Four soil types were assessed and given a benchmark for scoring. The metrics used were soil organic matter, topsoil depth, wet aggregate stability, bulk density, porosity, resistance to penetration and infiltration rate. The results for most of the metrics from the farmed soils were lower than the benchmark.

Through a partnership with Ontario Soil and Crop Association, the Huronview Demonstration Site was created to examine yield on slopes with different practices. The Watershed Report Cards (2018) included a new section on vegetative cover on agriculture lands over the winter. This was a desktop exercise using aerial photography and looking for fields that had cover in the spring. There needs to be more data gathered to address the unknowns in this method. An inter-jurisdictional review was conducted with soil conservation partners in Australia, Europe, New Zealand, US Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Canada, to ask about conceptual or implemented approaches. Some were top down approaches with satellite imagery and maps, however not as accurate. Other approaches were bottom up which are time consuming and cannot be scaled up effectively.

Next steps for staff will be to explore setting up a larger scale pilot project. Producers are looking for results that show the longer term benefits of no-till and cover crops. The directors inquired whether OMAFRA will initiate this type of pilot project, but this is questionable due to available provincial funding. The directors expressed how important this information will be to address the importance of healthy soils for a healthy watershed.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Brian Horner provided a written report with a brief update on the progress of various projects, staff training and development, upcoming meetings or events and general activities over the

previous month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 30/18

Moved by Wayne Hall

Seconded by Doug Cook

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ad Hoc Pedestrian Bridge Community Working Group meetings held on March 1, 2018 and April 5, 2018 and the Source Protection Committee meeting held on March 28, 2018 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Great Lakes Community Guardian Fund
File: F.22.1
Brief: Correspondence from MOECC awarding a grant for \$25,000 through the Great Lakes Community Guardian Fund for wetland restoration projects.
- b) Reference: Species at Risk Stewardship Fund
File: F.22.5
Brief: Letter from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry advising that the application for Species at Risk Stewardship Funding was approved for \$53,335 towards habitat and stewardship recovery actions in the Ausable River.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ray Chartrand inquired whether the proposed Huron County natural heritage strategy is duplication of information available through ABCA. Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager explained that the ABCA has experience in natural heritage matters and provides comments for municipal land use inquiries.
2. Brian Horner introduced Megan Leedham who was hired recently as Wetlands Technician.
3. Chair Burkhard Metzger advised he was resigning as Chair and from the Board of Directors effective immediately, due to changes in his corporate life whereby he will be relocating. The Municipality of Central Huron will be appointing a new representative and an election for Chair will be held at the next Board of Directors meeting on May 17, 2018. The directors expressed their appreciation to Burkhard for his leadership and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Burkhard Metzger

Judith Parker

Chair

Corporate Services Coordinator