



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, June 20, 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 May 16, 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: Capital Asset Management Plant – Davin Heinbuck/Brian Horner
  
9. **Staff Presentation – ABCA Flood and Erosion Control Structures** – Daniel King
  
10. **General Manager's Report**
11. **Committee Reports**
  - Arkona Lions Museum Committee – Abbie Gutteridge
  - Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation – Abbie Gutteridge
12. **Correspondence**
13. New Business
14. Committee of the Whole
15. Adjournment

#### Upcoming Meetings and Events

July 18, 2024	Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
September 19, 2024	Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

*Please note: There is no Board of Directors Meeting in August*

## 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*

# ABCA Program Report

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** June 20, 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

---

## Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors affirm the approval of the permits issued by ABCA staff as outlined in the *Applications 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 # 2024-22  
NAME: Windermere Subdivision by INCON  
ADDRESS: #72 Wellington St. E., Exeter  
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron  
PERMISSION TO: Area grading, subdivision servicing, storm outfall, associated works.  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 26, 2024  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 14, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 35  
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (2) PERMIT # 2024-19  
NAME: Municipality of North Middlesex  
ADDRESS: #2519 Mount Carmel Drive  
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex  
PERMISSION TO: undertake a Section 78 Drain Improvement  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 26, 2024  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 7, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 30  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell



- (3) PERMIT # 2024-20  
NAME: Tridon Properties Ltd. ( Sol Haven Subdivision)  
ADDRESS: #70786 Bluewater Highway, Grand Bend  
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron  
PERMISSION TO: allowing area grading, subdivision servicing and storm outfall construction  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 22, 2024  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 29, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 7  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (4) PERMIT # 2024-27  
NAME: Ross Caslick  
ADDRESS: #10 Parkside Ave, Zurich  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: construct a detached accessory garage structure  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 22, 2024  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 22, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (5) PERMIT # 2024-25  
NAME: Vanessa and Brett Andrew  
ADDRESS: #72294 Cliffside Drive  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: allowing residential building renovations  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 24, 2024  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 22, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 19  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (6) PERMIT # 2024-28  
NAME: Mac Voisen and Marcela Bahar  
ADDRESS: #72777 Ravine Drive  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: allowing residential building renovations  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 16, 2024  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 23, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (7) PERMIT # 2024-29  
NAME: Michael Travis

ADDRESS: #8471 Adams Court

MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores

PERMISSION TO: allowing construction of a new residence, onsite sewage disposal system and related work

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 23, 2024

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 28, 2024

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 24

STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(8) PERMIT # 2024-23

NAME: Municipality of Middlesex Centre

ADDRESS: New Ontario Rd., 100m north of Greystead Rd.

MUNICIPALITY: Middlesex Centre

PERMISSION TO: Replace existing culvert and associated work.

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 23, 2024

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 27, 2024

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 23

STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl

## **Minor Permits**

(1) PERMIT # MW2024-24

NAME: Allen and Shauna Simpson

ADDRESS: Site #32 Wildwood by the River Bayfield

MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater

PERMISSION TO: install a replacement trailer and deck

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 25, 2024

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 2, 2024

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5

STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(2) PERMIT # MW2019-01E (Renewal)

NAME: Dave Tilford

ADDRESS: 21 Kingsmere Dr.

MUNICIPALITY: South Huron

PERMISSION TO: Routine maintenance to preserve channel alignment

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 15, 2024

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 7, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 17  
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken

(3) PERMIT # MW2023-33A (Renewal)  
NAME: Stephen Kadlecik  
ADDRESS: 10210 Shoreline Drive  
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores  
PERMISSION TO: Permit renewal to repair existing armour stone shore protection.  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 8, 2024  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 7, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 22  
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken

(4) PERMIT # MW2024-25  
NAME: Mireille F. Bumstead  
ADDRESS: 319 Wyldwood Lane (Grand Cove Estates, Grand Bend)  
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron  
PERMISSION TO: construct a 3-season sunroom.  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 7, 2024  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 23, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 13  
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken

(5) PERMIT # MW2024-26  
NAME: Edward Breen  
ADDRESS: 74119 Bluehaven Beach Drive  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: Install a new septic system  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 24, 2024  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 31, 2024  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 6  
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken

## *ABCA Program Report*

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** June 20, 2024  
**From:** Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer and Brian Horner, Financial Services Supervisor  
**Subject:** Capital Asset Management Plan - Update

---

### **Recommendations**

RESOLVED, THAT, the Asset Management Plan be approved, AND;

THAT, the board endorses in principle, the recommendation for a dedicated capital levy increasing by \$20,050 annually over a 10-year phase-in period for Mandatory and General Capital Programs and Services beginning in 2025, AND;

THAT, staff circulate the plan to partner municipalities for information and consultation as part of the 2025 Annual Budget Process, AND;

THAT, staff implement the recommendations within the plan, as practically feasible.

**Background** – Questions and or concerns by the Board from the April 18 Board Presentation.

All assets should be included in the Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP), including Erosion and Flood Control Structures and how to value such structures. In valuing such structures, consider the cost of using a consultant.

How and when to communicate the plan was also to be considered.

While no formal quote was obtained, verbal costs ranged from \$50,000 - \$75,000 to determine possible values for such structures. In discussion with other neighbouring Conservation Authorities, historic values were used for comparable structures with adjustments for inflation.

The proposed Capital Levy would be separate from the existing Operating Levy

**Highlights** - In the attached revised CAMP, Historic Values for the Erosion and Flood Control Structures have been included in the overall asset portfolio with a revised total of \$27,772,500 shown on Page 4. The average annual capital requirement remains at approximately \$200,500 but as a percentage it would drop to 0.72%. As it relates to the existing annual Levy, the proposed \$20,050 per annum would be approximately 1.39%

Future work needed on any of the Erosion and Flood Control Structures would have related Special Levy charges to the respective Benefitting Municipalities at varying rates. Costs not covered by Special Levy or Grant funds could be covered by the amounts calculated in the proposed Average Annual Requirement (AAR) shown on page 19. (\$70,388 less \$18,350)

**Proposed Funding Grid for the Respective Flood and Erosion Control Structure Examples.**

**Erosion Control Structures:**

WECl Funding – 50% of Total Cost	\$50,000
Operating Levy - Category 1 – 10% of Remaining	\$ 5,000 (Capital Levy Related)
Special Benefitting Municipalities – 90% of Remaining	<u>\$45,000</u>
Total Cost	<u>\$100,000</u>

**Flood Control Structures:**

WECl Funding – 50% of Total Cost	\$50,000
Operating Levy - Category 1 – 25% of Remaining	\$12,500 (Capital Levy Related)
Special Benefitting Municipalities – 75% of Remaining	<u>\$37,500</u>
Total Cost	<u>\$100,000</u>



# AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION

CREATING AWARENESS | TAKING ACTION

## CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

2024

## Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Scope.....	3
Findings.....	4
Key Statistics.....	4
Recommendations.....	4
Introduction and Context.....	5
Asset Management at ABCA.....	5
Key Concepts in Asset Management.....	5
Methodology.....	6
Portfolio Overview.....	6
Asset Categories.....	7
Relationship to Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) and Structures Operational Plan.....	8
Deriving Replacement Costs.....	9
Estimated Useful Life and Service Life Remaining.....	9
Reinvestment Rate.....	9
Deriving Asset Condition.....	10
Analysis of Assets.....	10
Buildings, Furniture and Fixtures.....	10
Flood Control Structures and Erosion Control Structures.....	12
Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Equipment and Other Equipment.....	14
Land Improvements (Conservation Area Infrastructure).....	15
Vehicles and Equipment.....	16
Information Technology, Networking and Workstations.....	16
Managing the Assets.....	18
Inspections and Maintenance.....	18
Issues of Concern.....	18

---

Flood Control and Erosion Control Structures.....	18
Financial Strategy.....	18
Overview .....	18
Full Funding Requirements .....	20
Cost Recovery Programs .....	20
Reserves .....	20

DRAFT



---

# Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP)

## Executive Summary

Conservation Authorities are watershed-based, non-profit organizations, that are often located across multiple municipalities. In Ontario there are 36 Conservation Authorities all of whom adhere to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. This includes Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) who works to manage natural hazards through planning comments, development permits, and flood forecasting as well as the management of natural resources that are essential to sustaining water quality and quantity through watershed planning, stewardship, environmental monitoring and research, and the management of conservation and natural areas.

The Authority owns a variety of infrastructure assets that are used to support the services they deliver. The goal of asset management is to deliver an adequate level of service in the most cost-effective manner. This involves the development and implementation of asset management strategies and long-term financial planning.

## Scope

This Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) identifies the current infrastructure management practices and strategies and makes recommendations where they can be further refined. Assets within scope of this plan must meet the Tangible Capital Threshold as identified by the Tangible Capital Asset (TCA) policy. Generally, assets of low acquisition costs are not a TCA asset and are therefore excluded.

Through the implementation of sound asset management strategies, ABCA has an enhanced and documented understanding of the capital asset under ownership and their condition, short-term and long-term investment needs, and the proposed financial adjustments to sustainably meet the identified capital requirements. This better positions ABCA and their infrastructure assets to support the sustainable delivery of conservation authority services.

Natural Asset management is not a requirement for conservation authority asset management plans. Although, the ABCA recognizes that activities such as restoring wetlands or upland forests, can be used to manage river flooding and erosion in a way that is less costly and provides benefits for both people and nature, at this stage assets management planning is a relatively new concept, and valuing these services was not completed for this CAMP. This exercise should be considered in the future for any CAMP updates.

## Findings

The overall replacement **cost value** of the asset categories included in this CAMP totals **\$8.37 \$27.7** million. The majority of the assets analysed in this CAMP are in fair or better condition.

The development of a long-term, sustainable financial plan requires an analysis of whole lifecycle costs. This CAMP uses a combination of proactive lifecycle strategies (buildings) and replacement only strategies (all other assets) to determine the lowest cost option to maintain the current level of service.

To meet capital replacement and rehabilitation needs for existing infrastructure, prevent infrastructure backlogs, and achieve long-term sustainability, ABCA's average annual capital requirement totals \$200,542.

Historically, ABCA has not had a dedicated capital budget and has instead used operational funding for capital projects, and reserve contributions. Alternatively, ABCA has predominantly relied upon one-time grant funding which is not a means of sustainable replacement funding. **As a result**, The calculated funding gap is represented by the full \$200,542 annual average capital requirement.

It is important to note that this plan represents data as of December 2023, and is based on the best available processes, data, and information at ABCA. Strategic asset management planning is an ongoing and dynamic process that requires continuous improvement and dedicated resources.

## Key Statistics

Replacement <b>cost Value</b> of the asset portfolio <b>excluding including</b> erosion and flood control structures	<b>\$8,367,000</b> <b>\$27,772,500</b>
<b>Replacement Cost Value</b> per capital (population within CA jurisdiction)	<b>\$218</b> <b>\$722</b>
Percentage of assets in fair or better condition	75 %
Average annual capital requirement	\$200,542
Recommended timeframe for <b>eliminating reducing the</b> annual infrastructure deficit	10 Years
Target capital reinvestment rate	<b>2.40%</b> <b>0.72%</b>

## Recommendations

A financial strategy was developed to address the annual capital funding gap. A municipal capital levy would eliminate the ABCA's infrastructure deficit based on a 10-year plan. This would require an average annual levy change of 1.39 percent. This would resolve the funding

---

gap associated with municipally funded assets. The remaining funding gap associated with assets is recommended to be resolved through asset specific agreements **and Water and Control Infrastructure (WECI) funds when they become available.**

Other recommendations to guide the continuous refinement of the ABCA's asset management program include:

- Review ABCA's Tangible Capital Asset (TCA) Policy for appropriateness, consider the capital thresholds, the use of pooling assets, and the accuracy of the Financial Estimated Useful Life.
- Beginning with the highest valued and most critical assets, develop a condition assessment strategy that identifies assessment methodology, persons responsible, and frequency of re-assessment by asset category.
- At least annually, review and update asset information including but not limited to attribute data such as quantity, make, model, assessed condition etc.
- Regularly measure current levels of service and ensure roles, responsibilities, frequency of collection and reporting are clearly documented.

## **Introduction and Context**

### **Asset Management at ABCA**

The ABCA requires a diverse range of capital assets including land, buildings, erosion control structures, flood control structures, monitoring stations, vehicles and equipment in order to fulfill its mandate of integrated watershed management including protecting life and property from the natural hazards of flooding and erosion, managing conservation lands and providing passive recreation facilities, research and monitoring, education and outreach, and watershed stewardship and restoration.

### **Key Concepts in Asset Management**

The development of a capital asset management plan is an essential part of ABCA's ongoing fiscal responsibility framework, as it guides the purchase, use, maintenance, and disposal of every asset ABCA needs to conduct business. The goal of every capital asset management plan is to define the use of asset to streamline productivity and delivery with minimal loss of capital.

The CAMP will support ABCA's budgeting, planning, and forecasting processes – all of which will bring benefits in speeding the budget process, improving collaboration between user groups, and enhancing data quality and reliability.

This plan seeks to identify what we have, what condition it is in, and what the anticipated needs are to maintain our infrastructure as we move forward. It will also discuss estimates regarding future needs both from the perspective of preserving existing infrastructure and also anticipated future asset acquisitions and capacity enhancements.

A CAMP is a requirement of the *Conservation Authorities Act* update. It is part of the requirements of the Operational Plan for flood and erosion control structures. However, there is merit in completing a more comprehensive CAMP that includes all ABCA capital assets.

The CAMP was coordinated and developed with input from staff of several departments of the Authority in regard to their applicable assets. A determination was made of which assets need to be managed and replaced based on various life cycles ranging from 5, 10, 20 and 50 years depending on the respective asset.

## Methodology

### Portfolio Overview

ABCA capital assets include:

- a. Buildings, furniture and fixtures.
- b. Flood control structures and erosion control structures.
- c. Water quality and quantity monitoring equipment and other equipment.
- d. Land improvements, bridges and boardwalks at ABCA properties.
- e. Vehicles and equipment.
- f. Information technology.

Flood control structures and erosion control structures are either owned by the ABCA or were constructed by the ABCA (i.e., on private lands). All these structures are inspected annually by ABCA staff who identify minor maintenance activities such as vegetation removal or repairs to gabion structures. Minor repairs and maintenance are performed by ABCA staff.

The ABCA retains engineering consultants to perform more detailed inspections on a regular basis. Any identified significant maintenance is completed by third party contractors. All maintenance, whether major or minor, is performed based on cost share funding formulae.

The total replacement cost value of ABCA's asset portfolio, excluding including erosion and flood control structures is \$8,367,000 \$27,772,500 with a target portfolio capital re-investment rate of 2.49 0.72 percent.

