

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, December 14, 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

Geoff Cade, Tina Crown, Cassie Greidanus, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Tracey McPherson, Kate Monk, Nathan Schoelier, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Montgomery

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 120/23

Moved Steve Herold

Seconded by Ray Chartrand

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the December 14, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting be approved as amended.”

Carried.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO RECORD

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 121/23

**Moved by Dave Marsh
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

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

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

Risk Management Official Servicing Agreement Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, provided a verbal update that the Risk Management Servicing Agreement for the continued implementation of the Drinking Water Source Protection Plans has been signed by all participating municipalities. This Agreement will remain in place for three years.

Investment Policy Statement

As requested by the Board of Directors, Brian Horner, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, provided a report regarding the Investment Policy Statement and Discretionary Management Account Agreement that was signed in 2016 between the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) and Adam Skillen of Raymond James. The Board asked staff to work with Adam to make an addition to the policy regarding investment in ethical and environmental companies. As such, Adam suggested the attached wording under Unique Circumstances, which includes the ABCA’s mission and vision, noting that it should be included in the investment decisions made within the portfolio.

MOTION #BD 122/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the additional wording, as presented, be included in the Investment Policy Statement & Discretionary Management Account Agreement.”

Carried.

Vote on 2024 Proposed Operating Levies (Categories 1 and 3), and Budget

Brian Horner reviewed the operating levies for both Category 1 and 3 programs and services, and advised that approval is by weighted vote.

2024 Proposed Operating Levies Vote

MOTION #BD 123/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the 2023 Operating Levy for Category 1 be approved at \$1,276,648.”

	<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.

MOTION #BD 124/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the 2023 Operating Levy for Category 3 be approved at \$163,974.”

	<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.

It was recognized by the Board that Perth South did not sign the Category 3 Agreement.

2024 Proposed Budget

MOTION #BD 125/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the proposed 2024 overall budget be approved.”

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 8 *Applications for Permission* and 6 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, verbally reported that staff are in negotiations with some landowners in Lambton Shores and Bluewater in an effort to resolve ongoing violations. Staff were asked about the recent news release in partnership with Maitland Valley Conservation, regarding unsafe bluff. Geoff noted that this was released as a public service that this can be a dangerous time along bluffs, but we haven't recently experienced any catastrophic erosion.

MOTION #BD 126/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
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 verbal Violations and Appeals update as presented.”

Carried.

2. Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy Implementation Programs

Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator, presented an update on the Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy (WBRMS), which is a mandatory programs in the Conservation Authorities Act. It will guide the management and operations of the ABCA. The programs, policies, and services

of the ABCA will implement the actions needed to achieve the ABCA's mission. All programs listed in the WBRMS have been identified in the Inventory of Programs and Services. No new programs have been recommended, but improvements have been identified. Programs include Corporate Services, Conservation Authority Lands, Drinking Water Source Protection, Education and Outreach, Healthy Watersheds, Water and Planning (Natural Hazards), Watershed Stewardship and Restoration.

In addition, a review of Category 1 programs and services was undertaken by senior staff at the ABCA, as a required component of the WBRMS. This review used the Inventory of Programs and Services and determined if the program meets the requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act, identified issues and risks that limit program effectiveness, note actions to address the issues and risks, and estimate costs to implement the actions. Some of the issues identified included aging infrastructure that will need major maintenance or repairs, additional stream gauges and a new hydrology model to aid in flood forecasting, community based subwatershed plans to address local environmental issues, additional funding for water quality monitoring where investigations are needed for specific issues, and additional funding to restrict prohibited uses on conservation lands through signage and enforcement. Funding is a common concern across all programs.

MOTION #BD 127/23

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

"RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors receives the Category 1 Review results for information, and

"FURTHER, THAT the Board of directors approves the list of programs for distribution to the public for consultation."

Carried.

