



Grand River Conservation Authority Agenda – Board Composition Committee

Date: September 16, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Members Present: Marcus Adili, Susan Foxton, Helen Jowett, Chris White
Members Regrets: Geoff Lorentz, Jane Mitchell
Staff: Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Sonja Radoja, Eowyn Spencer

1. Call to Order - 9:02 a.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified with 4 members present.

3. Chair's Remarks

None.

4. Review of Agenda

Moved by: Marcus Adili

Seconded by: Sue Foxton

THAT the agenda for the Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by: Sue Foxton

Seconded by: Marcus Adili

THAT the minutes of the previous Board Composition Committee Meeting held on October 25, 2019 be approved as circulated.

Carried.

7. Reports:

7.1. General Membership Composition – Update

- This Committee was formed in 2018 with the purpose of considering the City of Hamilton's inquiry of their representation on our Board, following a significant increase to their levy following a court decision that the levy agreement that had been in place was no longer valid.
- The Committee was paused in 2019 as the GRCA awaited provincial direction related to the regulatory changes under the CA Act.
- K.Armstrong shared information recently received from the City of Hamilton, related to their own review of representation on the GRCA Board, and three other conservation authorities in their jurisdiction.
- The Committee reviewed the information in the agenda and addendum packages, and discussed overall Board representation.
- It was noted that the population based methodology for determining municipal representation on conservation authority Boards would result in the GRCA potentially increasing to a 39 member Board plus the provincially appointed agricultural representative, if appointed, although the continued grouping of municipalities may reduce that number.
- The GRCA was issued an Order in Council in 1994 which was sought to create a manageable and effective Board size, and as such does not follow the population based method of determining representation.
- It was noted that the overall GRCA budget is approved by the Board annually on a weighted vote, which means that each participating municipality total vote reflects the same percentage as defined in the levy apportionment.
- M.Adili also discussed citizen representation and the provincial requirement for municipalities to appoint 70% elected council members to CA Boards unless an exception is granted. The participating municipalities are responsible for determining their appointments and submitting exception requests related to appointments. The Chair noted that the GRCA continues to be supportive of legislative requirements.
- The Chair summarized the discussion, noting that GRCA staff will follow up with the City of Hamilton staff in order to inquire what discussion took place at their recent Council meeting where a report on all four of their conservation authority's board composition was discussed. This Committee will reconvene at a later date, and staff will reach out to the City of Hamilton to determine an official request.

Moved by: Marcus Adili

Seconded by: Helen Jowett

THAT the General Membership Composition - Update be received as information.

Carried.

7.2 City of Hamilton Staff Report (CM22017) Conservation Authority Board Composition

- This report was reviewed as part of the discussion above.

8. Other Business - None.

9. Next Meeting – At the Call of the Chair

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.