

ROMA BOARD MEETING

Friday November 12, 2021
8:30 am – 2:00 pm

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT:

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

Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives

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

Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)

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

Cameron Wales, Councillor, City of Brockville (Zone 7)

Eli El-Chantiry, 2nd Vice Chair, Councillor, City of Ottawa (Zone 8)

Bill Vrebosch, Councillor, City of North Bay (Zone 9 and AMO Rural Caucus)

Sandra Datars Bere, CAO, Corporation of the County of Bruce (AMO Rural Caucus)

Christa Lowry, Mayor, Municipality of Mississippi Mills (AMO Rural Caucus)

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

Staff:

Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, AMO

Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer, AMO

Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO

Brittany Ardiel, Administrative Assistant, AMO

Adam Garcia, Program Coordinator & Advisor, AMO

Monika Turner, Director of Policy, AMO

Matthew Wilson, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO

Amber Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO

Lianne Sauter, Policy Advisor, AMO

Farah Tayabali, Vice President, Redbrick Communications

Guests:

Kathryn Wood, President and CEO, Pivotal Momentum Inc

The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Lindsay Smith, Policy Advisor (OMAFRA)

James Mitchel, Manager, Environmental Management Branch (OMAFRA)

Timothy Brook, Drainage Program Coordinator, (OMAFRA)

The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General

Patrick Schertzer, Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs

Tyler Jensen, Policy and Legal Affairs Advisor

Kerstie Schreyer, Senior Communications Advisor

The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
Michael Lindsay, President and CEO of Infrastructure Ontario
Jill Vienneau, Associate Deputy Minister
David DiPaul, Chief Advisor to Minister Surma
Gary Rygus, Director of Policy to Minister Surma
Hayley Cooper, Director of Communication to Minister Surma

Early Departures:

Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)
Cameron Wales, Councillor, City of Brockville (Zone 7)
Peter Emon, Reeve, Town of Renfrew (AMO Rural Caucus)
Bill Vrebosch, Councillor, City of North Bay (Zone 9 and AMO Rural Caucus)
Sandra Datars Bere, CAO, Corporation of the County of Bruce (AMO Rural Caucus)

Regrets;

Dennis Crevits, Councillor, Municipality of Central Elgin (Zone 1)
Lloyd Ferguson, Councillor, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)
Kim Love, Mayor, Township of Madawaska Valley (Zone 6)
Christine Robinson, Mayor, Municipality of West Grey (AMO Rural Caucus)

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

ROMA Chair Robin Jones welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting, acknowledging timed items with The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Honourable Kinga Surma and Attorney Doug Downey.

Chair Robin Jones read the following Land Acknowledgment:

“We recognize that our work as the ROMA Board, and the work of our members, takes place on traditional Indigenous territories across Ontario. We recognize and respect the history, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Metis, Inuit and all Indigenous peoples whose presence continues to enrich our communities.”

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – None Declared
- Early departure – Identified Above

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of Friday November 12, 2021 Meeting Agenda

“That the Board approve the November 12, 2021 Meeting Agenda.”

Moved by: Peter Emon
Seconded by: Christa Lowry

CARRIED

4. Approval of October 1, 2021 ROMA Meeting Minutes

“That the minutes of the October 1, 2021 meeting of the ROMA Board be approved.”

Moved by: Eli-El Chantry
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

CARRIED

5. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer

- ROMA Financial Statements – September 30, 2021

Afshin presented Financial Statements from September 30, 2021, noting no significant changes.

“That ROMA Financial Statements - September 30, 2021 be received as presented.”

Moved by: Pam Sayne
Seconded by: Peter Emon

CARRIED

6. ROMA Executive recommendation for appointment of Zone 10 Representative – ROMA Chair, Robin Jones

Chair Jones recommended the appointment of Councillor Janet Hager, Municipality of Red Lake, as the Zone 10 representative. Chair Jones discussed the interview process and acknowledged the very strong slate of interested candidates.

“That the ROMA Board appoint Janet Hager, Councillor, Municipality of Red Lake for the position of ROMA Zone 10 representative, for the remainder of the 2019-2023 board term.”

Moved by: Eli El-Chantry
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

7. 9:00 am – 9:30 am – Pre-brief discussion with Minister Thompson – Amber Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO

Amber Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, briefed Board members on key discussion points to engage Minister Thompson on. Amber also provided an overview of current issues and concerns of municipalities.

8. 9:30 am – 10:00 am – The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

- Update from Minister Thompson on matters related to the *Drainage Act*.
- Questions from ROMA Board

The Board welcomed Minister Thompson and staff to the meeting, Minister Thompson delivered opening remarks followed by discussion with the Board.

Minister Thompson agreed to work collaboratively with the ROMA Board to advocate for rural municipalities and discussed writing a letter involving the Federal Minister of Transport, as well as the Canadian National (CN) Railway to confirm the need for federal railways to comply with the Provincial Drainage Act. The ROMA Board agreed to help the Ministry communicate the message through support from municipalities.

9. 10:00 am – 10:30 am – Pre-brief discussion with Minister Downey – Matthew Wilson, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO

Matthew Wilson, Senior Policy Advisor, outlined key messages and questions for the Minister to help guide the discussion to improve the administration of Provincial Offences Act Courts (POA).

10. 10:30 am – 11:00 am – The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General.

- Update from Minister Downey on matters related to the *Provincial Offences Act Courts (POA)*.
- Questions from ROMA Board

The Board welcomed Minister Downey and staff to the Board meeting. Minister Downey delivered opening remarks followed by discussion with the Board related to the *Provincial Offences Act Courts (POA)*.

Discussion included:

- 1) Seeking the proclamation of Section 6 of Schedule 35 to the Stronger Fairer Ontario Act (Budget Measures) 2017 (Bill 177);
- 2) Seeking amendments to the Provincial Offences Act to allow for the clerk to enter a conviction or withdrawal of a charge and to impose a fine as agreed to in writing between the defendant and the prosecutor for proceedings under Part I and II of the Provincial Offences Act, and;
- 3) Restoring a meaningful provincial-municipal dialogue by reconvening the POA Table.

The Attorney General agreed they could move quickly on 1), 2) was more challenging and 3) he agreed, and we should expect to hear back from staff soon.

11. 11:00 am – 11:30 am – Pre-brief discussion with Minister Surma – Amber Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO

Amber Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, briefed the Board on key areas of interest for discussion with Minister Surma on the discussion of broadband investment.

12. 11:30 am – 12:00 pm – The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure.

- Update from Minister Surma on matters related to broadband investment.
- Questions from ROMA Board

The Board welcomed Minister Surma and staff to the Board meeting. Minister Surma delivered opening remarks and updated the Board on Ontario's efforts to improve broadband connectivity in our unserved and underserved communities.

The ROMA Board noted that the need for improved connectivity is still a key advocacy goal for rural municipalities and municipalities across Ontario and discussed the status of the Ontario Broadband Connectivity Strategy and funding programs.

12:00 pm – 12:15 pm Break

13. 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm – Update on Consultations, Insights and Next Steps re: Opportunities for Rural Ontario in a Post Covid World – Kathryn Wood, President and CEO, Pivotal Momentum Inc

The Board was briefed on the consultations undertaken with key stakeholders to inform the focus of the ROMA paper. Through the consultations key themes emerged as critical areas of discussion and advocacy for rural communities. These themes were reviewed and approved by the Board.

"That the Board approve the key themes and direct Kathy Wood to develop recommendations and key considerations."

Moved by: Cameron Wales
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

CARRIED

14. 1:15 pm – 1:30 pm – ROMA 2022 Conference Update – Victoria van Veen

Victoria van Veen updated the Board on conference development including graphics, content, delegations and next steps.

"That the Board receive the ROMA 2022 Conference update."

Moved by: Peter Emon

Seconded by: Eli El-Chantry

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

15. Cross Province Check-In – ROMA Board/All

Zone Representatives and AMO Rural Caucus members provided updates on local matters of interest.

16. Policy Update – Amber Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO (Verbal)

This item was discussed under briefings on discussions with Ministers.

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

17. Committee Reports

i. Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Municipal Forum – Vacant

Allan Thompson was appointed as the ROMA liaison to the NWMO Municipal Forum.

ii. Teeny Tiny Summits – Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills (Zone 5)

Pam Sayne updated the Board that the next Teeny Tiny Summit is December 1st, 2021 and reminded Board members they can register directly on the ROMA website.

iii. Other

INFORMATION ITEMS (#18-22)

No information items were selected for further discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

23. Other business brought forward by members

24. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

ADJOURNMENT

25. Next meeting: Friday December 10, 2021, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm, Virtual Meeting

26. Adjournment

"That there being no further business the Board move to adjourn."

MOVED: Eli-El Chantry
Seconded: Pam Sayne

CARRIED