

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, June 12, 2014

AMO Office
200 University Avenue, Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

ROMA Executive:

ROMA Chair Ron Eddy, Mayor, County of Brant (Zone 3)
Past Chair Bill Vrebosch, Mayor, Township of East Ferris (Zone 9)
First Vice-Chair Doug Thompson, Councillor, City of Ottawa (Zone 8) (by conference call)

Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives

Bill Bilton, Mayor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)
Ronald Holman, Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes (AMO Rural Caucus)
Jim Sheedy, Councillor, Township of Laurentian Valley (Zone 6) (by conference call)
Allan Thompson, Councillor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4) (by conference call)

Staff:

Nancy Plumridge, ROMA Executive-Treasurer
Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor
Lorna Ruder, Executive Assistant
Renatta Austin, Policy Intern

Regrets:

Bill Davis, Deputy Reeve, Township of Dysart et al (Zone 5)
Eleanor Renaud, Councillor, Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley (Zone 7)
Second Vice-Chris White, Warden, County of Wellington (Zone 2)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Ron Eddy welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Declaration
 - Pecuniary interest – none
 - Early departure – Jim Sheedy, Allan Thompson, Doug Thompson

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of ROMA Board Minutes April 10, 2014

Moved by: Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by: Bill Bilton

“That the minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held Thursday, April 10, 2014, be approved as circulated.”

CARRIED

4. Executive-Treasurer’s Report

Audit Strategies and Results Report

Moved by: Ron Holman
Seconded by: Bill Bilton

“That the report be received.”

CARRIED

2013 Audited Financial Statements

Moved by: Ron Holman
Seconded by: Bill Bilton

“That the 2013 Audited Financial Statements be approved.”

CARRIED

First Quarter Financial Statements

Nancy Plumridge advised the ROMA Board that she will provide a copy of the original ROMA/OGRA Conference agreement for discussion and review at their next meeting, August 17, 2014, AMO Annual Conference, London, Ontario.

Moved by: Doug Thompson
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

“That the report be received.

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

5. Loss of Agricultural Land

Margaret Walton, Partner and Senior Planner for Planscape, gave a presentation on the statistics of the loss of agricultural land in Ontario. She also discussed the challenges created by the shifts in the methods used by Statistics Canada the 2011 data.

6. Private Waste Water Disposal Systems

Professor John Fitzgibbon and PhD Candidate James Johnstone, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, University Of Guelph, discussed their research on private waste water systems. Professor Fitzgibbon gave a presentation on private water and waste water services in Ontario, and James Johnston reviewed his study on the comparison of municipal-residential drinking water system capacity in Rural and Urban Ontario.

7. 2014 OGRA/ROMA Conference Planning

The ROMA Board had a brainstorming session on key strategic priorities for the February OGRA/ROMA Conference.

POLICY ITEMS

8. Policy Update

Cathie Brown discussed the upcoming provincial election and reviewed AMO's Municipal Priorities handout.

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

9. i) Human Wildlife Conflict Group

No report.

ii) Drainage Working Groups

Bill Bilton noted that the DART group meetings are on hold due to the election. The Drains Action Working Group met in April with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Fisheries issues are no longer going to create an environmental assessment of municipal drains and the final say rests with the Minister who has to sign off. It is hoped that the turnaround time will be ten days, a significant improvement to the current system.

ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)

No report.

iii) Bobolink Working Group

Allan Thompson will forward the approved regulations once the provincial election is over and the government is back to work.

iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group

No report.

v) 911 Ontario Advisory Board

No report.

vi) Other

No report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. D-5-5

Cathie Brown noted that this is a guideline developed in 1996 to outline hydrogeological information required and explain how to safely build private and communal wells. It has a focus on plans of subdivision. Doug Thompson discussed the issues in the City of Ottawa where a group of landowners says that the City should not be using these guidelines as the fractured bedrock allows more infiltration than the guideline anticipates. A recent newspaper article regarding water quality in Portland has raised concerns about private services. The City of Ottawa has set up a water quality task force to consider this situation. Doug Thompson will bring forward any developments to a future meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS (11 – 14)

The ROMA Board agreed that the Chair should respond in writing to resolutions on rural issues provided by municipalities.

INFORMATION ITEMS RECEIVED

OTHER BUSINESS

15. Other business brought forward by members

The ROMA Board discussed hi speed internet, and inviting a guest to discuss how municipalities can better manage communications towers to a future meeting. Cathie Brown discussed FCM's protocol for communications towers.

ADJOURNMENT

16. Next meeting: Sunday, August 17, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., AMO Annual Conference, London, Ontario.

To be placed on the agenda:

- ROMA/OGRA Conference agreement (see item 4)
- ROMA conference update
- Delegation from Huron County re: their Rural Lens document

17. Adjournment

Chair Eddy declared the meeting adjourned.