

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

IN PERSON/VIDEO CONFERENCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Bob Harvey, George Irvin, Dave Jewitt, Alex Westman

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Doug Cook, Mike Tam, Marissa Vaughan

STAFF PRESENT

Jada Burt, Geoff Cade, Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Denise Iszczuk, Ian Jean, Daniel King, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Nathan Schoelier, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Mari Veliz

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Jewitt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and welcomed everyone in attendance, both in person and virtually.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Chair Jewitt read the Land Acknowledgement Statement, acknowledging the original stewards of this land, the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 67/22

Moved Ray Chartrand

Seconded by Bob Harvey

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the July 14, 2022 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 Jewitt noted that this meeting was being recorded on Zoom for temporary posting online, and is not an official record. The official record of this meeting will be the approved minutes.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**MOTION #BD 68/22**

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on June 16, 2022 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

Brian Horner, General Manager, noted that staff looked into terms of service for Board Members in light of the upcoming Municipal Election. The majority of Board Member terms continue until the end of 2022, with a couple of exceptions. Ray Chartrand noted that swearing in of new council members is scheduled to take place earlier than has been typical.

PROGRAM REPORTS**1. (a) Development Review**

Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator, 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 18 *Applications for Permission* and 10 *Minor Works Applications*.

MOTION #BD 69/22

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

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

Carried.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Daniel King noted that staff are working on a number of violations. One of the violations in the Municipality of Bluewater regarding an erosive property on the Bayfield River has been ongoing for some time. Staff issued a stop work order last year; however, work did not stop and another structure was constructed. Staff recently issued a new notice of violation.

There is a new violation in the Municipality of Bluewater regarding a deck built over the top of the bank. This is in contravention to the ABCA and the municipality. There are also a number of smaller violations along Lake Huron.

MOTION #BD 70/22

Moved by Ray Chartrand

Seconded by George Irvin

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors receive the Violations and Appeals update as presented.”

Carried.

2. Conservation Authorities Act Update

Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator, provided an update on the ongoing implementation of the *Conservation Authorities Act Update*. She noted that the Governance section of the ABCA website has now been completed, and the draft agreement for planning services was sent out to primary municipal contacts. ABCA staff are also reaching out to municipal primary contacts regarding the current inventory and to begin discussions on future programs and services. As such, staff developed a four page summary document, *Beyond 2023*, that explains ABCA programs and services. Staff have also completed the ABCA Programs and Services Directory, which is a complete list of what the ABCA can provide to municipalities and the public.

MOTION #BD 71/22

Moved by Bob Harvey

Seconded by Alex Westman

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors approve the *Beyond 2023* document as presented to be distributed to member municipalities for their information, and receive the update on the *Conservation Authorities Act* as presented.”

Carried.

3. ABCA Land Disposition Policy

Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator, presented the ABCA Land Disposition Policy Plan (2022-2042), which is an update to the property disposition section of the *2008-2020 ABCA Land*

Securement Plan. This policy is a requirement of the *Conservation Authorities Act* Section 9(1)2(vi). This policy provides guidance for the disposition of lands by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, following the principals of sound watershed management, transparency and accountability. Kate noted that the ABCA is very cautious about disposing of properties, and that, generally, the vendor or donor of the property will be given first right of refusal or requested to consent to sell, unless otherwise stated in the terms of the donation or bequest.

MOTION #BD 72/22

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors approve the ABCA Land Disposition Policy as presented.”

Carried.

4. Profit & Loss Statement

Brian Horner, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, provided the profit and loss statement to June 30, 2022 including a projection for the remaining six months of 2022.

MOTION #BD 73/22

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA Board of Directors receive the financial statement to June 30, 2022 as presented.”

Carried.

5. Five Year Forecast

Brian Horner presented the proposed five year forecast for 2022 – 2026, using a wage increase of 2 per cent. The overall increase for the general levy is forecast at 3.56 percent and the project levy at 9.20 per cent. Of note this year, Schedules 8 and 9 were added to show the five year forecast in light of the Conservation Authorities Act Update.

MOTION #BD 74/22

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

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

Carried.

6. Spring 2022 Tree Planting Program

Ian Jean, Stewardship and Forestry Specialist, presented a summary of the spring tree planting program for 2022. Tree sales and landowner participation vary from year to year, but generally remain consistent. In 2022, there was an increase in landowner pickup of trees. In total, the ABCA planted just under 40,000 trees, which equates to approximately 60 acres. Overall, there were good weather and ground conditions for planting, and with several hired tree planters the ABCA was able to have two planting crews.

MOTION #BD 75/22

Moved by George Irvin

Seconded by Alex Westman

“RESOLVED, THAT the update on the 2022 Spring Tree Planting Program be received as presented.”

Carried.

7. Education Update

Denise Iszczuk, Conservation Educator, presented a summary of education programming through the months of May and June. Some highlights include programs delivered to 2500 students. In contrast to the last couple of years, none of these programs were virtual, but instead were delivered to 1350 students at conservation areas and 1150 students at schools. The 2022 Watershed Champion Grant is being awarded to Huron Centennial Public School, Seaforth Public School, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Two grants were also approved for fall including, Parkhill West Williams Public School and St. Anne’s Catholic Secondary School.

MOTION #BD 76/22

Moved by George Irvin

Seconded by Ray Chartrand

“RESOLVED, THAT the update on education programming be received as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

CORRESPONDANCE

a) Reference: Letter from Steve Bujaki Regarding Permit Fee Refund

File: W.6.1.3

Brief: A letter addressed to Brian Horner requesting that the fee of \$450 for a permit application be refunded as he will not be proceeding with any of the proposed work

at his cottage. As work on this application had already been undertaken by staff, ABCA would typically not refund. The Board of Directors were all in agreement that the fee should be retained, and no refund be offered.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adrian Cornelissen noted that the *More Homes, More Choices Act* in Ontario was increasing pressure to get approvals for building done in a timely manner, and wondered about staff's response to this increased pressure. Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, noted that staff do their best to respond to inquiries and permit applications in a timely fashion. When staff are presented with requests from the municipality for comments, there is typically a deadline associated that staff abide by.
2. Adrian Cornelissen asked if there were boundary signs at the Mystery Falls property in North Middlesex. Nathan Schoelier noted that there was some signage and the trails were well marked. He also noted that Bill Menzies, from the Municipal Enforcement Unit (MEU), passed away in early July, and staff were waiting to hear about the status of MEU going forward.
3. Abbie Gutteridge introduced Jada Burt, Junior Conservationist at the ABCA for 2022. This eight-week summer position is funded by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, and provides a student interested in pursuing an education in the environmental field with the opportunity to experience the day-to-day workings of a Conservation Authority.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Dave Jewitt
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

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