

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, July 16, 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, Kari Jean, Daniel King, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Judith Parker, Sharon Pavkeje, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Mari Veliz, Angela Van Niekerk, Ross Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Doug Cook called the virtual meeting to order at 10:03 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 49/20

**Moved George Irvin
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the July 16, 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 50/20**

**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors virtual meeting held on June 18, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESArmstrong West Erosion Control Project

Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager and Ross Wilson, Water & Soils Resource Coordinator provided an update on undertaking the repairs to the Armstrong West Erosion Control project along the shore of ‘Chicken Island’ in Lambton Shores. Subsequent to the last meeting, staff have received a request for an enlarged scope of work and also been asked if repairs are needed. The annual inspection was completed and staff found no substantial difference to last year. The structure was submerged in many areas due to high lake levels with some minor erosion behind it, however there were no visible signs of failure.

MOTION #BD 51/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the initial proposed installation of additional rip rap be deferred, and

FURTHER, THAT staff contact the engineering firm who designed and constructed the bendway weir structure to obtain a quote on doing an inspection and report on the condition of the structure with any recommended repairs.”

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 7 *Applications for Permission* and 8 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Staff advised there has been an increase in the number of violations and court processes are slowed down due to the pandemic. A court date has been deferred until September for the charges in Beach o' Pines in Municipality of Lambton Shores. Staff are waiting to meet with those involved in the matter of large amounts of fill being dumped over the bank at Sunnyview in Municipality of Bluewater. For the house built without any permits in the Municipality of Central Huron, the charge documents are waiting on a court date.

MOTION #BD 52/20

**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.

2. Conducting Section 28 Hearings During Covid-19

Geoff Cade advised that since April when the Board agreed to suspend holding *Section 28 Hearings* due to the pandemic, staff have prepared the *Procedures for Hearings Under Ont. Reg. 147/06 during Coronavirus Pandemic*. This document will provide guidelines for holding Hearings through electronic participation and staff can continue efficient and timely review of permit applications.

MOTION #BD 53/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors agree to cease its suspension of Section 28 Hearings under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and

FURTHER, THAT the *Procedure for Hearings Under Ontario Regulation 147/06 during Coronavirus Pandemic* be approved and become effective immediately until further notice.”

Carried.

3. Stewardship Funding Projects Review

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship Technician presented 8 project applications eligible for funding assistance through the Canada Nature Fund for 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.

MOTION #BD 54/20

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

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

Carried.

4. Draft ABCA Five-Year Forecast

Brian Horner, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer presented the proposed five-year forecast for 2021-2025 uses an inflation factor of 1.7 per cent. The overall increase for the general levy is forecast at 3.12 per cent and the project levy at 3.57 per cent.

MOTION #BD 55/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT THE Five Year Forecast be approved as presented and distributed to the member municipalities for their information.”

Carried.

5. Profit & Loss Statement

Brian Horner provided the profit & loss statement to June 30, 2020 including a projection for the remaining six months of 2020.

MOTION #BD 56/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT financial statement to June 30, 2020 be received as presented.”

Carried.

6. Low Water Response Program

Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator gave an overview of the Low Water Response program the ABCA has been delivering for the province since 2000 and the various sectors represented on the Water Response Team. An explanation was given on the current watershed conditions related to streamflow and precipitation as well as a map of rainfall amounts during June as reported by the volunteer rain gauge network. Based on the indicators, the watershed is currently in a Level 1 low water advisory which encourages water users to reduce consumption by 10%.

MOTION #BD 57/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the low water response program report be received as presented.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager and Kari Jean, Aquatic Biologist provided a presentation on the various watershed biomonitoring programs for data collection, research and evaluation in support of fulfilling requirements of the ABCA *Conservation Strategy* and *Watershed Management Strategy*. With the support of funders, the ABCA is able to leverage every dollar into three dollars for programs that engage and promote taking action for a healthy environment.

Some of the projects highlighted were the freshwater mussel monitoring; community engagement in management of Old Ausable Channel and L Lake Management Area; Hensall Landfill Site water quality monitoring for brook trout populations; Gully Creek habitat assessment monitoring fish abundance for the species at risk redbreasted dace; Heenan Drain water quality monitoring; Huronview drainage demonstration project monitoring; wetland restoration; and natural shorelines.

Member municipalities can request a presentation to Council on any ABCA biomonitoring projects and reports that will engage their communities to take action towards healthy watersheds.

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

No reports.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Thank you
File: A.5.1
Brief: A note of thanks from Richard Tillman and Catherine Tillmann to ABCA Planning and Regulations Officer, Meghan Tydd-Hyrnyk for her professionalism through their permit application process.
- b) Reference: Streamlining Section 28 Reviews
File: A.7.1
Brief: Copy of correspondence from Chair Wayne Emmerson to Minister John Yakabusik providing an update on Conservation Ontario's Client service and streamlining initiative on reporting timeliness of *Conservation Authorities Act* Section 28 reviews and issuing permits.
- c) Reference: *Environmental Assessment Act*
File: A.7.1
Brief: Correspondence from Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, informing of the next steps and timelines in the government's Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan for proposed amendments to modernizing the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gypsy Moth Infestation

Chair Doug Cook asked that ABCA staff provide some information at a future meeting on the gypsy moth infestation and any measures being investigated to alleviate the situation that has affected various communities in the watershed this year.

2. Aerial Photography

Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager advised that there is an opportunity to partner with Maitland Valley Conservation Authority on procuring aerial photography along the Lake Huron shoreline to

