

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, September 21, 2023
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Hope Brock, Geoff Cade, Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Ian Jean, Daniel King, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tracey McPherson, Nathan Schoelier

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 77/23

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the September 21, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting be approved,”

Carried.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Jaden Hodgins noted that he would recuse himself from the discussion and decision regarding Report 4 – Parkhill Conservation Area Recreational Trails Concept, as he is an employee of the Municipality of North Middlesex.

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO RECORD

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 78/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on July 20, 2023 be adopted.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

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 12 *Applications for Permission* and 14 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, noted that there were no updates on current violations.

MOTION #BD 79/23

**Moved by Dave Marsh
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 Violations and Appeals update as presented.”

Carried.

Daniel King left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

2. **Conservation Authorities Act Update**

Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator, reported on the progress of the Conservation Authorities Act and associated regulations for information purposes. To date, ten member municipalities have entered into the Cost Apportioning Agreements with the ABCA, including Adelaide Metcalfe, Bluewater, Central Huron, Huron East, Lambton Shores, Lucan Biddulph, Middlesex Centre, North Middlesex, and West Perth. The Township of Warwick has not yet decided, but the Agreement is scheduled to be presented to Council in October. The Municipality of Perth South will not be entering into the Cost Apportioning Agreement. Staff will be submitting the final progress report for the transition phase prior to the October 1 deadline.

MOTION #BD 80/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Conservation Authorities Act Update be received as presented.”

Carried.

3. Stewardship Update

Ian Jean, Forestry and Land Stewardship Specialist, provided an update of stewardship projects through various funding sources. Through Canada Nature Fund six wetland, one erosion control project, and eight fragile land retirement projects were funded for the Ausable River Watershed. Five wetlands and five fragile land retirement projects were funded through Nature Smart Climate Solutions, a funding initiative through Environment and Climate Change Canada. Jaden Hodgins requested that staff present in the future on the various projects that are completed through this funding, as well as other initiatives that the funding supports, such as monitoring or education and outreach.

MOTION #BD 81/23

Moved by Ray Chartrand

Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

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

Carried.

4. Parkhill Conservation Area Recreational Trails Concept

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Lands Manager, presented the concept for revitalizing the hiking trails at Parkhill Conservation Area. As per direction from the ABCA Board of Directors in March 2023, staff have been collaborating with interested parties, such as the Municipality of North Middlesex, the North Middlesex Trails volunteer group, and the local Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs to develop a trails concept. The North Middlesex Trail group is interested in moving forward with fundraising for this project, which could happen through the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation. The concept was taken to North Middlesex Council in August 2023, and ABCA staff are satisfied with the concept which meets the requirements for trails under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). They are willing to move forward with the community. Dave Jewitt noted that sometimes community groups can “age out,” and wondered about maintenance going forward should that ever happen in this instance. Nathan noted that the trails would be low maintenance and would not be a large burden on staff or resources.

MOTION #BD 82/23

Moved by Greg Lamport

Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive and approve the report on the Parkhill Conservation Area trail concept as presented, and

“FURTHER, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation be engaged to support the project.”

Carried.

5. Canoe and Kayak Launch at Morrison Dam Conservation Area

Nathan Schoelier updated the Board regarding a community fundraising effort for Morrison Dam Conservation Area (MDCA). In August 2023, ABCA staff were approached by Exeter resident, Susan Riddell, about the potential for a kayak launch to be installed at MDCA. She inquired about fundraising for such a launch upon learning that the funding was not available to purchase one. As she wanted to hold an informal event for ladies to Kayak at Morrison Dam on August 2022, her goal was to raise the money needed by that date. ABCA staff approached EZ Dock to receive a quote on a suitable launch for the current dock. Ms. Riddell began her fundraising efforts and raised a total of \$10,500 for its purchase within a week. The launch was installed prior to the August 22 event. Ms. Riddell used this opportunity to turn the informal activity into a fundraising event for Big Brother Big Sisters of South Huron. Over 100 ladies attended the event, and ABCA prepared a media release to highlight this community success story.

MOTION #BD 83/23

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Canoe and Kayak Launch at Morrison Dam Conservation Area be received as presented.”

Carried.

6. Healthy Watersheds Update

Hope Brock, Healthy Watersheds Technician, provided an update on some of the recent monitoring and community outreach efforts of the Healthy Watersheds Department. Along with ongoing sampling for the Province, ABCA Biologists were able to secure funding through the Canada Nature Fund to focus on species at risk assessment of the Bayfield River. In addition, the Turtle Hatching Release was again held at Morrison Dam CA in August in partnership with the Huron Stewardship Council. Nearly 600 people attended this event. ABCA staff used the opportunity to remind the community about the importance of natural infrastructure as habitat for rare species. Finally, Healthy Watersheds Manager Mari Veliz worked with community organizers in Port Franks to host a meeting regarding a fish die-off in that area. This event was well attended and the community was encouraged to support positive efforts in their community.

MOTION #BD 84/23

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Greg Lamport**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Healthy Watersheds update be received as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 85/23

**Moved by Greg Lamport
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held on August 30, 2023 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDANCE

- a) Reference: Donation from the Rundle Family
File: A.5
Brief: A thank you note from the Rundle Family for the many years of visits to the Morrison Dam Conservation Area and surrounding trails, including a \$5000.00 donation.

- b) Reference: Letter from the Township of Perth South
File: A.39.1.1
Brief: A letter from Perth South Clerk, Lizet Scott, thanking staff for their presentation regarding the Cost Apportioning Agreement, and noting that the Agreement was brought before Council on July 18, and that the Township decided not to proceed with any Category 3 programs with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

- c) Letter of Resignation
File: P.1
Brief: A letter of resignation from Ross Wilson, ABCA Water and Soils Resources Coordinator, noting his last day of employment as October 5, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adrian Cornelissen asked how the ABCA handles planning review fees with municipalities. Geoff Cade noted that in North Middlesex the municipality collects and holds the fees, then the ABCA bills them directly, which is the ABCA’s preferred method for handling these fees.

2. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Chair Marissa Vaughan thanked ABCA staff for the bus tour held in August.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 86/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:00 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter with Brian Horner and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 87/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 11:35 a.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 88/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the information on the personnel matter be received as presented and staff proceed as discussed.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 p.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

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