



# AGENDA

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## ROMA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, June 8, 2023**  
**8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

**Friday, June 9, 2023**  
**8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.**

**The Waring House**  
**395 Sandy Hook Rd.**  
**Picton, ON K0K 2T0**

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives**

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)  
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)  
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  
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:**

Melanie Borho-Persechini, Partner, BDO Canada LLP  
Brian Beiles, President, The County Foundation

Dominique Jones, Executive Director, The County Foundation  
Emily Cowan, Director of Community Programs Services and Initiatives, The County of Prince Edward  
Eoin Calla, Executive Director, Community Futures  
Dr. Audrey Jamal, Researcher, Guelph University  
Charles (Chuck) M. Dowdall, Director of Housing, The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward

**Early Departures:**

None Identified

**Regrets:**

Christina Early, Councillor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)  
Mark Wilson, Councillor, City of Temiskaming Shores (Zone 9)

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

The following Land Acknowledgment was read by Chair Jones:

*"We will begin this meeting by acknowledging that the County of Prince Edward is on traditional land that has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning.*

*We thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years.*

*We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this land.*

*Today, the County of Prince Edward is still home to many First Nations and Metis people, and we are grateful to have an opportunity to work and meet on this land."*

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: Closing of Emergency Hospital in Minden, ON; Mitigation funding of health units; Violence against women and its prevalence in rural communities.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

4. Approval of Thursday, June 8, 2023, Meeting Agenda (*Pages 1-3*)

**Motion**

*"That the Board approve the agenda for Thursday, June 8, 2023."*

**Moved by: Steve McCabe**  
**Seconded by: Jamie McGrail**

**CARRIED**

5. Approval of Friday, May 12, 2023, ROMA Meeting Minutes *(Pages 4-11)*

The Board brought up that there was no cross-province check-in on the last meeting and that the motion stopped reading carried or defeated. Corrections are to be made for accuracy.

**Motion**

*"That the Board approve the minutes from the May 12, 2023 meeting".*

**Moved: Janet Hager**  
**Seconded: Paul Latam**

**CARRIED**

6. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer

- i. Audit final report to the Board of Directors – Melanie Borho-Persechini, BDO Canada *(Pages 12-44)*
- ii. 2022 Draft Audited Financial Statements – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer *(Pages 45-56)*
- iii. ROMA Conference – venue contract for 2027 and 2028 – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer *(Verbal)*

Melanie Borho-Persechini, Partner, BDO Canada LLP, tabled and reviewed the final auditor's report.

Afshin Majidi presented the 2022 Draft Audited Financial Statements as well as provided a verbal update on the ROMA conference venue contract, particularly requesting for a mandate to negotiate/get a contract for the year of 2027 and 2028.

**Motion**

*"That the Audit final report be accepted as presented." and;*

*"That the 2022 draft audited financial statements be accepted as presented." and;*

**Moved: Jennifer Murphy**  
**Seconded: Paul Latam**

*"That the ROMA Board approve contracting Sheraton for 2027, 2028."*

**Moved: Christa Lowry**  
**Seconded: Carma Williams**

## **CARRIED**

## **TIMED ITEMS**

- ~~7. 9:10 AM – 9:30 AM – Welcome – Chief R. Donald Maracle, President, Chief of the Mohawks of Bay of Quinte (TBD)~~
8. 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM – THRIVE Prince Edward County – Brian Beiles, President, The County Foundation (*Supplementary Package*)

Chair Jones welcomed and introduced Brian Beiles and his team to the board.

Brian, along with his team, presented Thrive PEC's background and formation, and how it is working to revitalize community and economic development initiatives in the County through strong partnerships and a collaborative organization.

## **Motion**

*"That the Board receive the Thrive PEC presentation as information".*

**Moved: Janet Hager**

**Seconded: Carma Williams**

## **CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

9. Review of Spring Meeting Itinerary – Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO (*Pages 57*)

Petra Wolfbeiss reviewed the itinerary of the Offsite Spring Board Meeting with the board members. The itinerary includes a tour of Base 31, a decommissioned WWII air training base that has been transformed into a community and arts hub. A community partnership bought the 70-acre site to create a mixed-use development with living art installations and an events space. This partnership brings together a broad array of local experts from affordable housing, and commercial and retail to infrastructure and adapting heritage sites.

The rest of the itinerary includes meeting with the Thrive PEC team, a briefing with the representatives of the Prince Edward County Affordable Housing Corporation, and a social gathering with the Mayor and Council of PEC.

## **Motion**

*"That the Board receive the Spring Meeting Itinerary review as information".*

**Moved: Jennifer Murphy**

**Seconded: Christa Lowry**

## **CARRIED**

10. Update on Access to Services Policy Development – Robin Jones, Chair *(Verbal)*

Chair Jones provided an updated on the Closer To Home: Improved Access to Services Policy Development. The project is well on way to being on target, and that Chair Jones and the team is currently working on looking for specialists to interview. It is expected that by the July meeting, the survey will be sent out and that feedback will be gathered.

**Motion**

*“That the Board receive the update on Access to Services Policy Development as information”.*

**Moved: Steve McCabe**  
**Seconded: Janet Hager**

**CARRIED**

11. ERO Submission Development and Timing- Robin Jones, Chair *(Verbal)*

Chair Jones informed the Board that with the engagement of Kathy Woods, ROMA is currently preparing a submission for the ongoing consultation on the Provincial Planning Statement. Recommendations were taken by consulting with 400 municipalities. ROMA’s submission will be submitted ahead of the August 4, 2023 deadline. More updates to be provided in the July Board Meeting.

**Motion**

*“That the Board receive the update on ERO Submission Development and Timing as information”.*

**Moved: Paul Latam**  
**Seconded: Christa Lowry**

**CARRIED**

12. Update on CN v Sarnia – Robin Jones, Chair *(Verbal)*

No update. More to be shared on the July Board Meeting.

**Motion**

*“That the Board receive the update on the Drainage Act issue as information”.*

**Moved: Jamie McGrail**  
**Seconded: Janet Hager**

## **CARRIED**

### 13. Strategic Planning – Update – Robin Jones, Chair *(Verbal)*

Chair Jones brought forward the plan that Pat Vanini, consultant for ROMA's Strategic Planning, will be coming to AMO 2023 in London and will book one on one interviews with each of the board members to get their input in building the Strategic Plan.

#### **Motion**

*"That the Board receive the update on the strategic planning as information", and*

*"That staff be directed to finalize the contract, bring forward the contract in the July Board meeting, and support the next steps of the strategic plan development".*

**Moved: Sandra Datars Bere**

**Seconded: Carma Williams**

## **CARRIED**

### 14. Teeny Tiny Summits – Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills

- a. 2022-2023 Teeny Tiny Symposiums Report *(Pages 58-61)*
- b. Financial Support for 2023-2024 *(To be delivered)*

Pam Sayne shared with the Board, highlights from the 3 Teeny Tiny Summits held during 2022-2023. This includes performance measures, social media engagement, and the next steps in planning for its 2023-2024 Summit series.

As the summits remain an important means to connect and strengthen rural Ontario and provide resources and innovation to local efforts, ROMA's support and collaboration is highly valued. It also aligns with one of ROMA's strategic objectives to Support organizations, events and activities that advance, promote, and celebrate the strength of rural communities in the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Ontario.

#### **Motion**

*"That the Board approve support for the Teeny Tiny Summits in 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 in the amount of \$10,000 annually."*

**Moved: Carma Williams**

**Seconded: Jamie McGrail**

## **CARRIED**

### 15. ROMA Communications Update – Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick *(Pages 62-65)*

Farah Tayabali and Megan Abraham reviewed highlights of key data on social media usage from

April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>. ROMA's following, and engagement continue to grow steadily across all social media platforms.

The team also brought forward the plan of working with a local videographer from Northumberland County to develop two videos for ROMA. The first video will focus on key themes that highlight the importance of rural Ontario and what it offers the rest of the province. The second video will focus on how people living in rural Ontario describe their experience in one word, with b-roll footage centered around visual representation for each statement. The board tabled their input and suggestions that fit with the themes of innovation, diversity, tourism, and local government.

## **Motion**

*"That the Board receive the Redbrick communication update as information". and;*

*"That the Board direct Redbrick to develop the videos according to the Board's feedback."*

**Moved: Jennifer Murphy**

**Seconded: Carma Williams**

**CARRIED**

## **POLICY**

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

Craig Reid provided an update on the following policy matters:

- i. Housing Accelerator Fund - The HAF has been designed to support maximum flexibility in eligible projects and recognizes the importance for rural, small, and northern municipalities having access to funding for local projects.
- ii. Developments on Aggregates - Participation on new recycled aggregates working group.
- iii. Codes of Conduct for Municipal Councillors - Bill 5 defeated in legislature, key messages to members advising mobilization at the local level.
- iv. MTO consultation on Off-Road Vehicles - MTO is consulting on changing the rules for ORVs including raising age limits for drivers and passengers in responding to the recommendations of two inquests.
- v. Ministry of Public and Business Services Delivery consultation on Locates - MPBSD and the Ministry of Energy are consulting on changes to the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act to ensure locates are provided without charge and to make the system for locate requests and delivery more efficient.

## **Motion**

*"That the policy update be received".*

**Moved: Carma Williams**

**Seconded: Jennifer Murphy**

**CARRIED**

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

### 17. 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 *(Under Item 14)*
- iii. Other

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

18. 2023 May 15 - RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID CRISIS\_Town of Fort Frances *(Pages 66-67)*
19. Fw\_ Soos Food Security Motion for Kaiser (Region) Proposed *(Pages 68-69)*
20. Lakehead LTR ROMA Thank You for Award 2023-05-03 *(Pages 70-72)*
21. MMAH LTR AP-RC Site Plan Control 2023-05-20 *(Pages 73)*
22. MNRF\_Proposed Streamlining of Approvals under the Aggregate Resources Act and Supporting Policy *(Pages 74-75)*
23. Notification- City of St. Catharines- Proposed Provincial Planning Policy Instrument *(Pages 76-87)*
24. SDG Resolution - Bill 97\_United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry *(Pages 88-89)*
25. South Stormont Resolution - Bill 97 and Draft Provincial Policy Statement *(Pages 90)*

## **Motion**

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

**Moved: Sandra Datars Bere**

**Seconded: Steve McCabe**

**CARRIED**



## **OTHER BUSINESS**

26. Other business brought forward by members
27. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings
  - Discussion of Rural Education

## **ADJOURNMENT**

28. Next meeting: July 7, 2023 - Hybrid
29. Adjournment