Historically, asset replacement has been funded from operational dollars or one-time grant funding. This includes a vehicle and equipment pool, and information technology (IT) pool that allocate operational dollars based on asset usage, repairs, and maintenance to their respective reserve fund. However, since funding is sourced from operational dollars, the amounts can fluctuate year-to-year and are not guaranteed. **As a result, no dedicated or sustainable funding has been allocated to tackle the infrastructure deficit. For this reason, the current capital investment rate is 9.6 percent.**

Seventy-five percent of all assets are in fair or better condition.

Over the next 10 years, a capital investment of about \$2.8 million is projected to be needed. This represents about **33 10** percent of the current replacement value of the portfolio.

Average annual capital requirements total \$280,931 per year across all assets. Of this amount, the IT pool, and vehicles and equipment pool are funded **through internal operations internally by users**. The Operating Levy contributes money towards the buildings reserve. This leaves a shortfall of \$200,542 annually.

<b>Combined Annual Average Annual Capital Requirement</b>	\$280,931
Internal IT	(\$21,473)
Internal Vehicle and Equipment	(\$53,600)
Specific Amortization – Operating Levy	(\$5,406)
<b>Currently Net Unfunded</b>	<b>\$200,542</b>

### Asset Categories

Tangible capital assets have physical substance that:

- Are used on a continuing basis in the Authority's operations.
- Have useful lives extending beyond one year.
- Are not held for re-sale in the ordinary course of operations.

Tangible capital assets are divided into two categories: infrastructure and general capital asset. Infrastructure is composed of linear assets and their associated specific components, generally constructed or arranged in a continuous network. A general capital asset is any tangible capital asset that is not part of the infrastructure asset class.

Assets are further classified into the sub-categories of land, land improvements, buildings, machinery and equipment, vehicles and linear assets.

A tangible capital asset is defined in PS3150, having a minimum value given by category in the following table, including taxes and directly attributable acquisition expenses.

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Capitalization Threshold</b>
<b>Land</b>	Capitalize only
<b>Land Improvements</b>	\$12,500
<b>Buildings</b>	\$25,000
<b>Construction in Progress</b>	Capitalize only
<b>Machinery &amp; Equipment</b>	\$2,500
<b>Vehicles</b>	\$5,000
<b>Linear Assets</b>	\$100,000

All assets with an individual total value of less than the amounts provided in the above table are expensed in the year of acquisition and charged against the operating budget. Different thresholds may be used for group assets.

Notwithstanding the above, the following classes of assets are pooled, and the pool deemed to be itself a tangible capital asset:

- Computers and peripherals
- Furniture and fixtures
- Workshop equipment
- Outdoor furniture
- Signage

## **Relationship to Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) and Structures**

### **Operational Plan**

The Accounting Policies and Procedures with Respect to Tangible Capital Assets document was approved by the ABCA board of directors on September 18, 2008, and came into effect January 1, 2009, to comply with Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) standards.

The policy recommended an Asset Management Policy be developed that would include asset ledgers, asset controls (asset inventory, maintenance records, other documentation), surplus asset lists including policies on dealing with surplus assets, budget requirements and any risk management, health and safety issues and environmental concerns.

The information required to be PSAB compliant was primarily backward looking. It considered historical cost (or reasonable estimate where necessary), annual amortization, accumulated amortization, and the resultant current net book value of assets. The CAMP takes the PSAB information and looks forward introducing life expectancy based on actual asset condition,

expected rates of deterioration, future required service levels, and estimated future replacement costs.

### Deriving Replacement Costs

There are a range of methods to determine the replacement cost of an asset. Some are more accurate and reliable than others. This CAMP relies on three methodologies:

- **User-Defined Cost and Cost/Unit:** Based on costs provided by Conservation Authority staff which could include average costs from recent contracts; data from engineering reports and assessments; staff estimates based on knowledge and experience.
- **Cost Inflation/Consumer Price Index Tables:** Historical cost of the asset is inflated based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) or Non-Residential Building Constructions Price Index, or user-defined costs from an earlier year are inflated to the data effective date.
- **Insured Value:** As determined through the annual insurance renewal process.

User-defined costs based on reliable sources are a reasonably accurate and reliable way to determine asset replacement costs. Cost inflation is typically used in the absence of reliable replacement cost data. It is a reliable method for recently purchased and/or constructed assets where the total cost is reflective of the actual costs incurred. As assets age and new products and technologies become available, cost inflation becomes a less reliable method.

### Estimated Useful Life and Service Life Remaining

The estimated useful life (EUL) of an asset is the period over which it is expected to be available for use. The EUL for each asset in this CAMP was assigned according to the knowledge and expertise of CA staff and supplemented by existing industry standards when necessary.

By using an asset's in-service date, its EUL, and where available the assessed condition, the service life remaining (SLR) can be determined. The SLR is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Service Life Remaining (SLR)} = \text{In Service Date} + \text{Estimated Useful Life (EUL)} - \text{Current Year}$$

### Reinvestment Rate

As assets age and deteriorate, they require additional investment to maintain a state of good repair. The reinvestment of capital funds, through asset renewal or replacement, is necessary to sustain an adequate level of service. The reinvestment rate is a measurement of available or required funding relative to the total replacement cost. The reinvestment rate is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Target Reinvestment Rate} = \frac{\text{Annual Capital Requirement}}{\text{Total Replacement Cost}}$$

## **Deriving Asset Condition**

An incomplete or limited understanding of asset condition can mislead long-term planning and decision-making. Accurate and reliable condition data helps to prevent premature and costly rehabilitation or replacement and ensures that lifecycle activities occur at the right time to maximize asset value and useful life.

A condition assessment rating system provides a standardized descriptive framework that allows comparative benchmarking across ABCA's asset portfolio. The table below outlines the condition rating system used in this CAMP to determine asset condition. This rating system is aligned with the Canadian Core Public Infrastructure Survey which is used to develop the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card. When assessed condition data is not available, service life remaining is used to approximate asset condition.

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Service Life Remaining (%)</b>
Very Good	Fit for the future	Well maintained, good condition, new or recently rehabilitated	80-100
Good	Adequate for now	Acceptable, generally approaching mid-stage of expected service life	60-79
Fair	Requires attention	Signs of deterioration, some elements exhibit significant deficiencies	40-59
Poor	Increasing potential of affecting service	Approaching end of service life, condition below standard, large portion of system exhibits significant deterioration	20-39
Very Poor	Unfit for sustained service	Near or beyond expected service life, widespread signs of advanced deterioration, some assets may be unusable	0-19

The analysis in this CAMP is based on assessed condition data only as available. In the absence of assessed condition data, asset age is used as a proxy to determine asset condition.

## **Analysis of Assets**

### **Buildings, Furniture and Fixtures**

#### **Administration Building, Annex, Workshop, Conservation Area Buildings**

The Administration Building and Workshop were built in the early 1980s. The Annex was built in 1972 and was a private residence before being purchased for office space in 2011. The building is connected to the ABCA IT system. Interior painting was completed at that time. In 2023, a



section of the wood floors was refinished. The building does not have any accessibility features, and is not open to the public.

The Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre at Rock Glen Conservation Area was built in 1986. It has had capital improvements including a metal roof, siding, ceiling panels and heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC).

It is important to take the age of the buildings into consideration. Various aspects of the buildings included above will need capital improvements over the next 5-20 years, whether it be related to the HVAC systems, roofs, flooring, windows, improved insulation, etc. Fortunately, that the Administration Centre complex and Rock Glen CA are on municipal water.

The Administration Centre/Workshop, Annex and Rock Glen septic systems are all beyond the expected lifetime. Regular septic tank pump-outs and ensuring the weeping beds are maintained and protected are important.

Two fuel tanks (one for diesel and one for gasoline) are located within the workshop compound. The fuel tanks should be inspected on a specified schedule, (ie every five years) and replaced if determined necessary.

As utility costs continue to increase, the ABCA may want to do energy audits to identify areas for savings.

Accessibility improvements have been completed at the museum but are still needed at the Administration Centre complex.

### Financial Implications

Buildings are amortized over a 50-year cycle and the amortization rate for ABCA's inventory of buildings is 52 percent as of December 31, 2023. ABCA's inventory of buildings is considered to be in good condition. Buildings and major costs are reviewed annually and as part of the five-year forecast. Amounts, tied to amortization over 50 years, are set aside annually into reserves to help with replacement costs. Assets are amortized over 10-75 years depending on the asset.

	Buildings	Furniture and Fixtures	Total
Replacement Value	\$4,607,459	\$1,245,612	\$5,853,071
Annual Amortization	\$61,433	\$24,912	\$86,345

---

## **Flood Control Structures and Erosion Control Structures**

The ABCA flood control structures and erosion control structures which are included in this CAMP protect life and property from the natural hazards of flooding and erosion. Some are owned by the ABCA and some are the property of others but are managed by the ABCA on their behalf.

There are erosion control structures on ABCA properties that benefit others. For example, the Tuckersmith Erosion Control Project on the Bayfield River at Clinton Conservation Area protects private residential dwellings and property at the top of the bank.

Several other erosion control structures such as the Walker Drain and Armstrong West are not on property owned by the ABCA but the ABCA manages the structures. These structures are inspected regularly by ABCA, and funds are set aside annually to coincide with special benefitting monies from municipalities and Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funds when they become available.

The ABCA owns and maintains two dams within its watershed: Parkhill Dam in North Middlesex and Morrison Dam in South Huron.

The risks associated with not conducting major maintenance and upgrading the infrastructure include:

- Liability concerns
- Increased maintenance and repair costs
- Health and safety concern for staff and public.

### **Financial Implications**

Linear assets are amortized over a 50-year cycle and the amortization rate for these ABCA assets is 72 percent as at December 31, 2023. The ABCA's inventory for these assets is considered to be in fair condition. Amounts are set aside annually into reserves and when required, as a result of inspections, these dollars, along with special benefitting monies from municipalities, are matched with Provincial monies from the WECI fund. **The Replacement Value is unknown.** In determining replacement values, Historic Costs have been adjusted for CPI to determine current \$'s. Amounts needed through any Capital Levy would be consistent with the annual amortization rates.

	Flood Control Structures	Erosion Control Structures	Total
Historic Cost	\$3,095,563	\$3,033,597	\$6,129,160
Replacement Value	\$11,611,995	\$7,793,711	\$19,405,706
Annual Amortization	\$70,388		\$70,388
Annual Amount to Reserve	(\$18,350)		(\$18,350)
Net	\$52,038		\$52,038

The following Flood Control Structures are owned by the ABCA:

- Parkhill Dam and Reservoir
- Morrison Dam and Reservoir
- Ausable River 1949 Cut.

The following Flood Control Structures are on private or municipal property, but the ABCA maintains and inspects these structures through agreements. is involved in inspections and maintenance:

- Seaforth CNR Culvert
- Mud Creek
- Ausable River Cut
- Cameron-Gillies Diversion

The following Erosion Control Structures are on private or municipal property, but the ABCA maintains and inspects these structures through agreements:

- Walker Drain Erosion Control Project
- Port Franks Armstrong West Erosion Control Works
- Stewart Gully
- Port Franks River Management
- Plan 41 Erosion Control Works
- Pergel Gully
- Nairn Cemetery
- Kingsmere Gully
- Grand Bend Erosion Control Areas A through E, and N1
- Exeter Dam Gabion Baskets
- Bayfield River – Tuckersmith
- Ausable River Cut – Lazy Acres

---

## **Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Equipment and Other Equipment**

### **Hydrometric Monitoring Network**

ABCA owns and operates a variety of monitoring stations to collect weather and hydrologic data that is used in flood and drought monitoring as well as supporting other programs (e.g., fisheries, watershed planning and climate change). The equipment ABCA owns is maintained to a high standard to ensure data accuracy. Most monitoring stations consist of a data logger, sensors and some have equipment shelters. It is important to note that equipment and the stations need ongoing maintenance, and in some cases, eventual replacement.

~~ABCA also relies on Environment Canada's (EC) hydrometric network of 10 stations where some equipment owned by ABCA have been installed such as rain gauges, air and water temperature probes, and auto-samplers. Dataloggers, Telemetry and in most cases, the station structures, are owned by EC. In addition, ABCA owns three additional stream gauges and five weather stations. Some data is also collected from the Provincial Groundwater Network sites. While these stations are operated and maintained by ABCA, the equipment is fully owned by the province.~~

ABCA owns three stream gauges, which includes the structure and monitoring equipment, and five weather stations. Environment Canada (EC) owns and operates a network of 10 stream gauge stations, where ABCA has deployed meteorological and/or water quality monitoring equipment. The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) wells are either owned, or through agreement, the responsibility of the ABCA. While the PGMN wells are operated and maintained by ABCA, the equipment is fully owned by the province.

### **Water Quality Monitoring Equipment**

To carry out various monitoring programs, a variety of equipment is necessary. This equipment includes highly specialized items such as backpack electro fishers, microscopes, water chemistry data loggers, and automatic water samplers. Cameras, boats, motors, and related safety equipment are also required.

The risks associated with not replacing equipment include:

- Unreliable or lost data
- High maintenance and repair cost
- Disruption of service to residents and visitors
- Increased maintenance and repair costs
- Health and safety concern for staff and public
- Liability concerns.

### Financial Implications

The amortization rate for ABCA's inventory of equipment as of December 31, 2023, is at 55 percent. The ABCA inventory of equipment is considered to be in fair to good condition. The equipment is amortized over a ten-year cycle. The need for purchases is reviewed annually in connection with the five-year forecast.

Historic Cost	Insured Replacement Value	Average Annual Amortization
\$150,056	\$407,319	\$40,732

### Land Improvements (Conservation Area Infrastructure)

The ABCA maintains lands and associated infrastructure throughout its watershed. This includes signage, walkways, trails, parking lots and gates to the various conservation areas (CAs). Various capital improvements over the next five to 20 years will be needed at the various CAs.

The ABCA hired BM Ross and Associates to conduct structural inspections of bridges and elevated boardwalks in 2019. The report evaluated the condition of the structures and timeframes for major maintenance.

The report did not evaluate other structures such as pavilions and privies. Pavilions at Rock Glen CA, Morrison Dam CA and Clinton CA were built in the 1970s or earlier.

The risks associated with not making land improvements include:

- Increased maintenance and repair costs
- Health and safety concerns
- Liability concerns
- Disruption of service to residents and visitors.

### Financial Implications

Land and infrastructure are amortized over a 20-year cycle and the amortization rate for ABCA's inventory of buildings is 78 percent as of December 31, 2023. The infrastructure is considered to be in fair condition and major costs are reviewed annually and as part of the five-year forecast.

	Historic Costs	Replacement Value Increase	Total
Costs	\$830,110	\$525,733	\$1,355,843
Annual Amortization	\$16,228	\$10,515	\$26,743

## **Vehicles and Equipment**

ABCA owns and maintains vehicles and field equipment (mowers, utility vehicles etc.) for staff to use in their work. There is a replacement schedule based on kilometers logged or age of equipment.

The risks associated with not replacing vehicles include:

- High maintenance and repair costs
- Health and safety concerns
- Liability concerns
- Disruption of service.

## **Financial Implications**

ABCA's vehicles are considered to be in good condition and is at 70 percent amortization rate as of December 31, 2023. Vehicles are amortized over a five-year cycle. Internal charges, based on determined values for the usage of the various vehicles are charged to the respective departments and placed into reserves. The need for purchases is reviewed annually in connection to the five-year forecast.

Total value of capital purchases 2024-2033	\$536,000
Average annual value of capital purchases	\$53,600

## **Information Technology, Networking and Workstations**

ABCA depends heavily on Information Technology (IT) for its operations and management.

Dependencies include:

- Access to the internet (Wide Area Network – WAN) for e-mail, video and other communications with partners, clients and stakeholders, monitoring data retrieval and maintenance, information gathering, and training.
- Access for remote workers into the Local Area Network (LAN).
- Access to application, files and information running and stored in/on the LAN; and
- Access to phone and phone messaging systems.

These dependencies, on information technology services for all ABCA operations, necessitate the need for continued preparation, implementation and maintenance of a comprehensive IT Business Continuity Strategy.

The ABCA maintains a network of equipment, that includes physical and virtual servers, workstations, router/firewall, switches, Wi-Fi access points, security cameras, network drives, cooling system, and modems. Software and other applications, running on network equipment or in the cloud, are critical to the day-to-day operations of the Authority and play a vital role in key program areas such as flood forecasting and warning. The following server roles or software applications are critical to maintain the ABCA identity, security, and for the day-to-day operations:

- Active Directory (AD), Domain Controllers, Certificate Services, and Azure AD Connect
- Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), Windows Server Backup, File Server
- Office 365 with Exchange (hybrid cloud)
- MS SQL Server.
- ArcGIS Enterprise
- QuickBooks accounting
- Backup Exec, Endpoint Protection
- Water Information System by KISTERS (WISKI) (cloud).

### **Network Infrastructure Replacement**

The Authority must replace critical components within the predicted lifespan of the hardware, to ensure the network is highly available. Staff actively plan and replace critical network components and workstations on a regular basis to ensure the Authority is on pace to meet the needs of its users and clients. This set schedule of renewal ensures a stable and sustainable work environment free from disruption and failure.

### **Financial Implications**

The Authority's core servers and network infrastructure are maintained, are in good condition, and are at 90 percent amortization rate as of December 31 ,2023.

IT and Networking assets are funded through internal charges and included in annual budgets in accordance with five-year forecasts.

Workstations are reviewed annually and as part of the five-year forecast. Amounts, tied to amortization over five years, are set aside annually into reserves to help with replacement costs.

Total value of capital purchases 2024-2033	\$214,730
Average annual value of capital purchases	\$21,473

---

## **Managing the Assets**

### **Inspections and Maintenance**

ABCA staff complete regular inspections on structures with written reports. As well, professional engineers at consulting firms are used as needed for specialized inspections. Staff complete routine maintenance with contractors being used as necessary.

### **Issues of Concern**

#### **Flood Control and Erosion Control Structures**

While a rigorous maintenance schedule is prolonging the useful life of these structures, their replacement or decommissioning will eventually become necessary. Failure to maintain structures adequately could lead to catastrophic loss.

Most of the structures are around 40 - 50 years old and deterioration is appearing to accelerate. The ABCA is due for another engineering review of the structures to identify maintenance priorities.

Infrastructure used to monitor flood and watershed conditions is also aging. The ABCA has entered into cost saving initiatives with provincial and federal partners for the upkeep of gauge housing and internal equipment. One gauge installation will require wholesale replacement in the near future. Gauge instruments require regular update and replacement.

Maintenance and replacement concerns are exacerbated by dwindling provincial funding, Provincial funding of flood and erosion control infrastructure has remained static, or in some cases, reduced over the last several years. Municipal funding partners will need to address funding shortcomings.

## **Financial Strategy**

### **Overview**

For an asset management plan to be effective and meaningful, it must be integrated with financial planning and long-term budgeting. The development of a comprehensive financial plan will allow ABCA to identify the financial resources required for sustainable asset management based on existing asset inventories, desired levels of service, and projected growth requirements.



This report develops such a financial plan by presenting several scenarios for consideration and culminating with final recommendations. As outlined below, the scenarios presented model different combinations of the following components:

1. The financial requirements for:
  - a. Existing assets
  - b. Existing service levels
  - c. Requirements of contemplated changes in service levels (none identified for this plan)
  - d. Requirements of anticipated growth (none identified for this plan)
2. Use of traditional sources of funds:
  - a. Municipal levies
  - b. Government Grants
  - c. User fees
  - d. Reserves
  - e. Debt
3. Use of non-traditional sources of Conservation Authority funds:
  - a. Sponsorship and other Partnerships
  - b. Fundraising and donations

Note: Periodic grants are normally not included since they are not sustainable or predictable funding sources. However, if moving a specific project forward is wholly dependent on receiving a one-time grant, the replacement cost included in the financial strategy is the net of such grant being received.

<b>Average Annual Requirement (AAR) for Funding</b>	
Buildings, Furniture and Fixtures	\$86,345
Flood Control Structures and Erosion Control Structures	\$70,388
Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Stations and Other Equipment	\$40,732
Land Improvements (Conservation Area Infrastructure)	\$26,743
Vehicle and Equipment (internal funding)	\$53,600
Information Technology, Networking and Workstations (internal funding)	\$21,473
Less: Flood and Erosion Control Annual Reserves	(\$18,350)
<b>Sub – Total</b>	<b>\$280,391</b>
Less: Current Funding	
Internal IT	(\$21,473)
Internal Vehicle and Equipment	(\$53,600)
Specific Amortization – Operating Levy	(\$5,406)

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,452</b>
--------------	------------------

### Full Funding Requirements

Over the next 10 years, a capital investment of about \$2.8 million is projected to be needed. This represents about 35.10 percent of the current replacement value of the portfolio.

Average annual capital requirements total \$280,931 per year across all assets. Of this amount, IT and Vehicle and Equipment are funded through internal operations. The Operating Levy contributes money towards the buildings reserve. This leaves a shortfall of \$200,542 annually.

### Cost Recovery Programs

The information technology, networking and workstation services are funding by annual charges per staff person. The money is allocated to a reserve and used for capital purchases. These fees do/do not cover the cost of staff wages.

The Vehicle and Equipment program includes motor vehicles, tractors, trailers, boats, mowers, tree planter etc. Each piece of equipment is charge to users at a set rate. The rate increases by a standard CPI Percent Equivalent each year as part of the budget process. The mileage rate is set based on the estimated costs of replacement/acquisition, maintenance, fuel, repairs, and other associated expenses. The revenue is used for capital purchases, maintenance, and associated staff costs. Excess funds go into a reserve account and are withdrawn as needed. This system removes the need to use the municipal levy directly for capital purchases.

### Reserves

The accumulated surplus has been segregated into the following respective categories, some of which are internally restricted (Designated) by the Board of Directors and one externally restricted by the Province. The respective funds and the use of the funds are described as follows:

<b>Reserves</b>	<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	
<b>Internally Restricted (Designated)</b>		
Property Management	\$360,194	\$377,801
Flood and Erosion Control Major Maintenance	\$728,808	\$800,038
Vehicles and Equipment	\$149,547	\$119,725
Barrier-Free Trails, Facilities	\$119,069	\$144,196
Outdoor Education	\$189,023	\$194,062
Administration IT	\$96,673	\$91,522

Stewardship Endowment	\$5,375,460	\$386,072
Administration Building	\$136,909	\$234,475
Operating Reserve	\$162,022	\$159,935
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$2,507,826</b>
<b>Provincially Restricted</b>		
Stewardship Endowment		\$5,214,583
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$5,214,583</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,317,696</b>	<b>\$7,722,409</b>

DRAFT

# *ABCA Program Report*

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** June 20, 2024  
**From:** Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
**Subject:** General Managers Report

---

## **Recommendation:**

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the General Managers Report for information as presented.

## **Introduction**

I am pleased to provide the Board of Directors with a brief update on ABCA projects, programs, partnership updates, funding opportunities and activities over the past few months. Information about Conservation Ontario (CO) and some of its activities on behalf of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities will also be included when new information is available. If you have any questions, feel free to discuss with me. *Note:* This is not an inclusive list – only some highlights.

## **Conservation Ontario**

Conservation Ontario held its annual meeting on April 15, 2024. Chris White (Grand River CA, Mayor of Guelph-Eramosa Township) has been acclaimed as CO Chair for 2024. Vice Chairs for 2024 are Jonathan Scott (Nottawasaga Valley CA Vice-Chair, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury) and Pat Warren (Kawartha Conservation, City of Kawartha Lakes).

Conservation Ontario's 2023 Annual Report can be found at the following link.

<https://conservationontario.ca/about-us/annual-report>

## **ABCA Meetings and Special Events**

1. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation (ABCF) had their Annual meeting on May 14. Dave Frayne was voted to remain as Chair, and Charles Miner as Vice Chair for 2024.
2. ABCF celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
3. Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HTLTC) held two launch/opening ceremonies; June 7, 2024 at the Bayfield River Flats Pedestrian Walkway Opening, and the other, June 15, 2024 for the Warner Preserve.
4. The Conservation Dinner Committee had their wrap up meeting on May 8. Chris Keller will stay on for another year as Chair. Approximately \$45,000 was raised this year to support conservation projects of the ABCA and Exeter Lions.
5. Ted Baxter Day was held on May 25, at the Arkona Lions Museum. This invitation only event honoured Ted Baxter, who donated much of his collection to the Museum. The Lions hope to make this event open to the public in the future.

6. Staff attended numerous meetings with regards to CA Act – S.28 changes under Ontario Reg. 41/24. Geoff Cade provided his expertise to help ABCA navigate through this transition and the required changes to policy.
7. Andrew Bicknell attended a meeting with South Huron staff, with Nathan Schoelier and Davin Heinbuck to discuss the transfer of valley lands associated with the Buckingham Estates Subdivision and the proposed Windermere Subdivision. Both plans about the Ausable River valley in Exeter.
8. Auditor General recommends that free water well testing for private landowners be discontinued. Funding may once again become available with direction from Ontario Public Health. Well attended Water-Wise events has led to a successful proposal with the Huron Clean Water Project (HCWP) to provide funding to ABCA as a pilot project, partnering with community groups. Huron Perth Public Health will provide ‘in-kind’ assistance. Best practices for drinking water are to Test, Protect, and Maintain!
9. Mari Veliz hosted Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association) OSCIA staff to review the Huronview and Gully Creek Edge of Field Sites.
10. Brooklyn Rau and Nathan attended a Huron Clean Water Project review committee meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. 40 projects were presented, with 37 being approved for a total of \$52,454.94.
11. Nathan presented to Cataraqui Conservation (CC), and municipalities within their region, on ABCA’s phragmites management program. CC is recognizing the increasing phragmites challenges in their watershed, and the need to develop a program that is similar to ABCA’s.
12. Rosalind Chang has met with the OAC Steering Committee, researchers and various members of the OAC community to highlight OAC research.
13. Education has received two grants (Sunset Community Foundation and ABCF) to make up the full funding to offer, free of charge, the Oaks and Acorns program this fall. This is in partnership with Huron EarlyON and Exeter Library and will create interactive programming for children ages 18 months – 4 years.

### **ABCA Projects, Programs and Studies**

1. Kari Jean, Angela VanNiekerk, and Rosalind have coordinated and completed reporting for our Canada Nature Fund (CNF) agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This includes summarizing all deliverables – reports and financials. This funding supports stewardship, education and monitoring projects in the Ausable River, Bayfield River and Lake Huron tributaries.
2. Rosalind finished year 3 (of 3) reporting for HSP Little Ausable. This marks the end of the 3-year grant. Submitted to DFO on May 23.
3. Nathan and Cristen Watt submitted reporting for Year 1 of Carolinian Priority Place funding for the 2023-24 year.
4. Mari has been negotiating a new ONFARM agreement and that process has been finalized. This is an agreement until March 2028 to maintain the monitoring at Huronview and Gully Creek to evaluate the effectiveness of different agricultural best practices.

5. Angela completed MECP agreement for \$117,000 for Wetlands Conservation Partner Program for 2024.
6. Ausable Bayfield Conservation is beginning an update of the 2015 approved Communications Plan. A new Communications and Public Engagement Plan will be prepared and taken to the Board of Directors in 2025. The committee's work will look at existing strategies, response, fundraising, and strategic review of the annual report.
7. Nathan has been working with The Friends of North Middlesex Trails, as well as staff from the Municipality of North Middlesex, to plan for the revitalization of the trails at Parkhill Conservation Area (PCA). The group plans to work with the community to enhance the former railroad right-of-way from Parkhill Main Street to the CA, creating an accessible trail.
8. Spring Tree Planting is wrapped up. Ian Jean reports that 160 landowners participated in the tree sale program planting a total of 14,575 trees throughout the watershed. Additionally, ABCA staff Planted 20,700 trees at 46 projects for landowners this spring.
9. Hope Brock and Kari hosted a nest protector workshop in Port Franks on World Turtle Day (May 23).
10. Hope has been coordinating turtle crossing sign replacement with Lambton Shores for several locations in Port Franks and Grand Bend.
11. Angela and Ben Riggin have 4 wetland tenders out and 2 wetlands have been excavated, one in the Middle Ausable and one in the Main Bayfield.
12. Drain classification audit of 2023 data is complete in partnership with DFO.
13. Mary Lynn MacDonald submitted a final report for the DWSP 2022-2024 workplan and budget.
14. Our drinking water source protection video series continues to engage the public. The 12 videos in the series have had more than **35,000** views.
15. DWSP Budget for 2024-2027 has been approved by the province.
16. 3-year agreement between Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley for DWSP responsibilities has been signed.
17. Daniel King, Christie Brown and Jeff VanNiekerk have completed annual inspections of the Flood and Erosion Control Structures.
18. IT/GIS staff have updated the ArcEnterprise application to include links to flood report folders and scanned flood maps.
19. Regulations mapping changes and public mapping portal updates are complete.

### **ABCA Training**

1. CPR AED Training for staff
2. Nathan attended the third, or four modules of Conservation Authorities University (CAU).
3. Michelle Jones, Christie Brown, Rosalind, Cristen, and Brooklyn attended the CA online electrofishing certification course on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
4. Christie and Daniel attended Water Days at UTRCA on May 7
5. Microdrone Training was offered to a representative from each department.

### **Other Items**

1. **Staffing Changes- Elizabeth Balfour** is returning from her maternity leave into the position of Co-Program Supervisor of DWSP. She is currently taking the Risk Management Official training.
2. **Staffing Changes - Erik Strahl and Ellen Westelaken** - Water and Planning Technicians
3. **Summer Staff – Elizabeth Cade, Kayley Thompson, and Kelly Graham** in Education and Healthy Watersheds for the summer.
4. SPC Agriculture Sector Rep. - The Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority, working in partnership with Maitland Valley Source Protection Authority, has advertised for a new agriculture sector representative for the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Committee (SPC).
5. Cassie Greidanus led the coordination of Envirothon Huron/Perth, which ABCA has led for years. It was well attended by 11 teams of 5. GDCl and SDSS competed May 26-29 in Waterloo at provincials. Goderich finished 5<sup>th</sup>.
6. Five weeks of Day Camps being offered this summer (4 at Morrison Dam and 1 at Bannockburn). 96 campers have registered. The Conservation Dinner was a great success for our day camp “hard-ask” where we asked attendees to sponsor a week of Day Camp for a deserving youth. We have partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters South Huron to fill 11 spaces for youth in our Day Camps this summer, and 11 in 2025. South Huron Optimist is also donating the cost of two campers.
7. Rock Glen - noteworthy May long-weekend gate attendance of almost 2000 people.
8. Conservation Ontario has suggested Davin Heinbuck to be the drainage champion for the CA Network.
9. Fishing Derby hosted by Exeter Lions and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation at Morrison Dam on May 4th had 288 registrants.

---

---

# ***MINUTES***

---

---

## **ARKONA LIONS MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Monday, May 6, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Rock Glen Conservation Area  
Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Glenn Stott - Arkona Lions Club

Adam Wisniewski – Arkona Lions Club/Museum Curator

Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley – Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Bob O'Donnell – Arkona Lions Club/Museum Curator

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Nathan Schoelier, Abigail Gutteridge, Mike Bax – ABCA Staff

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Glenn Stott called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made for new members who may not have known everyone in attendance.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

#### **MOTION #MC 1/24**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee agenda for May 6, 2024 be approved.”**

**Carried by Consensus.**

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### **MOTION #MC 2/24**

**Moved by Adam Wisniewski**

**Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting of October 4, 2023 be approved.”**

**Carried.**



## BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

### 2023 SEASON SUMMERY

Mike Bax, Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA) Superintendent, provided a summary regarding attendance at the conservation area, as well as the Museum. Gate staff do their best to keep track of attendance when they are able. It was estimated that there were approximately 34,000 visitors to RGCA between May 1 and October 31, 2023. 895 visitors came using a yearly pass. RGCA staff also made an effort to promote yearly passes to visitors, especially those who camp at Rock Glen Family Resort and visit the conservation area regularly. In 2023, 52 Family passes and 9 Individual passes were sold to visitors.

In 2024, RGCA staff plan to try to increase the sale of passes, especially at the gate house in speaking to visitors coming in. There is also opportunity to use ABCA's social media platforms to promote RGCA passes. The Committee noted that it would be good to work collaboratively with other local conservation authorities to offer passes that work at a number of conservation areas. Mike noted he would bring this up at the next Conservation Areas Working Group meeting.

The Museum guest book is also a good way to track visitors. In 2023, there were 2100 entries in the guest book. Staff noted visitors from 46 unique countries. Additionally, there were visitors from 19 different US states, and 9 Canadian provinces.

### 2024 OPERATIONS

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Manager of Conservation Lands and Stewardship, provided a brief update on the 2024 plan for operations at RGCA. He noted that the budget for RGCA for 2024 is very similar to number from 2023, being slightly lower than during the pandemic, but higher than pre-pandemic budgets. He was happy to announce that Mike Bax is returning as Superintendent for the 2024 season, and will have Jonathan Levitt and Marshall Gibson to help as Assistants. Both Jonathan and Marshall have worked at RGCA in previous years, and are familiar with operations.

### 2024 EVENTS & PROJECT UPDATES

#### a) Ted Baxter Day

Chair Glenn Stott confirmed that Ted Baxter Day has been planned for Saturday, March 25, 2024. This will be an invitation-only event, and invitations will go out to the ABCA staff and Directors, the Lion's Club and the family of the late Ted Baxter. There will be space for roughly 50 attendees. There will be an open house beginning at 11:00 a.m., and the formal program will begin at noon and continue for approximately an hour. Chair Glenn, Greg Stott and Cathy Fraser will all have the opportunity to speak. There will be some lunch for attendees after the presentations. It is anticipated that the event should be wrapped up by 2:00 p.m. The Lions Club have been considering the idea of an Annual Ted Baxter Day, but this is yet to be determined.

b) **Antique Car Show**

Mike Bax reported that the annual car show was wet in 2023, but still well attended. It is anticipated that it will go ahead again in on September 21, 2024.

**SIGNAGE UPDATE**

Nathan Schoelier noted that some new signage for the museum will be installed by ABCA staff. There is an ABCA logo to accompany the Lions Club logo on the outside of the Museum building. In addition, there is a replacement sign for the large freestanding museum sign outside of the Museum. Finally, ABCA staff had some vinyl sticker signs printed with QR codes to make online donations to the museum much easier. As per Adam Wisniewski's request, Abbie Gutteridge made a number of small laminated labels for the museum, and several smaller laminated posters. There are several other larger posters that will be professionally printed by Track 21 in Exeter, ON.

The Lions Club would also like to investigate putting up a sign with a Land Acknowledgement on it to hang in the Museum. Nathan has been liaising with a contact at Kettle and Stoney Point First Nations to have an appropriate Land Acknowledgement. They would also like a welcome sign in many different languages, considering the number of countries that have been represented by visitors to the Museum. The Committee will look into different options for this.

**HERITAGE SARNIA LAMBTON**

Chair Glenn Stott noted that the Passport program will be happening again for the summer of 2024 – the Arkona Lions Museum will be participating. He noted that the Heritage Sarnia Lambton Committee continues to be quite active. Chair Glenn also reported that he wrote an article on the Iroquois-Ojibway War that will be in the summer issue of the Lambton Musings publication.

**MUSEUM CURATOR REPORT**

Adam Wisniewski noted that they have some larger rocks that they would like to display and asked if they could use the small set of bleachers. ABCA staff did not foresee this being an issue. He also mentioned that they have a lot of the newly acquired Michielson Collection in the storage room and wondered about using some of the space in the washroom building for storing these items. Nathan Schoelier and Mike Bax noted that there could be some flooding and access concerns, but they are willing to work with the Lions to make some appropriate storage in that building.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The Committee briefly discussed an Acquisition Policy, which should be further developed for the Museum. However, in general, the Committee noted that they would not be seeking to acquire more collections, as there is currently limited space for storage, and the Museum already has several excellent collections of fossils and historic artifacts.

2. There was also some discussion regarding washrooms at RGCA. Lions members asked if it was possible to open washrooms earlier in the year; however, the washrooms are only opened once the water is turned on for the season, and staff are available to regularly clean the facilities. They noted that the privies on site can become unpleasant over the winter season, and wonder about the cost of having porta-potties near the buildings over the unstaffed season. ABCA staff will look into the cost of renting porta-potties.
3. Derek Dolmage, ABCA Stewardship and Lands Assistant, joined the meeting at 10:25, and was introduced to the Committee. Derek will be working with ABCA Field Services staff for 2024.
4. The Committee noted that RGCA and the Museum has become a family destination, and wondered if ABCA would entertain the idea of some fun things for photo ops, such as a cut out photo board (e.g. highlighting fossils or species-at-risk in the Ausable River).
5. It was brought up that the Museum requires a good vacuum, especially in light of Ted Baxter Day. Chair Glenn noted that the Lion's Club would be able to cover the cost of a vacuum, and Mike Bax will investigate some options.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7 at 9:30 a.m., unless the Chair calls an earlier meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Glenn Stott adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

---

Glenn Stott  
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge  
Corporate Services Coordinator

## MINUTES

### AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 14, 2024

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom

---

#### ANNUAL MEETING

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Frayne, Janet Clarke, George Irvin, Roger Lewington, Dave McClure, Charles Miner, Robert Norris

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Anne Melady, Bob Radtke

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Sharon Pavkeje, Nathan Schoelier, Paul Seebach

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dave Frayne welcomed the Foundation Board Members and called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#### **MOTION # 01/24**

**Moved by George Irvin  
Seconded by Charles Miner**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the May 14, 2024 agenda for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation Annual meeting be approved as circulated.”**

**Carried.**

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#### **MOTION # 02/24**

**Moved by Robert Norris  
Seconded by Janet Clarke**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting held on November 29, 2023 be approved.”**

**Carried.**

Chair Dave acknowledged this is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation and read off the members who were part of the inception. The members included Elgin Thompson of Tuckersmith, Richard Edward Pooley of Exeter, Frederick Heaman and William Amos of McGillivray, John Stephen of Blanshard, Ivan Hearn of Lucan, Freeman Hodgins of Parkhill, John Tinney of Hay and Roylance Westcott of Usborne. Thanks to these men for their forward thinking in 1974.

#### BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

#### Appointment of Chairperson

Chair Dave Frayne asked Davin Heinbuck, the new General Manager for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, to run the elections for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation.

Davin declared all positions vacant and asked for nominations for Chair three times. George nominated Roger Lewington, who declined. Dave McClure nominated Janet Clarke, who declined. Janet Clarke nominated Dave Frayne.

#### **MOTION # 03/24**

**Moved by Janet Clarke  
Seconded by Robert Norris**

**“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Chairperson for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation for 2024, be closed.”**

**Carried.**

Dave Frayne accepted the position and will continue as Chair of the ABCF.

#### Appointment of Vice Chairperson

Davin Heinbuck called for nominations for Vice Chairperson for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation three times. Dave Frayne nominated Charles Miner.

#### **MOTION # 04/24**

**Moved by Dave McClure  
Seconded by Dave Frayne**

**“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation for 2024, be closed.”**

**Carried.**

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



---

**Carried.**

Chair Dave Frayne and Vice Chair Charles Miner signed the approved 2023 Financial Statement.

### PROJECT UPDATES

#### Conservation Dinner

Abbie Gutteridge reported 341 patrons gathered at the South Huron Rec Centre in Exeter for the 2024 Conservation Dinner, which raised over \$45,000. The ABCF applied for the 50/50 permit and sold \$8,060 tickets, with the winner receiving \$3,845 and the balance being donated to the Exeter Lions Club. The Donnelly Café & Catering in Lucan provided an excellent meal. The Hard Ask was from ABCF towards our Day Camp program for underprivileged youth, which raised \$4,600. Chris Keller of the Exeter Lions will stay on as Chair of the Conservation Dinner for 2024.

#### Junior Conservationist

The ABCF funds an eight week student position with the ABCA as Junior Conservationist during July and August. The student must live within an ABCA watershed municipality and be a senior high school student or a first or second year university or college student enrolled in an environment field. Abbie has posted the position this year with closing date of May 17<sup>th</sup>. She has five resumes as of today. This student will help with a wide variety of departments within the ABCA, including our Education department summer day camps and Healthy Watersheds environmental monitoring.

The ABCA uses Canada Summer Jobs program to fund a couple summer positions. Currently the ABCF funds the Junior Conservationist program 100%, and Abbie asked if they would like her to inquire into funding from the Canada Summer Jobs program for the funding or possibly add to our funding in the future. Members felt this would be very worthwhile.

#### **MOTION # 09/24**

**Moved by Janet Clarke**

**Seconded by Roger Lewington**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation complete the application for funding through Canada Summer Jobs for funding towards the Junior Conservationist program.”**

**Carried.**

#### Student Environmental Grant

Abbie stated each year the ABCF presents a \$1,000 scholarship grant to a graduating high school student or first year student enrolled in a college or university environmental program. We had two applicants for this grant last year. Abbie will send the application to our watershed schools, and the school's environmental groups, this week. Chair Dave suggests that we follow up with some of the past winners of this grant to see where their schooling has taken them.

Morrison Dam Fishing Derby

Abbie reported the 38th Annual Morrison Dam Fishing Derby was held Saturday May 5 from 8 am to 12 noon at the Morrison Dam reservoir with 24 fish caught. This event is sponsored by the Exeter Lions Club and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation. The expense of stocking the rainbow trout is shared between the two organizations. Lion Paul Scott sent a note saying 390 fish were added to the reservoir, with winners of the youth and adult section both catching fish over 18" in length. The Lions had 288 anglers registered for the Fishing Derby. Davin noted that the company in Tillsonburg where they purchased fish from is closing and we will be looking for a new distributor for 2025.

Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods Expansion

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, reminded members of the new trail that will be developed within the Commemorative Woods at Morrison Dam and the location that it would hook into the South Huron Trail. Trail development began last fall and will continue after tree planting season this spring.

NEW BUSINESSFriends of the South Huron Trail

Chair Dave reported the Friends of the South Huron Trail met in March and had a trail clean up and pruning day lead by Nathan Schoelier. Dave noted the trail is very well maintained, so the clean up was minimal. Hikers thanked the members for their upkeep of the trail

Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy

Roger Lewington stated that all of the properties donated to the HTLTC are in good shape. The Warner property will be holding a grand opening in June for invited guests. The Heaman Tract at Ailsa Craig was completed and Nathan organized a small parking lot at that site. The Bayfield River Flats Walkway has been completed and June 7 will be the official opening. The quote for the walkway came in a bit higher than expected, but the contractor donated the armour stones at the parking lot, which will be used for donor acknowledgement plaques. The property at Mrs. Elliott's / Woodburne Farms will start to see ABCA staff cutting some sections of the grass, as her maintenance person is getting older. The Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy have other donations in talks at this time.

Trail Bench Fundraiser

Abbie noted the simple benches along the trail have been replaced by our \$1,200 memorial benches on a steady basis. The cost of maintaining these benches have been reviewed and staff wonder if the cost of the benches should be increased to \$1,500 or more, to cover the costs incurred. Chair Dave suggested getting wood for the benches from Dave Pullen to save some money.

**MOTION # 10/24**

**Moved by Charles Miner  
Seconded by Janet Clarke**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation increase the price of benches along any of our trails to \$1,500 per bench, which includes a sign plaque.”**



---

**Carried.**

Roger Lewington suggests the Armour Stone with engraving or a plaque attached as another option for fundraising. Nathan Schoelier noted accessibility needs to be considered at all locations.

Funding Proposals

1. ABCA Healthy Watersheds applied for a grant through the ABCF, with the Community Environment Fund for funding towards wetlands and was not successful.

2. Cassie Greidanus, of ABCA Conservation Education applied through the ABCF, for funding from the Sunset Foundation for \$2,500 towards a program in conjunction with the Libraries for very young children. Cassie was successful in receiving \$1,250, which is half of the funding.

Abbie requested on behalf of Cassie for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation to provide the other half of the funding (\$1,250) required for this program.

**MOTION # 11/24**

**Moved by Janet Clarke**

**Seconded by Charles Miner**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation provide \$1,250 to the ABCA Conservation Education department to provide programming in conjunction with the Libraries for very young children.”**

**Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Abbie mentioned that Sharon Pavkeje has submitted her letter of resignation from ABCA for August 15<sup>th</sup> and this will be her last Foundation meeting. Sharon stated she has enjoyed working with the Foundation members for the past 22 years and helping them with their fundraising events.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

George Irvin adjourned the Foundation meeting at 3:26 p.m.

---

Dave Frayne  
Chairperson

---

Sharon Pavkeje  
Recording Secretary