



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: October 22, 2021
Time: 9:30 am
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Link to be distributed via email prior to meeting

Members Present Marcus Adili, Bruce Banbury, Robert Bell, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Cathy Downer, Jim Erb, Susan Foxtan, Guy Gardhouse, Joan Gatward, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Jerry Smith, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White

Regrets Les Armstrong, Bernie Corbett, Kevin Davis, Michael Harris, Geoff Lorentz

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

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:30 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with 17 Members present. A total of 21 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

J.Challinor, I.MacRae and K.McGarry joined the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- On September 27, 2021 Samantha and I attended a virtual Conservation Ontario Council meeting, where the Phase 1 CA Act changes continues to be a key agenda item and discussion topic, as well as other matters pertinent to Ontario CAs.
- 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* made in 2019/2020. Samantha has a report later on this agenda for

questions and discussion, and a meeting of the CA Act Ad-hoc Committee has been scheduled for October 27, 2021 to further discuss the regulatory changes and associated timelines for coming into conformance with the legislation. Following the meeting, the Ad-hoc Committee was rescheduled to meet on October 29, 2021.

- GRCA staff are beginning to receive requests from member municipalities to present the 2022 budget. GRCA budget presentations will be provided to our participating municipal councils upon request.

4. Review of Agenda

21-150

Moved By Cathy Downer

Seconded By Jerry Smith

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

21-151

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Susan Foxtan

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of September 24, 2021 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

None.

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-10-21-75 - Conservation Authorities Act Amendments - Phase 1 Regulations and Timelines

- S.Lawson provided a presentation to highlight details of the three provincial regulations that were released as a result of the Phase 1 amendments under the Conservation Authorities Act. The regulations include Mandatory Programs and Services; Transition Plan and Agreements; and Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas
- Under the mandatory programs and services regulation, three categories have been defined to classify all conservation authority programs. The categories are: levy funded and regulated programs, municipal requested programs offered through local agreements and/or other outside funding sources, and other programs and services funded through special agreements, government grants, and/or self-generated revenue
- Under the mandatory programs and services regulation, key deliverables and timelines have been established by the Province. These deliverables include strategies and plans for specific components of the mandatory programs and services. These strategies and plans must be completed by December 31, 2024
- Under the rules and conduct in conservation areas regulation, individual regulations for each Ontario conservation authority pertaining to their conservation areas have been consolidated into one cohesive regulation. There is little to no impact on GRCA operations coming out of this regulation
- S.Lawson went on to further highlight the key deliverables for the transition plan, details of work requirements, including creating a programs and services inventory and identifying categories for all programs and service currently being provided. The transition to the new regulation will require a collaborative effort with watershed municipalities in order to create agreements for services, and will require time commitments to meet the requirements for creating the land management and infrastructure strategies and plans identified in the regulations
- Phase 2 regulations will focus on levy requirements and conservation authority fees, and will be helpful in creating the programs and services inventory. An anticipated release date for these additional updates has not yet been established by the Province
- Board members asked questions related to incorporating climate considerations into the planning process, tree planting programs, and identifying programs that are important to watershed citizens that can still be offered through council approved municipal agreements
- S.Lawson discussed aspects of the regulations and the transition plan that will identify opportunities to highlight the GRCA's programs, and noted that the classification process into the three categories will be challenging as many programs may have components that span different categories provided by the Province
- The next steps will include developing a draft transition plan and inventory of programs and services, initiating discussions with participating municipalities,

following provincial timelines for key deliverables, and updating the budget format to be implemented for 2024.

J.Mitchell joined the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

21-152

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report Number GM-10-21-75 – Conservation Authorities Act Amendments – Phase 1 Regulations and Timelines be received as information.

Carried

12.2 GM-10-21-70 - 2022 Board Meeting Schedule

21-153

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT the Meeting Schedule for 2022 Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership meetings be approved.

Carried

12.3 GM-10-21-71 - Cash and Investment Status

21-154

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Richard Carpenter

THAT Report Number GM-10-21-71 Cash and Investment Status – September 2021 be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-10-21-73 - Financial Summary

- B.Bell inquired about the status of the Guelph City Link Trail project. S.Lawson responded that the design process is underway, and a topography survey has been completed. The timing to post the tender for the project is now being discussed.

21-155

Moved By Bob Bell

Seconded By Jim Erb

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending September 30, 2021 be approved.

Carried

12.5 GM-10-21-72 - Park Reservation System RFP Results

- J.Mitchell recalled a previous contract with CAMIS that did not meet the organization's needs, and K.Armstrong advised that previous concerns were directly addressed and considered in the RFP and demonstration process.

21-156

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT staff be authorized to negotiate an agreement with CAMIS Inc. to provide a conservation area reservation system for a term of three years with the option to extend the contract for up to three additional one year terms.

Carried

12.6 GM-10-21-69 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

J.Erb left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

21-157

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Jerry Smith

THAT Report Number GM-10-21-69 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

Carried

12.7 GM-10-21-74 - September 22-23, 2021 Flood Event

- D.Boyd provided an overview of the recent flood event, noting that the last flood event of this magnitude occurred in September 1986.
- This watershed-wide flood event saw precipitation up to 120mm in some areas, with the most heavily affected areas being the head waters of the Nith River, as well as central and north-western parts of the watershed.
- The high water level came near to the top of the Wellesley dam, and an inspection of the dam has since been completed.
- A post-event debriefing is scheduled with affected municipalities and flood coordinators, as every flood event provides learning opportunities for improving procedures in emergency flood response.
- Board members commented on the event, noting the high water levels and discussed opportunities to share the details of these flood events, and how Conservation Authorities manage water-control infrastructure to reduce flood damage.
- J.Nowak shared his concern about the event at Wellesley Dam, and inquired about contact information for emergencies. D.Boyd shared that a flood coordinators guide highlights key contacts, and is prepared annually and distributed to all municipal flood coordinators and emergency response teams across the watershed. Board members will receive the most recent copy by mail following the meeting, to ensure it has been received.
- S.Foxton added that it may be beneficial for the Board to receive an update on the watershed flood warning communication system and the process

followed by staff, municipal flood coordinators, and emergency response units in such events.

- D.Boyd highlighted that it is important to maintain consistent use of reliable communications systems during floods, and that the current flood notification system works efficiently. During a flood event, the GRCA notifies municipal coordinators, who initiate a fanout notification process. The GRCA webpage and a dedicated social media account is also updated regularly to help share accurate information.

21-158

Moved By Joe Nowak

Seconded By Cathy Downer

THAT Report Number GM-10-21-74 – September 22-23, 2021 Flood Event be received as information.

Carried

12.8 GM-10-21-76 - Current Watershed Conditions

- D.Boyd advised the Board that the bi-annual Flood Coordinators Meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021. The group began meeting twice per year as it has become more common for the watershed to experience a winter melt and increased flood risk in the later winter months. The agenda includes a guest speaker out of Michigan who brings expertise and information-sharing about dam break flooding and flood warning communications systems.

21-159

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT Report Number GM-10-21-76 – Current Watershed Conditions as of October 13, 2021 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 provided the following update on events in local watershed communities:

- Rogers Hometown Hockey made a visit to the North Dumfries Community Centre in Ayr on the weekend of October 17. The community was decorated in red, white and black colours of the Ayr Centennials, who compete in the Greater Ontario Junior

Hockey League. On Monday, October 3, Ron MacLean and Tara Slone hosted a program on Rogers TV prior to the New York Rangers-Toronto Maple Leafs NUL game. Congratulations to Mayor Foxtan and the residents of North Dumfries Township for celebrating their long hockey history.

- The Township of Woolwich and the town of Elmira celebrated the 50th reunion of the Elmira Sugar Kings Jr. B. hockey team. The reunion took place on Sunday, October 17 at the Woolwich Community Recreation Centre before a hockey game between the Ayr Centennials and the Sugar Kings. Congratulations to Mayor Shantz and the residents of Woolwich Township.
- Monday, November 15, 2021 will mark the 140th anniversary of the official opening of the iconic West Montrose Covered Bridge, the last remaining covered bridge in Ontario. The bridge will close in the New Year for extensive renovation.

17. Closed Meeting

21-160

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss a confidential matter.

Carried

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

21-161

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Susan Foxtan

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

The General Membership reconvened in open session and the live meeting stream was resumed.

17.1 Minutes of the previous closed session

21-162

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Susan Foxtan

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

Carried

18. Next Meetings

- General Membership - November 26, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
- Audit Committee - November 26, 2021 immediately following the General Membership

G.Gardhouse inquired about current workloads and staffing levels in the Planning department. S.Lawson provided that a high volume of permit and plan review submissions combined with various leaves and turnover has resulted in a service disruption causing delayed response times. Standard hiring processes are underway to get the department back to a full staffing complement, and staff are looking at ways to efficiently manage the high volume of submissions and inquiries. The service disruption notice and helpful information for inquiries of a general nature are posted on the website.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

21-163

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By Bruce Whale

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer