

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Doug Cook, Adrian Cornelissen, Bob Harvey, George Irvin, Dave Jewitt, Mike Tam, Marissa Vaughan, Alex Westman

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Tim Cumming, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Abbie Gutteridge, Daniel King, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Judith Parker, Sharon Pavkeje, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Angela Van Niekerk, Ross Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Doug Cook called the virtual meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He thanked staff for organizing the meeting and stated the procedures for voting and asking questions would be by show of hand.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 61/20

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the September 17, 2020 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

Chair Cook stated that the meeting was being recorded for the public to view, and a link would be posted on the ABCA website.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**MOTION #BD 62/20****Moved by Marissa Vaughan
Seconded by Alex Westman**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors virtual meeting held on July 16, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESArmstrong West Erosion Control Project

Ross Wilson, Water & Soils Resource Coordinator provided an update on the quote received for undertaking the repairs to the Armstrong West Erosion Control project along the shore of ‘Chicken Island’ in Lambton Shores. At the previous Board meeting, staff were authorized to commit up to \$20,000 towards repairs and contact the engineering consultant who led the original project. The proposal was received from AECOM, (previously THS) at a quote that exceeded the upset limit.

MOTION #BD 63/20**Moved by Bob Harvey
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority not accept the proposal from AECOM due to the higher than anticipated costs, and

FURTHER, THAT staff seek quotes from other competent engineering firms for the completion of the investigation.”

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 35 *Applications for Permission* and 26 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator provided an update on some violation files. He advised the court date has been deferred until October for the charges at Beach o’ Pines in Municipality of Lambton Shores. Staff are investigating a property matter in North Middlesex that is adjacent to municipal lands. Staff recently received a report about a deck built over the bank in the Municipality of Bluewater and the landowner had cleared vegetation as well. Also in Bluewater, staff are working with a landowner regarding a shore wall structure.

MOTION #BD 64/20

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Alex Westman**

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

Carried.

2. Stewardship Funding Projects Review

Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands Specialist presented 18 project applications eligible for funding assistance through the Canada Nature Fund for wetland restoration, sediment and nutrient reduction activities, fragile land retirement, and cover crops to improve aquatic habitat in the Ausable River for freshwater mussels and fish that are species at risk. Through the Environment Canada Eco-Action grant, there were 4 wetland restoration projects eligible for funding assistance.

MOTION #BD 65/20

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors approve the projects eligible for stewardship program funding as presented.”

Carried.

3. Rock Glen CA Parking Lot Reconstruction

Kate Monk, Stewardship, Land and Education Manager reported that due to the pandemic, Rock Glen CA has been exceptionally busy and gate fee revenue is much higher than anticipated. The increased use has taken a toll on the main parking area and needs upgrading with granular material.

MOTION #BD 66/20

**Moved by Bob Harvey
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority tender to upgrade the main parking lot to granular surface at Rock Glen Conservation Area, and

FURTHER, THAT the work be completed in 2020 with an upset limit of \$35,000 using funds from the surplus revenue at Rock Glen Conservation Area.”

Carried.

4. Fall 2020 Education Programs during Covid-19 Pandemic

Kate Monk advised the Board that the ABCA Educators returned to work on September 1, 2020 after their furlough due to the pandemic. They are contacting school boards, principals and teachers to inform them the ABCA is available to provide conservation education programming in school yards or in class and meet Covid-19 safety protocols. A grant has been received from the Grand Bend Community Foundation for developing a webinar to provide the teachers with tips on instructing in the outdoor environment, using school yards or nearby green spaces. Components include child behaviour while outdoors, being ready for weather changes, risks and opportunities. Also being explored are smaller education pods, students being home-schooled and youth organizations.

MOTION #BD 67/20

**Moved by Mike Tam
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED, THAT the update on delivering outdoor education to students during Covid-19 be received as presented.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager provided a presentation on the ABCA shoreline structure approval process. He explained that the application process starts when all supporting documents are submitted. A checklist is available to guide the applicant through the requirements for obtaining a permit. The formal turnaround time is 4-6 weeks, however ABCA staff strive to complete the permit in a much shorter timeframe provided appropriate design plans are submitted with the application. During 2020, there have been 100 shore protection permits issued to date, and 40 more are being reviewed or waiting on coastal engineering reports. It was noted that applications are being submitted for development in regulated areas throughout other parts of the watershed, not just the shoreline. Recently, there has been media coverage of concerned landowners and contractors waiting on approvals for shore protection structures. In response to the concerns raised, staff conveyed that sometimes the landowner is unaware the contractor did not submit the required plans and so the permit is held up. Staff are looking at various options to mitigate these kinds of delays by only having the landowner provide the application.

George Irvin inquired on when the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNR) gets involved. Geoff Cade advised that the ABCA permitting process falls under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Applicants may also need a permit from Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks or Department of Fisheries & Oceans.

Chair Cook thanked Mr. Cade for clarifying what the regulations staff require to keep the shoreline structures permit process moving along efficiently and the challenges that will be addressed.

MOTION #BD 68/20

**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by George Irvin**

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

Carried.

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 69/20**

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting held on September 3, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Thank you
File: A.5.1
Brief: A note of thanks from Janet Peters to Planning and Regulations Officer, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk for her assistance through their permit application process.
- b) Reference: Official Plan Amendment
File: L.2.2
Brief: Correspondence to the Board from Michael and Janet Kurasz regarding their concerns with the application to amend the Official Plan (Port Blake Secondary Plan) in South Huron, by Tridon Group to change the 130 acre green belt Zone RC3 Recreational Commercial to Residential R1, R2, R3. Brian Horner advised that the ABCA makes recommendations on land use planning matters, but it is the municipality that is responsible for accepting or denying Official Plan amendments.
- c) Reference: Armstrong West Erosion Control Structure Repair
File: W.3.16.3.14
Brief: Correspondence from property owner, Michael Addley, regarding Section 8 of the easement agreement between himself, Municipality of Lambton Shores and ABCA for restoration of property whenever there is maintenance or construction on the erosion control structure at Armstrong West (Chicken Island).
- d) Reference: Armstrong East ATV Media Report
File: L.4.51
Brief: Copy of correspondence from Lois Gilmour to Minister Jeff Yurek (MECP), regarding a CTV media interview with a resident who is calling on the province to allow all-terrain vehicle use through The Pinery to Armstrong East, Port Franks where motor vehicles are restricted.
- e) Reference: Resignation
File: P.1.
Brief: A letter of resignation was received from Judith Parker advising of her retirement on September 25, 2020 as Corporate Services Coordinator at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority; Secretary of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation and Secretary of the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy.

MOTION #BD 70/20

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors accept the resignation of Judith Parker and express their appreciation for the 32 years of service, and

FURTHER, THAT Abigail Gutteridge be welcomed as Corporate Services Coordinator and appointed Secretary of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation and Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy.”

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian Horner advised that, at this time, the majority of directors wish to continue meeting by video-conference for the upcoming budget committee and monthly Board meetings.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 71/20

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:36 a.m. to discuss a property matter with Kate Monk, Ian Jean, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner and Judith Parker remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 72/20

**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT Committee of the Whole rise and report at 11:45 a.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 73/20

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

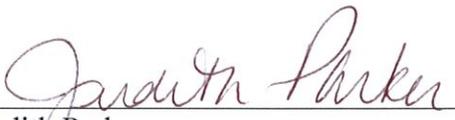
“RESOLVED, THAT staff should continue negotiations with the landowners on the possible property acquisition as presented.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Doug Cook
Chair



Judith Parker
Corporate Services Coordinator

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