

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom  
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

### DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

### DIRECTORS ABSENT

George Irvin

### STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Ian Jean, Daniel King, Tommy Kokas, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Nathan Schoelier, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Angela VanNiekerk, Mari Veliz

### OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Catton, Jacob Damstra (Lerners LLP), Frances Ellison, Tom Getliffe, Clay Grandy, Robert Harvey, Grant Inglis (Scott Petrie LLP), Michael Lerner, Alex MacDougall, Barbara MacDougall, Leslie Myers, Steven Savage, Jacqueline Sheppard, Beverley Tattersall

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Doug Cook called the virtual meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He thanked staff for organizing the meeting and noted that it is the last meeting for 2020.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#### **MOTION #BD 107/20**

**Moved Alex Westman  
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the December 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.

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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 108/20****Moved by Bob Harvey  
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors virtual meeting held on November 19, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”**

**Carried.**

DELEGATION

Mr. Jacob Damstra, along with several shoreline property owners, joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m. to address the Board of Directors with concerns over recommended changes to the Shore Protection Guidelines for protection in dynamic beach areas. These changes were brought forward during the November 19, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Damstra noted that the current policy has created delays and disputes for new shoreline protection, and thanked staff for bringing this to the attention of the Board. Some of the concerns noted by Mr. Damstra included the wording regarding the toe of the eroded dune, and the relocation of all accessory structures encroaching lakeward of the prescribed setbacks. The identification in the report of the stages of installation for inspection by a Coastal Engineer, as well as a mandatory peer review of the design by another Coastal Engineer also caused concern for Mr. Damstra and his clients.

He suggested that instead of a setback of the toe of the eroded dune, it would be more practical that the set back be as close to the toe of the eroded dune as reasonable, considering proper engineering and construction. Additionally, he stated that an accessory structure should be relocated only if it interferes with the proposed shoreline protection, and that the extra peer review and stages in the report for Coastal Engineer inspection be removed, as they would create additional delays.

**MOTION #BD 109/20****Moved by Ray Chartrand  
Seconded by Alex Westman**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors receive the report by the Delegate, Mr. Damstra, as presented.”**

**Carried.**

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESDynamic Beach Shoreline Policy

Geoff Cade, Manager of Water and Planning, provided an update regarding proposed revisions to the Dynamic Beach Shoreline Policy for new shoreline protection. The revised guideline was only intended for dynamic beach located south of the Port Blake water intake. It was suggested during the

November 19, 2020 Board of Director Meeting that an informal information session be held for Board members representing the shoreline municipalities. During the information session, it was suggested that a Shoreline Management Plan information session be held for all Directors, as some were not present when the Plan update began in 2015. Therefore, staff recommend holding another information session for all Directors, and that any decisions regarding revisions to the Dynamic Beach Shoreline Policy be deferred until after the information session is held.

**MOTION #BD 110/20**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT a decision on the recommended policy revisions continue to be deferred until all members of the Board of Directors have attended a shoreline information session, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT staff hold an information session that outlines the ABCA’s responsibilities and the process and outcomes of the updated Shoreline Management Plan.”**

**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 12 *Applications for Permission* and 18 *Minor Works Applications*.

### (b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade noted that an update on violations will be presented during Committee of the Whole.

**MOTION #BD 111/20**

**Moved by Ray Chartrand  
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

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

**Carried.**

### 2. National Disaster Mitigation Program Applications

Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator, and Tommy Kokas, Water Resources Engineer, along with Geoff Cade presented four potential applications to the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP). A sixth intake for this program was announced in November 2020. The NDMP is a federally funded cost-share program that partially funds (up to 50%) projects to mitigate impacts from funding. Conservation Authorities have had good success in securing funding through this program in the past.

Four potential projects were brought before the Board of Directors including. The development of a new model for flood forecasting and warning purposes, the replacement of the Port Franks water level gauge, and the installation of two new stream gauges at Nairn Creek and Bannockburn River. The total estimated cost of all four projects is \$228,000, with a potential \$114,000 covered by the NDMP funding. Staff have recommended that the ABCA submit all four applications, and proposed that for any successful applications, the matching funds be withdrawn from the reserves, which would then be repaid in the 2022 budget.

**MOTION #BD 112/20**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority supports the application for National Disaster Mitigation Program funding for Development of a new HEC-HMS model for Flood Forecasting and Warning purposes, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT the Board of Directors supports the application for National Disaster Mitigation Program funding for the Port Franks Water Level Gauge, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT the Board of Directors supports the application for National Disaster Mitigation Program funding for the Nairn Creek Stream Gauge, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT the Board of Directors supports the application for National Disaster Mitigation Program funding for the Bannockburn River Stream Gauge.”**

**Carried.**

3. Stewardship Funding Projects Review

Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands Specialist, presented five wetland project applications eligible for funding assistance through the Canada Nature Fund and EcoAction. Additionally, she presented three cover crop project applications eligible for funding through Canada Nature Fund.

**MOTION #BD 113/20**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Stewardship Funding Projects Review be received as presented.”**

**Carried.**

4. ABCA Conservation Pass Program

Kate Monk, Stewardship, Land and Education Manager, and Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship Technician, presented a report on the Conservation Pass Program for hunting and trapping on ABCA conservation lands, which has been in place for over 20 years. The revenue generated through this program stays within the Conservation Lands department and offsets the costs of program administration and patrolling the properties throughout the year. Total revenue in 2019 was \$10,650. Passes can be purchased for specific tracts for both individuals and families, or the most popular option is to purchase a Super Pass, which allows access to all conservation lands. To date there has been no overcrowding during the busy hunting weeks. Conservation lands staff members patrol

during these weeks, and have found that the majority of people hunting on conservation lands are compliant with regulations and have had mostly positive interactions with hunters. As of, November 30, 2020, just under 300 passes were active.

**MOTION #BD 114/20**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA Conservation Pass Program report be received as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**5. Summary of ABCA Forest Management in 2020**

Ian Jean, Forestry Specialist, presented a report on Forest Management in 2020. He noted that the ABCA owns more than 8000 acres of forested land in the watershed, with 3000 acres qualifying for the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program and the remaining 5000 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program. He reported that periodically the forested lands are thinned to improve tree growth and overall stand health, and all selective timber harvest is processed in Ontario. In 2020, 300 acres of forested land in Stephen Township was assessed for health, tree density and natural regeneration. Recently, the price of softwood lumber has increased, to our benefit. Thinning operations were completed in August and September, yielding 730 cords of pine sawlogs. Revenue from that operation totaled \$51,100. Revenue generated from timber sales offsets the costs of property ownership.

**MOTION #BD 115/20**

**Moved by Mike Tam  
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the summary report of ABCA Forest Management in 2020 be received as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**6. Lake Huron Resuspension Events**

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, presented a project to quantify the sediment related to phosphorus coming from Lake Huron and moving into Lake Erie. The University of Michigan approached ABCA to be the lead applicant for funding from the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, which will support ABCA monitoring efforts for approximately 20-25 samples during each of five resuspension events. Funding will also support analysis and modelling by other project partners. This project will be a joint venture between the University of Michigan, Ausable Bayfield Conservation, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. To proceed with this application, support is required from the ABCA Board of Directors.

**MOTION #BD 116/20**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA Board of Directors support the submission of an application to the Fred. A and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation to monitor and model**

**resuspension events in Lake Huron as part of a collaboration with the University of Michigan, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.”**

**Carried.**

### PRESENTATION

Nina Sampson, Conservation Educator, gave a presentation summarizing the Education Department activities in 2020. She noted that even though the year had been challenging due to rotating one-day strikes, work to rule, and a pandemic that cancelled in-school learning and activities, 2020 provided some new opportunities. In total, the department saw 2058 youth participants through various programs.

Educators developed several new programs in the summer and fall to cater to families and youth who chose to do virtual learning or homeschooling, instead of in-school learning. These programs included Oaks and Acorns, for young children and caregivers, Outdoor School, which saw pop-up sessions earlier in the year during the rotating strikes and a six week program in the fall for homeschoolers or virtual learners, virtual school programs and online sessions, and education kits to complement virtual school programs and give teachers and students hands-on learning opportunities. Conservation Educators also offered Outdoor family experiences such as private Owl Prowl hikes and guided hikes, as well as non-profit programs for organizations such as Scouts or Guides. 14 outdoor programs were held over the fall season.

Finally, Nina reported on the Watershed Champions Grant for 2020. Recipients included Bluewater Coast Elementary School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School and Bosanquet Central Public School, all of which completed their projects in Fall 2020.

### 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. The Bill passed its third reading; however, the full impact for Conservation Authorities is still uncertain. Minister Yurek spoke at a recent Conservation Ontario meeting and introduced a working group regarding this Bill that will begin in the new year, noting its main focus will be on planning and regulations. Halton Region Conservation Authority CEO, Hassaan Basit, is to lead this working group. Directors from Central Huron and Lambton Shores both noted that their municipalities will be sending letters of support for Conservation Ontario to the Province.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MOTION #BD 117/20**

**Moved by Doug Cook  
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held on November 25, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”**

**Carried.**



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**“FURTHER, THAT staff prepare a report outlining options regarding recommendations for Dynamic Beach Shoreline policies.”**

**Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

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Doug Cook  
Chair

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Abigail Gutteridge  
Corporate Services Coordinator

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