3. Stewardship Update

Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands Specialist, provided an overview of the types of stewardship projects that ABCA staff help local landowners implement on their properties. She also went over the various funding programs and the projects implemented through them. Through the Ontario Community Environment Fund 21 wetland restoration projects and 24 fragile land retirement projects were funded. Through the Wetlands Conservation Partner Program, 16 wetlands and 9 fragile land retirement projects were funded. The Canada Nature Fund helped landowners implement 7 wetlands, two erosion control projects, 7 fragile land retirement projects, and 58 cover crop projects. Nature Smart Climate Solutions helped to fund 7 wetlands, 15 fragile land retirement projects, and 9 cover crop projects.

MOTION #BD 128/23

**Moved by Steve Herold
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Stewardship Reports be received as presented for information.”

Carried.

4. Tree Planting Program – 2023 Summary

Ian Jean, Forestry and Land Stewardship Specialist, provided a summary report of the tree planting program for 2023. Tree planting programs occur in spring and fall, with the spring program typically being larger. ABCA also provides technical advice to landowners. The program operates on a cost recovery bases and is supported through technical service fees and tree sales. Project cost share funding is also available to landowners through the Huron Clean Water Project, and West Perth Healthy Forests Initiative, the Ontario Community Environmental Fund, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, as well as federal programs through Forests Ontario, Canada Nature Fund, and the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and EcoAction. In total, 42,770 trees were planted through the ABCA program, and 246 landowners participated. Types of projects include windbreaks, riparian buffers and forest restoration.

MOTION #BD 129/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the Tree Planting Program – 2023 Summary be received as presented for information.”

Carried.

5. Conservation Education Update

Cassie Greidanus, Conservation Education Coordinator, provided the Board with a summary for 2023. This was a transition year for the education department at ABCA and several staff members stepped up to help while the transition occurred. In 2023, ABCA staff delivered 31 non-profit programs, which are funded by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation. Three special events have also been held since the summer, including a World Water Monitoring event, Owl Prowl and Make Peace with Winter. School programming was very high this year with 205 programs delivered in total, many of which were school yard programs. It is estimated that 6,476 students will have been reached by the end of 2023. In addition, five weeks of day camp were held at Morrison Dam Conservation Area.

Over the next year, conservation education staff will be working on program updates, including adding in more aspects of Indigenous Knowledge and connections to mental health and wellbeing. Staff will also be streamlining the booking and feedback process, offer four weeks of day camp, run the River Safety program, and host Envirothon for Huron Perth region.

MOTION #BD 130/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT Conservation Education Summary Report be received as presented for information.”

Carried.

6. GNSS Purchase

Tracey McPherson, GIS/IT Coordinator, reported that ABCA recently purchased a new survey grade GNSS/GPS unit with topped-up funding from Canada Nature Fund. This will be used to perform post-constructed surveys on wetlands to verify contractor design specification and to provide accurate storage calculations to determine the effectiveness of the design. Quotations were received for this unit, and staff purchased this new system for \$9,400 plus tax. This purchase was not identified in the budget.

MOTION #BD 131/23

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

“RESOLVED, THAT the GNSS purchase report be received as presented for information.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 132/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Friends of the South Huron Trail meeting held on November 6, 2023 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 133/23

**Moved by Greg Lamport
Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting held on November 29, 2023 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDANCE

- a) Reference: DWSP Program – 2024-2027 Call for Applications
File: A.5.8
Brief: An email from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks announcing a call for applications to source protection authorities for the upcoming three-year period from

April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2027. This is the first time they have offered a three year work planning process.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Greg Lamport reported that the Turnbull's Grove community along the lake has applied to the Green Municipal Fund for a new, large septic system. He would like to thank Mari for her report on water quality, which highlights the importance of having these older systems replaced.
2. Brian Horner informed the Board of Directors that the Warner Property in Grand Bend has now been fully transferred to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, who is holding it in trust for the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy. It was transferred to the Foundation as it applied for EcoGift status, meaning that it can only be transferred to an organization that holds charitable status.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

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