

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, October 24, 2024

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

Dave Marsh

STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Balfour, Andrew Bicknell, Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Erik Strahl, Mari Veliz, Cristen Watt, Ellen Westelaken.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 81/24

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the October 24, 2024, 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 82/24

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 19, 2024, and the Budget Committee Meeting held on October 10, 2024, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

2025 Proposed Budget

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, reminded the Board that they asked staff to provide some options for bringing the budget to a total increase of approximately 3.5 percent, 4 percent or 5 percent. Staff provided several options, including no increase in the budget for some programs, reallocating funds to cover costs, and drawing down on interest from investments or from reserves. The Board of Directors decided to choose two options (reallocation of revenue and using reserves or interest from investments) to bring the total proposed budget increase to 3.93 percent, or \$56,644 over the 2024 budget. With these adjustments made, the total combined levy would be \$1,497,266.

All Directors present were satisfied with the overall Proposed 2025 Budget with the above adjustments and agreed that it can be sent to member municipalities for review. Considering the 30-day review period, the earliest meeting at which Directors could vote on the proposed budget is December 19, 2024.

MOTION #BD 83/24

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the proposed amendments to the 2025 proposed budget be approved as presented, and

“FURTHER, THAT the member municipalities be advised of the 2025 Category 1 and Category 3 Operating Levy and budget, and provided with supplementary information for the 30-day review, as the weighted vote by apportionment is intended to be held at the December 19, 2024 Board of Directors meeting.”

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS**1. (a) Development Review**

Andrew Bicknell, Senior Regulations Coordinator, 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 7 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Andrew Bicknell advised that there was no update on current violations and appeals.

MOTION #BD 84/24

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

“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. Profit and Loss Statement

Brian Horner, Financial Services Supervisor, provided the profit and loss statement to September 30, 2024, including a projection for the remaining quarter of 2024. In general, he reported that ABCA is on track with the 2024 budget. Chair Vaughan asked that staff include interest earned on future Profit and Loss Statements, or provide a verbal update.

MOTION #BD 85/24

**Moved by Joey Groot
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the financial statement to September 30, 2024 be received as presented.”

Carried.

3. O. Reg 41/24 Mapping Updates

Tracey McPherson, GIS/IT Supervisor reminded Directors that Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions, and Permits) and Part VI of the Conservation Authorities Act came into effect on April 1, 2024, replacing Ontario Regulation 147/06 – Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses, and it was noted in an earlier meeting that this would result in some mapping changes. The definition of a watercourse has changed to a “defined channel, having a bed and banks or sides, in which a flow of water regularly or continuously occurs.” Therefore, many of our regulated watercourses no longer meet the definition, and are typically headwater watercourses in agricultural lands.

Staff reviewed these watercourses and decided that any watercourse that has been tiled or does not have a defined channel, but has a flood estimation completed on it, will continue to be regulated under O. Reg 41/24; however, those that do not have a flood estimation will be removed from regulation. This change will reduce regulated area around watercourses by 2.5 square kilometers. Other changes to mapping include a reduction to the allowance on Provincially Significant Wetlands, which created an overall reduction of 11.5 square kilometers of regulated area. Staff recommend approval of these changes and the immediate distribution of the new polygon layers to member municipalities and counties, as well as the public web mapping application.

MOTION #BD 86/24

**Moved by Steve Herold
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the mapping updates resulting from staff review as outlined in the accompanying report, O. Reg 41/24 Mapping Updates – Watercourses, and

“FURTHER, THAT the updated O. Reg 41/24 Regulated polygon layer be distributed to our municipal partners for their use in their internal mapping applications and that the layer be available on our public CA Maps web mapping application.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, and Cristen Watt, Water Quality Technician provided a presentation on priority places within the watershed, focusing on parts of the Ausable River Watershed. Specifically, the focus was on the Carolinian Zone and how the ABCA leverages community interest as well as provincial and national interests in this area, such as species-at-risk turtles, to help further other important watershed management issues such as flooding and erosion.

MOTION #BD 87/24

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the presentation “Ausable Priority Places – Turtles: Turning Interest into Watershed Action” be received for information.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Reports for the Joint Management Committee and Source Protection Committee were presented by Elizabeth Balfour, and the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee by Abbie Gutteridge.

MOTION #BD 88/24

Moved by Ray Chartrand

Seconded by Dave Jewitt

“RESOLVED that the minutes of the Joint Management Committee meeting held on August 8, 2024, the minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held on September 25, 2024, and the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting held on October 7, 2024 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDANCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Davin Heinbuck reported that Nathan Schoelier would be coming to the Board of Directors during the winter months with a presentation on ABCA’s phragmites management program, as requested by Directors.
2. Jaden Hodgins commended ABCA staff and the North Middlesex Trails group on their fundraiser for the Parkhill Trails, which was a dinner held at Nikos Restaurant in Parkhill on October 21, 2024. He reported that it was an excellent evening and was pleased to see it was well supported by the community as well as ABCA staff.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

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