

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Jim Ginn, Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins, Greg Lamport, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tracey McPherson, Nathan Schoelier, Angela Van Niekerk, Mari Veliz, Ross Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul Seebach, *Seebach & Company*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 20/23

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the March 16, 2023 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 21/23**

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Jim Ginn**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on February 16, 2023 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PRESENTATION

Paul Seebach, of Seebach and Company, presented the 2022 audited financial statement for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. There were no audit issues found or unusual transactions. The statements of financial position and operations were reviewed. The Board asked about the reserve funds to better understand where they can be used, and Brian Horner provided an explanation.

MOTION #BD 22/23

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the 2022 audited financial statement be approved as presented.”

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS1. (a) Development Review

Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator, 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 10 *Applications for Permission* and 10 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, advised that staff are continuing to work on a number of violations, and are hopeful that some resolutions will be forthcoming soon.

MOTION #BD 23/23

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Jim Ginn**

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

Carried.

2. Conservation Authorities Act Update

Brian Horner, General Manager, provided an update on the progress for the Conservation Authorities (CA) Act changes. A quarterly progress report will be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) by April 1, 2023. Conservation Authority staff are in the process of meeting with municipal councils to present the Draft Cost Apportioning Agreement for Category 3 programs and services, with the intent of signing agreements in Summer 2023. Finally, the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was circulated to municipal staff for input in Summer 2022 needs to be revised to reflect the changes to the Act through Bill 23, which prohibits the Conservation Authorities from providing natural heritage comments to municipalities.

MOTION #BD 24/23

Moved by Dave Marsh

Seconded by Steve Herold

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

Carried.

3. Stewardship Projects Update

Angela Van Niekerk presented an update on funding and stewardship efforts since the last report. One wetland restoration, two erosion control projects and one cattle fence project received funding through Canada Nature Fund for Ausable watershed projects. One wetland restoration received funding through Canada Nature Fund for Bayfield watershed projects. Angela noted that there were projects completed at 137 sites throughout the watershed for the funding year.

MOTION #BD 25/23

Moved by Ray Chartrand

Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

“RESOLVED, THAT the Stewardship Project update report be received as presented.”

Carried.

4. Parkhill Conservation Area Recreational Trails

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, noted that there is some community interest in developing the recreational trails at the Parkhill Conservation Area. These are environmentally significant lands that provide habitat for species-at-risk plants, trees and wildlife. Trails were developed at this conservation area in the 1970s and 1980s. Eventually they were used for ATV and off-road motorcycles for the Ausable River Riders Club, but with the extensive damage caused by unauthorized vehicle use, the agreement with the club was

terminated. These trails were then abandoned, as there was extensive repair needed and very little community interest to help with trail maintenance. Unauthorized access remains a challenge.

In February 2022, Nathan made a presentation to the Municipality of North Middlesex's Recreation Committee in advance of their development of a Recreational Development Master Plan. At that time he provided background on the Parkhill Conservation Area and the potential for revitalizing the trail system. Since then, community interest in the project has been growing and a local group are interested in collaborating with the appropriate parties to support this project. Staff recommend continuing to collaborate with interested parties to revitalize the Parkhill Conservation Area recreational trails.

MOTION #BD 26/23**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen****Seconded by Jim Ginn**

“RESOLVED, THAT report on the Parkhill Conservation Areas recreational trails be received as presented, and that the ABCA collaborates with the interested parties to revitalize the Parkhill Conservation Area recreational trails.”

Carried.

5. Utility Vehicle Tender Results

Nathan Schoelier reported that the 2023 ABCA budget included funds for the capital purchase of a utility vehicle to replace the 2011 John Deere Gator at Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA). This purchase is funded through the motor vehicle pool, which operates on a cost-recovery by equipment use basis to support the maintenance and replacement of vehicles and equipment. Requests for quotations were sent on February 8, to watershed equipment dealers with a closing date of March 1. Nathan Schoelier, Jeff Van Niekerk and Reese Thompson met on March 1 to open and review the tenders. Staff selected the quote submitted by Hyde Brothers Farm Equipment Limited, in Hensall, for one Kubota RTV520, which meets specifications listed by staff. This tender also came in at the lowest cost of \$15,309.73, plus applicable taxes and fees.

MOTION #BD 27/23**Moved by Wayne Shipley****Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Utility Vehicle Tender Results be received as presented, and that the Board of Directors affirm the purchase of the winning tender of a Kubota RTV520 from Hyde Brothers Farm Equipment Ltd for \$15, 309.73, plus taxes and fees.”

Carried.

6. WECI Application – Walker Drain Slope Stabilization

In the 1970s, an erosion control structure was constructed at Walker Drain in Grand Bend to stabilize the creek and reinforce the culvert. This structure is inspected yearly, and some work was completed on the gabion baskets in 2020. The 2021 inspection by the consulting firm, Ecosystem

Recover Inc., noted a need for tree removal in one of the more inaccessible stretches of the site. These trees have self-established over the years; however they can cause problems if they collapse into the drain, and their removal will ensure a more suitable groundcover can be installed to further stabilize the bank. Staff propose an application to the province's WECl (Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure) program to potentially meet 50 percent of the estimated costs.

MOTION #BD 28/23**Moved by Jim Ginn****Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

"RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA Board of Directors approve this work as a project of the ABCA and that WECl funding be applied for this project in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, and

"FURTHER, THAT the money is taken from reserves to complete the project in 2023 and that money is returned to reserves through the 2024 budget."

Carried.

7. ABCA Standing Committees and Meeting Schedules for 2022-2023

The meeting schedule for the ABCA Board of Directors and Standing Committees are typically set by the Striking Committee at the beginning of each year. The Striking Committee is composed of the Chair, Vice Chair and Past Chair of the Board of Directors. Due to the outcome of municipal elections, a Past Chair is not available at this time. Thus, the Standing Committees and meeting dates are being presented to the Board as a whole for approval. The Striking Committee typically considered jurisdictional locations where possible when appointing members and all Board members sit on at least one committee.

MOTION #BD 29/23**Moved by Dave Marsh****Seconded by Greg Lamport**

"RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors approve the appointments to Standing Committees and meeting dates as revised."

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, presented information to the Board on why conservation authorities work in watersheds. It gave a brief overview of the work that conservation authorities do and the purpose behind their efforts.

MOTION #BD 30/23**Moved by Jim Ginn****Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the presentation be received as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

CORRESPONDANCE

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Brian Horner reminded Directors that staff are available and willing to present on a variety of topics to the Board of Directors, and that if there are any topics for which they would like to receive more information, we can arrange a presentation.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 30/23

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 4:10 p.m. to discuss a property matter with Nathan Schoelier, Brian Horner and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 31/23

**Moved by Jim Ginn
Seconded by Greg Lamport**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 4:14 p.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 32/23

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the information on the property matter be received as presented.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

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