

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 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, Marissa Vaughan, Alex Westman

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Mike Tam

STAFF PRESENT

Bev Brown, Geoff Cade, Tim Cumming, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, 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 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He thanked staff for organizing the Zoom video conference and stated the procedures for voting and asking questions would be by show of hand.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 34/20

**Moved George Irvin
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the May 21, 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 35/20****Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Alex Westman**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors virtual meeting held on April 23, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

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

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Staff advised there were no updates.

MOTION #BD 36/20**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by George Irvin**

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

Carried.

2. COVID-19 Operations Update

General Manager, Brian Horner provided an update on the ABCA operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Management has developed a strategy for staff returning to work at the Administration Centre in a phased approach, as well as the re-opening of conservation lands. Staff returning to the office for Phase 1 will not attend on the same day if sharing an office. The office will remain closed to the public. Additional cleaning protocols will be put in place for cleaning workstation equipment and common touch surfaces in the Admin Centre, Annex and Workshop.

Kate Monk, Stewardship, Lands & Education Manager, reported on the strategy for re-opening ABCA conservation lands. The conservation forests were re-opened on May 19, 2020. Use is limited and there are no marked trails or parking lots at these tracts of land. This will accommodate the remaining two weeks of turkey hunting for those who have purchased a conservation pass. Since the strategy was developed, there have been updates to using a phased approach and it is now

recommended to re-open all conservation areas, management areas and trails on May 22, 2020 with some limitations. Washrooms, privies, buildings and playgrounds will remain closed to the public. This schedule will be in concert with municipalities reopening of their outdoor areas, as now permitted by the province. All federal and provincial directives for public health and safety must be followed including physical distancing and the size of gatherings limited to 5 currently. Risk management assessments will be completed at all conservation areas before re-opening.

Adrian Cornelissen inquired on the status of the Great Canadian Hideaway campground that leases a portion of the Parkhill Conservation Area. Brian Horner responded, that the campground is considered private, and that staff have been communicating with the owners, Eric and Tania Vieira during this time.

Ray Chartrand inquired whether staff are tracking the loss in revenue while closed. Brian Horner responded that the only conservation area that collects gate fees is Rock Glen CA and the operating season is May to October.

Bob Harvey asked about the liability of opening the trails. Kate Monk responded that there are limited touch surfaces and visitors will be encouraged to walk in one direction and keep their visit short as the facilities and washrooms remain closed. Visitor use will be monitored to the best of staff's ability.

MOTION #BD 37/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors approve reopening all Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority owned conservation areas, management areas and trails, and

FURTHER, THAT there be no public access to washrooms, privies, playgrounds and buildings as per federal and provincial emergency measures at this time, for public health and safety.”

Carried.

3. Armstrong West Erosion Control Structure

Ross Wilson, Water & Resource Coordinator, provided background to the Armstrong West Erosion Control Structure project located on the shoreline of the Ausable River near its outlet into Lake Huron at Port Franks. In 1949 the ‘Cut’ was made to make a straighter outlet of the river into the lake. However, the river changed its path shifting sands filled in the ‘Cut’ over the 60-70 years. In 2006 a series of bendway weirs were installed to address the significant erosion of the dune. This was a partnership between the Chicken Island landowners, Province of Ontario, Municipality of Lambton Shores and the ABCA. Rock was loaded on a barge and unloaded to create a shelf of rock that jutted out along the river. The seven weirs have successfully stabilized the river bank and protected properties on the island. Annual inspections are carried out and maintenance was done in 2015 with funding through the provincial WECEI program to restore some scours. With high lake levels in 2020, the structure is below its design and constructed height and is being overtopped by water. A section of the riprap is subject to erosion with the wave action. There is sufficient funds in the Armstrong West Erosion Control Structure reserve to cover the anticipated estimate of \$15,000 for repairs.

MOTION #BD 38/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT staff be directed to seek quotes for the repair of the Armstrong West Erosion Control structure, and

FURTHER, THAT if the quote is as estimated with an upset limit of \$20,000, the staff can proceed with the project.”

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 39/20**

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting held on May 11, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 40/20

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Friends of South Huron Trail committee meeting held on May 4, 2020 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Reference: Support for Conservation Authorities

File: A.7.1

Brief: A letter of support signed by 112 organizations was prepared by Conservation Ontario and sent to Premier Doug Ford, requesting the province to continue support of programs and services delivered by conservation authorities for watershed management.

b) Reference: *Conservation Authorities Act*

File: A.8.3

Brief: Correspondence from Kim Gavine, General Manager of Conservation Ontario that she met with AMO staff regarding the provincial review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The policy review is almost done and it is uncertain when the next steps for public review will be carried out due to the challenges and provincial involvement with Covid-19 at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Doug Cook
Chair

Judith Parker
Corporate Services Coordinator

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