

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-67

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Banking and Investment Policy

Recommendation:

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority approve the Banking and Investment Policy dated September 22, 2023.

Summary:

Not applicable.

Report:

The Conservation Authorities Act does not provide any specific guidelines for investing money held by a Conservation Authority. In 1994, however, the Ministry of Natural Resources provided direction that Conservation Authorities should invest in accordance with the Municipal Act and Regulations under that Act. Following that clarification, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) approved a Banking and Investment Policy in the late 1990s and has followed it since that time. In 1997, Ontario Regulation 438/97 was enacted under the Municipal Act to prescribe eligible municipal investments and provided further direction for Conservation Authorities. The GRCA's policy has traditionally been slightly more restrictive/conservative than the Regulations because GRCA's investments are either short-term in nature or related to reserves, which often have an outside interest (the Province of Ontario), thus increasing the importance of preservation of capital.

The Banking and Investment Policy, attached as Appendix 1, was last updated on January 22, 2016. The current update includes updated references to the current legislation and some minor housekeeping changes, all of which are shown highlighted with track changes. Staff do not recommend changing Financial Institutions for daily banking at this time, because the current bank (CIBC) has a presence in most of the communities where the Conservation Areas operate. This allows regular deposits of cash as required and electronic transfers to the GRCA's main bank. Surveys have been carried out at various times to ensure competitive service charges, fees, etc. and this will be undertaken again in 2024. Investments can be made through GRCA's investment manager with any financial institution, so investments are not limited to the bank that is used for daily banking needs.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable.

Prepared by:

Sonja Radoja
Manager of Corporate Services

Approved by:

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO/ Secretary Treasurer