

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Bax, Andrew Bicknell, Christie Brown, Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Kari Jean, Nathan Schoelier, Erik Strahl, Angela Van Niekerk, Mari Veliz

CALL TO ORDER

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 41/24

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Greg Lamport**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the May 16, 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 42/24

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on April 18, 2024 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review

Andrew Bicknell, Senior Regulations Coordinator, presented the Development Review report pursuant to Ontario Regulation 147/06 *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses* (applications received prior to April 1, 2024), and Ontario Regulation 41/24 *Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits* (applications received April 1, 2024 and later). Through the application process, proposed developments within regulated areas are protected from flooding and erosion hazards. Staff granted permission for 1 *Application for Permission* and 9 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, noted that the permit denied through the last ABCA Board Hearing has been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal, and will be going through that legal process.

Geoff also introduced Erik Strahl to the Directors, as one of the new Planning and Regulations staff at ABCA. He noted that Erik spent some time at Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority.

MOTION #BD 43/24

Moved by Dave Jewitt

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. Provincial Offences Officer Appointments

Nathan Schoelier, Conservation Lands and Stewardship Manager, reported that Under Section 1(3) of the Provincial Offences Act, staff designated by the Board of Directors under Section 30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act, may enforce both the CA Act and the Trespass to Property Act when carrying out duties within their conservation authority. A new designation came into effect April 1, 2024, and requires staff or designated to be appointed or reappointed by the Board of Directors.

Daniel King, Watershed Engineer, and Tenet Security Group require reappointments as ABCA Provincial Offences Officers. In addition, three ABCA staff completed Level 1 Provincial Offences Officer training hosted by Conservation Ontario and require appointment as ABCA Provincial Offences Officers. They are Michael Bax, Rock Glen Conservation Area Superintendent; Reese Thompson, Field Services; and Jeff Van Niekerk, Field Services.

MOTION #BD 44/24

Moved by Ray Chartrand

Seconded by Greg Lamport

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the reappointment 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

“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the reappointment 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

“FURTHER, 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.”

Carried.

3. Financial Institution Appointment

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer presented the quote received from the Exeter local branch of the Bank of Montreal for services over the five-year period of 2024-2028, which had been outstanding from a request made in March 2024. The earned interest rates are consistent with the existing agreement, along with waived fees. Also included is a discount of 50% of Deposit Edge fees, and the consideration of Minimum Balances on combined accounts rather than individual accounts.

MOTION #BD 45/24

Moved by Greg Lamport

Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

“RESOLVED, 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.”

Carried.

4. Stewardship Funding Update

Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands Specialist, presented an update on stewardship efforts and funding. A total of \$373,000 was provided for the 2023-2024 year, and it has all been dedicated to projects including 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. There will also be species-at-risk fish and mussel monitoring at six long term index stations, as well as some education and outreach activities. Four new cover crop projects have been approved by staff for this funding. ABCA has also received \$100,000 from Nature Smart Climate Solutions through Environment and Climate Change Canada and Conservation Ontario. Four fragile land retirement projects have been approved for this funding by ABCA staff.

MOTION #BD 46/24

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Steve Herold**

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

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Kari Jean, Aquatic Biologist, with help from Christie Brown, Water Resources Technician, presented an overview of the long-standing partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the Drain Classification program. Through this program, ABCA staff collect information on aquatic species, as well as flow to help determine the classification of each drain. This information not only benefits drainage superintendents to streamline the process for drain maintenance, but also has watershed benefits, and provides education to all involved. This partnership has been in place for 25 years, and the ABCA piloted a new protocol in 2017 as there was a need for a science-based protocol.

MOTION #BD 47/24

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the presentation on the Municipal Drain Classification Partnership Program for information as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 48/24

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Friends of the South Huron Trail meeting held on March 11, 2024 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDANCE

a) Reference: Notice of Resignation

File: A.5.1

Brief: A letter from Sharon Pavkeje, ABCA Corporate Services Assistant, noting her intention to retire from the ABCA on August 15, 2024, and thanking staff and the Board of Directors for their support over the course of her career at ABCA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. It was noted that there is a planned webinar by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding the regulatory changes to the CA Act on June 14. It is being hosted by AMO and Conservation Ontario.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 49/24

Moved by Steve Herold

Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:17 a.m. with Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck and Nathan Schoelier remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 50/24

Moved by Jaden Hodgins

Seconded by Wayne Shipley

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors rise and report at 11:24 a.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 51/24

Moved by Ray Chartrand

Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorize staff to proceed as directed regarding the property acquisition.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

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