

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Sunday, August 17, 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)
Second Vice-Chris White, Warden, County of Wellington (Zone 2)

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)
Jim Sheedy, Councillor, Township of Laurentian Valley (Zone 6)
Allan Thompson, Councillor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)

Staff:

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

Regrets:

Bill Davis, Deputy Reeve, Township of Dysart et al (Zone 5)

1. Chair's Welcome

First Vice Chair Doug Thompson welcomed the ROMA Board members to the meeting.

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – none
- Early departure – none

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of ROMA Board Minutes of June 12, 2014

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

"That the Minutes of the ROMA Board Meeting held June 12, 2014 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED

4. Executive-Treasurer's Report

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the June Financial Statements and the Summary of Miscellaneous Meeting Expenses.

Nancy Plumridge discussed the ROMA/OGRA conference agreement, requesting that this item be deferred to the October ROMA Board meeting.

Moved by: Allan Thompson
Seconded by: Bill Bilton

"That the ROMA/OGRA Combined Conference Agreement be reviewed in detail at the Thursday, October 2, 2014 ROMA Board meeting."

CARRIED

Moved by: Eleanor Renaud
Seconded by: Chris White

"That the Executive Treasurer's Report be received."

CARRIED

ROMA Chair Ron Eddy returned from his delegation meeting, and assumed the Chair.

TIMED ITEMS

5. Rural Schools

Doug Reycraft, Mayor of the Municipalities of Southwest Middlesex, and Gerry Marshall, Mayor of the Town of Penetanguishine, discussed the Community Schools Alliance, which was re-activated in response to the growing trend by school boards to close schools in smaller communities. A meeting of municipal representatives later in the day would be held to elect a steering committee and to create a strategic plan.

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Eleanor Renaud

“That the ROMA Board supports the re-activation of the Community Schools Alliance.”

CARRIED

6. 2015 OGRA/ROMA Conference

The ROMA Board discussed topics for the 2015 OGRA/ROMA conference to provide guidance to the Conference Committee.

7. The Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, attended the meeting with staff: Laurie LeBlanc, Deputy Minister, Audrey Bennett, Director, Provincial Planning Branch, Diane McArthur-Rodgers, Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Partnerships Branch, and Scott Kirkham, Senior Advisor, Housing and Municipal Affairs. Key issues discussed included greenbelt expansion, the Ring of Fire and need for federal funding, concerns regarding OMPF reductions.

8. Nahla Hanna, President and Attorney in Fact, Ontario Municipal Insurance Exchange (OMEX)

Nahla Hanna discussed OMEX's new long-term strategy, which includes building strategic alliances with ROMA, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Local Authority Services. She discussed the creation and growth of OMEX as a reciprocal, and its ongoing work, including the issue of joint and several liability, noting that it is one of the most frustrating.

9. The Healthy Rural Lens for Huron County

Jim Ginn, Mayor of the Municipality of Central Huron, attended the meeting with other members of Huron County Council: Bernie McLellan, Mayor, Municipality of Huron East, Neal Vincent, Reeve, Municipality of North Huron, and Mrs. Joan Vincent. They discussed the lens they had developed for Huron County, to use for testing policies and programs for Huron County. The ROMA Board said that while the ROMA Rural Lens is legislative based, but there are many ways in which both are complementary.

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Eleanor Renaud

“That the ROMA lens be brought back to the ROMA Board to update, and then sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

That ROMA share the Huron Lens with upper tier municipalities and that they be encouraged to generate and use their own lens.”

CARRIED

POLICY ITEMS

10. Policy Update

Cathie Brown discussed the provincial government’s plan to raise the minimum wage for personal service workers, and the potential impact this will have on municipalities.

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

11. i) Human Wildlife Conflict Group
ii) Drainage Working Groups
ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)
iii) Bobolink Working Group
iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group
v) 911 Ontario Advisory Board
vi) Other

Reports to be provided at the October 2, 2014 ROMA Board meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS (12 – 23)

Moved by: Eleanor Renaud
Seconded by: Bill Bilton

“That the Information Items be received.”

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

24. Other business brought forward by members

No further business.

ADJOURNMENT

23. Next meeting: Thursday, October 2, 2014, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., AMO Office,
200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto

24. Adjournment

Chair Eddy declared the meeting adjourned.