



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre  
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

3:00 p.m.

### AGENDA

1. Chair's Welcome and Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement Statement
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
5. Disclosure of intention to record this meeting by video and/or audio device
6. Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2025
7. Business Out of the Minutes
  
8. **Presentation – Audited 2024 Financial Statement** – Paul Seebach, *Seebach & Company*
  
9. **Program Reports**
  - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg 41/24) – Andrew Bicknell  
(b) Violations/Appeals Update – Geoff Cade
  - Report 2: Process for Updating Conservation Areas Master Plans – Nathan Schoelier
  - Report 3: Conservation Education Update – Cassie Greidanus
  - Report 4: Flood Emergency Planning Meeting Update – Daniel King
  
10. Committee Reports
11. **General Manager's Report** – Davin Heinbuck
12. **Correspondence**
13. New Business
14. Committee of the Whole
15. Adjournment

*Partner Appreciation Evening to Follow at Ironwood Golf Clubhouse*

#### Upcoming Meetings and Events

April 17, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

May 15, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

*Please note: The Conservation Dinner has changed to an online auction, tentatively to be held May 11-15. Details to follow.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, February 20, 2025

**Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom  
Morrison Dam Conservation Area**

### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Joey Groot, Jaden Hodgins, Dave Jewitt, Dave Marsh, Marissa Vaughan

### DIRECTORS ABSENT

Steve Herold, Wayne Shipley

### STAFF PRESENT

Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Nathan Schoelier, Erik Strahl, Ellen Westelaken.

### OTHERS PRESENT

Spencer Weldig

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#### **MOTION #BD 01/25**

**Moved Dave Jewitt**

**Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the February 20, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting be approved as amended.”**

**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 02/25**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on December 19, 2024, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”**

**Carried.**

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

ELECTIONS

Chair Marissa Vaughan asked for a motion to appoint a chairperson for the elections.

**MOTION 03/25**

**Moved by Dave Jewitt  
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

**“RESOLVED, THAT Davin Heinbuck be appointed as chairperson for the election proceedings.”**

**Carried.**

Davin Heinbuck outlined the procedures prior to conducting the elections.

Appointment of Scrutineers

**MOTION #BD 04/25**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT Abbie Gutteridge and Brian Horner be appointed as scrutineers.”**

**Carried.**

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant.

Election of Chair

Nominations were called for the position of Chair for 2025. Marissa Vaughan nominated Ray Chartrand.

Davin Heinbuck called for nominations two more times.

**MOTION #BD 05/25**

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen  
Seconded by Joey Groot**

**“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority be closed.”**

**Carried.**

Ray Chartrand accepted his nomination with thanks, and Davin Heinbuck declared Mr. Chartrand, the representative for the Municipality of Huron East, as the Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority for 2025.

Election of Vice Chair

Nominations were called for the position of Vice Chair for 2025. Dave Jewitt nominated Adrian Cornelissen. Adrian Cornelissen nominated Dave Marsh.

Mr. Heinbuck called for nominations two more times.

**MOTION #BD 06/25**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Bice Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority be closed.”**

**Carried.**

Adrian Cornelissen accepted his nomination; however, Dave Marsh declined his nomination, but thanked the directors for their confidence. Mr. Heinbuck declared Mr. Cornelissen, representative for the Municipality of North Middlesex, as Vice Chair for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority for 2025.

Ray Chartrand again thanked the directors for their support and assumed the Chair.

APPOINTMENTS

Davin Heinbuck reminded the directors that last year both the auditor, financial institution and investment firm were appointed for a five-year period, so will not need to be reappointed this year. However, the solicitors used by the Authority need to be appointed. Davin recommended appointing the same four solicitors that were appointed in 2024.

**MOTION #BD 07/25**

**Moved by Dave Marsh  
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the firms of Little, Masson & Reid, Exeter; Raymond & McLean, Exeter; Grant Inglis of Scott Petrie, LLP of London; and Fraser M. Kelly, London be appointed as the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority solicitors for 2025.”**

**Carried.**

**PROGRAM REPORTS**

1. **(a) Development Review**

Ellen Westelaken, Water & Planning Technician, presented the Development Review report pursuant to Ontario Regulation Ontario Regulation 41/24 *Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits*. Through the application process, proposed developments within regulated areas are protected from flooding and erosion hazards. Staff granted permission for 8 *Applications for Permission* and 6 *Minor Works Applications*.

**(b) Violation/Appeals Update**

Geoff Cade provided a brief update regarding a deck and storage area that was not permitted by the Board in 2024. The landowners appealed both the ABCA and Municipality's decisions to the Ontario Land Tribunal, and they are currently in some discussions. He also reminded the Board about a violation south of Hendrick Road where a large amount of fill was dumped over the bank. Staff are working with the landowner to try to resolve the violation.

**MOTION #BD 08/25**

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins  
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

**“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. **Permit Application Authorization**

Erik Strahl, Water & Planning Technician, and Geoff Cade, Water & Planning Manager presented an application for an addition and repairs to an existing residence located in an area of the shoreline where ABCA policy does not permit additions. Therefore, staff is unable to issue a permit. However, in working with the homeowners, Sue Brooks and Spencer Weldig, staff believe that this is a unique case and would not set a precedent. The house is in the shape of a 'U', and the proposed addition is a single story in the centre of the 'U', which already has a concrete slab. No grading changes or septic upgrades are required, and staff are satisfied that the work would not exacerbate dynamic beach hazards. Staff recommends that the Board authorize staff to issue the permit for this proposed development.

Chair Ray Chartrand asked to go into Committee of the Whole, briefly, to ask staff a few further questions regarding the development.

**MOTION #BD 08/25**

**Moved by Dave Jewitt  
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 10:30 a.m. to discuss this permitting issue with Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck and Erik Strahl remaining in attendance.”**

**Carried.**

**MOTION #BD 09/25**

**Moved by Dave Marsh  
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors rise and report at 10:39 a.m.”**

**Carried.**

Chair Chartrand invited Mr. Weldig to make any remarks to the Board if he wished. Mr. Weldig thanked the Board for their consideration, as well as staff.

**MOTION #BD 10/25**

**Moved by Marissa Vaughan  
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorize staff to issue a permit for Application #2025-03.”**

**Carried.**

### **3. Workshop Renovation Tender Results**

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship & Lands Manager, presented the results from the tender that was put out for the ABCA workshop renovations to meet the standards in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The workshop is primarily used to support field staff operations, but it is also used for several weeks of day camps each summer. MR Engineering and Design Ltd. (MRE) is the contractor responsible for overseeing and designing the renovation, as well as preparing and issuing the tender to contractors. The tender was issued on Monday, January 20, 2025 with a submission deadline of Friday, January 31, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Matt Runge from MRE, Davin Heinbuck, Nathan Schoelier, and Jeff Van Niekerk met at the ABCA office to open the tenders at 3:05 p.m. on January 31, 2025. Three bids were received (details in attached report), and it is recommended that the tender be awarded to Vanderlaan Construction, which had the lowest cost at \$125, 643.00 plus HST. The ABCA was successful with an application to the Enabling Accessibility Fund in the amount of \$100,000 toward the project, and included \$25,000 in the 2025 budget for this project. This does leave a shortfall of \$24,491.61, which staff recommend be used from the property management reserves.

**MOTION #BD 11/25**

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen  
Seconded by Marissa**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors awards the tender for the workshop alteration project 9ABCA-25-01) to Vanderlaan Construction in the amount of \$125, 643.00 plus HST, and**

**“FURTHER , THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the use of property management reserves to fund the balance of the project.”**

**Carried.**

**4. Linfield Wildlife Area Farmland Lease**

Nathan Schoelier also presented the results from the tender for the lease of the farmland at Linfield Wildlife Area, which includes approximately 58 farmable acres. In the ABCA Conservation Lands Strategy (CLS) was the objective to review and update the agricultural lease agreement to promote the use of conservation agriculture best management practices, and to develop a strong working relationship between the tenant farmer and staff, with a common goal of progressive and sustainable agriculture. The tender opportunity was made publicly available from January 2 until January 27, 2025.

In total, 13 bids were received, which described a wide range of intended agricultural practices, as well as rental cost per acre. Through this process, staff determined that the bid submitted by Shawn Willert best meets the goals of the CLS, and achieves a balance between utilizing the agricultural practices that ABCA encourages, while meeting the sustainable and responsible financial goals. This would be a six-year lease at a rental rate of \$405 per acre. This bid exceeds the ABCA’s farmland revenue amount included in ABCA’s 2025 budget by \$4890.

**MOTION #12/25**

**Moved by Dave Marsh**

**Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors award the Linfield Wildlife Area farmland lease to Shawn Willert in the amount of \$405.00 per acre, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Linfield Wildlife Area farmland lease to commence February 20, 2025 and conclude December 31, 2030, and**

**FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the use of the funds that exceed the 2025 budgeted amount to implement stewardship projects at Linfield Wildlife Area.”**

**Carried.**

#### 5. Flood Model Update Consultant Selection

Daniel King, Water Resources Engineer, reported that the ABCA is in the process of updating the Flood Forecasting and Warning Software, and implemented an RFP opportunity. Two qualifying bids were received and from these, staff selected the bid from Innovative Defensive Options Inc., which submitted a lower cost. To fund this software update, the ABCA was successful with an application to the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) for 50% toward the project. The total cost to ABCA is expected to be \$80,000, which includes 10 % contingencies and consulting support. The original cost estimates were significantly higher at \$145,000. The project is designed to span over a two-year period. ABCA's 2025 budget included \$26,275 for this project. Based on this and the FHIMP funding, there may be a shortfall of approximately \$13,725, which could be taken from reserves. Board members asked about references for the winning bid, and Daniel noted that this person has worked with conservation authorities in the past, so is familiar with the specialized work that is needed for this model.

#### **MOTION #BD 13/25**

**Moved by Joey Groot**

**Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors awards the contract to the Flood model update to Innovative Defensive Options inc. in the amount of approximately \$72,200 (including unrecoverable HST) over two years, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the use of reserves to fund the balance of the project; estimated to be approximately \$13,725, with the potential to replenish the reserve in the 2026 budget preparation.”**

**Carried.**

#### 6. Permit Review Timelines

Geoff Cade presented an annual report, which summarizes the ABCA's Ontario Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits. This report is a requirement of the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. The report confirms that staff of the ABCA continue to excel at bettering expected permit review timelines, and 96% of the permits were issued well before the time limit.

#### **MOTION #14/25**

**Moved by Dave Marsh**

**Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the report on permit review timelines for information as presented.”**

**Carried.**



7. Unaudited Profit/Loss Statements – 2024

Tina Crown, Financial Services Coordinator, presented the unaudited statements of profit and loss from January 2024 through December 2024. The audited financial statements are anticipated to be ready in March.

**MOTION #15/25**

**Moved by Joey Groot  
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the unaudited profit and loss financial statement for 2024 be received as presented.”**

**Carried.**

STAFF PRESENTATION – MANAGING INVASIVE SPECIES FOR HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

Nathan Schoelier presented ABCA’s management program for invasive species, specifically for phragmites, which have become prolific throughout Ontario. ABCA not only manages phragmites on ABCA owned lands and works with landowners for their properties, but also manages for several municipalities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MOTION #BD 16/25**

**Moved by Dave Marsh  
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Striking Committee meeting held on January 29, 2025 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”**

**Carried.**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MOTION #BD 17/25**

**Moved by Dave Jewitt  
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 12: 02 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter, with Davin Heinbuck and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”**

**Carried.**

**MOTION #BD 18/25**

**Moved by Joey Groot  
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors rise and report at 12:19 p.m.”**

**Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Reference: Letter of Resignation

File: P.1.1

Brief: A letter from Geoff Cade, announcing his intent to retire at the end of June, after a long career with Conservation Authorities in Southwestern Ontario. He thanked staff and the Board for support over the course of his career with ABCA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adrian Cornelissen noted that some municipalities are exploring the option of a “Canadian Made” policy regarding purchasing of supplies, etc., and wondered if ABCA staff had considered the same. Directors concluded that, at present, it seems prudent to wait on such a policy, but staff noted that they do try to purchase any supplies and services from within Ontario, if not within the local watershed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

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Ray Chartrand  
Chair

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Abigail Gutteridge  
Secretary

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

**AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

DRAFT

**SEEBACH & COMPANY**  
*Chartered Professional Accountants*

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Members of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation

### *Opinion*

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation ("the Foundation"), which are comprised of the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024 and the statements of operations, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as at December 31, 2024, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPPO).

### *Basis for Qualified Opinion*

In common with many not-for-profit and charitable organizations, the Foundation derives revenue from fundraising activities and donations the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Foundation. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to recorded fundraising and donation revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations, assets and fund balances. Our opinion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024, as well as the opinion on the prior year financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this scope limitation.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNFPPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Foundation's financial reporting process.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*Seebach & Company*

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

Clinton, Ontario  
February 19, 2025

**AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

As at December 31	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash	454,410	464,417
Marketable securities (note 2)	1,702,990	803,119
Accounts receivable	2,115	12,861
Inventory	30	70
	2,159,545	1,280,467
Capital assets, net (note 3)	6,762,793	6,013,886
	<b>\$ 8,922,338</b>	<b>\$ 7,294,353</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,489	2,611
Due to related parties (note 4)	1,479	5,534
	4,968	8,145
Deferred revenue (note 5)	1,415,818	1,431,966
	1,420,786	1,440,111
Fund Balances		
General Fund	80,343	91,091
Restricted Reserve Fund (note 6)	1,163,482	265,424
Contributed Lands	6,257,727	5,497,727
	7,501,552	5,854,242
	<b>\$ 8,922,338</b>	<b>\$ 7,294,353</b>

On behalf of the Board:

..... Director

..... Director

# AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

<b>For the Year Ended December 31</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	627,081	97,368
Dinner	89,101	103,917
Partnership programs	21,687	84,464
Rental revenue	13,030	12,713
Administration, operations and fundraising	10,402	9,307
Commemorative Woods	13,218	11,210
Investment income	52,617	24,141
Interest	24,295	23,891
Unrealized gains (losses)	323,404	41,722
Deferred revenue - prior year	1,431,966	1,386,745
Deferred revenue - current year	(1,415,818)	(1,431,966)
	<u>1,190,983</u>	<u>363,512</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Partnership programs	92,245	72,419
Dinner	71,134	75,082
Commemorative Woods	7,096	17,646
Professional fees	6,993	25,569
Administration and operations	12,988	31,122
Amortization	11,093	11,093
Land trust costs	102,124	83,218
	<u>303,673</u>	<u>316,149</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<u><u>\$ 887,310</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 47,363</u></u>

**AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

<b>For the Year Ended December 31</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	<b>887,310</b>	47,363
Items not requiring (not providing) cash		
Amortization expense	<u>11,093</u>	<u>11,093</u>
Working capital provided from operations	<b>898,403</b>	58,456
Cash provided from (used for) changes in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	<b>10,746</b>	(8,791)
Inventory	<b>40</b>	140
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<b>878</b>	(1,214)
Deferred revenue	<u>(16,148)</u>	<u>45,220</u>
Cash provided from (used for) operating activities	<u><b>893,919</b></u>	<u>93,811</u>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Net disposals (purchases) of capital assets	<b>760,000</b>	3,370,000
Less: Value of contributed capital assets	<b>(760,000)</b>	(3,370,000)
Net disposals (purchases) of marketable securities	<u>(899,871)</u>	<u>(39,164)</u>
	<u><b>(899,871)</b></u>	<u>(39,164)</u>
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Advances from (repayments to) related parties	<u>(4,055)</u>	<u>(2,383)</u>
	<u><b>(4,055)</b></u>	<u>(2,383)</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash</b>	<b>(10,007)</b>	52,264
<b>Cash, beginning of year</b>	<u><b>464,417</b></u>	<u>412,153</u>
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<u><b>\$ 454,410</b></u>	<u>\$ 464,417</u>



# AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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For the year ended December 31, 2024

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### Description of Foundation

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation was incorporated without share capital on June 1, 1974. The Foundation is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. The Foundation aids the Conservation Authority in the cultivation and advancements of conservation in the province of Ontario by providing funding for conservation projects that would otherwise not be undertaken by the Conservation Authority because of insufficient funding.

### 1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared by the management of the Foundation in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO).

Significant aspects of accounting policies adopted by the Foundation are as follows:

a) Accrual basis of accounting

Revenues and expenses are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting recognizes revenues as they are earned and measurable, and recognizes expenditures as they are incurred and measurable as a result of receipt of goods or services and the creation of a legal obligation to pay.

b) Marketable securities

Marketable securities consist of cash and cash equivalents, fixed income and equities and are measured at fair value.

c) Inventory

Inventory consists of artwork intended to be auctioned off at a future fundraising dinner. It is valued at the lower of cost and the net realizable value with the cost being determined on a first-in, first-out basis.

d) Capital assets

Amortization is provided for over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The rates used are as follows:

Buildings	50 years, straight-line method
Reflection area	50 years, straight-line method

e) Revenue recognition

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Revenues and expenditures related to operations and administrative activities are reported in the General Fund. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted contributions are deferred and recognized as revenue in the period that the expenses are incurred. Contributions of land are recognized as direct increases in fund balances and are not recognized as revenue. Contributions of depreciable capital assets are deferred and recognized as revenue on the same basis as the related asset amortization.

The Reserve Fund is used to report funds internally restricted by the Board of Directors for specific purposes. The details of these funds are outlined in note 6.

Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy ("HTLTC") fund reports on the operations of certain land under the care and protection of HTLTC. Donations and other revenue directed towards this fund are treated as deferred revenue (note 5) until expended.

