

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Bob Harvey

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Tim Cumming, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Ian Jean, Daniel King, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Sharon Pavkeje, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Mari Veliz, Ross Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT

Adam Skillen, Skillen Investment Management

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Doug Cook called the virtual meeting to order at 10:02 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 90/20

**Moved Alex Westman
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the November 19, 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 91/20****Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors virtual meeting held on October 15, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

Proposed General Levy, Project Levy and Budget

General Manager, Brian Horner, reviewed the project and general levy totals and advised approval is by weighted vote.

2021 Proposed General Levy Vote

MOTION #BD 92/20**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the 2021 General Levy be approved at \$1,109,679.”

| | <u>Yea</u> | <u>Nay</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|-------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Adelaide Metcalfe | | | ✓ |
| Bluewater | ✓ | | |
| Central Huron | ✓ | | |
| Huron East | ✓ | | |
| Lambton Shores | ✓ | | |
| Lucan Biddulph | ✓ | | |
| Middlesex Centre | | | ✓ |
| North Middlesex | ✓ | | |
| Perth South | ✓ | | |
| South Huron | ✓ | | |
| Warwick | ✓ | | |
| West Perth | ✓ | | |

The result was Yea 100% based on the current value assessment apportionment schedule.”

Carried.

2021 Proposed Project Levy Vote

MOTION #BD 93/20**Moved by Mike Tam**

Seconded by Alex Westman

“RESOLVED, THAT the 2021 Project Levy be approved at \$226,691.”

| | <u>Yea</u> | <u>Nay</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|-------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Adelaide Metcalfe | | | ✓ |
| Bluewater | ✓ | | |
| Central Huron | ✓ | | |
| Huron East | ✓ | | |
| Lambton Shores | ✓ | | |
| Lucan Biddulph | ✓ | | |
| Middlesex Centre | | | ✓ |
| North Middlesex | ✓ | | |
| Perth South | ✓ | | |
| South Huron | ✓ | | |
| Warwick | ✓ | | |
| West Perth | ✓ | | |

The result was Yea 100% based on the current value assessment apportionment schedule.”

Carried.

2021 Proposed Budget

MOTION #BD 94/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the proposed 2021 overall budget be approved.”

Carried.

Update on Armstrong West Erosion Control Structure

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. An investigation is required to assess if repair work is needed. At the September 17 Board of Directors meeting, staff were advised to obtain proposals from qualified engineering consultants. Staff received two proposals from qualified consultants: Ecosystem Recovery Inc. quoted at \$9,382 and Golder quoted at \$14, 800.

MOTION #BD 95/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority accept the proposal from Ecosystem Recovery Inc. for \$9,382, and

FURTHER, THAT funds from the Armstrong West Erosion Control reserve for the structure be allocated to this work.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Adam Skillen, Skillen Investment Management, presented an update on the investment portfolio, which has recovered and performed well since the spring downturn of the markets due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Canadian equity has performed very well and as such, the portfolio has become slightly skewed from the target of 65% bonds and 35% equity. Adam recommended rebalancing the portfolio to the target percentages.

MOTION #BD 96/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT Skillen Investment Management rebalance the investment portfolio to the targets of 65% bonds and 35% equity.”

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (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 29 *Applications for Permission* and 12 *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 January 2021 for the charges at Beach o’ Pines in Municipality of Lambton Shores, due to backlogs in the court system. Staff are also working on an enforcement issue. At present they are looking at options available, including legal options, which they are investigating with the help of legal counsel.

MOTION #BD 97/20

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

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

Carried.

2. Shoreline Protection Policy - Dynamic Beach Areas

Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager, brought forward some proposed updates to 2018 Shoreline Management Plan under *Development Guidelines – Shore Protection*. This policy applies only to new shoreline protection in dynamic beach areas south of the Lake Huron Water Supply System intake at Port Blake. Under this policy, new shoreline protection structures in dynamic beach areas are permitted subject to the following:

- Permitted to protect primary building
- Must be landward of the location of the 100 year lake level plus 15m wave uprush allowance
- Protection works for non-essential structures and features, including but not limited to accessory structures (e.g., gazebos, sheds, bunkies, decks stairs, etc.), lawns and /or other landscaping features are not permitted.
- Application shall include mandatory review by qualified Coastal Engineer, which shows that the proposed works will not aggravate natural hazards.

Due to high lake levels and moving sand, staff felt it reasonable to review the shore protection policy for dynamic beach areas. After consultation with ABCA's solicitor and Baird & Associates, staff are proposing to remove the requirement that protection is only permitted where a primary structure is in danger, but add further conditions to ensure the work will have limited impact in sensitive dynamic beach areas. Additionally, accessory structures in the wave uprush zone would need to be relocated landward. Additional setback criteria is also recommended for replacement of existing protection structures.

Several Directors expressed concerns with the proposed changes to the policy. Some thought the changes seemed more restrictive for applicants. There was also concern expressed that this would create more costs for applicants, considering the requirement of a peer review by a qualified coastal engineer. The Board also discussed concerns regarding changes to policy without public input.

MOTION #BD 98/20

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the recommended changes to the *Development Guidelines – Shore Protection* policy in the 2018 Shoreline Management Plan be deferred, and

“FURTHER, THAT staff is directed to bring a report to the Board of Directors in the December meeting that provides additional options.”

Carried.

3. Stewardship Funding Projects Review

Ian Jean, Forestry & Land Stewardship Specialist presented 4 fragile land retirement project applications eligible for funding assistance through the Canada Nature Fund, Forests Ontario and the Great Lakes Local Action Fund (application has been submitted, pending approval). Several more wetland projects and cover crop funding projects will be presented at the next Board of Directors meeting.

4. Port Frank's Gauge Repair Update

Ross Wilson reported that the altered shoreline, due to sustained high lake levels, has impacted the Port Franks hydrometric station. This site is critical for monitoring Lake Huron water levels, as well

as ice jam monitoring in Port Franks. A temporary repair was made on November 2, 2020 with rock riprap placed along the shoreline to protect and stabilize the structure. ABCA staff will continue to investigate more permanent solutions and report findings to the Board.

MOTION #BD 99/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Stewardship Funding Projects Review and the update on the Port Frank’s Gauge Repair be received as presented.”

Carried.

5. Arkona Lion’s Museum and Information Centre Agreement

Kate Monk, Stewardship, Lands & Education Manager, advised the Board that 10-year agreement between the ABCA, the Arkona Lion’s Club, and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation regarding the Arkona Lion’s Museum and Information Centre expires at the end of 2020. This agreement delineates the responsibilities each organization has regarding the management and maintenance of the museum. The Lion’s Club and the Foundation have already agreed to renew the agreement for another 10-year term.

MOTION #BD 100/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the agreement between the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation and Arkona Lion’s Club be renewed for a ten-year period of January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2030.”

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. Included with this report was an update on the proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act*, as noted in Schedule 6 of Budget Bill 229. He made note of two emails from Conservation Ontario, which provided background on the Bill, the major concerns and a potential resolution prepared by Conservation Ontario to encourage member Municipalities for support. As such, he brought forward three recommendations: to support the position and recommendations of Conservation Ontario as described in the Proposed Resolution for Municipalities, to share the information with member municipalities and encourage their support, and that the Chair forward a letter to the Province reiterating concerns expressed by Conservation Ontario.

MOTION #BD 101/20

Moved by Dave Jewitt

“RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA Board of Directors support the position and recommendations of Conservation Ontario as described in the Proposed Resolution for Municipalities.”

No Secunder.

MOTION #BD 102/20

Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Alex Westman

“RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA Board of Directors direct staff to share this information and the draft municipal resolution with member municipalities, encouraging their support and action.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 103/20

Moved by Dave Jewitt

“RESOLVED, THAT the Chair forward a letter to the Minister of Finance, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Premier of Ontario as well as local MPPs, reiterating concerns expressed by Conservation Ontario.”

No Seconder.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**MOTION #BD 104/20**

Moved by Doug Cook
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held on September 30, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 105/20

Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by George Irvin

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre Committee meeting held on November 2, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 106/20

Moved by Marissa Vaughan
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Friends of the South Huron Trail Committee meeting held on November 2, 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 Judith Parker to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation and Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy Boards for the best wishes on her retirement on September 25, 2020.
- b) Reference: Donation
File: C.17.1.1
Brief: Correspondence from Hay Mutual Insurance in Zurich ON noting that they received funding to share with local organizations, not for profits and charities. They chose to donate \$2000 to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Education Programs, with a note of thanks for the work that Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority does in the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Jewitt noted that an information session would be helpful with respect to the Shoreline Management Plan and associated policies. This would be a good refresher for shoreline Directors. Staff agreed that it would be a good idea and would set up a session.

Alex Westman informed the Board that some surplus land outside of Lucan was being considered for a new commemorative woods site, as there is no location in that area of the watershed. He will continue to keep the ABCA Board informed of progress.

Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager, informed the Board know that there is a new intake for the National Disaster Mitigation Program. Through this fund, there is \$20,000,000 available for various projects. There are several potential uses ABCA would have for this funding including the Port Franks Gauge Repair, floodplain mapping, and new gauges. As such, the ABCA would be submitting an application.

Ray Chartrand thanked Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, for her presentation to the Huron East Municipal Council about the projects and reporting that have been completed in 2020. Mari has made similar presentations to Municipal Councils, and will continue to do so over the coming months.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Doug Cook
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

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