

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, October 2, 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)
Eleanor Renaud, Councillor, Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley (Zone 7)
Allan Thompson, Councillor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)

Staff:

Nancy Plumridge, ROMA Executive-Treasurer
Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor
Nicholas Ruder, AMO Policy Advisor
Lorna Ruder, AMO Executive Assistant

Regrets:

Second Vice-Chris White, Warden, County of Wellington (Zone 2)
Bill Davis, Deputy Reeve, Township of Dysart et al (Zone 5)
Jim Sheedy, Councillor, Township of Laurentian Valley (Zone 6)
Chris Wray, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Wawa (AMO Rural Caucus)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Ron Eddy welcomed the ROMA Board to the meeting. As Scott Butler had to leave for another meeting, it was agreed to place conference planning item on the agenda after the declarations.

2. Declaration
 - Pecuniary interest – none
 - Early departure – Doug Thompson

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2a. OGRA/ROMA Conference Planning

The ROMA Board, Scott Butler, OGRA Manager, Policy and Research, and AMO Senior Advisor Cathie Brown reviewed topics, potential speakers and events for the 2015 conference. Cathie Brown began with a review of the topics that had been proposed by ROMA at previous meetings. Discussion included two requests brought forward to ROMA for workshop sessions – one from Huron County re: its Rural Lens, and the other from the Ontario Onsite Water Association (OOWA) re: communal servicing. It was agreed that there should be a joint ROMA/Huron County session on their respective Rural Lenses, and that OOWA would be best accommodated in the Trade Show.

Chair Ron Eddy discussed the request he had received from the Six Nations of the Grand River regarding a First Nations Panel proposal for the conference. It was agreed that it should be part of the conference. Chair Ron Eddy and Cathie Brown will follow up.

Scott Butler provided an update on conference planning, new features and events at the conference. Sunday activities for students and small rural municipalities were presented. Both were supported by the Board. Further, Scott Butler provided an update on increases to registration fees, housing and hotel changes. He indicated that the City of Toronto will be setting up a recruitment booth as well as sponsor the student event. ROMA recommended that the proposed session aimed at students use the existing program run by Jim Pine. Another new feature would be very short presentations by innovators. A number of ideas were suggested.

The Board asked for more details on the types of sessions being planned. Scott Butler indicated that the concurrent sessions would be presented in five streams: asset management, revenue and savings, communications, transportation, development & growth, law and order. Details about the law and order stream were requested as a concern was raised about issues before the courts and other broader municipal positioning on these issues. The examples provided related to land use planning types of concerns.

Key note speakers were listed by Scott Butler. It was indicated that no further planning meetings between OGRA and ROMA were planned.

Moved by: Bill Bilton
Seconded by: Eleanor Renaud

“That on Sunday, February 22, 2014, a roundtable session be held for municipalities with a population of 10,000 or less, to discuss issues of importance to their communities, and

That a list of key messages arising from this session be created for conference delegates.”

CARRIED

3. Approval Minutes of August 6 & 17, 2014 ROMA Board Meetings

Moved by: Eleanor Renaud

Seconded by: Allan Thompson

“That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meetings held August 6 & 17, 2014 be approved as circulated.”

CARRIED

4. Executive-Treasurer’s Report

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the financial statements and miscellaneous expense report for the eight months ending August 31, 2014.

Moved by: Bill Vrebosch

Seconded by: Ron Holman

“That the report of the Executive Treasurer be received.”

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

5. Refreshed Rural Lens

Moved by: Allan Thompson

Seconded by: Eleanor Renaud

“That Dr. Wayne Caldwell, University of Guelph, be requested to review and refresh the October 2011 Rural Lens paper ‘A Voice for Rural Ontario’;

That \$15,000 be allocated for this project; and

That the updated Rural Lens paper be released at the 2015 OGRA/ROMA conference, at a joint workshop with Huron County.”

CARRIED

Staff will follow up with a letter to the Warden of Huron County about the joint workshop at the conference, featuring both the Huron County Rural Lens and the ROMA Rural Lens.

6. OGRA/ROMA 2015 Conference Planning

See item 2a.

7. ROMA/OGRA Conference Contract

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the ROMA/OGRA conference contract, which was prepared in 2004 based on agreement reached in 2000. She reviewed auditors concerns on the financial report that ROMA receives after the conference.

Moved by: Ron Holman
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

“That staff contact OGRA to address the auditors’ concerns;

That a working group be struck to review the current conference contract with OGRA; and

That the working group consist of Chair Ron Eddy, Eleanor Renaud, Allan Thompson, Bill Vrebosch and Nancy Plumridge.”

CARRIED

8. Rural Transportation Research

Janet Horner, Chair, Rob Black, CEO, and Norman Ragetlie, Director, Policy and Stakeholder Engagement, Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) provided an update on the Accelerating Rural Transportation Solutions (ACTS) project that ROI recently completed.

Moved by: Allan Thompson
Seconded by: Ron Holman

“That ROMA supports the ACTS project by:

- Promotion of the resource document;***
- Article of support in the OGRA magazine ‘Milestones’;***
- Session at the conference; and***
- Attending with ROI as a delegation to the Minister of Transportation in support of the project.”***

CARRIED

9. Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program

Barbara Breston, Team Leader, Jeannie Lee, Senior Policy Advisor, and Tasneem Essaji, Manager, Municipal Transit Policy Office, Ministry of Transportation (MTO) gave a presentation on MTO's community transportation pilot grant program. ROMA Board members discussed the value of using community school buses in off hours as part of the project.

10. Industry Canada Spectrum Policy

C.J. Prudham, EVP General Counsel, Xplornet Communications Inc., and Anne Marie Quinn, Senior Vice President and Partner, Fleishman-Hillard reviewed the changes proposed by Industry Canada. The proposal would reclassify vast rural areas as "urban" licenses. These "urban" licenses would be taken from rural internet service providers currently providing service to rural Ontarians and given to telecommunication companies for future cellular phone use. Submissions are due in the Industry Canada office by October 8, 2014.

Moved by: Allan Thompson
Seconded by: Eleanor Renaud

"That ROMA make a submission to Industry Canada expressing concerns with the proposed changes to the 3500 MHz Band and new licensing process in rural areas;

That ROMA contact the following groups, urging them to make the same submission: Federation of Northern Municipalities (FONOM), Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus (EOWC), Western Ontario Wardens Caucus (WOWC), Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM); and

That a communication be sent to the sector urging municipalities to make the same submission."

CARRIED

POLICY ITEMS

11. Policy Update

Cathie Brown referred members to the updates on pages 71 – 74 of the ROMA Board agenda.

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

12. i) Human Wildlife Conflict Group

No report.

- ii) Drainage Working Groups

Bill Bilton provided an update on the changes at the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which will streamline the process, making it easier and less onerous to get drains cleaned. There will be no further need for environmental assessments. He provided an update on the position statements for A, B, C and F drains, and mitigation regarding fish.

- ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)

See item 8.

- iii) Bobolink Working Group

No report.

- iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group

No report.

- v) 911 Ontario Advisory Board

No report.

- vi) Other

No report.

Moved by: Bill Bilton
Seconded by: Ron Holman

"That the reports be received."

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS (13 - 21)

Moved by: Ron Holman
Seconded by: Bill Bilton

"That the Information Items be received."

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

22. Other business brought forward by members

Staff will provide information on the 2015 – 2019 ROMA Board election process at the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

23. Next meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2014, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., AMO Office, 200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto

24. Adjournment

Moved by: Bill Vrebosch

Seconded by: Bill Bilton

“That we do now adjourn to meet again.”

CARRIED