



# MINUTES

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## ROMA BOARD MEETING

Friday, April 19, 2024  
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

**HYBRID Meeting**

### **PRESENT:**

Chair Robin Jones, Mayor, Village of Westport (AMO Rural Caucus)

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

Jamie McGrail, Councillor, Municipality of Chatham-Kent (Zone 1)

Steve McCabe, Councillor, Township of Wellington North (Zone 2)

Dave Beres, Deputy Mayor, Township of Tillsonburg (Zone 3)

Christina Early, Councillor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)

Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills (Zone 5)

Jennifer Murphy, Councillor, County of Renfrew (Zone 6)

Carma Williams, Deputy Mayor, Township of North Glengarry (Zone 7)

Christa Lowry, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Mayor, Municipality of Mississippi Mills (Zone 8)

Mark Wilson, Councillor, City of Temiskaming Shores (Zone 9)

Janet Hager, Councillor, Municipality of Red Lake (Zone 10)

Peter Emon, Reeve, Town of Renfrew (AMO Rural Caucus)

Rainey Weisler, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Bayham (AMO Rural Caucus)

Sandra Datars Bere, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, City Manager, City of St. Thomas (AMO Rural Caucus)

Paul Latam, Councillor, Town of Grand Valley (AMO Rural Caucus)

### **Staff:**

Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, AMO

Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer, AMO

Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO

Karen Nesbitt, Senior Manager, Policy, AMO

Spencer Sandor, Policy Advisor, AMO

Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, Policy

Kenny Li Cheong Man, Policy Advisor, AMO

Victoria van Veen, Team Lead, Events and Training, AMO

Farah Tayabali, Vice-President, Redbrick

Lora Tigno, Administrative Assistant, Membership Centre, AMO

### **Guests:**

Scott Butler, Executive Director, OGRA

### **Early Departures:**

None Identified

### **Regrets:**

None Identified

1. Chair's Welcome and Introductions – ROMA Chair, Robin Jones

Chair Jones welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting.

2. Declaration

**Request members to declare:**

- Pecuniary interest – none declared
- Early departure – none declared

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

3. Approval of Friday, April 19, 2024 Meeting Agenda (*Pages 1-4*)

Chair Jones advised the board members of the addition of item 12 under Discussion Items re: Consulting fees regarding delivery of ROMA advocacy paper: *Fill the Gaps Closer to Home*.

**Motion:**

*"That the Board approve the agenda for Friday, April 19, 2024."*

**Moved: Sandra Datars Bere**

**Seconded: Peter Emon**

**CARRIED**

4. Approval of Friday February 16, 2024, ROMA Meeting Minutes (*Pages 5-15*)

**Motion:**

*"That the Board approve the minutes from the February 16, 2024, meeting".*

**Moved: Janet Hager**

**Seconded: Dave Beres**

**CARRIED**

5. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer

- a. ROMA 2024 Conference Interim Results (*Pages 16*)
- b. ROMA Conference Income Statement Feb2024 (*Pages 17*)

Afshin Majidi presented the conference interim financial results and the conference Income Statement. The results are overall positive highlighting a 7% increase in paid attendees as well as a revenue increase of approximately 25%. The interim conference results will provide a positive net contribution to ROMA operations.

**Motion:**

*"That the Board receive the interim conference financial results for information."*

**Moved: Christa Lowry**  
**Seconded: Jenn Murphy**

**CARRIED**

**TIMED ITEMS**

6. 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM – Follow up Discussion: OGRA: *A Plan to Build Safer Roads and Address Municipal Liability* - Scott Butler, Executive Director, OGRA (*To be delivered*)

Chair Jones invited Scott Butler to initiate the follow up discussion regarding OGRA's strategic initiative: *A Plan to Build Safer Roads and Address Municipal Liability*. In follow up to the initial presentation on the initiative at the August 2023 Board meeting, OGRA has developed key actions and strategies on the implementation of the initiative which is focused on supporting rural communities with a focus on supporting efficiency in procurement and establishing local, collaborative models in the delivery of projects. OGRA is advocating to the provincial government for support in the implementation of the initiative and is seeking ROMA's support as they undertake this effort.

**Motion:**

*"The ROMA Board endorses Good Roads' call to establish a five-year rural road safety initiative."*

**Moved: Paul Latam**  
**Seconded: Dave Beres**

**CARRIED**

7. 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Rural Economic Development Strategy Consultation – Spencer Sandor, Senior Advisor, Policy, AMO and Karen Nesbitt, Senior Manager, Policy AMO (*Pages 18-22*)

Spencer Sandor discussed the province's consultation on a new rural economic development strategy, focused on workforce development, infrastructure, and community attraction to promote economic growth in rural areas.

**Motion:**

*"That the ROMA Board receive the item as information."*

**Moved: Carma Williams**  
**Seconded: Steve McCabe**

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **8. NOMA Request for Financial Support - Robin Jones, Chair (Pages 23-24)**

Board members were reminded of ROMA's longstanding practice of providing financial support to NOMA and FONOM for their annual conferences. At this time, NOMA has requested financial assistance.

Supporting FONOM, NOMA, and OSUM aligns with ROMA's strategic goal of fostering collaboration in the municipal sector.

ROMA aligned its contribution for NOMA with that traditionally provided to FONOM, totaling \$10,000 for 2024.

#### **Motion:**

*"That the Board approve \$10,000 in financial support to the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, for its 2024 annual conference".*

**Moved: Janet Hager**

**Seconded: Mark Wilson**

**CARRIED**

### **9. ROMA Booth at 2024 AMO Conference – Robin Jones, Chair/All (Verbal)**

The ROMA Board will have an exhibitors booth at the 2024 AMO conference. The cost of the booth will be \$5200.

#### **Motion:**

*"That the ROMA Board approve the expenditure for a booth at the 2024 AMO Conference in the amount of \$5200.00".*

**Moved: Jamie McGrail**

**Seconded: Sandra Datars Bere**

**CARRIED**

### **10. 2024 ROMA Conference Board Debrief and Discussion - Robin Jones, Chair/All (Verbal)**

Board members shared feedback for staff to take away in consideration of 2025 conference development.

A few highlighted items were:

- Start discussions on conference topics and key areas of interest earlier, in June, to allow more

- planning time.
- Look into options for Sunday lunches, including potential sponsorship opportunities to cover the increased expenditure.
  - Continue to emphasize communication to delegates regarding programming timing,, booking hotel rooms, and conference activities.
  - Develop and provide more content on best practices for waste management and recycling programs.

**Motion:**

*“That the feedback be considered by staff in the development of the 2025 ROMA Annual conference.”*

**Moved: Christa Lowry**

**Seconded: Pam Sayne**

**CARRIED**

11. ROMA Communications Update – Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick *(To be delivered)*

Farah Tayabali provided the ROMA Communications update including social media activity and content creation, , preparation for the annual report, and gathering video content.

**Motion:**

*“That the ROMA Board receive the item as information.”*

**Moved: Pam Sayne**

**Seconded: Peter Emon**

**CARRIED**

12. Consulting fees regarding delivery of ROMA advocacy paper: *Fill the Gaps Closer to Home* – Robin Jones, Chair/All

The Board was asked to approve the final consulting fee for Kathy Wood in the development of it *Fill the Gaps Closer to Home* paper.

The research, development and final delivery exceeded the original approved cost of \$15,180 +HST by \$6705.17 +HST for a total of \$21,885.17.

**Motion:**

*“That the Board approve a final payment to Kathy Wood in the amount of \$21,885.17 for the development of Fill in the Gaps Closer to Home”; and*

**Moved: Pam Sayne**  
**Seconded: Janet Hager**

*“That the Board direct staff to bring a draft procurement policy to an upcoming meeting that provides a clear and transparent process of procurement and contract management.”*

**Moved: Pam Sayne**  
**Seconded: Paul Latam**

## **CARRIED**

## **POLICY**

### 13. Policy Update

#### i. Team Ontario Approach – Karen Nesbitt, Senior Manager, Policy, AMO *(Verbal)*

The Ontario government's 'Team Ontario approach' to negotiating the \$5 billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund was discussed along with concerns about the proposed housing-related conditions. The update highlighted an April 18 letter from Minister Calandra to AMO proposing a "team Ontario" approach to negotiating the funding agreement with the federal government. Under this model, AMO, Ontario Big City Mayors and the province would come together with the federal government the negotiating table. Discussion centered on supporting the negotiation approach, ensuring rural municipalities' interests would be tabled, recognizing the problems with the proposed development charge condition, and raising the open question about regional eligibility.

#### ii. Bill 185 *(Verbal)* – Karen Nesbitt, Senior Manager, Policy, AMO *(Verbal)*

Bill 185, the province's fifth housing supply action plan, focuses on financial and land use planning proposals to expedite housing infrastructure development. The bill proposes reversing negative changes from Bill 23 on development charges, incentivizing affordable housing, and introducing a new framework for ministerial zoning orders. It also includes a series of Planning Act amendments and revisions to the building code and provincial planning statement. Advocacy efforts have influenced some aspects of the bill, but gaps remain, including the urgent need for additional development charges to be restored. Discussion highlighted the need to stop changing municipal finance and land use planning frameworks, the criticality of the province issuing technical guidance on Indigenous engagement and Duty to Consult, and the need for the province to establish a clear and transparent criteria for exemptions to municipal anti-bonusing requirements.

#### iii. Homelessness, Mental Health, and Addictions – Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, Policy, AMO *(Pages 25-37)*

The presentation addressed the increasing concern about homelessness, mental health, and addiction in rural communities, highlighting the need for the ROMA Board's input. AMO is undertaking a research project to develop a province-wide profile of homelessness and advocating for a comprehensive approach to address these issues. There's an opportunity for ROMA and AMO to work together to call on the government to end homelessness and address root causes, with plans for policy development and advocacy. Discussion questions focused on identifying rural community needs and amplifying the rural voice to drive government action.

#### iv. Infrastructure Funding Update - Kenny Li Cheong Man, Senior Advisor, Policy, AMO *(Pages 38-45)*

The presentation provided an overview of key federal and provincial infrastructure announcements, highlighting various funding allocations and program details. It addressed both positive aspects and concerns regarding the funding amounts and conditions attached. Next steps involve advocating for more details, engaging with both levels of government, and collaborating with OBCM to ensure effective implementation and distribution of funds.

v. Broadband - Karen Nesbitt, Senior Manager, Policy AMO (*Pages 46-53*)

The presentation covered updates on broadband implementation, emphasizing the critical need for high-speed internet access in rural communities and addressing key risks and strategies for success. It also outlined proposed key messages for communication and suggested next steps, including promoting awareness through webinars and conferences and continuing advocacy efforts. ROMA Board endorsed the communications approach including direct communication with all ROMA members to highlight the importance of supporting expedient permit approvals towards the 2025 implementation goal.

vi. Social and Economic Prosperity Review - Karen Nesbitt, Senior Manager, Policy AMO (*Pages 54-58*)

The presentation focused on the current status of the call for a social and economic prosperity review, noting that although the province has not committed to a joint review, over 100 municipalities submitted council resolutions to the province in support the call. The ongoing advocacy efforts by AMO was highlighted, including plans to address the issue through oral comments on Bill 185 and sharing key messages with members before spring conferences.

**Motion:**

*"That the ROMA Board receive the policy items as information."*

**Moved: Christa Lowry**

**Seconded: Sandra Datars Bere**

**CARRIED**

**REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES**

14. Committee Reports

- i. Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Municipal Forum – Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager, City of St. Thomas

As Sandra Datars Bere will be starting a new position with the City of London, she is unable to continue as the municipal liaison for ROMA on the NWMO Forum. Board member Steve McCabe agreed to step into the role. Steve will be onboarded by staff and NWMO on his role.

**Motion:**

*"That the board appoint Steve McCabe to replace Sandra on the NWMO Municipal Forum."*

**Moved: Sandra Datars Bere**

**Seconded: Christa Lowry**

**CARRIED**

ii. Teeny Tiny Summits – Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills

Pam Sayne shared with members information on the upcoming Summits:

- Tweed-June 5
- Minden-June 6
- Holstein-May 28

Robin Jones will participate as the ROMA rep in Tweed, Pam Sayne in Minden and Steve McCabe in Holstein. Staff will support members participation.

**Motion:**

*“That the Board receive the update on Teeny Tiny Summit as information.”*

**Moved: Pam Sayne**  
**Seconded: Steve McCabe**

**CARRIED**

iii. Other

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Check in whether members would like any of the items pulled for discussion.**

**15. Return to Combined ROMA and OGRA Conferences**

Brian Rosborough, AMO Executive Director, provided background on the resolutions circulating regarding the amalgamation of the Good Roads and ROMA conferences. He provided context, highlighting the decision to establish separate conferences and the ongoing success of the ROMA annual conference since this decision. There was agreement with the ROMA Board and OGRA Executive that the two organizations would continue to work together on matters of mutual interest.

The Board agreed to send a letter to the municipalities passing resolutions confirming this and that the conferences will continue to be separate events.

**Motion:**

*“That the ROMA Board prepares a correspondence in relation to the issue of having one conference.”*

**Moved: Paul Latam**  
**Seconded: Christa Lowry**

**CARRIED**



- a. 03-21-24 – Perth County\_return to combined conferences (*Pages 59*)
- b. 24-03-22 - Letter of Support - Combined ROMA & OGRA Conferences (*Pages 60*)
- c. 060\_24 Town of Marathon (*Pages 61-62*)
- d. 2024 03 01 P-W Support Resolution - Town of Petrolia - Combined ROMA & OGRA Conferences (*Pages 63-65*)
- e. 2024-02-26 Town of Goderich Resolution - Return to combined ROMA & OGRA Conferences (*Pages 66-67*)
- f. 2024-39 Combined OGRA and ROMA Conferences (*Pages 68*)
- g. 20240222-CS-LTR-Resoution Support-Town of Petrolia-Combined ROMA and OGRA Conference (*Pages 69-71*)
- h. C02 - 24 - Feb 5 - correspondence - return to combined conference (*Pages 72-73*)
- i. Morris Turnberry Support of Resolution - OGRA and ROMA combined (*Pages 74*)
- j. Municipality of Central Huron - Letter of Support - Town of Goderich - Combined ROMA and OGRA Conferences (*Pages 75-78*)
- k. Rainy River ROMA-OGRA Resolution (*Pages 79*)
- l. Resolution - Township of Terrace Bay - OGRA & ROMA combined (*Pages 80*)
- m. Resolution 4.13-91 Return to Combined ROMA and OGRA Conferences (*Pages 81*)
- n. Return to Combined Conference Resolution Municipality of Hastings (*Pages 82-84*)
- o. ROMA Good Roads Conferences\_Village of Oil Springs (*Pages 85-86*)
- p. Township of South-West Oxford return to combined conferences (*Pages 87-88*)

## 16. Water and Wastewater

- a. 4. Renfrew County Water and Wastewater Resolution (*Pages 89-91*)
- b. 24-02-29 Support Resolution - Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems (*Pages 92*)
- c. 2024 03 01 P-W Support Resolution - County of Renfrew - water and wastewater (*Pages 93-96*)
- d. 2024\_02\_26-TC-Water&WastewaterResolution (*Pages 97-101*)
- e. Belleville\_8.c.2.f. - Letter of Support for County of Renfrew Motion - Rural and Small Urban Water (*Pages 102-105*)
- f. Dutton Dunwich\_Water waste water (*Pages 106*)
- g. Elgin County Rural and Small Urban Water and Waste Water Systems (*Pages 107-108*)
- h. Gore Bay\_Resolution Re - Affordability of Water and Wastewater Plants (1) (*Pages 109-110*)
- i. St Joseph\_Letter Support Renfrew Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems (*Pages 111*)
- j. Municipality of Central Huron - Letter of Support - NEMI Resolution (*Pages 112-114*)
- k. Municipality of Killarney water and wastewater (*Pages 115-119*)
- l. Municipality of Magnetawan 2024-76 Support County of Renfrew (*Pages 120*)
- m. the Township of Addington Highlands\_water wastewater (*Pages 121*)
- n. Town of Cobourg Council Resolution - Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems (*Pages 122-123*)
- o. Town of Essex - Support for Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems (*Pages 124-129*)
- p. Town of Prescott\_water and wastewater (*Pages 130*)
- q. Township of Bonnechere Valley\_Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems (*Pages 131-132*)

## 17. Tile Drain Loan Limit

- a. Huron East\_24-04-04 - Letter of Support - Township of Adelaide Metcalfe *(Pages 133)*
- b. Luccan Biddulph\_Support Tile Drain Loan Increase - Apr 2 2024 *(Pages 134)*
- c. Resolution - Twip of Adelaide Metcalfe - Tile Drain Loan Amount *(Pages 135-136)*

## **18. Entity for Evacuation Purposes**

- a. Kapuskasing Council Resolution - Appointment as lead entity for evacuation purposes *(Pages 137-138)*

## **19. Intimate Partner Violence**

- a. 2024-063 Declaration of an Epidemic - Intimate Partner Violence *(Pages 139-140)*
- b. Matachewan Res#2024-047 - Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic *(Pages 141)*

## **20. National Housing strategy**

- a. 2024 AMO National Housing Strategy funding 2024-03-26 FINAL *(Pages 142-143)*
- b. Chatham Kent\_2024 AMO National Housing Strategy Funding *(Pages 144)*
- c. EOWC Letter - Minister Fraser - National Housing Strategy Funding for Ontario Municipalities - April 3, 2024 *(Pages 145-146)*

## **21. Transportation Services**

- a. Transportation Services North East April 2 2024 *(Pages 147-153)*

## **22. Other**

- a. 2024 Ontario Energy Board -Securing Natural Gas *(Pages 154-155)*
- b. 20240305 - PartnerUpdate\_PotentialMerger\_BOH\_Decision\_v2 *(Pages 156)*
- c. Hon. Kinga Surma - March 11, 2024 *(Pages 157-158)*
- d. Letter to Premier Doug Ford - support Twp of Conmee - Feb 16, 2024 *(Pages 159-161)*
- e. Mar27-24-FanshaweMOCSupportLetter *(Pages 162-163)*
- f. Minden Hills\_Correspondence Support for Expanding Life of Fire Appartus to Merrickville Wolford *(Pages 164)*
- g. Resolution - Township of Terrace Bay - Development of a Municipal Equipment Operator *(Pages 165-166)*
- h. Resolution - Township of Terrace Bay - Energy Transition *(Pages 167-168)*
- i. Resolution - Township of Terrace Bay - Fair Operational Budget Funding *(Pages 169)*
- j. Resolution - Township of Terrace Bay – PEC *(Pages 170-171)*
- k. Resolution #24-034\_Municipality of Killarney *(Pages 172-176)*
- l. Resolution of Support Greater City of Sudbury – Terrace Bay *(Pages 177-178)*

## **23. Email correspondence**

- m. Chief Jason Gauthier\_Re\_ Resolution Support - Appointment of the municipality as the lead entity to manage evacuation activities *(Pages 179-181)*
- n. Re\_ Updated information, Access to Transportation for Medical Appointments in Temiskaming Shores

and Area (*Pages 182-191*)

- o. Minden Hills\_ Support for the Greater Sudbury Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act (*Pages 192-193*)
- p. Town of Minto Council Meeting March 19, 2024 Item 8 c) correspondence Town of Goderich, Return to Combined ROMA and OGRA Conferences (*Pages 194*)

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

24. Other business brought forward by members

- POA

Mark Wilson asked for the recommendations to be sent directly to him instead of through ROMA. He mentioned upcoming meetings and collaboration efforts with other communities, aiming to develop solid recommendations to address various issues. There's a brief mention of the Mark's involvement as a counselor representing communities in his area.

25. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

## **ADJOURNMENT**

26. Next meeting: May 17, 2024, Location: **HYBRID**

27. Adjournment