

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, November 10, 2016

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
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)
Eli El-Chantiry, Councillor, City of Ottawa, West Carlton-March Ward (Zone 8)
Liz Huff, Councillor, Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands (AMO Rural Caucus)
Robert Pasuta, Councillor, Ward 14, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)
Mark Wales, Councillor, Township of Malahide (AMO Rural Caucus)
Chris Wray, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Wawa (AMO Rural Caucus)

Staff:

Cathie Brown, AMO Senior Advisor
Jessica Schmidt, AMO Policy Advisor

Regrets:

Bill Bilton, Councillor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)
Bill Vrebosch, Mayor, Township of East Ferris (Zone 9)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Ron Holman welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting.

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – none.
- Early departure – Chris White 11:45 a.m., Mark Wales noon.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of October 13, 2016 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Chris Wray
Seconded by Liz Huff

"That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held on October 13, 2016 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

4. ROMA Conference Update

ROMA Conference Coordinator Victoria Van Veen provided an update of the Conference registration, itinerary, and other details.

- Allan Thompson volunteered to chair the Bridging Communication Gap session
- Chris Wray volunteered to chair the MPAC session
- Eli El-Chantiry volunteered to chair the Redbrick/social media session
- Liz Huff volunteered to chair the Ward vs Elected session
- Mark Wales will chair the Shoreline Preservation session
- Bill Vrebosch will chair the Patient's First session
- Ron Eddy will chair Forestry 101
- Eli El-Chantiry will chair the Sustainable Health Care session
- Bill Bilton was appointed to chair the session on Sign Posts for Responsible Councillors
- Liz Huff volunteered for the retirement session
- Eli El-Chantiry volunteered for the forestry session
- Chris Wray volunteered to do the Waste Free session in Block B
- Ron Eddy volunteered for the TAPMO/OSSGA session in Block C
- Eli El-Chantiry volunteered for the CN session
- Liz Huff volunteered to do the Conservation Authorities session
- Mark Wales volunteered for the Wastewater session
- Bill Bilton will do the trails session

The Board is interested in finding time to meet with the Ministers of Northern Affairs and Mines, MNRF, OMAFRA, and MMA. This could happen after the Ontario Reception.

- Land Lease Communities- Liz Huff
- Chris Wray volunteered for the LAS
- Air Canada
- Petroleum Producers – Allan Thompson

The Board agreed to put together gift baskets for the exhibitors draw and to go around and thank the exhibitors during the conference. Liz Danielsen asked to see draft budget numbers. Robert Pasuta suggested that he could contact Andrea Horwath's office as it is in his area. There was also interest in ROMA Board members having a delegation meeting with the PC and NDP.

**Moved by Eli El-Chantiry
Seconded by Chris White**

Motion: That the conference update be received.

CARRIED

POLICY ITEMS

5. Policy Update

Cathie Brown provided an update on MNRF's update on the Wetlands Conservation Strategy. The main concerns include the "no net loss" principle and the need to improve mapping accuracy. Allan Thompson emphasized the need to address redundancies in Environmental Assessment processes. The ROMA Board agreed to send a letter regarding the Wetlands Conservation Strategy emphasizing:

- the need to keep an inventory of data and mapping information to be used in various development proposal studies so that studies are not needed to be redone
- that ROMA is available for further consultation to represent the rural perspective
- the importance of cross-Ministerial integration on this issue

The *Aggregates Resources Act* review was also discussed. The challenge is that the legislation is permissive but the details will be in regulation. Eli El-Chantiry suggested that a presentation on this issue from the Ontario Sand and Gravel Association would be useful.

The OMB reform was discussed. AMO has posted information about the review on its website. Cathie Brown identified a number of issues, including that the OMB has permissive powers but the powers are not necessarily being used, and it may be necessary to prescribe powers more specifically. A case management and elimination of frivolous and vexatious cases would also be useful. Scoping the OMB by establishing local appeal boards would also be useful. Encouraging more frequent mediation would also be important.

Cathie Brown also presented on the consultation on the Long-Term Energy Plan. AMO is developing a response, considering the micro and macro perspectives on energy, as well as generation and storage. Mark Wales indicated that the OEB is preventing the expansion of natural gas in rural Ontario, and the use of methane to produce

energy is obstructed because the moratorium on new FIT projects will prevent any methane operations from connecting to the grid.

Cathie Brown also updated the Board on a meeting with the Province's soil health working group. The Board agreed that it would not be appropriate for ROMA to be involved with this group but instead leave it to the experts on soil.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services hired Deloitte to do a report on EHSB Ambulance Dispatch Model. FONOM, NOMA, and ROMA will be preparing a response.

Regarding ROMA strategic planning, Patrick Moyle has agreed to facilitate the session. The date considered is April 12th, before the Board meeting. The list of 2017 ROMA Board meetings will be sent around shortly.

Moved by Chris Wray
Seconded by Allan Thompson

"That the Policy Update be received."

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Proposed Changes to Class D License – Ron Holman

There are new health requirements for Class D license holders. The change is may come with a small cost for the medical report, but it is negligible. It may cost rural municipal governments if drivers do not pass.

7. Rural Ontario Institute Survey – Ron Holman

ROMA and ROI have been collaborating on a survey on municipal elected officials' priorities of rural issues. It will be sent out early next week.

8. Farmland Assessments – Ron Holman

Caledon worked with the OFA to find a solution to minimize the farm assessment increase by having the residential properties assume some of the cost. This issue should be addressed by each municipal government.

9. School Closings – Ron Holman

The ROMA Board agreed to discuss the issue with Doug Reycraft at the ROMA Conference.

10. Home Energy Conservation Plan: Union Gas/Enbridge/Other – Ron Holman

Ron Holman expressed concern that the funding associated with this program is inconsistent between Union Gas and Enbridge. The Board decided that Ron would seek further information by calling Union Gas and Enbridge.

11. Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) Support with Ministry – Ron Holman

ROI has asked the ROMA Board to ask the Ministry to extend the ROI's funding agreement. The ROMA Board was in support of this ask.

Moved by Chris White
Seconded by Allan Thompson

"That the ROMA Chair indicate support to OMAFRA for the extension of ROI funding."

CARRIED

12. Carbon Pricing in Ontario – Ron Holman

No discussion.

- 12a. AMO Health Task Force

Senior Advisor Michael Jacek asked for a ROMA representative to participate in the AMO Health Task Force. Robert Pasuta has volunteered.

Moved by Chris Wray
Seconded by Liz Huff

"That Robert Pasuta be appointed to the AMO Health Task Force."

CARRIED

- 12b. Canada Post

Postal code changes have taken place. There are concerns regarding community mailboxes. These concerns were brought forward in the AMO President's comments at the Canada Post hearing.

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

13. i) AMO Rural Caucus Update – Ron Holman & AMO Rural Caucus
None.

- ii) ROMA Conference Committee Report – Ron Holman (see item 5)
Discussed in prior item.
- iii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) – Chris White
None.
- iv) Workforce Planning Board – Chris White
Undergoing a change – more information will be available soon.
- v) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group – Allan Thompson
Comments are closed and the Province will be reporting back. Much of the work is focusing on harmonization.
- vi) Drainage Working Groups – Bill Bilton
Not discussed as Bill Bilton was not present.
- vii) Agriculture Wildlife Conflict Working Group – Mark Wales
There is a rabies issue in Hamilton, and it will take five years to address. As of January 1st there will be changes to livestock evaluators. These people will now be livestock investigations. There is a better appeal process. The process is being streamlined and improved. There may not be enough staff to carry out the changes. New resources will be allocated to training.
- viii) Other

No further reports.

Moved by Allan Thompson
Seconded by Liz Danielsen

“That the reports be received.”

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 14 – 22)

Moved by Robert Pasuta
Seconded by Liz Huff

“That the Information Items be received.”

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

23. Other business brought forward by members

Ron Eddy presented a letter signed by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Western Ontario Wardens Caucus and Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus on the Long-Term Energy Plan, asking for ROMA's support.

Moved by Ron Eddy
Seconded by Liz Danielson

"That ROMA support the presented letter."

Carried

24. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

No further report.

ADJOURNMENT

25. Next meeting: Thursday, December 8, 2016, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., by video conference call.

26. Adjournment

Moved by Allan Thompson
Seconded by Ron Eddy

"That we do now adjourn to meet again."

CARRIED