



AGENDA

ROMA BOARD MEETING

Friday, February 17, 2023
9:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

200 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6

PRESENT:

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

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)
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)
Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager, City of St. Thomas (AMO Rural Caucus)
Peter Emon, Reeve, Town of Renfrew (AMO Rural Caucus)
Rainey Weisler, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Bayham (AMO Rural Caucus)

Staff:

Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer, AMO
Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO
Adam Garcia, Manager, Executive Office, AMO
Lindsay Jones, Director of Policy, AMO
Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, AMO
Lianne Sauter, Policy Advisor, AMO
Farah Tayabali, Vice President, Redbrick Communications
Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick
Victoria Van Veen, Conference Coordinator, AMO
Stewart McDonough, Advisor, Municipal Engagement, AMO
Lora Tigno, Administrative Assistant, Membership Centre, AMO

Guests:

Ellen Sinclair, Executive Director, Rural Ontario Institute

Early Departures:

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

Regrets:

None Identified

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

Chair Robin Jones welcomed the Board and the new members who are attending their first formal meeting; Jamie McGrail, Steve McCabe, Christina Early, Dave Beres, Jennifer Murphy, and Mark Wilson.

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – None declared
- Early departure – Identified above

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of Friday, February 17, 2023, Meeting Agenda (*Pages 1-3*)

Motion:

“That the Board approve the February 17, 2023, Meeting Agenda.”

Moved by: Jamie McGrail
Seconded by: Pam Sayne

CARRIED

4. Approval of Friday, December 9, 2022, ROMA Meeting Minutes (*Pages 4-9*)

Motion:

“That the minutes of the December 9, 2022, meeting of the ROMA Board be approved.”

Moved by: Sandra Datars Bere
Seconded by: Steve McCabe

CARRIED

5. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer

- Interim ROMA 2023 Conference Results (*Verbal*)
- Agricultural Adaptation Council Annual Membership Renewal (*Verbal*)

Afshin Majidi oriented the new board members to our streams of revenue. Afshin also reviewed the interim results of the conference revenue. With nearly 1600 attendees, the conference revenues were in a positive position.

The Agricultural Adaptation Council renewal was deferred to provide an opportunity for the Board to review the mandate and mission of the organization.

Motion:

“That Interim ROMA 2023 Conference Financial Results be received”, and

“That the renewal of the membership for the Agricultural Adaptation Council be deferred”

Moved by: Christa Lowry

Seconded by: Jennifer Murphy

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

6. 9:30am -10:30am – Briefing and Discussion on Opportunities for Rural Ontario and Attainable Housing Task Force Report – Robin Jones, Chair/All *(Verbal)*

- Review of themes, recommendations, and actions

Chair Jones provided an overview of the key elements of the *Rural Opportunities* plan for action including themes and recommendations.

Chair Jones reviewed the process and work of the Attainable Housing Task Force including the report and recommendations.

The Board agreed that for 2023, policy work and advocacy will focus on access to services and that this work will align as well with the Board’s Strategic Objectives.

Motion:

“That the ROMA Board receive the briefing on the Rural Opportunities paper”; and

“That the ROMA Board, determine the key recommendations policy focus arising from the Rural Opportunities action plan will be access to services for 2023”

Moved by: Peter Emon

Seconded by: Jennifer Murphy

CARRIED

7. 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Discussion with Rural Ontario Institute– Ellen Sinclair, Executive Director *(Pages 10-23)*

- June Housing and Homelessness Conference with Rural Development Network *(Pages 24-25)*
- MOU deliverables – supporting Rural Opportunities Recommendations (attachment)

Ellen Sinclair, Executive Director, Rural Ontario Institute identified areas of collaboration for 2023 to support the MOU funding. Chair Jones expressed appreciation to ROI and the Board thanked ROI for partnering with ROMA.

Ellen also requested that ROMA participate in Rural Development Network Housing and Homelessness Conference in June. The Board agreed Chair Jones will participate in the event on behalf of the Board.

Motion:

"That the ROMA Board support the proposed areas of collaboration between ROMA and ROI for 2023."

Moved by: Christina Early
Seconded by: Jamie McGrail

CARRIED

8. 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Update on ROMA 2023- Breaking New Ground Post-Conference – Victoria Van Veen, Team Lead, Events and Training, Membership Centre, AMO (*verbal*)

Chair Jones called on Victoria van Veen and advised the Board members that Victoria has joined AMO as the Team Lead in the Membership Centre on training and events. This is after over 12 years as the Conference Coordinator for AMO and ROMA.

Victoria van Veen reviewed the evaluations received and shared observations and feedback. Overall ROMA 2023 was a successful event, once again surpassing the last in-person attendance and outcomes.

Motion:

"That the Board receive the ROMA 2023 Post-Conference update."

Moved by: Christa Lowry
Seconded by: Pam Sayne

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. ROMA 2023 Strategic Objectives – Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO (*Pages 29-30*)

Chair Jones called on Petra Wolfbeiss to walk through the 2023 Strategic Objectives. These build on, in large part, the objectives of 2022 supporting a broad approach to long-standing rural priorities. In addition to housing and digital connectivity, in 2023 ROMA is prioritizing better access to services in rural Ontario.

Motion:

"That the ROMA Board approve its 2023 strategic objectives; and that they be posted on the ROMA website."

Moved by: Rainey Weisler
Seconded by: Janet Hager

CARRIED

10. June Board Retreat – Confirming Date and Location -Robin Jones, Chair (*Verbal*)

Chair Jones advised the Board on the purpose and process of annual Board Retreats and

explored possibilities for the location of the event. The Board has determined that the location of the retreat be in Prince Edward County.

Chair Jones confirmed that AMO staff can begin looking into venues for the Retreat.

Motion

"That the ROMA Board approve the location of Prince Edward County for the June 2023 Board Retreat and direct AMO staff to begin planning."

Moved by: Jennifer Murphy
Seconded by: Steve McCabe

CARRIED

11. Process and Timing of Filling Zone 7 Vacancy, Adam Garcia, Manager, Executive Office, AMO (Pages 31-32)

Chair Jones called on Adam Garcia to outline the proposed process of filling the Zone 7 vacancy.

Adam outlined the recruitment process which includes:

- AMO staff prepare and release a Request for Applications to elected officials and Clerks in Zone 7 municipalities.
- The ROMA Executive (or designates) review submitted applications and develop a short list of applicants to interview.
- The ROMA Executive bring forward a recommendation for appointment to the ROMA Board to be considered at the March 2023 Board meeting with the new Zone 7 Representative's term beginning after approval of the appointment.

Motion

"That the ROMA Board approve the proposed process for filling the Zone 7 vacancy."

Moved by: Dave Beres
Seconded by: Mark Wilson

CARRIED

12. ROMA Communications Update – Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick

- Report on ROMA 2023 Conference Communications (*Supplemental Package*)

Farah Tayabali and Megan Abraham provided an overview Redbrick. They provided an overview of the communication activities as well as the conference report on media engagement and activity on social media platforms noting there was significant Canada wide coverage of the ROMA conference.

Redbrick will table the proposed 2023 communication plan budget at the next meeting of the Board.

Motion

“That the Board receive the Conference communication report as information; and

“That the Board direct Redbrick to table the 2023 communication plan and budget at the next meeting of the Board.”

Moved by: Peter Emon

Seconded by: Steve McCabe

CARRIED

POLICY

13. Policy Update – Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, AMO

Lindsay Jones, Director of Policy, provided an update on the AMO Homelessness campaign and the timing of the MPAC assessment.

AMO has released materials including a call to the Provincial government to end homelessness in Ontario. This templated resolution has been shared with AMO’s membership along with a number of other materials addressing this matter. ROMA agreed to support the resolution.

Lindsay advised that AMO continues discussions with the government of the MPAC assessment.

Motion

“That update be received.”

Moved by: Mark Wilson

Seconded by: Steve McCabe

- Update on the Drainage Act File (*Pages 33*)

Lianne Sauter provided an update on advocacy to have railway companies on paying the cost of drainage work on their properties. AMO has been and will continue to work closely with OMAFRA on this issue.

Motion

“That the Policy update be received.”

Moved by: Sandra Datars Bere

Seconded by: Rainey Weisler

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 update provided.

Motion

“That the ROMA Board receive the update on Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Municipal Forum.”

Moved by: Sandra Datars Bere

Seconded by: Pam Sayne

CARRIED

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

Pam Sayne shared with the new board members an overview of the Teeny Tiny Summits and ROMA’s role as a sponsor. Chair Jones advised the Board of the next Summit scheduled for March 1st where she will provide an update on the priorities of the Board.

Motion

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

Moved by: Pam Sayne

Seconded by: Christa Lowry

CARRIED

- iii. Other

INFORMATION ITEMS

15. ROMA Award Memo

- a. Update on ROMA Award Memo 01-02-2023 *(Pages 34)*
- b. Nylah Molyneux ROMA Trent thank you *(Pages 35)*
- c. Travis Vosdingh ROMA Trent thank you *(Pages 36)*

16. Bill 23

- a. 22-12-16 - Resolution - Bill 23 (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Letter) Tay Valley Township *(Pages 37-60)*

- b. Bill 23 Resolution - Municipality of Centre Hastings *(Pages 61-67)*
- c. New Motion 2 - Premier Ford - Kingston City Council Meeting *(Pages 68-70)*

17. Cannabis Act

- a. 2023 02 01 - Letter to Cannabis Act Legislative Review Secretariat re. Support for Township of Malahide Resolution, Town of Caledon *(Pages 71)*
- b. 2023-061 Township of Malahide - Federal Cannabis Act Review *(Pages 72)*

18. Drainage Act

- a. Letter - to Province - Drainage Bills – County of Essex *(Pages 73-74)*
- b. Letter to the Minister of Transport - Jan 16, 2023, Township of Warwick, and the Town of Plympton-Wyoming *(Pages 75-77)*

19. Others

- a. Changes to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System - Jennifer Keyes, Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry *(Pages 78)*
- b. Hon Michael Kerzner_Speeding Fines_NorthumberlandCounty *(Pages 79-80)*
- c. MTO Letter-249 (V1) *(Pages 81-82)*
- d. Neebing Response re Proposed Black Ash Recovery Strategy *(Pages 83-84)*
- e. ROMA Response to ERO-posted Consultation on PPS Dec 28, 2022, final *(Pages 85-111)*

Motion

“That the Board receive the information items.”

Moved by: Dave Beres

Seconded by: Jennifer Murphy

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

20. Other business brought forward by members.

21. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

ADJOURNMENT

22. Next meeting: March 17, 2023

23. Adjournment

Motion

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

Moved by: Pam Sayne

Seconded by: Christa Lowry

CARRIED