



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Thursday, June 19, 2025**

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

**10:30 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 15, 2025
7. **Business Out of the Minutes**
  - OMERS Updated Resolution – Davin Heinbuck
8. **Program Reports**
  - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg 41/24) – Andrew Bicknell
  - (b) Violations/Appeals Update – Geoff Cade
  - Report 2: Conservation Area Playgrounds – Nathan Schoelier
  - Report 3: Stewardship Update – Angela Van Niekerk
9. **General Manager's Report** – Davin Heinbuck
10. **Committee Reports**
  - Arkona Lions Museum Committee – Abbie Gutteridge
  - Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation – Abbie Gutteridge
11. **Correspondence**
12. New Business
13. Committee of the Whole
14. Adjournment

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

July 17, 2025	Board of Directors Meeting
August (Date to be Determined)	Watershed Tour for Directors

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom  
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

### DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

### DIRECTORS ABSENT

Joey Groot

### STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Balfour, Christie Brown, Andrew Bicknell, Geoff Cade, Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Erik Strahl, Mari Veliz

### OTHERS PRESENT

Adam Skillen, *Skillen Investment Management*

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ray Chartrand called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#### **MOTION #BD 34/25**

**Moved Dave Jewitt**

**Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the May 15, 2025 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 35/25**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on April 17, 2025, and the motions therein be approved as amended.”**

**Carried.**

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

PRESENTATION

Adam Skillen, Skillen Investment Management, presented an update on the investment portfolio. It continues to do well, despite a very uncertain first half of the year. Volatility in the markets has caused several short term downturns, but the ABCA portfolio has returned to where it was and is climbing again. As usual, Adam noted that they always continue to shift back toward the original targets of 35% for equities and 65% for bonds. There has been some minor deviation from these targets, but not a significant amount.

PROGRAM REPORTS**1. (a) Development Review**

Andrew Bicknell, Senior Regulations Coordinator, 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 12 *Minor Works Applications*.

**(b) Violation/Appeals Update**

Andrew Bicknell provided a brief update regarding a violation from last year that involved a large amount of fill being dumped along the lake bank. Charges were laid, and that case is before the courts. There was a recent court appearance, and the next will be in September. Staff are hopeful that a resolution can be reached by that time.

**MOTION #BD 36/25**

**Moved by Wayne Shipley  
Seconded by David 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. Appointment of Risk Management Official/Inspector**

Elizabeth Balfour, Drinking Water Source Protection Co-Supervisor, reminded the Board of Directors that, under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, municipalities are able to enter into agreements with Source Protection Authorities for the enforcement of Part IV of the Act. Seven member municipalities have entered into this agreement in this Source Protection Region. As the Conservation Authority serves as the SPA under regulation 284/07 of the Act, ABCA is ultimately responsible for appointing the Risk Management Officials (RMOs) and Risk Management Inspectors (RMIs). Recently, Ellen Westelaken has completed the mandatory RMO/RMI training provided by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. Therefore, staff recommend that she be appointed as RMO/RMI for the ABCA.

**MOTION #BD 37/25**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT the appointment of Ellen Westelaken as Risk Management Official (RMO) and Risk Management Inspector (RMI) as required under Sections 48 (1-3) of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* be approved, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT a certificate of appointment be issued for Ellen Westelaken as require by Section 48(3) of the Act.”**

**Carried.**

**3. Update on Response to Potential Spills**

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, provided the Board of Directors with a brief update regarding several fish die offs in Lake Huron. She noted that they can be naturally occurring, but there can also be other causes. These events are of real concern to watershed residents, and the small amount of the ABCA budget provides some capacity for staff to respond. These events (some considered “spills”) may warrant a Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks response or investigation; however, they sometimes ask local conservation authority staff to provide some assistance. In general, the response of the conservation authority is one of communication and education. Earlier in May, Tim Cumming, ABCA Communications Coordinator, facilitated messaging about these events, and provided information on the best way for the community to report them to relevant agencies.

**MOTION #BD 38/25**

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

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the report update on Response to Potential Spills for information as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**STAFF PRESENTATION**

Mari Veliz and Rosalind Chang, Healthy Watersheds Technologist, presented on some of the upcoming efforts by the Healthy Watersheds team, which lean on areas where community support is present. They have applied for funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada for several projects in the Old Ausable Channel (OAC), which is a priority area in Ontario due to its unique habitat. Staff are also working on various projects at the Huronview Demonstration Farm with other organizations, such as Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Ontario Farmland Trust, to enhance some of the tile drainage work that has already been demonstrated and monitored there.

**MOTION #BD 39/25**

**Moved by David Marsh  
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the presentation *Healthy Watersheds Update: Leaning into Community Interests* as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Reference: Salt Management resolution from South Huron  
File: A.5.5  
Brief: A notice from the Municipality of South Huron noting that they passed a resolution to support the Town of Georgina regarding salt management.
- b) Reference: 2025 Central Huron Donation Fund Application  
File: A.5.5  
Brief: ABCA Education staff applied for, and were successful in obtaining, a grant from the Municipality of Central Huron for \$3,500 to be used to install a Little Free Library at Clinton Conservation Area, and to run an Oaks and Acorns program at Clinton Conservation Area.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer reminded Board members that ABCA staff are always looking for opportunities to speak to our member Municipality councils, and if there are topics that interest them to please let us know.
2. Davin Heinbuck informed the Board that a joint tour between ABCA and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority is being planned, specifically for our local MPPs. The focus will be on drainage and how it ties into the Healthy Lake Huron program.

**3. OMERS DISCUSSION**

Davin Heinbuck reported that the Management Team has been exploring the option of joining the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System. Until now ABCA has had a good Registered Retirement Savings Plan with an 8% matching plan. However, in recent years it has been noticed the not belonging to OMERS has negatively affected our ability to attract and maintain staff. Neighbouring conservation authorities and municipalities have made OMERS available to staff, which has put us at a competitive disadvantage locally when hiring prospective employees. The ABCA Management Team has had a visit from OMERS to learn more about the program. Of note, they will allow an organization to join the plan, but give the option to current staff on whether or not they want to personally join. Some current staff may wish to stay with ABCA's current RRSP program, and this would allow them to do so. Should ABCA join OMERS, it would require all future staff who are eligible to join.

Directors had a brief discussion, and all saw the benefit of moving to OMERS going forward. There was some brief discussion as to whether the ABCA RRSP plan should change to be competitive with OMERS for those staff who choose to remain with that program; however, it was ultimately decided that the RRSP would remain the same, and current staff will need to choose which alternative is a better fit for them.

**MOTIONS #BD 40/25**

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins  
Seconded David Marsh**

**"RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA join the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS), and**

**"FURTHER, THAT all future staff that meet the eligibility criteria are automatically enrolled in OMERS, and**

**"FURTHER, THAT existing staff that meet the eligibility criteria have the choice to remain enrolled in the existing Registered Retirement Savings Plan administered with GC Financial through Sunlife, or enroll in the OMERS plan, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT existing staff choosing to remain in the current plan, continue with the current matching formula that is in place, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT ABCA begin to make OMERS available to eligible staff once enrollment is finalized.”**

**Carried.**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 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*

## *ABCA Program Report*

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** June 19, 2025  
**From:** Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
**Subject:** OMERS Enrollment

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### **Recommendation**

See OMERS provided resolution attached.

### **Background**

At the May 15, 2025 Board meeting, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors passed a resolution (**MOTION #BD 40/25**) to join OMERS.

As a requirement of OMERS enrollment, the ABCA is required to complete the attached resolution to authorize participation in the OMERS Primary Pension Plan (Primary Plan), and the Retirement Compensation Arrangement (RCA) for the Primary Plan.

As of the effective date, proposed to be September 7, 2025, ABCA, shall participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA. Current full-time employees and employees that meet the eligibility criteria will be entitled to join the Primary Plan and the RCA. All future employees hired after September 7, 2025 that meet the eligibility criteria, would automatically be enrolled into the Primary Plan and the RCA.



**RESOLUTION No. #BD 43/25 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
("Board")**

A Resolution to authorize participation in the OMERS Primary Pension Plan ("Primary Plan") and the Retirement Compensation Arrangement for the OMERS Primary Pension Plan ("RCA"), each as amended from time to time, of the employees of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority ("Employer") identified herein.

**WHEREAS** the Employer is eligible to participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA in accordance with subsection 5(1) of the *Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act, 2006*, as amended from time to time ("OMERS Act, 2006"), in respect of its eligible employees and wishes to do so in accordance with the applicable Primary Plan and RCA documents and applicable legislation;

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to subsection 6(1) of the Primary Plan, an employer who is eligible under the OMERS Act, 2006 to participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA may, by by-law or resolution, participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA and pay to the funds for the Primary Plan and the RCA the total of the employer and member contributions required by the Primary Plan, and has all of the powers necessary and incidental thereto;

**AND WHEREAS** the Employer wishes to participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA in respect of its eligible employees in accordance with the terms of the Primary Plan, RCA, and applicable legislation, each as amended from time to time;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, effective September 7, 2025 ("Effective Date"), or as otherwise indicated, the Board enacts as follows:

- |                          |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Participation)          | 1. | The Employer shall participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA in accordance with the terms of the Primary Plan, RCA, and applicable legislation, each as amended from time to time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| (Election re: Employees) | 2. | As of the Effective Date, the Employer shall participate in the Primary Plan and the RCA in respect of each person who is employed by the Employer and who is eligible to be a member of the Primary Plan and the RCA under subsection 5(3) of the OMERS Act, 2006 ("Employee"), in accordance with the terms of the Primary Plan, RCA, and applicable legislation, each as amended from time to time. |
| (Current CFT Employees)  | 3. | An Employee who is employed on a continuous full-time basis, as defined in subsection 9(1) of the Primary Plan, as amended from time to time ("CFT Employee"), and who commenced employment with the Employer as a CFT Employee before the Effective Date is entitled to become a member of the Primary Plan and the RCA on the first day of the month following the month in which the CFT Employee's |

application is received by the OMERS Administration Corporation (“AC”), provided that the AC may, at the request of the Employer, fix an earlier date on which the CFT Employee becomes a member but not before the date on which the CFT Employee became entitled to be a member or the first day of January in the year in which the application is received by the AC, whichever is the later date.

- |                                  |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Future CFT Employees)           | 4. | Every person who becomes a CFT Employee on or after the Effective Date shall, as a condition of employment, become a member of the Primary Plan and the RCA, or if such person is already a member, resume contributions to the Primary Plan and the RCA on the date so employed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| (Membership for OTCFT Employees) | 5. | An Employee who is employed on other than a continuous full-time basis (“OTCFT Employee”) and meets the eligibility criteria in subsection 9(6) of the Primary Plan, as amended from time to time, is entitled to become a member of the Primary Plan and the RCA in accordance with the terms of the Primary Plan, as amended from time to time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| (Senior Management Official)     | 6. | Any person who holds a senior management position with the Employer, as the Employer may designate from time to time (“Senior Management Official”), is hereby authorized on behalf of the Employer to take all such action and execute all such documents, certificates and agreements, as they may consider necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Resolution and to fulfill the Employer’s duties and obligations with respect to the Primary Plan and the RCA. The Employer further authorizes the Financial Services Supervisor and/or the Financial Services Coordinator to submit forthwith a certified copy of this Resolution to the AC. |

DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

**Carried.**

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Ray Chartrand, Chair  
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

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Adrian Cornelissen, Vice-Chair  
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

# ABCA Program Report

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** June 19, 2025  
**From:** Andrew Bicknell, Acting Water and Planning Supervisor  
**Subject:** Applications for Permission  
Ontario Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits

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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.

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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 # 2024-58A  
NAME: Zelinka Priamo (c/o Aliyah Richards)  
ADDRESS: 7571 Cornell Trail  
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores  
PERMISSION TO: Revised permit for the construction of a new residential structure and associated works.  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 29, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 13, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 10  
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken
- (2) PERMIT # 2024-62  
NAME: Dietrich Kussner  
ADDRESS: 73795 Crest Beach Rd. N.  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: Install shore protection and associated work  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 18, 2025

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	May 5, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	32
STAFF NAME:	Andrew Bicknell

(3) PERMIT # 2025-16  
NAME: Jared and Kelly Bourne  
ADDRESS: 71259 Elizabeth Street, Grand Bend  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: allowing lot redevelopment in a regulated area  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 11, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 12, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 20  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(4) PERMIT # 2025-19  
NAME: Municipality of Bluewater  
ADDRESS: harbour area, Bayfield  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: allowing installation of replacement fueling facilities  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: April 30, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 28, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 19  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

(5) PERMIT # 2025-21  
NAME: Gilrad Developments Inc.  
ADDRESS: Saintsbury Line road allowance, Lucan  
MUNICIPALITY: Lucan Biddulph  
PERMISSION TO: allowing installation of storm infrastructure in a regulated area  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 21, 2025  
  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 27, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 6  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

## Minor Permits

- (1) PERMIT # MW2025-33A-E  
NAME: Quadro Communications Co-operative Inc. (c/o Jason Masselis)  
ADDRESS: Multiple Locations (Biddulph)  
MUNICIPALITY: Lucan Biddulph  
PERMISSION TO: Fiber Optics Installation  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 7, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 8, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1  
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken
- (2) PERMIT # MW2025-34  
NAME: Ron Ellis  
ADDRESS: 71271 Elm Street, Dashwood  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: develop a residential lot in a regulated area  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 5, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 6, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (3) \*\*PERMIT # MW2025-35  
NAME: Jeremy Doell  
ADDRESS: 10333 Riverside Drive, Grand Bend  
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores  
PERMISSION TO: allowing excavation, grading and landscaping in a regulated area  
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: May 6, 2025  
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: May 7, 2025  
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2  
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (4) PERMIT # MW2025-37  
NAME: Dynamic Septic and Drainage (c/o Devon Webb)  
ADDRESS: 77843 Cedar Crest Drive  
MUNICIPALITY: Central Huron  
PERMISSION TO: Install a replacement septic system

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	May 23, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	May 26, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	3
STAFF NAME:	Ellen Westelaken

(5) PERMIT # MW2025-38  
NAME: Dynamic Septic and Drainage (c/o Devon Webb)  
ADDRESS: 75079 Elmslie Drive  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: Install a replacement septic system

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	May 27, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	May 28, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	1
STAFF NAME:	Ellen Westelaken

(6) PERMIT # MW2025-42  
NAME: Brad Boere  
ADDRESS: Paul Bunyan Campground, Bayfield, Site#95  
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater  
PERMISSION TO: allowing installation of replacement trailer in a regulated area

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	May 3, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	May 28, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	17
STAFF NAME:	Andrew Bicknell

(7) PERMIT # MW2025-44  
NAME: Sandra Kiersons  
ADDRESS: 118 Alice Street, Lucan  
MUNICIPALITY: Lucan Biddulph  
PERMISSION TO: allowing installation of above ground pool and deck in a regulated area

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	May 28, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	May 29, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	2
STAFF NAME:	Andrew Bicknell

(8) PERMIT # MW2025-41  
NAME: Cherie Beaumier  
ADDRESS: 921-76735 Wildwood Line (Wildwood by the River Bayfield)

MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater

PERMISSION TO: Construct an addition to an existing trailer

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:

May 27, 2025

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:

May 28, 2025

NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:

1

STAFF NAME:

Ellen Westelaken

# *ABCA Program Report*

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** Thursday, June 19, 2025  
**From:** Nathan Schoelier; Stewardship, Lands & Education Manager  
**Subject:** Conservation Area Playgrounds  
**Report Type:** ACTION REQUIRED

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the removal of the playground structure and swing set at Clinton Conservation Area in 2025.

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors identifies the replacement of the Clinton Conservation Area playground space as a priority for the Clinton Conservation Area and approves staff to seek funding opportunities and partners to collaborate with to enhance the playground area.

## **Background:**

In September 2024, Luke Pallister of Marsh Canada Limited (Marsh) visited several Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) properties to complete a risk mitigation assessment. One of the recommendations provided as part of this assessment was to complete annual playground inspections by a certified playground inspector in accordance with CSA Z614-14 – Children’s Playspaces in Equipment, in addition to the risk management inspections completed by ABCA staff. ABCA has two playgrounds at Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA) and one playground at Clinton Conservation Area (CCA).

In Spring 2025, Spencer Lewis of Playchek Services Incorporated (Playcheck) inspected the three playground structures owned by ABCA.

## Clinton Conservation Area

The playground structure at CCA is comprised of a wooden playground, with slides, as well as a detached swing set that has two swings within one bay. The inspectors identified several deficiencies with the playground structure, and the swing set, including deteriorating condition of the material, insufficient specifications for clearances, including the clearances within the swing set bay for two swings. The inspector notes that a comprehensive compliance inspection was not completed for this playground area, as the age and condition of the play structure did not warrant it. The inspector recommends complete removal and/or replacement of the playground structure and swing set.



ABCA staff will be on site, this summer, to replace the privy washroom, and will have equipment available to remove the playground structure and swing set.

ABCA staff will consider replacement options for the playground structure in its budget process. In the interim period, staff will investigate cost-friendly, passive outdoor activities that provide a meaningful outdoor experience for young people. Although we recognize that these activities may not replace the experience the playground structure provides, they will help to mitigate lost experiences and be later incorporated into the overall plan. Replacing the playground provides the opportunity for ABCA to partner with community groups, and local organizations to enhance the overall space for the benefit of the community.

#### Rock Glen Conservation Area

Both playground areas at RGCA are in good shape. The inspector provided recommendations of maintenance tasks that may be completed to ensure compliance with the standards. For example, the staircases may have to be adjusted periodically so that the grade remains within the defined specification of two-percent of horizontal. Staff will take all reasonable steps to implement the recommendations and ensure the playground structures are compliant.

# ABCA Program Report

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** June 19, 2025  
**From:** Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands Specialist  
**Subject:** Stewardship Funding Update  
**Report Type:** INFORMATION REPORT

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## Recommendation:

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

## Background:

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

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

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is providing \$330,000 in funding for the 2024-2025 project year. Stewardship activities will include working with watershed residents for up to seven wetland restorations; up to 17 tree planting sites; up to 1,200 acres of cover crops; and up to five sediment and nutrient reduction activities (fencing out livestock and WASCOS). As well as monitoring SAR fish and the SAR mussel fish hosts at six long term index stations and education and outreach in the Ausable and Bayfield River watersheds.

Project activities below show the Funding Breakdown by Activity.

Stewardship Project Funding	\$136,620
Stewardship Program Delivery	\$79,080
Environmental Monitoring	114,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>

# **CANADA NATURE FUND: YEAR to DATE SUMMARY (April 2024- March 31, 2025)**

Project Type	Available Funding	Approved Projects	Approved Funding	Remaining Funds
Wetland Restoration	\$26,300	11 wetlands	\$25,524	\$776
Fragile Land Retirement	\$36,820	24 projects	\$44,655	-\$7,835
Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Activities	\$26,000	3 projects	\$14,315	\$11,685
Cover Crops	\$47,500	60 projects	\$47,500	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$136,620</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>\$131,994</b>	<b>\$4,626</b>

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

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

## **Applications for funding: WETLAND RESTORATION**

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

<b>CANADA NATURE FUND</b>				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3802	Huronview	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Lot 39 Con 1 HRS	Installation and equipment for monitoring water at Huronview Demonstration Farm in Main Bayfield Watershed	\$10,074

**Total: \$10,074 at this review meeting / \$25,524 of \$26,300 approved for term.**

## **Applications for funding: FRAGILE LAND RETIREMENT (Tree Planting)**

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

<b>CANADA NATURE FUND</b>				
File #	Name	Location	Details	Grant
AB-3431	Elizabeth Borland – Snow Farm	South Huron, Usborne, Part Lot 13, Con STR	0.5 ha, 1140m buffer, 370 trees	\$5,476 Matched with HCWP
AB-3432	Borland Whalen Farm (back)	South Huron, Usborne, Part Lot C & D, Con 8.	0.45 ha, 970m buffer, 320 trees	\$4,736 Matched with

				HCWP
AB-3689	Borland Whalen Farm (front)	South Huron, Usborne, Part Lot C&D, Con 8.	0.1ha, 285m windbreak, 100 trees	\$1505 Matched with HCWP
AB-3692	Partridge	Lucan Biddulph, Biddulph, Part Lot 30, Conc. 1.	0.2 ha, 150m buffer, 108 trees	\$1,626 Matched with MECF
AB-3660	Hendrikx	North Middlesex, West Williams, Lot 4, Con 12	0.2 ha, 120m buffer, 60 trees	\$1,578 Matched with MECF
AB-3670	Damen	North Middlesex, West Williams, Lot 4, Con 9	Retired 1.5 acre field, planted 270 trees on 0.6 ha around wetlands restored in 2024. Buffered 1200m of Ausable River Tributary in Middle Ausable Watershed.	\$4,320 Matched with MECF
AB-3757	ABCA Triebner School Planting	Bluewater, Hay, Lot 3, Con 4.	School planting event, infill 1 ha area.	\$2,000 Matched with HCWP
AB-3789	Arkell	Central Huron, Goderich, Lot 77, Bayfield Con.	0.2 ha, 90m buffer, 40 trees	\$1,275 Matched with HCWP
AB-3783	Baker, Paul	West Perth, Hibbert, Lot 15, Con 3.	0.2 ha, 80m buffer, 80 trees	\$1,499 Matched with GLLAF
AB-3787	Brock, Murton	South Huron, Usborne, Lot A, Con 7	0.1 ha, 50 m buffer, 50 trees	\$134.25
AB-3710	Cann, Brad	South Huron, Usborne, Part Lot 25, Con 7	0.3 ha, 125m buffer, 220 trees	\$1,576.25 Matched with HCWP
AB-3711	Coleman Farms	Bluewater, Stanley, Part Lot 1, Con 1	0.6 ha, 215m buffer, 500 trees	\$2,431.25 Matched with HCWP
AB-3754	Dejong	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Part Lot 25, Con 3 HRS	0.7 ha, 240m buffer, 60 trees	\$867.50 Matched with HCWP and GLLAF
AB-3782	Getty, John	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Lot 23, Con 3	0.3ha, 150m buffer, 180 trees	\$220
AB-3777	Godbolt, John	Lucan Biddulph, Biddulph, Part Lot 16, Con 4	2.5ha retired apple orchard, 250 tree and shrub seedlings planted throughout	\$987.50 Matched with GLLAF
AB-3780	Hoggarth	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Part Lot 30, Con 2 HRS	0.3ha block planting in retired field corner, 170 trees	\$562 Matched with HCWP

AB-3781	Larocque	North Middlesex, East Williams, Lot 8, Con 2	0.3ha, 150m buffer, 130 tree seedlings	\$183.62
AB-3769	Larouche	North Middlesex, East Williams, Part Lot 8, Con 2 ECR	0.3ha, 100m buffer around wetland, 75 trees	\$1,431.25 Matched with GLLAF
AB-3784	Lumsden	North Middlesex, Williams, Lot 9, Con 8	1ha, 500m buffer, 185 trees	\$2,995.50 Matched with GLLAF
AB-3779	McLellan	North Middlesex, West Williams, Lot 25, Con 9	1.4 ha infill block planting in retired portion of cropped field. 200 trees.	\$1,212.50 Match with GLLAF
AB-3751	Schlosser	Tuckersmith, Lot 31, Con 5 LRS	0.2 ha buffer planting, 90m buffer, 100 trees	\$1,550 Match with HCWP and GLLAF
AB-3758	Theophilopolous	South Huron, Osborne, Lot 8, Conc 4.	0.2 ha, 130m windbreak, 139 trees	\$1,676.50 Match with HCWP
AB-3788	Vanhie – Terradust Acres Ltd	North Middlesex, East Williams, Lot 32, Con 19	1.5 ha buffer block planting, 965 trees	\$2,116.25 Match with GLLAF
AB-3686	Wuerth	South Huron, Stephen, Lot 25, Con 1	0.1 ha, 85m buffer, 50 trees	\$1,430 Match with HCWP
AB-	Tree Wraps	n/a	n/a	\$1,265.61

**Total: \$44,655 at this review meeting / \$44,655 of \$36,820 approved for term.**

#### **Applications for funding: SEDIMENT & NUTRIENT REDUCTION ACTIVITIES**

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

<b>CANADA NATURE FUND</b>				
<b>File #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Grant</b>
AB-3718	Ducharme	Middlesex Centre, Lobo, Lot 3, Con 11	Berm constructed to hold back water, allow sediment to settle out, reducing flooding and sediments going into the Ausable River in the Middle Ausable Watershed.	\$1,150
AB-3794	Bycraft	North Middlesex, East Williams, Lot 5 Con 6 BFC	Berm constructed to hold back water, allow sediment to settle out, reducing flooding and sediments going into the Ausable River in the Middle Ausable	\$5,000

			Watershed.	
AB-3798	New Moon Community Homestead	North Middlesex, East Williams, Lot 23, Con 18 ECR	Berm and rock chute and grassed waterway to be constructed on property to slow water, direct water into existing wetland, and provide a proper outlet to reduce sediment and nutrients into the Ausable River in the Upper Ausable Watershed.	\$8,165

**Total: \$14,315 at this review meeting / \$14,315 of \$26,000 approved for term.**

**Applications for funding: COVER CROPS**

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

<b>CANADA NATURE FUND</b>				
<b>File #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Grant</b>
AB-3596	H&B Farms Inc. c/o Harold Van Doornik	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 4, Lot 2	100 acres. 50% oats, 13.5% faba beans, 0.5% sorghum, 0.5% rapeseed, 13.5% yellow peas, 7% sunflower, 0.5% daikon radish, 0.5% flax, 0.5% phacelia. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$1500  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3598	David Ross	North Middlesex, East Williams, Conc. 3, Lot 4	24 acres. oats 22lbs/ac, sunflower 6lbs/ac, radish 2lbs/ac. Middle Ausable sub-watershed.	\$360
AB-3599	David Ross	North Middlesex, East Williams, Conc. 2, East half Lot 4	33 acres. Oats 22lbs, sunflower 6lbs, radish 2lbs. Middle Ausable sub-watershed.	\$495
AB-3600	David Ross	North Middlesex, East Williams, Conc. 3, West half Lot 2	25 acres. Oats 22lbs, sunflower 6lbs, radish 2lbs. Middle Ausable sub-watershed.	\$375
AB-3601	David Ross	North Middlesex, East Williams, Conc. 2, East half Lot 8	10 acres. Oats 22lbs, sunflower 6lbs, radish 2lbs. Middle Ausable sub-watershed.	\$150

AB-3606	Joel Brodie	Bluewater, Stanley, Conc. 3, Lot 13	30 acres. 70lbs/ac oats, peas, sunflower, millet, berson clover. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$450  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3607	Van Doornik Farms Ltd. c/o Steve Van Doornik	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 5, Lot 3 & 4	88 acres. 35lbs/ac oats, barley, triticale, peas. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$1320  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3616	Pat Melady	West Perth, Hibbert, Conc. 3, Lot 30	93 acres. 60lbs oats, 10lbs soybeans, 3lbs radish. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$1395
AB-3617	Alex Melady	West Perth, Hibbert, Conc. 3, Lot 28	26 acres. 60lbs oats, 10lbs soybeans, 3lbs radish. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$390
AB-3634	Jeremy Van Esbroeck	South Huron, Usborne, Conc. 6, Lot 12	45 acres. 35lbs oats, 5lbs peas, 0.5lbs radish, 5lbs soybeans. Little Ausable sub-watershed.	\$675  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3635	Jeremy Van Esbroeck	South Huron, Usborne, Conc. 7, Lot 11	25 acres. 35lbs/ac oats, 5lbs peas, 0.5lbs radish, 5lbs soybeans. Little Ausable sub-watershed.	\$375  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3636	Jeremy Van Esbroeck	Bluewater, Hay, Conc. 5, Lot 26	45 acres. 35lbs/ac oats, 5lbs peas, 0.5lbs radish, 5lbs soybeans. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$675  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3637	Ed Van Esbroeck	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 2, Lot 2	42 acres. 35lbs/ac oats, 5lbs peas, 0.5lbs radish, 5lbs soybeans. Black Creek sub-watershed.	\$630  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3638	Dave Frayne	South Huron, Usborne, Conc. 3, Lot 22	93 acres. Sunflower, Peas, buckwheat. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$1395  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3645	Rollinlea Farms Ltd. (c/o Jamie McBride)	South Huron, Usborne, Conc. 3, Lot 10	43 acres. 45lbs/ac oats, 5lbs.ac radish, 5lbs.ac peas. Upper Ausable sub-watershed	\$645  Applied for HCWP.

AB-3646	Rollinlea Farms Ltd. (c/o Jamie McBride)	South Huron, Usborne, Conc. 2, Lot 10	48 acres. 45lbs/ac oats, 5lbs/ac radish, 5lbs/ac peas. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$720 Applied for HCWP.
AB-3647	Nathan Cann	South Huron, Usborne, Conc. 6, Lot 26	36 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, green peas, yellow peas, sunflower, flax, phacelia, radish. Ausable Headwaters sub-watershed	\$540  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3648	Nathan Cann	South Huron, Usborne, Conc. 8, Lot 26	43 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, green peas, yellow peas, sunflower, flax, phacelia, radish. Ausable Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$645  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3649	Nathan Cann	South Huron, Usborne, Conc. 7, Lot 26	65 acres. 40lbs/ac rye after corn. Ausable Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$975  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3650	Nathan Cann	South Huron, Usborne, Conc. 6, Lot 26	50 acres. Oats after soybeans. Ausable Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$750  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3651	Greg Medd	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Plan 181, Lot 3	23 acres. 40lbs/ac oats, green peas, yellow peas, sunflower, flax, radish, a.w.p, faba beans, rapeseed. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$345  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3652	Jacob Williams	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 2 HRS, Lot 18	25 acres. oats 50lbs/ac, sunflower 10lbs/ac, peas 15lbs/ac. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$375  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3653	Jacob Williams	Bluewater, Stanley, Conc. 7, Lot 15	75 acres. oats 50lbs/ac, sunflower 10lbs/ac, peas 15lbs/ac. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$1125  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3654	Darlene Carnochan	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 4 HRS, Lot 21	75 acres. Oats 50lbs/ac, sunflower 10lbs/ac, peas 15lbs/ac. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$1125  Applied for HCWP.



AB-3655	Darlene Carnochan	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 2 HRS, Lot 18	25 acres. Oats 50lbs/ac, sunflower 10lbs/ac, peas 15lbs/ac. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$375  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3656	Bill Gibson (1510502 Ontario Ltd.)	Central Huron, Goderich, Conc. Bayfield, Lot 51	97 acres. 30lbs/ac oats, 10lbs/ac peas, 5lbs/ac soybeans. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$1455  Applied for HCWP & Boost.
AB-3659	Calvin Charbonneau	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Conc. 10, Lots 20, 21, 22	71 acres. 20lbs oats, 3.5lbs radish, 2.5lbs sorghum, 2.5lbs a.w.p. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$1065
AB-3661	Breimer Farms (c/o Aaron Breimer)	North Middlesex, East Williams, Conc. 19, Part Lots 21, 22, 23, & 24.	99 acres. 18 lbs oats, 5lbs black oats, 3lbs green peas, 3lbs yellow peas, 3lbs a.w.p, 3lbs faba beans, 3lbs chickling vetch, 3lbs buckwheat, 2lbs sunflower, 0.5 lbs pearl millet, 0.5lbs flax, 0.5lbs phaceilia, 0.5lbs nyjer Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$1485
AB-3663	Michael Yeo	North Middlesex, East Williams, Conc. 20, Pt Lot 21	48 acres. 18 lbs oats, 5lbs black oats, 3lbs green peas, 3lbs yellow peas, 3lbs a.w.p, 3lbs faba beans, 3lbs chickling vetch, 3lbs buckwheat, 2lbs sunflower, 0.5 lbs pearl millet, 0.5lbs flax, 0.5lbs phaceilia, 0.5lbs nyjer Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$720
AB-3664	Fotheringham Farms (c/o Bill Fotheringham)	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 1 HRS, Lot 31 & 32	68 acres. 65lbs/ac oats, 3.9lbs.ac radish, 10.2lbs/ac peas, 4.2lbs/ac soys, 6.2lbs/ac white beans Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed	\$1020  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3665	Eric Devlaeminck	Lucan Biddulph, Biddulph, Conc. 1 Lot 7	5 acres. Sunflower, wheat, a.w.p, radish, crimson clover. Upper Ausable sub-watershed	\$75
AB-3666	Eric Devlaeminck	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Conc. 1, Pt Lot 1	40 acres. 30lbs/ac oats, sunflower, radish, a.w.p, crimson clover	\$600

		& 2	Upper Ausable sub-watershed	
AB-3667	Eric Devlaeminck	North Middlesex, McGillivray, Conc. 2, Lot 11	25 acres. 30lbs/ac oats, sunflower, radish, a.w.p, crimson clover Upper Ausable sub-watershed	\$375
AB-3668	Eric Devlaeminck	South Huron, Stephen, Conc. 1, Pt Lot 9 & 10	20 acres. 50lbs/ac oats, sunflower, radish, a.w.p, winter barley. Upper Ausable sub-watershed	\$300  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3669	Paul Bertens	Central Huron, Goderich, Conc. 13, Lot 33	32 acres 42lbs/ac oats, 18lbs/ac peas, 5lbs/ac crimson clover. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed	\$480  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3672	Jeff Stephens	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 15 HRS, Lot 1	40 acres. 40lbs/ac oats after soybeans Black Creek sub-watershed	\$600  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3675	Rick Kootstra	Bluewater, Stanley, Conc. 1, lot 27	50 acres. Oats, sunflower, forage peas, a.w.p Bannockburn sub-watershed	\$750  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3676	Rick Kootstra	Bluewater, Stanley, Conc. 1, Lot 34	50 acres. Oats, sunflower, forage peas, a.w.p Main Bayfield sub-watershed	\$750  Applied for HCWP & Boost.
AB-3678	Rob Kootstra	Bluewater, Stanley, Conc. 2, Lot 30	70 acres. Oats, sunflower, forage peas, a.w.p Main Bayfield sub-watershed	\$1050  Applied for HCWP & Boost.
AB-3679	Rob Kootstra	Bluewater, Stanley, Conc. 2, Lot 18	30 acres. Rye after corn Bannockburn sub-watershed	\$450  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3680	Derek Kootstra	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 1 ELR, Lot 45	96 acres. Rye after corn. Main Bayfield sub-watershed	\$1440  Applied for HCWP & Boost.

AB-3681	Derek Kootstra	Bluewater, Stanley, Conc. 1, Lot 23 & 24	4 acres. Rye after corn. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$60  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3682	Huron Soil and Crop Association	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 1 ELR, Lot 50	47 acres. Oats after soybeans. Main Bayfield sub-watershed	\$705  Applied for HCWP & Boost.
AB-3691	Jeff Allen	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 1, Lot 26	60 acres. 2lbs Daikon radish, 4lbs buckwheat, 24lbs oats Bannockburn sub-watershed	\$900  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3683	Coleman Farms	Bluewater, Hay, Conc. 1, Lot 30	66 acres. Oats 20lbs/ac, sunflower 5lbs/ac, common peas 8lbs/ac Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$990  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3684	Coleman Farms	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 1, Lot 20	38 acres. Oats 20lbs, sunflower 5lbs, common peas 8lbs. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$570  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3685	Coleman Farms	Bluewater, Stanley, Conc. 1, Lot 3	15 acres. Oats 20lbs, sunflower 5lbs, common peas 8lbs. Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$225  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3693	Don Boersma	Bluewater, Hay, Conc. 2, Lot 6	61 acres. 40lbs/ac cereal rye after corn. Black Creek sub-watershed.	\$915  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3694	Don Boersma	South Huron, Stephen, Conc. North Boundary, Lot 6	22 acres. 50lbs/ac cereal rye after corn. Upper Ausable sub-watershed,	\$330  Applied for HCWP.
AB-3695	Kaumanns Farms Ltd. (c/o Hilmar Kaumanns)	Lucan-Biddulph, Biddulph, Conc. 2, Lot 8	95 acres. 35lbs/ac oats, 12lbs/ac peas, 3lbs/ac sunflower. Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	\$1425
AB-3696	Kaumanns Farms Ltd. (c/o Hilmar	Lucan-Biddulph, Conc. 3, Lot 8	86 acres. 35lbs/ac oats, 12lbs/ac peas. 3lbs/ac sunflower.	\$1285

	Kaumanns)		Upper Ausable sub-watershed.	
AB-3697	Ben Dykstra	Goderich, Conc. HRC, Lot 24	60 acres. Oats, radish, crimson clover. Main Bayfield sub-watershed.	\$900  Applied for Boost.
AB-3702	Vandewalle Family Farm (c/o David Vandewalle & Lisa Mardlin-Vandewalle)	West Perth, Hibbert, Conc. 3, Lot 11	100 acres. 50lbs/ac wheat after edible beans. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed	\$1500
AB-3705	Tyler & Summer Papple	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 6 HRS, Pt Lot 9	39 acres. 100lbs/ac cereal rye after corn and soybeans. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$585
AB-3706	Papple Farms Ltd.	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 7 HRS, Lot 11	75 acres. 200lbs/ac cereal rye after corn and soybeans. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed	\$1125
AB-3707	Papple Farms Ltd.	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 7 HRS, Lot 10	25 acres. 80lbs/ac cereal rye after corn and soybeans. Bayfield Headwaters sub-watershed.	\$375
AB-3713	Teresa Van Raay	Bluewater, Hay, Conc. 7, Lot 10	60 acres. 70lbs/ac peas, rye, vetch Black Creek sub-watershed.	\$900
AB-3778	Hauke Claussen	Huron East, Tuckersmith, Conc. 1 ELR, Lot 41	120 acres. Hairy vetch 0.8lb, crimson clover 2.2lb, pearl millet 1lb, sorghum sudan 1.2lb, flax 0.25lb, Phacelia 0.3lb, turnip 0.1lb, oats 10lb, peas 4lb, faba beans 8lb, sunflower 1.2lb Bannockburn sub-watershed.	\$1800
AB-3763	Ain Lea Farms Inc. (c/o Kevin Nixon)	Middlesex Centre, Lobo, Conc. 12, Lot 23	96 acres. 70lbs/ac cereal rye after corn. Nairn creek subwatershed.	\$1440
AB-3785	Rotherfield Farms c/o Roy & Heather Bloomfield	Middlesex Centre, London, Conc. 12 S, Lot 31	70 acres. 18lbs/ac oats, 3lbs/ac a.w.p, 3lbs/ac faba, 3lbs/ac chickling veld, 3lbs/ac green peas, 3lbs/ac sunflower,	\$1050

			2.5lbs/ac cereal rye. Nairn Creek sub-watershed.	
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**Total: \$47,500 at this review meeting / \$47,500 of \$47,500 approved for term.**

## *ABCA Program Report*

**To:** Board of Directors  
**Date:** June 19, 2025  
**From:** Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
**Subject:** General Managers Report  
**Report Type:** INFORMATION

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### **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 spring. 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**

The provincial cabinet moved the responsibility for Conservation Authorities from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). We have not yet seen an Order in Council shifting the CA portfolio to MECP, as such we do not know if the full or partial portfolio will shift. The last time this happened, the natural hazard portions stayed with the MNR.

DART (Drainage Act and Section 28 Regulations Team) reconvened the longstanding DART committee. With the 2024 Regulation changes, updating of the DART Protocol was necessary. This presented the perfect opportunity for all players to come to the table and work collaboratively on drainage works approvals and process. DART is updating the Terms of Reference, and establishing a workplan, which will look at streamlining opportunities and developing consistencies in the review of drain construction projects under the Drainage Act. It is envisioned that DART could eventually encompass private drainage works. Davin is a founding member of DART (2008) and continues to play a role on the DART team on behalf of ABCA and as the drainage representative for Conservation Ontario.

CO Council approved the organization and delivery of Service Excellence Workshops under the Client Service Streamlining Initiative 2.0 to all CAs in June and July. In its commitment to service excellence, recent timeline reporting for 2024 showed that CAs issued 96% of all permits within timelines.

## ABCA Meetings and Special Events

1. ABCA hosted our annual Partner Appreciation Evening on March 20<sup>th</sup> celebrating our community partners, recognizing our Conservationist of the Year (Lambton Shores Nature Trails) and Staff and Board years of service recognition. In total, we had almost 100 in attendance.
2. Abbie Gutteridge, Tina Crown, Jackson Janmaat, Brian Horner and Tim Cumming played a major role in the success of the 35th Conservation Auction, notably when it pivoted to online from the traditional Conservation Dinner. Co-hosted by the Lions Club of Exeter and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, 2025 was successful in raising more than \$30,000 for local projects.
3. Morrison Dam Fish Derby held jointly with the Exeter Lions on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Over 400 fish were stocked, and 30 were caught during the derby.
4. Tracey McPherson and Michael Gibbs attended the annual GIS CA Collaborative Information Sessions in Burlington this spring.
5. Day Camp for summer 2025 is fully booked with 60 campers on the waitlist.
6. Cassie Greidanus is leading a special guided hike for Huron Waves Music Festival on June 13<sup>th</sup> focused on the connection between nature and various forms of art.
7. ABCA hosted the Envirothon workshop on April 24 and the competition on May 7 for 70 high school students on 15 teams.
8. Rosalind Chang participated in working group meetings for the Huron County Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment.
9. Ellen Westelaken and Daniel King presented to over 35 partners at the Southcott Pines Association on Lake Huron Water Levels and Conservation Authority's roles.
10. Hope Brock and Kari Jean hosted a turtle nest protector workshop in Port Franks on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
11. Rosalind hosted an Aquatic Species at Risk booth at the Native Plant Sale at the Lambton Heritage Museum on May 3. She spoke with 96 community members.
12. Nathan attended the Conservation Areas Working Group meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>, where lands managers discussed opportunities, challenges, and ideas across the CA network.
13. Nathan, Abbie, & Mike Bax attended the Spring Arkona Lions Museum meeting.
14. Ian Jean staffed the Conservation Authorities booth at the Western Fair Farm Show on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
15. Ellen met with Conservation Ontario to Discuss their Shoreline Outreach Resource Project
16. Ellen Attended the CA Costal Network Workshop
17. Christie Brown and Davin presented on ABCA's groundwater sampling programs: Huron Sentinel Wells and PGMN at the Source Protection Committee meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
18. Daniel King, Christie, and Davin hosted the spring Southwestern Ontario Flood Forecasting Alliance (SWOFFA) meeting in April. 9 CA's were represented by 17 staff.
19. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, DWSP and the Dublin Lions Club hosted Water Wise 'best practices' event (Test/Protect/Maintain wells and well water, and septic systems). Total attendance was 29, with 31 water samples delivered, out of approximately 100 bottles distributed.
20. Donna Clarkson and Elizabeth Balfour presented at the Huron Road Supervisors meeting in Clinton on April 30<sup>th</sup> on the topic of road salt and salt management plans.

## ABCA Projects, Programs and Studies

1. Education received a \$20,000 grant from Libro Credit Union to support Climate Change Education programming and additional programming at Huronview to look at BMP's.
2. Education received a top-up of grant funding from Sunset Community Foundation, upping our total from the Greater Grand Bend Area Fund to \$10,000 for Youth Tree Planting
3. Held 2 school plantings, Eco-Exeter at Triebner Tract, and Grand Bend Public School at Warner.
4. Cassie's continued partnership with Central Huron's Water and Sewer team has connected 4–Gr. 8 classes with our 'Get To Know Your H2O' program funded by Cordelio Power and Next Era.
5. Julie Stellingwerf piloted the initial learning aspect of our new Climate Change program with Wilberforce and Grand Bend Public which will see a full launch this fall.
6. Angela VanNiekerk and Kari are developing a contribution agreement with DFO regarding a Habitat Stewardship Program proposal for aquatic SAR that was submitted in December. Funding has been approved, and will support stewardship, education and monitoring projects in the Ausable River, Bayfield River and Lake Huron tributaries through March 2028.
7. Mari Veliz prepared the final reports for the Healthy Lake Huron funding for the shoreline tributaries and the coordinated efforts of the 5 CAs along the southeast shore of Lake Huron. Works include implementing and demonstrating best practices for agriculture, developing collaborative approaches amongst organizations and working on evaluation of program success.
8. Cristen Watt, Ben Riggin, and Derek Dolmage have been conducting water quality sampling as part of the proposal to Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to sample 5 sites in the watershed for pesticides this spring through fall.
9. The Great Lakes Local Action Fund (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks) agreement for \$100,000 has been signed for wetlands and tree restorations for 2025.
10. Kari and Ben conducted two site visits in March to assess a fish die off in the Old Ausable Channel. Likely a result of prolonged winter conditions and depleted oxygen. Dead fish of several species were observed including the 'At Risk' Lake Chubsucker and Grass Pickerel.
11. Kari and Christie submitted two proposals for submission to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) that will provide funds to survey fish and flow in unrated municipal drains in ABCA and MVCA watersheds in 2025. This work helps to streamline drain maintenance approvals from DFO.
12. Hope met with MTO regarding possible turtle exclusion fencing in Bayfield.
13. Hope continues to assist Huron Soil and Crop with their cover crop trial and data collection.
14. Angela & Ben visited 6 new wetland/erosion control projects, and 6 restored wetlands.
15. Brooklyn Rau is working with Lambton County, and St. Clair Conservation to develop the Lambton County Stewardship Program. We expect to see the official program launch shortly. The program will support several stewardships projects types, including tree planting, wetland restoration, invasive species management, cover crops and more.
16. Brooklyn worked with staff from Huron County to implement Huron Clean Water Project Landowner Profiles to showcase successful water quality projects that have been implemented by watershed landowners. The profiles have been posted to the Huron County website.
17. Tree planting is complete for this spring. 125 Landowners purchased and planted over 13,000 trees through the program. ABCA staff completed projects for 36 landowners, Lambton Shores,



Bluewater, South Huron and Lucan Biddulph, and held 3 school planting days and helped support a Scouts Canada project. In total, over 35,000 trees were planted through the program.

18. Andrew Bicknell and Ellen continue to review multiple subdivision files, including files in Lucan-Biddulph, North Middlesex, Lambton Shores and Bluewater.
19. Daniel King and Christie have completed annual inspections at all of ABCA's flood and erosion control structures, including the deployment of Buoys at Armstrong West in Port Franks.
20. Flood Model Development is ongoing, with phase 1 nearly complete.
21. Aaron Clarke has been working on network and tech upgrades for importing stream gauge data from GOES satellite sites, and collection tools for hazard tree and asset inspections.
22. Similar to the partnership with PMRA in Item #8 above, Christie has conducted spring groundwater sampling at 3 sites; which include 1 site for the additional pesticide monitoring.

## **ABCA Training**

1. Ben completed the University of Guelph's Agricultural Erosion Control Structures course.
2. Derek passed his licence test, successfully upgrading his licence to a Class AR (truck-restricted).
3. Ellen has completed Risk Management Official and Property Entry Training for DWSP.
4. Donna completed 'Smart about Salt' training
5. Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA) Act, all volunteers in Ontario must be trained on accessibility. The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee and their Accessibility Committee Municipal Working Group provided an online information session for organizations, committees, and groups who host events in our communities. Abbie, Tina and Davin took this training.

## **Other Items**

1. Welcome Michael Gibbs, Watershed Information Technician.
2. Welcome Jaden Schoelier, Water and Planning Technician, filled the vacancy left by Erik Strahl.
3. Welcome Maliheh Ghorbankhani (Millie), stepping into the role Water and Planning Technician, which Ellen had assumed for the last year.
4. Ellen Westelaken will fill in as a DWSP Specialist and Risk Management Officer (RMO) as Elizabeth takes her maternity leave beginning this summer.
5. Education welcomes back Elizabeth Cade (Day Camp Leader) and Kayley Thompson (Day Camp Assistant) These positions are supported by the Canada Summer Jobs program.
6. Cassie has been elected and confirmed as a Director of the Ontario Agri-Food Discovery Centre.
7. Tim did an interview, via Zoom, with Nick Vinnicombe of Lake Affect Media for Hay Communications cable television and social media. It was an opportunity for Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff to promote our programs and services.
8. Reese Thompson sourced a Trail Mobile that supports five passengers, similar to the original trail mobile. Recently, the community expressed a strong desire to upgrade the existing 3 passenger cart, and several community residents have donated towards its upgrade. For more information: <https://www.abca.ca/post/?ID=1584>

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# ***MINUTES***

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## **ARKONA LIONS MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Monday, May 5, 2025**

**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

Wayne Shipley – Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dave Marsh – ABCA

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Nathan Schoelier, Abigail Gutteridge, Mike Bax – ABCA Staff

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Glenn Stott called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

#### **MOTION #MC 1/25**

**Moved by Adam Wisniewski**

**Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee agenda for May 5, 2025 be approved.”**

**Carried.**

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### **MOTION #MC 2/25**

**Moved by Wayne Shipley**

**Seconded by Adam Wisniewski**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting October 7, 2024 be approved.”**

**Carried.**

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

1. Chair Glenn Stott noted that he has not had time to contact those who were involved with Ted Baxter Day in 2024, and therefore, it is not likely to go forward in 2025
2. Mike Bax, Rock Glen Conservation Area Superintendent, reported that the eavestroughs and ridge cap were replaced in fall of 2024, and staff are pleased with the work. There have been no observed leaks since this work was done. Mike also noted that he would be replacing the ceiling tiles where the leaks had previously been. The work was completed by Abe Bueckhert of Canadian Custom Easvestrough, and the ridge cap by Striking with a total cost of approximately \$3200, which was significantly less than the quotes received from other companies.

2024 SEASON SUMMARY

Mike Bax provided a summary regarding attendance at the conservation area, as well as the Museum for the 2024 season. He noted that from May until October, there were approximately 40,650 visitors, which was approximately 6000 more visitors than in 2023. When including paying visitors in the off season, the total is closer to 42,000. In addition, annual passes were utilized at least 1000 times while staff were present at the gate house. Mike noted that, to date, attendance is looking to be on a similar trajectory for 2025. He noted that it has been a fairly linear increase over the last 10 year period. He also noted that the e-transfer option for payment has been well utilized over the winter and spring when staff were not present at the conservation area.

The Museum guest book also tracks visitors. Over 2024 there were 2190 line entries in the guest book. Guest visited from 52 countries, 10 Canadian provinces/territories, and 17 different states in the USA.

2025 OPERATIONS

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Manager of Conservation Lands and Stewardship, noted that there would be very few changes in operations at Rock Glen Conservation Area this summer. He reported that Marshall Gibson will be back again as an assistant, as will Kelly Graham. Kelly will be helping more with education programs, and possibly some guided hikes, which is a new initiative. The hikes would start to occur in mid to late June, and be strategically planned for times when RGCA typically sees lower attendance rates. There has also been the suggestion that local historians be invited to speak to the history of the area during some of the hikes.

Nathan also noted that there would be some maintenance on the boardwalk this summer. Staff have also ordered tree identification signs to place along the trail, which can be utilized during the hikes.

Glenn asked about the potential for fixing the walkway outside of the entrance to the Museum. Nathan noted that staff would need to find out the cost to have some of the concrete raised and replace some of the boards that are beginning to show signs of rot. The hedge also has not been maintained well over the years, and Mike has suggested removing it later this year and moving toward options that are easy to maintain.

#### 2024 EVENTS & PROJECT UPDATES

a) Ted Baxter Day

As Chair Glenn Stott reported earlier in the meeting, it is unlikely that Ted Baxter day will proceed this year. However, Lions members still like the idea of honouring Ted again in the future.

b) Antique Car Show

Mike Bax reported that the annual car show is planned for September 20, 2025. Last year there were 90 car entries, and 120 people who attended the event. Mike said that this year they plan to have free entry in the morning, then start charging for park entry again at noon, but let those who say they are attending the car show continue to enter for free.

c) Sesquicentennial Planning

Chair Glenn mentioned that Arkona's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is in 2026, and that there will be events in June next year. He noted that this would be a good time to hold an event at the museum.

#### HERITAGE SARNIA LAMBTON

Chair Glenn Stott reported that Heritage Sarnia Lambton are planning to run the Passport program again in 2025. Mike said that it is not a problem for Rock Glen staff to stamp passports throughout the season, and noted that there is a benefit to the conservation area as it brings more people in who might not have visited otherwise.

Chair Glenn also mentioned that he and Adam met with Andrew Meyer and Dana Thorne from Lambton County regarding grant money that is available to help the museum. There are a number of things that could benefit from County funding, so Nathan will also liaise with Glenn and Andrew about the grant application. For example, Adam and Glenn would like to have some sort of basic security at the museum (e.g. security cameras), as there are some items that could be displayed that are valuable. To do this, the Museum would need to have some wi-fi installed, or extended from the gate house. ABCA staff will explore options for enhanced security.

### MUSEUM CURATOR REPORT

Adam Wisniewski again mentioned the County grant and would like to further speak with Andrew Meyer to determine what items could be acquired for the Museum that would be eligible. He also noted that he had been in contact with Bill Fox, the head archeologist from the Stones and Bones Museum in Sarnia, who said that they have a display case that they would like to donate to the Arkona Lions Museum. Adam will continue to liaise with Bill Fox.

Adam noted the Doors Open program last year, that saw 169 people visit the Museum, including Mayor Morgan from London. It has not been announced if this event will occur this year, but the Lions are happy to have the Museum participate.

### OTHER BUSINESS

1. Nathan Schoelier reported that the way ABCA Education staff use the education room at the museum has changed, and asked Chair Glen and Adam Wisniewski to put together a plan on how they could better utilize the space for the Museum. He did note that an open concept would be needed for students to be able to use floor space. There may also be the opportunity to include any needed renovations in the County grant. He also noted that it might be good for them to set up a meeting with Cassie Greidanus, the Education Coordinator, regarding the space and some of the older displays.
2. Nathan Schoelier also noted that he has been working with a contact from Kettle and Stoney Point First Nations regarding some other consultation for the ABCA, and that he might be a good contact to have come into the museum to provide Indigenous consultation.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., unless the Chair calls an earlier meeting.

### ADJOURNMENT

Chair Glenn Stott adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

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Glenn Stott  
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge  
Corporate Services Coordinator



## MINUTES

### AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 29, 2025

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom

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#### MEMBERS PRESENT

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

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave McClure, Anne Melady, Bob Radtke

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Nathan Schoelier, Jackson Janmaat, Paul Seebach

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Frayne welcomed the Foundation Board Members and called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

**Moved by Robert Norris**

**Seconded by Roger Lewington**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the May 29, 2025 agenda for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting be approved.”**

**Carried.**

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

##### **MOTION # 02/25**

**Moved by George Irvin**

**Seconded by Janet Clarke**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation**

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meeting held on November 26, 2024 be approved.”

**Carried.**

#### BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

#### ELECTIONS

Chair Dave Frayne asked Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), to act as Chair for the elections for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation (ABCF).

Davin Heinbuck outlined the procedures prior to conducting the elections and declared all positions vacant.

#### Appointment of Scrutineers

**MOTION # 03/25**

**Moved by Dave Frayne  
Seconded by George Irvin**

**“RESOLVED, THAT Nathan Schoelier and Tina Crown be appointed as scrutineers.”**

**Carried.**

#### Election of Chair

Nominations were called for the position of Chair for 2025. George Irvin nominated Charles Miner.

Davin Heinbuck called for nominations two more times.

**MOTION # 04/25**

**Moved by Roger Lewington  
Seconded by Janet Clarke**

**“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Chairperson for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation for 2025, be closed”**

**Carried.**

Charles Miner accepted the position with thanks, and Davin Heinbuck declared Mr. Miner as Chair of the ABCF for 2025.

Election of Vice Chair

Davin Heinbuck called for nominations for Vice Chair for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation. George Irvin nominated Janet Clarke. Janet Clarke nominated George Irvin.

**MOTION # 05/25****Moved by Dave Frayne****Seconded by Robert Norris**

**“RESOLVED, THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation for 2025, be closed”**

**Carried.**

Janet Clarke thanked George for her nomination, but respectfully declined. George Irvin accepted his nomination with thanks. Davin Heinbuck declared Mr. Irvin as Vice Chair for the ABCF for 2025.

Charles Miner assumed the Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR, AUDITOR AND BANK

Davin Heinbuck reminded the Board that 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, solicitors must be appointed annually. Davin recommended appointing the same four solicitors used by the ABCA that were appointed in 2024.

**MOTION # 06/25****Moved by Dave Frayne****Seconded by George Irvin**

**“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 Foundation solicitors for 2025.”**

**Carried.**

2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Paul Seebach, of Seebach & Company, presented the audited draft 2024 Financial Statement for the ABCF for review. Paul noted that there were no outstanding issues or discrepancies, making for a clean audit report. Of note, he reported that there were large unrealized gains on investments as of the end of 2024, noting that it was a good year overall for the Foundation. Members thanked Paul for his presentation.



**MOTION # 07/25**

**Moved by George Irvin  
Seconded by Robert Norris**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the audited 2024 Financial Statement for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation be approved as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**PROGRAM UPDATES****Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods Tree Dedication Service**

Abbie Gutteridge reminded Foundation members that the Foundation partners with Haskett Funeral Homes for a tree dedication service each September. This year, the service will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 200 p.m. This partnership continues to be an important event to commemorate the lives of loved ones in our community.

**Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy**

Roger Lewington presented on behalf of the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HTLTC) and mentioned about the new Annual Membership Program to help raise funds for the work that the HTLTC does. He stated we should be making the public aware of the land trust as an option to preserve land.

- **Warner Property:**  
The HTLTC worked with ABCA's Education Department and Lambton's EarlyON program to host outdoor daycare style programming every Thursday throughout the month of May. Several other events were hosted at the property such as a birding event in partnership with the Rotary Club with more than 20 people attending. ABCA Education staff also held a tree planting event for Grand Bend School, which saw approximately 100 trees planted on May 23.
- **Bayfield River Flats:**  
The Bayfield River Valley Trail Association, who helps to manage the River Flats was successful in obtaining a grant for erosion control more than \$100,000. This grant was not available to the Foundation or the HTLTC. This grant will see erosion protection and to improve fish habitat along the Bayfield River installed within the Bayfield River Flats, restoring 300 square metres of riverbank habitat. Currently the riverbank within the project limits is unprotected and exposed to erosion, jeopardizing the safety of the trail and negatively impacting water quality of the river. The design engineering is currently underway. Additionally, garbage and recycling bins have been installed at the property, and the Municipality of Bluewater has offered to service the property for pick up.

- **Elliott Property:**  
Roger Lewington presented that ABCA staff are ensuring that the property is properly maintained. Nathan has had preliminary discussions with the municipal planning department regarding the severance of the rented property off Highway 21. Ongoing discussions for trail development and the future for the existing buildings.
- **Future Donations:**  
Roger shared that they are working through the severance process on a 25-acre oak woodland donation between Port Franks and Grand Bend, expecting the donation to proceed as soon as the severance conditions are fulfilled.
- **Membership Program:**  
Roger presented that more than 100 individuals donated to the Land Trust in late 2023 and 2024, thus being provided a complementary membership being invited to at least one event per year to recognize their support. Those members will be prompted for a donation for a 2026 membership toward the end of the year.
- **Outreach:**  
Roger shared that ABCA staff are currently working to develop an outreach booklet that highlights each property, and the success of the land trust expected to be complete this fall. There is also an event being planned for November 29, 2025 at the Stratford Rotary Complex featuring Adam Shoalts, Canadian author and explorer, as keynote speaker.

#### VILIS FAMILY WILDLIFE AREA

Nathan Schoelier reported that on June 14, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. the Foundation is hosting a Dedication Ceremony for the Vilis Family Wildlife Area, which was donated to the Foundation in 2024. There will be a short dedication ceremony followed by a tour of the property.

Nathan reminded the Foundation that 22 acres of the property is workable land. Last year, the Foundation entered into an agricultural lease agreement with the local farmer who had previously leased the land. This lease was for one year, with the option to extend for another two years, with rental rate being increased by 2% for each year it is leased. After the lease is terminated, the opportunity to lease the land would be provided to the public. Nathan presented two options to the Foundation regarding the lease:

1. Provide the current tenant farmer, Rob Roelands, with the opportunity to extend the lease for up to two years.
2. Provide the opportunity for others to bid on the Vilis Family Wildlife Area agricultural lease. The bid process and lease will emulate the process that was undertaken for the Linfield Wildlife Area by the ABCA in 2025.

**MOTION # 08/25**

**Moved by George Irvin  
Seconded by Roger Lewington**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation provide the current tenant farmer, Rob Roelands, with the opportunity to extend the agricultural lease of the 22 workable acres at the Vilis Family Wildlife Area for up to two years.”**

**Carried.**

**2025 PROJECT UPDATES AND FUNDING REQUESTS****Conservation Dinner**

Abbie Gutteridge, Foundation Secretary, reported that after the cancelation of the in-person Conservation Dinner, approximately two thirds of dinner ticket buyers donated the remainder or a portion of their ticket. Cost covering donations totalled approximately \$11,000, just under \$5,000 was raised through the 50/50 draw. The Committee switched the event to an online auction held May 12-15, and approximately \$15,000 was raised. The total raise for 2025 was \$34,387, which is split evenly between the Foundation and the Exeter Lions Club.

The committee members were happy to have sold out of the 50/50 tickets, this being the first year to do so. It was mentioned that the Dinner Committee will be meeting again in August to discuss the future of this event. Abbie added we will have to appoint a new Chair for that committee, noting that it is the Foundation's turn to appoint a Chair from the Foundation (or possibly a community volunteer). There were no volunteers for this position from the Foundation, but they noted that they would consider who might be willing to Chair.

**Junior Conservationist**

Abbie Gutteridge reported that Mercedes Prout of Exeter was selected as the 2025 Junior Conservationist. Mercedes conducted a great interview and was well spoken and confident. Mercedes has successfully volunteered during our March Break Day camp, and staff are confident she will be a great fit for Junior Conservationist.

**Student Environmental Grant**

Abbie Gutteridge reported that the Student Environmental Grant was posted today and for the next three weeks applications will be accepted.

**Annual Trout Fishing Derby**

Abbie Gutteridge reported that the Exeter Lions Club hosted an excellent event on May 3, with 240 people registering for the fishing derby. Approximately 400 rainbow trout stocked in the reservoir days prior. Given the cooler weather being on the cooler side, they were pleased with the turnout. A lot of visitors were pleased that the reservoir was closed for fishing between the stocking and the derby, allowing for successful catching of fish for the families that attended the derby.

Nathan Schoelier also noted that, for the first time, the ABCA closed the reservoir to public fishing following the reservoir stocking to prevent the rainbow trout from being caught ahead of the event. This was well-received by the public, and ABCA will continue this practice in the future.

#### Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods Expansion

Nathan Schoelier reported that discussions with the Municipality of Sounds Huron are ongoing, but is progressing toward establishing a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the ABCA to cross municipal property to the east section of the commemorative woods. He is hopeful that the MOU can be established in the coming months, allowing the trail through the commemorative woods to be completed in the fall.

#### Funding Partnerships

Abbie Gutteridge reported that ABCA Education staff applied to several grant programs in partnership with the Foundation. They were successful in receiving a grant of \$1250 from the Sunset Foundation to be used for the Oaks and Acorns program, which has been growing in popularity. They also applied to Libro Credit Union for a Youth Climate and Financial Literacy Action Plan grant of \$20,000. ABCA staff are waiting on notification regarding this grant.

Finally, Education Staff also applied to the Municipality of Central Huron for a grant, and were successful in receiving \$3,500 to be used toward and Oaks and Acorns Program and Little Library, both at Clinton Conservation Area.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. Trail Mobile

Nathan Schoelier presented that the trail mobile program was established in 2000. With generous donations from Bob Down, Jim & Fran Sweitzer, and Norman Eckel staff were able to purchase a brand new 6-seater golf cart. This will allow them to have 5 passengers. This will be beneficial if there are two couples who would like to utilize this program. He also commended volunteers, Norm Eckel and Jim Hayter, who volunteer to run this program

## 2. Bus Tour

Abbie Gutteridge shared that a bus tour is being planned for August 2025. This tour is open to the ABCA Board of Directors, ABCF Directors, HTLTC Directors, as well as new ABCA staff. This year the tour will focus on the south part of the watershed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

None.

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

### NEXT MEETING

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

### ADJOURNMENT

Dave Frayne and Janet Clarke adjourned the Foundation meeting at 4:49 p.m.

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Charles Miner  
Chair

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Jackson Janmaat  
Recording Secretary