

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Dave Frayne, Paul Hodgins, Lorie Scott, Bill Siemon, Don Shipway, Ute Stumpf, Mike Tam, Janisse Zimmerman

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jim Ginn

STAFF PRESENT

Jenna Allain, Andrew Bicknell, Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Brian Horner, Ian Jean, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Judith Parker, Tom Prout, Alec Scott, Lana Shapton

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Frayne called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 62/12

**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Paul Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the June 21, 2012 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.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 63/12

**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Ute Stumpf**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on May 17, 2012 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. a) Development Review

Andrew Bicknell, Regulations Coordinator prepared 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 two *Applications for Permission* and four *Minor Works Permits*.

1. b) Violation/Appeals Update

- (i) Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Supervisor advised that the landowner who placed fill in a gully along the lakeshore has had their court date held over to September knowing that remedial work is being undertaken. It is the hope of ABCA staff that the matter will be resolved before the court date.
- (ii) Staff are investigating a renovation to an existing structure in the Municipality of Central Huron within the Lakeshore Area 1 zone. A report will be brought to a future meeting.
- (iii) A media report told of a chair lift constructed over the lake bank down the bluff to the beach in the Municipality of Bluewater providing accessibility for visitors to a resort. Staff have learned no permits were issued and will be investigating the matter.

MOTION #BD 55/12

Moved by Janisse Zimmerman

Seconded by Lorie Scott

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

Carried.

2. Section 29, Conservation Authorities Act

Kate Monk, Stewardship & Conservation Lands Supervisor gave an update on the current activities the patrol officers have been monitoring. One dog owner was charged with a dog off leash offence at Morrison Dam CA. ABCA staff have replaced vandalized signs on ABCA land at Armstrong East Port Franks and two cottage families have been given notice of trespassing. Wind energy companies continue to conduct terrestrial surveys on ABCA properties.

Staff issued a special use permit to the Strathroy Flying Farmers Radio Control Model Aircraft Club for float plane flying on Parkhill Reservoir. The Arkona Lions Club requested the gate fee at Rock Glen Conservation Area be waived for the Rock Glen Car Show on September 15, 2012.

MOTION #BD 65/12

**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Ute Stumpf**

“RESOLVED, THAT the gate fee at Rock Glen Conservation Area be waived for the Arkona Lions Club Classic Car Show and Community Day on September 15, 2012, and

FURTHER, THAT a special use permit be granted to the Arkona Lions Club and Arkona Lioness Club for this event.”

Carried.

3. Phragmites Control on ABCA Property at Port Franks

Kate Monk gave an update on the strategic control measures implemented in partnership with community groups for Phragmites in the Port Franks area. There is an intensive Phragmites population on ABCA lands along the Ausable River Cut area. In the 2012 budget, it was approved to use \$10,000 from the Property Reserve to improve drainage on ABCA agricultural land. Now that these farms are being offered for sale by tender, the drainage work will not be carried out.

MOTION #BD 66/12

**Moved by Bill Siemon
Seconded by Janisse Zimmerman**

“RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA use up to \$10,000 from Property Reserves to control Phragmites on ABCA land at Port Franks in 2012.”

Carried.

Bill Siemon arrived at 10:30 a.m.

4. Invasive Species Position Statement

Lana Shapton, Watershed Stewardship Assistant provided background information on invasive species found in the Ausable Bayfield watersheds. Examples are Norway Maple, Garlic Mustard, Phragmites or Common Reed, Emerald Ash Borer, Common Carp, Round Goby, Zebra Mussel, and Purple Loosestrife. Impacts on nature are inhibiting growth, increased erosion, increased nutrients in the water, degraded habitat. It is the position of the ABCA that an integrated watershed management approach recognizes the interrelationships between soil, water, flora, fauna and humans in maintaining a healthy watershed. A combination of prevention, management, monitoring and education strategies should be created. Further goals would include developing partnerships to prevent new invasive species. Threats will need to be prioritized.

MOTION #BD 66/12

**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Ute Stumpf**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors adopt the position paper on *Developing an Understanding of Invasive Species and their Impacts within the Ausable Bayfield Watershed.*”

Carried.

5. Financial Reserve Analysis

Brian Horner, Financial Services Supervisor gave a report on the findings as to what municipalities have for a reserves policy. Of the twelve municipalities canvassed, six responded and only one addressed reserve balances on a specific reserve. Based on the online financial statements it appears the majority of member municipalities’ average reserve balances are approximately 61% of operating expenses. The current ABCA policy in regards to balance limits and percentages to related expenditures is approximately 26% overall. The Vehicle & Equipment reserve and Information Technology reserve are self-funded internally and don’t need to appear as a reserve in the financial statement. If ABCA reserve balances were to attain the municipal level, the overall shortfall would be \$588,475 or approximately \$65,300 per annum for the next 9 years.

MOTION #BD 68/12

Moved by Bill Siemon

Seconded by Don Shipway

“RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA remove Vehicle & Equipment from the ABCA Reserve Policy and change minimum balances to 20% and maximum balances to 100% with a target of 60% of the related operating expenditures.”

Carried.

6. Administration Building Accessibility Project

Brian Horner presented the tender results received from three of the six consultants invited to submit a proposal and quote for assessing current and long-term requirements for accessibility at the Administration Centre. The proposal from Randy Wilson Architect Inc. was accepted at \$9,800 plus HST plus \$1,000 expenses. The ABCA received \$50,000 from the federal Accessibility Fund towards this project.

7. Computer Equipment Disposal

Tracey McPherson, GIS/CAD Information Systems Specialist provided a list of the surplus computer equipment being offered to staff and Board members in a silent auction format. Revenue generated is returned to the IT program.

8. Shell Fuelling Change Funding Update

Tracey McPherson advised that the ABCA was successful in receiving \$25,000 from the Shell Fuelling Change online voting fund. The grant will be allocated as the partnership contribution in the Watershed Photography - Phase 3 project approved in the 2012 budget.

9. Spring Tree Planting Update

Ian Jean, Forestry & Land Stewardship Specialist reported on the spring tree planting program. A total of 56,550 trees were planted from April 2 to May 11. ABCA staff assisted 33 landowners at 39 planting sites and 126 landowners picked-up and planted their own trees.

10. Emerald Ash Borer Proclamation

Ian Jean advised that Conservation Ontario has prepared a proclamation related to the Emerald Ash Borer. The intent is to bring greater attention to the need for resources to mitigate the impacts of the pest and to make decision makers aware that conservation authorities are well positioned with existing forestry programs to deliver resources locally.

11. Consultant Selection for Channel Improvements Downstream of Parkhill Dam

Alec Scott, Water & Planning Manager provided the results of the consultant selection to proceed with the necessary field investigation and design of a project to reduce the frequency of flooding some areas of land downstream of Parkhill Dam. The proposal from Riggs Engineering Ltd. was accepted at a price of \$6,310 plus HST for the Design Phase and if required, \$3,480 plus HST for the contract and Construction Supervision Phase.

PRESENTATION

Alec Scott gave an overview of the Rural Stormwater Management Modelling project. The ABCA is the lead agency in the partnership project made possible because of the provincial Showcasing Water Initiative grant. The project is to be completed by 2014 and is supported by 22 partners. At this time, there isn't a model of this kind available for understanding and managing rural stormwater to address limiting the impact of run-off on water quality. The model will also assist in measuring where stewardship funding should be directed. The five priority watersheds encompass an area from Tobermory to Sarnia and will target the watersheds of Pine River, Garvey Glenn, Bayfield Gullies, Main Bayfield and an area in Lambton Shores between the Ausable Bayfield CA and St. Clair CA boundary. Staff will work with farmers and other landowners, universities, consultants, national and international agencies to develop a test model. This project demonstrates the positive impact of collaboration between partners. In the future the resulting technology will have applications in other areas.

The Province of Ontario Showcasing Water Initiative granted \$700,000 to the Rural Stormwater Management Modelling project and \$200,000 is being contributed by the other conservation authorities and agencies involved in the partnership. The partners are able to use existing programs already being funded as cash contributions.

The Board of Directors broke for lunch at 12:00 and reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tom Prout provided a written report with a brief update on the progress of various projects, staff training and development, upcoming meetings, events or general activities over the previous month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**MOTION #BD 58/12****Moved by Bill Siemon****Seconded by Jim Ginn**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting held May 14, 2012, DWSP Joint Management Committee meeting held May 11, 2012, Source Protection Committee meeting held April 25, 2012, Water Response Team meeting held May 14, 2012 and the motions therein be approved as presented.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Foundation Board member vacancy
File: A.9.1
Brief: Media release advising of a vacancy on the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation Board of Directors.
- b) Reference: Environment Canada
File: W.11.14.4
Brief: Letter from Hon. Peter Kent, M.P., Minister of the Environment advising of federal funding approval of \$120,310 for the *Implementation of the Lake Huron Framework for Community Action (2012-13)* project.
- c) Reference: Integrated Watershed Approach
File: A.5.2
Brief: Notice of a workshop to learn about an international project using the integrated watershed approach. Having experienced the aftermath of the Hurricane Hazel disaster in 1954, the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority is providing technical support to the Iloilo-Guimaras region in the Philippines’ who experienced Typhoon Frank in 2008. The sessions will show how the two urban regions are advancing stewardship, leadership and innovation for their ecosystems and exchanging best practices between nations.
- d) Reference: Insurance Bureau of Canada
File: A.7.1
Brief: A report from the Insurance Bureau of Canada reiterating what conservation authorities are tracking, that severe weather is projected to increase over the next 40 years with many socio-economic impacts. Conservation authorities manage \$2.7 billion dollars worth of dams, dykes, channels and erosion control structures. Flood management programs prevent an average of \$100 million a year in flood damages.
- e) Reference: National Conservation Plan for Canada
File: A.7.1

Brief: Copy of Conservation Ontario's submission to the standing committee on environment and sustainable development regarding the continued study on the National Conservation Plan for Canada.

- f) Reference: Lake Huron Southeast Shores
File: W.11.14.1
Brief: Copy of a case study final report prepared by Lura Consulting for the International Joint Commission and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs entitled *Lake Huron Southeast Shores Algal Fouling community-Based Social Marketing Project*. According to the Michigan Environmental Council, one pound of phosphorous can stimulate the growth of as much as 500 pounds of algae.
- g) Reference: Great Lakes Protection Act
File: A.7.1
Brief: Media release from Conservation Ontario advising that conservation authorities support new provincial actions to protect the Great Lakes.
- h) Reference: Ontario Municipal Board
File: L.2.30
Brief: Correspondence from Ken Strong of Strong, MacDougall and Oudekerk advising that the Ontario Municipal Board was notified that Mr. Fournier, the appellant in an OMB Hearing in Municipality of Bluewater, is requesting costs associated with the Hearing be paid by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

MOTION #BD 70/12

Moved by Lorie Scott

Seconded by Paul Hodgins

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors recommend engaging the services of solicitor Barry Card to respond to this matter, and

FURTHER, THAT the Municipality of Bluewater CAO be advised of this recommendation.”

Carried.

- i) Reference: Industrial Wind Turbines
File: R.1
Brief: Correspondence to the Board from Muriel Allingham on behalf of the Middlesex-Lambton Wind Action Group, expressing concerns that proposed industrial wind turbine transmission lines will impact conservation lands and fragment wildlife habitat. Tom Prout advised that the ABCA Board does not have a position statement on industrial wind turbines. Wind energy developers are becoming highly motivated to use road allowances for transmission corridors. If the developments are occurring in a regulated area, then the ABCA will provide comments. Janisse Zimmerman pointed out that the ABCA should not support an industry who wants to disturb the forested conservation lands.

MOTION #BD 71/12**Moved by Paul Hodgins
Seconded by Don Shipway****“RESOLVED, THAT the correspondence be received and responded to by staff.”****Carried.**

Janisse Zimmerman left the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

NEW BUSINESSCouncillor Info Session

As a follow up to a suggestion by Bluewater representative Janisse Zimmerman for a councillor information exchange, staff requested input on the date and format for hosting this event. After discussion it was decided to hold a Councillor Info Session on Thursday, September 27, 2012 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the ABCA Administration Centre. Some of the topics the directors suggested for presentation are invasive species, carbon offset credits, tree planting program, budget process, healthy watershed community initiatives and the rural stormwater management model. A tour of the office facility and GIS mapping capabilities will also be incorporated into the session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m..

Dave Frayne
Chair

Judith Parker
Corporate Services Coordinator

*Copies of Program Reports are available upon request.
Contact Judith Parker, Corporate Services Coordinator.*

