



# Grand River Conservation Authority

## Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: March 24, 2017  
Time: 9:30 am  
Location: Auditorium  
Grand River Conservation Authority  
400 Clyde Road, Box 729  
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

Members Present Les Armstrong, Bruce Banbury, Elizabeth Clarke, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Cindy Lunau, Jane Mitchell, David Neumann, Joe Nowak, Vic Prendergast, Wayne Roth, Mike Salisbury, Pat Salter, Sandy Shantz, George Stojanovic, Chris White, George Wicke, Kirk McElwain

Members Absent Robert Bell, Fred Morison, Shirley Simons, Warren Stauch

Staff Karen Armstrong, Dave Bennett, Dwight Boyd, Nancy Davy, Joe Farwell, Samantha Lawson, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Lisa Stocco, Sara Wilbur, Andrea Riley, Eowyn Spencer, Beth Brown, Janet Baine, Kelsea Rose

### 1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:33 a.m.

**2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum – 13 Members constitute a quorum (1/2 of Members appointed by participating Municipalities)**

Karen Armstrong, sitting in as Secretary-Treasurer, called the roll and certified a quorum with 21 Members present.

**3. Chair’s Remarks**

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

In the absence of Keith Murch, Karen Armstrong will be sitting as Secretary-Treasurer for this meeting.

Vice-Chair Chris White and Joe Farwell presented an overview of GRCA programs and budget to Puslinch Council on March 1.

Waterloo Wellington Children’s Groundwater Festival Soup Fest was a fun, successful event. It is highly recommended to attend next year, if available.

Conservation Ontario Council Annual General Meeting will be held April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Chair and CAO are our representatives on Council, with the Vice-Chair as our alternate.

Conservation Ontario is hosting a reception for MPPs at Queens Park on April 4<sup>th</sup>, with the Chairs and CAOs from Conservation Authorities from across the province attending to talk with Members of the Provincial Parliament about our programs. Vice-Chair Chris White will attend in Helen's place, as it conflicts with Region of Waterloo Standing Committee.

**4. Review of Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

2017-54

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** Sandy Shantz

THAT the agenda for the March 24th 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**

2017-55

**Moved By** Pat Salter

**Seconded By** Bernie Corbett

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of February 24, 2017, 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.

**10. Correspondence**

**10.1 City of Guelph Council Resolution**

Wayne Roth noted his concern about the inequality of payments to Board members that this resolution causes. Mike Salisbury declared a conflict of interest and stated that he would not vote on this matter, should a resolution arise from discussion. Remuneration for Council Members is a decision that is up to individual municipal councils. Joe Farwell commented that any surplus in the GRCA budget created by this resolution would be dealt with at the end of the year during budget review.

2017-56

**Moved By** Wayne Roth

**Seconded By** Elizabeth Clarke

THAT Correspondence from the City of Guelph be received as information.

**Carried**

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

None.

**12. Reports:**

**12.1 GM-03-17-32 - Chief Administrative Officer's Report**

Joe Farwell commented that with the Conservation Authorities Act under review, some input from the Board will be required to address any changes to the Act that would require changes in GRCA's strategic plan. Informational presentations are being prepared for Board meetings over the next year. The Chair requested input from the members, and the following suggestions were made in regards to what types of presentations should be forthcoming: Heritage River designation, tenant relations, how we mitigate climate change, tree-planting programs, and the West Montrose Dam. Joe Farwell noted that the West Montrose Dam is currently being reviewed by staff and a report will be brought to the Board for consideration.

2017-57

**Moved By** Elizabeth Clarke

**Seconded By** Sandy Shantz

That Report GM-03-17-32 - Chief Administration Officer's Report be received as information.

**Carried**

\*George Stojanovic entered the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

**12.2 GM-03-17-30 - Cash and Investment Status**

There were no questions or concerns in regards to this report.

2017-58

**Moved By** Brian Coleman

**Seconded By** Jane Mitchell

THAT Report Number GM-03-17-30 – Cash and Investments Status Report as of February 28, 2017 be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.3 GM-03-17-37 - Financial Summary for February 28, 2017**

There were no questions or concerns in regards to this report.

2017-59

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** Joe Nowak

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending February 28, 2017 be approved.

**Carried**

**12.4 GM-03-17-31 - GRCA Celebrates Canada's 150th Anniversary**

There were no questions or concerns in regards to this report.

2017-60

**Moved By** Chris White

**Seconded By** Pat Salter

That Report GM-03-17-31 – GRCA Celebrates Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary be received for information.

**Carried**

**12.5 GM-03-17-39 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation**

There were no questions or concerns in regards to this report.

2017-61

**Moved By** Les Armstrong

**Seconded By** Bruce Banbury

THAT Report GM-03-17-39 Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received for information.

**Carried**

**12.6 GM-03-17-38 - Environmental Assessments**

There were no questions or concerns in regards to this report.

2017-62

**Moved By** Jane Mitchell

**Seconded By** George Wicke

That Report Number GM-03-17-38 - Environmental Assessments be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.7 GM-01-17-33 - Marston Pavilion Renovation Project Tender Results**

Bernie Corbett questioned the change from the original projected cost for this project. Dave Bennett answered that the original proposal was based on a pre-design conception. Additional design changed the scope of the project, but the change is in line with the original overall plan. In response to Jane Mitchell's question regarding the original pillars, Dave Bennett noted that the project will include reinforcing the original pillars and keeping as much of the original structure as possible.

2017-63

**Moved By** Les Armstrong

**Seconded By** Elizabeth Clarke

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority award the tender for the Marston Pavilion renovations at Elora Gorge Conservation Area to Demikon Construction of Guelph, Ontario in the amount of \$226,800.00 excluding HST.

**Carried**

**12.8 GM-03-17-35 - Residential Wind-Down Update**

Kirk McElwain asked for information regarding what happens to the land once a property is demolished. Samantha Lawson responded that the land will be restored to grade, and then restored to grass with fencing around it. Disposal of the land will be considered if it becomes an option in the future. If restored to grass, the area would be left to naturalize or be maintained by the GRCA, depending on local by-laws.

2017-64

**Moved By** Brian Coleman

**Seconded By** Susan Foxtan

THAT Report GM-03-17-35, Residential Program Wind-down: Semi-annual Status Update, be received for information.

**Carried**

## **12.9 GM-03-17-34 - Outdoor Education Program Overview**

Tracey Ryan presented an overview of the history and current status of the outdoor education program. This program is aligned with the GRCA strategic plan and is highly successful. The program is focused on youth, but also includes programming for adults and new Canadians.

There were some questions and discussion regarding partnerships, funding, contact information, and seasonal programming. Tracey Ryan responded to questions from members, noting that the cost of programs can present challenges as the GRCA likes to keep the programming affordable for families. At present, the summer camp programs are at 60% capacity. The most successful programs are run through the summer, though spring is the most demanding season. There is space for more evening and weekend programming at the nature centres. GRCA connects with the Ministry of Education and a number of organizations that engage teachers to get students outside for learning opportunities.

Contact information for all Nature Centre programming is available on the GRCA website.

2017-65

**Moved By** Les Armstrong

**Seconded By** Susan Foxtan

That Report GM-03-17-34 – Outdoor Education Overview be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.10 GM-03-17-36 - Current Watershed Conditions**

Dwight Boyd presented an overview of the current watershed conditions, noting that with the dryer conditions and the lost snow pack, the landscape is starting to dry up. Water will be kept in storage to fill reservoirs. The current temperature is close to the long-term average, with rain in the short-term forecast.

Jane Mitchell questioned whether the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would continue their work given the current political climate in the United States. Dwight Boyd noted that the US have a wide user base and support for program funding, and our contract with the Corps will not be affected..

2017-66

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** George Stojanovic

That Report No. GM-03-17-36 – Current Watershed Conditions as of March 15, 2017 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**

Sandy Shantz announced that the Elmira Maple Syrup festival will be taking place on April 1, 2017 and invited everyone to attend.

**17. Closed Meeting**

**18. Next Meetings**

The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.



**19. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

**Moved By** Les Armstrong

**Seconded By** George Wicke

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer