MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, June 19, 2025
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT
Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Joey Groot, Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins, Dave Jewitt, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT
David Marsh

STAFF PRESENT
Andrew Bicknell, Geoff Cade, Tina Crown, Millie Ghorbankhani, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Jaden Schoelier, Nathan Schoelier, Angela Van Niekerk, Ellen Westelaken

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Ray Chartrand called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 41/25 **Moved Wayne Shipley**
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

"RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the June 19, 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 42/25 **Moved by Steve Herold**
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

"RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on May 15, 2025, and the motions therein be approved as amended."

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

OMERS Updated Resolution

Davin Heinbuck reported that, while the Board of Directors passed a motion at the May 15, 2025 meeting to join OMERS, an updated resolution was provided by OMERS, which needs to be approved to authorize ABCA's participation in the OMERS Primary Pension Plan and the Retirement Compensation Arrangement for the Primary Plan. The proposed effective date is September 7, 2025, which will allow staff to take it into consideration in the 2026 budget preparation process, and give staff time to make the decision on whether to join OMERS or remain with the current RRSP.

MOTION #BD 43/25 **Moved by Marissa Vaughan**
Seconded by Wayne Shipley

A Resolution to authorize participation in the OMERS Primary Pension Plan ("Primary Plan") and the Retirement Compensation Arrangement for the OMERS Primary Pension Plan ("RCA"), each as amended from time to time, of the employees of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority ("Employer") identified herein.

WHEREAS the Employer is eligible to participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA in accordance with subsection 5(1) of the *Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act, 2006*, as amended from time to time ("OMERS Act, 2006"), in respect of its eligible employees and wishes to do so in accordance with the applicable Primary Plan and RCA documents and applicable legislation;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to subsection 6(1) of the Primary Plan, an employer who is eligible under the OMERS Act, 2006 to participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA may, by by-law or resolution, participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA and pay to the funds for the Primary Plan and the RCA the total of the employer and member contributions required by the Primary Plan, and has all of the powers necessary and incidental thereto;

AND WHEREAS the Employer wishes to participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA in respect of its eligible employees in accordance with the terms of the Primary Plan, RCA, and applicable legislation, each as amended from time to time;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, effective September 7, 2025 ("Effective Date"), or as otherwise indicated, the Board enacts as follows:

1. **The Employer shall participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA in accordance with the terms of the Primary Plan, RCA, and the applicable legislation, each as amended from time to time.**

2. **As of the Effective Date, the Employer shall participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA in respect of each person who is employed by the Employer and who is eligible to be a member of the Primary Plan and the RCA under subsection 5(3) of the OMERS Act, 2006 ("Employee"), in accordance with the terms of the Primary Plan, RCA, and applicable legislation, each as amended from time to time.**

3. **An Employee who is employed on a continuous full-time basis, as defined in subsection 9(1) of the Primary Plan, as amended from time to time ("CFT Employee"), and who commenced employment with the Employer as a CFT Employee before the Effective Date is entitled to become a member of the Primary Plan and the RCA on the first day of the month following the month in which the CFT Employee's application is received by the OMERS Administration Corporation ("AC"), provided that the AC may, at the request of the Employer, fix an earlier date on which the CFT Employee becomes a member but not before the date on which the CFT Employee became entitled to be a member or the first day of January in the year in which the application is received by the AC, whichever is the later date.**

4. **Every person who becomes a CFT Employee on or after the Effective Date shall, as a condition of employment, become a member of the Primary Plan and the RCA, or if such person is already a member, resume contributions to the Primary Plan and the RCA on the date so employed.**

5. **An Employee who is employed on other than a continuous full-time basis ("OTCFT Employee") and meets the eligibility criteria in subsection 9(6) of the Primary Plan, as amended from time to time, is entitled to become a member of the Primary Plan and the RCA in accordance with the terms of the Primary Plan, as amended from time to time.**

6. **Any person who holds a senior management position with the Employer, as the Employer may designate from time to time ("Senior Management Official"), is hereby authorized on behalf of the Employer to take all such action and execute all such documents, certificates and agreements, as they may consider necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Resolution and to fulfill the Employer's duties and obligations with respect to the Primary Plan and the RCA. The Employer further authorizes the Financial Services Supervisor and/or the Financial Services Coordinator to submit forthwith a certified copy of this Resolution to the AC.**

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review

Andrew Bicknell, Senior Regulations Coordinator, introduced two new staff to the ABCA Planning and Regulations Department, Jaden Schoelier and Millie Ghorbankhani. He also 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 5 *Applications for Permission* and 8 *Minor Works Applications.*

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, updated the Board of Directors regarding a new violation in Lambton Shores along the Ausable River downstream of Highway 21. ABCA staff were notified by Lambton shores staff of a landowner who had built a two story bunkie to rent as an Airbnb, but who also dredged a section of the river, built a bridge to ABCA property, and appears to have built docks on ABCA property. Staff understand that Lambton Shores will be ordering the removal of the bunkie structure; however, ABCA and municipal staff are meeting to determine the best way to handle these violations.

MOTION #BD 44/25 **Moved by Wayne Shipley**
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

"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. Conservation Area Playgrounds

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, reported that ABCA's insurer, Marsh Canada Limited, recommended that the playgrounds at Rock Glen Conservation Area (2 playgrounds) and Clinton Conservation Area be inspected annually by a certified playground inspector. In spring 2025, Spencer Lewis of Playchek Services Incorporated inspected the three playground structures owned by ABCA. The playground equipment at Rock Glen Conservation Area is in good shape, and the inspector noted some minor maintenance tasks to ensure compliance with the standards. However, the inspector identified several deficiencies with the playground structure at Clinton Conservation Area, including deteriorating condition of material, and insufficient specifications for clearances, such as within the swing set. Complete removal of the structure was recommended.

ABCA staff will be onsite to replace privy washrooms at Clinton Conservation Area later this summer and will remove the playground structure and swing set at that time. Staff will consider options for the replacement of these structures, and for the interim will investigate cost-friendly, passive

outdoor activities. The replacement of the playground may provide and opportunities for ABCA to partner with community groups and local organizations to enhance the space for the community. Directors provided Nathan with contacts at Central Huron, who may be able to help with the provision of community support for the replacement of the equipment.

MOTION #BD 45/25 **Moved by Joey Groot**
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the removal of the playground structure and swing set at Clinton Conservation Area in 2025, and

"FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors identifies the replacement of the Clinton Conservation Area playground space as a priority for the Clinton Conservation Area and approves staff to seek funding opportunities and partners to collaborate with to enhance the playground area."

Carried.

3. Stewardship Funding Update

Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands Specialist, provided the Board of Directors with an update on stewardship projects funded through the Canada Nature Fund. This funding is specifically for the Ausable River Watershed to improve freshwater habitat for species-at-risk. Funding totaled $330,000 for the 2024-2025 project year. In total, 98 projects were approved, including 11 wetlands, 24 fragile land retirement projects (tree planting), 3 sediment and nutrient reduction activities, and 60 cover crop projects. A full listing of these projects can be found in the accompanying report from staff.

MOTION #BD 46/25 **Moved by Wayne Shipley**
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the report Stewardship funding update for information as presented."

Carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, provided a report with a brief update on the progress of various projects, staff training, upcoming meetings and events, and general activities of ABCA staff.

MOTION #BD 47/25 **Moved by Joey Groot**
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the General Manager's Report for information as presented."

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION # BD 48/25 **Moved by Dave Jewitt**
Seconded by Steve Herold

"RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee held on May 5, 2025, and the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting held on May 29, 2025 and the motions therein be approved as circulated."

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Reference: Sustainable Huron Action Plan
File: A.5.1
Brief: The County of Huron worked with a number of stakeholders, including Nathan Schoelier from ABCA, to look at sustainable actions surrounding climate change, the economy, energy and housing. ABCA is listed as a partner or lead for several of the action items listed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Davin Heinbuck, reminded Board members that a tour is being planned for local MPPs that is focusing on Drainage Innovations. There are as many as seven MPPs who are interested in attending, and while a date is still to be determined, it is hoped that it will occur prior to Labour Day.

2. Adrian Cornelissen reported that ABCA will be receiving a letter of support from the Municipality of North Middlesex, regarding the possible acquisition of Scouts properties that might become available for purchase.

3. Joey Groot noted that ABCA might want to look into the carbon footprint of the Administration Centre and determine if there are any areas for improvement, such as changing the lighting. He commented that there are some grants currently available to help with energy saving initiatives. Davin thanked Joey for the suggestion and noted that when the renovations occurred in the workshop this spring, the lighting was upgraded to more energy efficient options.

4. Chair Chartrand reminded the Board that the next Conservation Ontario Council meeting is on Monday June 23, 2025 and that he and Adrian would attend via Zoom.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
None.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

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Ray Chartrand	Abigail Gutteridge
Chair	Secretary

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