



AGENDA

ROMA BOARD MEETING

Friday, December 8, 2023
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

VIRTUAL 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, 1st 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)
Paul Latam, Councillor, Town of Grand Valley (AMO Rural Caucus)
Rainey Weisler, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Bayham (AMO Rural Caucus)
Sandra Datars Bere, 2nd Vice Chair, City Manager, City of St. Thomas (AMO Rural Caucus)

Staff:

Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, AMO
Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer, AMO
Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO
Lindsay Jones, Director of Policy and Government Relations, AMO
Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, AMO
Farah Tayabali, Vice-President, Redbrick
Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick
Lora Tigno, Administrative Assistant, Membership Centre, AMO

Guests:

Kathryn Wood, CEO and President, Pivotal Momentum

Early Departures:

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

Regrets:

None Identified

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

Chair Jones welcomed Board members and staff to its virtual meeting.

2. Declaration

Request members to declare:

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

3. Cross-province check-in - Robin Jones, Chair/All (*Verbal*)

Zone Representatives and AMO Rural Caucus members provided updates on local matters. Some matters identified included:

- Ontario Healthcare
- Farm Safety
- School Bus Stop Cameras

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

4. Approval of Friday, December 8, 2023, Meeting Agenda (*Pages 1-2*)

Chair Jones advised the board members of two amendments to the agenda:

1. To wrap up the discussion on the strategic plan the previous evening and agree on next steps, a motion needs to be passed and it will be done by adding item 11-motion on strategic plan.
2. The Redbrick update also includes the review and approval of the 2024 communications budget.

Motion:

"That the Board approve the agenda, as amended, for Friday, December 8, 2023."

Moved: Steve McCabe

Seconded: Rainey Weisler

CARRIED

5. Approval of Friday November 10, 2023, ROMA Meeting Minutes (*Pages 3-9*)

Motion

"That the Board approve the minutes from the November 10, 2023, meeting".

Moved: Carma Williams

Seconded: Jenn Murphy

CARRIED

6. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer
 - a. ROMA Financial Statements – September 2023 (*Pages 10-15*)
 - b. ROMA 2024 Budget (*Pages 16-23*)

Afshin Majidi presented and reviewed the financial statements for September 2023 and the ROMA 2024 Conference budget and financial projections.

Motion

“That the September 2023 financial statements be accepted as presented” and;

“That the ROMA Board approve the 2024 budget as amended.”

Moved: Dave Beres

Seconded: Peter Emon

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Update on Closer to Home/ Access to Services Policy Development – Kathryn Wood, CEO and President, Pivotal Momentum (*Pages 24-47*)
 - Kathy Woods presented the proposed recommendations for the Improved Access to Services for Rural Ontario. Emphasis is placed on the importance of the recommendations section, specifically addressing the challenges faced by rural Ontario in healthcare.

Other highlights included are:
 - The situational analysis section contains results from surveys, data from various sources, historical reports, and interviews with subject matter experts.
 - The report highlights the lack of attention to rural Ontario in mandate letters and aims to demonstrate the unique challenges faced by the region.
 - Recent developments, such as the pilot project with school bus stop cameras and reports on healthcare issues in rural areas, are discussed.
 - Emphasis on the need for rural leaders' active engagement in Ontario health teams to bring about positive changes.
 - Recommendations focus on making a breakthrough in public policy initiatives that differentially benefit rural Ontario.
 - The report acknowledges a long-term challenge in addressing the shortage of primary care physicians.

- The importance of nurse practitioners and a bridging strategy is mentioned to address healthcare issues in the short term.
- Strategies to reduce demand on emergency rooms and build community services are proposed.
- The report suggests integrating social determinants of health into healthcare system structures.
- Dedicated funding for community-focused innovation and addressing impending changes in public health Ontario are highlighted.

An Executive Summary of the report and a backgrounder will be provided for distribution once complete.

Motion

“That the ROMA Board approve the recommendations as presented”; and

“That the Board direct Kathy Wood to finalize the report for release at the ROMA Conference”.

Moved: Pam Sayne
Seconded: Janet Hager

CARRIED

8. A Rural Perspective on Education – Paul Latam, Councillor, Town of Grand Valley (*Pages 48-49*)

Paul Latam, along with Jamie McGrail and Carma Williams, brought forward this discussion with their Board colleagues to consider current concerns regarding access to education in rural communities. The purpose of this discussion is to determine whether there is consensus within the Board to undertake advocacy efforts on this issue.

Motion

“That the ROMA Board receive the item as delivered” and

“That the ROMA Board include access to education within its advocacy and workplan priorities for 2024”.

Moved: Paul Latam
Seconded: Carma Williams

CARRIED

9. Financial Strains/Water and Wastewater discussion – Peter Emon, Reeve, Town of Renfrew and Jennifer Murphy, Councillor, County of Renfrew (*Supplemental Package*)

Peter Emon and Jennifer Murphy brought forward this discussion with their Board colleagues to consider current concerns regarding the financial sustainability of smaller Ontario municipalities communities in

terms of operating their water and wastewater systems. The purpose of this discussion is to determine whether there is consensus within the Board to undertake advocacy efforts on this issue.

Motion

“That the ROMA Board receive the item as delivered” and;

“That the ROMA Board include the issue of water and wastewater discussion within its advocacy and workplan priorities for 2024”.

Moved: Jennifer Murphy

Seconded: Peter Emon

CARRIED

10. ROMA Communications Update – Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick (Pages 50-59)

Farah Tayabali the communication plan for the 2024. The focus will remain on building on what is working and take advantage of the momentum. Social media engagement continues to do well with a significant (65%) increase in followers, especially on LinkedIn. The approach for the 2024 ROMA Conference will include media engagement, collaboration with the government and showcasing videos about rural Ontario. The budget plan is on par to 2023.

Motion

“That the ROMA Board approve the 2024 communications budget as presented” and

That the ROMA Board receive the communication update as information”.

Moved: Rainey Weisler

Seconded: Pam Sayne

CARRIED

11. Motion on the ROMA Strategic Plan Development

Chair Jones reminded the board members that there is an agreement to approve the Strategic Plan in principle, as discussed in the planning session held last evening. The subsequent steps involve Pat Vanini revising the Plan based on the feedback received from the Board. The final approval will occur once the revised version is submitted, reviewed, and accepted by the Board.

Motion:

“That the ROMA Board approve in principle the proposed ROMA Strategic Plan as reviewed, “and

“That the ROMA Board agree to reconvene for final review and approval of the revised plan once

available.”

Moved: Carma Williams
Seconded: Christa Lowry

CARRIED

12. ROMA Conference Update – Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO *(Verbal)*

Petra Wolfbeiss provided a quick update on the conference, highlighting the current registration status, successful sales of exhibit hall booths and sponsorships, and the positive impact on the 2024 budget. Board members, especially those attending their first ROMA conference as a board member, were informed about their roles, including chairing sessions and zone meetups. A full Board briefing will be held the Saturday evening of the event.

Motion

“That the ROMA Board receive the briefing as information.”

Moved: Christina Early
Seconded: Janet Hager

CARRIED

POLICY

13. Policy Update - Lindsay Jones, Director of Policy and Government Relations, AMO and Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, AMO *(Pages 60-73)*

- a. **Public health voluntary mergers**
- b. **Update on Trains and Drains**

Lindsay Jones gave updates on the trains and drains issue. Key dates and communication strategies were shared.

Lindsay provided an update on the Ministry of Health's process for voluntary mergers across local public health boards. Issues reviewed included: the voluntary nature of the mergers, no extra costs for municipalities, reinvestment of savings, maintaining service levels, flexible population targets, realistic plans, addressing representation concerns, recognizing Indigenous representation, and avoiding increased administrative burdens.

- c. **Access to health services**
- d. **Gender-based violence update**

Daniela Spagnuolo shared AMO's advocacy on access to health services in Ontario

The Board received an update on AMO's advocacy regarding gender-based violence. Recent activities were including: the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services announcement on an integrated gender-based violence prevention strategy that is responsive to and aligns with AMO's advocacy. A concurrent session featuring speakers and ongoing work into 2024, including research and member education initiatives, will be held at the ROMA conference.

Motion

"That the ROMA Board receive the Policy updates as information."

Moved: Christa Lowry
Seconded: Steve McCabe

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

No Updates.

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

Pam Sayne provided an update on the next Teeny Tiny Summits which is scheduled on January 10, 2024 from 10am to 12nn. The Summit will focus on community economic development.

Motion

"That the Board receive the update on Teeny Tiny Summit as information."

Moved: Pam Sayne
Seconded: Carma Williams

CARRIED

- iii. Other

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

15. Update on ROMA Award Memo *(Pages 74-75)*
16. City of Peterborough Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC) Motion *(Pages 76-78)*
17. Conmee Township_Resolution 2023-0207 *(Pages 79)*
18. MPP Bourguoin - letter of support for highway safety *(Pages 80)*
19. Town of Caledon_STAFF Report 2023-0327-Illegal Land Use Enforcement Update *(Pages 81-91)*
20. Town of Parry Sound_2023-176 request CP Rail stop piling railroad ties *(Pages 92-94)*
21. Township of Addington Highlands_LTR of Support_23-Oct-23 Whitchurch-Stouffville *(Pages 95)*
22. Township of Archipelago_23-171 Fire Risk Posed by Railway Tie Piling Practices of Canadian Pacific Railway *(Pages 96-97)*
23. Township of Puslinch Resolution No. 2023-358 Illegal Land Use - Town of Cobourg *(Pages 98-101)*

Motion

"That the Board receive the Information Items."

Moved: Janet Hager

Seconded: Christa Lowry

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

24. Other business brought forward by members
25. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

If no additional items-confirm the next meeting of the Board on February 16, Hybrid, Location: New AMO Office, 155 University Ave., Suite # 800, Toronto, ON

ADJOURNMENT

26. Next meeting:

Remind members that they will be receiving information regarding the ROMA Conference and that the Board will meet on Saturday before the Conference for a preconference briefing.

Information to follow.

February 16, Hybrid, Location: New *AMO Office, 155 University Ave. Toronto, ON (Suite # TBC);* **See you at the ROMA Conference!**

27. Adjournment