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

f) Donated services and materials

The work of the Foundation is dependent on voluntary service by many of its members. Since these services are not normally purchased by the Foundation and because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, donated services are not recognized in these financial statements.

g) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the period, and the accompanying notes. Due to the inherent uncertainty in making estimates, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**2. Marketable securities**

The marketable securities, stated at fair value, consist of the following:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Cash and equivalents (market value \$-)	-	919
Fixed income (market value \$107,809)	105,374	100,000
Equities (market value \$1,595,181)	<u>1,119,899</u>	<u>547,887</u>
Book value	1,225,273	648,806
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	<u>477,717</u>	<u>154,313</u>
Fair value	<u>\$ 1,702,990</u>	<u>\$ 803,119</u>

**3. Capital assets**

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<b>Net Book Value 2024</b>	<b>Net Book Value 2023</b>
Land	6,257,727	-	6,257,727	5,497,727
Buildings	519,000	51,428	467,572	488,332
Reflection area	<u>35,670</u>	<u>9,269</u>	<u>26,401</u>	<u>27,827</u>
	<u>\$ 6,812,397</u>	<u>\$ 60,697</u>	<u>\$ 6,751,700</u>	<u>\$ 6,013,886</u>

**4. Related party transactions**

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority appoints directors from its own board to serve as directors on the Foundation, and approves the appointment of any member from the community at large.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation is treated as a separate entity for financial reporting purposes. The total liabilities include an amount payable to Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority in the amount of \$1,479 (2023 : \$5,534) for items purchased by the Authority on behalf of the Foundation, as well as contributions for education and barrier-free trails and facilities.

The Foundation expensed a total of \$78,302 (2023 : \$60,916) in the year for contributions made to Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority programs. They include:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Administrative costs	\$ 55,952	\$ 49,900
Conservation programs	<u>22,350</u>	<u>11,016</u>
	<u>\$ 78,302</u>	<u>\$ 60,916</u>

**5. Deferred revenue**

Grants, donations and other amounts that are received in advance of directly related expenses are deferred and recognized as revenue when the expenses are incurred. The amounts deferred in the current and prior year are as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy	1,235,287	1,259,557
Commemorative woods	63,474	57,641
Accessible facilities and trails	107,977	114,768
Environmental fund	<u>9,080</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 1,415,818</u>	<u>\$ 1,431,966</u>

**6. Reserve fund**

The following is a summary of the internally restricted reserve fund.

	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Transfer from General Fund</b>	<b>Transfer to General Fund</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Land acquisition	29,096	1,835	-	30,931
Conservation education	30,315	1,836	-	32,151
Accessible facilities & trails	206,013	199,677	-	405,690
Environmental fund	<u>-</u>	<u>694,710</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>694,710</u>
	<u>\$ 265,424</u>	<u>\$ 898,058</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,163,482</u>

Land Acquisition - to be used to acquire conservation lands, wetlands and natural areas.

Accessible Facilities & Trails - to be used for accessible facilities, accessible trails, conservation area improvements and commemorative woods.

Environmental Fund - to be used for conservation education and accessible facilities & trails.

**7. Contributed lands**

During the year, the Foundation received a contribution of a parcel of land valued at \$760,000 (2023 : \$145,000) with the purpose of protecting the natural lands and habitat.

**8. Financial instrument risk management**

The Foundation is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework in place to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Foundation's risk exposure and concentration. There have been no significant change to the nature or concentration of these risks from the prior year, unless otherwise noted.

In the opinion of management, the Foundation is not exposed to significant credit, liquidity, currency or interest rate risk arising from its financial instruments.

**Other price risk**

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. The Foundation is exposed to other price risk through its investment in mutual funds and quoted shares with a fair value of \$1,702,990 (2023 : \$802,119) which are recorded as marketable securities.

**AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

DRAFT

**SEEBACH & COMPANY**  
*Chartered Professional Accountants*

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Members of Drinking Water Source Protection Program

### *Opinion*

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenue and expenditures (the "statement") for the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (the "Program") for the year then ended December 31, 2024. The statement of revenue and expenditures has been prepared by management of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

In our opinion, the financial information in the statement of revenues and expenditures of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program for the year ended December 31, 2024, is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards (PSAB).

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Program in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Basis of Accounting and Restrictions on Use*

The statement is prepared for the purpose of providing information to the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority or the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.

### *Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with PSAB, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*Seebach & Company*

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

Clinton, Ontario  
March 20, 2025

**AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

<b>For the year ended December 31</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Provincial grant	251,504	<b>306,284</b>	148,833
Deferred revenue - prior year	99,975	-	120,595
Interest income	1,000	<b>2,183</b>	3,763
Deferred revenue - current year	(84,580)	<b>(34,721)</b>	-
	<u>267,899</u>	<u><b>273,746</b></u>	<u>273,191</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Wages and benefits	198,079	<b>205,837</b>	212,914
Technical fees	23,500	<b>25,849</b>	21,161
Board of Directors	13,689	<b>7,642</b>	9,937
Office	20,604	<b>19,284</b>	16,260
Rental	7,000	<b>7,227</b>	7,317
Utilities	1,407	<b>1,380</b>	1,380
Travel	1,100	<b>2,296</b>	2,110
Vehicles and field equipment	1,020	<b>174</b>	383
Advertising and promotion	800	<b>835</b>	203
Memberships, dues and fees	-	<b>759</b>	512
Program supplies	50	<b>2,329</b>	791
Uniforms	350	<b>88</b>	178
Training	300	<b>46</b>	45
	<u>267,899</u>	<u><b>273,746</b></u>	<u>273,191</u>
<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

# ABCA Program Report

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** March 20, 2025  
**From:** Andrew Bicknell, Acting Water and Planning Supervisor  
**Subject:** Applications for Permission  
Ontario Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits  
**Report Type:** ACTION REQUIRED

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## 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 Permission* 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 #2023-25P	
	NAME: Sugarbush Campground	
	ADDRESS: 33900 Sugarbush Rd., Bayfield	
	MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater	
	PERMISSION TO: renewal of generic permission	
	COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	January 29, 2025
	PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	February 5, 2025
	NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	6
	STAFF NAME:	Erik Strahl



## Minor Permits

- (1) PERMIT #MW2025-01  
NAME: Dave Forte Family Holdings Corp.  
ADDRESS: 13 Tuyl St. , Bayfield, ON.  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: Site Alteration in a regulated area  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: January 13, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: January 16, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 3  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (2) PERMIT #2023-80A (Renewal)  
NAME: The Municipality of Bluewater  
ADDRESS: West end of Colina Street Road Allowance  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: For the purposes of installing armour stone shore protection and associated work.  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 5, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 5, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1  
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (3) PERMIT #MW2024-75  
NAME: Mike and Lynne Rivard  
ADDRESS: 27 Aruba Lane  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: Construct a roof over extension and associated work  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 21, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 27, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5  
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl

- (4) PERMIT #MW2025-02  
 NAME: The Municipality of North Middlesex c/o Sam Shannon  
 ADDRESS: Moray Drive  
 MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex  
 PERMISSION TO: Watermain relocation through Steeper Extension Drainage Works  
 COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 11, 2025  
 PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 12, 2025  
 NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1  
 STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (5) PERMIT #MW2025-04 A-D  
 NAME: Lynx Planning and Engineering  
 ADDRESS: Various Location in West Perth (qty = 4)  
 MUNICIPALITY: West Perth  
 PERMISSION TO: Fibre Optic Cable installations beneath watercourses.  
 COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: Jan 21, 2025  
 PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 11, 2025  
 NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 16  
 STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (6) PERMIT # MW2025-07  
 NAME: Enbridge Gas Inc. (c/o Caitlin Collins)  
 ADDRESS: 33905 Gendron Street  
 MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
 PERMISSION TO: Install gas main in a regulated area  
 COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: January 31, 2025  
 PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 14, 2025  
 NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 11  
 STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken
- (7) PERMIT # MW2025-08  
 NAME: Dynamic Septic and Drainage (c/o Devon Webb)  
 ADDRESS: 74841B Dr. George Smith Ave.  
 MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
 PERMISSION TO: Install a replacement septic system  
 COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 14, 2025

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: February 19, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 3  
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken

(8) PERMIT # MW2025-13  
NAME: Hurondale Excavating (c/o Josh Dougall)  
ADDRESS: 69728 Airport Line  
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron  
PERMISSION TO: Install a replacement septic system  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 6, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 10, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2  
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken

# *ABCA Program Report*

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** March 20, 2025  
**From:** Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Lands Manager  
**Subject:** Process for Updating Conservation Areas Master Plans  
**Report Type:** ACTION REQUIRED

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the process for updating conservation areas master plans detailed in this report.

## **Background:**

The Conservation Lands Strategy (CLS), approved November 2024, is an overarching strategy to guide future management planning. The CLS includes management goals, objectives, considerations, and challenges, as they relate to Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's (ABCA) entire landholdings. The CLS provides general direction, but it does not provide specific direction for individual properties.

Conservation area master plans contain site-level management information and are the vehicle for guiding specific direction for individual properties. Not all conservation areas have a master plan, and the most recent update to plans was 2004. The CLS included an implementation item of updating all master plans prior to 2030.

The 2025 budget included funds for updating the master plans for Ausable River Cut Conservation Area (ARCA), Morrison Dam Conservation Area (MDCA), and Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA). It is important to consider the needs of the environment, and the needs of the community when updating the master plans. To capture the needs of the community, the opportunity for community input will be provided, which will help to direct the master plan, and subsequently, property management. To capture this important information, the following process is proposed:

- 1) Staff will consult the CLS to develop a draft master plan. The public and stakeholders were consulted during the preparation of the CLS, which provides a strategic framework for management planning. Further to the CLS, staff will utilize their expertise and information from past master plans, when available, and other resources, to effectively develop the draft version.
- 2) The draft master plan will be presented to the Board of Directors for input, and to approve the draft plan to be made available for public and stakeholder feedback.
- 3) The draft plan will be made available for public and stakeholder engagement. To dedicate staff resources most effectively, and encourage relevant feedback, engagement efforts will focus on

property visitors, local residents, and appropriate stakeholders. Various methods will be employed, including online platforms, and one-to-one sessions, to ensure meaningful engagement.

4) Staff will summarize the feedback that is received, and incorporate it into the final version of the master plan accordingly.

5) The final version will be provided to the Board of Directors for approval. Upon approval, it will be made publicly available on the ABCA website.

# *ABCA Program Report*

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** March 20, 2025  
**From:** Cassie Greidanus, Conservation Education Coordinator  
**Subject:** Conservation Education Update  
**Report Type:** INFORMATION REPORT

---

## **Recommendation:**

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the Conservation Education Update for information as presented.

## **Introduction:**

Conservation Education is continuing to see growth in all areas and to balance this growth, our largest announcement for this mid-year update is the hiring of Julie Stellingwerff as our Education Instructor. Julie returns to ABCA after taking 10 years to grow her family and career is a variety of aspects. While at ABCA from 2005-2014 Julie took leadership roles in growing the department and coordinating Camp Sylvan. Now, as Education Instructor, Julie is working part-time, with varied hours which allows her flexibility to continue working with the school boards as an occasional teacher and with her family, while also doing the work she loves as an outdoor educator.

## **Education Updates**

- Owl Prowl held November 15, 2024 saw attendance of 111 people and with funding from ABCF, WILD Ontario brought two owls for community viewing.
- AMDSB hosted two environmental forums in the fall of 2024, a day for elementary students and one for secondary. Students learnt about what a watershed is, it's significance and issues relating to water and soil health.
- Oaks and Acorns saw registration being full within 4 hours of posting it. With 16 families registered we ranged from about 7-10 families weekly at the event. Children aged 18 months – 4 years learned about a new topic each week with hands-on activities activated all of their senses!
  - With a bit of extra funding remaining, we worked with Huron EarlyON and Exeter Library to provide two winter days.
  - This funding was provided by ABCF and SCF South Huron Vitality Fund
- School Programs were extremely busy this past fall, between September 17 and November 1:
  - 49 school programs
  - 1224 students taught
  - Most popular programs: Fossils, Species at Risk, Growth and Changes in Plants and Animals, Pond Study
- Winter programs have had a rocky few months due to the high number of bus cancellation

days.

- Snowshoe rentals: at least 6 full days of rentals from schools.
  - One day spent at Pinery Provincial Park with Hillside Elementary School in partnership with St. Clair Region CA.
- Spring Water Awareness Program – 9 school programs with 165 students taught. This is the second year we have done the primary escape room program and have received positive feedback over the structure of the program.
- PA Day Tea Tasting at Exeter Library – There was a great interest in doing this program again in the evening for other audiences.
- Day Camps:
  - March Break Day Camps had 8 campers attend with a flexible schedule due to construction in the shop, students learned about survival skills, wildlife, birds, water quality and more.
    - To aid in camper well-being, Mercedes Prout was hired for the week as Day Camp Assistant.
  - Summer Day Camp registration was extremely popular. 115/120 spots are taken in our 6 weeks of programming with over 20 children on our waitlist.
    - Field trips are planned thanks to a generous discount from Wave Limo & Tours. Two at RGCA and one at Hullett Marsh.
    - Special events will include two visits from Safari Sam with Sam's Scales and Tails, as well as a Turtle Release with Huron Stewardship Council.
    - We are excited to welcome back both our day camp staff from last year: Elizabeth Cade as our Day Camp Leader and Kayley Thompson as our Day Camp Counsellor.

#### **Coming up:**

- Oaks and Acorns will be running two sessions this May. Tuesdays at MDCA and Thursdays with our new partners at Lambton EarlyON at Warner Preserve.
  - We will also be doing a variety of “pop-up” days with Huron EarlyON across the watershed.
- With funding from SCF Grand Bend we will be hosting youth tree planting events at both Warner and Triebner Tract with Grand Bend Public School, Eco Exeter and Big Brothers Big Sisters South Huron
- 5 or 6 events planned with Big Brothers Big Sisters South Huron to provide activities for individuals on their long waitlist. This will include a few different plantings, GPS programming, pond studies and more.
- Envirothon is planned for April 24 and May 7 at MDCA. The rotating topic this year is Forestry Stewardship.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – Specialist High Skills Major training with Goderich District Collegiate Institute where students in the environmental field will go on a bus tour, stopping at a variety of locations to speak to environmental specialists about shoreline erosion.
  - Guests include: Ben Woodward (Masters student at University of Waterloo); Kerry Kennedy (Lake Huron Coastal Centre); Daniel King and Natha

# *ABCA Program Report*

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** March 20, 2025  
**From:** Dan King, Water Resources Engineer; Christie Brown, Water Resources Technologist; and Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer  
**Subject:** Flood Emergency Planning Meeting  
**Report Type:** INFORMATION REPORT

---

## **Recommendation:**

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the Flood Emergency Planning Meeting report for information as presented.

## **Background:**

The 2025 annual Flood Emergency Planning meeting was held in person on February 24, 2025. ABCA Member Municipalities and other stakeholders in emergency flood response were invited to attend and participate in the meeting. The 22 attendees included reps from 7 watershed municipalities as well as staff and/or CEMC from all Huron County, Lambton County and Middlesex county, and 2 other Conservation Authorities.

ABCA staff members presented or led discussion on the following agenda items:

- Welcome and Opening Remarks by Ray Chartrand – ABCA Chair
- Roles and Responsibilities in Flood Emergencies - Davin Heinbuck, ABCA
- Feature Presentation – From Watches to Warnings and Everything in Between – James Bryant & Lina Florian, ERCA
- Watershed Conditions Update and Flood Outlook – Christie Brown
- Discussion and Closing remarks

## **Discussion Highlights:**

Following the meeting, we always ask our partners if they feel that it is worthwhile hosting this flood emergency planning meeting. Attendees acknowledged the importance of holding this event each year and for many, they use this as a reminder to revisit their emergency plans. Additionally, the ability to make in-person connections amongst the partners, is fundamental to emergency preparedness.

The meeting notes and attendees are attached for your information.



Flood Emergency Planning Meeting  
February 24, 2025, 1:00 pm, Legion Hall, Exeter  
Meeting Notes

## AGENDA

### 1) Opening Remarks, Ray Chartrand, Chair ABCA Board of Directors - 1:00 pm

ABCA Chair Ray Chartrand welcomed everyone to the meeting with a land acknowledgement. He had the attendees make introductions and briefly discussed the purpose of the meeting. Chair Chartrand emphasized the importance of inter-agency communication during flooding events. He solicited feedback at the end of today's session, and introduced the three speakers for the event.

### 2) Roles and Responsibilities and ABCA Flood Emergency Plan, Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, ABCA

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, provided a summary of the history of the watershed including key areas that have been identified as susceptible to flooding. He expanded on the hierarchy of floodplain management, from planning to regulations to emergency response. In that he acknowledged that much of the built environment preceded the regulations, so we are left with the responsibility to message and warn about flooding. Davin then outlined the key players (the province (MNRF), the municipalities, Conservation Authorities) and their respective roles in the comprehensive flood forecasting and warning program. He presented the contents of the 2025 Flood Emergency Plan, specifically the roles and responsibilities of each partner (Province, Municipality, CA) in a flood emergency. He also emphasized that ABCA maintains a rotating schedule for a Flood Duty Officer who can be reached on a 24 hr emergency line.

In addition to the contents of the Flood Emergency Plan, he provided photographic examples from both recent and past flooding events throughout the watershed. He explained that the three most common types of flood events that we see are heavy rains, rain and snowmelt, and ice jams. With lake levels being near or exceeding record highs in previous years, there were examples of lake and coastal flooding. These examples ranged from events in 2006 to 2024.

### 5) FEATURE PRESENTATION – From Watches to Warnings and Everything After: Unpacking the Essex Flood Event – August 2023, James Bryant P.Eng. and Lina Florian, ERCA

James Brian and Lina Florian, who are engineers with the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), was the feature speaker of this year's meeting. Mr. Bryant and Ms. Florian presented on a flooding event in their watershed from 2023. Moisture from the remnant of Hurricane Hillary fell on soil that had been pre-wetted by previous rainfall resulting in a quick response of runoff

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting  
February 24, 2025, 1:00 pm, Legion Hall, Exeter  
Meeting Notes

over one of the flattest landscapes in Southern Ontario. They showed how the rainfall event greatly exceeded the regulatory standards, and typical rainfall events for the ERCA watershed. The town of Harrow, which had flooded in 1989 was again significantly impacted by this event in 2023. Flood damage was related to a historical re-direction of watercourses for agricultural purposes undertaken in the 1800s, and overwhelmed local sewage and storm infrastructure capacity by up to fourteen (14) times. Significant road closures impacted 21 km of roads, stranding multiple communities in addition to Harrow.

Mr. Bryant and Ms. Florian outlined the technical work that their team undertook after the event to delineate the extent of flooding, and presented maps they created that showed what structures were impacted to support both municipal and private applications to the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) program and to private flood insurance. There was also some discussion of the disconnect between expectations and reality with the amount of funds that were released from that program, based on the amount of damage.

### 3) ABCA Watershed Conditions, Christie Brown, Water Resources Technologist

Christie Brown, ABCA Water Resources Technologist, provided an overview of the current watershed conditions with respect to:

- Showed a recent NOAA Satellite photo and discussed that there is approximately 100 mm of Snow-Water Equivalent (SWE) in an average 45 cm snowpack which could be released quickly or slowly depending on the type of weather we have for the spring melt event. Based on the current forecast the outlook is a gradual melt.
- River ice – formed on most major rivers in early February. Monitoring has shown between 9-12 in, and since then the thickness has likely increased.
- Ice jams – due to the presence of river ice there is risk of ice jams this spring
- MNR is forecasting little activity in the next two days. ABCA staff are monitoring the approximately 15 mm or rain forecast for Mar 4-5. Whether this rain coincides with significant contribution from the snow pack, or ice breakup and risk of ice jams will greatly depend on temperatures.
- Lake Huron water level – The lake is currently near the long-term mean, with regular seasonal variation expected.

### Closing Remarks, Ray Chartrand

Chair Chartrand thanked each of the presenters for their contributions, and with Davin emphasized that the ABCA appreciates attendees feedback on content for future meetings.

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting  
February 24, 2025, 1:00 pm, Legion Hall, Exeter  
Meeting Notes

**The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 pm.**

**Attendees**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
David Kester	Bluewater
Mayor Paul Klopp	Bluewater
Brady Nolan	Central Huron
Jeff Lipskie	Central Huron
Lina Florian	Essex Region Conservation Authority
James Bryant	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Andrew Maver	Huron County
Ray Chartrand	Huron East
Dale Lyttle	Huron Perth Public Health
Jay VanKlinken	Lambton County
David Larkin	Lambton County Public Health
Nick Verhoeven	Lambton Shores
Jeff Little	Lucan Biddulph
John Elston	Middlesex County
Kent Ferguson	North Middlesex
Mayor George Finch	South Huron
Alyssa Keller	South Huron
Jeremy Becker	South Huron
Shane Timmermans	South Huron
Rebekah Msuya-Collison	South Huron
Will Morrow	Upper Thames River Conservation
Jess Penz	Upper Thames River Conservation
Abbie Gutteridge	ABCA
Christie Brown	ABCA
Daniel King	ABCA
Davin Heinbuck	ABCA
Derek Dolmage	ABCA
Erik Strahl	ABCA
Jackson Janmaat	ABCA
Michael Bax	ABCA
Tim Cumming	ABCA

## *ABCA Program Report*

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** March 20, 2025  
**From:** Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
**Subject:** General Managers Report  
**Report Type:** INFORMATION 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 winter. 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. This is not an inclusive list, only some highlights.

### **Conservation Ontario**

Conservation Ontario Council meetings have been set for 2025. The Annual General Meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by quarterly meetings on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, and December 8<sup>th</sup>.

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, CO Council approved the amendments to the "Conservation Authorities Act Model Hearing Guidelines". Legislative and regulatory amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* ("CA Act") came into effect on April 1, 2024, including the new Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits). New and amended processes related to hearings under the CA Act were introduced. This work is part of Conservation Ontario's efforts to support CAs with implementation of the amended *Conservation Authorities Act* and O. Reg. 41/24.

Conservation Authorities University (CAU) program will run once again in 2025-26. The CAU Executive Development Program is a training program for Conservation Authority CAO/GMs and senior staff (both new and experienced). The program is designed to share best practices and experiences to strengthen the network and the collaboration across CAs, with a focus on Governance, Public Administration, and Conservation Authority Business Areas.

## ABCA Meetings and Special Events

1. Board and Staff Years of Service Awards, and the Conservationist of the Year Award, will be presented at the annual Partner Appreciation Evening on Thursday, March 20, 2025.
2. A Communications Strategy Committee is working on a long-term document to update our communications and public engagement program, to build upon our communications successes, and to identify ways to further maximize performance including social media engagement.
3. ABCA hosted a Flood Emergency Planning Meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> (March Board Report).
4. Christie Brown and Daniel King attended the UTRCA Flood Coordinators Meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. Planning and Regulations staff hosted Lambton Shores planning staff to make formal introductions and enhance collaboration between the municipality and the CA.
6. Ellen Westelaken has met with South Huron Staff to discuss park options within Exeter.
7. Brooklyn Rau and Nathan Schoelier attended the first Huron Clean Water Project meeting (HCWP) of 2025. 48 projects were presented, requesting approximately \$85,000 in grant funding, with a total project value of approximately \$184,000. All projects were approved.
8. Brooklyn attended the Mid-western Ontario Ag show on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, in Clinton, representing the HCWP. It was well attended with many landowners visiting the booth to learn more about funding and projects available to them.
9. Nathan attended a workshop hosted by Thames Talbot Land Trust, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Ontario Nature, that invited landowners to learn more about land protection options.
10. Nathan represented ABCA at the Municipality of West Perth's Community Day in Mitchell. ABCA, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority jointly hosted a booth at the event.
11. Rosalind Chang is representing ABCA on the Huron County Community Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Working Group. The first of 3 meetings was January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
12. In partnership with Huron Soil and Crop, Hope Brock and Mari Veliz hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Cover Crop Workshop on February 7<sup>th</sup> with approximately 30 producers attending.
13. Ben Riggan and Cristen Watt attended the virtual ONFARM forum on February 6<sup>th</sup>.
14. Kari Jean attended a Species at Risk Fish Recovery Team meeting.
15. Rosalind and Hope Brock working with Kettle Point's Hillside School to coordinate some turtle education and planting events.
16. Christie helped facilitate a Snowshoe program at the Pinery with SCRCA and Hillside School (Kettle & Stony Point) on February 4. Approximately 50 kids from Senior Kindergarten-Grade 8.
17. Oaks and Acorns received funding to provide a 4-week program at the Warner Preserve this spring and we will be doing this in partnership with Lambton EarlyON.
18. Summer Day Camp is nearly fully booked. Currently 105/120 spots filled with 14 individuals on the waitlist for the weeks that are at maximum capacity. Camps will run for 6 weeks and will include field trips. We will also be welcoming back Elizabeth Cade as our Day Camp Lead and Kayley Thompson as our Day Camp Counsellor.
19. Spring Water Awareness Programs (SWAP) are ongoing, and running into March this year due to the number of snow day and bus cancellations.

20. Cassie Greidanus is on the Rekindle Education Conference committee and has been helping to plan the 2025 conference at Bluewater Education Centre near Wiarton.
21. Envirothon registration has opened and we have many schools this year interested in bringing multiple teams due to the positive experience they had last year! It will be hosted once again at Morrison Dam Conservation Area this spring.

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

1. Daniel reviewed removals as per a court order by Shmuel Farhi at their property with Andy and confirmed the restoration is complete as per the order.
2. Daniel has been working with contractors to replace the roof of the control structure at the Parkhill Dam. This was jointly funded through the WECl program.
3. Andrew Bicknell is reviewing the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) funding program and criteria, associated with updated Flood mapping in higher-risk areas.
4. Mike Bax has been visiting several of ABCA's properties this winter, making a positive presence in the community, and educating the public about the rules in place at conservation areas.
5. Ian Jean is working with landowners requiring Managed Forest Plan renewals for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). The MFTIP term is 10 years, at which time plans must be reviewed and re-submitted.
6. Over 5000 acres of cover crops were enrolled to the cover crop programs that ABCA administers. All the programs, except the Boost program, which focuses on the Bayfield River area, are fully allocated. Applications for the 2025-26 programs will be accepted in June.
7. Hope Brock continues to assist Huron Soil and Crop Improvement Association (HSCIA) with their cover crop trial and provided slides for the HSCIA AGM and upcoming Cover Crop Workshop.
8. Mari presented edge of field water quality results with the UTRCA and LTRCA for the virtual ONFARM forum with 130 participants.
9. Kari and Angela VanNiekerk continue to work on reporting and coordination of our Canada Nature Fund (CNF) agreement (2022-2026). This funding supports stewardship, education and monitoring projects in the Ausable River, Bayfield River and Lake Huron tributaries.
10. ABCA was awarded a contract from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to audit unrated municipal drain classification data collected in 2024 by 8 agencies (Conservation Authorities and consultants). Drain classification is meant to streamline drain maintenance. Kari and Christie have been working on verifying and summarizing all fisheries and flow data for the audit report.
11. Kari has been working on 2024 bio monitoring data organization (fish, mussels, habitat) including data entry to databases and reporting for funding and permitting partners. In this review, an Eastern Pondmussel was confirmed, a first for ABCA. It is also a Species at Risk.
12. Rosalind and Mari finalized a proposal for the Old Ausable Channel. This project would test wetland enhancement techniques in the OAC, and steer potential future restoration.

13. Rosalind has been working with the Municipality of Lucan Biddulph to plant a new Low Impact Development in Clandeboye.
14. Angela participated in the Hillman Marsh Coastal Wetland Workshop. They were asking for feedback for monitoring Coastal Wetlands.
15. Annual Progress Reporting on Source Protection Plan implementation is complete. Donna Clarkson completed annual reports for Risk Management Officials (8 municipalities).
16. Elizabeth Balfour coordinated recruitment of a new Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Drinking Water Source Protection Committee (SPC) member, representing the environmental sector. Joy Rutherford has been appointed to the SPC as the new Environment sector rep.
17. Donna has field verified properties in WHPAs for salt and snow storage threats.
18. Walkerton-25 commemoration: Donna and Tim Cumming have been taking part in a working group lead by Conservation Ontario, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Walkerton tragedy (May 2000). Plans are underway for a video to reflect on the event and subsequent achievements in water protection. The expected release of the video is April 2025.

## **ABCA Training**

1. Aaron Clarke continues to train staff in the use and application of the WISKI software.
2. Ben has completed the Agricultural Erosion Control Structures course.
3. Jeff VanNiekerk, Reese Thompson, and Mike Bax participated in several training modules to further build their knowledge and skillset for enforcement-related work.
4. Derek Dolmage is currently upgrading his licence to operate heavy equipment.
5. Standard First Aid & CPR AED training for staff was held on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Other Items**

1. Minor flooding occurred over the Christmas Holidays – 2 Flood Outlook/Water Safety messages released, prompting river watch crews and support from Field Services staff.
2. In the first two months of 2025 (January-February), ABCA staff issued seven news releases (with positive coverage in print, broadcast and online media); published content to the abca.ca website (with almost 20,000 views); published more than 180 social media posts to more than 7,000 followers on four social media platforms (with more than 160,000 impressions for those posts); and issued four e-newsletter editions (surpassing industry performance benchmarks for average open rates and average click rates).
3. Geoff has completed the ABCA's annual report to the Information and Privacy Commissioner.
4. Education has extended an offer of employment to Julie Stellingwerff as our new Education Instructor. Julie worked at ABCA in the education department from 2006-2015 and was a key member in our Camp Sylvan initiatives. Julie is working part time and started on February 19<sup>th</sup>.