

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Jim Ginn, Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins, Greg Lamport, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tracey McPherson, Nathan Schoelier, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Angela Van Niekerk, Mari Veliz

OTHERS PRESENT

Adam Skillen, *Skillen Investment Management*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 33/23

Moved Dave Marsh

Seconded by Ray Chartrand

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the April 13, 2023 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 34/23**

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 16, 2023 be adopted as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PRESENTATION

Adam Skillen, Skillen Investment Management, presented an update on the investment portfolio, which, despite a downturn in the last year, has started to increase. It continues to perform well overall in comparison to global markets. Bonds continue to suffer, and they have slow been rotating towards more GICs for a better return. At present, our targets for 65% bonds and 35% equity have drifted to approximately 60% bonds, 38% equity and 2% cash and cash equivalents.

MOTION #BD 35/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the investments update from Skillen Investment Management be received as presented.”

Carried.

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 7 *Applications for Permission* and 8 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, provided a brief update on an ongoing violation in Beach of Pines in Lambton Shores. It is going through the court process for restoration, which would involve removal of a portion of the shoreline protection wall.

MOTION #BD 36/23**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen****Seconded by Greg Lamport**

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

Carried.

2. Resource-Based Watershed Management Strategy

Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator, reported on the initial phase of the Resource-Based Watershed Strategy, which is a mandatory (Category 1) program in the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act) and is included in the 2023 budget. This document will guide the management and operations of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA). The strategy will meet all of the required components set out by the CA Act, as well as meet the future needs of the ABCA. It will include a summary of existing technical studies, a review of mandatory programs and services, outline a process for review of the Strategy. From a staff perspective, the document will need to be in a usable format and be a resource available for municipalities and other agencies. Climate change will be a theme throughout the document.

Public consultation will be a vital part of the process and will mostly take place via the website and social media, and in person meetings with key stakeholders, such as the First Nations community. Staff anticipate that the document will be ready in November 2023.

MOTION #BD 37/23**Moved by Wayne Shipley****Seconded by Greg Lamport**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Resource-Based Watershed Management Strategy be received as presented.”

Carried.

3. Supporting ABCA’s Conservation Areas

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, presented a report on an opportunity for the public to continue to support local conservation areas. These areas are important, not only to the environment, but to the community by providing green space for those who live in the watershed. They provide opportunities for various passive recreation, such as hiking, bicycling, birdwatching, fishing, canoeing and hunting where permitted. ABCA relies on the community to help support and maintain these areas and works with several community groups to help this effort. Expenses are also covered through cost-recovery efforts, such as timber harvest, gate fees at Rock Glen Conservation Area, the sale of hunting permits and rent through an agricultural lease. ABCA’s conservation areas provide an opportunity to facilitate donations from visitors and trail users by installing signage that directs them to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation’s donation page. The estimated costs per sign is \$40-50, which would be offset by donations. Staff recommend the installation of this signage.

MOTION #BD 38/23

**Moved by Jim Ginn
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on Supporting ABCA’s Conservation Areas by received as presented, and

“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the installation of signage depicted in the report, at its conservation areas.”

Carried.

4. 1st Quarter Profit and Loss Statement

Brian Horner, General Manager, presented the financial statement for January through March 2023 with comparables to the 2023 budget.

MOTION #BD 39/23

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Jim Ginn**

“RESOLVED, THAT the 1st Quarter Profit and Loss Statement by received as presented.”

Carried.

5. Flood Emergency Planning Meeting

Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator, provided a report on the Flood Emergency Planning meeting, which is held annually with staff from Member Municipalities and other flood responders. This year, 47 attendees represented 8 watershed municipalities, three counties, Emergency Management Ontario, Lambton OPP and three neighbouring conservation authorities. This meeting outlined the roles and responsibilities of those involved in flood response, provided background on the ABCA Flood Forecasting and Warning Network, and provided an update on current watershed conditions and the flood outlook. This year, the feature presentation, “Extreme Weather in the Great Lakes Region” was made by Mark Robinson of The Weather Network.

MOTION #BD 40/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Flood Emergency Planning Meeting be received as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 41/23

**Moved by Greg Lamport
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Committee meetings held on March 1, 2023 and May 29, 2023 and the motions therein be approved as circulated, and

“FURTHER, THAT the minutes of the Friends of the South Huron Trail meeting held on March 27, 2022 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDANCE

- a) Reference: Letter of Resignation
File: P.1
Brief: A letter of resignation from Conservation Educator, Denise Iszczuk, who notes that her last day will be April 22, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Brian Horner provided a brief update on staff meetings with Municipal Councils over the last months. To date, staff have met with Bluewater, Lucan Biddulph, and Middlesex Centre, and meetings have been set up with most other member municipalities.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 42/23

**Moved by Jim Ginn
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 12:00 p.m. to discuss a property matter with Nathan Schoelier, Brian Horner and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 43/23

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 12:03 p.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 44/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

“RESOLVED, THAT the information on the property matter be received as presented.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

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

DRAFT