



MINUTES



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, October 20, 2011

**Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre
Morrison Dam Conservation Area**

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jim Ginn, Paul Hodgins, Bill Siemon, Don Shipway, Ute Stumpf, Mike Tam, Janisse Zimmerman

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Dave Frayne, Lorie Scott

STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Bicknell, Cathie Brown, Geoff Cade, Brian Horner, Kate Monk, Judith Parker, Tom Prout, Alec Scott, Julie Stellingwerff

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Montgomery - CKNX Radio
Scott Nixon - Exeter TA

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ginn called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 81/11

**Moved by Paul Hodgins
Seconded by Don Shipway**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the October 20, 2011 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 82/11****Moved by Janisse Zimmerman****Seconded by Ute Stumpf**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on, September 15, 2011 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 83/11**Moved by Bill Siemon****Seconded by Don Shipway**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors budget information meeting held on October 13, 2011 and the motions therein, be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESProposed 2012 Budget

Jim Ginn asked for questions or comments on the proposed 2012 Budget that was presented at the budget information meeting held October 13, 2011. He asked staff to distinguish which phased projects will be completed in 2012 and if the remaining phased projects could be identified as to what year they will be finished and coming off the list of projects.

Janisse Zimmerman asked for an explanation of the special benefitting formula. Alec Scott responded that when a municipality asks for a specific project to be completed, the formula is generally 50 % provincial grant eg. WECI and the other 50 % is 10 % project levy and 90% special benefitting municipality.

Tom Prout, General Manager asked whether the Board’s goal of a 2½ % levy increase takes into account the annual municipal property assessment growth. By consensus, the Board indicated that the 2 ½ % increase is in addition to the municipal growth of 3%. The first draft of the 2012 budget identified a 16.1 % combined general and project levy increase. The Board would need to find or remove \$120,000 from the combined levies to meet the goal of 5½ % levy increase.

Paul Hodgins asked if the conservation authority could dispose of surplus property to help fund projects. Tom Prout responded that conservation authority owned land has been acquired over the years for environmental protection purposes. Specific parcels would have to be looked at on an individual basis. The other factor would be to determine what capital projects the funds could be allocated to from the sale of property. Staff will bring a report to a future meeting.

Chair Jim Ginn asked that the list of proposed new projects for 2012 be reviewed and that the Board give direction to staff as to how to reduce the project levy by \$120,000. By consensus, the Board of Directors decided to delete or reduce the following projects.

- ▶ Sinkhole Study - delete
- ▶ Board member computers - reduce to a specified need as most directors have computers
- ▶ Watershed Hydrology Study - delete
- ▶ Office Accessibility - reduce to \$5000
- ▶ Rock Glen CA roadway resurfacing - reduce to \$2500

These revisions realized a reduction in the municipal levy of \$73,000. The Chair asked staff to look at the remaining projects for further reductions and to also determine if the Board should reconsider any projects that were identified for removal. Based on the Board's input, staff will prepare the second draft of the 2012 Budget to be reviewed at the next Board of Directors meeting.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1 (a) Development Review

Andrew Bicknell, Regulations Coordinator prepared the report on the Development Review 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 seven *Applications for Permission* and ten *Minor Works* applications.

1 (b) Violations update pursuant to O. Reg 147/06

- (i) Geoff Cade advised that an *Application for Permission* has been received in regards to the violation in the Municipality of South Huron on Parr Line. The applicant is applying to remove and rebuild the structure to another location on the property.
- (ii) Our solicitor will be laying charges against the landowner and contractor in regards to the unauthorized work undertaken to fill and grade within the ravine area along the lakeshore in Green Acres subdivision.

MOTION #BD 84/11

**Moved by Don Shipway
Seconded by Janisse Zimmerman**

“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 presented an update report on activities pursuant to *Section 29* of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. A list of special use permits in effect on ABCA lands was reviewed. One of the permits is an agreement with CanACRE

consulting firm which has a contract with NexEra energy to conduct terrestrial surveys at the Ratz Tract Conservation Forest in South Huron for potential wind generation projects in the region. Jim Ginn inquired whether the ABCA will receive the survey results. Kate Monk responded that there are now 6-7 tracts being surveyed and the ABCA will receive a report of the research. Conservation passes are sold to permit hunting activity in ABCA conservation forests. On September 30th there were 285 active passes issued for the hunting season determined by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

MOTION # BD 85/11

**Moved by Paul Hodgins
Seconded by Mike Tam**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the update on enforcement of Section 29 of the
Conservation Authorities Act be received as presented.”**

Carried.

3. Quarterly Financial Report

Brian Horner, Financial Services Supervisor presented the profit and loss statement to September 30, 2011 with comparisons to the 2011 budget.

PRESENTATION

As a follow-up to the presentation by Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) last month, Andrew Bicknell presented an overview of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's responsibilities in delivering the Level II agreement with DFO for fish habitat management. The ABCA staff screen proposed in-water works that impact fish habitat under the Harmful Alteration, Destruction and Disruption (HADD) components of the federal *Fisheries Act*. In 2010 there were 83 files assessed with the majority being drain maintenance. 99% of the time, ABCA staff are able to review and issue Letter of Authorization permits. The remaining 1% are referred to DFO in Burlington. The benefit to local watershed municipalities and landowners is the 2 week turn around time to review and issue a permit so works can be undertaken. DFO does not subsidize conservation authorities, so costs attributed to the general levy for delivering the program are approximately \$17,000. Without the agreement, files related to class authorization of drainage works would have to be sent off to DFO for review and timing for approvals would be greatly extended.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 86/11

**Moved by Bill Siemon
Seconded by Don Shipway**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the DWSP Joint Management
Committee meeting held on September 12, 2011 and the Source Protection Committee
meeting held on August 31, 2011 and the motions therein be approved as presented.”**

Carried.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Thank you
File: A.5.1
Brief: Card of thanks from Evelyn Vandermeer to the volunteer driver of the South Huron Trailmobile who took her group of ladies along the MacNaughton Morrison Trail recently.
- b) Reference: New Ontario Cabinet
File: A.5.1.
Brief: Notice from Conservation Ontario of the new Ontario Liberal Cabinet who will be sworn into the legislature. Members that will be directly involved with conservation authority projects are Minister of the Environment Jim Bradley, Minister of Natural Resources Michael Gravelle, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Ted McMeekin.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Jim Ginn
Chairman

Judith Parker
Corporate Services Coordinator

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

