

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Doug Cook, Adrian Cornelissen, Bob Harvey, George Irvin, Dave Jewitt, Mike Tam, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Alex Westman

STAFF PRESENT

Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Ian Jean, Daniel King, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tracey McPherson Kate Monk, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Ross Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 03/21

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the February 18, 2021 Annual 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

None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**MOTION #BD 04/21****Moved by Mike Tam
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings held on December 17, 2020 and January 27, 2021 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESShoreline Protection Policy, Dynamic Beach Areas Comment Update

Geoff Cade, Manager of Water & Planning, provided the Board of Directors with a brief update regarding the comment period for the proposed changes to the shoreline protection policy for dynamic beach areas. To date, the proposed changes have been posted on the Ausable Bayfield Conservation website and social media channels. In addition, the Municipality of Lambton Shores has also shared the proposed changes on their website. Since posting, two requests have been made to staff to extend the deadline for public comments, as there was some concern that cottagers living outside of the watershed may not be aware of the proposed changes or may be away during this time. However, it was pointed out by several Directors that with social media and virtual tools available, most property owners should have opportunity to be made aware of the proposed changes.

MOTION #BD 05/21**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT the public comment period for the proposed policy for shoreline protection in dynamic beach areas not be extended past the current end date of March 5, 2021.”

Carried.

ELECTIONS

Doug Cook asked for a motion to appoint a Chairperson for the elections.

MOTION #BD 06/21**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT Brian Horner be appointed as chairperson for the election proceedings.”

Carried.

Doug Cook departed the Chair and Brian Horner outlined the procedures prior to conducting the elections.

Appointment of Scrutineers**MOTION #07/21****Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED, THAT Tracey McPherson and Abbie Gutteridge be appointed as scrutineers.”

Carried.

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant.

Election of Chair

Nominations were called for the position of Chair for 2021. Dave Jewitt nominated Doug Cook. Mr. Horner called for nominations two more times.

MOTION #BD 08/21**Moved by Mike Tam
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority be closed.”

Carried.

Doug Cook accepted his nomination and Mr. Horner declared Mr. Cook, representative for the Municipalities of Lambton Shores and Warwick, as Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority for 2021.

Election of Vice Chair

Nominations were called for the position of Vice Chair for 2021. George Irvin nominated Dave Jewitt for Vice Chair. Mr. Horner called for nominations two more times.

MOTION #BD 09/21**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority be closed.”

Carried.

Dave Jewitt accepted his nomination and Mr. Horner declared Mr. Jewitt, representative for the Municipality of Central Huron, as Vice Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority for 2021.

Doug Cook thanked the directors for their support and assumed the Chair.

APPOINTMENTS**MOTION #BD 10/21****Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT Seebach and Company Chartered Accountants, Clinton be appointed as the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority auditors for 2021.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 11/21

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

“RESOLVED, THAT the firms of Little, Masson & Reid, Exeter; Raymond & McLean, Exeter; Trudy Mauth, Woodstock and Grant Inglis of Scott Petrie LLP of London be appointed the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority solicitors for 2021.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 12/21

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Bank of Montreal, Exeter be appointed as the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority financial institution for 2021.”

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review

Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Planning & Regulations Officer, 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 20 *Applications for Permission* and 18 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

There were no violations or appeals updates at this time.

MOTION #BD 13/21

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

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

Carried.

2. Armstrong West Erosion Control Structure Update

Ross Wilson, Water & Soil Resources Coordinator, provided an update on the ongoing assessment to repair the erosion control structure at Armstrong West. Ecosystem Recovery Inc. (ERI) was retained

to complete an investigation of the site, as per the Board of Directors approval in November 2021. The investigation has noted that the structure was generally functioning well despite the settling of the riprap due to various factors such as ice movement, wave and wake actions, saturated soils and vehicle traffic. The investigation found that the structure did not require emergency repair, but submitted six alternative options, that range from doing nothing to the riprap, to raising the riprap, to improving the easement to support vehicle traffic. Staff recommend that the Board continue to engage ERI to investigate costs associated with the various options as well as contact the surrounding affected landowners to identify their preferred option.

MOTION #BD 14/21

**Moved by Marissa Vaughan
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

“RESOLVED, THAT Ecosystem Recovery Inc. be further engaged to identify costs associated with these options, and

“FURTHER, THAT Ecosystem Recovery Inc. be engaged to contact the affected landowners to identify their preferred option.”

Carried.

3. Stewardship Program Project Review

Ian Jean, Forestry & Land Stewardship Specialist presented 12 project applications for fragile land retirement eligible for funding assistance through the Canada Nature Fund to improve aquatic habitat in the Ausable River for freshwater mussels and fish that are species at risk. Several of these projects also received funding from Forests Ontario or the Huron Clean Water Project. In addition, another 4 project applications were received for funding through EcoAction, which seeks to work with watershed residents to create and enhance water storage and water filtration on the landscape, as well as plant native trees and shrubs.

MOTION #BD 15/21

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors approve the projects eligible for stewardship program funding as presented.”

Carried.

4. Unaudited January to December Financial Statement

Brian Horner presented the unaudited statement of profit and loss from January 2020 through December 2020.

MOTION #BD 16/21

**Moved by Marissa Vaughan
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the profit and loss financial statement for 2020 be received as presented.”

Carried.

5. Conservation Authorities Act Changes Update

Brian Horner provided a summary of the actions to date, since the Omnibus Budget Bill 229 was passed in late 2020. Under Schedule 6 of this bill, there were a number of changes proposed to the Conservation Authorities Act, which did not require public consultation. Collectively, the changes remove tools that allow Conservation Authorities to achieve their mandated objectives, including those that were deemed “core” until Bill 108, which was passed in 2019. Brian provided three attachments, which include: a summary of the technical changes approved at Standing Committee prior to passage of the Bill; a list of public supporters who object to many of the changes proposed by Bill 229; and a copy of the email received from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks presenting the new Provincial Working Group and its members, which will work to develop regulations and implement strategies. Brian noted that many of the working group members are representatives from conservation authorities, and that Kate Monk will be participating as a Domain Expert on Stewardship.

MOTION #BD 17/21

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the *Conservation Authorities Act Changes Update* report be received as presented.”

Carried.

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 18/21

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held on November 25, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 19/21

**Moved by Bob Harvey
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Joint Management Committee meeting held on December 21, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 20/21

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting held on December 8, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 21/21

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Striking Committee meeting held on January 21, 2021 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: 2021 Budget
File: F.6
Brief: Correspondence from the Municipality of South Huron noting that they had received the 2021 Approved ABCA Budget and that they approved the 2021 Budget and Municipal Levies at the December 7, 2020 Council Meeting.
- b) Reference: Bill 229, Schedule 6
File: A.7
Brief: Correspondence from the Municipality of Lambton Shores providing support for the ABCA and Conservation Ontario, noting that Schedule 6 of Bill 229 should be repealed.
- c) Reference: National Disaster Mitigation Program
File: F.22.3
Brief: Email correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing informing staff that they have received support from the province for their proposal for Stream Gauge Network Monitoring Equipment, and that it will be forwarded to Public Safety Canada for further review. A federal decision to approve or decline projects should be known by the end of March 2021.
- d) Reference: Resignation
File: P.1
Brief: A letter of resignation was received from Bev Brown advising of her retirement on April 29, 2021 as Financial Services Coordinator at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Treasurer of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, and Treasurer of the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 22/21

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:06 a.m. to discuss a property matter and personnel matter with Brian Horner, Kate Monk, Geoff Cade, Tracey McPherson and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 23/21

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED, THAT Committee of the Whole rise and report at 11:32 a.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 24/21

**Moved by Bob Harvey
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT staff proceed with developing a policy to deal with staff harassment by the public.”

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Doug Cook
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

*Copies of program reports are available upon request.
Contact Judith Parker, Corporate Services Coordinator*