

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, November 15, 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

### OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Montgomery, CKNX Radio

### STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Bicknell, Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Brian Horner, Ian Jean, Kate Monk, Alec Scott

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Frayne called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**MOTION #BD 102/12**

**Moved by Don Shipway**

**Seconded by Ute Stumpf**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the November 15, 2012 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting be approved.”**

**Carried.**

### DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**MOTION #BD 103/12****Moved by Paul Hodgins****Seconded by Lorie Scott**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on October 18, 2012 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”**

**Carried.**

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESAON Insurance Additional Umbrella Coverage

Brian Horner, Financial Services Supervisor, presented the information that our existing umbrella insurance coverage is \$10,000,000. Our insurance provider asked all of the Conservation Authorities if they would be interested in increasing the liability limits by another \$5,000,000 to \$15,000,000. The insurance provider determined that the additional cost of this insurance would be an additional \$1,500 annually. Based on conversations and enquiries, this additional coverage is not being purchased by other Conservation Authorities.

Bill Siemon asked what the underlying insurance coverage is. Brian Horner indicated it is \$5,000,000.

**MOTION #BD 104/12****Moved by Paul Hodgins****Seconded by Lorie Scott**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors support the recommendation that the existing \$10,000,000 umbrella insurance coverage is sufficient and no increase is needed at this time.”**

**Carried.**

Fees For Industrial Renewable Energy Projects

As reported by Geoff Cade, Supervisor of Water & Planning and Alec Scott, Water & Planning Manager, Commercial Renewable Energy Project (CREP) proponents will need permission from the ABCA for the construction of laneways, installation of transmission lines, hydro substations, wind turbines or solar arrays only when they are proposed within the Regulation Limit.

To date only one proponent is nearing the application stage within ABCA jurisdiction. As a result of the expected number of permits to be issued for this single project, the proponent has independently worked toward streamlining their submissions. There has been significant sharing of digital data and the creation of a database to be filled out by the proponent. In addition, it is expected that applications will be accompanied with generic engineering details. It is expected that this additional information (not generally supplied by other applicants) will significantly streamline ABCA's permit review and tracking process. It is expected that the review process, as

compared to typical permits, will be reduced as a result of the substantial 'up front' information supplied by the applicants.

Future CREP proponents may not be in a position to share data as freely or provide as much initial detail.

A comparison of several Conservation Authority fee schedules for CREPs indicates a variety of standards. Saugeen Valley CA charges two times the standard fee for CREPs and others are using the standard fee schedule for CREPs. Geoff points out that cost recovery on permits for CREPs is expected.

**MOTION #BD 105/12**

**Moved by Bill Siemon  
Seconded by Lorie Scott**

**“RESOLVED, THAT staff monitor the costs of service delivery and impacts to accommodate workload attributed to permits for Commercial Renewable Energy Projects, and**

**FURTHER, THAT the fee be doubled for the review of Applications for Permission for Commercial Renewable Energy Projects.”**

**Carried.**

Proposed 2013 Pay Grid and 2013 Fee Schedule

Brian Horner, Financial Services Supervisor referred the Directors to the 2013 budget package and indicated that these were the figures used in preparing the 2013 proposed budget; pointing out that the proposed pay grid is a 2.0% increase from 2012.

**MOTION #BD 106/12**

**Moved by Paul Hodgins  
Seconded by Janisse Zimmerman**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the 2013 proposed Pay Grid be approved as presented, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT the proposed 2013 Fee Schedule with the addition of the line item from Motion #BD 105/12 be approved as amended.”**

**Carried.**

1. a) Development Review

Andrew Bicknell, Regulations Coordinator prepared and 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 two *Applications for Permission* and one *Minor Works Permit*.

1. b) Violation/Appeals Update

There were no updates on any violations or appeals.

1. c) MNR Guidelines For Time to Issue Permits

Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Supervisor reported on correspondence received from the MNR relating to a summary of the time taken for processing permits under CA Regulations. The report stated that the goal for turn-around of permit applications is 30 days for minor works and 90 days for major works. Geoff noted that the ABCA tries to issue permits within 4 to 6 weeks of receiving applications, so we are staying within the MNR Guidelines. However, some permits may take longer if incomplete information is provided with the application. In the case of emergency situations, verbal approvals may be given, followed by the paperwork process.

In the case of a situation involving a spill, the MOE Spills Action Hotline should be the first call made by the Municipality or concerned citizen.

**MOTION #BD 107/12**

**Moved by Bill Siemon**

**Seconded by Mike Tam**

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

**Carried.**

2. Parkhill Dam Channel Improvements Change Order

Alec Scott, Water & Planning Manager reported that the work for this contract is completed. A copy of the recommended Change Order No. 1 on the project was provided. The original Construction contract price was for \$29,660 plus HST. The Change Order amount is for \$4,704.95 extra.

During the construction the actual quantities for earth fill, rock rip-rap, top soil and seeding were higher than estimated but the amount of ditching required by the excavator was lower than estimated. At the same time, one culvert and flap gate and steel debris cages were removed from the contract as it was agreed that a larger culvert would eliminate the need for the steel debris cages.

In completing the contract, it was determined that a number of items needed to be added to the contract price. These additions provide a better final product from an environmental or future access and maintenance viewpoint. The final adjusted contract estimate of \$34,364.95 plus HST is still below the second lowest tendered price of \$37,896.20 plus HST.

**MOTION #BD 108/12**

**Moved by Lorie Scott**

**Seconded by Don Shipway**

**“RESOLVED, THAT Change Order #1 be approved as recommended by Riggs Engineering Ltd.”**

**Carried.**

### 3. Conservation Authorities Act Section 29 Set Fines

Kate Monk, Stewardship & Conservation Lands Supervisor provided a copy of the *Ontario Court of Justice Provincial Offences Act* and Schedule 2 Table under the Provincial Statutes and Regulations, which was approved October 22, 2012. The ‘set fines’ for all Conservation Authorities was last updated in 1990.

