



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: September 28, 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, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Susan Foxtan, Guy Gardhouse, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Cindy Lunau, Kirk McElwain, David Neumann, Joe Nowak, Vic Prendergast, Wayne Roth, Mike Salisbury, Sandy Shantz, Shirley Simons, George Stojanovic, Warren Stauch, Chris White, George Wicke

Regrets Elizabeth Clarke, Jane Mitchell, Fred Morison, Pat Salter

Staff Karen Armstrong, Dave Bennett, Dwight Boyd, Nancy Davy, Joe Farwell, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Sara Wilbur, Pam Walther-Mabee, Krista Bunn, Cameron Linwood, Eowyn Spencer, Beth Brown, Lara Fox, Scott Robertson, Teresa Poole, Kayleigh Keighan, Martin Keller

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:32 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 to the meeting and reminded the board of the GRCA Run for the Toad event scheduled for September 29.

4. Review of Agenda

18-166

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting of September 28, 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.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

18-167

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of August 24, 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

There were no Delegations.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

G. Stojanovic joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

- Responding to a question from M. Salisbury, J. Farwell clarified that the Hunt Club was denied use of the Puslinch tract on Sunday, September 8, for safety reasons. The tract is not closed on Sundays but is used by members of the public for a variety of purposes, and the Hunt Club's intended use added a high risk to the safety of other groups on the property. The Hunt Club is one of many groups that the GRCA

will engage for discussion regarding conflicting use of the property. J. Farwell confirmed that a letter of request for funding to prepare a master plan for the property has been sent to the Province.

- B. Corbett asked about the GRCA's 'lack of response' as referred to in correspondence from the MECP. J. Farwell responded that a number of conversations and meetings took place, and discussions were discontinued when it was clear that the difference of opinion could not be resolved at the staff level.

18-168

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT Correspondence from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding ECAs issued by the Ministry, and from the County of Dufferin regarding the Rural Water Quality Program, and from Doreen Tschanz regarding the Wellington Waterloo Hunt Club use of the Puslinch Tract be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-09-18-90 - Strategic Plan 2018-2023

C. Lunau joined the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

- H. Jowett referred members to the printed version of the Strategic Plan for their review and acknowledged Lara Fox for her excellent work on the document.
- J. Farwell provided an overview of the process to update GRCA's strategic plan, which included discussions with staff and board members mediated by a professional consultant. J. Farwell showed a presentation which described the new vision and mission statements and organizational values, and identified strategic priorities and key actions to implement the plan over the next four years.
- Board members discussed adding wording that would speak to the public consultation process for specific projects or properties, and considered public consultation within the mandated role of the GRCA, as well as the timeframe of the updated plan in regard to a new incoming board. Members agreed that GRCA's respect of public input is covered in our values and practices, and that the plan should be reviewed again by the board in two years, as opposed to four.

18-169

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Bob Bell

THAT the Strategic Plan 2019 | 2021 be approved.

Carried

12.2 GM-09-18-91 - Unauthorized Tenting on GRCA Properties

- GRCA owns a lot of property in Cambridge, and there have been 72 incidents where GRCA staff have been sent to respond to unauthorized tenting at various GRCA properties. An incident refers to each site visit and/or contact with an individual or group at a specific site as multiple visits may be required e.g. initial contact, follow-up, clean-up, etc.. Incidents are particularly high in Cambridge and J. Farwell advised the board that City of Cambridge staff have been very helpful and cooperative with our staff. J. Farwell reminded the board that this is a national problem, and that staff is facing challenges due to the increased number of incidents. The Chair added that the high number is concerning, and that a lack of solutions is not a deficiency of the GRCA.
- Members discussed concerns with the issue, collaboration efforts, and connecting with social services.
- The GRCA is mandated to manage its properties, and board members further discussed waste management concerns which are a result of the unauthorized tenting, as well as the complexity of this issue and difficulties in finding a sustainable solution. The Chair noted that without quantifiable data a solution will be difficult to find, and urged members to take ideas to their respective councils. It is not the GRCA's mandated role to provide a solution for homelessness, and staff will continue to collaborate with local agencies to assist in clean-up efforts.
- G. Gardhouse suggested a letter regarding the impact of homeless people on GRCA lands be sent to the Province on behalf of the board, with a copy to watershed MPPs.
- There was discussion on developing a waste management plan for GRCA properties. J. Farwell confirmed that staff can prepare a report considering alternatives, for early in the new year.

18-170

Moved By Mike Salisbury

Seconded By Susan Foxtan

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority staff be directed to develop a responsive and proactive waste management plan for GRCA properties that are directly affected by unauthorized tenting.

Carried

18-171

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT Report Number GM-09-18-91 - Unauthorized Tenting on GRCA Property be received as information.

Carried

12.3 GM-09-18-92 - Retention of Records Policy

18-172

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority Records Retention Policy be approved effective September 28, 2018.

Carried

12.4 GM-09-18-93 - 2019 Draft Budget

- S. Radoja presented an updated draft 2019 budget which highlighted wage increases for union and non-union staff that reflect changes from the collective agreement and market value adjustments, increased revenues and user fees, potential staffing additions in specific departments, and potential impacts of Bill 148. S. Radoja asked members for direction in regard to sending correspondence to the Ministry of Labour that would describe the potential impacts of Bill 148 on the organization.
- Board members discussed staffing positions and the impact of Bill 148 on the general levy.
- S. Radoja also provided a brief update on the City of Hamilton's appeal of the 2018 levy apportionment. The City of Hamilton's appeal of GRCA's levy apportionment has been held in abeyance pending the conclusion of the City's judicial review application being brought respecting the Deputy Mining and Lands Commissioner's decision of December 21, 2017.

18-173

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority staff be directed to send a letter to the Ministry of Labour regarding the implications of Bill 148 on the organization.

Carried

18-174

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT Report Number 09-18-93 - Budget 2019 (draft #1) be received as information.

Carried

12.5 GM-09-18-89 - Cash and Investment Status

18-175

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Geoff Lorentz

THAT Report Number GM-09-18-89 Cash and Investment Status – August 2018 be received as information.

Carried

12.6 GM-09-18-96 - Financial Summary

18-176

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Sandy Shantz

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

Carried

12.7 GM-09-18-94 - Bathymetric LiDAR Supplier

L. Armstrong left the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

B. Coleman left the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

18-177

Moved By Vic Prendergast

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority enter into a contract with Geomatics Data Solutions Inc. to complete the Bathymetric LiDAR Acquisition Project (2018) for the amount of \$251,640 (exclusive of taxes).

Carried

12.8 GM-09-18-95 - Environmental Assessments

18-178

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-09-18-95 - Environmental Assessments be received as information.

Carried

12.9 GM-09-18-97 - Current Watershed Conditions

- D. Boyd showed an on-screen radar of active hurricanes and cyclones in the Pacific, advising the board that while it is unlikely, there is potential for Hurricane Rosa to have some effect on weather in the watershed. Staff are currently monitoring that storm system.

18-179

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Shirley Simons

THAT Report Number GM-08-18-97 – Current Watershed Conditions as of September 18, 2018 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

- On behalf of W. Stauch, S. Shantz wished luck to members seeking re-election in the upcoming municipal election, and requested members to announce local events in the watershed.
- J. Nowak shared the Township of Wellesley's upcoming apple, butter and cheese festival, and invited members to attend if in the area.
- D. Neumann announced that planning for the 2019 Heritage Day event is going well, and the event will include celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Grand River heritage river designation. Mr. Neumann also announced that he will not be seeking re-election for the next term of council.
- S. Foxtton reminded members of Orange shirt day in recognition of reconciliation and hope.

17. Closed Meeting

The Board did not enter a closed meeting.

17.1 Minutes of the Previous Closed Meeting

18-180

Moved By Geoff Lorentz

Seconded By Susan Foxton

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

Carried

18. Next Meetings

- October 26, 2018
- November 23, 2018
- December 14, 2018 - inaugural meeting for incoming board

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

18-181

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

20. Grand River Source Protection Authority Meeting

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer