

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, October 17, 2013

**Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area**

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Paul Hodgins, Don Shipway, Joe Steffler, Lorie Scott, Ute Stumpf, Mike Tam, Janisse Zimmerman

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Dave Frayne, Burkhard Metzger

OTHERS PRESENT

Mac Christie, Exeter TA

STAFF PRESENT

Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Brian Horner, Kate Monk, Judith Parker, Alec Scott, Julie Stellingwerff,
Mari Veliz

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Mike Tam called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed all those in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 95/13

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the October 17, 2013 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.

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO AUDIO/VIDEO RECORD MEETING

There were no disclosures.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**MOTION #BD 96/13****Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Joe Steffler**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 12, 2013 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 97/13**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Paul Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on October 10, 2013 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES2014 Proposed Budget

Brian Horner provided the revisions as directed by the Board at the October 10th budget committee meeting. Janisse Zimmerman had commented that other municipalities in the affected Bayfield area sub watersheds could contribute to this water sampling project. The revised budget has the project removed and shown as 10% of the costs to the ABCA levy and 90% to benefitting municipalities. This cost-sharing scenario requires a resolution from municipalities with a portion in the study area. The proposed combined general and project levy increase is now 5.64%. As discussed at the last meeting, the average municipal growth is 5.5% as determined in the survey of member municipalities.

MOTION #BD 98/13**Moved by Janisse Zimmerman
Seconded by Paul Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the municipalities of Bluewater, Central Huron, South Huron and Huron East be asked for a resolution agreeing to the cost sharing model for the BSRA/BRA Water Sampling project as a special benefitting levy.”

Carried.

Further discussion was held on decreasing the levy to a 2 or 3% increase. Lorie Scott commented that projects dealing with safety issues have to be supported. Joe Steffler felt that if projects are justified, the Board decision becomes a situation where you have to pay now or pay later.

MOTION #BD 99/13**Moved by Lorie Scott
Seconded by Janisse Zimmerman**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Watershed Hydrology Project and Linfield Wildlife Area Parking Lot project be removed and target the total levy at a 2% increase.

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. a) Development Review

Geoff Cade, Supervisor for Water & Planning presented on behalf of Andrew Bicknell, 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 six *Minor Works Permit*.

1. b) Violation/Appeals Update

No updates.

MOTION #BD 100/13

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

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

Carried.

2. Flood Forecasting and Warning System Software Upgrade

Alec Scott, Water & Planning Manager explained that for 25 years, the ABCA flood forecasting and warning system has been a software product called Basin Runoff Forecast Unit (BRFU). The developer of this software is now nearing retirement age. This software is still workable with modern computer software, but newer software products will increase the ability to retrieve, store and analyse water level and water quantity data. A number of conservation authorities in the province as well as the Ministry of Natural Resources are using Watershed Information System Kisters (WISKI). Support for this product is an international company and there is benefits to sharing specific program applications among a number of CAs and MNR.

MOTION #BD 101/13

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA proceed to upgrade their flood forecasting and warning software to Watershed Information System Kisters (WISKI), and

FURTHER, THAT they pursue the option of partnering with the Eastern CA group of Quinte Region, Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities, and

FURTHER, THAT the costs for upgrading to the WISKI software be included as part of the 2014 ABCA budget.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Kate Monk, Stewardship & Conservation Lands Supervisor gave a presentation on the use of off-road vehicles and ATVs on Ausable Bayfield Conservation properties. Since the 1990's the use of ATVs on ABCA lands has increased as openings became apparent because of logging or drainage through woodlots. The larger land holdings are found in Hay Swamp, Ausable Gorge and Parkhill CA. In 1998 the Ausable River Riders Club was formed to ride on trails in the Ausable Gorge area known as the Sadler Tract. In 2000 the Club requested more land for trails so a portion of the Parkhill Conservation Area on the south side of Parkhill Creek was added to the agreement. The club had about 250 members.

In 2003, the agreement was terminated by the ABCA because the membership was declining and maintenance was not being done. The Club reorganized and in 2004 the agreement was reinstated. The Club got funding through the National Trails Coalition to repair trails. In 2013, there are 111 members in the Ausable River Riders Club. 32% of the members are watershed residents and the remainder are from Lambton County, Sarnia, London, Strathroy and beyond.

In general, staff are finding the major issues are that ATV trail riders drive past signage and gates to create alternate trails when they are blocked off. Off road vehicle trails through ABCA properties will always be a challenge because they will inevitably cross wet areas. Maintenance of these areas means bringing in granular material to buildup the ruts that are created.

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 activities throughout the previous month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 102/13

**Moved by Joe Steffler
Seconded by Lorie Scott**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting held on October 3, 2013, the Human Resources Committee meeting held on September 30, 2013 and the motions therein be approved as presented.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Mike Tam
Vice Chairman

Judith Parker
Corporate Services Coordinator

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

