



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Thursday, June 15, 2023**

**Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre**  
**Morrison Dam Conservation Area**

**10:00 a.m.**

**HEARING**

**Pursuant to Ontario Regulation 147/06**

(Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alteration to Shoreline and Watercourses)

**Regarding Permit Application #2023-12**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**AGENDA**

1. Chair's Welcome
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
5. Disclosure of intention to record this meeting by video and/or audio device
6. Adoption of Minutes from May 18, 2023
7. Business Out of the Minutes
  
8. **Program Reports**
  - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O. Reg147/06) – Daniel King  
(b) Violations/Appeals Update – Geoff Cade/Daniel King
  - Report 2: CA Act Update – Brian Horner/Kate Monk
  
9. **PRESENTATION** – Introduction to Healthy Lake Huron – Elizabeth Balfour/Davin Heinbuck
  
10. **Committee Reports**
  - Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation – Abbie Gutteridge
11. Correspondence
12. New Business
13. **Committee of the Whole**
14. Adjournment

**Upcoming Meetings**

July 20, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m.  
BUS TOUR FOR DIRECTORS AND NEW STAFF (August – Date TBD)  
*Note: There is no Board of Directors Meeting in August*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom  
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins, Greg Lamport, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

### DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jim Ginn

### STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Tracey McPherson, Nathan Schoelier, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Mari Veliz

### OTHERS PRESENT

Tonya Wilson, *Ward & Uptigrove*

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#### **MOTION #BD 45/23**

**Moved Ray Chartrand  
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the May 18, 2023 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

None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**MOTION #BD 46/23**

**Moved by Dave Marsh  
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on April 13, 2023 be adopted as amended.”**

**Carried.**

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

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 12 *Applications for Permission* and 6 *Minor Works Applications*. Jaden Hodgins asked what the timeline was for turning around permit applications. Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, noted that Conservation Ontario’s timeline for this is approximately 4-6 weeks, and that that ABCA is typically well within those timelines. In 2022, only 3 permits fell outside the recommended turnaround time.

**(b) Violations/Appeals Update**

Geoff Cade did not have a specific update on current violations, but noted that staff participated in their annual shoreline flight to monitor erosion specifically along the lakeshore. He reported that there were many shoreline issues noted.

**MOTION #BD 47/23**

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen  
Seconded by Greg Lamport**

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

**Carried.**

**2. Conservation Authorities Act Update – Progress Report**

Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator, reported that agreements with Municipalities for Category 2 and 3 programs and services need to be in place by January 1, 2024. Staff continue to meet with Municipal Councils and work toward getting these agreements into place this summer, as they will need to be included in the Watershed Management Strategy. In addition, the five-year financial

forecast for 2024-2028 will be completed by July. The budget approval process will remain the same except that notice must be given of when the ABCA Board meets to discuss the draft budget. It will be presented to the Board in October and is typically approved in December. Other deliverables for the Conservation Authorities Act Update are moving along well, including the Conservation Lands Strategy and Watershed Management Strategy. In 2024, the Asset Management Plan, Operational Plan and Conservation Lands Inventory will need to be completed.

**MOTION #BD 48/23**

**Moved by Ray Chartrand  
Seconded by Steve Herold**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Conservation Authorities Act Update be received as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**3. Vehicle Tender Results**

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, presented a report on the tender results for a new truck for field staff to replace the 2010 Ford F-150, which needs to be purchased through the motor pool. This process began in February 2022; however, production on the truck named in the winning bid ended prior to the ABCA truck being built. The tender process was held again in August and a new truck ordered. However, this truck was also discontinued. Huron Motor Products (HMP) in Exeter, who had won the bid, was able to provide another truck that met ABCA’s specifications, and ABCA was under no commitment to purchase the vehicle. The vehicle is a 2024 GMC Sierra 2500 at a cost of \$61,535.00, plus taxes and fees. This puts the vehicle at \$6,704.64 more than the amount approved by the Board of Directors in September 2022. However, a savings of \$4,420.82 was realized from the budgeted amount to purchase at UTV in March 2023. In addition, there are no vehicle purchases forecasted until 2025, which will give the motor pool time to recover its costs for this truck purchase. As a truck was needed for the current field season, staff proceeded with purchase of the 2024 GMC Sierra 2500.

**MOTION #BD 49/23**

**Moved by Greg Lamport  
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Vehicle Tender Results be received as presented”**

**Carried.**

**4. Arkona Lions Car Show at Rock Glen Conservation Area**

Nathan Schoelier presented a report on the “Bruce Redman Antique Car Show and Community Day,” which is held annually by the Arkona Lions Club at Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA). In 2018, the ABCA Board of Directors approved that the gate fee at RGCA be waived to car show participants, with the understanding that the Lions will provide a donation to the ABCA. The Lions feel it is important to have the event available to the community at no cost to attendees, and request that the gate fee be waived to car show spectators, as well as show entrants. This will result in some revenue loss for RGCA; however, the contributions of the Lions Club at the Museum,

attracts a significant number of paying attendees to the conservation area throughout the operating season.

**MOTION #BD 50/23**

**Moved by Dave Marsh  
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Arkona Car Show at Rock Glen Conservation Area be received as presented, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors waive the admission fee for Rock Glen Conservation Area during the September 16, 2023 annual “Bruce Redman Antique Car Show and Community Day” as hosted by the Arkona Lions Club, with the understanding that the Arkona Lions Club will provide a donation to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.”**

**Carried.**

**5. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation Overview**

Abbie Gutteridge, Corporate Services Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation (ABCF) for new Board members. She noted that the ABCF was established in 1974 and it's four main objectives are to raise funds, fostering partnerships, providing funds and acquiring conservation lands. Some of the main functions of the ABCF include the Commemorative Woods program, which allows trees to be planted/sponsored in memory of loved ones or special events. The annual Conservation Dinner, held in partnership with the Exeter Lions Club is one of the main fundraisers. Funds raised are used throughout the watershed for various projects, and also support youth opportunities through conservation education programming, the hiring of a student for the summer, and a \$1000 grant for a university student.

**MOTION #BD 51/23**

**Moved by Greg Lamport  
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation be received as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**6. Beach E. coli Report**

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, presented a report on the Beach *E. coli* monitoring efforts along Lake Huron that have been ongoing since 2006. She noted that *E. coli* is a good indicator for recreational water quality. Huron Perth Public Health has also monitored at public beaches for many years, but only report up to 1000 colony forming unites (cfu). In general, there have been no real increasing or decreasing trends at the sites monitored by ABCA. However, it is noted that there is a relationship between water quality in the ravines flowing into Lake Huron and the water quality at the lake at the outlet. Typically, ravines show higher concentrations than the lake. There continues to be a need for improvement, and staff will continue to work with all landowners along the lake and upstream in agricultural areas.

**MOTION #BD 52/23**

**Moved by Wayne Shipley  
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Beach E. coli Report be received as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**7. Section 28, Conservation Authorities Act – Hearings**

Geoff Cade presented a report on the reason and process for hearings under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. All conservation authorities have permitting roles under the Act, which is administered through the ABCA specific regulation – Ontario Regulation 147/06. Staff are permitted to issue permits that meet the approved policies of the authority. On occasion, an application will not meet an accepted policy. Staff will work with landowners to bring the proposal into conformity, but this is not always possible; however, staff cannot deny any application. Applicants may choose to bring the application to the Board of Directors to a Hearing, where the application can be approved or denied. A Hearing is a quasi-judicial proceeding, and the Directors become Hearing officials and act as judges. During the hearing both the applicant and staff are given opportunity to present their evidence with respect to the application. Once evidence has been provided then the Board is given opportunity to deliberate in camera, and may choose to make a decision to approve or deny the application, or defer a decision until a later date. A formal notice of the decision will be provided to the applicant, and they can choose to appeal a decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

**MOTION #BD 53/23**

**Moved by Ray Chartrand  
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the report on Section 28, Conservation Authorities Act – Hearings be received as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****MOTION #BD 54/23**

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen  
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting held on May 8, 2023 be approved as circulate.”**

**Carried.**

**CORRESPONDANCE**

- a) Reference: Thank you letter from Bluewater Shoreline Residents Association  
File: A.5

Brief: An email from Sue Haskett and Graham Hill of the Bluewater Shoreline Residents Association, thanking the ABCA for their support of their Cottage Owner's FAQ Workshop on May 6, and to Mari Veliz and Geoff Cade for presenting at the workshop.

b) Reference: Donation from the Oakridge Acres Optimist Club

File: A.9.1

Brief: A letter from the Oakridge Acres Optimist Club noting their donation on behalf of Elizabeth Cade to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation and the education program at ABCA.

c) Reference: Letter of Resignation

File: P.1

Brief: A letter of resignation from Tommy Kokas, Water Resources Engineer, who has accepted a position at Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Tommy's last day will be May 25, 2023.

d) Reference: Board of Directors Exemption Approval

File: A.10

Brief: A letter from The Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, to Mayor Ginn and Rachel Anstett, Municipality of Central Huron, noting the exception to allow the Municipality of Central Huron to appoint a citizen member during the 2023 recruitment process.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Jaden Hodgins noted that a delegation presented to Lucan-Biddulph Council regarding reductions in roadside mowing in the effort to improve habitat and slow runoff. He will circulate the presentation to other Board Members out of interest.

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

##### **MOTION #BD 55/23**

**Moved by Wayne Shipley  
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

**"RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:35 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter with Tina Crown, Brian Horner and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance."**

**Carried.**

##### **MOTION #BD 56/23**

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins  
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

**"RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 12:14 p.m."**

**Carried.**

**MOTION #BD 57/23**

**Moved by Ray Chartrand  
Seconded by Greg Lamport**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the information on the personnel matter be received as presented, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT the Board of Directors provided direction to staff to implement the revised pay grid as provided by Ward and Uptigrove, effective July 1, 2023.**

**Carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marissa Vaughan  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Abigail Gutteridge  
Corporate Services Coordinator

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



# ABCA Program Report

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** June 15, 2023  
**From:** Daniel King  
**Subject:** Applications for Permission - Ontario Regulation 147/06 - *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses*

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The following *Applications for Permission* have been issued by staff since the last Board of Directors Meeting.

- \* A Coastal Assessment was required as part of the application
- \*\* Work commenced without a permit

## **Major Permits**

- (1) PERMIT #2023-27  
NAME: Henry Griffioen  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: renovate and add an addition to a residence  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 28, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 4, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 27  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (2) PERMIT #2023-28  
NAME: Shelley Smith and Paul Wentzell  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: reconstruct a residential building  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 26, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 4, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 7  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

## **Minor Permits**

- (1) PERMIT # MW2023-22  
NAME: Lori and Jeff Ronald  
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores  
PERMISSION TO: construct a gazebo  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 11, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 8, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 19  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (2) PERMIT # MW2023-25  
NAME: Melanie Miller  
MUNICIPALITY: Lucan Biddulph  
PERMISSION TO: construct a covered deck attached to a residential structure  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 10, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 15, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (3) PERMIT # MW2023-26  
NAME: Parry Homes Inc.  
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron  
PERMISSION TO: construct a deck attached to a residential structure  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 27, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 11, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 10  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (4) PERMIT #MW2023-27  
NAME: Kevin Baltessen  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: replace an on site sewage disposal system  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 12, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 11, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 22  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

- (5) PERMIT #MW2023-28  
NAME: Barbara Natale  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: repair existing shore protection  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 27, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 15, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 12  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (6) PERMIT # MW2023-29  
NAME: Parry Homes Inc.  
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron  
PERMISSION TO: construct a residential building  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 2, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 15, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 9  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (7) PERMIT #MW2023-30  
NAME: Mary MacKendrick  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: construct a deck onto an existing residence  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 17, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 30, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 9  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (8) PERMIT #MW2023-31  
NAME: Shirley Hulley  
MUNICIPALITY: Huron East  
PERMISSION TO: construct an enclosed porch and deck on an existing residence  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 25, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 31, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 6  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (9) PERMIT # MW2023-23  
NAME: Doug Brenner  
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores  
PERMISSION TO: maintenance dredge in the Grand Bend harbour area  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 2, 2023  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 10, 2023  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 6  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(10) PERMIT # MW2023-32

NAME: Susan Arnold & Heather Pearce

MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex

PERMISSION TO: renovate interior of an existing dwelling

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:

May 3, 2023

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:

May 31, 2023

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:

19

STAFF NAME:

Daniel King

## *ABCA Program Report*

To: Board of Directors  
Date: June 15, 2023  
From: Brian Horner, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator  
Subject: Conservation Authorities Act Update - Progress Report

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This is a progress report on the implementation of the Conservation Authorities Act and associated regulations, for information purposes. Additional information may be available at the board meeting.

Staff are presenting the draft Cost Apportioning Agreement (CAA) to municipal councils and await resolutions. To date, two municipalities have approved resolutions to enter into the agreements. Staff will update the board on revisions to CAA and resolutions from councils.

The attached progress report will be provided to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry prior to the July 1, 2023 deadline.

**TRANSITION PLANS AND AGREEMENTS FOR PROGRAMS AND  
SERVICES UNDER SECTION 21.1.2 OF THE CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITIES ACT**

**AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**PROGRESS REPORT # 5**

**To: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**  
**From: Brian Horner, General Manager and Secretary Treasurer**  
**Date: June 15, 2023**

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*a. Comments or feedback submitted by a municipality referred to in clause 5 (1) (b) regarding the inventory:*

Staff are answering questions and providing more details upon request. No concerns have been raised regarding the Inventory of Current Programs and Services.

*b. Summary of any changes that the authority has made to the inventory to address comments or other feedback referred to in clause (a), including the changed inventory and a clear description of the changes between the previous inventory and the changed inventory:*

No changes have been made.

*c. Update on the progress of negotiations of cost apportioning agreements with the participating municipalities:*

Staff are meeting with councils to present, negotiate and finalized the agreements. A number of councils have passed resolutions to enter into the agreements.

*d. Outline of any difficulties that the authority is experiencing that might affect the ability of the authority to conclude any cost apportioning agreements with one or more participating municipalities by the transition date:*

No difficulties at this time.

## MINUTES

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 24, 2023

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom

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### ANNUAL MEETING

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Frayne, George Irvin, Roger Lewington, Dave McClure, Anne Melady, Charles Miner, Bob Radtke

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Janet Clarke, Robert Norris

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Sharon Pavkeje, Nathan Shoelier, Paul Seebach

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dave Frayne welcomed the Foundation Board Members and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

##### **MOTION # 01/23**

**Moved by George Irvin  
Seconded by Anne Melady**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the May 24, 2023 agenda for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation Annual meeting be approved as circulated.”**

**Carried.**

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

##### **MOTION # 02/23**

**Moved by Anne Melady  
Seconded by Dave McClure**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting held on November 29, 2022 be approved.”**

**Carried.**





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**“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation for 2023, be closed.”**

**Carried.**

Charles Miner accepted the position and will continue as Vice Chairperson for the ABCF Board of Directors. Chair Dave Frayne resumed presiding over the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR, AUDITOR AND BANK

Brian Horner provided the list of Solicitor, Auditor and Bank that the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority have accepted to use for 2023. Brian noted the ABCA tenders these professional services every five years, and this review is due next year.

**MOTION # 07/23**

**Moved by George Irvin  
Seconded by Bob Radtke**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation appoint Seebach & Company Chartered Accountants as Auditor for 2022.”**

**Carried.**

**MOTION # 08/23**

**Moved by Dave McClure  
Seconded by Anne Melady**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation appoint Little, Masson and Reid of Exeter; Raymond & McLean of Exeter; Trudy Mauth of Woodstock and Grant Inglis, solicitor with Scott Petrie LLP of London as solicitors for 2023.”**

**Carried.**

**MOTION # 09/23**

**Moved by Charles Miner  
Seconded by Bob Radtke**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation appoint the Bank of Montreal, Exeter and Raymond James / Skillen Investment Management of Exeter as their financial institutions for banking services for 2023.”**

**Carried.**

2022 Audited Financial Statement

Paul Seebach, of Seebach & Company, presented the audited draft 2022 Financial Statement for review. Paul noted the marketable securities value is down this year. Members thanked Paul for his presentation.

**MOTION # 10/23****Moved by George Irvin  
Seconded by Bob Radtke**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation approve the 2022 Financial Statement as prepared by Seebach & Company Chartered Accountants.”**

**Carried.**

PROJECT UPDATESConservation Dinner

Abbie Gutteridge reported 352 patrons gathered at the South Huron Rec Centre in Exeter for the 2023 Conservation Dinner, which raised over \$60,000. The ABCF applied for the 50/50 permit and sold \$7,720 tickets, with the winner receiving \$3,860 and the balance being donated to the Exeter Lions Club. The Rec Centre had a problem with an oven and some of the guests did not receive a full meal, so the Dinner Committee decided to send a letter offering a discounted ticket for next year. The Hard Ask was from the Exeter Lions Club for their Guide Dog program, which raised \$6,100.

Junior Conservationist

The ABCF funds an eight week student position with the ABCA as Junior Conservationist during July and August. The student must live within an ABCA watershed municipality and be a senior high school student or a first or second year university or college student enrolled in an environment field. Abbie has posted the position this year with closing date of May 26<sup>th</sup>. This student will help with a wide variety of departments within the ABCA, including our Education department summer day camps and Healthy Watersheds environmental monitoring.

Student Environmental Grant

Abbie stated each year the ABCF presents a \$1,000 scholarship grant to a graduating high school student or first year student enrolled in a college or university environmental program. Abbie will send the application to our watershed schools this week.

Morrison Dam Fishing Derby

Abbie reported the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Morrison Dam Fishing Derby was held Saturday May 6 from 8 am to 12 noon at the Morrison Dam reservoir with fifty fish caught. This event is sponsored by the Exeter Lions Club and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation. The expense of stocking the rainbow trout is shared between the two organizations. Port a potties were ordered for the event, with a confirmation, but the company sold their business, and the order got missed. Members suggested other local companies that provide this service.

Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods Expansion

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, showed members a slide of the new trail that will be developed within the Commemorative Woods at Morrison Dam and the location that it would hook into the South Huron Trail. Trail development will begin this year.

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## NEW BUSINESS

### Finkbeiner Property Acquisition

Nathan let members know of a property donation to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation. Paul Finkbeiner and his son Dalton, donated 20 acres in memory of the late Delton “Fink” Finkbeiner. The legal description of the property is Part Lot 22, Concession 6, Stephen Ward of Municipality of South Huron, and is located within the Hay Swamp Provincially Significant Wetland complex. The Ausable River dissects this property, which is mostly forested, and meadow like.

### Friends of the South Huron Trail

Chair Dave reported the Friends of the South Huron Trail met on March 27<sup>th</sup> and had a trail clean up and pruning day. Dave noted the trail is very well maintained, so the clean up was minimal.

### Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy

Roger Lewington stated that all of the properties donated to the HTLTC are in good shape. A new bridge is being replaced beside the Heeman Tract at Ailsa Craig. The Bayfield River Flats project is still waiting for MTO approval for a path under the bridge, and then a Master Plan will be completed. The Warner Property should be donated shortly. The Grand Bend Rotary is a partner in the property and have generated a number of donations. No funds from the Foundation have been spent on the Warner property. These land donations have created interest in other donation inquiries from their neighbours. New HTLTC Board of Director members are Jessica Smeekens from Thedford and Kerry Teskey from Grand Bend.

### Commemorative Woods / Trails Bench Fundraiser

Abbie noted donations to the Commemorative Woods tree programs (\$200 with small plaque on signboard and \$750 with brass plaque beside tree) have been steady. In 2022 the Foundation sold 17 brass plaques and 2 benches at \$1,200 each. To date in 2023 we have sold two more benches. Dave McClure felt we should offer benches to all of our areas, not just the Commemorative Woods sites. Anne stated, as a walker, there is a great need for benches.

### **MOTION # 11/23**

**Moved by Bob Radtke**

**Seconded by Dave McClure**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation persue selling more benches on all of our properties.”**

**Carried.**

### Funding Proposals

The Exeter Heritage Foundation is celebrating Exeter’s 150 in 2023, and asked to use the ABCF to apply for a grant with the Sunset Foundation. Their application relates to environmental education and nature walks, with a request of \$1,000. Their application was successful.

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### CORRESPONDENCE

1) Joanne Bowen of the Exeter Heritage Foundation thanked the ABCF for their support with the \$1,000 grant they received from the Sunset Foundation.

2) Optimist Club of Oakridge Acres, London sent a letter informing us that Elizabeth Cade had been selected for a Youth Volunteer Recognition Program for her work with the 70<sup>th</sup> London Scout Group. Part of Elizabeth's award was to direct a donation of \$250 towards a local charity, and she selected the Ausable Bayfield Conservtion Foundation. Elizabeth has helped out with our summer education programming and asked that the funds be directed to Education.

A thank you letter has been sent to the Optimist Club of Oakridge Acres in London, as well as a thank you letter to Elizabeth.

### NEXT MEETING

The next Foundation meeting will be at the call of the Chair.

### ADJOURNMENT

Charles Miner adjourned the Foundation meeting at 2:30 p.m.

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Dave Frayne  
Chairperson

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Sharon Pavkeje  
Recording Secretary