



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date:	October 25, 2019
Time:	9:30 am
Location:	Auditorium Grand River Conservation Authority 400 Clyde Road, Box 729 Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6
Members Present	Marcus Adili, Bruce Banbury, Robert Bell, Don Brunk, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Susan Foxtan, Guy Gardhouse, Joan Gatward, Rodrigo Goller, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Vic Prendergast, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White
Members Regrets	Les Armstrong, Jim Erb, Michael Harris, Geoff Lorentz
Staff	Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Samantha Lawson, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Pam Walther-Mabee, Sara Wilbur, Martin Keller, Melissa Larion, Cameron Linwood, Fred Natolochny, Eowyn Spencer
Others	Brody Robinmeyer, Ruth Pickering, Don McLean, Paul Costello, Kathy White, Stephanie DeGrandis

1. Call to Order

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

2. 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:

- The previously scheduled meeting with MECP to discuss the program and services offered by the GRCA will be postponed until mid-November. The GRCA looks forward to the opportunity to meet with Minister and Ministry staff to discuss our role in watershed management.
- The Composition Review Committee will convene in the conference room following the Board and Source Protection meeting this morning
- Melissa Larion has accepted the role of Supervisor of Resource Planning. Ms Larion has been with the GRCA since 2008 in various positions within Resource Planning. Congratulations Melissa!
- The Province made an announcement before the start of the meeting regarding their review of regional municipalities in Ontario, noting that there will be no amalgamations at this time

Jane Mitchell and Dan Lawrence joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

4. Review of Agenda

19-174

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting 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

W.Stauch noted that he was incorrectly recorded as present at the last meeting. The minutes will be updated accordingly.

19-175

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of September 27, 2019 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

8.1 Stephanie De Grandis - Proposed Amendments to the Aggregate Resources Act

Stephanie DeGrandis addressed the Board to share her concerns with the Province's proposed amendments to the Aggregate Resources Act and urged the GRCA to submit comments to the Province.

On behalf of staff, M.Larion noted that the staff report to be submitted to the Province shares the concern and echoes the delegation's comments. The report will be submitted through the environmental registry following Board approval.

8.2 Don McLean - Kirkwall-Hamilton Pipeline Project

Mr. Don McLean, on behalf of Hamilton 350 Committee for Action on Climate Change, addressed the Board to share concerns about a proposed pipeline in Hamilton. Hamilton 350 is calling on all agencies potentially affected by the pipeline to formally oppose the project.

B.Corbett asked the delegation if they have a clear understanding of GRCA's role in this project, and noted that the Conservation Authority would be consulted through the environmental assessment process.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

None.

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-10-19-103 - Proposed Amendments to the Aggregate Resources Act 19-176

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Chris White

THAT Report GM-10-19-103 Proposed Amendments to the Aggregate Resources Act be received as information;

AND THAT this report be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry through Environmental Registry Number 019-0556.

Carried

12.2 GM-10-19-101 - 2020 Budget Update - General Municipal Levy Apportionment

K.Armstrong provided an overview of Provincial regulations and levy apportionment data provided by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and

Parks, which is used to calculate the current value assessment and apportion the levy to individual municipalities.

Members discussed the factors applied to apportion assessment values, the levy increase compared over previous years, and suggested discussing the current regulation and how the data is applied to levy apportionment with MECP.

K.Armstrong noted that GRCA hopes to address the unique challenges faced by the GRCA with MECP and to ensure that the impact of any changes is understood.

19-177

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT Report GM-10-18-107 - 2019 Budget Update – General Municipal Levy Apportionment be received as information.

Carried

12.3 GM-10-19-99 - Cash and Investment Status

B.Corbett asked a question about the difference between face value interest rate and yield interest rate. S.Radoja responded that the effective interest rate incorporates the impact of the discount provided or premium paid on investments. The premium or discount related to an investment is driven by interest rates in effect at the time of purchase of the investment compared to the face value interest on the investment.

19-178

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT Report Number GM-10-19-99 Cash and Investment Status – September 2019 be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-10-19-104 - Financial Summary

J.Challinor commended staff for eliminating the deficit and asked staff to confirm that the GRCA removed that deficit with changes to the operating budget and not capital. S.Radoja confirmed that this is correct.

19-179

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Jane Mitchell

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending September 30, 2019 be approved.

Carried

12.5 GM-10-19-100 - 2020 Board Meeting Schedule

The Chair asked for a general consensus on the July and August meetings. Members agreed to break for the month of July and hold a regular meeting on the fourth Friday in the month of August.

19-180

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the Meeting Schedule for 2020 Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership meetings be approved as amended.

Carried

12.6 GM-10-19-102 - Current Watershed Conditions

D.Boyd provided an overview of current watershed conditions with the following highlights:

- An incoming weather system will be monitored. Heavy rain is expected across the watershed
- Lake Erie levels are still at an all-time high, increasing the risk of lake surge events
- Updated hazard mapping along the Lake Erie shoreline includes five flood zones for emergency response purposes
- Members had questions about the cyclic nature of water levels in Lake Erie and the effect of climate change. D.Boyd discussed shoreline hazards, surge flooding, and the difficulty of relating a cyclic nature to climate change

19-181

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

That Report Number GM-10-19-102 – Current Watershed Conditions as of October 16, 2019 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

J.Challinor II asked if current GRCA activities align with our core mandate with respect to Provincial comments on the subject. S.Lawson discussed the mandate as defined in Bill 108 as being a focus on natural hazards, source water protection, land management and other programs yet to be defined by regulations. Clarification of the core mandate is expected once regulations are finalized by the Province. J.Challinor II requested that staff provide a high-level overview of how GRCA is operating within its mandate so that Board members can accurately address questions if required. S.Lawson noted that staff will provide information in support of this request in the near future.

J.Gatward asked if GRCA has a program to reduce the spread of phragmites and S.Lawson confirmed that there is a program to manage invasive species on GRCA property.

D.Lawrence mentioned that there is a person or people living in a non-motorized boat on the Grand River, and S.Lawson noted that the GRCA does not have jurisdiction on navigable waters.

W.Stauch noted that there are three new watershed MPs following the federal election and there is a need to let them know of the good work being done in the watershed.

17. Closed Meeting (if required)

The Chair asked if there were questions relating to the closed meeting agenda and seeing that there were none, the motion was passed in open session.

17.1 Minutes of the Previous Closed Session

19-182

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Brian Coleman

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

Carried

18. Next Meeting

General Membership - November 22, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Audit Committee - November 22, 2019 following the General Membership

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

19-183

Moved by Richard Carpenter

Seconded by Don Brunk

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer