

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jim Ginn

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Tracey McPherson, Nathan Schoelier, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Mari Veliz

OTHERS PRESENT

Tonya Wilson, *Ward & Uptigrove*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 45/23

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the May 18, 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 46/23****Moved by Dave Marsh
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on April 13, 2023 be adopted as amended.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PROGRAM REPORTS**1. (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 12 *Applications for Permission* and 6 *Minor Works Applications*. Jaden Hodgins asked what the timeline was for turning around permit applications. Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, noted that Conservation Ontario’s timeline for this is approximately 4-6 weeks, and that that ABCA is typically well within those timelines. In 2022, only 3 permits fell outside the recommended turnaround time.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade did not have a specific update on current violations, but noted that staff participated in their annual shoreline flight to monitor erosion specifically along the lakeshore. He reported that there were many shoreline issues noted.

MOTION #BD 47/23**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Greg Lamport**

“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 – Progress Report

Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator, reported that agreements with Municipalities for Category 2 and 3 programs and services need to be in place by January 1, 2024. Staff continue to meet with Municipal Councils and work toward getting these agreements into place this summer, as they will need to be included in the Watershed Management Strategy. In addition, the five-year financial

forecast for 2024-2028 will be completed by July. The budget approval process will remain the same except that notice must be given of when the ABCA Board meets to discuss the draft budget. It will be presented to the Board in October and is typically approved in December. Other deliverables for the Conservation Authorities Act Update are moving along well, including the Conservation Lands Strategy and Watershed Management Strategy. In 2024, the Asset Management Plan, Operational Plan and Conservation Lands Inventory will need to be completed.

MOTION #BD 48/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Steve Herold**

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

Carried.

3. Vehicle Tender Results

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, presented a report on the tender results for a new truck for field staff to replace the 2010 Ford F-150, which needs to be purchased through the motor pool. This process began in February 2022; however, production on the truck named in the winning bid ended prior to the ABCA truck being built. The tender process was held again in August and a new truck ordered. However, this truck was also discontinued. Huron Motor Products (HMP) in Exeter, who had won the bid, was able to provide another truck that met ABCA’s specifications, and ABCA was under no commitment to purchase the vehicle. The vehicle is a 2024 GMC Sierra 2500 at a cost of \$61,535.00, plus taxes and fees. This puts the vehicle at \$6,704.64 more than the amount approved by the Board of Directors in September 2022. However, a savings of \$4,420.82 was realized from the budgeted amount to purchase at UTV in March 2023. In addition, there are no vehicle purchases forecasted until 2025, which will give the motor pool time to recover it’s costs for this truck purchase. As a truck was needed for the current field season, staff proceeded with purchase of the 2024 GMC Sierra 2500.

MOTION #BD 49/23

**Moved by Greg Lamport
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Vehicle Tender Results be received as presented”

Carried.

4. Arkona Lions Car Show at Rock Glen Conservation Area

Nathan Schoelier presented a report on the “Bruce Redman Antique Car Show and Community Day,” which is held annually by the Arkona Lions Club at Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA). In 2018, the ABCA Board of Directors approved that the gate fee at RGCA be waived to car show participants, with the understanding that the Lions will provide a donation to the ABCA. The Lions feel it is important to have the event available to the community at no cost to attendees, and request that the gate fee be waived to car show spectators, as well as show entrants. This will result in some revenue loss for RGCA; however, the contributions of the Lions Club at the Museum,

attracts a significant number of paying attendees to the conservation area throughout the operating season.

MOTION #BD 50/23

**Moved by Dave Marsh
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Arkona Car Show at Rock Glen Conservation Area be received as presented, and

“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors waive the admission fee for Rock Glen Conservation Area during the September 16, 2023 annual “Bruce Redman Antique Car Show and Community Day” as hosted by the Arkona Lions Club, with the understanding that the Arkona Lions Club will provide a donation to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.”

Carried.

5. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation Overview

Abbie Gutteridge, Corporate Services Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation (ABCF) for new Board members. She noted that the ABCF was established in 1974 and it’s four main objectives are to raise funds, fostering partnerships, providing funds and acquiring conservation lands. Some of the main functions of the ABCF include the Commemorative Woods program, which allows trees to be planted/sponsored in memory of loved ones or special events. The annual Conservation Dinner, held in partnership with the Exeter Lions Club is one of the main fundraisers. Funds raised are used throughout the watershed for various projects, and also support youth opportunities through conservation education programming, the hiring of a student for the summer, and a \$1000 grant for a university student.

MOTION #BD 51/23

**Moved by Greg Lamport
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation be received as presented.”

Carried.

6. Beach *E. coli* Report

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, presented a report on the Beach *E. coli* monitoring efforts along Lake Huron that have been ongoing since 2006. She noted that *E. coli* is a good indicator for recreational water quality. Huron Perth Public Health has also monitored at public beaches for many years, but only report up to 1000 colony forming unites (cfu). In general, there have been no real increasing or decreasing trends at the sites monitored by ABCA. However, it is noted that there is a relationship between water quality in the ravines flowing into Lake Huron and the water quality at the lake at the outlet. Typically, ravines show higher concentrations than the lake. There continues to be a need for improvement, and staff will continue to work with all landowners along the lake and upstream in agricultural areas.

MOTION #BD 52/23

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Beach E. coli Report be received as presented.”

Carried.

7. Section 28, Conservation Authorities Act – Hearings

Geoff Cade presented a report on the reason and process for hearings under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. All conservation authorities have permitting roles under the Act, which is administered through the ABCA specific regulation – Ontario Regulation 147/06. Staff are permitted to issue permits that meet the approved policies of the authority. On occasion, an application will not meet an accepted policy. Staff will work with landowners to bring the proposal into conformity, but this is not always possible; however, staff cannot deny any application. Applicants may choose to bring the application to the Board of Directors to a Hearing, where the application can be approved or denied. A Hearing is a quasi-judicial proceeding, and the Directors become Hearing officials and act as judges. During the hearing both the applicant and staff are given opportunity to present their evidence with respect to the application. Once evidence has been provided then the Board is given opportunity to deliberate in camera, and may choose to make a decision to approve or deny the application, or defer a decision until a later date. A formal notice of the decision will be provided to the applicant, and they can choose to appeal a decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

MOTION #BD 53/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on Section 28, Conservation Authorities Act – Hearings be received as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**MOTION #BD 54/23**

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting held on May 8, 2023 be approved as circulate.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDANCE

- a) Reference: Thank you letter from Bluewater Shoreline Residents Association
File: A.5

Brief: An email from Sue Haskett and Graham Hill of the Bluewater Shoreline Residents Association, thanking the ABCA for their support of their Cottage Owner's FAQ Workshop on May 6, and to Mari Veliz and Geoff Cade for presenting at the workshop.

b) Reference: Donation from the Oakridge Acres Optimist Club

File: A.9.1

Brief: A letter from the Oakridge Acres Optimist Club noting their donation on behalf of Elizabeth Cade to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation and the education program at ABCA.

c) Reference: Letter of Resignation

File: P.1

Brief: A letter of resignation from Tommy Kokas, Water Resources Engineer, who has accepted a position at Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Tommy's last day will be May 25, 2023.

d) Reference: Board of Directors Exemption Approval

File: A.10

Brief: A letter from The Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, to Mayor Ginn and Rachel Anstett, Municipality of Central Huron, noting the exception to allow the Municipality of Central Huron to appoint a citizen member during the 2023 recruitment process.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jaden Hodgins noted that a delegation presented to Lucan-Biddulph Council regarding reductions in roadside mowing in the effort to improve habitat and slow runoff. He will circulate the presentation to other Board Members out of interest.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 55/23

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

"RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:35 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter with Tina Crown, Brian Horner and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance."

Carried.

MOTION #BD 56/23

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

"RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 12:14 p.m."

Carried.

MOTION #BD 57/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Greg Lamport**

“RESOLVED, THAT the information on the personnel matter be received as presented, and

“FURTHER, THAT the Board of Directors provided direction to staff to implement the revised pay grid as provided by Ward and Uptigrove, effective July 1, 2023.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

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