



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

2:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Chair's Welcome and Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement Statement
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
5. Disclosure of intention to record this meeting by video and/or audio device
6. Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2023
7. **Business Out of the Minutes**
 - Risk Management Official Servicing Agreement Update – Geoff Cade
 - Investment Policy Statement – Brian Horner
 - Vote on 2024 Proposed Operating Levies (Categories 1 and 3), and Budget – Brian Horner
8. **Program Reports**
 - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg147/06) – Daniel King
(b) Violations/Appeals Update – Geoff Cade/Daniel King
 - Report 2: Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy Implementation Programs – Kate Monk
 - Report 3: Stewardship Update – Angela Van Niekerk
 - Report 4: Tree Planting Program – 2023 Summary – Ian Jean
 - Report 5: Conservation Education Update – Cassie Greidanus
 - Report 6: GNSS Purchase – Tracey McPherson
9. **Committee Reports**
 - Friends of the South Huron Trail – Nathan Schoelier
 - Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation – Abbie Gutteridge
10. **Correspondence**
11. New Business
12. Committee of the Whole
13. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings and Events

February 15, 2024

Board of Directors Annual Meeting

(Note: no meeting scheduled in January)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, November 16, 2023
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Dave Jewitt Wayne Shipley

STAFF PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 106/23

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Greg Lamport**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the November 16, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting be approved as amended.”

Carried.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO RECORD

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 107/23

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on October 19, 2023 be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

2024 Fee Schedule and Pay Grid Approval

Brian Horner, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, advised that the changes to the Fee Schedule and pay grid increase of 2% was incorporated into preparing the proposed budget for 2024.

MOTION #BD 108/23

**Moved by Greg Lamport
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT the 2024 Fee Schedule and Pay Grid be approved as presented.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Adam Skillen, of Skillen Investment Management, presented a semi-annual update on the investment income since spring 2023. Despite a challenging year, the ABCA portfolio behaved relatively well. While the portfolio has not increased greatly in value, the market has dropped by 5%. There has been very little deviation from the ABCA targets of 35% equities and 65% bonds, but they will continue to routinely move back toward these targets. Of note, they are pushing the GIC numbers higher within bonds, as they now realize a better rate of return. Jaden Hodgins asked if the ABCA had a policy to only invest in ethical or environmental companies. Currently, ABCA does not have such a policy, and Adam suggested that a policy could be developed with respect to what ABCA does not want to invest in, to provide greater flexibility for investing.

MOTION #BD 109/23

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors receive the presentation from Adam Skillen, Skillen Investment Management, and

“FURTHER, THAT staff investigate environmental and ethical investing options and bring back a report to the Board of Directors.”

Carried.

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 11 *Applications for Permission* and 8 *Minor Works Applications*. Staff explained that Coastal Assessments are accepted when completed by a qualified coastal engineer.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, noted that staff are still waiting on court dates for ongoing violations.

MOTION #BD 110/23

**Moved by Greg Lamport
Seconded by Steve Herold**

“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. CA Act Update – 2023 Inventory of Programs and Services

Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator, presented an updated Inventory of Programs and Services that will be provided by the ABCA. Now that the process for entering into Category 3 Agreements is complete, the ABCA can update the inventory accordingly. There are four revisions listed in the accompanying report. No programs have been added to the inventory, and the ABCA will continue to provide various services through fee-for-service contracts. This inventory will be provided to municipalities and the province by the end of January 2024.

MOTION #BD 111/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Conservation Authorities Act – 2023 Inventory of Programs and Services report be received as presented, and that the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority approves the 2023 Inventory of Programs and Services.”

Carried.

3. Health and Safety Policies

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager who also acts as ABCA Health and Safety Officer, presented two policies to the Board of Directors. The first, *Naloxone in the Workplace*, is a policy that the ABCA Joint Health and Safety Committee as well as the Management

Team recommend the ABCA adopt. While the ABCA is not required to have naloxone kits in the workplace, staff believe it will be a good practice. Staff will be trained to use the kits in the event of an emergency. The second policy, regarding *Pandemic Flu*, provides a framework for response based upon the recent pandemic experience. This policy recognizes that such situations are dynamic and that Provincial health directives supersede an ABCA policy. It updates the existing *Pandemic Flu* policy adopted in 2009 and replaces the COVID-19 Vaccination Policy adopted in 2021.

MOTION #BD 112/23**Moved by Steve Herold****Seconded by Greg Lamport**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Health and Safety Policies report be received, and that the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the *Naloxone in the Workplace* and *Pandemic Flu* policies appended to this report.”

Carried.**4. Risk Management Official Servicing Agreements**

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, presented the most recent Risk Management Official service agreements. Municipalities are required to implement the policies of the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Plans under the Clean water Act, 2006. Since the Source Protection Plans approval in 2015, eight municipalities have delegated the ABCA to act as Risk Management Officials (RMOs) on their behalf. The proposed three-year agreement has been sent to municipalities for review and approval. Through the agreement the ABCA provides requested service to municipalities based on a user pay model.

MOTION #BD 113/23**Moved by Ray Chartrand****Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorize the Chair and General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer to sign the Risk Management Official Servicing Agreement with interested municipalities.”

Carried.**5. Staff Delegation – O. Reg 147/06**

Geoff Cade reported that only delegated staff persons can approve applications under O. Reg 147/06 – regulation of development, interference with wetlands and watercourses and alterations to shorelines and watercourses. At present, authority has been granted to the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Water & Planning Manager, Supervisor of Water & Planning, Planning & Regulations Coordinator, and Planning & Regulations Officer. Maintenance proposals under the Drainage Act also follow a Standard Compliance Requirement (SCR), and certain types of proposed drainage works also need to be signed off. To help facilitate quick turn around time for these maintenance proposals, ABCA staff recommend that signing authority be granted to the position of Water Resources Coordinator (Davin Heinbuck) specifically to sign SCR approvals.

MOTION #BD 114/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on Staff Delegation – O. Reg 147/06 be received as presented, and that the Water Resources Coordinator (Davin Heinbuck) be added to the list of ABCA staff positions that have delegated authority to approve Standard Compliance Requirement type Ontario Regulation 147/06 applications.

Carried.

6. Beach Water Quality Report

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, brought some information to the Board on beach water quality as requested. Healthy Watersheds staff have monitored beach water quality in partnership with the Bluewater Shoreline Residents Association since 2006, and their findings have been compiled in a report presented to the Board of Directors on May 18, 2023. While there are no clear trends at each beach, there were differences noted in water quality between beaches, as well as some differences in the ravines between Highway 21 and the outlet. Ongoing monitoring will be important to assess if progress made in achieving expected results, to identify “bottlenecks” in implementation, and to determine any unintended effects from the implementation of a practice.

MOTION #BD 115/23

**Moved by Greg Lamport
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Beach Water Quality report be received as presented for information.”

Carried.

7. Rock Glen Conservation Area Summary

Mike Bax, Rock Glen CA Superintendent, provided an overview of the 2023 season at Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA). This is the ABCA’s only conservation area that is staffed during the summer season, and where there is a gate fee for entry. In general, two staff members are present from May until October, and a summer student is hired for July and August. Staff are responsible for operating the gate house, collecting entry fees and answering visitor questions and completing park maintenance. Of note in 2023, there were just under 35000 paid entries into RGCA, pavilions were booked for 21 events, and the Arkona Lions Museum located at RGCA had 2093 guest book entries from 46 different countries. Overall, it was a successful season at Rock Glen Conservation Area.

MOTION # BD 116/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the 2023 season at Rock Glen Conservation are be received for information.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

CORRESPONDANCE

a) Reference: Letter of Resignation

File: P.1

Brief: A letter of resignation from Planning and Regulations Officer Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, who has taken a position elsewhere. She thanked Brian and staff for the opportunity to grow at the ABCA.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 117/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:34 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter with Brian Horner and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 118/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 11:49 a.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 119/23

**Moved by Dave Marsh
Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the information on the personnel matter be received for information.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

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

DRAFT

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: December 14, 2023
From: Brian Horner, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer
Subject: Investment Policy Statement

Background - We currently have an Investment Policy Statement & Discretionary Management Account Agreement that was signed in 2016, between the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and Adam Skillen of Raymond James.

At our November 16, 2023 Board meeting Board Members questioned if our current policy had a clause in it noting we only invest in ethical or environmental companies. Our current policy does not contain this clause, and our Portfolio Manager suggested we could include such a statement but would not want it to be too restrictive in the wording.

The attached document has suggested wording under 3. Constraints e) Unique Circumstances, which is consistent with the Vision of the ABCA.

Recommendation:

That the additional wording, as presented, be included in the Investment Policy Statement & Discretionary Management Account Agreement.

3. Constraints

a. Investment Time Horizon

The ABCA has a very long-term time horizon. The organization thinks of itself as needing to sustain its operations for decades and decades to come. That said, they are aware that they may have some short-term liquidity needs and as such do not want to have all of their investable assets locked into GICs.

b. Income Requirements

There is currently no income requirement for the managed portfolio. The organization withdraws \$27,000 quarterly from its commission-based account.

c. Taxation

The ABCA is a non-taxable entity.

d. Legal & Regulatory Considerations

The ABCA has indicated that there are no specific legal or regulatory issues or restrictions that affect this portfolio or income generated from the portfolio.

e. Unique Circumstances

The ABCA has a mission to protect, improve, conserve and restore the watershed in partnership with the community. Their vision is to promote healthy watersheds where the needs of society and the needs of the natural environment are in balance. The pursuit of this mission and vision should be present in the investment decisions made within the portfolio. While resource holdings are acceptable to a limited extent, investments in companies that work counter to the health of the watershed should be minimized.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: December 14, 2023
From: Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator
Subject: Applications for Permission - Ontario Regulation 147/06 - *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses*

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 # 2023-38
NAME: Gregory R. Puley & Kim Taylor c/o South Shore Contracting
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)
PERMISSION TO: alter a lake bank as per a geotechnical engineering recommendation
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: July 3, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: July 16, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 10
STAFF NAME: Daniel King

- (2) PERMIT #2023-61
NAME: Richard Boothroyd & Diane Smith c/o Jake Sabolick
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: replace an existing riverbank wall
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 20, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 3, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 10
STAFF NAME: Daniel King

- (3) PERMIT #2022-109A
NAME: Ross Teeple
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex (W. Williams)
PERMISSION TO: develop a wetland
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 7, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 29, 2023

- NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 16
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (4) PERMIT # 2023-63
NAME: Leanna Blancher
MUNICIPALITY: Lucan Biddulph (Biddulph)
PERMISSION TO: reconstruct a house that was damaged due to fire
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 24, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: October 25, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2
STAFF NAME: Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk
- (5) PERMIT # 2023-29
NAME: Robert & Donna Hamather
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron (Stephen)
PERMISSION TO: reconstruct a house, install septic and associated works
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 16, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 17, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2
STAFF NAME: Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk
- (6) PERMIT # 2023-69
NAME: Barb & Leo Drolshagen
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: renovate existing house, construct an addition and associated works
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 21, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 30, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 8
STAFF NAME: Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk
- (7) PERMIT # 2023-68
NAME: JBL Inc. / Harvest Homes London
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex (W. Williams)
PERMISSION TO: undertake development
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 31, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 23, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 17
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(8) PERMIT # 2023-67
NAME: Jane Lowrie
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: construct a building addition and renovate a residence
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 20, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 15, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 21
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

Minor Permits

- (1) PERMIT # MW2023-54
NAME: Municipality of North Middlesex
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex (Parkhill)
PERMISSION TO: undertake a bottom cleanout on a watercourse
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 8, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 14, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 6
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (2) PERMIT # MW2023-76
NAME: Enbridge Gas Inc.
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Grand Bend)
PERMISSION TO: install underground gas utility in a regulated area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 24, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 15, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 16
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (3) PERMIT # MW2023-77
NAME: Jesse Gardner
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)
PERMISSION TO: install a replacement on site sewage disposal system
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 14, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 24, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 8
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (4) PERMIT # MW2023-74
NAME: Lisa and Carmine Imbrogno
MUNICIPALITY: Central Huron (Goderich)
PERMISSION TO: complete renovations on an existing residence
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: September 21, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 14, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 38
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (5) PERMIT # MW2023-80
NAME: Matthew Smith
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: install docking in a regulated area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 7, 202

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 29, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 16
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

- (6) PERMIT # MW2023-78 (A through G)
NAME: Eastlink
MUNICIPALITY: Central Huron (Goderich) -3 locations, Bluewater (Hay) -4 locations
PERMISSION TO: complete watercourse crossings with underground utility
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 17, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 23, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 6
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: December 14, 2023
From: Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator
Subject: Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy Implementation Programs

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is doing a watershed strategy, as a mandatory (Category 1) program in the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act). The Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy (WBRMS) guides the management and operations of the ABCA. Staff and the board are the primary audience and users of the strategy.

This report includes recommendations for programs to implement the strategy and the results of a staff review of Category 1 programs. Please refer to Board reports in April and July 2023 for additional information.

Watershed Strategy Implementation

Policies, programs, projects, and services will implement the actions needed to achieve the ABCA mission to protect, improve, conserve, and restore the watershed in partnership with the community. They build on past success but recognize there are gaps between current watershed conditions and what is needed to address the priorities.

Effective watershed management requires the ABCA to continuously improve and adapt to emerging issues while being a resilient and vibrant organization. The programs recommended in this strategy have been identified in the Inventory of Programs and Services. Staff are not recommending any new program areas but have identified improvements.

The following is the list of programs, in alphabetical order:

Corporate Services Program

Essential assistance provided to all departments, Board of Directors, member municipalities and the public to enable the ABCA to operate in an accountable, efficient, and effective manner. The program includes:

- Policy and strategic plan development and review
- Internal IT networking, computer services, data management
- Secretarial and administrative duties for boards and committees
- Financial services
- Communications
- Administration Centre buildings
- Fleet services

Conservation Authority Lands

The ABCA owns 3,616 hectares of land which includes conservation areas, management areas,

conservation forests, farmland, and flood control structures. The properties are essential to watershed management, environmental protection, habitat and biodiversity, and outdoor recreation for area residents and visitors. Management activities and land use are guided by the Conservation Lands Strategy. Policies and plans guide acquisition and disposition. The program includes:

- Environmental management for long-term watershed health.
- Passive recreation: trails and amenities (signs, parking lots, boardwalks, bridges, privies, pavilions) for public use, risk management inspections, hazard tree removal.
- Invasive species management.
- Forest health improvement, tree planting and restoration.
- Research, monitoring, education, and outreach.

Drinking Water Source Protection

The protection of municipal drinking water supplies in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Region occurs through Source Protection Plans. The program provides technical support, source protection committee, reports, and risk management official services to municipalities. The activities are required by the Clean Water Act and associated regulations.

Education and Outreach

The ABCA is the main source of local environmental information. Education and outreach are included in and support all programs. The ABCA provides high quality, local conservation education experiences at schools, conservation areas, community-based organizations, special events, public meetings, and open houses.

A variety of communications methods are used, depending on the issue and the audience. Increasingly, social media, webinars, videos, virtual meetings and presentations, and websites are used to reach a wider audience in a cost-effective and timely manner. News releases and the ABCA newsletter are important methods of reaching the public.

The public is engaged about projects and strategic plans by the means appropriate for the initiative. This process is an opportunity to provide information and receive public feedback. Staff are involved with community-based committees and work closely with other ABCA departments to deliver watershed-based environmental messaging for on-the-ground projects.

Healthy Watersheds Program

Research, monitoring and community outreach activities improve the understanding of the watershed and its response to human and natural environment stressors and improvements. This information is used to support decision-making. The program supports community efforts to be informed and take conservation actions. The program includes:

- Monitoring surface water quality, groundwater quality, benthic species, biodiversity and the Integrated Water and Climate Monitoring Station.
- Research.
- Supporting the community through education and outreach, watershed community-based studies, and Healthy Lake Huron Initiative.
- Subwatershed plans and projects to address local issues.

Water and Planning Program (Natural Hazards)

Conservation Authorities are the lead provincial agencies on natural hazard issues. The goal is to protect life and property from flooding and erosion. The program includes:

- Floodplain Management Program: erosion control projects, flood control projects, flood forecasting and warning system, ice management.
- Planning and Regulations: municipal plan input and review program, Ontario Regulation 147/06 program, drain review.
- Low water response program.

Watershed Stewardship and Restoration

Staff work with private landowners, municipalities, and organizations to undertake on-the-ground projects to improve watershed conditions including water quality and quantity, forest conditions, biodiversity, and actions to make the watersheds more resilient to climate change. Stewardship projects contribute to flood and erosion control and stormwater management by reducing peak flows, storing flood waters, protecting soil, and naturalizing hazardous lands. Programs include tree planting and forestry, agricultural stewardship projects, wetlands and stormwater management, invasive species management, grant programs and technical advice.

Category 1 Program Review

Category 1 includes mandatory programs and services where the municipal levy could be used without any agreement. The Category 1 review process is a mandatory section of the WBRMS. This was conducted by senior staff using the Inventory of Programs and Services, with the following sections:

1. Determine if the program meets the requirements of the CA Act.
2. Identify issues and risks that limit program effectiveness.
3. Actions to address the issues and risks.
4. Cost estimate to implement the actions.

The following programs were reviewed:

- Corporate services
- Natural hazards management program
- Provincial water quality and quantity monitoring
- Drain review
- Core watershed-based resource management strategy
- Conservation Authority Lands
- Drinking Water Source Protection (Clean Water Act)

Results

The ABCA is meeting the requirements of the Act and associated regulations. However, issues and risks limit the effectiveness of present and future ABCA programs.

Aging infrastructure will need major maintenance or repairs. This applies to conservation area amenities, flood and erosion control structures, and buildings. All structures are inspected and undergo routine maintenance as required. However, the ABCA needs to be prepared for significant expenses.

Additional stream gauges and an updated hydrology model will aid flood forecasting and warning. Subwatershed plans to address natural hazards will be needed in areas with significant development. Community-based subwatershed plans will be needed to identify actions to address local environmental issues. Conservation lands need additional funding to restrict prohibited uses through signage, gates and enforcement. The provincial water quality monitoring network measures conditions during baseflow but funding is needed for additional investigations when water quality issues are identified.

Funding is a common concern across programs. Costs can increase more than the cost-of-living as new issues, regulations, policies, and projects develop. Provincial and federal investment in Conservation Authorities, (especially natural hazard management), grants, user fees, donations and sponsorships are essential. Reserves will need to be used prudently.

The watershed strategy will include a financial section. The Board of Directors will continue to approve the annual budget and the five-year forecast process will continue.

Recommendations

Recommended that the Board of Directors receives the Category 1 Review results for information, and

Further, that the Board of Directors approves the list of programs for distribution to the public for consultation.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
From: Angela Van Niekerk, Wetland Specialist
Re: Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF)
Enhancing rural green infrastructure in the Ausable and Bayfield Watersheds
Date: December 14, 2023

Background

Ontario Community Environment Fund collects funds through environment violations and provides it in the same regions for environmental restoration and remediation activities, resilient communities and local solutions to environmental issues.

This project is to improve water quality, create habitat, prevent the risk of flooding, reduce erosion, mitigate the effects of climate change and create recreational opportunities. The ABCA will restore 20 wetlands and plant 20,000 trees with the \$82,575 over two years until end of 2023. \$6,000 is to support project delivery (ABCA staff time for project coordination) and \$76,575 for project implementation.

Projects have already been shown and approved as these are matching the CNF or Nature Smart funds or they are listed under the new projects for CNF and Nature Smart.

Funding rate is 50% of project costs. However, where projects meet the eligibility requirements of both programs the federal and provincial funding can be stacked to recover up to 100% of project costs.

The following are the project categories and grant ceilings per project.

Project type	Grant rate	Total Funds
Wetland Restoration	50%	\$43,775
Fragile Land Retirement	50%	\$32,800
Project Delivery (ABCA)	-	\$6,000

ONTARIO COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND: YEAR to DATE SUMMARY (April 2022-December 2023)

Project Type	Available Funding	Approved Projects	Approved Funding	Remaining Funds
Wetland Restoration	\$43,775	21	\$41,126.9	2,648.10
Fragile Land Retirement	\$32,800	24	\$35,448.10	-2,648.10
TOTAL	\$76,575	45	76,575	0

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
From: Angela Van Niekerk, Wetland Specialist
Re: Wetlands Conservation Partner Program (WCPP)
Restoring and Enhancing Wetlands in the Ausable and Bayfield Watersheds
Date: December 14, 2023

Background

Wetlands Conservation Partner Program restores and enhances wetlands in priority areas across Ontario to improve functionality and/or connectivity of wetlands; conserves existing wetlands and their features and functions; supports municipalities with stormwater management to mitigate climate change; improve shoreline resiliency to climate change impacts.

This project is to improve water quality, mitigate excess stormwater flow, preserve, and increase SAR habitats, prevent flooding, build climate change resiliency in the Great Lakes watersheds. The ABCA will restore and enhance 21 wetlands through wetland restoration and tree planting for 2023. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is providing \$143,900. They have approved \$53,900 to support project delivery (site visits, project coordination, design, monitoring, outreach, and education) and \$30,000 for goods (trees, native plants, native seed) and \$60,000 for wetland project implementation.

Projects have already been shown and approved as these are matching the CNF or Nature Smart funds.

Funding rate is 50% of project costs. However, where a project meets the eligibility requirements of federal and provincial programs, funding can be stacked to recover up to 100% of project costs.

The following are the project categories and grant ceilings per project.

Project type	Grant rate	Total Funds
Wetland Restoration	50%	\$60,000
Fragile Land Retirement	50%	\$30,000
Project Delivery (ABCA)	-	\$53,900

WETLANDS CONSERVATION PARTNER PROGRAM: YEAR to DATE SUMMARY (January 2023-December 2023)

Project Type	Available Funding	Approved Projects	Approved Funding	Remaining Funds
Wetland Restoration	\$60,000	16	\$59,821	\$179
Fragile Land Retirement	\$30,000	9	\$30,179 incl seed, plants for wetlands	-\$179
TOTAL	\$90,000	25	90,000	0

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
From: Angela Van Niekerk, Ian Jean, Brooklyn Rau
Re: Canada Nature Fund Projects (CNF)
Restoration and mitigation for Ausable River Species at Risk (SAR) in Ontario
Date: December 14, 2023

Background

The draft Ausable River Recovery Action Plan (2018) has reconfirmed that the two main threats to aquatic species at risk (SAR) in the Ausable River are nutrient enrichment and sediment deposition. The primary goal of this multi-year project is to improve aquatic habitat in the Ausable River and Bayfield River for SAR freshwater mussels and fishes.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is providing \$373,000 in funding for the 2023-2024 project year. Stewardship activities will include working with watershed residents for up to seven wetland restorations; up to 17 tree planting sites; up to 1,200 acres of cover crops; and up to five sediment and nutrient reduction activities (fencing out livestock and WASCOS). As well as monitoring SAR fish and the SAR mussel fish hosts at six long term index stations and education and outreach in the Ausable and Bayfield River watersheds. See below for Funding Breakdown by Activity.

Stewardship Project Funding	\$132,485
Stewardship Program Delivery	\$95,000
Environmental Monitoring	145,515
TOTAL	\$373,000

CANADA NATURE FUND: YEAR to DATE SUMMARY (April 2023- March 2024)

Project Type	Available Funding	Approved Projects	Approved Funding	Remaining Funds
Wetland Restoration	\$23,000	7 wetlands	\$23,000	0
Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Activities	\$22,000	2 projects	\$4,000	18,000
Fragile Land Retirement	\$36,185	7	\$22,780	\$13,405
Cover Crops	\$51,300	58	\$44,985	\$6,315
TOTAL	\$132,485	78	\$112,765	\$37,720

Funding rate is up to 50% of project costs. However, where projects meet the eligibility requirements of both programs the federal and provincial funding can be stacked to recover up to 100% of project costs.

Below is a summary of new projects approved by ABCA staff since the last Stewardship Report.

Applications for funding: WETLAND RESTORATION

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff since September Stewardship report.

CANADA NATURE FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3499	Huronview	Tuckersmith, Huron East Lot 39, Con 1 HRS	Installed flow meter to monitor tiles and compare with ISCO monitoring.	\$1,500 Match with Wetlands Conservation Partner Program

Total Canada Nature Fund: \$23,000 of \$23,000 approved (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

Applications for funding: SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff since September Stewardship report.

CANADA NATURE FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3379	Wilma Van Erp	Adelaide, Adelaide-Metcalf, Lot 21, Con 3	Completed 11 WASCoBs over two sub-watersheds within property.	SARPAL program from Ontario Soil Crop improvement Association (No CNF funds) Matching \$4,000 Wetlands Conservation Partner Program

Total Canada Nature Fund: \$4,000 of \$22,000 approved (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

Applications for funding: FRAGILE LAND RETIREMENT (Tree Planting)

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

CANADA NATURE FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3488	Nick Vaessen	CON 1 LRS S PT LOT 49, Tuckersmith, Huron East	Establish multi-species field windbreaks, total length 350m. Proposal to plant 75	\$3,200 Matching funds secured from

			trees and 290 shrubs. ABCA to plant trees in spring 2024.	Huron County Clean Water Project
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Total: \$3,200 at this review meeting

Applications for funding: COVER CROPS

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

CANADA NATURE FUND				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3392	Wayne and Frances Kuntz	Lot 40, Con 7. Goderich, Central Huron.	36 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, 3lbs/ac sunflower, 10lbs/ac peas. North Gullies sub-watershed.	\$540 Applied for HCWP & Boost Funding.
AB-3396	Mike and Michelle Stephenson	Lot 13, Con BRN. Stanley, Bluewater.	62 acres. Oats, peas, soybeans. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$930 Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3397	Joel Brodie	Lot 13, Con 3. Stanley, Bluewater.	15 acres. 60lbs oats, 10lbs peas, 2lbs radish, 20lbs rye, 2lbs sunflower. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$135 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3398	Joel Brodie	Lot 14, Con 3. Stanley, Bluewater.	91 acres. 60lbs oats, 10lbs peas, 2lbs radish, 20lbs rye, 2lbs sunflower. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$1,365 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3403	Jeff Stephens	Lot 1, Con 15 HRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	40 acres. 65lbs rye after corn. Black creek sub-watershed.	\$600 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3404	FSJS Acres Ltd. (C/o Dave Murray)	Lot 21, Con 4 HRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	27 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, 15lbs/ac peas, 3lbs/ac radish. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$405 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3405	M&E VanderLoo Farms Ltd. (C/o Martin VanderLoo)	Lot 37 & 38, Con 11. Goderich, Central Huron.	115 acres. Oats, triticale, sunflower, forage peas, nitro radish, phacelia, blanca clover, 34.5lbs/ac. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$1,725 Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3406	David Ross	Lot 4, Con 3. East Williams, North Middlesex.	27 acres. 22lbs/ac oats, 6lbs/ac sunflower, 2lbs/ac radish. Middle Ausable sub-watershed.	\$405
AB-3407	David Ross	Lot 2, Con 2. East Williams, North Middlesex.	42 acres. 22lbs/ac oats, 6lbs/ac sunflower, 2lbs/ac	\$630

			radish. Middle Ausable sub-watershed.	
AB-3408	David Ross	Lot 11, Con 3. East Williams, North Middlesex.	46 acres. 22lbs/ac oats, 6lbs/ac sunflower, 2lbs/ac radish. Middle Ausable sub-watershed.	\$690
AB-3409	William Ross	Lot 12, Con 4. East Williams, North Middlesex.	62 acres. 22lbs/ac oats, 6lbs/ac sunflower, 2lbs/ac radish. Middle Ausable sub-watershed.	\$930
AB-3410	William Ross	Lot 5, Con 5. East Williams, North Middlesex.	52 acres. 22lbs/ac oats, 6lbs/ac sunflower, 2lbs/ac radish. Middle Ausable sub-watershed.	\$780
AB-3411	Jacob Williams	Lot 15, Con 2 HRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	78 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, 15lbs/ac peas, 3lbs/ac radish. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$1,170 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3412	Jacob Williams	Lot 21, Con 3 HRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	20 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, 15lbs/ac peas, 3lbs/ac radish. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$300 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3413	Nathan Hoogendoorn	Lot 22, Bayfield Con. Goderich, Central Huron	42 acres. 35lbs/ac sunflowers, Austrian winter peas, faba beans, forage peas, nitro radish, oats, crimson clover. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$630 Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3414	Van Doornik Farms Ltd. (C/o Steve Van Doornik)	Lot 4, Con 4. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	23 acres. 28lbs/ac sorghum sudan grass, millet, sunflowers, clover. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$345 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3415	Van Doornik Farms Ltd. (C/o Steve Van Doornik)	Lot 4, Con 5. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	52 acres. 28lbs/ac sorghum sudan grass, millet, sunflowers, clover. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$780 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3416	Jeremy Van Esbroeck	Lot 29, Con 1. Hay, Bluewater.	55 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, 5lbs/ac peas, 0.5lbs/ac radish. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$825 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3417	Jeremy Van Esbroeck	Lot 26, Con 5. Hay, Bluewater.	45 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, 5lbs/ac peas, 0.5lbs/ac radish. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$675 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3419	Nathan Cann	Lot 25, Con 7. Usborne, South Huron.	25 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, Austrian winter peas, yellow peas, sunflower, radish, flax,	\$375 Applied for HCWP funding.

			phacelia. Ausable Headwaters sub-watershed.	
AB-3420	Nathan Cann	Lot 26, Con 7. Usborne, South Huron.	65 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, Austrian winter peas, yellow peas, sunflower, radish, flax, phacelia. Ausable Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$975 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB- 3427	Dave Desjardine	Lots 170 and 180, Plan 204. Stephen, South Huron.	20 acres. 10lbs/ac sunflower, 5lbs/ac winter peas, 2.5lbs rye grass, 2lbs faba beans, 20lbs oats. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$300 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3437	H&B Farms Inc. (C/o Harold Van Doornik)	Lots 1& 2, Con 4. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	72 acres. 50% oats,13.5% awp, 13.5% faba beans, 7% sunflower, 0.5% sorghum sudan grass, 0.5% radish, 0.5% phacelia, etc. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$1,080 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3438	H&B Farms Inc. (C/o Harold Van Doornik)	Lot 11, Con 5. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	85 acres. 50% oats,13.5% awp, 13.5% faba beans, 7% sunflower, 0.5% sorghum sudan grass, 0.5% radish, 0.5% phacelia, etc. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$420 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3439	Ben Dykstra	Lot 35, Con 16. Goderich, Central Huron.	102 acres. Oats, crimson clover, radish. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$1,530 Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3448	Paul Bertens	Lot 15, Con 4. Stanley, Bluewater.	50 acres. oats 65lbs/ac, tillage radish 2.5lbs/ac, peas 10lbs/ac. Bannokcburn sub-watershed.	\$750 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3452	1510502 Ontario Ltd. (C/o Bill Gibson)	Lot 25, Con 4. Stanley, Bluewater.	86 acres. oats 30lbs/ac, peas 10lbs/ac, sunflower 3lbs/ac. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$1,290 Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3453	1510502 Ontario Ltd. (C/o Bill Gibson)	Lot 31, Con 3. Stanley, Bluewater.	15 acres. oats 30lbs/ac, peas 10lbs/ac, sunflower 3lbs/ac. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$225 Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3454	Blackford Farms (C/o Graham Taylor)	Lot 31, Con 3. Stanley , Bluewater.	56 acres. oats 30lbs/ac, peas 10lbs/ac, sunflower 3lbs/ac. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$840

				Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3456	Breimer Farms Ltd.	Lot 17, Con 18. East Williams, North Middlesex.	67 acres. oats 20lbs, peas 7lbs, sunflower 4lbs, phacelia 1lb, faba 7lbs. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$1,005
AB-3458	Postl Farms Ltd. (C/o Peter Postl)	Lot 16, Con 3. Stanley, Bluewater.	112 acres. oats, vetch, sunflower, flax, phacelia, rye, radish @ 60lbs/ac. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$1,500 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3459	Postl Farms Ltd. (C/o Peter Postl)	Lot 22, Con 4. Stanley, Bluewater.	31 acres. oats, pearl millit, sorghum sudan grass, awp, balansa clover, buckwheat, sunflower @ 45lbs/ac. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$465 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3460	Coleman Farms	Lot 24, Con 2. Hay, Bluewater.	90 acres. oats 30lbs, sunflower 4lbs, peas 2lbs. Black creek sub-watershed.	\$1,350 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3461	Coleman Farms	Lot 16, Con 2. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	42 acres. oats 30lbs, sunflower 4lbs, peas 2lbs. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$630 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3462	Coleman Farms	Lot 20, Con 1. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	50 acres. oats 30lbs, sunflower 4lbs, peas 2lbs. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$750 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3464	Clayton Charbonneau	Lot 21, Con 4. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	40 acres. oats 20lbs, sunflower 3lbs, peas 5.5lbs, radish 3lbs, crimson clover 3lbs. Little Ausable sub-watershed.	\$600
AB-3466	Vandewalle Family Farm Inc (C/o Dave Vandewalle & Lisa Mardlin-Vandewalle)	Lot West Part 27 & 28, Con 3. Hibbert, West Perth.	50 acres. Oats 55lbs/ac After edible beans. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$750 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3467	Kaumanns Farms Ltd.	Lots 9 & 10, Con 2. Biddulph, Lucan-Biddulph.	188 acres. 35lbs oats, 10lbs a.w.p, 5lbs sunflower. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$2,820
AB-3468	Eric Devlaeminck	Part Lot 2, Con 1. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	35 acres. 20lbs oats, 2lbs, sunflower, 2lbs clover, 2lbs radish, 4lbs awp. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$525

AB-3469	Eric Devlaeminck	Lot 7, Con 1. Biddulph, Lucan-Biddulph.	27 acres. rye 40lbs, awp 10lbs, clover 2lbs. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$405
AB-3470	Eric Devlaeminck	Part lot 3, Con 1. Stephen, South Huron.	15 acres. oats 20lbs, aw peas 4lbs, sunflower 2lbs, radish 2lbs, clover 2lbs. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$225 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3471	Doug Richards	Lot 24, Con 4. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	50 acres. oats 20lbs, aw peas 4lbs, sunflower 2lbs, radish 2lbs, clover 2lbs. Little Ausable sub-watershed.	\$750
AB-3472	Steven Devlaeminck	Lot 3, Con 1. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	61 acres. oats 20lbs, aw peas 4lbs, sunflower 2lbs, radish 2lbs, clover 2lbs. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$915
AB-3473	Calvin Charbonneau	Part Lots 20, 21, 22, Con 10. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	35 acres. sunflower 2lbs, oats 20lbs, radish 3lbs, sorghum 3lbs. Lower Ausable sub-watershed.	\$525
AB-3474	Calvin Charbonneau	Part Lots 20, 21, 22, Con 10. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	25 acres. 2lbs sunflower, 20lbs oats, 7lbs peas, 2lbs radish, 3lbs crimson clover. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$375
AB-3481	Strang Farms (C/o Mike Strang)	Part Lot 27, Con 6. Usborne, South Huron.	78 acres. annual rye grass, crimson clover, tillage radish. Ausable Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$1,170 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3478	Tyler & Summer Papple	Lot 9, Con 6 HRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	35 acres. annual rye grass 7lbs, clover 4lbs, brassica 0.25lbs, radish 0.35lbs. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$525 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3483	Papple Farms Ltd.	Lot 11, Con 7 HRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	75 acres. annual rye grass 6lbs, clover 3.5lbs, brassica 0.2lbs, Radish 0.3lbs. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$1,125 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3484	Papple Farms Ltd.	Lot 10, Con 7 HRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	87 acres. annual rye grass 6lbs, clover 3.5lbs, brassica 0.2lbs, Radish 0.3lbs. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$375 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3485	Fotheringham Farms (C/o Bill Fotheringham)	Lot 39, Con 3 LRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	12 acres. Oats, tillage radish, peas. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$180 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3486	Fotheringham Farms (C/o Bill Fotheringham)	Part Lot 29, Con 3 HRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	75 acres. Oats, tillage radish, peas. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$1,125

				Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3489	Derek Kootstra	Lot 27, Con 3. Stanley, Bluewater.	50 acres. oats, sunflower, phacelia, radish, crimson Clover. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$750 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3490	Derek Kootstra	Lot 27, Con 2. Stanley, Bluewater.	50 acres. oats, sunflower, phacelia, radish, crimson Clover. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$750 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3491	Rob Kootstra	Lot 30, Con 2. Stanley, Bluewater.	90 acres. oats, sunflower, phacelia, radish, crimson Clover. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$1,350 Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3492	Rob Kootstra	Lot 31, Con 1. Stanley, Bluewater.	44 acres. oats, sunflower, phacelia, radish, crimson Clover. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$660 Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3493	Rick Kootstra	Lot 40, Con 2 LRS. Tuckersmith, Huron East.	50 acres. oats, sunflower, phacelia, radish, crimson Clover. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$750 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3494	Rick Kootstra	Lot 28, Con 1. Stanley, Bluewater.	43 acres. oats, sunflower, phacelia, radish, crimson Clover. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$645 Applied for HCWP & Boost funding.
AB-3495	Rick Kootstra	Lot 30, Con 1. Stanley, Bluewater.	23 acres. oats, sunflower, phacelia, radish, crimson Clover. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$345 Applied for HCWP and Boost funding.

Total Canada Nature Fund: \$ 44,985 of \$51,300 approved (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
From: Angela Van Niekerk/Ian Jean
Re: Nature Smart Climate Solutions
Date: December 14, 2023

Background

Ausable Bayfield CA is one of 18 conservation authorities delivering projects for Conservation Ontario's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund for Place-based Actions. Funding is from Environment and Climate Change Canada with administration provided by Conservation Ontario.

Projects take place on conservation authority-owned or managed lands as well as on private lands and requires long-term agreements, ensuring lasting benefits. The Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund is providing \$100,000 in funding for the 2023-2024 project year. \$30,000 is to support project delivery (ABCA staff time for landowner outreach and project coordination) and \$70,000 for project implementation.

Eligible Projects include wetland restoration, treed buffers, and cover crops.

Project type	Grant rate	Total Funds
Wetland Restoration	50%	\$20,000
Fragile Land Retirement	50%	\$36,000
Cover Crops	\$15/acre	\$14,000
Project Delivery	-	\$30,000

NATURE SMART CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ENVIRONMENT CANADA AND CLIMATE CHANGE (ECCC) Fund: YEAR to DATE SUMMARY (April 2023- March 2024)

Project Type	Available Funding	Approved Projects	Approved Funding	Remaining Funds
Wetland Restoration	\$20,000	7 wetlands (5 sites)	\$20,000	0
Fragile Land Retirement	\$35,000	15	\$20,860	\$14,140
Cover Crops	\$14,000	9	\$9,405	\$4,595
TOTAL	\$70,000	31	\$50,265	\$18,735

The following pages provide a summary of new projects approved by ABCA staff since the last Stewardship Report.

Applications for funding: WETLAND RESTORATION

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff and shown at the September meeting but grant amounts have changed to allocate the funds.

Nature Smart Climate Solutions				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3353	Eddington	Bluewater, Hay Lot 22, Con LRW	Created a 0.8 acre wetland at edge of field in Gullies watershed to capture water runoff from field and stormwater events in May 2023. It will also help to filter water and provide habitat.	\$3,500 Match with Wetlands Conservation Partner Program, Huron Clean Water Project, Ducks Unlimited Canada
AB-3196	Gokstorp	North Middlesex, McGillivray Lot 13, Con 7 ECR	Enhance a 1.3 acre floodplain and wetland area in Upper Parkhill watershed with swales and erosion control in fall 2023.	\$3,000 Match with Ontario Community Environment Fund
AB-3384	Triebner Tract phase 2	Blue Water, Hay Lot 5, Con 4	Created three more wetlands at Triebner Tract in Upper Ausable watershed in summer 2023 as part of plans for water storage, filtration and habitat.	\$1,000 Match with Wetlands Conservation Partner Program, Huron Clean Water Project, Ducks Unlimited Canada
AB-3450	Dunlop	Lambton shores, Bosanquet Lot 21, Conc 9	Created one wetland in back edge of field of Mud Creek watershed and decommissioned old manure pit in fall 2023. Wetland will provide stormwater storage, filtration, and habitat.	\$11,000 Match with Wetlands Conservation Partner Program
AB-3500 (New project)	Jeff Damen	North Middlesex, West Williams, Lot 4, Con 9	Create two or three wetlands in 1.4 acre field in Middle Ausable watershed in winter 2023/2024 for stormwater storage, filtration, and habitat.	\$1,500 Match with Wetlands Conservation Partner Program (moved from Johnson project – postponed to next year)

Total: \$20,000 of \$20,000 approved (Environment and Climate Change Canada)

Applications for funding: FRAGILE LAND RETIREMENT (Tree Planting)

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

Nature Smart Climate Solutions				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3440	Christopher Beeler	CON LRW, LOT 22, Conc. Stanley, Bluewater	Establish 1.2 acres of native tall grass prairie and pollinator habitat. Cost estimate includes seed and planting by contractor. Landowner has site prepared.	\$1,800 Matching funds secured from Huron County Clean Water Project
AB-3465	Mels van der Laan	CON 13 S PT LOT 4, Lobo, Middlesex Centre	Plant trees to establish buffer adjacent restored wetland. 85 trees, mix of oak, maple cedar and pine. 2 ft conifer trees and 5 ft potted deciduous trees. ABCA provided trees, and planting service. Project completed in October 2023.	\$1,520 Matching funds secured from Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Parks
AB-3465	Brenda Dejong	CON 3 HRS PT LOT 25, Tuckersmith, Huron East	Plant trees to enhance buffer along Bayfield River. Proposal to plant 80 trees, cedar and mixed hardwoods. ABCA to prep site and plant trees in spring 2024.	\$1,300 Matching funds secured from Huron County Clean Water Project
AB-3496	Paul Wraith	CON 13 S PT LOT 32, London Twp, Middlesex Centre	Enhance watercourse buffer by planting 100 trees. Mix of Spruce, Cedar, Maple and Oak. 2 ft conifer trees and 5 ft potted deciduous trees. Spring 2024 project, ABCA to provide trees and planting service. ABCA completed site prep in November 2023.	\$1,900 Matching funds proposed from Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Parks
AB-3503	ABCA Triebner Tract	CON 4 LOT 5, Hay, Bluewater	Enhance wetland buffer and assist with species at risk recovery. 100 American Chestnut seedlings planted in October 2023 by ABCA staff. Tree protection also installed at time of planting; project completed.	\$650 Matching funds secured from Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Parks

AB-3504	Huron Tract Land Trust: Warner Nature Preserve	CON LRE PT LOT 4 & 5 Bosanquet, Lambton Shores	Enhance wetland buffer and assist with species at risk recovery. 100 American Chestnut seedlings planted in October 2023 by ABCA staff. Tree protection also installed at time of planting; project completed.	\$520 Matching funds secured from Ministry of Environment, Comate Change and Parks
AB-3505	Brenda Van Bree	CON C PT LOT 2, Bosanquet, Lambton Shores	Buffer and Enhance swamp forest by planting 150 trees around perimeter. Mix of Spruce, Cedar, Maple, Oak and other native hardwoods. 2 ft conifer trees and 5 ft potted deciduous trees. ABCA provided trees, and planting service. Project completed in October 2023.	\$2,655 Matching funds secured from Ministry of Environment, Comate Change and Parks
AB-3506	Steve Jennison	CON 5 WCR W PT LOT 19, McGillivray, North Middlesex	Enhance watercourse buffer by planting 240 trees. Spruce seedlings interspersed with oak tallstock. Spring 2024 project, ABCA to provide trees and planting service. ABCA completed site prep in November 2023.	\$1,400 Matching funds proposed from Sunset Community Foundation

Total: \$11,745 at this review meeting.

Applications for funding: COVER CROPS

The following applications for funding have been received and approved by ABCA staff.

Nature Smart Climate Solutions				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3501	Hayters Farm (C/o Adam Hayter)	Lot 19, Con 17. Stephen, South Huron.	61 acres. Oats, peas, buckwheat. Lower Parkhill sub-watershed.	\$915 Applied for HCWP funding.
AB-3502	Hayters Farm (C/o Adam Hayter)	Lot 15, Con 15. Stephen, South Huron.	94 acres. Oats, peas, buckwheat. Lower Parkhill sub-watershed.	\$1,365 Applied for HCWP Funding.
AB-3487	Van Raay Farms Ltd.	Lot 18 & 19, Con NB Stephen, South Huron.	82 acres. Rye, oats, harry vetch. Upper Parkhill sub-watershed.	\$1,230 Applied for HCWP funding.

AB-3463	Clayton Charbonneau	Lot 19, Con 12 McGillivray, North Middlesex.	20 acres. 20lbs oats, 3lbs sunflower, 5.5lbs peas, 3lbs radish, 3lbs crimson clover. Upper Parkhill sub-watershed.	\$300
AB-3455	D.M. McAlpine Farms Ltd.	Lot 14 & 15, Con 20. East Williams, North Middlesex.	129 acres. Oats 20lbs, peas 7lbs, sunflower 4lbs, phacelia 1lb, faba beans 7lbs. Upper Parkhill sub-watershed.	\$1,935
AB-3475	Denys Farms Inc. (c/o Jim Denys)	Lot 8, Con 8. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	86 acres. Cereal rye, oats, berseem clover, daikon radish, turnip. Upper Parkhill sub-watershed.	\$1,290
AB-3399	Denys Farms (c/o Jim Denys)	Lot 6, Con 8. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	65 acres. 17lbs oats, cereal rye 11lbs, kale 0.8lbs, turnip 1lb, berseem clover 0.1lbs. Lower Parkhill sub-watershed.	\$975
AB-3394	Limerick Acres Ltd. (C/o Steve McCann)	Lot 23, Con NB. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	48 acres. 60-80lbs/ac 5-way species mix. Lower Parkhill sub-watershed.	\$720
AB-3393	Limerick Acres Ltd. (C/o Steve McCann)	Lot 25, Con NB. McGillivray, North Middlesex.	45 acres. 60-80lbs/ac 5-way species mix. Lower Parkhill sub-watershed.	\$675

Total: \$9,405 allocated of \$14,000 (Environment and Climate Change Canada)

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: December 14, 2023
From: Ian Jean, Forestry & Stewardship Specialist
Subject: Tree Planting Program - 2023 Summary

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) provides a full-service tree planting program, through technical advice, tree sales and planting services to watershed landowners in the spring and fall each year. The program supports projects that benefit watershed health such as reforestation, field windbreaks and riparian buffers. Below is a summary for 2023.

Number of Trees Planted/Distributed:

TREES PLANTED and DISTRIBUTED							
			2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
SPRING	ABCA-plant		26,100	39,150	23,075	25,320	35,460
	Pick up orders		13,780	15,660	17,760	12,070	9,555
FALL	ABCA-plant		1575	390	620	560	605
	Pick up orders		1315	1475	1100	1420	675
			42,770	56,675	42,555	39,370	46,295
LANDOWNER PARTICIPATION							
			2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
SPRING	ABCA-plant		47	32	31	30	37
	Pick up orders		150	147	160	138	120
FALL	ABCA-plant		10	4	5	5	6
	Pick up orders		39	44	43	44	25
			246	227	239	217	188

The tree planting program operates on a cost-recovery basis and is supported through technical service fees, and tree sales. Local support for the stewardship program helps secure funding from external partners; this funding supports landowners in completing stewardship projects, such as tree planting, through cost-share funding. Project cost share funding was provided by the Huron Clean Water Project and West Perth Healthy Forests Initiative. Provincial funding was sourced through the Ontario Community Environmental Fund and the Ministry of

Environment, Climate Change and Parks. Federal funds were sourced from Forests Ontario, Canada Nature Fund, Canadian Agricultural Partnership and EcoAction.

ABCA planting services are available to landowners throughout the watershed. Below is a summary of the different types of projects, that ABCA staff planted, and where they were located throughout the for spring and fall 2023. The table does not reflect tree planting projects that were purchased from ABCA, and planted by individual landowners, these projects are widespread across the watershed.

		Windbreak	Riparian Buffer	Forest Restoration	TOTAL
	Adelaide Metcalfe		1	1	2
	Bluewater	5	5	2	12
	Central Huron				0
	Huron East	1	1	1	3
	Lambton Shores/Warwick	1	1	2	4
	Lucan Biddulph	1		2	3
	Middlesex Centre	2	1	2	5
	North Middlesex	3	2	3	8
	South Huron	11	5	1	17
	West Perth			1	1
	MVCA		1	1	2
	TOTAL	24	17	16	57

Thanks to engaged landowners, and support from member municipalities, and partnering organizations, the ABCA Tree Planting Program has a broad reach across the watershed. The Tree Program is an important way for ABCA to make direct connections with landowners and help them make positive improvements to their properties and the watershed. It remains a very effective means to achieve the ABCA mission to protect, improve, conserve, and restore the watershed in partnership with the community.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: December 14, 2023
From: Cassie Greidanus – Conservation Education Coordinator
Subject: Conservation Education Update

Introduction

Conservation Education has undergone a major transition that has been challenging yet rewarding for a variety of staff. As staff changes were occurring, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority got to see some amazing individuals shine in a different perspective than their traditional roles. Individuals, specifically Rosalind, and a few others had the opportunity to spread their knowledge with our watershed community in a mostly educational role.

As we are ending the year, and I am entering my fourth month with ABCA, I want to provide the Board of Directors with an update on how this transition has been going and where the future of Conservation Education is going.

Non-Profit Programs

This year, we have delivered a total of 31 programs to non-profit organizations, reaching a total of 532 youth and 202 adults. 20 of these programs were sponsored by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation.

- 13 programs were delivered to our watershed libraries.
- 5 virtual programs were delivered: 3 in partnership with our libraries, 1 with OneCare in Clinton and 1 for the Huron County Museum
- 3 additional Owl Prowls
- 1 PA Day program with Lambton Heritage Museum
- Other groups included: Exeter Scouts, Southcott Pines, Huron County Economic Development, Seeds Rooted in Youth, Zurich Beavers, Dashwood Community Day Camp, Seaforth Cooperative Children's Centre, Municipality of Bluewater Day Camp, Emmanuel Baptist Church and more!

We are extremely grateful for the Foundations sponsorship that allows us to provide these subsidies. Many groups often pay for additional programs after receiving one for free, allowing us the ability to reach additional watershed community members.

Special Events

Since starting in August, Conservation Education has planned three special events:

- World Water Monitoring Day – Located at Huron Centennial Public School over 300 students were able to participate in water monitoring. We began by looking at the impacts of the pollutants around us and their impact on our local waterways with the demonstrations of “Freddy the Fish”. We discussed what a watershed is and why what we do on the land is important for our water. Students then did a creek study, we used YSI monitoring equipment to look at the temperature, dissolved oxygen, Ph, turbidity, conductivity and more. We looked at benthic macroinvertebrates as indicator species to determine the health of the creek. Students were very engaged and eager to participate.
- Owl Prowl – Over 150 in attendance with live owls funded by ABCF from Wild Ontario. We kept the live owls a secret from community members and the reaction was great! We heard from 2 Eastern Screech Owls and had about 3-4 owls around us that we could only see with night vision binoculars!
- Make Peace with Winter – In December, we will be visiting 7 schools who have previously booked and paid for programming with us in the fall for a winter themed event. Students will participate in a mindfulness activity, a scavenger hunt and a craft all funded by NextEra and Cordelio Power. We are hoping to show students (and teachers) the beauty that can sometimes be hidden by the cold winter days to promote more winter programs.

School Programs

School programs were constant this Fall and I was completely booked, often having to ask for assistance from other staff to run programs.

2023 Summary:

- 205 programs in total with the highest months being October, June and May.
- In School programs were the most common, followed by Field trips to Rock Glen.
- Our most highly attended programs include: snowshowing, Species-at-risk (offered free of charge from CNF funding), Fossils, Soils (offered free of charge from NextEra), Pond Studies and Go Wild Survival!

September 1 – December 31 Summary:

- 90 total programs
 - 35 field trips
 - 55 in school programs
- Total people reached estimated 3,798
 - 3,587 students
 - 211 adults

Estimated total of 6,476 students reached by the end of 2023.

Day Camp

This year we ran 5 weeks of day camp, reaching 59 youth. We are extremely thankful to Elizabeth and Jennifer Cade for running these day camps as we went through our transition in education. The majority of day camp participants were from South Huron as all day camps were hosted here at MDCA.

What's Next?

- Conservation Education has been working on many updates to programs including adding in aspects of Indigenous Knowledge and practices, along with connections to mental health and wellbeing through mindfulness. Many programs are receiving small upgrades to ensure our students are receiving quality educational programs filled with inquiry and guided learning.
- We are working on streamlining our booking and feedback services through online booking forms and more concise advertising to make it easier for both me and the teachers. Through online feedback forms, I can gather information directly from all teachers I work with in regard to the program materials and its relation to Ontario Provincial Curriculum, the activities as well as seek their recommendations.
- Day Camp will continue this year; however, we will be hosting a total of 4 weeks of camp. Two camps located at MDCA and two camps located at RGCA.
- ABCA looks forward to the possibility of starting up Oaks & Acorns again in the future but refrained from completing a fall session as we are navigating the switch from two full time educators to one.
- River Safety program (SWAP) is continuing this year, and we will be pushing for bookings beginning in January. New this year is the modification of the Primary programs which will be similar to the new Junior and Intermediate program of an escape room after seeing the large success this has had in Thames Valley CA. I have worked with multiple primary teachers in the area to ensure these programs are suitable by age and ensure they are intentional in their goals of learning.
- Envirothon will be hosted by ABCA for the Huron Perth region this year. Envirothon is a North American high school competition focused on the categories of: soil, forestry, aquatics, wildlife and a special topic each year, this year being Biodiversity in a Changing Climate. We will host the students from approximately 7-10 schools for a workshop day on April 30th and a competition day on May 7th.

Conservation Education continues to grow and provide outreach to our local watershed schools, as well as though within the Maitland Valley CA as needed. We are reaching to encourage more programs during down times where weather is unpredictable and show our schools, we have programs to offer that are indoors as well, but that we also can provide a unique and positive experience even when the weather does not necessarily cooperate.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: December 14, 2023
From: Tracey McPherson
Subject: GNSS Purchase – Information only

We recently purchased a new survey grade GNSS/GPS unit with topped-up funding from Canadian Nature Fund (CNF). Staff will use the unit to perform post-constructed surveys on constructed wetlands to verify contractor design specification and to provide accurate storage calculations to determine the effectiveness of the design. The survey grade unit uses RTK correction services to obtain 1-2 cm accuracy in both the horizontal and vertical planes. Staff will also be able to use the units for other programs and projects that require high accuracy locations.

GNSS - Global navigation satellite system

GPS – Global positioning systems.

RTK – Real time kinematics. A satellite data correction service.

The ABCA purchasing policies require staff to inform the Board of Directors when we purchase items over \$7,500 that were not identified in the budget. Staff are also required to obtain 3 quotes for any equipment over \$7,500.

Staff acquired 3 quotes and have purchased an Arrow Gold GNSS receiver from EOS Positioning System for \$9,400.25 plus tax. This unit provides the best flexibility for data collection as it is compatible with both Android and iPhones used with ArcGIS Online applications as the interface for collection. As well EOS Positioning Systems have installed an RTK base station on our workshop and offer us a free RTK correction service.



MINUTES DRAFT

Friends of the South Huron Trail Meeting and Annual Meeting DRAFT

**Monday, November 6, 2023 – Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)
Administration Centre Boardroom at Morrison Dam Conservation Area (MDCA)**

PRESENT IN PERSON

Members: Norm Eckel; Jim Hayter; Linda Wilhelm; George Finch; Carol Rideout; Sharon O'Toole; Jim O'Toole; Peter Moseley-Williams

Staff: Nathan Schoelier; Tim Cumming

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Tim Cumming.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR FOR 2023-2024

As per the committee's Governance Rules for Election of a New Chair at the Annual Meeting, staff member Tim Cumming assumed temporary chairmanship of the meeting in order to conduct an election. He called for nominations.

MOTION #4/23 Moved by **Linda Wilhelm**; Seconded by **Sharon O'Toole**
**“RESOLVED, THAT Dave Frayne be nominated as Chair of the
Friends of the South Huron Trail for 2023-2024.”**
Carried.

Tim asked three times for any other nominations. There were none. He asked who was in favour and the motion was carried and Dave was declared Chair.

The committee agreed, by consensus, that Tim would chair the rest of the meeting.

Chair Dave was not able to attend the meeting but he had let the committee know he would let his name stand for Chair.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #5/23 Moved by **George Finch**; Seconded by **Linda Wilhelm**
**“RESOLVED, THAT the NOVEMBER 6, 2023 meeting agenda be
adopted as circulated.”**
Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOTION #6/23 Moved by **Linda Wilhelm**; Seconded by **Peter Moseley-Williams**
**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the MARCH 27, 2023 meeting
and the motions therein be adopted.”**

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

REPORTS – 2023 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND COMPLETED PROJECTS – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Nathan Schoelier, Manager of Stewardship and Conservation Lands with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), provided the Trail Maintenance and Completed Projects report.

He said there was some maintenance required to deal with erosion as a result of heavy rainfall in August. He spoke to a new piece of equipment that will aid with trail repair going forward.

He complimented Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff members Jeff Van Niekerk and Reese Thompson for their work removing the section of decaying rail ties, and replacing them with a stone dust surfaced trail.

TRAIL USE AND ACTIVITIES – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Nathan provided the Trail Use and Activities Report.

Conservation area use went up significantly during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Use has returned to lower levels than during the height of the pandemic but is still steady.

Nathan mentioned that Ausable Bayfield Conservation has a new Conservation Education Coordinator, Cassie Greidanus, who is doing some wonderful conservation education programs along the South Huron Trail and MDCA.

OTHER TRAIL PROJECTS – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Nathan reported on Other Trail Projects.

Nathan thanked Susan Riddell for leading a successful community fundraising campaign which resulted in a new launch for kayaks at Morrison Dam Conservation Area.

There was committee discussion about the Storytime Trail and it was agreed the stories should be kept up-to-date. Staff will contact Huron County Library to find out status.

SOUTH HURON TRAIL MOBILE – NORM ECKEL AND JIM HAYTER

Volunteer drivers Norm Eckel and Jim Hayter reported on the South Huron Trail Mobile. Norm thanked Tim for having created a video about the South Huron Trail Mobile.

The volunteer drivers said it was a busy year with some increased calls from Community Living in addition to rides with residents of Exeter Villa as well as local people and visitors to the area.

Norm thanked Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff (Nathan, Jeff and Reese) for removal of rail ties that makes for a smoother ride.

There was \$240 in donations, to the Trail Mobile, by people enjoying this service which makes nature accessible for people with limited mobility who could not enjoy the trail, this way, otherwise.

TRAIL PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY – TIM CUMMING

Tim Cumming, Communications Specialist, provided the Trail Promotion and Publicity Report.

Tim thanked South Huron Trail Mobile volunteer drivers Norm Eckel and Jim Hayter for their participation in a video promoting the Trail Mobile.

He thanked Friends of the South Huron Trail volunteer Peter Moseley-Williams for having provided a lovely trillium photo which was shared on social media in April.

A social media post praised the people who were keeping their dogs on leashes and that post received positive response as did some autumn photos.

Nathan and Tim are working on a news release about Quick Response (QR) code signs that should make it easier for people along the trail to donate to the trail or other conservation programs.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES – TIM AND NATHAN

Tim provided a fundraising update as part of the Promotions Report.

The Round Up at the Till initiative at Hansen's Your Independent Grocer raised \$450.

A donation, from participating Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff taking part in a Friday dress-down day fund, to the trail, was for \$312.

Friends of the South Huron Trail volunteers (including Suzie, Peter, Linda, Dave and others) hosted a Support the Trail booth along the trail and there were \$130 in donations.

Nathan said that, in addition to having raised funds, having volunteers at the booth gave a public face to the trail and was excellent community relations and education. People from Exeter and area; Seaforth and area; and even overseas (e.g., Ireland and Estonia) visited the booth. A prospective new Friends of the South Huron Trail member also expressed interest in helping out.

The Conservation Dinner Committee needs to confirm the date of the Conservation Dinner but it is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2024 (to be confirmed) at the South Huron Recreation Centre.

George had an idea of providing a place for people to scatter ashes of loved ones and to plant a tree in memory of the loved one and having the location recorded using GPS mapping coordinates. Nathan will look into this further and report back to the committee.

Tim said Giving Tuesday is coming up on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. This has the potential to raise funds for the trail.

There was discussion about whether the Green Gifts / Alternative Gifts idea (people don't need stuff; people can give the gift of trails and conservation) could be revived and with Giving Tuesday so close to Christmas, perhaps harmonizing the two fundraising ideas. Tim will look into this idea further and consider a news release about green/alternative gift giving.

FUNDRAISING – 'ROUND-UP-AT-THE-TILL' INITIATIVE

Nathan and Tim reported that the Round Up at the Till Initiative had a promising beginning in 2023 thanks to the generosity of Hansen's Your Independent Grocer and community donors. There were \$450 in donations. It was felt this fundraising idea had potential in the future and by

pinning down a date well in advance that would help with promotion and in the future this amount could be matched or even increased.

Another way to maximize the potential success of the event might be to have volunteers at the store. Nathan will speak with the store about this possibility.

FAMILY DAY WINTERFEST SOUTH HURON

Tim informed the group that Exeter BIA Manager Rob Ross is the new Chair of Family Day WinterFest South Huron. The Family Day festival is on Monday, February 19, 2023. It was agreed that the Friends of the South Huron Trail host a free family snowshoeing event in 2024, as part of Family Day, weather permitting.

APPROVAL OF FREE FAMILY SNOWSHOEING EVENT

MOTION #7/23 Moved by Carol Rideout; Seconded by Sharon O’Toole

“RESOLVED, THAT the Friends of the South Huron Trail hold a free family snowshoeing event on Family Day, weather permitting.”

CARRIED.

SOUTH HURON TRAIL FIELD GUIDE

There was discussion about a potential trail field guide with fauna/plant species information. This is a topic for future discussion as the committee considers how best to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the MacNaughton-Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail in 2024.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Staff will circulate a Doodle poll survey to find a date that works for members of Friends of the South Huron Trail to take part in a spring cleanup day.

SOUTH HURON TRAIL 20TH ANNIVERSARY (2004-2024)

In 2024, the MacNaughton-Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail celebrates its 20th anniversary. The ribbon cutting for the MacNaughton-Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail took place on Sunday, October 3, 2004. In 2014, the tenth anniversary of the trail was celebrated in conjunction with the Exeter Harvest Celebration.

The Friends of the South Huron Trail discussed when to celebrate the anniversary. One idea was to hold an event in the spring. One challenge with that is that conservation authority staff will be busy at that time with March Partner Appreciation Evening and April Conservation Dinner fundraiser.

There was discussion about looking at other community events taking place and seeing if the trail anniversary could be hosted along with them (for instance, at the same time as a kayaking event).

There was discussion about whether ‘trail buddy’ groups could be formed – meeting for friendly walks at a set time. This could be based on the model of the bereavement groups who walked together on the trail. People with common interests might be interested in walking together. Trail walking groups are popular at Pinery Provincial Park and that could also be used as a model.

Staff will keep the committee informed and consult with them about plans to celebrate the anniversary and whether a committee needs to be formed or not.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Friends of South Huron Trail is at the call of the Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Tim Cumming, Recording Secretary

MINUTES
AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

November 29, 2023
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Frayne, Janet Clarke, George Irvin, Roger Lewington, Dave McClure, Anne Melady, Charles Miner, Robert Norris, Bob Radtke

OTHERS PRESENT

Tina Crown, Abigail Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Sharon Pavkeje, Nathan Schoelier, Kari Jean, Cassie Greidanus

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Frayne welcomed the Board of Directors and staff to the meeting and called it to order at 2:07 p.m. Members joined the meeting in person and Robert Norris joined by phone.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #12/23

Moved by Robert Norris
Seconded by George Irvin

“RESOLVED, THAT the November 29, 2023 agenda for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting be approved.”

Carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #13/23

Moved by Dave McClure
Seconded by Janet Clarke

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting held on May 24, 2023 be approved.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

PROJECT UPDATES

Junior Conservationist

Gwen Taylor of Perth South was selected as our Junior Conservationist for an eight week student position with the ABCA during July and August. Gwen is currently enrolled at Canadore College in North Bay in the Environmental Technology program. Gwen helped 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 Gutteridge reported the ABCF offered a \$1,000 environmental student grant for a High School student going into University or College in an environmental field. We received two applications, and Gwen Taylor of Perth South, who was also our Junior Conservationist, was the lucky recipient.

Morrison Dam Tree Dedication Service

Chair Dave Frayne reported the Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods Service was held Sunday, September 17th at 2 pm. The service is held in partnership with Haskett Funeral Homes from Exeter, Lucan, Zurich and Seaforth. Approximately 350 people attend and the trailmobile was used to transport people with mobility challenges from their car to the seating area. Haskett Funeral Home had 290 memorials and the ABCF had 20. Next year's service is booked for Sunday September 15, 2024. Chair Dave brought greetings from the ABCF at the service.

Triebner Tract Update

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, reminded members of the Triebner family donation in 2009, of a 4 ½ acre parcel of land, which is located west of Airport Line and south of McDonald Road. Many trees have been planted on this site, including a archive butternut plantation, which is one of five in Ontario. Wetlands have been developed on the property as well as trails.

Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods Expansion

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, updated members on the expansion at the Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods location. Plans are underway to install a granular walkway with two loops connecting to the MacNaughton Morrison Trail and grass mowing will be done on a monthly basis throughout the Commemorative Woods area. Eighty one trees, including White Cedar and Pine and Maples, have been planted in the west section of the CW site. The granular material has been purchased for the expansion with

expenses covered by Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods reserves.

PROJECT UPDATES AND FUNDING REQUESTS

Healthy Watersheds Projects

Kari Jean, ABCA Aquatic Biologist, thanked members for their support in 2023. The projects supported for 2023 included: \$1,000 towards Old Ausable Channel for Community Engagement and Biomonitoring; \$1,000 towards the Port Franks Species at Risk Turtle program and \$1,000 towards the Species at Risk within the Bayfield River area.

Kari is requesting funding of \$3,000 in 2024 which include: \$1,000 towards Species at Risk Turtles in Port Franks - Community Engagement, Species Protection and Monitoring; \$1,000 towards Monitoring, Stewardship and Education in the Old Ausable Channel; and \$1,000 towards Monitoring and Outreach to Protect Species at Risk Rishes and Mussels in the Ausable River watershed.

Forestry And Land Stewardship

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, had no funding requests for 2023.

Nathan is requesting a dollar to dollar match from the ABCF, with a cap of \$5,000, towards developing over six km of accessible trails from the town of Parkhill to the Parkhill Conservation Area. This project will be in partnership with the North Middlesex Trails Group, The Municipality of North Middlesex and the ABCA. The work is proposed for 2025.

Education Projects & Programs

Cassie Greidanus, ABCA Conservation Education Coordinator, thanked the ABCF for 2023 funding. The funding included \$2,400 towards Community Programs for Non-Profit Groups; \$800 towards live owls at the Owl Prowl; and a flat rate of \$2,000 for the \$1 per student program, rather than counting each student taught in 2023.

Cassie is requesting, \$2,000 towards Program Supplies (this will take the place of the \$1 per student donation); \$2,520 towards Community Programs for Non-Profit Groups; and \$600 towards a live owl presentation at Owl Prowl.

PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET

Tina Crown, presented the proposed 2024 budget to the ABCF Board of Directors, with the 2024 ABCA funding requests included in the figures.

MOTION #14/23

Moved by Charles Miner

Seconded by Bob Radtke

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation approve the proposed 2024 Budget as presented, which includes the funding requests presented by ABCA

staff.”

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy Update

Roger Lewington reported the HTLTC has now received the Warner property in Grand Bend, and is just waiting on more details from the Canada Revenue Agency for wording to prepare the tax receipt.

The Blacks Bridge is now completed at the Heaman Tract in Ailsa Craig and the parking area is completed. This parking area was left by the municipality as payment in lieu for a small amount of land required for the bridge.

The trail under the Bayfield Bridge has been partially developed and will enable the Bayfield community to reach the Bayfield River Flats property without crossing Highway 21. The Bayfield River Valley Trail Association are hosting a fundraising event at the Bayfield Town Hall on Dec. 13 to raise funds to complete this project. Tim Cumming prepared a video for the event.

Funding Proposals

1) The Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy sent a proposal to the Huron Perth United Way for \$34,000 towards the Warner Wildlife and Nature Preserve for ongoing work. The application was successful.

2) The Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy sent a proposal to the Bluewater Vibrancy Fund requesting \$10,000 for the Bayfield River Flats Walkway. They are waiting for a reply.

South Huron Winterfest 2024

Chair Dave reported the Friends of the South Huron Trail will be providing complimentary snowshoeing at South Huron Winterfest. Rob Ross from Exeter BIA will be the Chairperson for the event.

Giving Tuesday Campaign

Abbie reported that Tim Cumming, ABCA Communication Specialist, posted Giving Tuesday messaging on social media, with a goal of \$2,500. The campaign received \$2,134 on Giving Tuesday (November 28).

ABCA Staffing

Brian Horner, ABCA General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, informed members of his plans to step back from this position in March 2024. He will return to his previous role of Financial Services Co-ordinator. The ABCA Human Resources committee, consisting of the Chair, Vice

Chair and Past Chair will choose the new candidate.

Roger Lewington thanked Brian for his guidance with the property purchases for the HTLTC ,
Chair Dave thanked Brian for guidance with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Abbie shared the following correspondence:

1) Thank you from the Rundle Family - Al, Marlene, Scott and Lisa, for the South Huron Trail with a donation attached.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next Foundation meeting will be held at the Call of the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

George Irvin adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Dave Frayne
Chair

Sharon Pavkeje
Recording Secretary