



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

2:30 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 November 20, 2025 and Email Vote from December 1, 2025
7. **Business Out of the Minutes**
 - Vote on 2026 Proposed Operating Levies (Category 1 and 3), Capital Levy, and Budget – Davin Heinbuck
8. **Presentation – Investments Update** – Adam Skillen, Skillen Investment Management
9. **Program Reports**
 - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg 41/24) – Jaden Schoelier
 - (b) Violations/Appeals Update – Andrew Bicknell
 - Report 2: 3rd Ontario Regulation 41/24 Mapping Updates – Tracey McPherson
10. **General Manager's Report** – Davin Heinbuck
11. **Committee Reports**
 - Source Protection Committee – Ellen Westelaken
 - Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee – Abbie Gutteridge
12. **Correspondence**
13. New Business
14. Committee of the Whole
15. Adjournment

ABCA Christmas Dinner to follow – Ironwood Golf Clubhouse

Upcoming Meetings and Events

February 19, 2026 Board of Directors Annual General Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

HEARING

Pursuant to Ontario Regulation 41/24
(Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits)

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Joey Groot, Steve Herold, Dave Jewitt, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jaden Hodgins

STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Bicknell, Millie Ghorbankhani, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Tracey McPherson, Jaden Schoelier, Ellen Westelaken

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Sal Pacifico, Mr. Wolfe Trinaistich – *Dillon Consulting Ltd.*, Mr. Ryan Langlois – *Dillon Consulting Ltd.*

CALL TO ORDER

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Chair Ray Chartrand called the Hearing pursuant to Ontario Regulation 41/24 to order at 10:02 a.m. for the consideration of Permit Application #2025-54 submitted by Pacifico Property Management, to order. The Chair welcomed the applicant and representatives, Board members and staff.

Chair Chartrand stated the procedures for conducting the Hearing and asked Andrew Bicknell, Manager of Water and Planning, to provide details on the application.

Mr. Bicknell introduced the applicant, Mr. Sal Pacifico to the Board of Directors, as well as his agent, Mr. Wolfe Trinaistich and Mr. Ryan Langlois, both engineers from Dillon Consulting Ltd. He advised that the application in question was for the installation of a shoreline protection wall, and regrading the bluff, the installation of a sewer outlet structure, as well as the construction of a maintenance

road at Pt. Lot 21, LRW Concession, in the Municipality of Bluewater. While these items are part of a broader development proposal for the property, these are the works that are proposed and located within the ABCA regulation limit and subject to an ABCA Regulation 41/24 permit. The broader development is subject to approvals under the Planning Act, which are not currently in place.

Mr. Bicknell noted that there are tests that need to be met to allow staff to issue a permit in regulated area. In this case, it means that the activity is not likely to affect the control of flooding or erosion and will not result in the damage or destruction of property. Mr. Bicknell also noted that, as per the ABCA Shoreline Management Plan, 2019 Development Guidelines, applications for shore protection shall include a mandatory review by a qualified Coastal Engineer which shows that the proposed works will not aggravate natural hazards. Mr. Bicknell reminded the Board that this area of the shoreline experiences higher rates of erosion relative to other areas, which means the rate of supply of sediment to the lake impacting the sediment budget can be higher. As such, staff also requested a third-party peer review of the technical report, as is permitted by the ABCA Policy and Procedure Manual. The Applicant has not authorized a peer review, and therefore staff are unable to conclude that the Dillon Consulting coastal assessment addresses the impacts on sediment in a satisfactory manner, or that the proposed grading and installation of the shorewall structure is not likely to affect the control or flooding, erosion or dynamic beaches or result in damage or destruction to property. Therefore, ABCA staff recommend the denial of Permit Application 2025-54.

Board members had some questions for Mr. Bicknell regarding the cost and timing of a peer review for the technical report. Mr. Bicknell advised that it is difficult for staff to offer advice regarding cost or timing to have a peer review conducted. ABCA staff sought permission from Mr. Pacifico to share the supporting engineering documentation with a third-party engineer for purpose of obtaining a cost estimate. Mr. Pacifico did not grant such authorization. There were also questions regarding shore protection on adjacent properties, to which Mr. Bicknell noted that there was some shoreline protection on properties to both the north and the south.

Chair Chartrand asked the Applicant and his agent to make their presentation. Mr. Trinaistich, P.Eng. reported that there was initial pre-consultation for the proposed works in June of 2024. The initial application was submitted in July 2025. He noted that staff asked for the third-party peer review, but that it was deemed unnecessary by the Applicant, as it would not guarantee the approval of the application. In lieu, a Letter of Opinion was obtained from Mr. Trinaistich, of Dillon Consulting Ltd., who had no prior involvement or knowledge of the project, which they believed would satisfy staff.

Mr. Trinaistich invited Mr. Langlois, of Dillon Consulting Ltd., to explain the details of the works to the Board, as well as his findings in his Letter of Opinion. He noted the length of the proposed shore protection, as well as the height and sediment composition of the bluff. The technical report explains that there will be very little impact on the sediment budget for the lake, as they based their calculations on the estimated sediment loss of 210 cubic metres per year (as per the ABCA Shoreline Management Plan). In his independent review, Mr. Langlois recalculated the loss to the sediment

budget based on the maximum estimated sediment loss of 315 cubic metres per year (as per the ABCA Shoreline Management Plan). Mr. Langlois agreed with the technical report that the impact on the sand budget would be negligible, and that the post construction monitoring that is to be implemented will be sufficient. As such, Mr. Trinaistich and Mr. Langlois reported that all technical and agency concerns have been fully addressed and respectfully requested approval of Permit Application 2025-54.

The Board of Directors had several questions for the Applicant and his Agent. Directors asked about the impact of lake levels, to which the Mr. Langlois answered that the study uses the average recession rate of the shoreline. There were also some questions regarding the regrading of the bluff and why it was needed. Mr. Trinaistich noted that it would be a stepped regrading, which would both stabilize the bluff, but also provide a communal feature for the property, and noted that the design meets standards for bluff stabilization. It was also asked as to why the Applicant did not go ahead with a true third-party peer review as requested by ABCA staff. Mr. Trinaistich reiterated that the Applicant felt that it would be a costly exercise that would not guarantee approval of the application. It was also noted that the grading was needed for the stormwater outfall, which was a highly regulated process.

Directors decided to go into Committee of the Whole to discuss the application and evidence as presented.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 75/25

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:15 a.m. to discuss the application with Davin Heinbuck and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 76/25

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 11:38 a.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 77/25

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves Permit Application 2025-54 as presented.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Hearing was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Joey Groot, Steve Herold, Dave Jewitt, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jaden Hodgins

STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Bicknell, Millie Ghorbankhani, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Tracey McPherson, Jaden Schoelier, Ellen Westelaken

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ray Chartrand called the meeting to order at 11:41 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, noted that due to the Hearing going longer than expected, Adam Skillen, who was to present an investments update, had to leave and would be added to the agenda for the December Board of Directors meeting.

MOTION #BD 78/25

**Moved by David Marsh
Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the November 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 79/25**

**Moved by Joey Groot
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings held on October 23, 2025 and November 6, 2025, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESProposed Changes to Conservation Authorities

Davin Heinbuck reminded the Board of Directors about the proposed changes to conservation authorities in Ontario, including the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and the proposed amalgamation the 36 conservation authorities into 7 conservation regions. As such, staff drafted a proposed resolution for the Board to consider. Davin and Chair Ray also took this opportunity to update the Board on the various meetings that have been held as a result of these proposed changes. They noted that there has been a posting on the Environmental Registry of Ontario, which poses five questions, and informed Directors that staff would be working on a comment from the ABCA.

The Directors were pleased with the draft resolution and were glad to endorse it. They also requested that it be sent out widely throughout Ontario. They also asked staff to continue to work on the ERO comment to be posted as soon as possible.

MOTION #BD 80/25

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by David Jewitt**

“WHEREAS the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Board of Directors acknowledges and supports the Province’s goals of improved efficiency of watershed management, through the implementation of digital applications and permitting system, consistent policies, flood standards, fees, and technology; and

“WHEREAS consistent policies, and resources across the existing Conservation Authorities boundaries could be achieved through direction and tools such as technical guidelines provided by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; or Conservation Ontario; and

“WHEREAS Conservation Authorities are locally based, grassroots organizations formed by municipal governments in response to the challenges posed by a changing landscape;

especially, the increased exposure to flooding and erosion hazards and the resulting risks to lives and property. In the case of ABCA, this vision has proved a successful model for 80 years; and

“WHEREAS the ABCA, with the guidance and support of our 12 Member Municipalities, demonstrates fiscal prudence in conservation delivery, ensuring stable growth through stable funding. ABCA has successfully leveraged funding to support programs and services that are locally important and are driven by community engagement through ABCA’s Conservation Strategy and the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy; and

“WHEREAS Conservation Authorities across the Province operate efficiently by working in close partnership with approximately eight Member Municipalities for every one conservation authority. This structure enables resources to be directed toward on-the-ground initiatives that advance our mandate while addressing local community needs, achieving an effective balance in scale, management and service delivery; and

“WHEREAS plans to regionalize conservation authorities through consolidation would dilute local accountability and municipal partnership and is contrary to the basic principle that decisions are best made closest to the communities they affect. Effective representation by municipal partners remains core to the success of conservation authorities. The ABCA, while not unique among conservation authorities in this respect, is effective in working with our community to support sustainable development, and keeping communities safe; and

“WHEREAS being front-line means being responsive and accountable to the community by delivering the services that are essential and valued to the best interest of the community. The front line of provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and climate resilience are in the decisions between municipalities working together to address issues around floodplain (and hazard) protection and resilient upland and landscape management. Further, ABCA staff and Board Members are responsive and accountable to the needs of the watershed community, while meeting or exceeding provincial service standards, and are reachable through publicly available contact information. Local governance and direction combined with local service provision allows ABCA to continue to be responsive to our community; and

“WHEREAS consolidation will result in substantial transition costs, not the least of which is time. In all facets, that would divert resources from front-line service delivery and delay desired outcomes. Further, the loss of local watershed knowledge and community relationships will add greater uncertainty, loss of trust, and delay for our watershed residents. This includes the agricultural community, businesses, builders, developers, and our municipal partners that seek timely and effective local advice, which is provided through local pre-consultation; and

“WHEREAS a proposed regional watershed would create a geographically vast and administratively complex organization when joining northern municipalities with those that are rural, such as ABCA, where agriculture is the main economic driver. The differences are distinguishable between the Lake Superior and Georgian Bay watersheds to those in Southwestern Ontario on the shores of Lake Huron. The ABCA serves Southwestern Ontario agricultural

communities facing vastly different geographies, climate, and infrastructure realities which would be ill-served by a broad regional administrative structure. This would be considerably worse if local offices do not remain available and accountable to its membership, partners and the communities they serve.

“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

“THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors does not support the proposed “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration as outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; and

“FURTHER THAT meaningful modernization can occur within the current watershed-based governance framework; and

“FURTHER THAT the ABCA Board endorses further provincial evaluation of a more focused specific model as a geographically coherent, cost-effective and locally accountable alternative that advances the government’s priorities of efficiency, red-tape reduction and timely home construction; and

“FURTHER THAT the Board asks that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks engage directly with affected municipalities and conservation authorities across Southwestern Ontario through a working group before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments; and

“FURTHER THAT a forthcoming ERO response at the approval of the ABCA Board be forwarded to the Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations; and

“FURTHER THAT a letter from the Chair containing this resolution, and ERO response, be forwarded to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics,
- the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (CA Office),
- Ontario’s Chief Conservation Executive,
- local Members of Provincial Parliament,
- local Members of Parliament,
- Local Municipalities and Counties,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association,
- Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, and
- Conservation Ontario and all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Carried.

2026 Fee Schedule and Pay Grid Approval

Davin Heinbuck advised the Board of Directors that the changes to the Fee Schedule and pay grid increase of 2.5% was incorporated into preparing the proposed budget for 2026. The direction from the Board was that the pay grid increase remain as presented, but that staff develop a policy to tie the pay grid increase to the May – July average CPI.

MOTION #BD 81/25**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen****Seconded by David Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the proposed 2026 Fee Schedule as presented, and

“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the pay grid increase of 2.5 % as presented.

Carried.

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

Andrew Bicknell, Water & Planning Manager, 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 7 *Applications for Permission* and 11 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Andrew Bicknell noted there were no violation updates at present.

MOTION #BD 82/25**Moved by Dave Jewitt****Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Resolution from Essex Region Conservation Authority
File: A.5.2
Brief: The Essex Region Conservation Authority shared a resolution from their Board of Directors regarding the proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities.
- b) Reference: Resolution from the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry
File: A.5.1
Brief: A resolution from the Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry regarding the proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities.
- c) Reference: Letter of Concern from the Heavy Construction Association of Windsor
File A.5.1
Brief: A letter of concern sent to Andrew Dowie, MP for Windsor Essex and the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks regarding the proposed amalgamation of conservation authorities.
- d) Reference: Email from Huron County
File: A.9
Brief: An email from Huron County to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, noting that they are the recipient of the Huron County Accessibility Committee Award of Merit for Barrier-Free Access in the Public category for the Trail Mobile on the South Huron Trail.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Chair Ray Chartrand noted that ABCA staff have been invited to both the Municipalities of Huron East and South Huron to speak to Councils regarding budget at the proposed changes to conservation authorities. Davin Heinbuck reminded directors that staff are willing to come to speak at Council meetings at such times that Municipalities would like to hear from them.
- 2. Davin Heinbuck shared a request from Perth County for ABCA to provide a letter of support for Perth County and its review of the Forest Conservation By-Law. Staff drafted a letter that was presented to the Board for review.

MOTION #BD 83/25**Moved by Joey Groot
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors endorses the letter of support to Perth County regarding their Forest Conservation By-Law, as presented, and directs it to be sent to Perth County.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Wayne Shipley at 12:23 p.m.

Ray Chartrand
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS EMAIL VOTE

**Monday December 1, 2025
Vote Via Email**

ERO #025-1257 – AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE

At the November 23, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Board approved Resolution #BD 80/25, regarding Bill 68 and ERO Posting #025-1257, to be distributed widely across the province. Further to that resolution, the Board asked ABCA staff to prepare a response to posting #025-1257 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), regarding the proposed consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into 7 conservation regions. In the posting, the Province posed five questions and requested feedback. The ABCA Response is attached.

The deadline for comments on the ERO posting is December 22, 2025, but staff preferred to have their comments in well ahead of the deadline. As the ABCA Board does not meet again until their regular meeting on December 18, 2025, staff requested an email vote, recommending that the ABCA response be approved, and that staff be directed to submit the response to the ERO posting.

An email was sent out to Directors on Monday, December 1, 2025, requesting that votes be received by the end of the day on December 3, 2025. All nine Directors provided votes affirming staff's recommendation.

MOTION #BD 84/25

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

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the ABCA response to ERO #025-1257 Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities as presented, and

"FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors directs staff to submit the response to ERO #025-1257."

Carried.

Ray Chartrand
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: December 18, 2025
From: Andrew Bicknell, Manager of Water and Planning
Subject: Applications for Permission
Ontario Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors affirm the approval of the permits issued by ABCA staff as outlined in the *Applications for 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 #2024-47A (Renewal)
NAME: Rob McIntosh
ADDRESS: 160 Gill Road, Grand Bend
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Stephen)
PERMISSION TO: Construct steel shore wall
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 5, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 5, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

- (2) PERMIT #2025-64
NAME: Doug Campbell
ADDRESS: 30 Birch Street, Seaforth
MUNICIPALITY: Huron East (Tuckersmith)
PERMISSION TO: Construct shop
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 5, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 10, 2025

	NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	3
	STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier
(3)	PERMIT #2025-65	
	NAME: KinWin Inc. c/o Chris Drake	
	ADDRESS: 70114B Grand Bend Line, South Huron	
	MUNICIPALITY: South Huron (Stephen)	
	PERMISSION TO: Lot grading, self-service storage facility, site servicing, SWM infrastructure	
	COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	November 6, 2025
	PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	November 13, 2025
	NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	5
	STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier
(4)	PERMIT #2025-62	
	NAME: Mike McCarthy	
	ADDRESS: 6945 Line 36, Dublin	
	MUNICIPALITY: West Perth (Logan)	
	PERMISSION TO: Construct storage shed	
	COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	October 14, 2025
	PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	November 17, 2025
	NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	24
	STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier
(5)	PERMIT #2025-63	
	NAME: Jane Lowrie	
	ADDRESS: 9878 Huron Street, Grand Bend	
	MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)	
	PERMISSION TO: Construct addition	
	COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	November 5, 2025
	PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	November 21, 2025
	NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	12
	STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier
(6)	PERMIT #2025-59	
	NAME: Lisa Slater & Rob Walsh	
	ADDRESS: 7 Jowett Lane, Bayfield	
	MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)	
	PERMISSION TO: Replace stone shore wall	

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	November 16, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	November 24, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	5
STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier

(7) PERMIT #2025-60
NAME: Zac Turner & Maddison Gordon
ADDRESS: 9 Jowett Lane, Bayfield
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)
PERMISSION TO: Replace stone shore wall
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 16, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 24, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

(8) PERMIT #2025-61
NAME: Steve Goettler
ADDRESS: 3989 Matilda Street, Dublin
MUNICIPALITY: West Perth (Hibbert)
PERMISSION TO: Build a garage
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 17, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 05, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 13
STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani

(9) PERMIT #2025-66
NAME: Paul Cunningham
ADDRESS: 71439 Shoreline Drive
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Hay)
PERMISSION TO: Rebuild of an existing house
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 27, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 12, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 12
STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani

Minor Permits

- (1) PERMIT #MW2025-83
NAME: Frank & Brenda Von Hooydonk
ADDRESS: 183 Vernon Road, Thedford
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex (West Williams)
PERMISSION TO: Construct deck
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 6, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 7, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (2) PERMIT # MW2025-81
NAME: Joseph Vermunt
ADDRESS: Lot 28, Concession NB, Bluewater
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Hay)
PERMISSION TO: Perform minor alterations to watercourse
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 24, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 7, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 10
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (3) PERMIT # MW2025-73
NAME: David Gill
ADDRESS: 300 Gill Road, Grand Bend
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Stephen)
PERMISSION TO: Construct dock extension
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: November 5, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: November 14, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 7
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier
- (4) PERMIT # MW2025-84
NAME: Southbridge Care Homes c/o Clint Stephenson
ADDRESS: 10 Lawrence Street, Exeter
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron (Stephen)
PERMISSION TO: Area grading and construction of retaining wall

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	November 7, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	November 18, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	7
STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier

(5) PERMIT # MW2025-87

NAME: Lori Robinson

ADDRESS: 76735 Wildwood Line, Bayfield – Wildwood by the River Lot No.220

MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater (Stanley)

PERMISSION TO: Replace trailer

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	November 21, 2025
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PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	November 25, 2025
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NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	2
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STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier
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(6) PERMIT # MW2025-85

NAME: Ted Janmaat

ADDRESS: 41044 Huron Road, Clinton

MUNICIPALITY: Central Huron (Hullet)

PERMISSION TO: Construct wetland

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	November 17, 2025
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PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	November 25, 2025
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NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	6
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STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier
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ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: December 18, 2025
From: Tracey McPherson, GIS/IT Supervisor
Subject: O. Reg 41/24 Mapping Updates – Annual Review
Report Type: ACTION REQUIRED

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the 2 mapping updates resulting from staff review as outlined in this report. O. Reg 41/24 Mapping Updates – Annual Review.

Background:

On April 1, 2024, Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits) and Part VI of the Conservation Authorities Act came into effect replacing Ontario Regulation 147/06: Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses.

At the April 18, 2024 Board of Directors meeting I outlined the mapping changes required (where) shown on the **table in Mapping updates (where) section** of this report, as well as some additional mapping requirements outlining annual review and making our mapping available to the public.

Mapping updates (where):

What/where	Mapping Notes	Completed on 41/24 layer	Impact on area regulated
1. McInroy Drain (tiled) downstream of Creamery Rd	Tiled just west of Creamery Rd. On the open portion (natural channel) removed meander belt and used the stable top of bank to determine limit.	Yes	<i>Reduction of 1.3 ha of regulation</i>
2. Bayfield River tribs. LOTS 9,10,11 CON BRN Stanley.	Top of bank adjusted using Lidar 2022 Digital Elevation Model and contours.	Yes	<i>Increase of 8.2 ha of regulation</i>

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: December 18, 2025
From: Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Subject: General Managers Report
Report Type: INFORMATION

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

September 22nd CO Council meeting highlights included CO's work plan, and the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) announcement by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness on September 3rd. Funding of the RALP Marginal Lands Initiative has increased by \$9,600,000 to a maximum of \$21,600,000.00. This includes up to a total of \$2,225,000 over 4 fiscal years (until March 31, 2028) for CO to administer the funding program.

December 8th CO Council meeting included resolutions and feedback in response to Bill 68 and CA Consolidation, and an update on the Drainage Act and Section 28 Regulations Team (DART) and the DART Terms of Reference. The DART protocol is a tool that the Province has recognized as an effective example of streamlining approvals while managing risk. Such tools can better align CAs services delivery with provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure and climate resilience.

Special CO Council meeting December 11th was held in response to Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities" (ERO#025-1257).

ABCA Meetings and Special Events

1. Education hosted a Girl Guide group representing 6 areas (43 girls) met at Rock Glen for programming at the beginning of October
2. Oaks and Acorns was successful this year with both the Clinton and Exeter sessions filled with 15 families each.
3. Owl Prowl at MDCA was held on November 7th from 5:30-7:00 and 7:30-9:00. Wild Ontario attended with their live owls once again.
4. Additional Owl Prowls were held with Bayfield Trails, Warner Preserve, Zurich Scouts, and with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of South Huron.
5. Mari Veliz and Tim Cumming presented on *"Monitoring Matters – How Long-Term Monitoring Data can Engage the Public through Outreach including Social Media"* to the CA Long-term Monitoring (CALM) Working Group – on November 13th.
6. The Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy HTLTC and Thames Talbot Land Trust hosted an event in Stratford on November 29th. Keynote speaker was writer and explorer, Adam Shoalts.
7. Daniel King was a panel speaker at the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop from Sept 16-17th. He presented on documenting decisions for flood forecasting and warning with staff from LSCA and Quinte Conservation.
8. Daniel and Davin attended the Southwestern Ontario Flood Forecasting Alliance for flood forecasting staff across 12 CAs. Davin is currently the chairperson of the working group.
9. Andrew Bicknell represented the ABCA as a member of a Provincial Working Group working towards an update to Chapter 7 (Great Lakes and St Lawrence River System and Large Inland Lakes) of the MNR 2001 Technical Guidelines documentation.
10. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Committee (SPC) met on October 22nd.
11. Donna Clarkson attended the DWSP Project Managers meeting at Grand River CA. Key discussions were around the proposed changes to the regulations under the Clean Water Act.
12. Joy Rutherford, Environmental Sector Representative on the Source Protection Committee, took part in a water festival outreach event – the Elementary School Fair in Belgrave, on September 10th. Joy and Donna demonstrated the groundwater model.
13. The final Huron Clean Water Project meeting of 2025 was November 7th. In 2025, 271 projects requested \$379,000 in funding, with a total project value of approximately \$1.25 million.
14. Ian Jean attended the Forests Canada SW Planting Delivery Agent Field Tour on October 24th. The tour was hosted by Long Point Region CA.
15. Nathan Schoelier met with the Conservation Areas Working Group (CAWG) on October 2nd. CAWG meets biannually to discuss big-picture matters as they relate to conservation areas. The conservation areas workshop, blue green algae and critical incident stress management were the focus of the fall meeting.
16. Nathan met with the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy's Director Recruitment Committee to discuss strategic recruitment for an effective board. The recruitment opportunity is now available for candidates to apply for.

17. Ian and Nathan attended the Warner Preserve on October 4th, for a tour that was hosted for the southwestern Rotary District.
18. Nathan presented to the Maitland Trail Association on the HTLTC on October 22nd.
19. Nathan attended and spoke on behalf of the HTLTC at the Bayfield River Flats canoe launch opening ceremony on October 25th.
20. Hope presented about turtles and watershed management to '100 People Who Care - Huron' on September 4th.
21. Kari presented the long term Ausable River mussel program data at a Canadian Freshwater Mussel Research Meeting hosted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in November. Kari summarized recently collected 2025 Ausable River mussel data together with previously collected data (2006, 2011, 2019) at our long-term mussel monitoring stations to track changes over time in the mussel community. This information helps to evaluate recovery efforts.
22. Mari Veliz, with Huronview partner Rick Kootstra, presented Huronview findings to 100 Certified Crop Advisors at their annual Soil and Water Day.

ABCA Projects, Programs and Studies

1. Tracey MacPherson has been working on shoreline mapping and regulations updates that are to be updated annually on the website.
2. Jaden Schoelier and Millie Ghorbankhani continue to work with permit applicants through pre-consultation for development review under O.Reg 41/24.
3. Phase 1 of the Hydrology Model has been shared with staff with reporting submitted to the Flood Hazard Identification Mapping Program.
4. Parkhill Dam gate maintenance and conduit inspection of the Parkhill Dam has been completed.
5. Christie Brown completed fall groundwater sampling for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) and Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). All 16 PGMN wells have been sampled for chemistry and metals, with 5 sites receiving additional pesticide sampling.
6. Ellen Westlaken has been reviewing all DWSP risk management plans and determining which plans need to be updated/renewed.
7. Jeff VanNiekerk, Reese Thompson, and Derek Dolmage have replaced privy washrooms at Lucan, Bannockburn and Clinton CAs.
8. Jeff, Reese, and Derek finished upgrading the bridge across the Ausable River at the Morrison Dam Conservation Area.
9. Fall tree planting is complete. ABCA staff planted 2175 trees this fall at 14 project sites mainly windbreaks and watercourse buffers. Funding to support the planting has been sourced from the Huron Clean Water Project, Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (Conservation Ontario OMAFA partnership) and the provincial Great Lakes Local Action Program.
10. Brooklyn Rau and Reese Partnered with the Lambton Shores Nature trails to complete Periwinkle management at the Ausable River Cut CA. Funding is by the Invasive Species Action Fund.
11. Mari and Rosalind Chang have been working on the Old Ausable Channel and Ausable River Estuary restoration efforts. Mari gave a tour to Canada Water Agency (CWA representatives on

October 2nd. Rosalind has prepared a cash-flow statement and workplan, key components for the development of an agreement with CWA for a four-year project.

12. Hope continues to assist Huron Soil and Crop with their late season cover crop trial and data management requirements. Drone-applied cover crops seem to be gaining interest.
13. A wetland mussel survey was completed at Old Mouth Lake in Port Franks, where staff found 19 Eastern Pondmussels, a SAR species that was until recently, unknown in our watershed. Some record-breaking total lengths were also recorded for some specimens.
14. Angela VanNiekerk and Ben Riggan have managed and completed the planting of 6,410 wetland plants at 20 wetland sites.
15. Anastasiya Kubrak collected the final PMRA pesticide samples of the completed 2025 contract.

ABCA Training

1. Julie Stellingwerff and Cassie Greidanus attended the annual Rekindle the Sparks conference November 19-21 at Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre.
2. Julie and Cassie attended the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario conference Sept 19-21 focusing on land-based learning opportunities and knowledge sharing.
3. Tim attended the Conservation Ontario meeting of province-wide communicators at Conservation Halton, Burlington, in November. He showcased some of the good work of our Communications Strategy Update Committee.
4. Christie, Daniel and Davin attended the Provincial Flood Forecasting Workshop in September.
5. Flood forecasting, regulations, and GIS/mapping staff have received hydrology model training.
6. Jaden and Millie attended the AD Latornell Symposium, attending sessions related to planning, conservation leadership and climate planning strategies.
7. Ellen attended the A. D. Latornell Conservation Symposium where she sat in on sessions that focused on Source Water Protection.

Other Items

1. Tim and Rosalind have been working with staff to create some short and engaging posts (#YourWatershed #LocalConservation #ConservationMatters) to educate the public about the important work we do. "What does local conservation mean to you?"
2. The Communications Strategy Update Committee is very close to the finish line of providing a proposed Communications Strategy to the management team for review. If approved by the management team, it is expected the document will go to the ABCA Board of Directors for consideration of approval. Thanks to committee members Nathan, Hope, Rosalind, Daniel, and Tim.

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES

October 22, 2025

Clinton Fire Station, 401 Beech Street Clinton ON

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Ellen Foran, Dave Frayne, Paul Heffer, Doug Hocking, Philip Keightley, Alyssa Keller, Carol Leeming, Allan Rothwell, John Thompson, Joy Rutherford, Roland Howe

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jennette Walker

LIAISONS PRESENT

Lori Collins – Huron Perth Public Health Liaison

Davin Heinbuck – Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison

Phil Beard – Maitland Valley SPA Liaison

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Tim Cumming, Abigail Gutteridge, Ellen Westelaken

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Matt Pearson

Ted Briggs, Great Lakes Advisor, Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP)

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Dave Frayne called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He noted the Chair Matt Pearson has not yet received notification of renewal as Chair, but was joining the meeting as a member of the public.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2025-10-01

Moved by Rowland Howe

Seconded by Allan Rothwell

“That the agenda for the October 22, 2025 meeting be approved.”

Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2025-10-02

Moved by Philip Keightley

Seconded by Paul Heffer

“THAT the SPC minutes from March 26, 2025 be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter from Jim Hunt, Chair and Keith Taylor, Program Manager, Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee to the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, the Honourable David Piciini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the MECP regarding concern over Ontario College Science Based Programs.
2. A letter from John C. Williamson, Chair, Cataraqui Source Protection Committee to the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the MECP regarding the Auditor General of Ontario’s Special Report 2025 “Safety of Non-Municipal Drinking Water.”
3. A response from MECP to Cataraqui Source Protection Committee regarding the Auditor General’s Report.

CHAIR’S UPDATE

Acting Chair Dave Frayne asked Matt Pearson to provide an update. Matt noted that 16 of the 19 Source Protection Committee (SPC) Chairs were up for renewal in August 2025 and have not yet been reappointed. He reported that, in general, there was not a lot happening with Drinking Water Source Protection at present. However, he did note that the province recently posted some proposed updates to the Clean Water Act to the ERO, and that he and staff were beginning to look through those changes to note if anything would affect the SPC or program for this region.

PROGRAM UPATE

Donna Clarkson, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Program Co-Supervisor, provided a program update to SPC members. She reminded Committee members that there were no amendments to the Source Protection Plans underway at present, but that updates may be required within the next year due to new wells in Palmerston and Harriston.

Donna noted that the MECP had recently posted proposed changes to the Clean Water Act. While staff are still learning more about the changes, she reported that the proposal will allow the Source Protection Authority to approve simple changes to Source Protection Plans, rather than the current Ministry approval process. However, the Province will still continue to approve technical work, such as wellhead protection area delineations. In addition, the consultation process for amendments should be more timely, as the pre-consultation requirement may be removed.

Donna reported that there was a Chairs/Program Managers meeting, organized by the MECP on July 23, during which the MECP shared some changes and program updates. Program Managers presented highlights of various projects across the province and collaborated on a presentation called 'How our SPCs Strengthen our Work.'

Donna also noted that 2025 marked the 25-year anniversary of the Walkerton tragedy. As such, ABCA staff worked with several other Conservation Authorities, Conservation Ontario, as well as Loyalist College to produce a video recognizing 25 years of source water protection. There was also a social media campaign over the summer months in support of the video release. In addition, an e-newsletter for Drinking Water Source Protection was sent out to municipalities in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Region, as well as subscribers. This newsletter highlighted the Belgrave School Fair outreach by SPC Member Joy Rutherford, as well as ABCA staff. Over 500 children attended the Fair.

Additionally, Donna reported that Public Health Ontario has a new online water testing portal for residents using a private well. As well, she made note of the Ontario Auditor General's report entitled "Safety of Non-Municipal Drinking Water."

REPORT ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERMISSIONS Donna Clarkson presented the recent changes to Stormwater Management (SWM) approvals, as posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. SWM is a sub-category of drinking water threats under the Sewage Works category, and it is a significant threat in a wellhead protection zone A and B with a vulnerability score of 10, WHPA-E with a score of 8 or more, and Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) with a score of 8 or more. The ABMV Region does not have WHPA-E or IPZ with a score of 8 or more, so our policies are only binding in the first instance.

As of September 1, 2025 certain new private SWM works will register under the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR), rather than applying for an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA). Others may still require an ECA or be exempted from approvals and registration. In general, the EASR process is faster, but provides less oversight. At this point staff are not recommending any changes to the Source Protection Plan policies that address SWM.

PRESENTATION – HEALTHY LAKE HURON INITIATIVE

Ted Briggs, Great Lakes Advisor for the MECP, presented on the Healthy Lake Huron (HLH) Initiative, which began in 2010. The program focuses on improving nearshore waters and tributaries from Sarnia to Tobermory. The initiative first established five priority subwatersheds, which have had intensive on the ground actions to improve water quality, along with extensive monitoring. They are now hoping to expand efforts to other subwatersheds along the shoreline. Ted focused his presentation on the Garvey-Glenn subwatershed, located within the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority watershed.

SPC Members appreciated learning about this program and had several questions for Ted. One question focused on extensive systematic tile drainage, and the impact that this could have on water quality. Additionally, they wondered about getting feedback from the Huron Clean Water Project about which types of best management practices are most effective and using that data to move forward. Members also thought it would be interesting to extrapolate the cost of implementation to effect changes to water quality.

LIAISON UPDATES

Lori Collins briefly presented the new online portal for submitting water samples for private water well testing. This is now being offered as an alternative to filling out the paper forms that accompany water samples. She noted that there is no change to the process, but it should allow for quicker results. Public Health Ontario is also promoting the portal.

Phil Beard, from Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, mentioned several initiatives, included a pesticide study through Health Canada, as well as an aquatic health study. He also mentioned the One Health initiative, which recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health.

Davin Heinbuck provided a brief update from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. He noted that the Huron Sentinel Well Study has wrapped up for 2025 and is planned to continue in 2026. He also noted that pesticides have been added for analysis to the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network program. Davin also reported that the ABCA watersheds have been under a Level 2 Low Water Advisory. It is hoped that this will change in the near future. Finally, he provided a brief update on the ABCA Conservation Education program and noted that they do provide some Drinking Water Source Protection education in their programming.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Donna Clarkson encouraged SPC members to share their outreach activities over the last few months, to promote source water protection to their sector. She noted that the power behind groups such as the SPC is the ability to educate and engage with the community.

Carol Leeming and Mary Ellen noted that they both participated on an SPC call in April held by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. One of the topics discussed included considering the agricultural impact when siting new drinking water wells. Carol also attended a Huron County Federation of Agriculture meeting.

Doug Hocking reported that he made a presentation to his local cottager's association Annual General Meeting, and presented about the importance of testing water wells and the implications of short-term rentals on regular testing.

As noted above, Joy Rutherford lent her expertise at the Elementary School Fair in Belgrave. She demonstrated several activities to show the students how water moves through the ground.

NEXT MEETING

As there are no amendments underway, nor other pressing issues anticipated, a meeting will not be warranted in the winter. Therefore, the next meeting will most likely be March 25, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Philip Keightley at 12:02 p.m.

