MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, July 17, 2025
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT
Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Joey Groot, Dave Jewitt, David Marsh, Wayne Shipley

DIRECTORS ABSENT
Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins, Marissa Vaughan

STAFF PRESENT
Tina Crown, Millie Ghorbankhani, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Jaden Schoelier, Nathan Schoelier, Mari Veliz, Ellen Westelaken.

OTHERS PRESENT
Rick Sickinger, County of Huron

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Ray Chartrand called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 49/25 **Moved Dave Jewitt**
Seconded by Joey Groot

"RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the July 17, 2025 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.

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO RECORD
None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 50/25 **Moved by Wayne Shipley**
Seconded by David Marsh

"RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on June 19, 2025, and the motions therein be approved as circulated."

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES
None

PRESENTATION – SOUTH HURON TRAILS 2025 PROPULSO DATA
Rick Sickinger, Economic Development Officer for the County of Huron, presented to the Board about the use of data from Propulso, which tracks pings from cell phones. The County is using this data to help determine where people are spending their time, which will be helpful to the tourism industry. The info collected is just surface geolocation information and doesn't collect personal information. One of the places where data was tracked in 2024 was the South Huron Trail. Last year, over 91,000 "pings" were detected from cell phones on the trail. Over 20,000 were unique visitors, and this data does not account for children or users who are not carrying cell phones. These numbers are comparable to the G2G trail, as well as the Bayfield River Valley Trails. This data can also track where the visitors have come from to walk on the trail. This information is helpful to the ABCA, as it can help us determine our busiest times on the trail and can perhaps inform where new entrances could be located to aid in trail use. It may also help staff determine where they should be advertising to attract new visitors.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review
Ellen Westelaken, Water & Planning Technician, presented the Development Review report pursuant to Ontario Regulation Ontario Regulation 41/24 *Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits*. Through the application process, proposed developments within regulated areas are protected from flooding and erosion hazards. Staff granted permission for 6 *Applications for Permission* and 6 *Minor Works Applications.*

(b) Violation/Appeals Update
Ellen noted that there were no violation updates at this time.

MOTION #BD 51/25 **Moved by Dave Jewitt**

Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

"RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors affirm the approval of applications as presented in Program Report # 1 – a) Development Review and receive the verbal Violations and Appeals update as presented."

Carried.

2. Draft ABCA Administration Regulation By-Laws

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, reported that staff updated the ABCA Administrative By-Law for a number of changes. The Administrative By-law is passed under the Conservation Authorities Act and covers general governance, meeting procedures, Code of Conduct and procedures for elections. Through the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act over the past several years, there were some updates needed for ABCA's Administrative By-law to ensure consistency. Some of the key changes include consistency with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporation Act, Minister appointments for Agricultural Representatives, Bill 23, Ontario Regulations 400/22 and 402/22, and updates for ABCA's 2020 amendment to allow electronic meetings during a declared state of emergency. Staff provided Directors with a copy of the proposed updates, and recommended that they be approved and posted on the ABCA website.

Directors were all in favour of the updates, but suggested that an update be made to the Administrative By-law under the electronic meetings, that there be a declaration of who else may be in the room for those joining the meeting from other locations, especially during Committee of the Whole. Directors asked staff to make that change, and then bring the Administrative By-law back to an upcoming meeting for approval.

MOTION #BD 52/25 **Moved by Joey Groot**
Seconded by Wayne Shipley

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors accept the report *Draft ABCA Administration Regulation By-Laws* as presented, and direct staff to make appropriate updates and bring it back to a subsequent Board of Directors meeting for approval.

Carried.

3. 2nd Quarter Profit and Loss Statement

Tina Crown, Financial Services Coordinator, provided the profit and loss statement to June 30, 2025, including a projection for the remaining six months of the year.

MOTION #BD 53/25 **Moved by David Marsh**
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the 2nd Quarter Profit and Loss Statement for information as presented."

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Reference: Order in Council 862/2025 and 863/2025
File: A.12
Brief: Two orders in council from the Province of Ontario. 862/2025 appoints Hassaan Basit as Deputy Minister and Chief Conservation Executive, Cabinet Office for up to three years. The second Order in Council 863/2025, appoints the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks as the reporting Ministry for conservation authorities.

b) Reference: Grain Farmers of Ontario Letter of Support
File: W.11.16
Brief: A letter addressed to Mari Veliz, supporting the work at the Huronview Demonstration site, and commending the leadership of the Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the ABCA in advancing the work at this site.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chair Chartrand informed Directors of a CTV news clip he had recently seen regarding the *Southern Lake Huron Coastal Adaptation Strategy* lead by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. He noticed that ABCA was not at the meeting and wondered if there would be a role for the ABCA. Staff noted that they have been invited to participate where relevant in future meetings.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 54/25 **Moved by Dave Jewitt**
Seconded by Wayne Shipley

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:24 a.m. to discuss a property matter, with Nathan Schoelier, Davin Heinbuck and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance."

Carried.

MOTION #BD 55/25 **Moved by David Marsh**
Seconded by Joey Groot

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors rise and report at 11:49 a.m."

Carried.

MOTION #BD 56/25 **Moved by Adrian Cornelissen**
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve staff to proceed as directed regarding the property matter."

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned by Wayne Shipley at 11:50 a.m.

_____	_____
Ray Chartrand	Abigail Gutteridge
Chair	Secretary

Copies of program reports are available upon request.
Contact Abigail Gutteridge, Corporate Services Coordinator