

## Meeting of the ROMA Board

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Chaffey's Lock Community Hall  
1661 Chaffey's Lock Road  
Township of Rideau Lakes, Ontario

### MINUTES

#### **PRESENT:**

Chair Ronald Holman, Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes (Zone 7)  
First Vice-Chair Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)

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

Liz Danielsen, Deputy Reeve, Township of Algonquin Highlands (Zone 5)  
Bill Bilton, Councillor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)  
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)  
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  
Jessica Schmidt, AMO Policy Advisor  
Navneet Dhaliwal, AMO Special Events and Business Development Coordinator

#### **Regrets:**

Second Vice-Chair Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)  
Past Chair Ron Eddy, Mayor, County of Brant (Zone 3)

1. Chair's Welcome – Ron Holman
2. Declaration
  - Pecuniary interest – none
  - Early departure – none
3. Approval of May 10, 2016 ROMA Board Minutes

**Moved by: Chris Wray**  
**Seconded by: Liz Huff**

*“That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 be approved as circulated.”*

**CARRIED**

4. Executive-Treasurer’s Report – Nancy Plumridge presented the May 2016 Financial Statements

**Moved by: Liz Huff**

**Seconded by: Alan Thompson**

*“That the report be accepted as presented.”*

**CARRIED**

5. ROMA Strategic Directions Discussion (to be delivered)

Cathie Brown led a discussion on ROMA strategic directions. ROMA Board members had previously been asked to submit the top five issues they believe ROMA should focus on, and these were grouped by staff into three categories. Based on this, the ROMA Board suggested adding the following to the category of Rural-Specific Issues:

- rural economic revitalization
- power dams funding in lieu
- under the topic of energy, the pursuit of intervener status with OEB
- aggregate assessment as a provincial priority

Cathie Brown presented a proposed calendar of tasks and events for the ROMA Board. Board members agreed that the priority topics should be used to select tasks to populate the calendar, but that the Board should also be open to emerging issues. The Board suggested that a representative be sent to the Rural Revitalization Foundation event. The Board also suggested that for the 2017 AMO conference, ROMA should pursue having a booth or sponsoring a lunch.

On the topic of ROMA organizational capacity, the Board identified that the central issue for ROMA as an organization is that many rural municipalities do not know ROMA exists. To address this, the Board agreed that they should refresh the ROMA mandate, through a full day session with a facilitator. This session should be held at the end of August in order to have it completed in time to create an advertisement to be published in Municipal World before the ROMA conference (Municipal World has offered this opportunity to ROMA).

For the session with the facilitator, the ROMA Board would ask the facilitator to review the current mandate, listen to the desired organizational direction from the Board, and propose a new mandate in simple and straight-forward terms. It would also be useful to identify, through this process, an organizational model for ROMA, such as an incorporated body with a dedicated policy and administrative staff person. If budget allows, this process could include interviews with the Board members prior to the meeting. Specifically, the desired outcomes of this process would be to

reiterate the ambitions of ROMA as an organization, to articulate this on the website, to decide what organizational model would be appropriate, and to review the policies and bylaws. It was decided that Cathie Brown would look into securing a facilitator.

On the topic of what a successful conference would look like, the ROMA Board agreed that this would be if attendees left wanting to come back a future year and bring others.

The ROMA Board considered whether using twitter would be effective at engaging its membership and growing its followers. The Board decided that more assessment is needed to determine the most strategic communication approach.

Chris Wray proposed writing an article to submit to Municipal World as an approach to promoting ROMA.

## 6. Conference Committee Update

The conference committee met and identified micro-session topics. Additional possible topics were identified, including:

- a session for spouses
- involvement of First Nations communities (perhaps have a conference opening, perhaps Isadore Day from Serpent River First Nation, Roberta Jamieson from Six Nations- this would be a 90 minute session) – if First Nations are to be involved it must be not only entertainment, it must be a real discussion.
- Hydro One Ombudsman

The conference committee has confirmed that delegations will happen, as well as the Ministers Forum. Nancy was asked to send out the list of concurrent sessions and micro-sessions. The ROMA Board members were requested to send in suggested speakers to ensure there are speakers that is representative of the range of Ontario's rural municipalities.

## 7. Communications Committee Update

The communications committee reviewed Redbrick's communication proposal and had some outstanding questions. ROMA cannot afford much of what Redbrick is proposing. There was agreement to ask Redbrick to provide support for the AMO conference and ROMA conference. The Board agreed to delay work with Redbrick until after the conference in January.

## 8. Policy Update

Cathie Brown and Jessica Schmidt presented a policy update on the recent provincial cabinet shuffle and the Board agreed to write a letter to Minister Leal and Minister Mauro to congratulate the Ministers on their appointments and reaffirm ROMA's working relationship with the two Ministers.

**Moved by: Eli El-Chantiry**  
**Seconded by: Allan Thompson**

*“That ROMA support staff to write a letter to Minister Leal and a letter to Minister Mauro to congratulate the Ministers on their appointments and reaffirm ROMA’s working relationship with the two Ministers.”*

**CARRIED**

The policy update also covered the legislative update, a recent meeting between Cathie Brown, Jessica Schmidt, and federal staff regarding a broadband program, and the upcoming OMB review.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chris Wray raised the issue of assessments and policing costs. The ROMA Board discussed that ROMA may want to write a letter or ask for a meeting with the new Minister (ROMA did previously write a letter on this issue to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services). The issues include billing for: wind turbines, billboards, and trailer parks (which are charged per trailer while in comparison a shopping mall is not charged for each store).

Allan Thompson raised the proposal that ROMA recognize Childhood Cancer Month. The Board agreed to follow up at a later date.

**INFORMATION ITEMS (9 – 17)**

**RECEIVED**

**ADJOURNMENT**

18. Next meeting: Sunday, August 14, 2016, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Classic Club Room, AMO Annual Conference, Caesars Hotel, Windsor, Ontario
19. Adjournment

**Moved by: Bill Vrebosch**  
**Seconded by: Eli El-Chantiry**

*“That we do now adjourn to meet again.”*

**CARRIED**