



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

Date: March 24, 2023  
Time: 9:30 am  
Location: Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership

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

Regrets Ken Yee Chew, Lisa Hern, Colleen James, Alex Wilson

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Brandon Heyer, Janet Ivey, Lisa Keys, Katelyn Lynch, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Mark Anderson, John Brum, Melissa Larion, Mark McKinnon, Eowyn Spencer, Vahid Taleban

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

### **2. Certification of Quorum**

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with more than half of the Members present. A total of 22 Members attended the meeting.

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

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- The annual stocking of brown trout in the Grand and Conestogo Rivers is planned for May 1st through 4<sup>th</sup>, dates are dependent on the Provincial hatchery and weather outlook. At this event, volunteers release fish in various reaches of the rivers, helping to spread them out into suitable habitats.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Brantford Community Tree Planting will be held at Brant Conservation Area on Sunday, April 23. Brantford residents, friends, and families, are invited to help plant 1,000 native trees and shrubs. If any Board

members would like more information about either of these events, please reach out to E.Spencer.

S.Foxton joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

**4. Review of Agenda**

23-44

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Jerry Smith

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

**Carried**

**5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

K.Davis declared a conflict with item 17.1 on the closed agenda and noted that he has no pecuniary interest in the matter. He advised that he would leave the room for any discussion and abstain from voting.

**6. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

23-45

**Moved By** Christine Billings

**Seconded By** Shawn Watters

THAT the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on February 24, 2023 be approved as circulated.

**Carried**

**7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

N.Salonen joined the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

**8. Hearing of Delegations**

There were no Delegations.

**9. Presentations**

There were no Presentations.

**10. Correspondence**

**10.1 Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry response to MPP Ted Arnott re: Bill 23**

- D.Lawrence inquired about receiving more details on the full impact of Bill 23 on the GRCA. S.Lawson noted that staff are working with member municipalities. Additionally, staff continue to work through requirements under the previous regulatory changes, and that finalized regulations are expected to be released by the Province in the Spring. Information will be provided to the Board at that time.

**10.2 Don McLean, Marie Covert, and Ellen Tolmie re: Wetlands Protection**

23-46

**Moved By** Susan Foxtton

**Seconded By** Gord Greavette

THAT Correspondence from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to the office of MPP Ted Arnott related to Bill 23, and from Don McLean, Marie Covert, and Ellen Tolmie regarding protecting Ontario wetlands be received as information

**Carried**

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

None.

**12. Reports:**

**12.1 Minutes of the Ad-Act Conservation Authorities Act Committee - March 13, 2023**

- There were no comments or questions regarding the Minutes.

23-47

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Brian Coleman

THAT the Minutes of the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee held on March 13, 2023 be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.2 GM-03-23-25 - Updated Inventory of Programs and Services - Requirement under O.Reg 687/21**

- S.Shantz noted that some natural heritage elements remain in the inventory following removal. S.Lawson clarified that the province removed the conservation authorities' natural heritage component only with respect to review of planning applications under the Planning Act. Some elements of natural heritage work remains in terms of managing GRCA properties, and within category 3 programs.
- S.Shantz asked if municipalities can still contact the GRCA for natural heritage advice and S.Lawson confirmed that they can as long as it is not related to a planning matter.

23-48

**Moved By** Bruce Banbury

**Seconded By** Susan Foxtton

THAT the updated Inventory of Programs and Services be approved, circulated to all participating Grand River watershed municipalities, posted on the Grand River Conservation Authority website, and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

**Carried**

**12.3 GM-03-23-24 - Progress Report #4 - Requirement under O.Reg. 687/21**

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-49

**Moved By** Shawn Watters

**Seconded By** Daniel Lawrence

THAT Progress Report #4 be approved, circulated to all participating Grand River watershed municipalities, posted on the Grand River Conservation Authority website, and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

**Carried**

**12.4 GM-03-23-23 - Cash and Investment Status**

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-50

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Rob Shirton

THAT Report Number GM-03-23-23 Cash and Investment Status – February 2023 be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.5 GM-03-23-28 - Financial Summary**

- K.Davis inquired about the land sale revenue, and specifically what land was sold and which reserve is used for land sales. S.Lawson advised that this land sale pertains to a large property in Kitchener and confirmed that the revenue goes to the Land Sale Reserve, which has permitted uses as outlined in provincial guidelines. Staff are determining capacity and resource requirements for capital projects to utilize some of the reserve funds.

23-51

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** Brian Coleman

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending February 28, 2023 be approved.

**Carried**

**12.6 GM-03-23-26 - Janitorial and Sanitation Supply Request for Proposal**

- In response to a question, P.Walther-Mabee confirmed that Staples Professional holds the current contract for janitorial and sanitation supplies.

23-52

**Moved By** Pam Wolf

**Seconded By** Brian Coleman

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority award the contract for Janitorial and Sanitation Supplies to Staples Professional for a term of three years with the option for an additional two years starting April 1, 2023.

**Carried**

**12.7 GM-03-23-27 - Conestogo Pheasant Club Pilot Project**

- The Chair provided a brief history of the process of developing this agreement, noting that pheasant hunting operated by GRCA staff was previously cancelled at Conestogo Lake. Staff were able to negotiate with a third party to carry on the program through an alternate delivery model.
- Following questions from the Board, S.Lawson confirmed that there are two lease arrangements on the property. One is for snowmobiling, and the other is now with the pheasant club. K.Davis thanked staff for taking an innovative approach to finding a suitable solution.
- D.Miller asked about the agreement and termination clauses, and P.Walther-Mabee confirmed that the agreement was negotiated to end in 2026 to allow time to assess the arrangement, and it includes a termination clause. As the contract for the arrangement is an operational matter, a copy has not been included in the agenda package. D.Miller noted that he will abstain from the vote on this matter since he hasn't seen the agreement.

23-53

**Moved By** Jerry Smith

**Seconded By** Mike Devine

THAT Report Number GM-02-23-27 Conestogo Pheasant Club Update be received as information;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the agreement with Conestogo Pheasant Club and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters on behalf of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

**Carried**

**12.8 GM-03-23-22 - Permit Application 148/23 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation**

- M.Larion provided a presentation to highlight a development permit application that requires board approval. The permit does not meet specific GRCA policies that allow approval at the staff level, however it does meet the criteria for a permit that can be presented to the General Membership for their consideration.
- Staff are recommending approval of this permit and the presentation provided a detailed overview of the project, which includes removal and remediation of a wetland, and the creation of a new wetland in an alternate area of the parcel. Considerations for this project include the elevated concentration of contaminants, ecological and human health risks, municipal support for the project, maintained hydrologic function, and voluntary wetland creation.

- Board members discussed the application and asked a number of questions about types of contaminants, location of the wetland, and development regulations.
- M.Larion confirmed that this land is not GRCA property. It is a regulated area as a wetland which is why a permit is required for removal of the wetland. The proposed future use of this land is for housing. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks has jurisdiction over contamination and site clean-up issues.

23-54

**Moved By** Brian Coleman

**Seconded By** Susan Foxtan

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority Permit Application #148/23 be approved.

**Carried**

## **12.9 GM-03-23-21 - Grand River Watershed Report Card**

- J.Ivey provided a presentation on the watershed report card, noting that the report highlights an overall assessment of groundwater quality, surface water quality, forest, and wetland conditions throughout the watershed.
- The presentation highlighted high and low points in watershed basins and areas of ground and surface water quality, and demonstrated work the GRCA has completed and programs that continue to improve the overall health of the watershed and the river.
- Current programs and efforts include regulation of development near wetlands, landowner grants such as the Rural Water Quality Program, Drinking Water Source Protection, education and events, and monitoring watershed conditions. To continue positive improvement, the GRCA will continue to collaborate with the Water Managers Group on the water management plan; support municipal implementation of wastewater, storm water, water supply master plans and drinking water source protection; and deliver category 2 programs and services, including wastewater optimization, water quality monitoring, conservation services, watershed science and reporting, and collaborative planning. These programs are key to protecting watershed health, and benefit all municipalities by improving local and downstream water conditions.
- K.Davis inquired about where nitrates and chlorides come from. J.Ivey advised that chloride typically comes from road salting and water softener salt, and nitrates can be naturally occurring and are also found in fertilizer and treated effluent.
- K.Davis asked if staff have any tips for urban municipalities and J.Ivey noted that municipalities in the watershed have been investing in upgrades to their Wastewater Treatment Plants and another way to help is through investment in stewardship in rural areas as well to help the agricultural community.

- S.Shantz shared concern about tree cover and J.Ivey advised that the GRCA has a tree planting program to help subsidize tree planting on private lands.
- J. Challinor indicated that municipalities should consider implementing a road salt management program like the one at the County of Wellington.
- D.Miller said that it is cheaper to prevent than to treat. In the County of Brant, he sat on the Rural Water Quality Program Committee for years and all municipalities are welcome to participate in a similar program.

23-55

**Moved By** Bruce Banbury

**Seconded By** Doug Craig

THAT Report Number GM-03-23-21 – Watershed Report Card be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.10 GM-03-23-30 - Grand River Watershed Flood Notification System**

- C.White observed that the system seems to be working well based on the communication test map.

23-56

**Moved By** Brian Coleman

**Seconded By** Christine Billings

THAT Report Number GM-03-23-30 – Grand River Watershed Flood Warning System be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.11 GM-03-23-29 - Current Watershed Conditions**

- R.Shirton inquired about snowpack and precipitation in relation to current reservoir capacity. V.Taleban confirmed the reservoirs are currently in a filling cycle and capacity is being managed.

23-57

**Moved By** Gord Greavette

**Seconded By** John Challinor II

THAT Report Number GM-03-23-29 – Current Watershed Conditions as of March 15, 2023 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**

There was no Other Business.

**17. Closed Meeting**

G.Caputo exited the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

K.Davis left the room during the closed session for item 17.1 and returned following the discussion.

23-58

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Susan Foxtan

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting in accordance with the *Municipal Act section 239(2)* for the following purpose(s): proposed or pending acquisition or disposition, and labour relations or employee negotiations.

**Carried**

23-60

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Kevin Davis

THAT the General Membership reconvene in open session.

**Carried**

**17.1 Property Disposition - City of Brantford**

K.Davis abstained from voting on this item.

23-61

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Bruce Banbury

IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE OBJECTS of the Grand River Conservation Authority by assisting a member municipality in improving municipal servicing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Grand River Conservation Authority convey an easement over lands described as Part of Lot 11, Eagles Nest Tract, in the City of Brantford, to be more particularly described on a Reference Plan to be deposited, for the purposes of a utility access road, for the nominal consideration of \$2.00.

**Carried**

**17.2 Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations**

Resolution 23-59 was passed in closed session in accordance with the *Municipal Act s.239(6)*.

**18. Next Meetings**

- Source Protection Authority - Friday, April 28 at 9:30 a.m. (Hybrid)
- General Membership - Immediately following Source Protection Authority meeting

**19. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

23-62

**Moved By** Bruce Banbury

**Seconded By** Brian Coleman

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer