

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Doug Cook, Adrian Cornelissen, Bob Harvey, Dave Jewitt, Mike Tam, Marissa Vaughan, Alex Westman

DIRECTORS ABSENT

George Irvin

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Tim Cumming, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Ian Jean, Daniel King, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Sharon Pavkeje, Nathan Schoelier, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Mari Veliz

OTHERS PRESENT

Adam Skillen, *Skillen Investment Management*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Doug Cook called the virtual meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 72/21

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the June 17, 2021 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

Chair Cook noted that this meeting was being recorded on Zoom for temporary posting online, and is not an official record. The official record of this meeting will be the approved minutes.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**MOTION #BD 73/21****Moved by Bob Harvey
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on May 20, 2021 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PRESENTATION

Adam Skillen, Skillen Investment Management, presented an update on the investment portfolio, which has continued to perform well over the past year, despite a downturn in Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that our targets for 65% bonds and 35% equity have drifted due to Canadian equity performing well. Adam recommended rebalancing the portfolio to the targets.

MOTION #BD 74/21**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Alex Westman**

“RESOLVED, THAT Skillen Investment Management rebalance the investment portfolio to the targets of 65% bonds and 35% equity.”

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS1. (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 15 *Applications for Permission* and 11 *Minor Works Applications*.

MOTION #BD 75/21**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

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

Carried.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, advised that staff are still working on a number of violations, including some that are before the courts. He noted that one file would be resolved shortly, with a guilty plea from the landowner and a permit approved.

MOTION #BD 76/21

**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on Violations and Appeals be received as presented.”

Carried.

2. Stewardship Funding Project Review

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship Technician, presented a report on stewardship funding to the Board of Directors. He noted that one erosion control project and three wetland projects had been approved for funding through the Canada Nature Fund, and one wetland project had been approved for funding through the EcoAction program.

MOTION #BD 77/21

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT the reports on Stewardship project funding be received as presented.”

Carried.

3. Conservation Authorities Act Phase 1 Consultation Guide

Brian Horner, General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer, presented the Phase 1 Consultation Guide for implementing changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, which has been posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for comment. This Guide notes three sections that will need to be addressed: programs and services delivered by conservation authorities, governance and oversight of conservation authorities, and other regulatory matters. The first section includes natural hazards, management of conservation authority lands, Source Water Protection, core watershed-based resource management strategy, and provincial monitoring programs, programs and services requested by municipalities, and programs that the conservation authority deems advisable. Also included in this section are two sections that do not apply to the ABCA. The second section on governance and oversight notes the a regulation to require “community advisory boards” to provide advice and recommendations to the authority, help coordinate initiatives and identify opportunities for community engagement, among other duties. The third section about regulatory matters notes Section 29 Minister’s Regulation, in which the Minister plans to consolidate the current individual authority Section 29 “Conservation Areas” regulations regarding activities on lands owned by conservation authorities into one regulation. The Guide also gives a summary of required actions that are to be completed by all conservation authorities.

While there are some positive outcomes listed in the Guide, there have also been several issues and concerns that have been brought forward, including the capacity of staff to complete all of the required actions, the cost to completed the actions, as well as the ongoing costs. There is also

concern about the duplication of efforts with the creation of a community advisory board, listing recreation services as non-mandatory, as well as the delivery of education programs in the community. It is recommended that staff prepare a submission to the ERO on behalf on the Board to address the concerns raised.

MOTION #BD 78/21

**Moved by Bob Harvey
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT staff prepare a submission to the ERO regarding the Conservation Authorities Act Phase 1 Consultation Guide”

Carried.

4. ABCA 75th Anniversary Update

Abigail Gutteridge, Corporate Services Coordinator provided the Board with a brief update on staff efforts for the ABCA’s 75th Anniversary, on July 30, 2021. Due to the pandemic, most efforts have been virtual, and will include project and partnership highlights for each member municipality. In addition, staff are planning a virtual watershed tour that residents can take on their own, as well as an online Story Map telling the history of the ABCA. There is still uncertainty about whether or not an in-person event can be held, and will depend on Provincial health regulations at that time.

5. Years of Service Awards

Brian Horner reported to the Board that, as the Partnership Appreciation Evening in March was cancelled this year, there were still a number of Years of Service Awards to be presented to both staff and Board Members. Managers and Chair Cook took turns acknowledging staff members and Board members for their continued excellent work.

Staff Members Receiving Awards

- Five Years of Service: Elizabeth Balfour, Mary Lynn MacDonald
- Ten Years of Service: Donna Clarkson
- Fifteen Years of Service: Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Tim Cumming, Ian Jean, Kari Jean
- Twenty Years of Service: Mari Veliz
- Thirty Years of Service: Kate Monk

Board Members Receiving Awards

- Six Years of Service: Raymond Chartrand, Doug Cook

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

None

CORRESPONDANCE

Reference: Decision to Disband Clinton Lions Club

File: L.9.35

Brief: The Clinton Lions Club has decided to disband after 85 years due to low membership and a lack of fundraising. The Lions Club provided maintenance services to the Clinton Conservation Area, and will honour that commitment until the end of September 2021. Kate Monk noted that she will send a letter of thanks to the Lions Club and explore options for maintenance at the Clinton Conservation Area going forward.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ray Chartrand informed the Board and staff that Brad Knight, CAO of the Municipality of Huron East will be retiring at the end of June, and new CAO, Brad McRoberts will commence work in July. Ray thanked Brad for the excellent work he has done over the years in Huron East.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 79/21

Moved by Dave Jewitt

Seconded by Alex Westman

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:07 a.m. to discuss as personnel matter with Brian Horner, Abbie Gutteridge, and Tracey MacPherson remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 80/21

Moved by Alex Westman

Seconded by Ray Chartrand

“RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 11:12 a.m.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.



 Doug Cook
 Chair



 Abigail Gutteridge
 Corporate Services Coordinator

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