



# AGENDA

## ROMA BOARD MEETING

**Friday, April 14, 2023**  
**9:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.**

**Virtual**

### **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)  
Carma Williams, Deputy Mayor, Township of North Glengarry (Zone 7)  
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)  
Peter Emon, Reeve, Town of Renfrew (AMO Rural Caucus)  
Paul Latam, Councillor, Town of Grand Valley (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  
Lindsay Jones, Director of Policy, AMO  
Adam Garcia, Manager, Executive Office, AMO  
Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, AMO  
Amber Crawford, Senior Advisor, AMO  
Farah Tayabali, Vice President, Redbrick Communications  
Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick  
Stewart McDonough, Advisor, Municipal Engagement, AMO  
Morgan Carl, AMO Youth Fellow  
Lora Tigno, Administrative Assistant, Membership Centre, AMO

### **Guests:**

None Identified

### **Early Departures:**

None Identified

## Regrets:

None Identified

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

Chair Jones welcomed the Board to the meeting and officially welcomed Carma Williams and Paul Latam as part of the Board.

Chair Jones mentioned that Kathy Woods, CEO and President of Pivotal Momentum Inc., will join next month's Board meeting for a consultation regarding policy development and recommendations on access to services in rural Ontario.

### 2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – none declared
- Early departure – none declared

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

Zone Representatives and AMO Rural Caucus members provided updates on local matters. A number of the matters identified included: the Code of Conduct, OPP Closure, Housing Summit, and accessibility to French Immersion schools for Rural Ontarians.

## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### 4. Approval of Friday, April 14, 2023, Meeting Agenda (*Pages 1-3*)

Chair Jones advised the Board that Item 7 only includes the communication update as the budget was approved at the last meeting (including the additional \$10,000) and that item 9 update will be provided by Lindsay Jones, Director of Policy, AMO.

#### **Motion:**

*"That the Board approve the meeting Agenda with the changes to items 7 and 9, noted".*

**Moved: Janet Hager**

**Seconded: Rainey Weisler**

### 5. Approval of Friday, March 17, 2023, ROMA Meeting Minutes (*Pages 4-11*)

Chair Jones advised the board that for item 10 in the minutes, the budget was already tabled and approved at the March meeting and no further discussion is required.

#### **Motion:**

*"That the Board approve the Minutes of March 17, 2023 with the change reflecting the communication was approved with an additional \$10,000 for videos".*

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

6. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer

- ROMA Conference – future contracts – *(Verbal)*

Afshin Majidi provided an update on future conference venues. After environmental scanning has been done, it was recommended that Sheraton is much better fitting for ROMA's Conference needs. The board supported AMO Staff in following up with Sheraton in discussing 2026 and future ROMA contracts.

**Motion:**

*"That the Board direct AMO Staff to pursue discussions with Sheraton on future contracts, beginning in 2026, for the ROMA Annual General Meeting and Conference"; and*

*"That the Board direct staff to report back on discussions and next steps".*

**Moved: Sandra Datars Bere**  
**Seconded: Pam Sayne**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7. Redbrick Discussion– Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick *(Supplementary Package)*

- ~~2023 Budget Review~~
- Communications Update

Farah Tayabali and Megan Abraham reviewed highlights of key data on social media usage from the end of January to the beginning of April. ROMA's following and engagement continue to grow steadily across all social media platforms. The first 2023 ROMA newsletter was sent out on April 12 and key metrics will be presented at the next meeting. Planning for the ROMA video development is underway and will highlight how rural Ontario contributes to the economy and how ROMA supports the communities.

**Motion:**

*"That the Board receive as information, the communication update from Redbrick."*

**Moved: Steve McCabe**  
**Seconded: Mark Wilson**

8. LAS Cyber Insurance Program – Shannon Devane, LAS Program Manager, Municipal Risk Management *(Supplementary Package)*

Shannon Devane presented LAS' new program designed to help municipalities manage cyber incidents. The board was briefed that LAS has partnered with ISA Cybersecurity and has designed CIMOM (Cyber Incident Management for Ontario Municipalities) to provide access to quick, effective, and orderly response to cyber security incidents.

**Motion:**

*"That the Board receive as information the LAS cyber insurance program update."*

**Moved: Carma Williams**

**Seconded: Dave Beres**

**POLICY**

9. Policy Update – Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, AMO (*Verbal*)

- **Broadband Update**
- **Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE)**
- **Code of Conduct**

Craig Reid provided the board with a broadband update. Recent provincial red tape reduction legislation includes broadband measures. It includes improving access to infrastructure mapping and expediting agreements for access to municipal rights of way.

Craig also provided an update on Automated Speed Enforcement Service (ASE). An update on the speed enforcement work specifically in understanding options on municipalities sharing in the purchase of units will be presented in the next board meeting.

The final piece on Craig's update is regarding municipal codes of conduct for council members. At its last board meeting, the AMO Board reaffirmed its recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance. AMO has written to the Minister and to the Premier to request new legislation to enact the recommendations. The Board also approved a further recommendation to prohibit a member removed through application to a judge from running for election in the term in which removed and the subsequent term of office. AMO has provided sample resolution text for councils that wish to lend their support to this call.

- **Housing Update**

Amber Crawford provided the board an update on housing advocacy, in particular the newest Housing Supply Action Plan: Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants and its complementary legislation, Bill 97.

- **Drainage Action**

Lindsay Jones provided the board an update on ongoing efforts to hold railways responsible for drainage work on their property. CN has sent a letter to the OMAFRA Minister highlighting their intention to file with the Canadian Transportation Authority, against municipalities in short order. The board directed staff to contact the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for more information, and guidance, and to review some legal considerations on this matter.

**Motion:**

*“That the Board receive as information the policy updates on Broadband and Housing Action Plan, ASE, Broadband, and Code of Conduct; and*

**Moved: Carma Williams**  
**Seconded: Steve McCabe**

*“That the Board agree to review options to counter CN with FCM legal counsel”*

**Moved: Paul Latam**  
**Seconded: Jamie McGrail**

**REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES**

10. Committee Reports

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

No Update

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

No Update

- iii. Other

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

11. **Drainage Act**

- a. 23-01 Arran-Elderslie Re Tile Drainage Loan Program Review.doc (*Pages 12-16*)
- b. 2023-03-20-Minister of Transport Canada-Drainage Act Malahide signed (*Pages 17-19*)
- c. 2023-03-23 Resolution Letter Re Resolution of Support – Municipality of Arran-Elderslie – Tile Drainage (*Pages 20-23*)
- d. 2023-03-29 CN and the Drainage Act (*Pages 24-26*)
- e. 2023-03-29 CN Drainage Act (*Pages 27-28*)
- f. Drainage along Railways\_Twnshp of Elizabethtown-Kitley (*Pages 29-31*)

- g. Township of Georgian Bluffs\_Letter in Support *(Pages 32-34)*
- h. AP ROMA LTR MTC OMAFRA Drainage Act 2023-04-03 *(Pages 35-36)*

## 12. **Black Ash Recovery**

- a. Neebing Response re Proposed Black Ash Recovery Strategy *(Pages 37-38)*
- b. resolution\_Township of Conmee *(Pages 39)*

## 13. **ROMA Awards**

- a. Rural Ontario Municipal Association Award *(Pages 40-41)*
- b. Update on ROMA Award Memo 14-04-2023 *(Pages 42)*

## 14. **Justice of Peace Vacancies**

- a. Advertisement\_EN\_Justice of Peace Vacancies *(Pages 43-45)*
- b. Michael Ras\_EN *(Pages 46)*

## 15. **Other**

- a. CoR Violence Against Women Resolution March 2023 *(Pages 47)*
- b. MNRF\_PLA\_RegulatoryProposal\_Update\_2023March17 *(Pages 48-49)*
- c. OPP March 28 2023 *(Pages 50-52)*
- d. Resolution - ROMA Board C. Williams *(Pages 53)*
- e. Resolution 119-2023\_Review of Rural Education Funding *(Pages 54-55)*
- f. Resolution No. 2023-064 - School Board Elections *(Pages 56-62)*

### **Motion**

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

**Moved: Janet Hager**

**Seconded: Mark Wilson**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### 16. Other business brought forward by members

Chair Jones brought forward the plan that ROMA will work with Kathy Wood to dig deeper into rural access to services like health and social support. A fee of \$15,180 + HST to commission Kathy for the project was tabled to the board.

## **Motion**

*“That the ROMA Board contracts with Kathy Wood of Pivotal Momentum Inc. for the amount of \$15,180 plus HST, to provide project leadership on the 2023 roadmap project, to dig deeper into the lack of health and social services in rural Ontario.”*

*Moved: Christa Lowry*

*Seconded: Peter Emon*

17. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

## **ADJOURNMENT**

18. Next meeting: May 12, 2023 - **Virtual**

19. Adjournment