



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: June 23, 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, Robert Bell, Elizabeth Clarke, Bernie Corbett, Guy Gardhouse, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Cindy Lunau, Kirk McElwain, Fred Morison, David Neumann, Joe Nowak, Vic Prendergast, Wayne Roth, Mike Salisbury, Sandy Shantz, Shirley Simons, George Stojanovic, Warren Stauch, Chris White, George Wicke

Members Absent Brian Coleman, Susan Foxtton, Jane Mitchell, Pat Salter

Staff Dave Bennett, Dwight Boyd, Nancy Davy, Joe Farwell, Samantha Lawson, Keith Murch, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, Lisa Stocco, Sara Wilbur, Cameron Linwood, Trina Seguin, Eowyn Spencer, Bryan McIntosh, Janet Baine, Mark Slade, Gary MacMillan

Others Joan and Janus Droog, Pat and John Gooyers, Yvonne and David Pyper, Roger and Gloria Congdon, Laura Munn, Nicole Abouhalka, Tammy Maclean, Dave and Cindy Gingria, Caroline Vobels, Jane Grol, Derek Perumal, Jen Dronner, Harold Kelly, Sam Ryan, Catherine Thompson, Marta Czorylovic, Mary Duggan, Jerry Wane and Olivia Knowler, Hermine Doncer, Jeff Smith

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:30 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 21 members present. A total of 22 members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

The County of Brant Accessibility Advisory Committee awarded the GRCA with a 2017 Accessibility Award on May 29th during Access Awareness Week. The award was presented by Mayor Ron Eddy and Councilor David Miller in recognition and appreciation of the valuable contribution to the community made through the construction of a fully accessible addition, renovations, and outdoor classroom at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre. Also presented to the GRCA were certificates of congratulations from Dave Levac, MPP and Phil McColeman, MP.

Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, released a guidance document called *Conserving Our Future – A Modernized Conservation Authorities Act*. This paper accompanies the proposed changes that were introduced in the Ontario legislature on May 30th. These changes are a result of a two year review of the Conservation Authorities Act. The announcement was made at GRCA's head office, and we were pleased to host the Minister here in her home riding. Minister McGarry is very familiar with our range of programs, all the way from the flood control through to our parks, nature centres, planning, forestry and other programs. She continues to express kind words of support for all the work we do.

GRCF Community Conservation Grant was presented on June 19 to Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School. Cindy Lunau will be presenting a grant cheque to Aberfoyle Public School on the 27th, and Shirley Simons will be presenting to JL Mitchener School in Cayuga on the 28th.

Also on June 19 one of last year's conservation grant recipients, Preston Public School, had a dedication ceremony for their School Greening Project which included raised garden beds, an outdoor learning space, and two new trees.

Sandra Cooke, Lisa Stocco and Keith Murch attended the Region of Waterloo Community Services Committee meeting on June 20 to respond to questions regarding the GRCA Beach Management Program.

4. Review of Agenda

2017-103

Moved By David Neumann

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

2017-104

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of May 26, 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

8.1 Lower Pines Community Association

The lower pines delegation attended the meeting to share thoughts on the sanitary servicing upgrades at Elora Pines Campground as proposed in report GM-06-17-67.

Mr. B. Barnes showed a presentation illustrating the human side of the lower pines campground at Elora Pines, highlighting that the lower pines is a family way of life, and a "piece of heaven". Mr. Barnes spoke of 40 trailers in the lower pines site, most of which have additions and 15 of which are "immovable". Many of the tenants are senior citizens on fixed income and changes to the park as proposed by the GRCA would be financially devastating to many lower pines tenants.

Mr. M. Wieth, president of the LPCA, went on to talk about the environmental implications of the proposed upgrades. Mr. Wieth expressed concerns regarding the shock to the existing natural ecosystem, the removal of a natural sound barrier (trees), an increase of airborne dust particles from nearby quarry trucks, and a potentially detrimental effect on the fish sanctuary along the lower pines section of the river. Mr. Wieth also discussed the findings of professional inspections of the sewage system, stating the reports said there was no leakage from the systems, and that the beds are in reasonable condition with suitable capacity for its current

usage. The delegation would like to conserve the ecosystem, stay in the park, and find a solution suitable to both the tenants of the lower pines and the GRCA.

Mr. Klem Moffet stated that he alone stands to lose up to \$80,000 if the proposal to move lower pines is approved.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

Cindy Lunau entered the meeting at 10: 07 a.m.

Late correspondence from Ms. Mary-Tim Hare was distributed to Members.

10.1 Lower Pines Residents - Elora Pines Campground

10.1.1 Bill and Marilyn Barnes

10.1.2 John Gooyers and Patricia Kelly

10.1.3 Lorraine Neal and Paul Adams

10.1.4 Roger & Gloria Congdon

10.2 Nicole Abouhalka - Hanlon Creek Conservation Area

10.3 Bhaju Tamot - Conservation of Guelph's public river valley lands

10.4 Janet Dalglish - Speed River/Hanlon Creek at Niska Bridge

10.5 George Renniger and Cynthia Folzer - Niska Waterfowl Park Lands in Guelph

10.6 Linda Liddle - Former Niska Waterfowl Park re-designation

10.7 Ainsley Otten - Niska

10.8 Janet Arnott - Niska

10.9 Joe Sciorilli - Niska

10.10 Kriss Lockhart - Niska

10.11 Emily S. Damstra - Niska

10.12 Ms. Mary-Tim Hare

2017-105

Moved By Joe Nowak

Seconded By Chris White

THAT correspondence received from Bill and Marilyn Barnes, John Gooyers and Patricia Kelly, Lorraine Neal and Paul Adams, and Roger and Gloria Congden regarding the Lower Pines Campgrounds; and correspondence received from Nicole Abouhalka, Bhaju Tamot, Janet Dalgleish, George Renniger and Cynthia Folzer, Linda Liddle, Ainsley Otten, Janet Arnott, Joe Sciorilli, Kriss Lockhart, and Emily S. Damstra regarding the GRCA lands at Hanlon Creek/Niska Road, and late correspondence from Ms. Mary-Tim Hare be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-06-17-67 - Elora Pines Campground Sanitary Servicing Upgrades

Dave Bennett provided a presentation highlighting key environmental sensitivities with regards to this report and discussed issues regarding the sanitary sewage system at the Elora Pines Campground. Mr. Bennett also outlined agreements regarding permitted structures on campsites. Servicing issues and environmental concerns have been reviewed. The main concerns identified were the proximity of the sewage pumping station to the river, the location of the campsites in proximity to the floodplain and wetlands and the condition of the sanitary, water and hydro services. Following assessments of the current conditions, GRCA staff presented two sewage disposal options, and six sanitary servicing options. Staff have reviewed all options, taking into consideration financial, environmental, and operational obligations, and are recommending option 5, as outlined in the report. Construction of this option is proposed in two stages, with an estimated completion date of 2019.

C. White asked if the tenants pay property taxes, or if fees from campsites cover the cost of the project. D. Bennett responded that they do not pay taxes. The (GRCA) park pays a meter flow charge, an amount which would be covered by park user fees. The project would be funded by two capital reserve funds. B. Corbett requested a cost benefit analysis of the project, information on landlord and tenant act, and stated some environmental concerns. D. Bennett said that the most expensive option (Option 4) had a payback period of 12 years and would nearly clear out the reserve funds. Mr. Bennett said that the white pine plantation on the park would be preserved as much as possible with the building of new sites in the upper pines campground, and noted that the Residential Tenancies Act does not apply to campsites. M. Salisbury asked for further information on MOECC requirements, and D. Bennett explained that an Environmental Compliance permit was issued for Elora Gorge in 2013 based on the original intent to connect to municipal services. The Ministry did not require the usual background studies in support of an ECA application because of the long-term servicing plans. The MOECC requires a new workplan to be submitted by July 15, 2017 to address how sanitary disposal will

be done at the park going forward. M. Salisbury also asked about the costs of the project, to which Mr. Bennett responded that the cost of environmental studies were included in the estimated cost of each option, and that the pay-back period for option five would be seven years, based on 2017 user fees. M. Salisbury stated that an in-camera session may be required for legal questions following the rest of board members questions. There was further discussion and questions from board members with regards to what has changed that the trailers now need to be moved, what signed agreements are in place to prevent the building of permanent structures, why the lower pines residents have been allowed to build additions and stay on sites over the off-season, and if any of the lower pines sites are open to the general public. D. Bennett responded to questions, highlighting that the sanitary system is now 35 years old and is in need of replacement. Permanent structures and additions are not allowed based on the signed agreement; however, some have been overlooked while others may have existed since the park was purchased. G. Lorentz stated that GRCA policy of allowing campers to pre-register for the next season should be reviewed, as all sites should be open to the public. Mr. Bennett also noted that the proposed option was communicated to lower pines campers at a public information session in May, and that GRCA is up to date on its annual letters to campers. There was further discussion with regards to the funding of the project which will be paid for by combining two Parks reserves. G. Stojanovic asked if GRCA staff considered the option to remove the sanitary sewers from this campground. D. Bennett responded that it is feasible from an engineering perspective, but the challenge is that some of the existing trailers have sunk and their hookups cannot be accessed, and that some are park model trailers which do not have holding tanks. G. Stojanovic noted that he would like to see plugging the sewers explored as an option. M. Salisbury also noted that this is an option that should be fully explored and reviewed prior to a making a decision on proceeding with option 5, and would also like to see a financial comparison of decommissioning the septic system. G. Wicke asked if an option for long term leases and having tenants fees used to pay for the upgrades over a long term, and D. Bennett responded that increased fees were discussed as a possibility, but not long-term leases. Mr. Bennett also noted that Elora Gorge has a limited amount of day use area and that using the lower pines area for day use would benefit the park and provide park visitors with access to the river. K. McElwain also noted the potential impact this could have on fly-fishing, which is a major tourism draw for the area. C. White requested that staff review current policies for allowing permanent structures to be built on campsites, and that appropriate follow-up is action is taken to ensure policies are enforced.

Motion to approve the resolution was withdrawn.

2017-106

Moved By Mike Salisbury

Seconded By Elizabeth Clarke

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss a legal matter.

Carried

2017-108

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Bob Bell

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

A motion of direction to staff regarding a legal matter was passed in the closed session.

The General Membership returned to open session at 11:43 a.m.

There was a brief discussion amongst the Board members to refer this item back to staff for further information regarding decommissioning the sewage system. S. Shantz asked what the ramifications from the MOECC would be if GRCA failed to comply with their timeline. D. Bennett explained that the MOECC could issue an order to compel GRCA to comply.

Mike Salisbury said he would like to refer this item back to staff so additional information regarding alternate options (decommissioning the sewage system) can be brought to the Board in July.

Moved By Mike Salisbury

Seconded By Fred Morison

THAT report GM-06-17-67 Elora Pines Sanitary Servicing Upgrades be referred to staff for further information to be brought back to the General Membership meeting of July 28, 2017.

Defeated

2017-109

Moved By Bob Bell

Seconded By Les Armstrong

THAT Option Five for the provision of sanitary services to the Pines Campground at Elora Gorge Conservation Area, as outlined in report GM-06-17-67, be approved;

AND THAT prior to proceeding with the tendering of Stage One of the project a detailed cost estimate be presented to the General Membership.

Carried

12.2 GM-06-17-70 - Chair's Report of the Special Recognition Committee

2017-110

Moved By Elizabeth Clarke

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT the report of the Special Recognition Committee with respect to its meeting held May 26, 2017 be received for information; and THAT the recommendation of the Special Recognition to the General Membership be approved.

Carried

12.3 GM-06-17-66 - Conservation Authorities Act Changes

2017-111

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Chris White

THAT Report GM-06-17-66 Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017 be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-06-17-60 - Cash and Investment Status

2017-112

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT Report Number GM-06-17-60 – Cash and Investments Status Report as of May 31, 2017 be received as information.

Carried

12.5 GM-06-17-61 - Financial Summary

2017-113

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By George Stojanovic

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending May 31, 2017 be approved.

Carried

12.6 GM-06-17-68 - Designation of Provincial Offences Officers - Conservation Area Staff

2017-114

Moved By Elizabeth Clarke

Seconded By Wayne Roth

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority designate Matt Cudmore and Colby Kowalchuk as Provincial Offences Officers.

Carried

12.7 GM-06-17-64 - Upper Cedar Creek Scoped Subwatershed Study

2017-115

Moved By David Neumann

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT report GM-06-17-64 Upper Cedar Creek Scoped Subwatershed Study be received as information.

Carried

12.8 GM-06-17-65 - Haldimand County Lake Erie Shoreline Hazard Mapping Study

2017-116

Moved By Shirley Simons

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT report GM-06-17-65 Haldimand County Lake Erie Shoreline Hazard Mapping Study be received as information.

Carried

12.9 GM-06-17-69 - Floodplain Mapping Program Five-Year Forecast - 2017-2022

2017-117

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Chris White

THAT Report number GM-06-17-69 – Floodplain Mapping Program Five-Year Forecast – 2017-2022 be received as information.

Carried

12.10 GM-06-17-62 - Beach Management in GRCA Conservation Areas

This item was moved to 12b on the agenda.

S. Cooke gave a brief overview of this report and responded to questions from the Board. S. Cooke noted that GRCA staff are currently in the process of soliciting signage, and working with Public Health to finalize specific wording for the signs. The 3' x 4' signs will be centrally located on GRCA beaches, and will contain information for members of the public to perform a self-assessment of the water quality, as well as ways to help keep the water as clean as possible. Smaller signs will also be posted at gatehouses. M. Salisbury commented that GRCA has a

responsibility to maintain testing. S. Cooke responded that GRCA is proposing to continue bi-weekly water sampling to collect long-term trend data to expand on 13-14 years of data staff have accumulated. In order to move forward with a monitoring program, there is a two or three pronged approach, and awareness is key right now. Members of the public must be aware to take precautions during specific conditions.

2017-118

Moved By Joe Nowak

Seconded By Vic Prendergast

THAT Report GM-06-17-62 – Beach Management in GRCA Conservation Areas be received as information.

Carried

12.11 GM-06-17-63 - Current Watershed Conditions

There was no presentation to accompany this report due to flood emergencies across the watershed.

2017-119

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Wayne Roth

THAT Report No. GM-6-17-63 – Current Watershed Conditions as of June 14, 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. Stauch discussed his recent attendance at the Ontario Heritage Conference earlier this month. Mr. Stauch was invited as a guest to speak about Canadian Heritage. The event was very successful and Mr. Stauch's panel discussion was well received.

17. Closed Meeting

Closed meeting was not required at this time.

2017-120

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Elizabeth Clarke

THAT the minutes of the previous closed meeting of June 23, 2017 be approved as circulated.

Carried

18. Next Meetings

General Membership - July 28, 2017 - 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

2017-121

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer