



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

Date: January 27, 2023  
Time: 9:30 am  
Location: Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership  
GRCA Administration Centre  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present Bruce Banbury, Christine Billings, Gino Caputo, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Doug Craig, Kevin Davis, Mike Devine, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Gord Greavette, Lisa Hern, Colleen James, Daniel Lawrence, David Miller, Sandy Shantz, Rob Shirton, Jerry Smith, Natasha Salonen, Shawn Watters, Chris White, Kari Williams, Alex Wilson, Pam Wolf

Regrets Ken Yee Chew

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Joe Farwell, Brandon Heyer, Janet Ivey, Lisa Keys, Katelyn Lynch, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Vahid Taleban, Pam Walther-Mabee, Eowyn Spencer

Others Leslie Rich, Conservation Ontario; Lucas Michalski and Marcus Shehata, KPMG

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

The Chair called the meeting to order 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 25 Members attended the meeting.

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

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- Former Councillor and GRCA Board member, Bob Bell, passed away suddenly on January 18. Bob recently retired from politics, choosing not to run for a fifth term in 2022. He was an engaged member of the GRCA Board since 2010, proudly representing the City of Guelph. Our thoughts and condolences are with the family.

- In January, staff presented the 2023 budget to Councils at the City of Hamilton and the County of Brant. Both went well, and budget presentations will continue through February at the request of our participating municipalities.
- Staff are holding the first round of meetings with participating municipalities to begin discussions on the category 2 programs and services, and related memoranda of understanding as required under new regulations.
- On January 20, an orientation session was held for our Board members – thank you to all who attended both in-person and virtually. Thank you to staff who attended and prepared presentations. These highlighted the work and the collaborative nature of this conservation authority and its many important programs and services. Kudos to staff!

S.Foxton and C.James joined the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

**4. Review of Agenda**

23-01

**Moved By** Shawn Watters

**Seconded By** Pam Wolf

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**

23-02

**Moved By** David Miller

**Seconded By** Susan Foxton

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of December 16, 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.

K.Davis and J.Erb joined the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

**10. Correspondence**

**10.1 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing re: Greenbelt Amendments and Revocation of the Central Pickering Development Plan and O.Reg. 154/03**

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

**10.2 County of Brant re: Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 - Legislative Update and Comments**

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

**10.3 Conservation Ontario re: Review of A Place to Grow (Growth Plan) and PPS (ERO Posting 019-6177)**

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

**10.4 Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re: GRCA exception request for chair and vice-chair term limits under the Conservation Authorities Act**

J.Challinor suggested that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Minister's office, and S.Foxton expressed appreciation for Ministry staff for handling the request.

23-03

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Christine Billings

THAT Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and from the County of Brant, and from Conservation Ontario regarding items under Bill 23, More Houses Built Faster Act, 2022, and from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding GRCA's application for an exception to subsections 17(1.1) and 17(1.2) regarding the term limits of the chair and vice-chair positions under the Conservation Authorities Act be received as information.

**Carried**

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

See agenda item 12.h for staff report GM-01-23-08 - Proposed by-law 1-2023.

**12. Reports:**

**12.1 GM-01-23-03 - Per diems and Honorariums for 2023**

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-05

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Alex Wilson

THAT Report Number GM-01-23-03 – Per Diems and Honorariums for 2023 be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.2 GM-01-23-01 - Cash and Investment Status**

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-06

**Moved By** Jerry Smith

**Seconded By** Gord Greavette

THAT Report Number GM-01-23-01 Cash and Investment Status – December 2022 be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.3 GM-01-23-04 - Budget 2023 Draft #2**

- D.Miller inquired about variances in reserves and a higher decrease in some compared to others, as well as fees for planning process and programs that provide self-generated revenue. S.Radoja responded to questions, noting several items affecting the reserve balances, which include a temporary funding of a new staff position to reduce levy impact, and a changed demand on motor pool and computer charges. S.Radoja also clarified the limitations on the land sale reserve fund, which may only be used for specific purposes as defined by the province.
- Further, S.Radoja discussed the fees for planning services, noting that there is a portion of planning services which are funded by the levy. The Minister has issued direction to freeze fees related to planning for 2023. Additionally, there is a fee study underway that includes a review of user fees in this program area. Other programs such as environmental education is considered a category 3 program under the new regulations, so going forward, it can't be levy-funded.
- S.Shantz asked to confirm the temporary funding of a staff position using reserves. S.Lawson confirmed that the use of reserves for this position was thoroughly discussed and thoughtfully considered prior to receiving Board approval in 2022. One position was created to support the land management division in providing the deliverables prescribed in new regulations and the second is a new position which will transition to a levy-funded position, reducing the need for a significant increase in a single year. C.White affirmed that staff positions are typically not funded with reserves at the GRCA.

23-07

**Moved By** Brian Coleman

**Seconded By** Bruce Banbury

THAT Report 01-23-04 - Budget 2023 - Draft #2 be received as information;

AND THAT an amount equal to any undesignated surplus realized from the 2022 year-end operating results be transferred to the Transition reserve at the end of 2022.

**Carried**

**12.4 GM-01-23-07 - Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan - Related Regulatory Changes, Ministerial Order and OWES Manual Amendments**

There were no comments or concerns regarding this report.

23-08

**Moved By** Shawn Watters

**Seconded By** Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-01-23-07 – Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan - Related Regulatory Changes, Ministerial Order and OWES Manual amendments be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.5 GM-01-23-02 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation**

There were no comments or concerns regarding this report.

23-09

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Brian Coleman

THAT Report Number GM-01-23-02 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.6 GM-01-23-06 - Current Watershed Conditions**

There were no comments or concerns regarding this report.

23-10

**Moved By** Brian Coleman

**Seconded By** Pam Wolf

THAT Report Number GM-01-23-06 – Current Watershed Conditions as of January 17, 2023 be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.7 GM-01-23-05 - Lake Erie Surge Flood Event-December 23, 2022**

- K.Lynch provided a detailed overview of the recent Lake Erie surge flood event. The presentation highlighted the effective flood warning notification system and emergency response, the flooding and blizzard-like conditions that contributed to the hazardous conditions, as well as lessons learned during the event. Overall, it was noted that the event was managed effectively with collaboration from municipal staff and emergency coordinators.
- Board members thanked Katelyn, and inquired about damage estimates, flood brochures and awareness, and preparation for shoreline flooding. K.Lynch responded, noting that damages are unknown as it occurred on private property. Regarding awareness and preparation, the level of awareness in high-risk areas has increased since 2019 due to an increase in flood events, and flood information and warning zones are available on GRCA and municipal websites.

- S.Foxton added that flood-mapping and hazard awareness was a topic of discussion at ROMA.

23-11

**Moved By** Pam Wolf

**Seconded By** Lisa Hern

THAT Report Number GM-01-23-05 – Lake Erie Surge Flood Event – December 23, 2022 be received as information.

**Carried**

#### **12.8 GM-01-23-08 - Proposed By-law 1-2023**

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-12

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** Bruce Banbury

THAT By-law 1-2023 be read a first, second, and third time and adopted by the General Membership, to take effect on January 27, 2023;

AND THAT By-law 1-2022 be repealed on January 27, 2023;

AND THAT a copy of By-law 1-2023 be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and posted publicly on the Grand River Conservation Authority's website.

**Carried**

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

Not required.

#### **14. 3rd Reading of By-Laws**

Previously completed.

#### **15. Closed Meeting**

The Chair asked if any Members had questions or discussion items related to the previous minutes, and seeing that there were none, the Board did not enter a closed session.

##### **15.1 Minutes of the previous closed session**

23-13

**Moved By** Pam Wolf

**Seconded By** Jerry Smith

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

**Carried**

#### **16. Election of Officers**

- C.White welcomed Leslie Rich from Conservation Ontario, and Lucas Michalski and Mark Shehata from KPMG to the meeting, and vacated the position of Chair.
- L.Rich declared the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair vacant and stated the election procedures as outlined in GRCA By-law 1-2022.
- L.Rich assumed the role of Acting-Chair for the purpose of overseeing the Election of Officers.

#### **16.1 Appointment of Scrutineers - Motion Required**

23-14

**Moved By** Christine Billings

**Seconded By** Doug Craig

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority appoint Lucas Michalski and Mark Shehata as scrutineers for the purpose of electing officers of the General Membership.

**Carried**

#### **16.2 Election of Chair**

##### **16.2.1 Call for Nominations**

- S.Foxton nominated C.White for the position of Chair on the first call for nominations. C.White accepted the nomination
- No further nominations were presented during the second and third calls

##### **16.2.2 Motion to close nominations for Chair**

23-15

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Doug Craig

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership be closed.

**Carried**

##### **16.2.3 Distribution of Ballots for In-person, Virtual Voting Submissions & Collection of ballots and submissions by Scrutineers**

Not required.

##### **16.2.4 Announce Election Results**

- C.White was acclaimed as Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority for a one year term to commence January 27, 2023 until the next Election of Officers.
- C.White thanked Members of the Board for their confidence, noting that it is an honour to be acclaimed to the position of Chair for a third term.

##### **16.2.5 Motion to destroy Ballots & Virtual Voting Submissions**

Not required.

## **16.3 Election of Vice-Chair**

### **16.3.1 Call for Nominations**

- P.Wolf nominated S.Foxton for the position of Vice-Chair on the first call for nominations.
- No further nominations were presented during the second and third calls.

### **16.3.2 Motion to close nominations for Vice-Chair**

23-16

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Pam Wolf

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership be closed.

**Carried**

### **16.3.3 Distribution of Ballots for In-person, Virtual Voting Submissions & Collection of ballots and submissions by Scrutineers**

Not required.

### **16.3.4 Announce Election Results**

- S.Foxton was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority for a one-year term to commence January 27, 2023 until the next Election of Officers.
- S.Foxton thanked the Board and looks forward to continuing to support the Chair, Board, and staff in the upcoming year.

### **16.3.5 Motion to destroy Ballots & Virtual Voting Submissions**

Not required.

## **17. General Business**

There was no General Business.

### **17.1 Appointments to Committees**

#### **17.1.1 Appointment to Audit Committee**

- As a result of Board member appointments following the recent municipal election, two seats are open on the Audit Committee and require appointments.
- The Chair called for interest in joining the Committee, and S.Watters and P.Wolf volunteered.

23-17

**Moved By** Kevin Davis

**Seconded By** Bruce Banbury

THAT the following members be appointed to the Audit Committee until the next Annual General Meeting: Shawn Watters and Pam Wolf.



**Carried**

**18. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**19. Next Meetings**

- Board Composition Committee - Friday, February 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. (Virtual)
- Audit Committee - Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. (Hybrid)
- Annual General Meeting of the General Membership - Friday, February 24, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. (Hybrid)

**20. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

23-18

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** Brian Coleman

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

**Carried**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer