

# Grand River Conservation Authority

**Report number:** GM-11-21-80

**Date:** November 26, 2021

**To:** General Membership of the Grand River Conservation Authority

**Subject:** Draft Transition Plan – Requirement under Ontario Regulation 687/21

---

## Recommendation:

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority Draft Transition Plan be approved;

AND THAT the Draft Transition Plan be circulated to all participating municipalities;

AND THAT the finalized Transition Plan be presented to the General Membership for approval at the December meeting.

## Summary:

Under *Ontario Regulations 687/21*, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) is required to develop a Transition Plan that outlines the process the conservation authority will go through to transition to the new funding/levy framework. The regulation requires that this Transition Plan be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and posted to the website by December 31, 2021. This Plan will also be circulated to all participating municipalities.

Attached to this report is the draft GRCA Transition Plan with process milestones and timelines to complete the transition period by January 1, 2024.

## Report:

On October 4, 2021 the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) released the Phase 1 regulations to implement amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Report GM-21-10-75: Conservation Authorities Act Amendments- Phase 1 Regulation and Timelines provides an overview of the Phase 1 Regulations and associated deliverables and timelines.

The following regulations were included in the Phase 1 release:

- *Ontario Regulation 686/21*: Mandatory Programs and Services
- *Ontario Regulation 687/21*: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services
- *Ontario Regulation 688/21*: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas.

Under *Ontario Regulation 687/21*: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services, the regulation requires each conservation authority to create a Transition Plan that outlines the steps to develop an inventory of programs and services (category 1-3) and to enter into agreements with participating municipalities to fund category 2: Municipal programs and services. The Transition Period starts on the date the regulation was released and finishes on January 1, 2024.

The purpose of the transition period is to prepare conservation authorities and municipalities for the change to the budgeting process based on the delivery of Category 1-3 programs and services by January 1, 2024.

The first deliverable in transition period is to development and gain approval of the Transition Plan. The Transition Plan consists of a workplan/timeline and the consultation process with

participating municipalities on the inventory of all the GRCA's programs and services. This plan is required to be submitted to the MECP and to be made available to the public by December 31, 2021. This plan must also be circulated to all participating municipalities.

The first phase of the transition period requires an inventory of GRCA's programs and services. The inventory will list all the programs and services that the authority GRCA is providing as of February 28, 2022 and those that it intends to provide after that date. The inventory will include information about the sources of funding and categorize all programs and services based on the following: 1 – mandatory programs and services; 2 – municipal programs and services; and 3 – other programs and services.

The second phase of the Transition Period includes developing and finalizing the conservation authority/municipal agreements in accordance with any regulations governing municipal programs and services. These agreements must be complete by January 1, 2024.

Throughout the Transition Period the GRCA is required to submit six quarterly progress reports to the MECP on July 1, 2022, October 1, 2022, January 1, 2023, April 1, 2023, July 1, 2023 and October 1, 2023. The progress reports will include any comments received/changes to the inventory, an update on the progress of negotiations of agreements, and any difficulties that the GRCA is experiencing with concluding the requirements prior to the end of the Transition Period.

A final report is to be submitted to MECP and each participating municipality by January 31, 2024 including the final version of the Inventory of Programs and Services and confirmation that the authority has entered into all necessary cost apportioning agreements. This report also has to be posted on the website.

The attached provides the draft GRCA Transition Plan and timelines.

### **Financial Implications:**

Not applicable.

### **Other Department Considerations:**

Not applicable.

### **Submitted by:**

Samantha Lawson

Chief Administrative Officer