



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

10:00 a.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 April 18, 2024
7. Business Out of the Minutes

8. **Program Reports**
 - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg147/06) – Andrew Bicknell
(b) Violations/Appeals Update – Geoff Cade
 - Report 2: Provincial Offences Officer Appointment – Nathan Schoelier/Geoff Cade
 - Report 3: Financial Institution Appointment – Brian Horner
 - Report 4: Stewardship Update – Angela Van Niekerk

9. **Staff Presentation – Municipal Drain Classification: A Partnership Program – ABCA and Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Kari Jean/Christie Brown**

10. **Committee Reports**
 - Friends of the South Huron Trail – Tim Cumming
11. **Correspondence**
12. New Business
13. **Committee of the Whole – property matter**
14. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings and Events

| | |
|---------------|--|
| May 25, 2024 | Ted Baxter Day – Arkona Lions Museum – 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. |
| June 20, 2024 | Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m. |
| July 18, 2024 | Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m. |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Greg Lamport

STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Bicknell, Geoff Cade, Donna Clarkson, Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Mari Veliz

OTHERS PRESENT

Rick Kootstra, Adam Skillen – *Skillen Investment Management*

CALL TO ORDER

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) 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 33/24

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the April 18, 2024 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 34/24****Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 21, 2024 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PRESENTATION

Adam Skillen, Skillen investment Management, presented an update on the investment portfolio, which is at an all-time high, despite a significant downturn in 2022 and 2023. He noted that equities have continued to increase, causing them to deviate further from the target of 35% of the portfolio. He also noted that the fund portion of the portfolio has increased almost 70 % in a ten-year period. This year, Adam provided a new chart that shows the portfolio gain in dollar amounts rather than percentages, which was appreciated by the Directors. Adam noted that, as always, they will continue to shift the portfolio back toward the original targets for bonds and equities.

MOTION #BD 35/24**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the investments update from Skillen Investment Management be received for information as presented.”

Carried.PROGRAM REPORTS1. (a) Development Review

Andrew Bicknell, 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 8 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade reported that there was no update on the current violations.

MOTION #BD 36/24**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

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

Carried.

2. Capital Asset Management Plan

Brian Horner, Financial Services Supervisor, presented the draft Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP). The development of this plan is a requirement of the Conservation Authorities Act, which must be in place by December 31, 2024. It was also a recommendation of the Accounting Policies and Procedures with Respect to Tangible Capital Assets Policy, which was approved by the ABCA Board and came into effect in 2009. This plan will guide the purchase, use, maintenance, and disposal of each ABCA asset needed to conduct business. The CAMP was developed with input from all departments of the Authority, regarding their applicable assets. The overall current replacement value of ABCA assets is approximately \$8,367,000, which does not include Erosion and Flood Control Structures, as they are assessed yearly and maintained as needed. The average annual capital requirement is approximately \$200,500. The CAMP would eliminate the ABCA’s infrastructure deficit based on a 10-year plan.

Directors expressed some concern about excluding the replacement costs of larger Erosion and Flood Control Structures in the CAMP. Staff reported that it could be costly to assess all of these structures and reminded Directors that staff regularly look for ways to fund any major maintenance, such as funding from the Province through the Water Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Program. Directors asked staff to investigate other ways of assessing the value of these structures for the CAMP.

MOTION #BD 37/24**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the Draft Capital Asset Management Plan report as presented and accept it in principle, and

“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorize staff to evaluate the cost to assess the replacement costs of the Erosion and Flood Control Structures to add to the Capital Asset Management Plan.”

Carried.

3. 1st Quarter Profit and Loss Statement

Brian Horner, Financial Services Supervisor, presented the financial statement for January through March 2024 with comparables to the 2024 budget.

MOTION #BD 38/24

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the 1st Quarter Profit and Loss Statement be received as presented.”

Carried.

4. Ontario Regulation 41/24 Mapping Updates

Tracey McPherson, GIS/IT Coordinator updated the Board of Directors on changes to ABCA mapping as a result of the new *Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits*. Staff outlined regulatory changes at the March 21, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting, which included some changes to where ABCA will regulate. Regulation mapping must be available to the public, and watershed residents can access ABCA mapping through the CAMaps website. In addition, ABCA provides regulation mapping to our four counties. One of the key changes includes the regulated area around a Provincially Significant Wetland being reduced to 30 m from 120 m. This change reduces ABCA regulated areas by 11.5 km². Additionally, the change to the definition of watercourse is also likely to reduce regulated area. There should be very few changes, if any, to the dynamic beach area along the Lake Huron shoreline; however, the bluff area is still under review.

MOTION #BD 39/24

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the report outlining Ontario Regulation 41/24 Mapping Updates, and

“FURTHER, THAT the relation mapping updates currently in progress (watercourses) are to continue and be distributed upon completion.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, and local landowner Rick Kootstra presented an update on the Huronview Demonstration Farm near Clinton, ON. This co-operative project between the ABCA, Huron Soil and Crop Improvement Association, and Huron County showcases different farming practices, as well as the effect of different types of tile drainage on water quality. Further to the research that is already being completed at this site, the University of Guelph will be studying groundwater effects on the tile drainage.

MOTION #BD 40/24

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the presentation on Huronview Demonstration Farm for information as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 41/24

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held on March 27, 2024 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDANCE

a) Reference: Notice of Resignation

File: A.5.1

Brief: A letter from Mary Lynn MacDonald, noting her intention to retire from the ABCA at the end of May, and thanking staff and the Board of Directors for their support over the course of her career at ABCA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Davin Heinbuck reported that the Request for Quote from BMO was received just prior to the meeting today, and that staff will bring it to the Board of Directors in April.
2. Davin Heinbuck reported that the Cost Apportioning Agreement for Perth South has now been signed. Agreements with all ABCA Member Municipalities are now in place.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

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

DRAFT

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: May 16, 2024
From: Andrew Bicknell, Acting Water and Planning Supervisor
Subject: Applications for Permission
Ontario Regulation 147/06 - *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses*
Ontario Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors affirm the approval of the permits issued by ABCA staff as outlined in the Application for Permissions Program Report

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

* A Coastal Assessment was provided as part of the application

** Work commenced without a permit

Major Permits

(1) PERMIT # 2024-21

NAME: Rockland Farms (Steve Roelands)

ADDRESS: 36392 Mount Carmel Drive

MUNICIPALITY: South Huron

PERMISSION TO: construct an agricultural shed

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:

March 27, 2024

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:

April 30, 2024

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW

24

STAFF NAME:

Andrew Bicknell

Minor Permits

(1) PERMIT # MW2024-10

NAME: Larry Hagarth

ADDRESS: Site #205 - Wildwood by the River Bayfield

MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: install a deck
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 5, 2024
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 26, 2024
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 15
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(2) PERMIT # MW2024-19C

NAME: Eastlink
Location: Townsend Line road allowance adjacent Lot 1, Con. SB(Bosanquet)
MUNICIPALITY: Warwick
PERMISSION TO: install underground communications (fibre optic)
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 10, 2024
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 11, 2024
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(3) PERMIT # MW2024-19A and B

NAME: Eastlink
Location: Townsend Line road allowance adjacent Lot 21, Con 7 (W. Williams)
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex
PERMISSION TO: install underground communications (fibre optic)
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 10, 2024
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 11, 2024
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(4) PERMIT # MW2024-20

NAME: Paul Bunyan Trailer Camp, Bayfield
ADDRESS: Site #350, Paul Bunyan Trailer Camp
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)
PERMISSION TO: install a park model trailer and deck
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 19, 2024
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 15, 2024
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 19
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(5) PERMIT # MW2024-21

NAME: Paul Krueger
ADDRESS: 5670 William Street - Lucan
MUNICIPALITY: Lucan - Biddulph
PERMISSION TO: construct a car port
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 4, 2024

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 15, 2024
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 7
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(6) PERMIT # MW2024-16
NAME: Municipality of Bluewater
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: maintenance dredge in Bayfield harbour area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 10, 2024
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 16, 2024
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 6
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(7) PERMIT # MW2024-23
NAME: Seven Winds Marina
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: maintenance dredge in the Ausable River cut
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 19, 2024
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 18, 2024
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 22
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(8) PERMIT # MW2024-18
NAME: Harbour Lights Marina
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: maintenance dredge in basin areas, Bayfield harbour area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 2, 2024
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 22, 2024
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 14
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(9) PERMIT # MW2024-22
NAME: Frank and Patricia Palen
ADDRESS: 199 Victoria Avenue - Crediton
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron
PERMISSION TO: Replace an existing deck
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 16, 2024
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 16, 2024
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Geoff Cade