In the past, ABCA Patrol Officers have mostly used the *Trespass to Property Act* ‘set fine’ for non-permitted activities. However, with the new schedule of fines, our patrol officers will use the *Conservation Authorities Act* in most instances.

### 4. Fall Tree Program Update

Ian Jean, Forestry & Land Stewardship Specialist reports ABCA staff planted 772 balled and burlap conifers and potted hardwood trees at five project sites. This included the Zurich Scouts planting trees at the Central Huron Stormwater Ponds at Clinton and a community planting event took place at the Thames Road Elimville Community Park east of Exeter. Other projects were farm windbreaks or watercourse buffers. Once again the Municipality of Lucan Biddulph purchased trees to provide to landowners to replace roadside trees that had died or were removed as being a safety hazard.

Funding was available from the Huron Clean Water Project in Huron County. Farm businesses were eligible for funding for some projects through the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program.

### 5. Urban Stormwater Pollution

The Board viewed a documentary on urban stormwater pollution where a scuba diver and science team investigate a ‘black column’ toxic cocktail of particles of copper, zinc, oil and grease found underwater plummeting into the river system of the US city featured in the media clip. In this setting it shows there is no filtration of urban stormwater runoff, as in forests.

The Rural Storm Water Management Project will provide data on rural stormwater. Green Stormwater infrastructure is working to improve natural filtration of urban stormwater runoff. Studies continue to develop green stormwater methods. Testing with rain garden filtration showed fish lived in the filtered stormwater tank whereas fish in the tank of unfiltered stormwater did not survive.

### PRESENTATION

Ian Jean, Forestry & Land Stewardship Specialist made a presentation on Forest Biodiversity: Providing Natural Habitat and Economic Returns. Biodiversity is the degree of variation of life forms within a given species, ecosystem, biome, or an entire planet. Forests tend to be the most diverse ecosystem on earth. More varied or diverse natural systems tend to be more resilient in the face of change and are better able to maintain function (provide clean water, air protected soil and natural habitat).

Our natural systems face an accelerated rate of change (climate, invasive species) due to human economic activity. ABCA owns approximately 8000 acres of forested land. This is around 10% of the forested land in the watershed. 5200 of those acres are enrolled in MFTIP (Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program). The rest (over 2800 acres) is enrolled in CLTIP (Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program).

About 1517 acres are conifer plantations, where conifers primarily act as ‘nurse’ trees to enable colonization by native hardwoods. Thinning is prescribed to accelerate conversion to native deciduous or mixed forest and to increase biodiversity in tree species. ABCA owns about 4000 acres of native deciduous forest with various stages of immature to mature trees. Management is prescribed to improve health, growth, and vigor of the stands. Staff inventory 100 to 200 acres annually. On average 40 to 100 acres annually is marked for selective harvest, working toward a 15 year harvest cycle, first commercial cut for most of our properties.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **MOTION #BD 109/12**

**Moved by Lorie Scott  
Seconded by Don Shipway**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes from the Clinton Conservation Area Management Committee meeting held October 16, 2012 be approved as presented.”**

**Carried.**

### CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Soil and Water Conservation Society  
File: A.7.12.1  
Brief: The Call for Presentations and Symposia sessions has been release for the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference being held July 21-24, 2013 in Reno, NV.
- b) Reference: Conservation Ontario Whitepaper, Watershed Management Futures for Ontario  
File: A.7.1  
Brief: The purpose of the whitepaper is to initiate dialogue with the Ontario government about roles and responsibilities for managing Ontario’s watersheds, and to redefine relationships between Conservation Authorities and key provincial ministries.  
Tom Prout will bring a report to the Board in December.
- c) Reference: 2012 Community Vitality Grant Application  
File: A.37.17  
Brief: The grant application for the estimated total proposal cost of \$1,159,500 (over two years) has reached Stage Two. The proposed project, “Striving for an ‘A’: Innovations in Watershed Stewardship” for land use activities within London/Middlesex County, would involve Upper Thames River CA. As the lead member, with Ausable Bayfield C.A., Kettle Creek C.A. and St. Clair Region C.A. as members of the collaborative.

- d) Reference: Whitepaper, *Pathways to Prosperity*  
File: A.7.1  
Brief: Copy of correspondence from Dick Hibma, CO Chair and Don Pearson, CO General Manager to Tim Hudak, PC Leader on the release of the Ontario PC Caucus' Whitepaper, *Pathways to Prosperity*, specifically to comment on its reference to conservation authorities, their responsibilities as a regulatory agency and how they perform it.
- e) Reference: Thank You  
File: A.5.1  
Brief: Email from Jim & Sharon O'Toole with thanks for organizing an 'awesome' Owl Prowl event.
- f) Reference: Certificate of Appreciation  
File: A.5.1  
Brief: Presented to Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority at the Exeter Lions Club 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in appreciation of the partnership of invaluable services and cooperation.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Bill Siemon complimented Steve Bowers and Kate Monk on the conservation area behind Huronview in Clinton. A key to Rural Stormwater Management may be crop rotation and tillage.
2. The next Board meeting will be December 20, 2012 in the afternoon, followed by the Christmas Gathering for the Board, Foundation and Staff members.
3. Dave Frayne reports that the Conservation Authorities Bonspiel will be held at the Exeter Curling Club in March. ABCA is encouraged to put together a team(s).

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

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Dave Frayne  
Chair

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Bev Brown  
Financial Services Coordinator

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

