

# Grand River Conservation Authority

**Report number:** GM-10-23-78

**Date:** October 27, 2023

**To:** Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

**Subject:** Provincial Offences Act Officer Appointments – Section 30.1

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority re-appoint all Provincial Offences Act Officers under Section 30.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, to take effect on the date of proclamation.

## **Summary:**

Not applicable

## **Report:**

Currently, the *Conservation Authorities (CA) Act* under Section 28 (1) (d) and e) enables the appointment of officers for the purposes of enforcing any regulation made under Section 28 and Section 29 of the Act. *Ontario Regulation 150/06, s.10* enables the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) to appoint officers to enforce *Ontario Regulation 150/06* (Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses regulation). Currently, seven staff in the Engineering and Planning Services department, including Resource Planners and Regulations Officers, are designated to enforce Section 28 of the CA Act and *Regulation 150/06*.

Furthermore, the CA Act under Section 29 authorizes the GRCA to make regulations applicable to lands owned by the GRCA. *R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 106 (Conservation Areas – Grand River) s. 14* enables the GRCA to appoint staff members as Provincial Offences Act (POA) Officers to enforce the Act and Regulations. Currently, 35 staff in the Conservation Area Operations department including Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and Park Operations Technicians, and 1 staff in the Conservation Lands department, the Property Superintendent, are designated to enforce Section 29 of the CA Act and Regulation 106.

GM Report 07-17-82 outlined proposed amendments to the CA Act as part of Bill 139 – *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act 2017*. The legislation was passed; however, some amendments have not yet come into force. Sections 28, 29, and 30.1 will be repealed and replaced upon proclamation. The new Section 30.1 will enable the GRCA to appoint officers to ensure compliance with the Act, regulations, and permit conditions.

The timing of proclamation is unknown. To ensure staff that are designated as POA Officers are bestowed all powers immediately upon enactment of Section 30.1, staff are recommending approval of the re-appointment now. This re-appointment will take effect on the date of proclamation.

## **Financial Implications:**

None.

## **Other Department Considerations:**

This will impact all Provincial Offences Act Officers in Engineering and Planning Services, Conservation Area Operations, and Conservation Lands departments.

**Prepared by:**

Beth Brown  
Manager of Engineering  
and Planning Services

Pam Walther-Mabee  
Manager of Conservation Area Operations

**Approved by:**

Karen Armstrong  
Deputy CAO/Secretary-Treasurer