



# AGENDA

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## ROMA BOARD MEETING

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

AMO Office  
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)  
Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills (Zone 5)  
Jennifer Murphy, Councillor, County of Renfrew (Zone 6)  
Christa Lowry, 1<sup>st</sup> 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)  
Rainey Weisler, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Bayham (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  
Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, AMO  
Farah Tayabali, Vice President, Redbrick Communications  
Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick  
Stewart McDonough, Advisor, Municipal Engagement, AMO  
Lora Tigno, Administrative Assistant, Membership Centre, AMO

### **Guests:**

Carma Williams, Deputy Mayor, Township of North Glengarry  
Paul Latam, Councillor, Town of Grand Valley  
Morgan Carl, AMO Youth Fellows

### **Early Departures:**

Rainey Weisler, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Bayham (AMO Rural Caucus)

## **Regrets:**

Christina Early, Councillor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)  
Peter Emon, Reeve, Town of Renfrew (AMO Rural Caucus)

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

Chair Robin Jones welcomed the Board and introduced new Board members and meeting observers, Carma Williams, Paul Latam. AMO 2023 Youth Fellow, Morgan Carl, also joined the meeting. Chair Jones advised the Board that Deputy Mayor, Carma Williams, Township of North Glengarry, is the appointed Zone 7 representative.

Chair Jones also took time to remind the Board that the next Board Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> will be virtual.

### 2. Declaration

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

### 3. Cross Province Check-In – ROMA Board/All (*Verbal*)

Chair Jones advised the Board members that the Cross Province Check-in provides and opportunity for members to share matters of mutual interest to rural municipalities across the province.

A number of the matters identified included; the rising cost of insurance rates, challenges with affordable housing and infrastructure issues. Brian Rosborough, Executive Director of AMO, acknowledged the insurance piece and reassured the Board that AMO and LAS are working closely with regulators to make insurance costs more affordable.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### 4. Approval of Friday, March 17, 2023, Meeting Agenda (*Pages 1-2*)

Chair Jones advised the Board that item 10 has been amended to include the presentation of the 2023 Redbrick Communication Plan.

#### **Motion:**

*“That the Board approve the March 17, 2023, Meeting Agenda to include the amendment of item 10 and the presentation of the Redbrick 2023 communication plan.”*

**Moved by: Steve McCabe**  
**Seconded by: Christa Lowry**

## **CARRIED**

### 5. Approval of Friday, February 17, 2023, ROMA Meeting Minutes (*Pages 3-11*)

#### **Motion:**

*"That the minutes of the February 17, 2022, meeting of the ROMA Board be approved."*

**Moved by: Jennifer Murphy**  
**Seconded by: Jamie McGrail**

**CARRIED**

6. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer

- ROMA Interim Financial Statements – December 2022 *(Pages 12-18)*
- ROMA 2023 Interim Conference Results *(Pages 19-20)*

Afshin Majidi presented the ROMA Interim Financial Statements, emphasizing that audit fees will be higher and that reserves remain in a positive position.

Afshin noted in his presentation of the Interim Conference results, that revenue increased by 16 per cent over 2022 and that overall, the conference saw a positive budget result.

**Motion:**

*"That the ROMA Interim Financial Statements and Interim ROMA 2023 Conference Financial Results be received."*

**Moved by: Mark Wilson**  
**Seconded by: Pam Sayne**

**CARRIED**

7. Appointment of Zone 7 Representative – Adam Garcia, Manager, Executive Office, AMO *(Verbal)*

Arising from the Expression of Interest to fill the Zone 7 vacancy, Chair Jones shared the Executive Committees recommendation that Carma Williams to fill the vacancy. Carma is currently the Deputy Mayor for the Township of North Glengarry and a Councillor for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry.

**Motion:**

*"That the ROMA Board appoint Carma Williams, Deputy Mayor, Township of North Glengarry, for the position of ROMA Zone 7 representative, for the remainder of the 2023-2027 Board term, conditional upon receipt of a Council or Committee of the Whole resolution of support."*

**Moved by: Christa Lowry**  
**Seconded by: Sandra Datars Bere**

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

8. Spring Board Meeting – Update on Accommodation- Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, AMO Membership *(Verbal)*

Chair Jones advised the Board that the planning is underway. Petra Wolfbeiss, Director of Membership of AMO, shared that The Waring House has been secured as the location for the upcoming Spring Board Meeting in June. The Board was advised that Lora Tigno, Administrative Assistant-Membership, will be in touch on room bookings and meal planning/preferences.

Planning for the meeting will include engagement with the municipality.

**Motion:**

*“That the ROMA Board receive the update on the Spring Board Meeting scheduled for June 7-8.”*

**Moved: Sandra Datars Bere**

**Seconded: Pam Sayne**

**CARRIED**

9. Access to Services in Rural Ontario – Robin Jones, Chair *(Verbal)*

Chair Jones briefed the Board on options to undertake the development of ROMA's positions and recommendations in relation to building on its *Opportunities for Rural Ontario* paper. The Board endorsed further work to address the challenges of rural access to services. Next steps on the process includes engagement with Kathy Wood on policy development.;

**Motion:**

*“That the Board approve the proposed process to develop ROMA policy positions and recommendations on access to services in rural Ontario.”*

**Moved: Janet Hager**

**Seconded: Rainey Weisler**

**CARRIED**

10. ROMA Communications Update – Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick *(Supplemental Package)*

Farah Tayabali and Megan Abraham reviewed ROMA communication milestones since the last meeting of the Board, this include an overview of the successful social media engagement during the 2023 Conference.

The 2023 Annual Communications Plan was presented with the Board agreeing to a budget increase of \$10,000 for the year focused on videos.

The budget plan will be delivered at the April meeting.

**Motion:**

*“That the Communication update be received.” and;*

*“That the ROMA 2023 Annual Communications Plan be approved as presented; and”*

**Moved: Dave Beres**

**Seconded: Mark Wilson**

**Motion:**

*"That the Board approve \$10,000 in addition to the communication plan for Board-approved videos and communications to be developed and released in 2023."*

**Moved: Sandra Datars Bere**

**Seconded: Christa Lowry**

**CARRIED**

**POLICY**

11. Policy Update – Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, AMO and Amber Crawford, Senior Advisor, AMO

- Report on Drainage issues, Amber Crawford (*Pages 21-22*)

Amber Crawford provided an update on advocacy to have railway companies on paying the cost of drainage work on their properties. To date, no solution has been found and all parties agree that the current situation requires resolution. Since ROMA has been an instrumental driving force to the issue, the Board was asked to send a letter and a briefing package on this issue to reach out to its members to be fully informed and to press the matter further.

As the next steps, AMO continues to work with FCM, Transport Canada, OMAFRA, representatives from CN Rail, and municipalities directly impacted to get data. Additionally, AMO staff will create a way for municipalities to directly respond with more specifics on outstanding invoices and other railway-specific issues they are dealing with in their communities.

**Motion:**

*"That the ROMA Board send a letter to the federal Minister of Transport and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs in accordance with this note." And;*

*"That the ROMA Board send out a briefing package on this issue that allows members to be fully informed and begin data collecting on their own outstanding invoices."*

**Moved: Jamie McGrail**

**Seconded: Pam Sayne**

**CARRIED**

- New Excess Soil Regulation, Amber Crawford (*Pages 23-41*)

Amber Crawford briefed the Board on the New Excess Soil Regulation. To support the implementation of the Excess Soil Regulation, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has developed a series of resource sheets to be shared with councils to provide a plain language insight into the requirements.

**Motion:**

*“That the ROMA Board receive as information the update on the New Excess Soil Regulation.”*

**Moved: Jennifer Murphy**

**Seconded: Sandra Datars Bere**

## **CARRIED**

- Update on the expansion of presumptive coverage for cancers for firefighters, Craig Reid (*verbal*)

Craig Reid shared that in early March, the Ontario government indicated its intention to include pancreatic and thyroid cancers as diseases presumed to be work-related for firefighters for the purposes of WSIB benefits. The Board discussed that the health and safety of municipal employees remain a top priority for municipal governments, as demonstrated by investments in equipment and training to maximize employee safety.

### **Motion:**

*“That the ROMA Board receive the update on the expansion of presumptive coverage for cancers for firefighters”.*

**Moved: Sandra Datars Bere**

**Seconded: Jennifer Murphy**

Craig Reid also updated the Board on the following issues:

- **Municipal Codes of Conduct**  
AMO's Board put forward recommendations in 2021 to improve municipal Codes of Conduct which included including application to a judge to remove a member upon recommendation of an Integrity Commissioner. AMO is proposing to reiterate its call for improvements to Codes of Conduct and update its advocacy on this issue. It was agreed that a letter of support from the ROMA Board be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- **Underground Infrastructure Locate Charges**  
AMO has been advised that Enbridge has provided notice that it will begin charging for third-party locate requests on its network starting May 1. AMO is seeking more information and will provide members with updates as appropriate.
- **Environmental Assessment Modernization**  
The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is consulting through the Environmental Registry on Environmental Assessment modernization including exempting low risk municipal projects and shorter approval timelines. AMO is working with municipal staff associations to assess the proposals.
- **Rights of Way Access for Broadband and Cellular Projects**  
Some project proponents are concerned that gaining access to municipal rights of way for Ontario funded projects may increase project construction timelines for critical broadband projects. Municipal staff are advised to ensure access to these rights of way.

### **Motion:**

*“That the ROMA Board receive Municipal Codes of Conduct, Underground Infrastructure Locate Charges, EA Modernization, and Rights of Way Access for Broadband and Cellular Projects as information.; and”*

*‘That the ROMA Board approve a letter to Minister Steve Clark be sent encouraging the resumption of action on Municipal Codes of Conduct and supporting AMO’s positions”.*

**Moved: Steve McCabe**

**Seconded: Carma Williams**

## **REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES**

### 12. Committee Reports

- i. Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Municipal Forum – Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager, City of St. Thomas

Sandra Datars Bere advised that there was no update since the last meeting of the Board.

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

Pam Sayne shared with the Board, highlights from the Teeny Tiny Economic Development Summit held on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Pam advised that Chair Jones participated providing an update on ROMA advocacy arising from the *Rural Opportunities* plan of action.

The Summit focused on the importance of planning for community economic development activities. Well over 100 municipal representatives participated.

- iii. Other

### **Motion**

*“That the Board receive the Committee Reports as information”*

**Moved: Jamie McGrail**

**Seconded: Pam Sayne**

## **CARRIED**

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

13. Letter from the Honourable Lisa Thompson, OMAFRA (*Pages 42-43*)

14. Letter to the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton re HBHC Funding 2023-Feb-23 (*Pages 44*)

15. Memo\_OLSG\_Professional Associations EN (*Pages 45-46*)

16. MNRF\_PLA\_Regulatory\_Proposal\_2023Feb-b2 (*Pages 47-48*)

17. 2023-03-07 LOR Support for Federal Cannabis Act Review\_Marmora Lake *(Pages 49)*

18. 2023 End Homelessness\_Chatham-Kent *(Pages 50-51)*

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

**Motion**

*"That the Board receive the Information Items."*

**Moved: Sandra Datars Bere**

**Seconded: Steve McCabe**

**CARRIED**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

19. Other business brought forward by members.

20. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

- BIAs to be considered at the next board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

21. Next meeting: April 14, 2023 - **Virtual**

22. Adjournment

**Motion:**

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

**Moved: Christa Lowry**

**Seconded: Pam Sayne**