

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, December 15, 2022
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

IN PERSON/VIDEO CONFERENCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Doug Cook, Adrian Cornelissen, Bob Harvey, George Irvin, Dave Jewitt, Mike Tam, Marissa Vaughan, Alex Westman

STAFF PRESENT

Hope Brock, Geoff Cade, Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Denise Iszczuk, Daniel King, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Brooklyn Rau, Nathan Schoelier, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Mari Veliz, Cristen Watt

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Jewitt called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m., and welcomed everyone in attendance, both in person and virtually to the last meeting of the year.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Chair Jewitt read the Land Acknowledgement Statement, acknowledging the original stewards of this land, the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

As some Directors were joining the meeting a little late, it was suggested that the potential vote on the Proposed 2023 Budget be moved until later in the meeting.

MOTION #BD 115/22

**Moved George Irvin
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the December 15, 2022 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

Chair Jewitt noted that this meeting was being recorded on Zoom for temporary posting online, and is not an official record. The official record of this meeting will be the approved minutes.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**MOTION #BD 116/22**

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on November 17, 2022 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTESBill 23 and Letter to Municipalities

Brian Horner, General Manager, advised a letter was recently sent to member Municipalities and Partner Counties regarding the changes to Plan Review and Permitting Services that may result from Bill 23 – *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*. This letter notes that the various services, which may be affected, will still be offered as usual until regulations have been published.

MOTION #BD 117/22

**Moved by Bob Harvey
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the update on Bill 23 and the letter sent to Municipalities be received as presented.”

Carried.

Parkhill Dam Hydro and Telephone Service Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, provided a verbal update on the Hydro and Telephone line at the Parkhill Dam, which was inadvertently severed during construction of a new watermain in Parkhill. The connections have now been restored. Board members

wondered about the cost of reconnecting the lines; however, ABCA has not received any information on cost or an invoice as of yet.

MOTION #BD 118/22

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by George Irvin**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors received the verbal report on the Parkhill Dam hydro and telephone services as presented.

Carried.

Doug Cook joined the meeting via Zoom.

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

Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator, presented the Development Review report pursuant to Ontario Regulation 147/06 *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*. 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 4 *Minor Works Applications*.

MOTION #BD 119/22

**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Ray Chartand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors affirm the approval of applications as presented in Program Report # 1 – a) Development Review.”

Carried.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade reported that there are still several violations before the courts. Two are expected to be resolved shortly. The landowner involved in a violation in Lambton Shores has now pled guilty; however, the court process is continuing regarding restoration of the area. In addition, a those involved in a violation in Central Huron have provided further information and it is expected that resolution should follow shortly.

MOTION #BD 120/22

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors receive b) Violations and Appeals update as presented.”

Carried.

2. Conservation Authorities Act Update

Brian Horner provided an update on the ongoing implementation of the *Conservation Authorities Act Update*. He reported that staff have prepared the Quarterly Progress Report for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), which will be sent before the end of the year. In addition, staff have incorporated feedback from municipal staff into the draft Cost Apportioning Agreement for Category 3 programs and services. Finally, the approved Fee Policy has been posted on the ABCA Governance webpage.

MOTION #BD 121/22

**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors receive the update on the *Conservation Authorities Act* as presented.”

Carried.

3. Cost Apportioning Agreement for Category 3 Programs and Services

Through the Conservation Authorities Act, Conservation Authorities are enabled to provide programs and services to municipalities it determines are advisable to further the purposes of the Act. This will be done through a Cost Apportioning Agreement (CAA) between municipalities and the Conservation Authority. ABCA staff have met with staff members from all twelve member municipalities to discuss an initial draft agreement. Municipal staff were supportive of the agreement and provided feedback that was incorporated into the draft.

The next step is for ABCA staff to distribute the draft CAA to municipal councils in the first quarter of 2023, and staff will be available to attend council meetings to discuss the CAA. Councils will have the opportunity to consider and decide which services they wish to have in their agreement. It is hoped that all municipalities will support all service areas: Watershed and Sub-Watershed Plans and Projects; Environmental Monitoring and Research; Watershed Stewardship and Restoration; and Conservation Education and Community Outreach. The ABCA Transition Plan calls for agreements to be signed in summer 2023 in order to inform the 2024 ABCA budget process. The annual budget and levy will continue to be approved by the Board of Directors. A copy of the Draft CAA template was provided to all Board members. Staff have suggested that the first agreement be for five years, to account for the next council, and then every four years to ensure that each subsequent council has an opportunity to review the CAA.

Marissa Vaughan asked that the Cost Apportioning amounts for each municipality be included in the draft CAA, as it is likely that councils will want to see what each municipality would contribute, and it makes the process more transparent for municipalities. In addition, some Board members noted that a five year initial agreement may be too long, and councils may want a shorter agreement to begin.

MOTION #BD 122/22

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Bob Harvey**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors receive the report on the Draft Cost Apportioning Agreement, and

“FURTHER, THAT the Draft Cost Apportioning Agreement be approved as amended, showing the apportionment of Category 3 Service Areas, for distribution to member municipalities.”

Carried.

4. Stewardship Project Review

Brooklyn Rau, Stewardship Technician, provided a brief update on new stewardship projects funded by the Canada Nature Fund. In the Ausable River watershed, 2 additional fragile land retirement projects received funding, along with 1 cover crop project. In the Bayfield River watershed 1 erosion control project received funding, as well as 22 cover crop projects.

MOTION #BD 123/22

**Moved by Doug Cook
Seconded by Alex Westman**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Stewardship Project Review be received as presented.”

Carried.

5. Education Update

Denise Iszczuk, Conservation Educator, provided an end-of-year summary of education and outreach in the watershed. Some of the highlights included higher participation in all conservation programs and increase student participation in the River and Flood Safety program. Summer Day camps remained popular with 2 full-week day camp programs, along with 6 one-day programs held at Morrison Dam Conservation Area, Rock Glen Conservation Area, and Clinton Conservation Area. Conservation education programs were delivered to 72% of all watershed schools, the majority of programs being held in May and June, as well as October and November. Overall, conservation education and outreach programs remain popular in the watershed, and staff were encouraged by high participation in 2022.

MOTION #BD 124/22

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Alex Westman**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on Environmental Education and Outreach be received as presented.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

Vote on 2023 Proposed General Levy, Project Levy, and Budget

Due to time constraints of some Board Member, Chair Jewitt asked that the program reports be interrupted to hold the vote on the Proposed 2023 Budget

Brian Horner reviewed the project and general levy totals and advised that approval is by weighted vote.

2023 Proposed General Levy and Project Levy Vote

MOTION #BD 125/22

**Moved by Doug Cook
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the 2023 General Levy be approved at \$1,149,362”

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Adelaide Metcalfe	✓		
Bluewater	✓		
Central Huron	✓		
Huron East	✓		
Lambton Shores	✓		
Lucan Biddulph	✓		
Middlesex Centre	✓		
North Middlesex	✓		
Perth South	✓		
South Huron	✓		
Warwick	✓		
West Perth	✓		

“AND FURTHER, THAT the 2023 Project Levy be approved at \$253,340.”

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Adelaide Metcalfe	✓		
Bluewater	✓		
Central Huron	✓		
Huron East	✓		
Lambton Shores	✓		
Lucan Biddulph	✓		
Middlesex Centre	✓		
North Middlesex	✓		
Perth South	✓		
South Huron	✓		
Warwick	✓		
West Perth	✓		

“The result was Yea 100% based on the current value assessment apportionment schedule.”

Carried.

2023 Proposed Budget

MOTION #BD 126/21

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Mike Tam**

“RESOLVED, THAT the proposed 2023 overall budget be approved.”

Carried.

Ray Chartrand left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

PROGRAM REPORTS - CONTINUED

6. 2023 Watershed Report Card

Hope Brock, Healthy Watersheds Technician, and Cristen Watt, Water Quality Technician, presented a report on the 2023 Watershed Report Cards. Every five years, Conservation Authority staff publish a report card for their watersheds in partnership with Conservation Ontario. The newest edition of the Watershed Report Cards for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority will be published in March 2023. The report cards provide a

summary for each subwatershed using several indicators, including: *E. coli*, benthic macroinvertebrates and phosphorus for water quality; forest cover, streamside cover and forest interior for forest conditions; chloride and nitrate levels for groundwater; overwinter vegetation; and, wetlands. Conservation Ontario sets out the methodology for most indicators to ensure that watersheds are comparable across Ontario. The final Watershed Report Cards for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority will be released in March 2023.

MOTION #BD 127/22

**Moved by Bob Harvey
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the ABCA 2023 Watershed Report Cards be received as presented.”

Carried.

7. Striking Committee and Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule

Brian Horner reported that the Striking Committee (comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair and Past Chair) normally meet in January to approved the yearly meeting schedule and appoint or confirm appointments to ABCA committees. Due to election outcomes, the Striking Committee will not be able to meet until after the Annual General Meeting in February. As such, a draft meeting schedule for 2023 has been provided to Board members, and it has been recommended that an alternate for the Striking committee be appointed in February, as it is possible that the committee will be short one member.

MOTION #BD 128/22

**Moved by Mike Tam
Seconded by Doug Cook**

“RESOLVED that the recommendation that the ABCA Board of Directors appoint an Alternate to the Striking Committee in at the Annual General meeting in February, be approved as amended.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**MOTION #BD 129/22**

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Friends of the South Huron Trail meeting held on November 7, 2022 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 130/22

**Moved by Alex Westman
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting from November 29, 2022 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

The Committee Report from the Source Protection Committee was moved to the Source Protection Authority meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Municipal Representatives for ABCA Board of Directors
File: A.10.1

Brief: Brian Horner received correspondence from a number of municipalities regarding appointments to the ABCA Board of Directors. To date, the appointments are as follows:

- Municipality of Bluewater – Councilor Greg Lampert
- Municipality of North Middlesex – Councilor Adrian Corneslissen
- Municipalities of Middlesex Centre and Adelaide Metcalfe – Councilor Wayne Shipley
- Municipality of Central Huron – Mayor Jim Ginn (interim). Central Huron has applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for permission to reappoint Dave Jewitt as a community representative for Central Huron.

Marissa Vaughan indicated that she was to be reappointed for the Municipality of South Huron, and Doug Cook noted that Dave Marsh of Arkona was to be appointed for the Municipality of Lambton Shores. In addition, Alex Westman indicated that he would not be returning to the ABCA Board, but that Jaden Hodgins was being appointed for the term. Confirmation of these appointments is forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Thank You

Dave Jewitt thanked those Board members who will not be returning to the ABCA Board in the new year for their many years of service and input and congratulated those who will be returning for the next term.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 131/22

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Marissa**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 4:58 p.m. to discuss a legal matter and property matter with Brian Horner, Abigail Gutteridge, Geoff Cade, Daniel King and Nathan Schoelier remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 132/22

**Moved by George Irvin
Seconded by Doug Cook**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 5:12 p.m.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Dave Jewitt
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

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