



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: July 28, 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 Foxtan, Guy Gardhouse, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Cindy Lunau, Kirk McElwain, David Neumann, Vic Prendergast, Wayne Roth, Mike Salisbury, Pat Salter, Sandy Shantz, Shirley Simons, George Stojanovic, Warren Stauch, Chris White, George Wicke

Members Absent Robert Bell, Jane Mitchell, Fred Morison, Joe Nowak

Staff Dave Bennett, Dwight Boyd, Nancy Davy, Joe Farwell, Samantha Lawson, Keith Murch, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Lisa Stocco, Sara Wilbur, Cameron Linwood, Beth Brown, Daniel Pina, Janet Ivey, Sandra Cooke, Gus Rungis, Eowyn Spencer

Others Liska Jetchick (Friends of Dumfries), Nicole Abouhalka (Guelph), Laura Murr (Guelph), Elizabeth Harrington (Guelph), Mary Tim Hare, Gordon Hare.

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 20 Members present. A total of 22 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- One additional piece of correspondence regarding the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area lands was copied for the Board
- One additional delegation - Ms. MT Hare registered to appear as a delegation after the agenda was published.
- Dwight Boyd and a number of staff attended two meetings in Woolwich Township regarding the June 23 flooding in West Montrose. The first was Woolwich Township's council meeting of June 27 and the second was a public meeting in West Montrose, which was chaired by Sandy Shantz. At the public meeting, GRCA and Township staff spoke to the residents about what happened and lessons learned. A number of members of the public also spoke about their experiences and improvements they would like to see in the future.
- J. Farwell has confirmed a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs at AMO on August 14, and we are hoping to have an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.
- Board members are asked to start thinking about attendance at Latornell Conference, Tuesday November 21st-Thursday November 23rd. Accommodations are tentatively booked. Eowyn will soon be sending an email with registration details and information - please keep an eye out for this email
- GRCA Board photo will be arranged for the September meeting

*S. Foxton and C. Lunau entered the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

4. Review of Agenda

2017-122

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Elizabeth Clarke

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting of July 28, 2017 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

2017-123

Moved By Vic Prendergast

Seconded By Chris White

THAT the minutes of the General Membership meeting of June 23, 2017, and the amended minutes of the General Membership meeting of July 22, 2016, be approved as circulated.

Carried

6.1 Meeting of June 23, 2017

6.2 Correction of error discovered in minutes of meeting of July 22, 2016

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

8. Hearing of Delegations

8.1 Nicole Abouhalka - Hanlon Creek Conservation Area

Ms. Nicole Abouhalka addressed the Board to request their support for the conservation of the GRCA lands on either side of the Niska Bridge in Guelph.

S. Lawson responded to questions from Board members. M. Salisbury asked if the Board would see a master plan prior to any decisions being made with regards to this parcel of land, and asked about the differences between a management plan and a master plan. S. Lawson replied that all buildings on the land have been demolished and as part of the planning process, GRCA staff may consider potential surplus lands. A master plan is a municipal term that is often used when preparing sites for development. The GRCA process, which is called a management plan, is to identify environmental aspects of the lands, and look at different features to identify potential recreational uses and trail systems. Staff are still in the very early stages of planning for this parcel of land. M. Salisbury asked if public input would be considered, and at what stage would it occur. S. Lawson said that GRCA is still developing a terms of reference for this parcel and public participation would be considered further into the planning process. The Board will be kept up to date throughout the process.

C. White asked for clarification of some facts regarding the issue, and S. Lawson confirmed that no decision is being made at this point, GRCA does not own the bridge on Niska Rd., and that it is the municipality (Guelph) that proposed re-designation of a portion of the lands.

D. Neumann asked why the buildings on the lands were demolished and S. Lawson responded that the derelict buildings were part of the original waterfowl park. In 2014 GRCA terminated that lease because the Park was no longer

operating and they were not fulfilling their part of the agreement. When the premises were vacated, the buildings were left in a state of disrepair. The buildings were significant hazards to members of the public and were removed to protect public safety. A portion of fencing was also removed to free the deer that were being held on the property.

8.2 Ms. M.T. Hare - GRCA Residential Tenant

Ms. Mary Tim Hare addressed the Board regarding her residential tenancy on GRCA property, and her correspondence submitted to the Board on June 23rd. Ms. Hare is requesting that GRCA extend an agreement to terminate residency by four years. Ms. Hare spoke of her daughter's rare neurological disorder and stressed that because of the disorder her daughter is unable to safely live in an apartment or non-rural home. Access to specialized medical care and therapy programs made her daughter's progress possible, and Ms. Hare is concerned that these programs may not be available in other areas. Ms. Hare stated that her family cannot afford to rent or buy a rural home in an area that would offer the same programming. Ms. Hare believes that the property is not in disrepair, and does not require any upgrading.

There were no questions regarding this delegation.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

2017-124

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT correspondence from the Township of Norwich regarding changes to the Conservation Authorities Act; and correspondence from Halton Region regarding 2018 budget direction; and correspondence from Linda Knight-Archer, Bill Hammill, Denis Carrier, and S. Nicholls regarding the former Niska Waterfowl Park be received as information.

Carried

10.1 Township of Norwich - Conservation Authorities Act Changes

The Chair said that with the AMO conference coming up, it would be good to get some input from the board regarding the proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act. Members agreed that this Board is not comfortable with board appointments made by the province. C. White said that there are some positive changes, but special interest groups wanting to sit on conservation boards could pose a risk of politicizing the boards. Members also agreed that the education level and expertise of board members should not be dictated by

legislation, as conservation authorities hire expert staff. The purpose of the board is to govern, and staff can relay technical information. S. Foxtan said that provincial appointments could cause politicization of the board, and that could cause a shift in the overall goal of conservation. C. Lunau added that with the municipally appointed board, members have a connection to the public - an academic board would lose that connection. P. Salter noted that board members should have an overall interest in conservation. A resolution and a letter to send to the Province will be further discussed at agenda item 12.a.

10.2 Halton Region - 2018 Budget Directions

10.3 Former Niska Waterfowl Park

10.4 S. Nicholls - Former Niska Waterfowl Park

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-07-17-82 Proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act as part of Bill 139 – Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act 2017

J. Farwell said that GRCA worked with the Province and Conservation Ontario regarding the changes to the Act. Section 30 deals with the Regulations and GRCA wants to make sure that it is placed as a high priority. J. Farwell requested input regarding the resolution and a letter to be drafted and sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. There was a general discussion with regards to the proposed changes, highlighting the following key concerns:

- Provincial Board Appointments
- Education criteria for Board appointees
- Establishment of Advisory Boards

The general membership does not support these portions of the proposed changes, and members said that it is important to relay these concerns now.

2017-125

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Kirk McElwain

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority send a letter of support to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for the modernization of the Conservation Authorities Act as part of Bill 139 – Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act 2017 subject to the following concerns:

The Grand River Conservation Authority does not support the establishment of education criteria for board members, the appointment of members by the province, or the establishment of advisory boards;

and THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority request that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry place a high priority on the enactment of Section 30 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

Carried

12.2 GM-07-17-77 Grand River Conservation Foundation Membership Appointments

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

2017-126

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Susan Foxtan

THAT the following members be re-appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation for a term of three years (renewable for one further three year term):

Howard Armitage

Wayne Fyffe

AND THAT the following member be re-appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation for a term of three years:

Wayne Knox

Carried

12.3 GM-07-17-71 Cash and Investment Status - June

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

2017-127

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Pat Salter

THAT Report Number GM-07-17-71 Cash and Investments Status Report as of June 30, 2017 be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-07-17-83 Financial Summary for period ending June 30

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

2017-128

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

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

Carried

12.5 GM-07-17-80 Five-Year Forecast

S. Radoja presented an overview of the five-year forecast, highlighting the following key points: changes in operating, capital and reserve funds, increased expenses and revenue, allocation of 2016 surplus, and special projects not funded by the tax levy. The next steps in the budget process will be a presentation in September, and Board guidance on the levy increase.

S. Foxton suggested that GRCA staff look at the impact of the proposed legislation on minimum wage and report back to the board, and asked about the different projected expenses related to floodplain mapping. D. Boyd replied that GRCA is currently receiving funding for the National Damage Mitigation Program while it is available. S. Radoja responded regarding the minimum wage increase, saying that staff have done some analysis, and will do a more thorough review. The Chair noted that the impact of the proposed legislation on scheduling is the hardest to forecast, but the Board should have a better sense of the potential impact.

B. Corbett asked about phragmites and round-up spraying, the Byng Park fish ladder, and silt removal in the upper river above Dunnville. D. Boyd responded that there is an estimate in the budget this year to redesign the fish ladder, but the silt removal has not been budgeted at this time. N. Davy spoke to the phragmites question. Staff are looking at removal at Taquanyah, and discussing techniques. Ministry approval is required for spraying.

G. Stojanovic suggested that staff consider preparing a 10-year forecast to better predict project effects on reserve funds, and to take life-cycle costs in to consideration.

S. Shantz said that floodplain mapping and inundation mapping are so important, and that we will see more and more severe weather with climate change. J. Farwell noted that staff will be talking to Ministers at the upcoming AMO conference, and that funding for floodplain mapping is a planned discussion item.

S. Foxton stated that MP Bryan May and Minister Kathryn McGarry have requested to be included on GRCA flood warning notifications.

2017-129

Moved By Pat Salter

Seconded By Sandy Shantz

THAT Report Number GM-07-17-80 Five Year Forecast 2017 to 2021 be received as information.

Carried

12.6 GM-07-17-72 Conservation Areas Capital Forecast

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

2017-130

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT Report Number GM-07-17-72 Conservation Area Capital Forecast – 2017-2021 be received for information.

Carried

12.7 GM-07-17-79 Communications and Marketing Review Status Update

L. Stocco noted that staff are expecting to have research completed by mid-October, and a report would be brought to the board in the fall.

2017-131

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Sandy Shantz

THAT Report Number GM-17-07-79 – Communications and Marketing Review Status Update be received for information.

Carried

12.8 GM-07-17-74 Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation

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

2017-132

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT Report Number GM-07-17-74, Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation, be received for information.

Carried

12.9 GM-07-17-73 Environmental Assessments

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

2017-133

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT Report Number GM-07-17-73 Environmental Assessments be received as information.

Carried

**12.10 GM-07-17-75 Cambridge Dyke Floodwall Completion at 2 Water Street
DR14.024 Tender**

D. Boyd stated that the increased budget was due to permit issues.

2017-134

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Wayne Roth

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority accept the tender and enter into an agreement with Bronte Construction for the Cambridge Dyke Floodwall Completion in the amount of \$99,044.50 (including HST).

Carried

12.11 GM-07-17-76 Cumulative Effects Monitoring – Blair Creek Case Study

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

2017-135

Moved By Warren Stauch

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT Report Number GM-07-17-76 Cumulative Effects Monitoring – Blair Creek Case Study be received as information.

Carried

12.12 GM-07-17-78 June 23 2017 Flood Event

D. Boyd provided a presentation regarding the flood event of June 23, 2017. 126 mm of rain fell in a 3-4 hour time period. The amount of rainfall was not predicted, and caused flooding in West Montrose and other areas of the watershed. GRCA issued eight flood warning messages between June 23 at 9:14 a.m., and June 27 at 10:02 a.m. GRCA Staff have since conducted a debriefing session with the Township of Woolwich and Mayor Sandy Shantz. Debriefing sessions with other municipalities are being scheduled. Staff are looking at ways to improve flood communications throughout the watershed. GRCA estimates that the reservoir at Shand Dam reduced the effect of the flood by approximately 32 percent, and delayed the peak of the flooding by around four hours.

S. Shantz thanked GRCA staff for their quick response during this flood, and noted that communications do need to improve.

*W. Roth left the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

S. Foxton said that in the lower area of the watershed they (firefighters and road staff) had more time to respond, and were quick to come together. Ms. Foxton will take a copy of this report to her North Dumfries council meeting.

G. Stojanovic asked if this presentation would be shown at the annual flood forecast meeting, and suggested that GRCA may need to consider more funding for technology to forecast and communicate flood information to better prepare members of the public of such events. D. Boyd said that there will be some discussion with Environment Canada and the Province, and that information can be brought to the board.

2017-136

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Sandy Shantz

That Report Number GM-07-17-78 June 23 2017 Flood Event be received as information.

Carried

12.13 GM-07-17-81 Current Watershed Conditions

D. Boyd said in response to B. Corbett that he would follow up with staff and report back to the board regarding near shore work being completed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. G. Gardhouse noted a possible error in the Luther Marsh Reservoir Elevation table on page 152 of this agenda, and D. Boyd said that he would review and correct it if necessary.

*G. Wicke left the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

2017-137

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By George Stojanovic

THAT Report Number GM-7-17-81 – Current Watershed Conditions as of July 19, 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

S. Simons presented a card drawn by the students at JL Mitchener School, in thanks for receiving the GRCA Community Conservation Grant. S. Simons also commented that

she attended the Apps Mill Nature Centre grand re-opening, and was glad to see the great improvement in accessibility at the Centre.

17. Closed Meeting

The General Membership did not require a closed session at this time.

A brief discussion was held with regards to the lower pines residents of the Elora Pines Campgrounds. K. McElwain said that the lower pines residents have registered to appear as a delegation at the Township of Centre Wellington's next council meeting. D. Bennett said that GRCA is proceeding as recommended in the approved report, and that a request has been made to the MOECC to review options for a one year extension of the use of the current sanitary system. K. McElwain asked if this information has been communicated to the tenants, and D. Bennett confirmed that it has. GRCA staff are hopeful that the Ministry will be open to the use of the septic system for one more year. S. Shantz asked about the plan for lower pines tenants to relocate, and D. Bennett replied that staff will be communicating with the tenants in mid-August and will include information on the process of applying for the new sites in upper pines once they are available. The current plan is to construct 50 new sites. G. Lorentz asked if these sites would be available to the public, and D. Bennett responded that the new sites will be offered to lower pines tenants first. G. Lorentz asked if this is allowed in all GRCA parks. D. Bennett replied that on an annual basis, a current site-holder can apply for the following season, and that it is allowed at all parks. G. Lorentz said that he believes all sites should be open to the public. The Chair gave direction to staff to review the current policy, and to bring the review back to the board.

2017-138

Moved By David Neumann

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

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

Carried

2017-139

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Mike Salisbury

THAT correspondence from GRCA solicitor regarding potential litigation be received as information.

Carried

17.1 Minutes of the closed meeting of June 23, 2017

17.2 Correspondence from GRCA Solicitor - Potential Litigation

18. Next Meetings

The next meeting of the General Membership will be held on August 25, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15

2017-140

Moved By Elizabeth Clarke

Seconded By Mike Salisbury

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer