



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - Annual General Meeting

Date:	February 23, 2018
Time:	9:30 am
Location:	Auditorium Grand River Conservation Authority 400 Clyde Road, Box 729 Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6
Members Present	Bruce Banbury, Elizabeth Clarke, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Susan Foxtan, Guy Gardhouse, Helen Jowett, Cindy Lunau, Kirk McElwain, Jane Mitchell, Fred Morison, David Neumann, Joe Nowak, Vic Prendergast, Wayne Roth, Mike Salisbury, Pat Salter, Sandy Shantz, Shirley Simons, George Stojanovic, Chris White
Members Regrets	Les Armstrong, Robert Bell, Geoff Lorentz, Warren Stauch, George Wicke
Staff	Karen Armstrong, Dave Bennett, Nancy Davy, Joe Farwell, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Sara Wilbur, Eowyn Spencer, Fred Natolochny, Melissa Larion, Janet Baine, Nathan Munn, Cameron Linwood
Others	Bryan May, MPP (Cambridge), Mayor Ron Eddy (Brant County), Minister Kathryn McGarry, MPP (Cambridge), Paul Salvini (GRCF) Ray Martin (Cambridge Times), Divya Softa (University of Waterloo)

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:35 a.m.

The Chair welcomed the following guests to the Annual General Meeting:

- Mr. Paul Salvini, Grand River Conservation Foundation Board
- Mayor Ron Eddy, Brant County

- Mr. Bryan May, MP, Cambridge

The Chair also noted that Minister Kathryn McGarry, MPP, Cambridge, would be attending the meeting.

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 18 Members present. A total of 21 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- On February 12, Joe Farwell, Lisa Stocco, and Sonja Radoja presented the 2018 Budget to the Township of Wellington North. Thank you Ms. Pat Salter for attending the presentation
- On February 14, the Chair attended GRCA's annual Grand River watershed flood coordinators meeting. This meeting is held each winter to update municipal flood coordinators on the operation of the Grand River Conservation Authority's flood warning system and their responsibilities when a flood warning message is issued.
- The Annual Heritage Day Workshop was held on February 16, with board members Jane Mitchell, Vic Prendergast, Bruce Banbury, Pat Salter, and the Chair in attendance. Congratulations to Mr. Warren Stauch for another successful event.
- Board Members are reminded of the Strategic Planning session scheduled immediately following the April board meeting. Please expect to stay until approximately 3:30 on April 27. Lunch will be provided.
- The Chair thanked D. Boyd and GRCA staff for all of their efforts during the recent flood event.

C. Lunau joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

4. Review of Agenda

18-23

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT the agenda for the Annual General 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 Meeting

18-24

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Pat Salter

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of January 26, 2018, 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 Ella Haley - Growing the Greenbelt

The delegation did not attend the meeting.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

The Chair noted that the correspondence received from J. Thornton and included in the addendum package was resubmitted prior to the meeting. The correct correspondence item was distributed to Members, and a new addendum will be posted.

J. Mitchell joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

10.1 Marlene Hart - Niska Lands

10.2 Township of Melancthon - 2018 GRCA Budget

10.3 Township of Mapleton - 2018 GRCA Budget

10.4 Town of Grand Valley - 2018 GRCA Budget

10.5 Township of Amaranth - Regulated Lands/Fill Issues

10.6 Jane Thornton - Growing the Greenbelt

10.7 Kevin Thomason - Niska Bridge Area and OPA #48

18-25

Moved By George Stojanovic

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT Correspondence from Marlene Hart regarding the Niska Lands, and from the Townships of Melancthon, Mapleton, and Grand Valley regarding the 2018 GRCA Levy apportionments, and from the Township of Amaranth regarding regulated lands and fill issues, and from Jane Thornton regarding the Growing the Greenbelt report, and from

Kevin Thomason regarding the Niska Bridge Area and OMB #48, be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-02-18-09 - Protecting Water for Future Generations: Growing the Greenbelt in the Outer Ring

N. Davy provided a presentation on a proposed initiative to Grow the Greenbelt. The Government of Ontario is seeking feedback on a proposal 'Protecting Water for Future Generations: Growing the Greenbelt in the Outer Ring' to expand the existing Greenbelt to areas of the outer ring of the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The purpose of the expansion is to protect water resources in areas that they have identified as under threat from population growth and development pressures. The Study Area consists of moraines, coldwater streams and wetlands and covers a large portion of the Grand River watershed.

H. Jowett asked if a policy was in place to mitigate any future challenges in the event that there is a difference between municipal and provincial plans, and N. Davy answered that the greenbelt policies would supercede a municipal policy. If a municipality has a more restrictive policy, which would take precedence is up for consideration by the province. Ensuring this issue is identified could help encourage discussion on the matter. S. Foxton said that the proposal looks like our (watershed) water will not be as protected, adding that we (GRCA staff) need to make it well known that the protections have to be in place. D. Neumann asked when a final report from the Province can be expected, and N. Davy responded that a timeline from the Province has not been provided. M. Salisbury asked for clarification on the 'best available technical information' referred to in the recommendation. N. Davy said that the report outlines specific technology used by the GRCA.

G. Gardhouse joined the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

18-26

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Vic Prendergast

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority recommends to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that:

1. The municipal Water Resource System mapping referenced in the Provincial Growth Plan and the *Watershed Planning in Ontario* guidance document be

finalized prior to consideration of an expansion of the Greenbelt Plan in the Grand River watershed.

2. The Greenbelt expansion (as proposed) include provisions that allow for any official plan policies which offer more protection to Natural Heritage and Water Resource Systems to supersede any less restrictive policies of the Greenbelt Plan.
3. The Ministry provide assistance to municipalities to identify Water Resource Systems using the best available technical information, prior to refining the expansion area.

AND THAT this report be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs through Environmental Registry Posting #013-1661.

Carried

The Chair welcomed Minister Kathryn McGarry, MPP, Cambridge to the meeting and invited guests to say a few words.

Minister McGarry, Bryan May, and Mayor Ron Eddy each addressed the Members and GRCA staff to thank them for their efforts during the recent weather event which caused flooding across the watershed. They noted their appreciation of all GRCA staff who put flood response systems in place and moved quickly to protect this watershed. Minister McGarry said that GRCA staff continually go above and beyond the call of duty to protect public safety and prevent loss. Mr. Bryan May offered appreciation on behalf of the Federal Government, and thanked staff for their efforts. Mayor Eddy added that it is wonderful to have the help and support of the GRCA in times of crises and that these weather events illustrate the need for such an organization.

B. Corbett added his thanks to staff for the foresightedness to assist in organizing the breaking of the ice at the mouth of the river. Mr. Corbett also added his thanks to local EMS services for door-to-door notification of flooding.

D. Neumann also noted his appreciation, and said that some media releases were misinterpreted. Though approximately 4,500 people were asked to evacuate their homes in areas of Brantford, there were less than 100 homes that flooded - the evacuation was precautionary in most cases.

The Chair thanked the guests on behalf of staff for their kind words and resumed the regular meeting.

12.2 GM-02-18-12 - Grand River Notification Agreement Renewal

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

18-27

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Elizabeth Clarke

THAT the Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority be authorized to sign the Grand River Notification Agreement Renewal.

Carried

12.3 GM-02-18-10 - Provincial Offences Officer Designation

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

18-28

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority designate Kaitlyn Rosebrugh as a Provincial Offences Officer.

Carried

12.4 GM-02-18-13 - Environmental Assessments

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

18-29

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report Number GM-02-18-13 - Environmental Assessments be received as information.

Carried

12.5 GM-02-18-19 - Grand River Watershed Flood Warning System

E. Clarke asked about the timing of the flood-coordinators meeting, and J. Farwell said that this meeting is normally held around mid-february, in time for the spring snowmelt..

S. Shantz left the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

18-30

Moved By Vic Prendergast

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT Report GM-02-18-19 - Grand River Watershed Flood Warning System be received as information.

Carried

12.6 GM-02-18-24 - Communication of GRCA Flood Warning Messages

L. Stocco presented a brief history and the current procedure for the communication of flood messages with the following key highlights:

- GRCA issues three types of flood messages: watershed condition statements, flood warnings, and flood watches
- GRCA issues flood warning messages directly to municipal flood coordinators, Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMCs) and Waterloo Region Police Services (WPRS).
- WRPS distribute flood messages to WRPS detachments and act as a backup to deliver flood warning messages to Municipal Flood Coordinators and CEMCs in Waterloo Region if other methods of communication fail.
- GRCA uses social media to communicate flood messages in addition to other media outlets
- The primary responsibility for notifying residents of flood warning lies with the municipalities

GRCA staff will be taking additional steps to clarify these roles and responsibilities, and are working on an informational brochure. Members of the public are encouraged to use all available channels to receive flood information from GRCA, including Twitter, Facebook, and signing up to receive flood notification emails. More information is available at www.grandriver.ca.

B. Corbett noted that EMS went door-to-door in Haldimand County, and thanked L. Stocco for acknowledging that social media is still not as widely used in some areas. B. Coleman added that while technology has improved, social media can be miscommunicated at times.

18-31

Moved By Pat Salter

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT Report Number GM-02-18-24 – Communication of Flood Warning Messages be received as information.

Carried

12.7 GM-02-18-20 - Current Watershed Conditions

J. Farwell provided an overview of the weather event that caused flooding in the Grand River watershed from February 19-22. Warm weather and heavy rainfall combined with ice jams in Cambridge, Brantford and Cayuga, caused significant flooding through the watershed. Conditions were further complicated by ice at the low end of the river, which was broken up by the coast guard just prior to the beginning of the significant rain fall. J. Farwell thanked staff, municipal flood coordinators, and emergency responders for their well-coordinated handling of this significant flood event. D. Boyd will bring a full report on the event to the March board meeting. J. Mitchell noted that before and after pictures of the event would be appreciated along with the report. D. Neumann asked if there is further danger downriver of Brantford from the broken ice jams. J. Farwell answered that the river is running clear, and the ice is now sitting in the floodplain and shouldn't

re-mobilize. Ice is always unpredictable, but there is no expectation that it will cause another jam.

J. Farwell also added that every time there is a significant flood event, GRCA staff and municipalities debrief and create an action plan for future events.

18-32

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

That Report Number GM-02-18-20 – Current Watershed Conditions as of February 14, 2018 be received as information.

Carried

12.8 GM-02-18-25 - HEC-HMS Hydrology Modeling Software Contract

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

18-33

Moved By Elizabeth Clarke

Seconded By George Stojanovic

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority enter into a contract U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- Institute for Water Resources -- Hydrologic Engineering Center to complete enhancements to the US Army Corps HEC-HMS hydrology modeling software in the amount of \$66,000 USD.

Carried

12.9 GM-02-18-21 - Playground Equipment Restoration

M. Salisbury asked why the GRCA pursues plastic playgrounds, and if board direction is required to seek more natural play structures. D. Bennett said that GRCA does not have a specific policy regarding playground equipment. Natural playground options are being reviewed, and in some cases, natural elements will be added in addition to playground equipment. M. Salisbury noted that he would like to see GRCA take a leading role in creating spaces that are consistent with the values of conservation.

18-34

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Chris White

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority award the contract for the supply and installation of playground equipment for two sites at Guelph Lake Conservation Area and one site at Byng Island Conservation Area to Henderson Recreation Equipment Limited of Simcoe, Ontario in the amount of \$119,674.99 excluding HST.

Carried

12.10 GM-02-18-22 - Afforestation Services for Spring 2018

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

18-35

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Chris White

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority award contracts for afforestation services to Bartram Woodlands Ltd in the amount of \$10,485.50, Black River Tree Planting in the amount of \$75,660.00, and Quiet Nature Ltd in the amount of \$35,224.00 (excluding taxes).

Carried

12.11 GM-02-18-11 - Cash and Investment Status

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

18-36

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Vic Prendergast

THAT Report Number GM-02-18-11 - Cash and Investment Status – January 2018 be received as information.

Carried

12.12 GM-02-18-18 - Financial Summary

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

18-37

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Pat Salter

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending January 31, 2018 be approved.

Carried

12.13 GM-02-18-15 - Weighted Voting 2018

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

18-38

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT Report number GM-02-18-15 - Weighted Voting – 2018 Budget and General Levy be received as information.

Carried

12.14 GM-02-18-17 - 2018 Budget - Final

Discussion on this item was held at agenda item 14d.

13. Committee of the Whole

Not required.

14. General Business

There was no General Business.

14.1 Report of the Audit Committee

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

18-39

Moved By Vic Prendergast

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT the Report of the Audit Committee of the Grand River Conservation Authority be received, approved and attached to the Minutes of this meeting.

Carried

14.2 Approval of Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor

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

18-40

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Kirk McElwain

THAT the Financial Statements of Grand River Conservation Authority as at December 31, 2017, and the Report of the Auditors thereon be received, approved and placed on file;

AND THAT copies be made available to all member municipalities, Grand River Conservation Authority Members and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Carried

14.3 Appointment of Auditors

18-41

Moved By Pat Salter

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT KPMG Chartered Professional Accountants are appointed as Grand River Conservation Authority Auditors for the year ending December 31, 2018 at a fee not to exceed \$ 36,400.00.

Carried

14.4 Presentation of Budget for the Current Year

G. Stojanovic noted that he did not see any mention of the judicial review process regarding Hamilton's levy apportionment within the report or the recommendation. K. Armstrong said that notification to member municipalities would include this information. G. Stojanovic added that a letter may not carry any weight, and that GRCA may be financially accountable if the judicial review overturns the decision of the mining and lands commissioner. J. Farwell said that legal advice may be required, and will be considered following the outcome of the judicial review.

G. Stojanovic said that he is opposing the budget recommendation because of the municipal levy apportionment, but added that he is supportive of the good initiatives and programming the GRCA has planned for 2018.

18-42

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Fred Morison

THAT the 2018 Budget of Grand River Conservation Authority of \$34,347,987 be approved;

AND THAT the member municipalities be assessed for payment of:

Matching Levy: \$871,073

Non-Matching Levy: \$9,430,927

Capital Levy: \$1,050,000

Total General Levy: \$11,352,000

AND THAT each member municipality's share of the 2018 General Levy be calculated using "Modified Current Value Assessment".

**Grand River Conservation Authority
2018 General Levy - Weight of Votes by Members
February 23, 2018**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Municipality/Group</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Les Armstrong	Region of Waterloo	5.0%	5.0%			
Sue Foxton	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Helen Jowett	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Geoff Lorentz	Region of Waterloo	5.0%	5.0%			
Jane Mitchell	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Joe Nowak	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Wayne Roth	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Sandy Shantz	Region of Waterloo	5.0%	5.0%			
Warren Stauch	Region of Waterloo	5.0%	5.0%			
Elizabeth Clarke	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Bernie Corbett	Haldimand & Norfolk Counties	0.9%		0.9%	0.9%	
Fred Morison	Haldimand & Norfolk Counties	0.9%		0.9%	0.9%	
Cindy Lunau	Region of Halton	2.3%		2.3%	2.3%	
George Stojanovic	City of Hamilton	12.6%		12.6%		12.6%
Bruce Banbury	County of Oxford	0.8%		0.8%	0.8%	
David Neumann	City of Brantford	3.7%		3.7%	3.7%	
Vic Prendergast	City of Brantford	3.7%		3.7%	3.7%	
Bob Bell	City of Guelph	6.9%	6.9%			
Mike Salisbury	City of Guelph	6.9%		6.9%	6.9%	
Guy Gardhouse	Group 1:	1.0%		1.0%	1.0%	
Pat Salter	Group 2:	1.3%		1.3%	1.3%	
George Wicke	Group 3:	0.4%	0.4%			
Kirk McElwain	Twp of Ctr Wellington	2.6%		2.6%	2.6%	
Chris White	Group 5:	3.1%		3.1%	3.1%	
Brian Coleman	County of Brant	1.5%		1.5%	1.5%	
Shirley Simons	County of Brant	1.5%		1.5%	1.5%	
		<u>100.0%</u>	<u>27.4%</u>	<u>72.6%</u>	<u>60.1%</u>	<u>12.6%</u>

Weighted Vote Result

82.7%

Carried

14.5 Provision for Borrowing (Pending Receipt of Municipal Levies)

18-43

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Jane Mitchell

WHEREAS it may be necessary for Grand River Conservation Authority (hereinafter called the "Authority") to borrow money, on an interim basis, to meet the Authority's financial obligations while awaiting payment of levies by participating municipalities designated as such under The Conservation Authorities Act, RSO 1990 (hereinafter called "Participating Municipalities");

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Authority be authorized to borrow, on an interim basis, a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) from the Authority's bank at the said bank's minimum lending rate established from time to time, until the Authority has received payment of levies from Participating Municipalities;

AND THAT the Chair or Vice-Chair together with the Chief Administrative Officer or Secretary-Treasurer of the Authority be and they are hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the Authority, a promissory note or notes for the sum to be borrowed pursuant to this Resolution and to affix thereto the corporate seal of the Authority;

AND THAT the amount borrowed pursuant to this Resolution, together with interest thereon, be a charge upon the whole of the money received or to be received by the Authority by way of levies collected from Participating Municipalities when such moneys are received;

AND THAT the Chair or Vice-Chair or the Chief Administrative Officer or Secretary-Treasurer of the Authority be and is hereby authorized and directed to apply, in payment of the moneys borrowed pursuant to this Resolution together with interest thereon, all of the moneys received by the Authority by way of levies collected from Participating Municipalities.

Carried

15. Appointments to Committees

15.1 Appointment of Audit Committee

18-44

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT the following Members be appointed to the Audit Committee until the next Annual General Meeting:

Helen Jowett, Chair; Chris White, Vice-Chair; Vic Prendergast; Guy Gardhouse; Jane Mitchell; David Neumann; and Brian Coleman

Carried

15.2 Appointment of Special Recognition Committee

18-45

Moved By Wayne Roth

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT the following Members be appointed to the Special Recognition Committee until the next Annual General Meeting:

Helen Jowett, Chair; Chris White, Vice-Chair; Cindy Lunau; Shirley Simons;
Warren Stauch; Pat Salter; and Susan Foxton.

Carried

15.3 Appointment of Conservation Ontario Council Representatives

18-46

Moved By Elizabeth Clarke

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT the Chair and the Chief Administrative Officer be appointed as Members of Conservation Ontario Council;

AND THAT the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary Treasurer be appointed as an Alternate Member of Conservation Ontario Council.

Carried

16. 3rd Reading of By-Laws

None.

17. Other Business

J. Nowak advised Members that the US has recently made a decision to cut funding to Great Lakes initiatives, and requested that staff review potential effects on GRCA. J. Farwell said that GRCA will be seeking additional funding for programs, and a report will be brought to the board as the funding is reviewed.

J. Mitchell requested that the Growing the Greenbelt report and the resolution be sent to watershed MPPs. All Members agreed, and staff will ensure the report and the board resolution is sent to watershed MPPs.

B. Corbett invited members to attend a social gathering in Dunnville in honour of his 50th wedding anniversary.

P. Salter spoke about the Heritage Day workshop, noting its success.

18. Closed Meeting

The General Membership did not enter a closed session.

18.1 Minutes of the previous closed session

18-47

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT the Minutes of the closed session of January 26, 2018, be approved as circulated.

Carried

18.2 Report - Litigation

18-48

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Chris White

THAT Report Number GM-02-18-C02 - Violation – Civil Injunction Application and Liability of Damages be received for information.

Carried

19. Next Meetings

- General Membership - March 23, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.
- Special Recognition Committee - March 23, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

20. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

18-49

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Wayne Roth

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer