



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: October 28, 2022
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership

- GRCA Administration Centre
- Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present In-person Bruce Banbury, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Kevin Davis, Susan Foxton, Joan Gatward, Helen Jowett, Joe Nowak, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White

Members Present Virtual Les Armstrong, Robert Bell, Richard Carpenter, Bernie Corbett, Cathy Downer, Jim Erb, Guy Gardhouse, Daniel Lawrence, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Jerry Smith

Regrets Marcus Adili, Michael Harris, Geoff Lorentz

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Beth Brown, Joe Farwell, Brandon Heyer, Janet Ivey, Lisa Keys, Katelyn Lynch, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Gus Rungis, Stephanie Shifflett, Eowyn Spencer

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:31 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with more than half of the Members present. A total of 23 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members to the first hybrid meeting, reviewed protocols for order during the meeting, and made the following remarks:

- Congratulations to everyone, for those who ran in the 2022 municipal election, and to those retiring from public service.
- A half-day orientation session will be scheduled for incoming Board members on January 20. Returning members are also encouraged to attend.

- On Monday September 26, Samantha Lawson and Chair White attended Conservation Ontario Council; agenda topics included ongoing regulatory requirements, and the 2023 proposed CO workplan and budget.
- On October 25, 2022, the government released More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23. Along with the plan, the government introduced *Bill 23 – the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, and is seeking feedback on the changes proposed under the legislation. Samantha Lawson has more information on this later in the agenda.

4. Review of Agenda

- S.Lawson will provide an update on the recently released provincial legislation impacting the Conservation Authorities Act under agenda item 12.

22-158

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Joe Nowak

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

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

22-159

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Ian MacRae

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting held on September 23, 2022 be approved as circulated.

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 Canadian Society of Soil Science re: 24th World Congress of Soil Science

22-160

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Jerry Smith

THAT Correspondence from the Canadian Society of Soil Science regarding their successful bid for the 24th World Congress of Soil Science be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 CAO Update on Bill 23 - More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

- As noted earlier by the Chair, S.Lawson advised that on October 25, 2022, the provincial government released More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23. Along with the plan, *Bill 23 – the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* was introduced, and the province is seeking feedback on the changes proposed under the legislation.
- S.Lawson shared that comments are being received in two phases, both of which propose changes to legislation that significantly impact conservation authority permitting and planning services. The deadlines are November 24, prior to the next Board meeting, and December 30.
- GRCA staff are completing a detailed review of the legislation, with the intent of submitting comments under both of the ERO postings. Due to the timing of submission requirements as well as the end of the term of council which may impact participating municipalities' appointments to the GRCA Board and therefore quorum for the November meeting, staff are recommending that the CA Act Ad-hoc Committee be delegated the authority to review and approve GRCA staff comments to be submitted to the province by November 24.
- An overview of comments submitted on November 24 will be provided at the November Board meeting. Comments to be submitted on the December 30 postings will be prepared for the December Board meeting.

22-161

Moved By Susan Foxtan

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT the Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee be authorized to approve staff comments on Bill 23 on behalf of the GRCA General Membership.

Carried

12.2 GM-10-22-81 - Budget 2023 Draft 1

- S.Radoja provided a detailed overview of the estimated 2023 budget, including revenues and expenditures for operating and capital budgets, special projects, and funding sources. The presentation included an overview of budgetary challenges including inflation, rising insurance

costs, restructuring, increased infrastructure expenses, and managing growth.

- The draft budget includes an anticipated overall levy increase of 3.5%.
- Budget draft number two will be presented to the Board in January 2023, and forecast adjustments will be presented as needed.
- J.Gatward identified an error on page 15 of the agenda package, noting the date should read November 2022-February 2023.
- Board members thanked S.Radoja for the presentation and discussed the draft budget. Members discussed various reserves and allocations for staffing positions, land sales, and surplus funds. S.Radoja advised the Board that an annual reserves report will provide extensive detail on all GRCA reserves, and will be presented at the November Board meeting.
- In response to an inquiry about the increase in staffing costs, S.Radoja noted that 2023 salary increase recommendations will be brought to the Board for approval, and the collective agreement has not yet been negotiated which would outline union staff wage increases. There was a follow up question with respect to OMERS for students, and it was noted that staff will be reviewing obligations as appropriate.
- K.Davis inquired about the Caledonia dam fish ladder, and S.Lawson shared that options will be discussed with Six Nations and the municipality.
- There was discussion regarding an anticipated electricity shortage, and hydro-generation options at GRCA dams. J.Farwell responded on behalf of staff, noting the cancellation of green energy projects in 2018 following the provincial election, which resulted in the cancellation of the Parkhill Dam hydro project. A stop work order was served at the time the project was cancelled, and as part of the agreement to recover expenses, the project was not to be re-started.

22-162

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT Report Number GM-10-22-81 - Budget 2023 - Draft #1 be received as information.

Carried

12.3 GM-10-22-80 - Budget 2023 Draft 1 - General Municipal Levy Apportionment

- There were no comments related to the draft municipal levy apportionment.

22-163

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT Report Number GM-10-22-80 – Budget 2023 – Draft #1 – General Municipal Levy Apportionment be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-10-22-77 - Cash and Investment Status

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-164

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT Report Number GM-10-22-77 Cash and Investment Status – September 2022 be received as information.

Carried

12.5 GM-10-22-84 - Financial Summary

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-165

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Cathy Downer

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

Carried

12.6 GM-10-22-83 - Brant Shop Construction Award Recommendation

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-166

Moved By Joan Gatward

Seconded By Helen Jowett

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) award the tender for the Brant Shop Construction to PK Construction of Tillsonburg, Ontario for the amount of \$1,382,600.00 excluding HST;

AND THAT a total budget of \$1,600,000.00 excluding HST be approved.

Carried

12.7 GM-10-22-85 - Environmental Contamination - River Road/Birkett Lane, Brantford and 810 Clyde Road, Cambridge

- In response to a question regarding the previous use of the site on River Road, S.Lawson noted that there is no outstanding lien or liability as the GRCA owns the property.
- R.Carpenter inquired about securing the site to prevent it from becoming a dumping ground. B.Brown noted that mitigation options are being considered, including possible fencing of the property.

22-167

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT Report Number GM-10-22-85 Environmental Contamination Update – River Road/Birkett Lane, Brantford and 810 Clyde Road, Cambridge be received as information.

Carried

12.8 GM-10-22-78 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-168

Moved By Joan Gatward

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT Report Number GM-10-22-78 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

Carried

12.9 GM-10-22-79 - Dam Safety Maturity Matrices - Evaluation of GRCA's Dam Safety Program

- K.Lynch provided a detailed presentation of the GRCA Dam Safety Program and the dam safety maturity matrices.
- The presentation included an overview of safety ratings for various components of the dam management program based on the matrix evaluation tool and discussed the strengths of the program, and areas for improvement.
- Strengths of the GRCA program that were highlighted included reservoir operations and public safety, and higher maturity levels were achieved on these areas. Areas for improvement included training, documentation, and aging infrastructure. To address gaps, there are ongoing efforts to maintain or increase current levels of maturity ratings.
- There were questions from the Board regarding improvements to work towards industry leading standards and creating targets, or expected levels of competency in all program areas. K.Lynch and J.Farwell responded to questions, noting that staff have identified target areas to work towards improvement, and areas where the GRCA excels such as public safety, modelling and flood forecasting.

H.Jowett exited the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

22-169

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT Report Number GM-10-22-79 – Dam Safety Maturity Matrices – Evaluation of the GRCA’s Dam Safety Program be received as information.

Carried

12.10 GM-10-22-82 - Current Watershed Conditions

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-170

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT Report Number GM-10-22-82 – Current Watershed Conditions as of October 19, 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 announced his retirement after 12 years with the GRCA board, and many years working alongside GRCA programs in the watershed.
- K.McGarry thanked the GRCA for leadership and stewardship, noting that the GRCA is recognized across the country and internationally. She noted that this was her last meeting on the Board and wished everyone the best of luck in the future.
- L.Armstrong announced that this was also his last meeting and thanked the Board for educating him so that he can educate the people of Wilmot and the Region of Waterloo.
- Board members shared well wishes and congratulations to outgoing members.

17. Closed Meeting

There were no questions regarding the minutes, and as such the Board did not enter a closed session.

22-171

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

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

Carried

17.1 Minutes of the previous closed session

18. Next Meeting

- General Membership - November 25, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

22-172

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer