



## **Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting**

Date: May 27, 2022  
Time: 9:30 am  
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting  
Link to be distributed via email prior to meeting

Members Present      Marcus Adili, Les Armstrong, Bruce Banbury, Robert Bell, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Kevin Davis, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Joan Gatward, Helen Jowett, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Jerry Smith, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White

Regrets                Bernie Corbett, Cathy Downer, Jim Erb, Michael Harris, Daniel Lawrence, Geoff Lorentz

Staff                    Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Brandon Heyer, Lisa Keys, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Crystal Allan, Eowyn Spencer

### **1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:32 a.m.

### **2. Certification of Quorum**

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with more than half of the Members present. A total of 20 Members attended the meeting.

### **3. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- Samantha Lawson has been re-elected to the 2022 Conservation Ontario Board of Directors for a third term. Congrats Sam, and we look forward to continuing to support you in this role
- Nancy Davy, Director of Resource Management is retiring from her role with the GRCA. Over the past 35 years Nancy has influenced how conservation authorities deliver planning and permitting services, developed strong and critical relationships with all levels of government and had a positive impact on the people who have

worked with her. The Chair thanked Nancy on behalf of the Board for the incredible contributions she has made over her time at the GRCA. Nancy addressed the Board and thanked everyone for the well wishes.

- On May 24, Lisa Keys will be assuming the Director's role for the Land Management Division. Lisa has a diverse professional background with over 15 years of experience in facilities operations management in the public sector, specializing in strategic planning, capital and operating budgets, health and safety, and legislative compliance.
- Starting on May 30, Pippy Warburton will be assuming the Director role for the Water Management Division. Pippy has over 20 years of experience in Water Resource Engineering and has specialized in hydrologic and hydraulic modelling, urban flood mitigation, storm water management design, and sewer network modelling.

J.Mitchell, K.McGarry, and K.Davis joined the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

**4. Review of Agenda**

22-84

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Joe Nowak

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting be approved as circulated.

**Carried**

**5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests made in relation to the matters to be dealt with.

**6. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

22-85

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter

**Seconded By** Ian MacRae

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of April 22, 2022 be approved as amended.

**Carried**

**7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

**8. Hearing of Delegations**

There were no Delegations.

**9. Presentations**

There were no Presentations.

**10. Correspondence**

**10.1 Lauren Tonelli re: Pheasant Hunt Program**

22-86

**Moved By** Jerry Smith

**Seconded By** Susan Foxton

THAT correspondence from Lauren Tonelli, on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the North American Versatile Hunting Dogs Association – Ontario Grand River Chapter regarding the pheasant hunting program be received as information.

**Carried**

**11. 1st and 2nd Reading of By-Laws**

None.

**12. Reports:**

**12.1 GM-05-22-44 - Conservation Authorities Act Amendments - Overview of Phase 2 Regulations**

- S.Lawson advised the Board that the Province has released the Phase 2 regulatory changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, and provided a brief summary.
- The updated regulations include information on fee policies and general governance. The GRCA is in compliance with the changes, and will continue to update the Board of any required information.
- The working group that was comprised of key stakeholders to provide input on the regulatory changes has concluded.
- Section 28 of the Act, which relates to development has not yet been updated.

B.Whale and B.Bell joined the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

22-87

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Jane Mitchell

THAT Report Number GM-05-22-45 – Overview of Phase 2 Regulations be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.2 GM-05-22-44 - Return to In-Person Board Meetings - Options**

- K.Armstrong provided a brief overview of the options to returning to in-person meetings being presented for Board direction. The report outlines considerations for the following options:
  - Continue with full virtual meetings for the time being
  - Provide a hybrid option of virtual and in-person
  - Return fully to in-person meetings

- K.Armstrong added clarification that the Auditorium used to hold Board meetings is a multi-purpose room which does present some challenges in terms of acoustics, physical distancing and technology requirements.
- Board members discussed the options as presented with discussion related to attendance rates, the advantages of participating virtually, and the benefits of in-person meetings to encourage collaboration and discussion. Members shared personal preferences, experiences with respective municipalities, and benefits and challenges related to each option.
- Discussion continued and Board members considered health and safety benefits, environmental and cost considerations, and increased public participation.
- Following discussion, it was determined that staff should work towards implementing a hybrid solution as it provides flexibility to all Members. The question of attendance was raised, and the Chair noted that all Members report to their respective municipalities in terms of attendance at local board meetings. Parameters for attendance will be considered by staff.

22-89

**Moved By** Kevin Davis

**Seconded By** Brian Coleman

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority direct staff to implement a hybrid meeting solution as soon as possible, and report back to the Board in September if the hybrid solution cannot be implemented prior to the September meeting.

**Carried**

### **12.3 GM-05-22-46 - Human Resources Policies Update**

- There were no questions or concerns related to this report.

22-89

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter

**Seconded By** Guy Gardhouse

THAT the Human Resources Policies dated May 27, 2022 be approved and implemented.

**Carried**

### **12.4 GM-05-22-42 - Cash and Investment Status**

- There were no questions or concerns related to this report.

22-90

**Moved By** Joan Gatward

**Seconded By** Jerry Smith

THAT Report Number GM-05-22-42 Cash and Investment Status – April 2022 be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.5 GM-05-22-50 - Financial Summary**

- There were no questions or concerns related to this report.

22-91

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Ian MacRae

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending April 30, 2022 be approved.

**Carried**

**12.6 GM-05-22-43 - Provincial Offences Act Officer Designation - Section 29 Conservation Areas**

- There were no questions or concerns related to this report.

22-92

**Moved By** Marcus Adili

**Seconded By** Les Armstrong

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority appoints Joseph Castellan, Jayme Forslund, and Peter Gatto as Provincial Offences Act Officers to enforce section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

**Carried**

**12.7 GM-05-22-47 - Pheasant Hunt Program - Third Party Agreement**

- J.Nowak requested clarification with respect to the Correspondence received earlier in the meeting, and if staff will be reaching out directly to that organization.
- S.Lawson noted that the report is an overview in terms of the operational impact of a third party agreement, and depending on Board direction staff will follow up with the appropriate groups.
- The Chair clarified that the report provides further detail on the complexity of the issue and considerations for the cancellation of the pheasant hunting program, and noted that Board direction would be required if it is desirable to involve a third party to operate the pheasant hunting program on GRCA property.
- K.Davis asked for clarification on the motion, and S.Lawson advised that staff have not provided a recommendation in order to remain neutral, but that the past operational decision to cancel the program has not changed. If no alternate direction is provided by the Board, staff will not proceed with exploring the third party agreement.

22-93

**Moved By** Marcus Adili

**Seconded By** Bruce Banbury

THAT Report Number GM-05-22-47 – Pheasant Hunting - Third Party Agreement be received as information.

**Carried**

- Board members continued the discussion in terms of other third party agreements of this nature, the operational impact of resuming the pheasant hunting program at the specified area at Conestogo Lake, potential complications, and consideration of other game/fish stocking programs.
- S.Lawson and P.Walther-Mabee responded to Board questions, noting available resources and the cost to operate the program, and that the pheasant hunt program was removed as a GRCA program to better align with corporate priorities.
- J.Nowak discussed specific interested parties, and agreed to keep the motion general so as not to exclude any groups.
- K.Davis wished to clarify the implications of this motion, and K.Armstrong noted that the motion presented by Mr. Nowak will direct staff to hold discussions with interested parties. C.White advised that any agreement will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

22-94

**Moved By** Joe Nowak

**Seconded By** Les Armstrong

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority direct staff to discuss operating a pheasant hunting program with interested third-party groups.

**Carried**

#### **12.8 GM-05-22-49 - Natural Heritage Program Update**

- C.Allan provided a detailed presentation on the GRCA's Natural Heritage program.
- The presentation highlighted the manner in which the natural heritage department supports resource management with planning applications, wetlands and ecological restoration, conservation management, enhancement of grasslands, and aquatic ecosystems.
- Specific programs such as the Mill Creek Ranger program provides students with employment opportunities, as well as training and enrichment related to natural resources management.
- Natural Heritage is an integrated piece of watershed management, and supports collaboration across the GRCA.
- Board members thanked Crystal for the presentation, noting the importance of the natural heritage aspect of resource management. In response to a question about invasive phragmites, C.Allan noted that the GRCA manages the issue on its own properties.
- R.Carpenter inquired about the heritage designation of the Grand River, and S.Lawson noted that the designation is related to cultural heritage.

- There was some further discussion related to giant hogweed mitigation, and it was noted that the GRCA manages the invasive weed on its own properties.

22-95

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter

**Seconded By** Kathryn McGarry

THAT Report Number GM-05-27-49 – Natural Heritage Program Update be received as information.

**Carried**

#### **12.9 GM-05-22-48 - Current Watershed Conditions**

- D.Boyd indicated that reservoirs are filling as expected for this time of year, and noted that conditions continue to be carefully monitored.
- In light of the recent severe wind event, D.Boyd added that staff are reaching out to Environment Canada with respect to the timeliness of severe weather warnings.
- K.Davis made note of the recent tragic event that occurred at Pinehurst Conservation Area as a result of the storm on May 21, and inquired about warnings or instruction provided to patrons. Board Members expressed sympathies to the family, and to emergency responders and GRCA staff involved.
- K.Davis also inquired about notification of minor spill events in the river, and D.Boyd said that municipalities work with MECP to notify in the event of spills that pose a human health risk.

22-96

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Les Armstrong

THAT Report Number GM-05-22-48 – Current Watershed Conditions as of May 18, 2022 be received as information.

**Carried**

#### **13. Committee of the Whole**

Not required.

#### **14. General Business**

There was no General Business.

#### **15. 3rd Reading of By-Laws**

None.

#### **16. Other Business**

- W.Stauch shared information about a recent meeting of the Historical Society in Mapleton Township, which highlighted the construction of the Conestogo Dam in the 1950s.

- Mr. Stauch also noted that the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief sale will be held on May 28, and L. Armstrong added that the event will be held at the New Hamburg fairgrounds.

**17. Closed Meeting**

22-97

**Moved By** Marcus Adili

**Seconded By** Susan Foxton

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting in accordance with the *Municipal Act section 239(2)* for the following purpose(s): labour relation or employee negotiations.

**Carried**

The General Membership convened in closed session and the live meeting stream was paused.

22-98

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter

**Seconded By** Joe Nowak

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

**Carried**

The General Membership re-convened in open session and the live meeting stream was resumed.

**17.1 Minutes of the previous closed session**

22-99

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** Ian MacRae

THAT the minutes of the previous closed session be approved as circulated.

**Carried**

**17.2 Labour relations or employee negotiations**

- There was no motion or direction to staff related to this closed agenda item.

**18. Next Meeting - June 24, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.**

**19. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

22-100

**Moved By** Guy Gardhouse

**Seconded By** Marcus Adili

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

**Carried**



---

Chair

---

Secretary-Treasurer