

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, November 9, 2017

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

Second Vice-Chair Liz Danielsen, Deputy Mayor, Township of Algonquin Highlands (Zone 5)

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)

Robert Pasuta, Councillor, Ward 14, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)

Bill Vrebosch, Mayor, Township of East Ferris (Zone 9)

Mark Wales, Councillor, Township of Malahide (AMO Rural Caucus)

Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)

Staff:

Executive Treasurer Afshin Majidi

Senior Advisor Cathie Brown

Policy Advisor Amber Crawford

Senior Advisor Michael Jacek

Senior Advisor Craig Reid

Regrets:

Bill Bilton, Councillor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)

Ric Bresee, Councillor, County of Lennox and Addington (Zone 6)

Eli El-Chantiry, Councillor, City of Ottawa, West Carlton-March Ward (Zone 8)

First Vice-Chair Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)

Chris Wray, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Wawa (AMO Rural Caucus)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Ron Holman welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting and provided an update on recent events he attended.

Further, he added the following items to the agenda:

- 8a Canada's Immigration Plan
- 8b Rural and Northern Education Update
- Discussion items - ROMA Communications and Outreach Committee

The Chair confirmed that the ROMA Mid-term will be held in Wawa, mid May. Details to come.

2. Declaration
 - Pecuniary interest – none declared
 - Early departure – none

TIMED ITEMS

3. 9:30 – 9:50 a.m. Peter Maddox, Director, Government Regulations, Canadian Propane Association

Mr. Peter Maddox spoke to the advantages of propane as a fuel source. These include that it is less costly than electricity or oil, that it requires less infrastructure than natural gas and insurance rates are lower than fireplace and oil. The Canadian Propane Association is requesting ROMA's support for its proposal to start a conservation program similar to that of natural gas.

Moved by Ron Eddy
Seconded by Liz Danielson

"That that in the ROMA response to the Long Term Energy Plan to the Minister of Energy, the use of propane as a 'transition fuel' to a lower carbon economy be encouraged through the program proposed by the Canadian Propane Association."

CARRIED

4. Executive Treasurer's Report

Afshin Majidi reported on the financial accounts of ROMA and on the financial expectations of the ROMA Conference, January 2018.

Moved by Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by Ron Eddy

*"That the reports of the Executive-Treasurer be received; and
That a preliminary budget discussion be brought forward."*

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

5. Approval of the October 12, 2017 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Mark Wales
Seconded by Chris White

"That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held on October 12, 2017 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

The minutes were amended to change the word 'discussed' to 'agreed', agenda item 5, ROMA Conference Update: "The ROMA Board agreed that the Governor General should be invited to speak at the 2019 ROMA Conference."

6. ROMA Conference Update

Chair Holman reported on the progress of the ROMA Conference committee. The Board offered ideas to be considered by the committee. A final report will be provided at the pre-conference Board meeting in December.

Moved by Mark Wales
Seconded by Liz Huff

"That Conference Update be received."

CARRIED

POLICY ITEMS

7. Waste Free Ontario Update

Amber Crawford provided an update on how this legislation is being implemented. Of note is the shift to producer responsibility that means blue box programs will be paid 100% by producers. The transition may be complex and municipal governments should not extend contracts until there is greater certainty around transition questions. This is also an opportunity for municipal governments to decide what role they may wish to take in recycling.

Also significant is the ban on organics in landfill. The EBR posting on this is expected soon.

RECEIVED

8. Low Carbon Economy Update

Craig Reid provided an update on the Low Carbon Task Force and recent GHG Challenge Fund opportunities for municipal governments to participate. He discussed the proposed EV pilot project and ways to participate in cap and trade funding.

RECEIVED

8a. Canada's Immigration Plan, Health and Human Services

Michael Jacek reviewed recent changes to the immigration plan, health and human services. The proposed change in health unit boundaries to those of the LHINs will reduce rural access.

Moved by Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by Liz Danielsen

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

Moved by Mark Wales
Seconded by Ron Eddy

"That ROMA write to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care supporting the proposed increases to LTC facilities and seeking beds for rural communities."

CARRIED

Moved by Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by Liz Danielson

"That ROMA write to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care supporting the AMO position on Health Units."

CARRIED

8b. Minister's Education Group on Community and Education Planning and Partnerships

Cathie Brown reviewed the correspondence from the Minister of Education requesting a ROMA participant on a working group to review the school closure process.

Moved by Ron Eddy
Seconded by Bill Vrebosch

“That ROMA Board member Mark Wales be appointed as ROMA’S representative to the Minister’s Education Group on Community and Education Planning and Partnerships.”

CARRIED

9. Policy Update

Cathie Brown reviewed the status of Bill 148 *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act 2017*, Bill 139 *Building Better Communities Conserving Watersheds Act 2017*, and Conservation Authority guidance under development. ROMA has already corresponded about these matters.

Moved by Chris White
Seconded by Mark Wales

“That ROMA write to the Premier of Ontario supporting the AMO position on Bill 148, the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act 2017, offering specific rural examples.”

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. ROMA Communications and Outreach Committee

Chair Holman presented his recommended approach to developing this committee.

Moved by Chris White
Seconded by Mark Wales

*“That the Communications and Outreach Committee Report be received; and
That the Report be brought forward to a future meeting.”*

CARRIED

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

11. i) AMO Board of Directors, Rural Caucus Update - Ron Holman & AMO Rural Caucus
- Members asked to bring gift baskets to the Conference
- ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) – Chris White
- The recent release of the Foresight Papers was very successful and ROMA was well received at this event.

- iii) Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Municipal Forum – Liz Huff
 - No meetings have taken place since the appointment to the committee
- iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group – Allan Thompson
 - No report
- v) Drainage Working Groups – Bill Bilton
 - No report
- vi) AMO Indigenous Relations Task Force – Ric Bresee
 - No report
- vii) Field Spetage Spreading – Liz Danielson
 - Meeting will be scheduled soon.

Moved by Liz Huff
Seconded by Bill Vrebosch

“That the Committee Reports be received.”

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 11 – 24)

Moved by Liz Huff
Seconded by Bill Vrebosch

“That the Information Items be received.”

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

25. Other business brought forward by members

No further business.

26. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

- 2018 ROMA Budget (December 15, 2017 Meeting)
- 2018 Strategic Plan Actions – Chris Wray
- High Speed Rail
- Cemetery Policy Update

ADJOURNMENT

27. Next meeting: Next meeting: video conference call, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Friday, December 15, 2017

28. Adjournment

Moved by Liz Danielsen
Seconded by Liz Huff

"That we do now adjourn to meet again."

CARRIED