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: May 16, 2024
From: Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Lands Manager
Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager
Subject: Provincial Offences Officer Appointments
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the re-appointment of Daniel King, Watershed Engineer, as Provincial Offences Officer under Section 30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act, to enforce offences under the Conservation Authorities Act, and

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the re-appointment of Tenet Security Group, as Provincial Offences Officers under Section 30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act, to enforce all offences under the Conservation Authorities Act and Trespass to Property Act, and

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the appointment of Michael Bax, Reese Thompson, and Jeff Van Niekerk, as Provincial Offences Officers under Section 30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act, to enforce all offences under the Conservation Authorities Act and Trespass to Property Act.

Background:

Under Section 1(3) of the Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 33, it designates any officer appointed under Section 30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act) as a Provincial Offences Officer for all offences under the CA Act and Trespass to Property Act (TPA) when carrying out duties within their conservation authority. The Boards of individual conservation authorities, at their discretion, may designate staff to enforce these acts.

This designation revoked a prior designation, dated August 29, 2007, and came into effect on April 1, 2024.

Re-Appointments as Provincial Offences Officers

The new designation, that came into effect on April 1, 2024, requires Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Provincial Offences Officers, appointed prior to April 1, 2024, to be appointed under Section 30.1 of the CA Act.

The following ABCA Provincial Offences Officers, including contractors of the ABCA, must be appointed under Section 30.1 of the CA Act:

- King, Daniel; Watershed Engineer
- Tenet Security Group

New Appointments as Provincial Offences Officers

On April 15, 2024, the following ABCA staff members completed Level 1 Provincial Offences Officer training, hosted by Conservation Ontario:

- Bax, Michael; Rock Glen Conservation Area Superintendent
- Thompson, Reese; Field Services
- Van Niekerk, Jeff; Field Services

To be appointed as Provincial Offences Officers, the following criteria shall be satisfied:

1. The officer shall provide proof of a clean criminal background check, immediately prior to their appointment.
2. The officer shall be adequately trained in the legislation they are to enforce.

The Level 1 Provincial Offences Officer training fulfils the adequate training requiring, enabling the respective staff members to be appointed by the ABCA's Board of Directors as Provincial Offences Officers.

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: May 16, 2024
From: Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer and Brian Horner,
Financial Services Supervisor
Subject: Request for Quote - Financial Institution
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve retaining the Bank of Montreal, local Exeter Branch, as the Financial Institution to provide banking services over the five-year period 2024 – 2028, at the proposed set rates.

Background:

In the past, proposals for Audit and Financial Institution Services for five-year terms were requested. The most recent term ended in 2023. At the February 15th, 2024 Board meeting, the Board approved to change this to a “Request for Quote” process as recommended by staff. Staff are very satisfied with current providers and this process would allow for a determination of future costs over the next five years. The Board also approved that the Investment Services be included with the Requests.

At the March 21st, 2024 Board meeting, the Board approved the recommendations to retain the services of Seebach & Company Chartered Professional Accountants as Auditors, and the services of Raymond James, Skillen Investment Management for Investment services for the 2024-2028 period.

The Financial Institution Quote was outstanding, and the approval was deferred. Please see the attached quote that has now been received. The earned interest rates are consistent with the existing agreement, as is the waiving of fees. Improvements are shown in the discounting of Deposit Edge Fees at 50%, as well as the consideration of Minimum Balances on combined account balances, as opposed to individual accounts.



April 17, 2024

To whom it may concern:

RE: AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY/FOUNDATION

- Credit interest to be earned on all Treasury Accounts (both ABCA and ABCF); **prime – 2.25% (thus 4.95%)**
- OLBB and EFT fees to receive 100% fee waiver, Deposit Edge to be discounted at 50%
- **Minimum Balance:** \$500M combined minimum balance across both ABCA and ABCF
- **Maximum Balance:** \$5MM combined across both ABCA and ABCF
- Interest rate for borrowing depends on risk rating. For reference, well qualified borrower 5 yr. fixed rate on a secured term loan as of today would be 6.4%
- No monthly fees on any transactions or cheques
- Termination requirements is 30 day notice
- ADP (payroll) is a separate department that can be contacted to receive quotes
- Investment options expire April 22, 2024. Rate are subject to change

3m 5.64%

6m 5.59%

9m 5.48%

12m 5.58%

18m 5.24%

2 years = 5.24%

3 years = 4.87%

4 years = 4.77%

5 years = 4.72%

- Corporate credit card has no fee/points

Sincerely,

Byrony Mole

Client Services Officer

Email:byrony.mole@bmo.com

T:519-667-8597

Hasin Said

Relationship Manager

Email :hasin.said@bmo.com

T:226-559-0680

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: May 16, 2024
From: Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands Specialist
Subject: Stewardship Funding Update
Report Type: INFORMATION REPORT

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the report: *Stewardship Funding Update* for information as presented.

Background:

Stewardship Funding Program: Canada Nature Fund Projects (CNF): Improving freshwater habitat for species at risk in the Ausable Bayfield watersheds.

The 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.

Project activities below show the 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 31, 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 | 18 berms | \$18,400* | 3,600 |
| Fragile Land Retirement | \$36,185 | 16 projects | \$32,601 | \$3,584 |
| Cover Crops | \$51,300 | 54 projects | \$46,320 | \$4,980 |
| TOTAL | \$132,485 | 95 | \$120,321 | \$12,164** |

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.

*Amount increased for the one property as the number of berms increased.

**Leftover stewardship project funding was used for supplies and a little bit of HR with approval from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

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

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-3418 | Jeremy Van Esbroeck | Lot 13, Conc. 6. South Huron, Usborne. | 80 acres. 40lbs oats, 5lbs peas, 0.5lbs radish. Little Ausable Sub-watershed. | \$1,200 Applied for HCWP funding. |
| AB-3569 | Huronview | Lot 39, Conc. 1 HRS. Huron East, Tuckersmith. | 47 acres. Rye after corn. Main Bayfield Sub-watershed. | \$705 Applied for HCWP funding. |
| AB-3581 | Hauke Claussen | Lots 23, 24, 25, Conc. 2. Bluewater, Stanley. | 187 acres. Pearl millet 2lbs, phaceila 0.5lbs, turnip 0.3lbs, oats 15lbs, faba beans 8lbs, sunflower 2lbs, peas 5lbs, crim.clover 3lbs, sorg. Sudan 2lbs. Bannockburn Sub-watershed. | \$2,805 Applied for HCWP funding and Boost funding. |
| AB-3582 | Hauke Claussen | Lot 23, Conc. 2. Bluewater, | 53 acres. Pearl millet 2lbs, phaceila 0.5lbs, turnip 0.3lbs, oats 15lbs, faba | \$795 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|----------|---|--|
| | | Stanley. | beans 8lbs, sunflower 2lbs, peas 5lbs, crim.clover 3lbs, sorg. Sudan 2lbs. Bannockburn Sub-watershed. | |
|--|--|----------|---|--|

Total: \$5,505 at this review meeting.

Total Canada Nature Fund: \$ 46,320 of \$51,300 approved (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

Stewardship Funding Program: Nature Smart Climate Solutions: A partnership of Environment and Climate Change Canada and Conservation Ontario.

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% | \$50,000 |
| 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 | 5 wetlands | \$15,500 | \$4,500 |
| Fragile Land Retirement | \$50,000 | 29 projects | \$49,573.41 | \$426.59 |
| TOTAL | \$70,000 | 33 | \$64,785 | \$4,926.59 |

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- | Hullet Marsh | Lot 20, Concession 6, Hullett Township, Central Huron | 3-acre infill planting for forest restoration. | \$3,060 Proposed match with Huron Clean Water Project |
| AB-3554 | Brent Lively | Part Lot 5, Concession 22, McGillvray Township, North Middlesex | Landowner planted tree seedling project. | \$88.75 Proposed match with Sunset Foundation |
| AB-3575 | Lucan Biddulph | Part Lot 26, Concession 4, Biddulph, Lucan-Biddulph | Establishing a treed buffer by planting 132 large stock trees. | \$1,981.50 Proposed match with Ministry of Environment and Conservation Parks |
| AB-3426 | Dave MacLoed | Part Lot 13, Stanley Range B, Stanley Township, Bluewater | 0.6 acre reforestation project utilizing seedlings and large stock. | \$2,124.12 Proposed match with Huron Clean Water Project |

Total: \$7,254.37 at this review meeting.

Total: \$ 49,573.41 of \$50,000 approved (Environment and Climate Change Canada)



MINUTES - DRAFT

Friends of the South Huron Trail Meeting

**Monday, March 11, 2024 – Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)
Administration Centre Boardroom at Morrison Dam Conservation Area (MDCA)**

PRESENT IN PERSON

Members: Dave Frayne; Norm Eckel; Linda Wilhelm; George Finch; 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 1:35 p.m. by Chair Dave Frayne.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The draft agenda, as distributed, was adopted by consensus.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOTION #1/24 **Moved by Peter Moseley-Williams; Seconded by Jim O’Toole**
“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the NOVEMBER 6, 2023
meeting and the motions therein be adopted.”
Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

As business arising out of the minutes, Tim provided an update on the Storytime Trail. He said he had emailed Tanis VanderMolen, Branch Manager – Exeter, Hensall, Kirkton Branches of Huron County Library, and was informed that library staff update the story on the Storytime Trail every 4-8 weeks. Currently they are working with local schools on creating legacy stories for May’s Hike for Hospice. They have a core collection of stories as well as school/day camp created stories (e.g., Hike for Hospice; Turtle Release Day). If Friends of the Trail have any further questions staff can reach out by email or by phone at the Exeter Branch. The Huron County Library would be happy to make another co-created story with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Summer Nature Day Campers this year, if that is of interest and if there is capacity. They also had some conversations with Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff about possibly making some species-ID type stories and they are happy to open up that conversation again if there is interest. Tim has forwarded this information to Cassie Greidanus, Ausable Bayfield Conservation’s Conservation Education Coordinator, for follow-up.

Nathan said there is damage to posts from time to time and staff repair those.

REPORTS – 2023-2024 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 staff have removed some hazard trees such as dying Elm trees.

Donations to the trail have made it possible to do maintenance projects on the trail.

Peter said the trail is generally in good condition but made staff aware of an area that is often muddy where Pryde Road meets the trail.

TRAIL USE AND ACTIVITIES – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Nathan provided the Trail Use and Activities Report. Although there isn't formal tracking of how many people use the trail, the proximity of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation office makes it possible to be aware of steady use of the trail. Mild weather has also contributed to steady use of the MacNaughton-Morrison and Morrison Dam Conservation Area sections of the South Huron Trail. There has also been use of the trail by groups for group walks.

OTHER TRAIL PROJECTS – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Nathan reported on Other Trail Projects. The family-friendly annual trout fishing derby, hosted by Exeter Lions Club in partnership with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, with stocking of trout in Morrison Lake/Morrison Reservoir, takes place on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

As part of the 20th anniversary (2004-2024) of the MacNaughton-Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail, staff will review signage.

There are three weeks of Summer Nature Day Camps at Morrison Dam Conservation Area.

SOUTH HURON TRAIL MOBILE – NORM ECKEL

Volunteer driver Norm Eckel reported on the South Huron Trail Mobile. He said use of the Trail Mobile was steady last year including weekly visits to Exeter Villa. Community Living residents also started using and enjoying the Trail Mobile about three times a month. The Trail Mobile season usually begins around Mother's Day and usually ends around Thanksgiving but last year, as autumn colours came late, the Trail Mobile season ran a couple of weeks later than usual.

TRAIL PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY – TIM CUMMING

Tim Cumming, Communications Specialist, provided the Trail Promotion and Publicity Report. He thanked Peter for coming up with the idea of a February 29 Leap Day photo leaping into the 20th anniversary year. He thanked Linda, Suzie, and Peter for being in the photo on a cold day.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES – TIM AND NATHAN

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

Around the time of Giving Tuesday 2023 we had about \$350 in donations to the trail.

In 2024, GivingTuesday is Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

Chair Dave gave an example of someone generously making a \$100 donation and saying they use the trail every week.

DOGS ON LEASH

Tim shared that he did a myFM radio interview about keeping dogs on leashes. The reporter

asked about dog parks. Crediton Conservation Area is a small day-use area, in Crediton, managed in partnership by the Municipality of South Huron and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. Crediton Conservation Area offers a dog park. The Crediton Conservation Area has a fenced area where dogs are permitted to be off-leash. Dogs must be under control and well-behaved. Dog owners/handlers are responsible for their dogs' behaviour and need to adhere to the 'stoop and scoop' bylaw. Tim underlined that people must keep their dogs on a leash, on a multi-use trail, in order to protect their dog, other dogs, people, and wildlife. Following the news story, a concerned trail volunteer contacted staff about someone having a dog off leash on the trail. In this incident, a dog owner had a leash in their hand but would not use it, saying their dog was not a problem. This volunteer wondered whether more or higher fines would be more of a deterrent. This volunteer asked, "Who do we call if we are on the trail and experience an event?" and "... Do the numbers work on holidays, weekends and off-work hours? ..." Nathan says trail volunteers are welcome to email him during those time frames. He does check his emails when he's able. However, it does take time for us to receive a response from our security company. Our security company does complete pro-active patrols of the trail. We thanked the volunteer for being a trail ambassador and the eyes and ears of the trail.

There was discussion of dogs on leash and it was felt more signs might be added. It was suggested a dogs on leash sign or signs might be located near Stirling Bridge. These suggestions can be considered as part of a review of signs. It was also felt sign messaging might encourage dog owners to carry out dog bags with them as opposed to leaving the bag on the trail or in a garbage.

JANE'S WALKS

Tim informed the trail group of an invitation to host a community walk, called a Jane's Walk, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on May 4-5, 2024. Chair Dave suggested May 4 would be too busy as this is the same time as the family fishing derby on May 4 and May 5 would be a better time if someone wanted to host a Jane's Walk. Information on Jane's Walk Huron 2024 is on this County of Huron web page (<https://connectedcountyofhuron.ca/janes-walk-2024>). No prior experience is needed to become a Jane's Walk Huron storyteller – all that's needed is a love for community and a willingness to share local stories with others. Each walk is between 45 minutes and 1.5 hours long, and will be scheduled on May 4 or 5, 2024. Training and support is provided to help storytellers craft engaging narratives and lead memorable walking tours. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer storyteller and host a Jane's Walk they can let staff know.

FAMILY DAY WINTERFEST SOUTH HURON

Tim said that he made a decision to cancel the Friends of the South Huron Trail's Free Family Snowshoeing Event, for Family Day WinterFest South Huron, in 2024, based on weather forecasts that suggested there might not be enough snow. He thanked the volunteers who had volunteered to help and apologized for the inconvenience.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY – NATHAN SCHOELIER

A spring cleanup day is planned for the afternoon of Monday, March 25, 2024 with Wednesday, March 27, 2024 as a rain date.

Volunteers can meet at the pavilion at the south side of Morrison Lake/Morrison Reservoir.

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.

It was suggested that CTV/Bell Media reporter Scott Miller could be invited to consider news stories around the Trail Mobile; trail anniversary; and Eco Exeter students at South Huron District High School.

It was also suggested the Jones Bridge fifth anniversary (2019-2024) could also be incorporated into the celebration.

It was suggested the anniversary might be celebrated around October 3 on Ontario Hiking Week. The group can consider if there are other events with which it could be combined (perhaps Chamber/BIA Gala Awards). If not, the event could be a stand-alone.

SOUTH HURON TRAIL FIELD GUIDE

There was discussion about a potential trail field guide with fauna/plant species information as part of the 20th anniversary of the MacNaughton-Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail in 2024. The proposed Field Guide could be sold and could feature history of the trail as well as species of plants/flora along the trail and fauna/animals on the trail such as birds.

TRAIL BUDDY GROUPS

There was discussion about whether a regular trail hiking group might be formed, along the lines of a similar group at Pinery Provincial Park. It was suggested that Friends of the South Huron Trail members could see who is interested and the group might start hikes as early as mid to late April. Walkers could meet at locations such as Woodland Reflection Shelter or MacNaughton Park or perhaps curling club. The walks could take place in the morning (e.g., ~9:30 a.m.). Each walk, each week, could cover a different loop or area of the trail.

COMMEMORATIVE WOODS AND OTHER MEMORIAL IDEAS

Nathan followed up on an idea that had been discussed at the previous meeting about looking into the potential of using trails and/or conservation areas as a place where ashes could be scattered and managed as permanent memorials. He researched the issue and found that Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation had looked into the idea in 2019 and found that it was not practical under current legal frameworks that would require conservation lands to be designated as cemeteries and the high cost (e.g., \$100,000+) to provide permanent future maintenance funding. There was discussion about the existing ways to remember loved ones and support the trail, such as the Commemorative Woods program.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Friends of South Huron Trail is on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Dave Frayne, Chair

Tim Cumming, Recording Secretary