



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date:	December 15, 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, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Susan Foxtan, Guy Gardhouse, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Cindy Lunau, Kirk McElwain, Fred Morison, Joe Nowak, Vic Prendergast, Wayne Roth, Pat Salter, Sandy Shantz, Shirley Simons, George Stojanovic, Warren Stauch, Chris White, George Wicke,
Members Regrets	Jane Mitchell, David Neumann, Mike Salisbury
Staff	Karen Armstrong, Dave Bennett, Dwight Boyd, Nancy Davy, Joe Farwell, Samantha Lawson, Keith Murch, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Lisa Stocco, Sara Wilbur, Cameron Linwood, Pam Walther-Mabee, Murray Lister, Ron Wu-Winter, Nathan Munn, Melissa Coderre, Brian Hunt, Fred Natolochny, Beth Brown, Janet Baine, Eowyn Spencer
Others	Ray Martin, Cambridge Times

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 22 Members present. A total of 23 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

On December 12, Bill 139, Building Better Communities and Conserving Watershed Act received Royal assent.

The act will replace the Ontario Municipal Board with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, and create the free Local Planning Appeal Support Centre. It will also modernize the Conservation Authorities Act, guiding the conservation of Ontario's watersheds. The legislation clarifies the roles and responsibilities of conservation authorities and strengthens oversight and accountability. It also encourages increased public engagement by setting requirements for more public disclosure and for meetings to be open to the public. These changes will enable conservation authorities to have the flexibility to address growing environmental pressures such as climate change.

On December 11, J. Farwell and K. Murch attended Conservation Ontario Council at Black Creek Pioneer Village. K. Murch presented a template for a new Conservation Authority By-law that will comply with the requirements of the new Conservation Authorities Act. The template was approved in principle and will now be reviewed by MNRF and legal counsel before it will be ready for final approval. Conservation Authorities will have one year to adopt the new By-law.

4. Review of Agenda

The chair indicated asked the members to consider dealing with the confidential agenda in a closed meeting prior to the Reports section of the meeting, in order to accommodate guests who will be arriving near the end of the meeting.

2017-222

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting be approved as amended.

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

J. Nowak noted an error in item 12.5. The name of S. Foxton will be corrected to J. Nowak.

2017-223

Moved By Joe Nowak

Seconded By Susan Foxtan

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of November 24, 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.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

None.

17. Closed Meeting

2017-240

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Sandy Shantz

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss a confidential matter regarding a property disposition.

Carried

2017-241

Moved By Susan Foxtan

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT the minutes of the previous closed session be approved as circulated.

Carried

2017-242

Moved By George Wicke

Seconded By Geoff Lorentz

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority declare surplus the lands known as the former Watson residence, described as Part of Lot 5, Concession 9 Division C, Former Township of Guelph, Township of Guelph/Eramosa, Wellington County, known municipally as 5524 Watson Road, RR4 Guelph, to be more particularly described in a Reference Plan to be deposited;

AND THAT staff be directed to obtain municipal approval to sever the residence and approximately two and one half (2.5) acres of land from the parent parcel, and to list the severed portion for sale.

Carried

2017-243

Moved By George Wicke

Seconded By Les Armstrong

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-12-17-138 - Labour Relations - Collective Agreement Negotiations

G. Lorentz and V. Prendergast were appointed by the General Membership to sit on the steering committee.

2017-224

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT an ad-hoc committee be formed, called the Labour Relations Steering Committee, comprised of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, G. Lorentz, V. Prendergast and the Chief Administrative Officer

AND THAT the role of this steering committee will be to provide direction to the management negotiating team, prior to the negotiation of a new Collective Agreement effective January 1, 2018.

12.2 GM-12-17-132 - Strategic Plan Update

J. Farwell informed members that with the approval of the CA Act, a number of regulations are yet to be finalized and GRCA staff will be participating with MNRF as those are developed.

There was some consideration to reserve a date for a strategic planning session, and the general consensus was to have the session in April immediately following the board meeting.

2017-225

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Sandy Shantz

THAT Report GM-12-17-132 – Strategic Plan Update be received as information.

Carried

12.3 GM-12-17-133 - Report of the Audit Committee

2017-226

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Elizabeth Clarke

THAT the report of the Audit Committee be received for information.

Carried

12.4 GM-12-17-134 - Cash and Investment Status

2017-227

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT Report GM-12-17-134 – Cash and Investments Status Report as of November 30, 2017 be received as information.

Carried

12.5 GM-12-17-137 - Financial Summary

2017-228

Moved By Vic Prendergast

Seconded By Susan Foxton

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

Carried

12.6 GM-12-17-128 - Loader Tractor Tender Results

2017-229

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Pat Salter

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority award the tender for the purchase of two (2) 30.7 kW (41.2 HP) PTO four wheel drive tractors with cab and fixed front loader attachments to Crossroads Equipment for a total amount of \$106,147.02 (excluding HST).

Carried

12.7 GM-12-17-127 - Elora Gorge Sanitary Servicing Upgrade - Phase One Tender Results

S. Simons asked if this phase will be complete by this summer, and if the trailers are able to relocate. D. Bennett responded that it is intended to be complete by May, and noted that there are 35 trailers on-site in the upper campground that will be able to connect to the new system.

2017-230

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By George Wicke

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority award the tender for the Elora Gorge Sanitary Servicing Upgrade project to A. Van Egmond Construction (2005) Ltd. in the amount of \$617,475, excluding HST.

Carried

12.8 GM-12-17-124 - 2018 Conservation Area Fees

G. Lorentz asked for clarification regarding guest passes for hunting, user fees in comparison to the private sector, and about seasonal camping renewals. D. Bennett responded that a guest pass is a one-day pass that can be purchased by hunters who have permits to allow them to bring a guest. D. Bennett explained that private campsites may offer amenities that the GRCA does not, which could explain lower costs of GRCA parks. D. Bennett said that there may be some danger of losing seasonal campers if they are unable to renew for the following year, but that staff will be talking with seasonal campers during the 2018 season.

2017-231

Moved By Warren Stauch

Seconded By Chris White

THAT the proposed 2018 Conservation Area fees be approved and become effective as of January 1, 2018.

Carried

12.9 GM-12-17-126 - Conservation Areas Year End Update

*C. Lunau joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

D. Bennett introduced P. Walther-Mabee, GRCA's new manager of conservation areas, and welcomed M. Coderre and B. Hunt to the meeting.

D. Bennett provided a presentation with the Conservation Areas Year End Update, which included an overview of activities available across GRCA parks. Highlights from the report include increased revenues, increased day use and nightly camping. D. Bennett said that revenues are very weather dependent, and that any surplus is put towards stabilization, aging infrastructure, and capital

projects. While increased revenue is a positive thing, the increase in visitors does have an impact on natural areas. Staff have begun to review options for monitoring and controlling attendance at the parks and will also consider how changing demographics could lead to a further increase in park visitors.

Completed projects for the year include Kay Marston Pavilion renovations, and the Shade's Mill amphitheatre and play structure.

G. Lorentz asked about future considerations for overcrowding concerns, and D. Bennett responded saying that at Elora Quarry in particular this summer, entrance was capped at 1300 visitors, based on an estimate of people per vehicle. Issuing wrist bands helps control the numbers, and staff are also reviewing how best to communicate the closing of parks to the public. G. Lorentz suggested adding this item to a future strategic planning discussion.

W. Stauch noted that he enjoys using the parks to walk his dog, on-leash, and appreciates the hard work of staff.

P. Salter inquired if staff are considering adding yurts or winter camping options. D. Bennett responded that staff are reviewing alternative camping accommodations. Information will be brought to the board as it becomes available.

K. McElwain asked about a second no-trespassing sign at Elora Gorge past the closed gates. D. Bennett answered that Elora Gorge is a seasonal park, and it is officially closed as of October 1 each year. The additional sign is to aid in deterring visitors from using the park when it is closed.

2017-232

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Les Armstrong

THAT Report GM-12-17-126 Conservation Areas Year End Update be received as information.

Carried

12.10 GM-12-17-125 - GRCA Complimentary Membership Passes

2017-233

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report GM-12-17-125 - Grand River Conservation Authority Complimentary Membership Passes 2018 be received as information.

Carried

12.11 GM-12-17-131 - Environmental Assessments

2013-234

Moved By George Wicke

Seconded By Elizabeth Clarke

THAT Report GM-12-17-131 Environmental Assessments be received as information.

Carried

12.12 GM-12-17-123 - Permits Online Application Process

2017-235

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT Report GM-12-17-123 Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourse Regulation On-line Application Process be received for information.

Carried

12.13 GM-12-17-129 - Grand River Forest Management Plan

R. Wu-Winter provided a presentation of the Grand River Forest Management Plan. This is a long-term plan for the stewardship of GRCA forests, which provide educational, ecological, and social benefits to the watershed. Over the past ten years GRCA has reforested nearly 500 hectares of land, and over the next ten years there will be an increased focus on maintaining the plantations.

B. Corbett asked about the effectiveness of the ash treatment program for mitigating damages caused by the Emerald Ash Borer. R. Wu-Winter answered that results are good when treatment is started early. Approximately 95 per cent of treated trees are seeing positive results.

2017-236

Moved By Kirk McElwain

Seconded By Wayne Roth

THAT Report GM-12-17-129 – GRCA Forest Management Plan 2018-2027 be received for information.

Carried

12.14 GM-12-17-130 - Managed Forest and Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program Participation

2017-237

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report GM-12-17-130 – GRCA Managed Forest and Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program Participation be received for information.

Carried

12.15 GM-12-17-135 - Montrose Reservoir Project Update

D. Boyd noted minor errors in this report on pages 86 and 87. An amended version of the report will be posted following the meeting.

K. McElwain addressed his concern of the limitations on these lands, noting the impact on the ability to buy or sell these properties. A number of the properties are left vacant, which impacts the neighbourhood. D. Boyd said that the current plan allows agricultural use of the lands. Existing uses will be allowed to continue, and restrictions are in place on new uses. The area has been thoroughly studied in the past, and the land will be maintained as a future reservoir site.

S. Shantz commented that with climate change and increases in severe weather, it is prudent for GRCA to retain this land for possible future use.

2017-238

Moved By Pat Salter

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT Report GM-12-17-135 Montrose Reservoir Project Update be received as information.

Carried

12.16 GM-12-17-136 - Current Watershed Conditions

D. Boyd presented the current watershed conditions. Colder than normal temperatures are expected over the next few months, with higher than normal precipitation due to lake effect snow.

D. Boyd informed members of a newly launched website that shows animated weather maps, and can be used to see precipitation, winds, lake effect snow, and can show future forecasts. The site can be viewed at www.windy.com.

2017-239

Moved By Shirley Simons

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT Report GM-12-17-136 – Current Watershed Conditions as of December 6, 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 showed members a book entitled Ingenious, written by former Governor General David Johnston, and Tom Jenkins.

On behalf of S. Wilbur, H. Jowett informed members that the Grand River Conservation Foundation is at 50 per cent of its 100 per cent goal of participation from board members. Donations can be made through per diems, mileage, or gifts.

18. Next Meetings

The next meeting of the General Membership is scheduled for January 26, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

2017-244

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Les Armstrong

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer