

ROMA BOARD MEETING

Friday March 11, 2022
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

Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)
Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4) – Partial
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)
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
Adam Garcia, Manager, Executive Office, AMO
Brittany Ardiel, Administrative Assistant, AMO
Monika Turner, Director of Policy, AMO
Michael Jacek, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO – partial
Amber Crawford, 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:

None Identified

Early Departures:

Eli El-Chantiry, 2nd Vice Chair, Councillor, City of Ottawa (Zone 8)
Christine Robinson, Mayor, Municipality of West Grey (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)

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

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

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 March 11, 2022 Meeting Agenda

"That the Board approve the March 11, 2022 Meeting Agenda."

Moved by: Sandra Datars Bere

Seconded by: Christa Lowry

CARRIED

5. Approval of December 10, 2021 ROMA Meeting Minutes

"That the minutes of the December 10, 2021 meeting of the ROMA Board be approved."

Moved by: Eli El-Chantiry

Seconded by: Pam Sayne

CARRIED

6. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer
 - Interim ROMA 2022 Conference Financial Results

Afshin reviewed the interim ROMA 2022 conference financial results with the Board noting that a number of expense lines came below or at budget. Speaker fees and conference media support came in slightly above budget. Overall the conference saw a positive budget result.

“That Interim ROMA 2022 Conference Financial Results be received.”

Moved by: Christine
Seconded by: Cameron

CARRIED

7. ROMA Sponsorship – ROMA Chair, Robin Jones
 - i. NOMA Sponsorship

ROMA Chair Robin Jones advised members that NOMA has submitted its annual request. Chair Jones reminded the Board that in 2021 it was agreed to implement a revised sponsorship policy. The Board agreed that NOMA should be reminded. The Board also agreed to consider the request at this time given the time sensitive nature.

“That the ROMA Board receive the Northern Ontario Municipal Associations (NOMA) request for funding and advise NOMA of the revised process, funding limits and information required”; and

“That the ROMA Board communicate the revised policy and submission dates of June 1st and December 1st annually.”

Moved by: Cameron Wales
Seconded by: Janet Hager

TIMED ITEMS

8. 11:00 am – 11:30 am – ROMA 2022 Conference Update – Victoria van Veen

Victoria van Veen provided an overview of Conference participation and evaluations and that the 2022 was again an overall success with evaluations demonstrating this.

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

Moved by: Christa Lowry
Seconded by: Pam Sayne

CARRIED

9. 11:30 am – 12:00 pm – Communications Update and ROMA Conference Communications Report – Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick

Farah Tayabali provided an overview of the communication activities as well as the conference report on media engagement and activity on social media platforms noting over 55 media representatives in attendance. For the 2022 conference, media engagement and activity was very high.

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

“That the Board receive the Conference communication report as information.”

Moved by: Peter Emon

Seconded by: Christine Robinson

CARRIED

12:00 pm – 12:15 pm Break

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. 2022 ROMA Strategic Objectives – Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre AMO

Petra Wolfbeiss updated the Board that strategic objectives are developed on an annual basis. The 2022 objectives reflect and continue the strong work of the Board in 2021 and include aligning the work with the *Rural Opportunities* paper priorities.

“That the ROMA Board approve its 2022 strategic objectives; and that they be posted on the ROMA website.”

Moved by: Pam Sayne

Seconded by: Peter Emon

CARRIED

11. Implementing *“Rural Opportunities”* recommendations – ROMA Chair, Robin Jones

- i. Consultant support and contract
- ii. Housing Task Force:
 - a) Approval of Terms of Reference (supplemental)
 - b) Task Force membership discussion and recommendations
- iii. Zone Briefings
- iv. Next steps

Chair Jones reviewed a number of matters related to the implementation of the Board’s *Rural Opportunities* paper:

- i. The Board agreed that to support the development of the housing recommendations that the consultant, Kathy Woods contract be extended. The deliverables and timelines will be reviewed and a proposal for the extension will be tabled for approval.

- ii. Chair Jones introduced the concept and membership structure of a proposed ROMA Attainable Housing Task Force to develop the strategy and advocacy positions for the 4 housing recommendations found in the *Rural Opportunities* paper. It was agreed that the work of the Task Force should commence immediately.
- iii. The format and timing of the Zone briefings on *Rural Opportunities* was reviewed and approved. Zones would be consolidated based on regions and for efficiency of effort.

“That the Board request Kathy Wood to submit the scope and amount of a proposed contract extension for review and approval”; and

“That the ROMA Board approve the Housing Committee Terms of Reference”; and

“That the ROMA Board appoint Chair Robin Jones as the Housing Committee Chair”; and

“That the ROMA Board provide input into the membership of the Housing Committee and direct AMO staff to reach out to the suggested members”; and

“That the Board approve holding Zone briefings virtually and that staff be directed to organize the meetings”.

**Moved by: Allan Thompson
Seconded by: Christine Robinson**

CARRIED

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

Adam Garcia advised the Board that all three ROMA Post-Secondary awards have been signed and university administration staff are now advertising and allocating awards according to their respective schedules.

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

**Moved by: Cameron Wales
Seconded by: Sandra Datars Bere**

CARRIED

13. Report on AMO Housing Strategy – Amber Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO, Michael Jacek, Senior Policy Advisor, AMO, Lianne Sauter, Policy Advisor, AMO, Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, AMO

AMO Policy team, Amber Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, Michael Jacek, Senior Policy Advisor, Lianne Sauter, Policy Advisor, Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor were welcomed by the Board to present.

Staff reviewed the timelines of the Provincial Housing Affordability Taskforce and updated the Board on AMO's Blueprint. Amber Crawford reviewed the Blueprint's context, challenges and solutions including Provincial actions.

"That the report on the AMO Housing Strategy be received."

Moved by: Christa Lowry

Seconded by: Pam Sayne

CARRIED

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

- Ontario Health Teams
- Fire Regulations

Amber Crawford, AMO Senior Policy Advisor the policy update to the Board which included the Ontario Health Teams work to date and recent update to Fire Regulations.

"That the Policy update be received."

Moved by: Chris White

Seconded by: Sandra Datars Bere

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 updated provided at this time.

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

Pam Sayne provided shared with the Board an overview of the March 2022 Summit. The Summits have been very well attended

"That the ROMA Board receive the update on the Teeny Tiny Summits."

Moved by: Pam Sayne

Seconded by: Cameron Wales

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: Friday April 8, 2022, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm, Virtual Meeting
24. Adjournment

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

Moved by: Cameron Wales
Seconded by: Pam Sayne

CARRIED