Dave Frayne
Acting Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

MINUTES

ARKONA LIONS MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, November 4, 2025

9:00 a.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Glenn Stott - Arkona Lions Club

Adam Wisniewski – Arkona Lions Club/Museum Curator

Dave Marsh – Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Wayne Shipley – ABCA

OTHERS PRESENT

Nathan Schoelier, Abigail Gutteridge, Mike Bax – ABCA Staff

Doug Crockett – Arkona Lions Club

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Glenn Stott called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #MC 3/25

“RESOLVED, THAT the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee agenda for November 4, 2025 be approved.”

Carried by Consensus.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #MC 4/25

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Museum Management Committee meeting May 5, 2025 be approved.”

Carried by Consensus.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

2025 SEASON SUMMARY

Mike Bax provided a brief summary regarding attendance at the conservation area, as well as the Museum for the 2025 season. He reported that there were more than 44,000 paid entries to Rock Glen Conservation Area. There were a number of entries using passes, as well as passes purchased, but not as many as in 2024. Many are used by regular campers from the campground across the road, and Mike regularly mentions the pass option for those who come often.

Mike noted that the guestbook in the Museum had more than 2600 line entries (102 pages of entries), so it was well visited in 2025. Mike has yet to go through the entries to determine the geographic spread of visitors.

The Management Committee asked Mike about conditions of the conservation area in the winter. He noted that the gate is always open, but that parking lots do not get cleared over the winter. However, he has observed that sometimes it does get cleared, and thinks that it may be done by a local landowner.

2026 PROPOSED BUDGET UPDATE

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Manager of Conservation Lands and Stewardship, noted that the budget for the Museum remains at status quo. However, \$2,500 is earmarked to go toward a grant application to Lambton County for work at the museum.

Nathan reported that there are several projects to go ahead at Rock Glen Conservation Area (CA) in 2026. He noted that the rail ties need to be replaced, and that there will be a hydro pole and line replacement. Staff are also investigating the possibility of getting wifi at Rock Glen CA, which might be able to be tied into the museum.

2025 EVENTS & PROJECT UPDATES

a) Antique Car Show

Mike Bax reported that the annual car show went ahead in September. The number of cars was lower this year, at 66 entries. There were 92 vendors in attendance, as well as 14 members from the Lions Club. Staff provided free entry until noon, and noted that there were 224 entries. Overall, Mike noted that it was a good event, but if the Lions want to increase numbers, there may need to be more advertising for the event, especially on social media.

b) Sesquicentennial Planning

Nathan Schoelier noted that the ABCA Board of Directors approved waiving the Rock Glen CA entry fee for June 13, 2026, which will be the weekend of the festivities associated with Arkona's Sesquicentennial celebrations.

LAMBTON COUNTY GRANT

Nathan Schoelier, reported that he has been in contact with Andrew Mayer from Lambton County. He reported that the Creative County Grant is available for three years of funding to help with various items at local museums, such as signage, security and displays. He noted that it would have to be a one third split, meaning that both the ABCA and Lions Club would need to contribute a third of the funding. The grant would allow access to the County's Cultural Services department, who would be willing to help with designs for signage and museum flow, etc. Nathan suggested that in the second year of funding, we could think about working on the current Education Room, and perhaps a number of final touches and project wrap up for the third year.

In general, it was agreed that this grant is worth pursuing, especially considering the help of Lambton County staff to help improve the flow of the museum. The ABCA has already committed to the grant funding, and the Lions members noted that they would bring it up at their next meeting, but believed the organization would be in favour.

HERITAGE SARNIA LAMBTON

Chair Glenn Stott reported that Heritage Sarnia Lambton ran the Passport program again this summer for Lambton Museums, and asked Mike Bax about the uptake at Rock Glen CA and the Museum. Participants had to answer a question and find two points on their passport. In general, Mike noted that it was successful, and they had a number of participants in 2025. He said that this is a very easy program for Rock Glen CA staff who are manning the gatehouse.

MUSEUM CURATOR REPORT

Adam Wisniewski noted that they would like to work closer with the Kettle and Stoney Point First Nations to ensure that the language being used around the indigenous displays at the museum is appropriate. He noted that working with Lambton County staff through this process would be very helpful. He is in favour of new signage for the museum.

Adam also wondered about having a QR code to scan for online information about fossils, as well as tying fossil finds at Rock Glen to the museum. Mike noted that he and other Rock Glen CA staff direct visitors to the museum to look at fossil examples prior to looking for them around the conservation area. Adam also mentioned the possibility of getting a student to help at the museum for the summer months, if funding could be procured.

ROCK GLEN MASTER PLAN

Nathan Schoelier, noted that he has been working on updating master plans for all of ABCA's conservation areas. This year he has been working on the plan for Rock Glen CA. He noted that previous master plans were completed in 1978, 1988 and 2004. The goal of the plan is to balance these spaces as places of recreation for people, while preserving the natural state. He reported that in the draft plan there are a number of recommendations, and staff are looking for feedback. One of the items that the Museum Committee would like to see addressed is the pedestrian access to Rock Glen CA from the Town of Arkona, along with better signage.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., unless the Chair calls an earlier meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Glenn Stott adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Glenn Stott
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator