

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins (via Zoom), Dave Jewitt, David Marsh, Wayne Shipley

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Joey Groot, Marissa Vaughan

STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Bicknell, Tina Crown, Millie Ghorbankhani, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Ben Riggin, Jaden Schoelier, Nathan Schoelier, Mari Veliz

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Ray Chartrand asked to amend the agenda to move Committee of the Whole to the beginning of the meeting.

MOTION #BD 63/26

Moved David Marsh

Seconded by Wayne Shipley

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the July 16, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting be approved as amended.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 64/26

Moved by Adrian Cornelissen

Seconded by Steve Herold

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 10:02 a.m. to discuss a personnel and property matter, with Davin Heinbuck and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance, as well as Nathan Schoelier for the latter half of the discussion.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 65/26

Moved by David Marsh

Seconded by Steve Herold

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors rise and report at 10:48 a.m.”

Carried.

Staff members returned to the Boardroom, and Chair Ray continued with the meeting.

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.

Chair Ray noted that, before continuing with the remainder of the meeting, there were several matters discussed in Committee of the Whole that require decisions from the Board of Directors. As Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, was selected as Project Executive for the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority, he will be stepping back from his role at the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), although remaining an employee of ABCA through an agreement with the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). As such, the Human Resources Committee recommended that Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship, Lands and Education Manager, be appointed as Acting GM until consolidation of conservation authorities takes place. In addition, it was discussed that Nathan would also be an appropriate staff representative appointed to the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority as staff representative.

MOTION #BD 66/26

Moved by David Marsh

Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors appoint Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship, Lands and Education Manager, as ABCA Acting General Manager, effective July 27, 2026, until the end of the Transition Period.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 67/26

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors appoint Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship, Lands and Education Manager, to the Transition Committee for the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 68/26

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors direct staff to proceed as discussed regarding the property matter.”

Carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 69/26

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on June 18, 2026, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review

Jaden Schoelier, Water & Planning Technician, presented the Development Review report pursuant to 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 6 *Applications for Permission* and 7 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Andrew Bicknell, Water and Planning Manager, did not have an update regarding ongoing violations, but noted that staff were pursuing a number of smaller violations.

MOTION #BD 70/26

Moved by Adrian Cornelissen

Seconded by Dave Jewitt

“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. 2nd Quarter Profit and Loss Statement

Tina Crown, Financial Services Coordinator, presented the 2nd quarter profit and loss statement for the ABCA. She noted that ABCA had received funding grants from several organizations including the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Ontario Ministry Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, as well as many others. She also reminded Directors that the interim billing for the levy was completed in May. Tina noted that sales and services are higher in 2026, than in 2025.

MOTION #BD 71/26

Moved by Adrian Cornelissen

Seconded by David Marsh

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the 2nd Quarter Profit and Loss Statement as presented.”

Carried.

3. Morrison Dam Conservation Area Master Plan

Nathan Schoelier presented a draft of the updated Master Plan for Morrison Dam Conservation Area. It was last updated in 2004. As with other recently updated Master Plans, one of the primary goals is to reintroduce institutional knowledge to the plan to allow for decisions to be made that consider the history of the area, alongside new resources. Nathan took a few minutes to go through some of the goals and recommendations in the plan.

The next step is to make the plan available for stakeholders and public feedback. Staff have identified several stakeholders to engage directly and will use other methods and tools to complete meaningful engagement. Any changes resulting from public consultation will be reflected in the final draft and will be brought before the Board of Directors for approval.

MOTION #BD 72/26

Moved by Wayne Shipley

Seconded by Dave Jewitt

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the draft Master Plan update for Morrison Dam Conservation Area to be made available for public and stakeholder feedback.”

Carried.

4. Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA) – Powerline Replacement

Reese Thompson, ABCA Field Services, presented the results from the Request for Quote (RFQ) opportunity regarding the replacement of the utility pole line at RGCA, which is original to the construction of the Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre. The RFQ was distributed to contractors who had previously bid on similar projects at other Conservation Authorities, and was made available on the ABCA website. Two mandatory site meetings were held with interested contractors. Two bids were received and reviewed by Nathan Schoelier and Reese Thompson on Tuesday, June 30, 2026. In consultation with Hydro One, the RFQ included several requests from both ABCA and Hydro One. While both quotes were within budget and met the requirements, staff recommend the quote received from D&D Electric Ltd. For \$17,350, plus taxes.

Some of the work identified by Hydro One are unforeseen expenses, which were not accounted for at the time of ABCA's 2026 budget preparation. The deficit for the project is in the amount of \$9,328.26. Staff recommend using property management reserves to fund this balance.

MOTION #BD 73/26**Moved by David Marsh****Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors awards the Rock Glen Conservation Area Utility Pole Replacement (RFQ-26-RGCA-01) to D&D Electric Ltd., in the amount of \$17,350.00 plus HST, and

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

Carried.

5. Watershed Monitoring Strategy (2026-2030)

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, and Ben Riffin, Healthy Watersheds Technologist presented the Board of Directors with a draft Watershed Monitoring Strategy, as well as a Summary Document. Staff used past watershed strategies and institutional knowledge to prepare these documents, which will help to guide the ABCA monitoring program. Some of the core recommendations from the Strategy include emphasizing the link between soil and water quality, maintaining strategic relationships in the watershed, filling gaps in the monitoring network, moving beyond baseline monitoring and continuing to build capable staff at ABCA. Directors continued to encourage staff to seek out funding opportunities that will help ABCA to fill some of these gaps.

MOTION #BD 74/26**Moved by Wayne Shipley****Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the Ausable Bayfield Watershed Monitoring Strategy (2026-2030).”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Great Canadian Hideaway Lease

File: L.9.29

Brief: The ABCA received a request from the owners of the Great Canadian Hideaway, who lease ABCA property in Parkhill. Earlier in 2026 a water line under the Parkhill Reservoir broke. The location of the leak was found and repaired at cost to the Great Canadian Hideaway, as per the lease agreement. However, they are asking for some assistance to help cover these costs, as well as lost revenue from the Victoria Day weekend as they had to cancel bookings. They have requested that the ABCA consider waiving the 5 % payment on sales exceeding \$250,000 for the next two years.

MOTION #BD 75/26

Moved by David Marsh

Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors agrees to waive the 5 percent payment on sales greater than \$250,000.00, for 2026-2027, to assist with cost recovery due to the unexpected water line repair in 2026.”

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Jewitt at 11:46 a.m.

Ray Chartrand
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

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