

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

George Irvin, Marissa Vaughan

STAFF PRESENT

Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Denise Iszczuk, Daniel King, Tommy Kokas, Kate Monk, Judith Parker, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Angela Van Niekerk, Mari Veliz, Ross Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 74/19

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the October 17, 2019 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 #BD75/19**

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 19, 2019, the Budget Committee meeting held on October 10, 2019 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESRevisions to Proposed 2020 Budget

General Manager Brian Horner advised that the Parkhill Climate Change Station project factsheet had been omitted from the budget presentation on October 10, 2019. Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator gave an overview of that project, and explained the levy had been included in the overall budget figures. Mr. Horner also advised that the levy amount for the Morrison Dam WECI Concrete Repairs project was removed, as it had been levied in 2019 for completion in 2020. With that revision, the proposed 2020 combined general levy (\$1,068,047) and project levy (\$275,897) equal a 1.5% increase over 2019.

MOTION #BD 76/19

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the member municipalities be advised of the 2020 proposed project levy, general levy and budget and provided with the supplementary information for the 30 day review, as the weighted vote by apportionment is intended to be held at the December 19, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.”

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 10 *Applications for Permission* and 10 *Minor Works Applications*.

2. (b) Violations/Appeals Update

Staff reported that a court date is set in December for the violation charges in the Municipality of Lambton Shores. In regards to the cottage constructed in the Municipality of Central Huron without any permits, staff are seeking legal advice and working with municipal staff as this has become a judicial matter.

MOTION #BD 77/19

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

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

Carried.

3. Safety Log Boom Tender Opening

Ross Wilson, Water & Soils Resource Coordinator provided the results of the request for tenders to supply log booms to replace the aging booms at Morrison and Parkhill Dams. This project was approved in the 2019 budget and the application for WECI funding was approved. There were five tenders received and reviewed.

MOTION #BD 78/19

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors award the project to Hydrotika Waterkeepers at a contract price of \$45,478 plus HST.”

Carried.

4. Appointment of Solicitor

Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager advised solicitor Mr. Timothy Price, was recently appointed as a judge and can no longer provide ABCA with legal advice on matters related to responsibilities under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Mr. Price was formerly with Little, Inglis, Price & Ewer LLP and the firm is recommending Trudy Mauth, Barrister & Solicitor.

MOTION #BD 79/19

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Alex Westman**

“RESOLVED, THAT the firm of Trudy Mauth, Barrister & Solicitor of Woodstock be appointed as Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority solicitor for 2019.”

Carried.

5. Watershed Champion Grant

Denise Iszczuk, Conservation Educator gave an update on the 2019 Watershed Champion Grant program. With funding from NextEra Energy, the ABCA invites schools to apply for a grant to undertake a project in the categories of Taking Action or Creating Awareness. There were six applications received and the following four were approved. Stephen Central School: *Microplastics in the Great Lakes*; Wilberforce Public School: *Reading Garden*; East Williams School: *Butterfly Garden*; Precious Blood School: Kinder Garden: *Butterflies and Birds*. The project videos can be found on YouTube.

6. Profit & Loss Statement

Brian Horner presented the profit and loss statement for the third quarter – January 1 to September 30, 2019.

MOTION #BD 80/19

**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT the third quarter financial statement report be received as presented.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands Specialist made a presentation on the past accomplishments in restoring and protecting species at risk in the Ausable River and future initiatives possible because of receiving a grant for 2020-2023 from the Canada Nature Fund.

The Old Ausable Channel (OAC) resulted from trenching an outlet for the Ausable River at Port Franks and a cut at Grand Bend for a harbor in the late 1800s. These actions left a spring-fed channel with no flow running parallel to Lake Huron between Grand Bend and Port Franks. Over the years, ABCA staff have been monitoring water levels, phragmites, aquatic vegetation, and the threatened species at risk fish like the lake chubsucker, pugnose shiner, and grass pickerel which is of special concern. Data collected shows species at risk continue to decline. Monitoring will continue in the OAC of habitat and fish surveys at six index stations; outreach and education; enhancing restoration and stabilization of the bank; and species at risk fish management plan.

The Ausable River Recovery Strategy (2002) has guided monitoring, conservation actions and education. The river 85 species of fish and also 26 freshwater mussels which are the most endangered creatures in the world. A mussel can live for decades while filtering 40 L of water a day, converting nutrients and oxygenating the water. The lifecycle of a mussel is very unique and vulnerable to things going wrong.

In May 2018, the federal government released a finalized *Action Plan for the Ausable River: An ecosystem approach*. This updated strategy supports local protection policies, planting trees, wetland creation, stewardship for agriculture and urban best management practices. Moving forward, ABCA staff will continue to monitor, provide education and outreach, and enhance with wetlands, trees, cover crops, sediment and nutrient reduction activities. In 2020, the goal is to create 4 wetlands, host 3 community and school education events and conduct wetland watershed walks in the Nairn Creek subwatershed.

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**MOTION #BD 81/19**

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Clinton Conservation Area Management Committee meeting held October 1, 2019 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Bill 108
File: A.7.1
Brief: Copy of letter from the County of Perth to Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks in agreement with proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* through Bill 108.
- b) Reference: CA Consultations
File: A.7.1
Brief: Correspondence from Hon. Jeff Yurek, to Chair George Irvin advising there will be upcoming consultations with conservation authorities, municipalities and stakeholders regarding changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- c) Reference: CA Consultations
File: A.7.1
Brief: Invitation from Hon. Jeff Yurek to meet with staff and ministry officials to discuss programs and services provided by the ABCA. The meeting has been scheduled for October 24, 2019 at 2 p.m. in Toronto. A report will be brought to the directors at the next meeting.
- d) Reference: Association of Municipalities Ontario
File: A.7.1
Brief: Copy of correspondence from AMO President, Jamie McGarvey to Hon. Jeff Yurek regarding implementation strategies of Schedule 2, *Conservation Authorities Act*, Bill 108.
- e) Reference: Thank You
File: A.5.1
Brief: Thank you from the student council at South Huron District High School for the use of the South Huron Trail for their ‘Colour Run’ fundraiser.
- f) Reference: Thank You
File: A.5.1
Brief: Thank you from Strathroy Float Plane Flying Group for use of the Parkhill Dam Reservoir.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Brian Horner presented a follow up on the status of the back-up generator project scheduled for 2019, but being considered to defer until 2020 due to the current year shortfall from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. He provided a financial analysis and recommendation for competing the project this year.

MOTION #BD 82/19**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Alex Westman**

“RESOLVED, THAT investment income earned be used for the generator project, to offset the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry funding reduction in 2019, and

FURTHER, THAT the tender submitted by Bilcke Electric Ltd. for supplying and installing the back-up generator be approved at \$49,995 plus HST.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**MOTION #BD 83/19****Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:25 a.m. for a legal matter with Brian Horner, Geoff Cade, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Daniel King and Judith Parker remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 84/19**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Alex Westman**

“RESOLVED, THAT Committee of the Whole rise and report at 11:37a.m.

Carried.

MOTION #BD 85/19**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT staff proceed with the legal matter as discussed.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Doug Cook
Vice Chair

Judith Parker
Corporate Services Coordinator

*Copies of program reports are available upon request.
Contact Judith Parker, Corporate Services Coordinator*