

## **Meeting of the ROMA Board**

**Thursday, November 12, 2015**

**9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**AMO Office  
200 University Avenue, Suite 801  
Toronto, Ontario**

### **MINUTES**

#### **PRESENT:**

Chair Ronald Holman, Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes (Zone 7)  
Past Chair Ron Eddy, Mayor, County of Brant (Zone 3)  
First Vice-Chair Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)  
Second Vice-Chair Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)

#### **Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives**

Liz Danielsen, Deputy Reeve, Township of Algonquin Highlands (Zone 5)  
Liz Huff, Councillor, Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands (AMO Rural Caucus)  
Bill Vrebosch, Mayor, Township of East Ferris (Zone 9)  
Chris Wray, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Wawa (AMO Rural Caucus)

#### **Staff:**

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

#### **Regrets:**

Bill Bilton, Councillor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)  
Eli El-Chantiry, Councillor, City of Ottawa, West Carlton-March Ward (Zone 8)  
Robert Pasuta, Councillor, Ward 14, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)  
Jim Sheedy, Councillor, Township of Laurentian Valley (Zone 6)

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#### 1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Holman welcomed the Board to the meeting and provided an update on his activities. He expressed his sincere condolences on his own and the ROMA Board's behalf on the passing of Mayor Ron Nelson, Township of O'Connor, and member of the AMO Board of Directors Northern Caucus.

2. Declaration
  - Pecuniary interest – none
  - Early departure – Allan Thompson, Chris White, Chris Wray

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

3. Approval of Thursday, October 8, 2015 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

**Moved by:** Ron Eddy  
**Seconded by:** Liz Huff

*“That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held on October 8, 2015 be approved as circulated.”*

**CARRIED**

4. Executive-Treasurer’s Report

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the Third Quarter Financial Statements.

**Moved by:** Bill Vrebosch  
**Seconded by:** Liz Danielsen

*“That the Third Quarter Financial Statements be accepted as presented.”*

**CARRIED**

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the proposed 2016 ROMA Budget.

**Moved by:** Chris White  
**Seconded by:** Bill Vrebosch

*“That the proposed 2016 ROMA Budget be accepted as presented; and*

*That staff bring the Budget back for review after the 2016 OGRA/ROMA Conference.”*

**CARRIED**

## **TIMED ITEMS**

5. Forestry, Agriculture, Rural and Northern Ontario Strategy Outline

Alan Spacek, Mayor, Town of Kapuskasing and President, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), John Laforet, Principal, Broadview Strategy Group; Mark Brock, Chair, Barry Senft, CEO, and Deb Conlon, Government Relations Consultant, Grain Farmers of Ontario attended the meeting to give a presentation on

"Foundations and Cornerstones: A Forestry and Agriculture Focused Plan to Move Northern & Rural Ontario Forward.

**Moved by: Chris White**  
**Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch**

*"That ROMA provide a letter of support for the educational strategy, using a positive approach to highlight the value of the sectors."*

**CARRIED**

6. Ontario Rural Emergency Management and Critical Infrastructure

Dr. Brenda Murphy, Professor: Society, Culture and Environment at Wilfrid Laurier University, gave a presentation on the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs(OMAFRA)/Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) Study '*Ontario Rural Emergency Management and Critical Infrastructure: Enhancing Planning and Preparedness Capacities for Climate Change Resilience*'.

**Moved by: Ron Eddy**  
**Seconded by: Liz Huff**

*"That ROMA write a letter supporting the new OMAFRA/WLU Project Proposal: Climate Change and Ontario Rural Infrastructure: The Inter-Community Service Sharing Toolkit."*

**CARRIED**

7. Xplornet Update

Christine J. Prudham, EVP General Counsel, Chris Harlong, Director of Sales for Ontario, and Anne Marie Quinn, Senior Vice President and Partner, Fleischmann Hilliard, attended the meeting to give an Xplornet's activities. Ms. Prudham gave a presentation on Spectrum Policy 3500 MHz Spectrum and Rural Broadband successes and challenges. She thanked ROMA for its support during the 2014 consultation with Industry Canada.

8. ROMA Logo and Video

Farah Tayabali reviewed the draft ROMA video and updated logos. The ROMA Board provided suggestions for changes to the video, and chose option #C for the new logo.

## **POLICY ITEMS**

### 9. Policy Update

Cathie Brown provided an update on the *Conservation Authorities Act* review and on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Strategic Plan for Ontario Wetlands. She advised that AMO President Gary McNamara had presented AMO's submission on Bill 73, *Smart Growth for Our Communities Act, 2015* to the Ontario Legislature Standing Committee on Social Policy.

Cathie Brown provided an update on the work of AMO's Aggregates Task Force.

Chair Ron Holman requested an update on the Provincial Offenses Act (POA) at the next ROMA Board meeting.

## **RECEIVED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 10. Field Spreading of Septics in Ontario

Liz Danielsen discussed concerns in Algonquin Highlands and across the province regarding process around planning and zoning for field spreading of septage. Staff was directed to write a letter on ROMA's behalf to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, requesting

- MOECC attend a ROMA board meeting to discuss
- Staff to staff discussion
- Clarity and communications on where and when field spreading is taking place, and that it follow legislative requirements

Cathie Brown will circulate a draft of the letter.

### 11. Rural Summit

Staff was directed to review recent ROMA agendas to send to Minister Leal, OMAFRA for the Rural Summit.

## **REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES**

### 12. i) AMO Rural Caucus Report

Chair Ron Holman provided an update.

ii) ROMA/OGRA Conference Committee Report

Chair Ron Holman advised that the ROMA committee had requested three things of OGRA: remove variable cost, not to sign any existing contracts, and for a meeting with the OGRA committee.

ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)

No report.

iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group

No report.

v) Drainage Working Groups

No report.

vi) Other

No report.

**RECEIVED**

**INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 13 - 16)**

**RECEIVED**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

17. Other business brought forward by members

Chair Ron Holman asked that policing costs be placed on the next agenda – increases beyond real growth, how it relates to trailer parks.

The Agriculture Adaptation Society requested ROMA's support for a candidate to its Board. The ROMA Board decided as they did not know the candidate, they were unable to provide support.

**ADJOURNMENT**

18. Next meeting: date, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., AMO Office, 200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario

19. Adjournment

Chair Holman declared the meeting adjourned.