



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: May 26, 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, Kirk McElwain, Jane Mitchell, David Neumann, Joe Nowak, Vic Prendergast, Wayne Roth, Mike Salisbury, Pat Salter, Sandy Shantz, Shirley Simons, George Stojanovic, Warren Stauch, Chris White, George Wicke, Geoff Lorentz, Cindy Lunau

Members Regrets Robert Bell, Fred Morison

Staff Karen Armstrong, Dave Bennett, Dwight Boyd, Nancy Davy, Joe Farwell, Samantha Lawson, Keith Murch, Sonja Radoja, Andrea Riley, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Lisa Stocco, Sara Wilbur, Cameron Linwood, Sandra Cooke, Beth Brown, Naomi Moore, Mark Anderson, Eowyn Spencer

Others Catherine Thompson (Waterloo Region Record)

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:31 a.m.

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

The Secretary-Treasurer called the roll and certified a quorum with 20 Members present.

*S. Foxton and G. Gardhouse joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

The annual Brantford/Brant Children's Water Festival was held on May 17 - 19, 2016 at Mohawk Park

The Bridge River Festival Grand River Clean-Up concert event was held on May 21 at the Mill Race Park Amphitheatre in Cambridge

The grand opening of the new volleyball courts at Shade's Mill was on May 22

The Haldimand Children's Water Festival held its third annual festival May 24-25

4. Review of Agenda

2017-86

Moved By Shirley Simons

Seconded By Sandy Shantz

THAT the agenda for the 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

The Chair noted an error in the numbering of the resolutions. Resolution 2017-71 will be changed to 2017-70.

2017-87

Moved By Elizabeth Clarke

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of April 28, 2017, be approved as amended.

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.

9.1 Grand River Conservation Foundation

S. Wilbur provided an overview of the Foundation and its efforts to empower the GRCA to achieve conservation results through recreation, education, and restoration. The presentation included an update on current events and an outline for the remainder of 2017. Highlights for 2017 projects and events include: App's Mill renovation, Parkhill Dam 'Best Dam Gala', Guelph Lake Nature Centre, Dunnville Fishway study, Luther Marsh and Taquanyah control of invasive species, and continuing support for outdoor education and volunteer programs.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Mohawks of the Grand River - Repossession of Mohawk Lands

2017-88

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT correspondence Mohawks of the Grand River - Repossession of Mohawk Lands be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-05-17-50 - Cash and Investment Status

2017-89

Moved By Shirley Simons

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-05-17-50 – Cash and Investments Status Report as of April 30, 2017 be received as information.

Carried

12.2 GM-05-17-55 - Financial Summary

2017-90

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending April 30, 2017 be approved.

Carried

12.3 GM-05-17-52 - Quarterly Permit Report - Revised Format

2017-91

Moved By Joe Nowak

Seconded By Shirley Simons

That Report GM-05-17-52 Proposed Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation Permit Report Summary be received for information.

Carried

12.4 GM-05-17-56 - Environmental Assessments

2017-92

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Joe Nowak

That Report GM-05-17-56 - Environmental Assessments be received as information.

Carried

*Les Armstrong exited the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

12.5 GM-05-17-51 - Grand River Water Management Plan: 2016 Report on Actions

S. Cooke presented a summary of the 2016 Report on Actions. This is the third annual report which summarizes the status of 182 actions included in the Water Management Plan. The Plan is supported by federal and municipal governments, and Six Nations of the Grand River, and outlines the collaborative effort to improve water quality, ensure water supplies, reduce flood damages, and build resilience to deal with climate change. The report highlights actions taken over the past year, and the anticipated next steps for continuous improvement of the watershed.

2017-93

Moved By Pat Salter

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT report GM-05-17-51 - Grand River Water Management Plan: 2016 Report on Actions be received as information.

Carried

*Cindy Lunau joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

12.6 GM-05-17-59 - Beach Management in GRCA Conservation Areas

S. Cooke responded to Board members' questions, highlighting that the decision to stop water sampling at GRCA beaches was made by Public Health officials. Following their review, it was decided that from a public health perspective, water quality can change too quickly for the current method of testing to provide accurate water quality information to the public. S. Cooke explained that GRCA staff have started to analyze historic data in an effort to review water quality trends at GRCA parks. G. Lorentz commented that a measured approach should be taken, as public safety must be considered if we are to encourage the public to swim at our parks. C. White asked who is taking responsibility, and H. Jowett noted that staff are currently working with the three Public Health Units in the Grand River Watershed, and will continue to update the Board on this matter.

M. Salisbury said that it would be good see historical data on postings, information on risk analysis, and to take responsibility for sampling GRCA beaches. S. Cooke responded that the current method of 'posting' beaches is not to close a beach, but to communicate a measure of risk. J. Mitchell asked about

current practices to keep GRCA beaches clean, and S. Cooke responded that parks staff perform daily inspections. GRCA does not have the resources for daily water quality testing, as these types of tests must be completed in an accredited lab facility.

There was some further discussion regarding communicating the level of risk, and educating the public to self-assess water quality. Board members will be kept up to date on details and staff will prepare an additional report for the June board meeting.

2017-94

Moved By Elizabeth Clarke

Seconded By Vic Prendergast

THAT Report GM-05-17-59 – Beach Management in GRCA Conservation Areas be received as information.

Carried

*Sandy Shantz exited the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

12.7 GM-05-17-53 - Grand Trails Project Update

2017-95

Moved By Vic Prendergast

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT report GM-05-17-53 – Grand Trails Project Update be received as information.

Carried

12.8 GM-05-17-58 - Parkhill Dam Hydro Project Update

2017-96

Moved By Geoff Lorentz

Seconded By Susan Foxton

That Report No. GM-05-17-58 – Parkhill Dam Hydro Project Update be received as information.

Carried

12.9 GM-05-17-57 - Current Watershed Conditions

2017-97

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Warren Stauch

That Report GM-05-17-57 – Current Watershed Conditions as of May 17, 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

W. Roth invited Board members to attend the Wilmot Mennonite Relief Sale in New Hamburg on May 26 and 27.

17. Closed Meeting

2017-98

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Vic Prendergast

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss a confidential matter involving ongoing litigation.

Carried

17.1 Minutes of the previous confidential meeting of April 28, 2017

2017-99

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Vic Prendergast

THAT the Minutes of the previous closed meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried

17.2 Hockeyfest Litigation Update

A resolution was passed in the Closed session to give GRCA staff Board direction on a legal matter.

18. Next Meetings

The next General Membership meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22

2017-102

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

20. Grand River Source Protection Authority Meeting

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer