

ROMA BOARD MEETING

Friday December 10, 2021
9:00 am – 1:30 pm

FINAL MINUTES

PRESENT:

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

Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives

Dennis Crevits, Councillor, Municipality of Central Elgin (Zone 1)

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

Lloyd Ferguson, Councillor, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)

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

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

Kim Love, Mayor, Township of Madawaska Valley (Zone 6)

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)

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

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)

Christine Robinson, Mayor, Municipality of West Grey (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

Craig Reid, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO

Lianne Sauter, Policy Advisor, AMO

Farah Tayabali, Vice President, Redbrick Communications

Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick

Victoria Van Veen, Conference Coordinator

Guests:

Kathryn Wood, President and CEO, Pivotal Momentum Inc

Early Departures:

None Identified

Regrets;

None Identified

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

ROMA Chair Robin Jones welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting. Janet Hager, Councillor, Municipality of Red Lake, was welcomed as the new Zone 10 representative and member of the Board.

The following Land Acknowledgment was read by Chair Jones:

"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

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

4. Approval of Friday December 10, 2021 Meeting Agenda

"That the Board approve the December 10, 2021 meeting agenda."

Moved by: Eli El-Chantry

Seconded by: Kim Love

CARRIED

5. Approval of November 12, 2021 ROMA Meeting Minutes

"That the minutes of the November 12, 2021 meeting of the ROMA Board be approved."

Moved by: Lloyd Ferguson

Seconded by: Sandra Datars Bere

CARRIED

6. Approval of the 2022 ROMA Meeting Dates – Robin Jones, Chair

“That the 2022 ROMA Board meeting dates be approved and circulated.”

Moved by: Christine Robinson

Seconded by: Cameron Wales

CARRIED

7. Updated 2022 ROMA Board Directory

8. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer

- Financial Statements – October 2021

Afshin presented the October 2021 Financial Statements. The 2021 Conference drew higher revenues than budgeted resulting in a favourable net revenue.

“That ROMA Financial Statements for October 2021 be received.”

Moved by: Eli El-Chantry

Seconded by: Peter Emon

CARRIED

- 2022 ROMA Budget

The 2022 budget was tabled for review and discussion. The University Scholarship fund was reviewed, and it was agreed that the funds be restricted.

“That ROMA 2022 budget be approved as presented and that the ROMA University Scholarship funds be restricted.”

Moved by: Allan Thompson

Seconded by: Kim Love

CARRIED

9. Communication Committee Report Back – Peter Emon, ROMA Communications Committee Chair

Peter Emon reported to the Board on the Communications Committee recommendations:

1. That the 2022 ROMA Conference include Zone lunches, and that
2. The Board consider Zone briefings on the recommendations of the Rural Opportunities paper following the 2022 conference.

“That ROMA receive the update from Communications Committee and that the Board instruct staff to set up Zone meetings to brief members on the Rural Opportunities paper as determined by the Board.”

Moved by: Cameron Wales
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

10. 10:00 am – 11:00 am – Final Review: *Opportunities for Rural Ontario in a Post Covid World* – Kathryn Wood, President and CEO, Pivotal Momentum Inc

The Board welcomed Kathryn Woods to present the final review of the ROMA paper: *Opportunities for Growth in Rural Ontario in a Post Covid World*. The Board undertook a decision-making process to finalize the key recommendations under each of the 5 themes of the paper. Board members were asked to submit edits and recommendations by December 22, 2022.

“That the key issues and recommendations, as determined and agreed upon by the Board, be approved; and

Moved by: Sandra Datars Bere
Seconded by: Eli El-Chantry

CARRIED

“That the Board direct Kathryn Wood to finalize the paper based on the decisions of the Board.”

Moved by: Denis Crevits
Seconded by: Kim Love

CARRIED

11. 11:00 am – 11:30 am – ROMA 2022 Conference Update – Victoria Van Veen

Victoria Van Veen provided an update on the program and key conference proceedings including a reminder of the scheduled Zone meet ups during the Monday lunch of the conference.

“That the Board receive the ROMA 2022 Conference update.”

Moved by: Cameron Wales
Seconded by: Janet Hager

CARRIED

12. 11:30 am – 12:00 pm – Communications Update and ROMA Conference Communications – Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick

Farah Tayabali and Megan Abraham provided a communication update since the last meeting of the Board. The Board also received a preliminary briefing on the proposed media strategy for the 2022 conference.

“That the Board receive the Redbrick communication update as information.”; and

Moved by: Cameron Wales

Seconded by: Peter Emon

CARRIED

“That the Board approve the Conference communication strategy.”

Moved by: Allan Thompson

Seconded by: Pam Sayne

CARRIED

12:00 pm – 12:15 pm Break

DISCUSSION ITEMS

12. Update on Provincial Housing Consultation at ROMA Conference – Robin Jones, ROMA Chair/Monika Turner, AMO, Director of Policy

Monika Turner provided an overview of the Premier’s affordable housing consultation scheduled for January 23, 2022. The consultation would include representatives from FONOM, NOMA, OSUM and the EOWC. The AMO policy team will be scheduling a pre-briefing with the ROMA Board and other attendees prior to the Premier’s consultation.

13. ROMA Post-Secondary Award Update – Adam Garcia, Program Coordinator & Advisor

Adam Garcia advised the Board signed agreements for ROMA’s three-year scholarship fund of \$15,000 annually with the University of Guelph and Trent University have been finalized and that the agreement with Lakehead University is in process.

“That the ROMA Board Post-Secondary Award update be received.”

Moved by: Sandra Datars Bere

Seconded by: Pam Sayne

CARRIED

14. Policy Update – Amber Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO

Amber Crawford provided a high-level overview of the following policy matters:

- That the Ministry of Infrastructure released a Statement of Intent, published Building Broadband Faster Act Guidelines, and launched a reverse auction (The Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program)
- That Minister Thompson (OMAFRA) is in the process of drafting a letter to CN Rail in accordance with the meeting had with the ROMA Board in November 2021
- The Excess Soil regulations come into effect on January 1, 2022 and encourage Councils to attend one of the December webinars scheduled
- That the Conservation Authorities Act Phase I Regulations were finalized as of October 2021, and Councils are encouraged to work with CAs on the transition plan (due December 31, 2021) and the inventory (due February 28, 2022)
- There are new Planning Act delegations for staff that were introduced in Schedule 19 of the Bill 13 – Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021.
- The Long-Term Care Act changes received Royal Assent on December 7, 2021.

“That the Policy Update be received.”

Moved by: Kim Love

Seconded by: Janet Hager

CARRIED

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

15. Committee Reports

- i. Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Municipal Forum – Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)

No update provided at this time.

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

Pam Sayne updated the ROMA Board that the Teeny Tiny Summits have been well attended and the next Summit will be in March 2022. Chair Jones and Kathy Wood will be presenting the Rural Opportunities at the March Summit.

“That the ROMA Board receive the update on the Teeny Tiny Summits.”

Moved by: Pam Sayne

Seconded by: Sandra Datars Bere

CARRIED

- iii. Other

INFORMATION ITEMS (#16-20)

No information items were selected for further discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 21. Other business brought forward by members
- 22. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

ADJOURNMENT

- 23. Next meeting: March 11, 2022, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm, Virtual Meeting
- 24. Adjournment

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

Moved by: Pam Sayne
Seconded by: Sandra Datars Bere

CARRIED