

# Grand River Conservation Authority

**Report number:** GM-03-25-37

**Date:** March 28, 2025

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

**Subject:** Schedule of Board Education Presentations

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT the Report Number GM-03-25-37 – Schedule of Board Education Presentations be received as information.

## **Report:**

Establishing a monthly presentation schedule allows departments to share their programs, services and annual reports with the Board in a structured and consistent manner. This activity is beneficial because it enhances transparency, ensures the board is well-informed about departmental operations, and ultimately supports more informed decision making across the organization.

A monthly presentation schedule is identified below. However, in months where the agenda is particularly heavy or complex, certain presentations may be deferred to allow sufficient time to address other pressing priorities.

## **Proposed Board Educational Presentation Schedule:**

### **April: Source Water Protection**

Source protection planning is undertaken on a watershed basis. For planning purposes, Source Protection Regions were created with up to five watersheds in each. The Lake Erie Source Protection Region includes the Grand River, Long Point Region, Catfish Creek and Kettle Creek watersheds. The Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee leads the process. It is a multi-stakeholder group representing municipalities, businesses, farmers, residents, First Nations and others. The province appoints the chair, while the other 24 voting members are selected according to procedures in regulation. Conservation authorities are facilitators of the process. They provide staff and administrative support, as well as contributing the results of their own knowledge and research to the process. Under the Clean Water Act, the members of the GRCA board also serve as the members of the Grand River Source Protection Authority.

### **May: Dam and Dike Safety Program**

The purposes of a dam and dike safety program are to protect life, property, and the environment by ensuring that all dams are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained as safely and as effectively as is reasonably possible. Accomplishing these purposes requires commitments to continually inspect, evaluate, and document the design, construction, operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and emergency preparedness of each dam and the associated public.

### **June: Natural Heritage Program Annual Report**

The Natural Heritage Program includes those activities associated with providing service and/ or assistance to private and public landowners and community groups on sound environmental practices that will enhance, restore or protect the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The program includes watershed scale assessments, as well as the implementation and assessment of restoration activities on GRCA land. This presentation will focus on the annual activities of the program.

### **August: Strategic Communications and Environmental Education**

Corporate Communications is a strategic management function that supports the organization's goals and objectives by building trust and strengthening relationships both inside and outside the organization. The presentation will include an overview of the major projects within this section for 2025-2026.

Additionally, this department also includes the Environmental Education program that connects children and adults with nature through its outdoor environmental education. These programs offer people of all ages the opportunity to engage with the local environment of the Grand River watershed, fostering an appreciation for the environment and the watershed.

### **September: Overview of the Digital Information and Innovation Department**

In today's modern world, information technology involving the development, maintenance and use of computer systems, software and other communications infrastructure plays a vital role in the success of any organization. At the GRCA, the Digital Information and Innovation department leads and oversees all the GRCA's information management activities, providing the technical framework and support network that enables the GRCA to accomplish its strategic vision.

### **October: Overview of the Flood Operations Department**

This department coordinates GRCA's technical programs related to Natural Hazards Management and is responsible for the Flood Forecasting and Warning program. The GRCA maintains an extensive flood forecasting and warning system that monitors river and weather conditions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This includes gauges and monitoring stations located throughout the watershed and maintains a flood forecasting computer model that can be used to forecast the timing and location of floodwaters when a flood is imminent or occurring. This department also leads projects for developing, implementing and maintaining GRCA's natural hazard mapping and provides technical input into the planning and regulatory program.

### **November: Overview of the Central Services Department**

The Central Services department provides technical and operational support to various GRCA program areas. Central Services has four groups: Construction & Maintenance, Motor Pool, Forestry Operations and Arboriculture. Physical resources and staff are shared between the various groups as necessary to meet seasonal priorities. This presentation will provide an overview of the programs activities and projects completed over the past year.

### **December: Conservation Areas Operations Annual Update**

The GRCA manages the oldest and one of the largest networks of conservation areas in the province. The 11 fee-for-use conservation areas and the Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area are collectively called Grand River Conservation Areas. These conservation areas provide various recreational opportunities such as camping, hiking, swimming, fishing and picnicking. The GRCA's conservation areas are vital parts of the recreational infrastructure in their communities, providing locations for a wide range of events and activities.

This presentation will provide an overview of the program's activities, achievements, challenges and financial performance over the past year.

### **Financial Implications:**

Not applicable.

### **Other Department Considerations:**

Not applicable.

### **Submitted by:**

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