



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date:	May 25, 2018
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, Susan Foxtan, Guy Gardhouse, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Cindy Lunau, Jane Mitchell, David Neumann, Joe Nowak, Vic Prendergast, Wayne Roth, Mike Salisbury, Pat Salter, Sandy Shantz, George Stojanovic, Warren Stauch, Chris White, George Wicke
Regrets	Brian Coleman, Kirk McElwain, Fred Morison, Shirley Simons
Staff	Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Nancy Davy, Joe Farwell, Samantha Lawson, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Lisa Stocco, Sara Wilbur, Pam Walther-Mabee, Krista Bunn, Cameron Linwood, Eowyn Spencer, Beth Brown, Janet Baine, Sandra Cooke, Sue Brocklebank, Mark Anderson, Kelly Hagan, Jan Ivey, Scott Robertson
Others	Julianna van Adrichem (University of Guelph)

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:30

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 22 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Review of Agenda

18-99

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting of May 25, 2018, 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.

J. Mitchell and S. Foxtan joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

18-100

Moved By Joe Nowak

Seconded By Pat Salter

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of April 27, 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

G. Stojanovic and C. Lunau joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

There were no Delegations.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Township of Amaranth - Request for Financial Support

J. Farwell provided an overview of the request from the Township of Amaranth, noting that it is not within the mandate of the GRCA to partner with municipalities to fund these types of projects.

18-101

Moved By Geoff Lorentz

Seconded By Susan Foxtan

THAT Correspondence from the Township of Amaranth regarding a request for financial support be received for information, and; THAT staff be directed to review the request.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-05-18-58 - Chief Administrative Officer's Report

J. Farwell advised the Board of an increase in unauthorized tenting on GRCA property and municipal lands throughout the City of Cambridge, as well as an increase in the number of discarded needles in the same areas. GRCA is working with the City and local police services to track the instances and control the issues. Staff are being trained in safe removal of sharps, and have been advised to not approach any unauthorized campsites on GRCA property.

Board members noted concerns and asked about the increase of occurrences, proper collection of waste, staff approaching potentially unsafe areas, and the process for clean-up of the tenting sites. M. Salisbury said it may be beneficial to see a report in the future outlining how other areas are dealing with this problem. J. Farwell responded to questions, noting that the increase over last year has been significant, and that staff are aware of the issues and have been advised to call police if tents are found. GRCA does have sharps disposal units in parks and other options are being considered with advice from police.

GRCA will continue to work with local partner agencies to monitor this issue.

18-102

Moved By Sandy Shantz

Seconded By Vic Prendergast

THAT Report Number GM-05-18-58 - Chief Administrative Officer's Report, be received for information.

Carried

12.2 GM-05-18-53 - Cash and Investment Status

18-103

Moved By Sandy Shantz

Seconded By Chris White

THAT Report Number GM-05-18-53 Cash and Investment Status – April 2018 be received for information.

Carried

12.3 GM-05-18-54 - Financial Summary

18-104

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Pat Salter

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending April 30, 2018 be approved.

Carried

12.4 GM-05-18-57 - Environmental Assessments

18-105

Moved By Sandy Shantz

Seconded By George Wicke

THAT Report Number GM-05-18-57 - Environmental Assessments be received for information.

Carried

12.5 GM-05-18-56 - Current Watershed Conditions

D. Boyd provided information on the May 4, 2018 wind event, and discussed erosion on the Lake Erie shoreline just outside of the Grand River watershed, increased potential for surge flooding on the lakeshore, updating hazard mapping, and adaptation to climate change. A report on Lake Erie floodplain mapping work will be prepared for a future meeting.

18-106

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Les Armstrong

That Report Number GM-05-18-56 – Current Watershed Conditions as of May 16, 2018 be received for information.

Carried

12.6 GM-05-18-55 - Update on Grand River Watershed-wide Wastewater Optimization Program

M. Anderson provided a presentation on the Grand River Watershed-wide Wastewater Optimization Program with the following key highlights:

- the program is a collaborative effort to improve effluent quality, which directly impacts the river
- GRCA works with partner municipalities with a focus on improving skills and knowledge to optimize the operation of wastewater treatment plants
- Funding for the program has been provided through grants from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Improvements to water quality can be seen by making changes to the operation of the treatment plants.
- The Hespeler treatment plant has seen a dramatic reduction in ammonia, and Brantford has seen a reduction in phosphorous levels since the implementation of this program

There was some discussion following the presentation and M. Anderson responded to questions.

18-107

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By David Neumann

THAT Report Number GM-05-18-55 – Update on Grand River Watershed-wide Wastewater Optimization Program be received for information.

Carried

12.7 Staff Presentation - Water Management Plan

S. Cooke presented an overview of the Water Management Plan; a plan endorsed by several partner agencies. The Plan has four main goals: to improve water quality and river health, to ensure sustainable water supplies, to reduce flood damage potential, and to increase resiliency to deal with climate change. A water managers group meets quarterly to share best practices and promote cross-municipal dialogue. A Report on Actions is prepared annually to highlight progress on steps taken and actions over the past year. The Plan is now heading in to the last of five reporting years and will focus on next steps to chart the course for the next five years.

18-108

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT the Water Management Plan presentation be received as information.

Carried

12.8 Staff Presentation - Conservation Services Outreach StoryMap

S. Brocklebank presented the Conservation Services Outreach StoryMap; an interactive online tool designed to highlight the stories of farmers across the watershed. The StoryMap, Stories from the Field, showcases 30 family farms. All of the farms have participated in the Rural Water Quality Program which provides funding for projects with a purpose of protecting and improving water quality in the Grand River and its tributaries.

Stories from the Field can be viewed on the GRCA website at:

<https://www.grandriver.ca/en/our-watershed/Rural-Water-Quality-Program.aspx>

Board members suggested presenting this information to municipal councils to increase awareness of the Rural Water Quality Program.

18-109

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT the Conservation Services Outreach StoryMap presentation 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

Board members announced local events in their respective municipalities. B. Corbett thanked GRCA for another successful Children's Water Festival in Haldimand County.

17. Closed Meeting

The General Membership did not enter a closed session.

17.1 Minutes of the previous closed session

18-110

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Geoff Lorentz

THAT the minutes of the closed session of April 27, 2018, be approved as circulated.

Carried

18. Next Meetings

- General Membership - June 22, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.
- General Membership - July 27, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.
- General Membership - August 24, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

18-111

Moved By Bob Bell

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT the General Membership Meeting of May 25, 2018, be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer