



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: December 13, 2019
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, Don Brunk, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Joan Gatward, Rodrigo Goller, Michael Harris, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Geoff Lorentz, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White

Regrets Marcus Adili, Kevin Davis, Guy Gardhouse

Staff Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Samantha Lawson, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Sara Wilbur, Cameron Linwood, Eowyn Spencer, Beth Brown, Sandra Cooke, Stephanie Shifflett, Melissa Larion, Nathan Garland, Fred Natolochny

Others Malcolm Matheson (Chair, GRCF)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order 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 23 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- Welcome to Malcolm Matheson, Chair of the Grand River Conservation Foundation. Malcolm will present with Sara Wilbur on the programs and services offered by the Foundation
- Vic Prendergast attended his last GRCA Board meeting last month, and his 20 years of service will be formally recognized at the Chair's Reception following this meeting
- The City of Brantford has appointed Mayor Kevin Davis as their representative replacing Mr. Prendergast
- On December 4, Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, and the Chair met with MECP Ministry and Minister's staff. A number of local MPPs had staff in attendance as well. This meeting was an opportunity to begin to build a strong partnership with the new Ministry and to showcase GRCA's many beneficial programs
- On December 6, the Chair and Board Members Mayor McGarry, Mayor Foxtton, and Councillor Lorentz attended Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association's seasonal lunch
- On December 9, Samantha Lawson attended Conservation Ontario Council. Agenda highlights included a discussion on the Flood Advisor's report and ongoing items with conservation partners across Ontario
- Samantha Lawson and the Chair have been invited to present on behalf of the GRCA at the 2020 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference on January 20th. The theme of the presentation will centre around GRCA's long-standing partnerships with the agricultural community with a focus on programs such as Rural Water Quality and Wastewater Optimization

4. Review of Agenda

19-205

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

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

19-206

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of November 22, 2019 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

9.1 Grand River Conservation Foundation

W.Stauch joined the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

- S.Wilbur and M.Matheson provided a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the work of the Grand River Conservation Foundation and included an overview of fundraising initiatives, ongoing programs, and special projects. The GRCF supports GRCA programs that are not funded by the levy and have no alternative funding sources.
- In response to a question from B.Corbett, S.Wilbur noted that the GRCF will continue to support GRCA programs following any legislative changes regarding core and non-core programs, as the Foundation will continue to align initiatives with GRCA's strategic priorities. T.Ryan responded to a question from D.Lawrence, noting that the GRCA has a number of educational opportunities for high-school students that are separate from GRCF programs.

M.Harris joined the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

9.2 Conservation Areas 2019 Wrap-Up

- P.Walther-Mabee provided a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted the 11 pay-for-use conservation areas operated by the GRCA and included an overview of 2019 special programs, capital projects, attendance rates, and an overall successful year for the conservation areas.
- B.Banbury asked about a peak in camping visits in 2016 and P.Walther-Mabee noted 2016 as a high visitation year in the camping season. I.MacRae inquired about the criteria used to determine which conservation areas stay open year-round and P.Walther-Mabee said that she was not at the GRCA the last time this was reviewed but, in general, community interest is considered, as well as overall public safety and infrastructure capability and maintenance during winter weather.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Township of Amaranth - Nottawasaga Valley CA Levies

10.2 Township of Amaranth - Conservation Authority Exit Clauses

19-207

Moved By Don Brunk

Seconded By Jane Mitchell

THAT Correspondence from the Township of Amaranth regarding Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority levies and Conservation Authority Exit Clauses be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-12-19-127 - Chief Administrative Officer's Report

S.Lawson highlighted the following items from the CAO's report:

- On December 2, 2019, Haldimand County and the three Conservation Authorities within the County (GRCA, LPRCA and NPCA) held a PIC on Lake Erie Flooding Hazards and Preparedness. Thank you to all staff who worked to make the PIC a successful event
- On November 28, 2019 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry released the Special Flood Advisors report. Staff will be undertaking a review of the recommendations and will bring a report back to the Board in January

B.Corbett asked if staff had knowledge of Provincial response time with regard to declarations of emergencies and D.Boyd responded that he could consult with municipal partners on the matter, but that response time is bound to vary depending on circumstances.

19-208

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT Report Number GM-12-19-127 – Chief Administration Officer's Report be received as information.

Carried

12.2 GM-12-19-121 - Report of the Audit Committee

19-209

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT the Report of the Audit Committee be received as information.

Carried

12.3 GM-12-19-120 - Per Diems and Honorariums for 2020

19-210

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Ian MacRae

THAT Report Number GM-12-19-120 – Per Diems and Honorariums for 2020 be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-12-19-124 - Cash and Investment Status

19-211

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT Report Number GM-12-19-124 Cash and Investment Status – November 2019 be received as information.

Carried

12.5 GM-12-19-126 - Financial Summary

19-212

Moved By Michael Harris

Seconded By Joe Nowak

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

Carried

12.6 GM-12-19-123 - Environmental Assessments

19-213

Moved By Geoff Lorentz

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT Report Number GM-12-19-123 Environmental Assessments be received as information.

Carried

12.7 GM-12-19-119 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation Permit Application 735/19

- F.Natolochny provided a presentation to highlight a development permit application that requires board approval because it does not meet specific GRCA policies. Staff are recommending approval of this permit, and F.Natolochny provided a detailed overview of the project
- Board members discussed potential concerns and considerations of the application and F.Natolochny responded to questions

19-214

Moved By Michael Harris

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority approve permit application 735/19 by Crescent Haven Homes Inc.

Carried

12.8 GM-12-19-122 - Collaborative Water Management Planning

K.McGarry joined the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

- S.Cooke provided a presentation highlighting the Grand River watershed water management plan and the long history of collaborative water management planning.
- The water management plan is nearing the end of its ten year reporting cycle, and S.Cooke provided an overview of collective actions and accomplishments over its ten year span. The plan is a collaborative effort which outlines four key goals for the watershed: to improve water quality, reduce flood damage, build resilience to climate change, and to ensure water supply to the residents of the watershed
- Board members thanked S.Cooke for the presentation and asked questions related to water quality best management practices, partnerships with educational organizations, response to spills, water softener use and salt reduction, nitrates and agricultural water uses

S.Foxton left the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

19-215

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT Report Number GM-12-19-122 – Collaborative Water Management Planning be received as information.

Carried

12.9 GM-12-19-125 - Current Watershed Conditions

- S.Shifflett provided a presentation that highlighted weather patterns across the watershed in 2019

19-216

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Don Brunk

THAT Report Number GM-12-19-125 – Current Watershed Conditions as of December 4, 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

- W.Stauch said a caroling event was held at the West Montrose covered bridge on December 7 and noted he will notify board members for the event next year

17. Closed Meeting

- The Chair asked if there were any questions related to the closed meeting agenda. Seeing that there were none, no closed meeting was required.

17.1 Minutes of the Previous Closed Meeting

19-217

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the Minutes of the previous closed meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried

18. Next Meetings

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

19-218

Moved By Don Brunk

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer