



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: January 24, 2020
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, Bernie Corbett, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Joan Gatward, Rodrigo Goller, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Geoff Lorentz, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Warren Stauch, Chris White

Regrets Les Armstrong, Brian Coleman, Kevin Davis, Michael Harris, Bruce Whale

Staff Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Brandon Heyer, Samantha Lawson, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Lisa Stocco, Sara Wilbur, Cameron Linwood, Eowyn Spencer, Melissa Larion, Janet Ivey, Robert Messier, Gus Rungis, Vahid Taleban, Scott Robertson, Teresa Poole, Carol-Anne Johnston

Others Nancy Vansas (Ruthven Park National Historic Site), Jo-Anne Rzaszki (Conservation Ontario)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

The Secretary-Treasurer certified a quorum with 20 Members present. A total of 21 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- Members congratulated Samantha and the Chair for their presentation at the ROMA conference on January 20. Samantha and the Chair presented to share an overview of the GRCA and to highlight collaboration and partnerships with rural municipalities through our many programs and services. Thanks to Chris White for initiating GRCA's attendance at the Conference, and to Lisa Stocco and the Communications Department for their assistance.
- On January 21, Samantha Lawson and Sonja Radoja presented GRCA's 2020 budget at Hamilton Council. The presentation was well received and staff will continue these presentations as requested by member municipalities.
- On December 17, correspondence was received from the MECPC confirming that the proposed workplan for the review and update of the assessment report and source protection plan for the Long Point Region Source Protection Area was approved as submitted. This correspondence will be formally received at the next scheduled Source Protection Authority meeting.
- The Grand River Conservation Foundation Community Conservation Grants are now open for application until February 28. A flyer has been distributed to Members containing all pertinent information.
- The GRCA has hired a new Manager of Central Services, welcome Brandon Heyer to the GRCA and to his first Board meeting. Congratulations Brandon!

4. Review of Agenda

20-01

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Joe Nowak

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

20-02

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of December 13, 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

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

H.Jowett added correspondence from the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding consultation sessions for key stakeholders in the development of updates to the Conservation Authorities Act and associated regulations. Board Members were asked to confirm with the CAO if they are planning to attend, and to identify if they are attending on behalf of the conservation authority or their respective municipalities. S.Foxton requested that a briefing note be prepared for Members who are attending, and G.Lorentz requested that the correspondence and request be shared with Members who are not present at this meeting. S.Lawson confirmed that both requests would be completed.

10.1 County of Simcoe - Nottawasaga Valley CA Levy

10.2 Twp. of Springwater - CA review and exit clause

10.3 City of Hamilton - CA Levy Appeals

R.Goller requested information about the legal costs incurred by the GRCA regarding the levy appeals, and K.Armstrong said she could bring that information to a future meeting.

10.4 Mining and Lands Tribunal - City of Hamilton Appeals

10.5 Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks - Multi-stakeholder Engagement Consultations

20-03

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT Correspondence from the County of Simcoe regarding Nottawasaga Conservation Authority levy, and from the Township of Huron-Kinloss regarding their support of the Township of Ramara council resolution, and from the City of Hamilton regarding their levy appeals, and from the Mining and Lands Tribunal regarding dismissal of the City of

Hamilton's 2018 and 2019 levy appeals, and from Minister Yurek regarding Multi-stakeholder Engagement consultations be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-01-20-05 - Budget Draft #2

20-04

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report Number GM-01-20-05 – Budget 2020 Draft 2 be received as information;

AND THAT member municipalities be forwarded a letter advising them of the General Membership meeting to be held February 28, 2020 to approve the 2020 Budget and the general municipal levy and that the most recent budget draft be forwarded with this letter.

Carried

12.2 GM-01-02-01 - Cash and Investment Status

B.Corbett asked about the new bond rates and S.Radoja indicated that they are down overall.

20-05

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT Report Number GM-01-20-01 Cash and Investment Status – December 2019 be received as information.

Carried

12.3 GM-01-20-04 - Foundation Member Appointment

20-06

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority appoint Phil Hauser to the Grand River Conservation Foundation until its next Annual General Meeting.

Carried

12.4 GM-01-20-02 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation

20-07

Moved By Don Brunk

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT Report Number GM-01-20-02 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received for information.

Carried

12.5 GM-01-20-03 - Environmental Assessments

20-08

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT Report Number GM-01-20-03 Environmental Assessments be received as information.

Carried

12.6 GM-01-20-07 - January 2020 Flood Event

R.Carpenter joined the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

- D.Boyd presented an overview of the watershed-wide flood event that began on January 11. The presentation highlighted the record-setting rainfall and GRCA's emergency flood response procedures used to reduce flood damage across the watershed
- Board Members thanked staff for their efforts. J.Nowak noted special thanks to staff who went above and beyond to assist in opening the sluice gate at Wellesley dam. He asked if the GRCA has any work planned for this dam and if township staff can be trained to perform emergency work on the dam. D.Boyd said that there is work planned for this dam. A full inspection will be completed once weather conditions allow
- Board Members discussed the importance of sharing the facts and figures of flood events with the public and government groups to highlight the need for flood management and the work of conservation authorities
- B.Corbett noted the benefits of mitigating flood damages as the severity and frequency of these events is increasing every year, and asked staff to review the need for another reservoir in the watershed. D.Boyd said that this will be discussed with management, noting that a review of this kind would look at various measures and options to reduce overall risk. A report will be brought to the Board

- There was some further discussion, and D.Boyd responded to questions noting that private dams are the responsibility of the dam owner, and that the West Montrose bridge area showed no significant risk during this event because there were no concerns with ice jams during this flood

20-09

Moved By Warren Stauch

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report Number GM-01-20-07 – January 2020 Flood Event be received as information.

Carried

12.7 GM-01-20-08 - Provincial Flood Advisor Special Report on Flooding

- N.Davy provided a presentation regarding the Provincial Flood Advisor's report on flood management in Ontario. The report contained 66 recommendations based on the flood advisor's consultations with key stakeholders in 2019, and is aligned with GRCA's strategic priority of protecting life and minimizing damage due to flooding. N.Davy shared a summary of key recommendations from the report
- Board Members urged staff to participate in consultations, and the Chair agreed that GRCA would participate at every opportunity
- D.Brunk said that there should be a stronger push to have notations on land titles if a property has received special dispensation from the Board

20-10

Moved By Kathryn McGarry

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report GM-01-20-08 – Provincial Special Advisor on Flooding Report be received as information;

AND THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority provide a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry supporting this report and offer technical and policy assistance for future evaluation and implementation of the recommendations.

Carried

12.8 GM-01-20-06 - Current Watershed Conditions

20-11

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By Ian MacRae

THAT Report Number GM-01-20-06 – Current Watershed Conditions as of January 15, 2020 be received as information.

Carried

13. Election of Officers

- H.Jowett welcomed Jo-Anne RZadki, a representative of Conservation Ontario, to the meeting and vacated the position of Chair
- J.RZadki greeted the Board and offered appreciation and acknowledgement of GRCA and Conservation Ontario's input on the report of the flood advisor, adding that the technical expertise of conservation authorities as the recommendations are considered is highly important
- J.RZadki declared the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair vacant and stated for Members the election procedure as outlined in GRCA by-law 1-2019

13.1 Appointment of Scrutineer(s) - Motion Required

20-12

Moved By Warren Stauch

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority appoint Teresa Poole and Carol-Anne Johnston as scrutineers for the purpose of electing officers of the General Membership.

Carried

13.2 Election of Chair

13.2.1 Call for Nominations

- B.Corbett nominated H.Jowett for the position of Chair on the first call for nominations. H.Jowett accepted the nomination
- No further nominations were presented during the second and third calls

13.2.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Chair

20-13

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership be closed.

Carried

13.2.3 Distribution and collection of ballots by Scrutineer (if required)

Not required.

13.2.4 Announce Election Results

- H.Jowett was acclaimed as Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority for a fifth one-year term to commence January 24, 2020
- H.Jowett thanked Members and looks forward to continuing to help the conservation authority navigate through legislative changes in her final year as Chair

13.2.5 Motion to Destroy Ballots (if required)

Not required.

13.3 Election of Vice-Chair

13.3.1 Call for Nominations

- S.Foxton nominated C.White for the position of Vice-Chair on the first call for nominations
- No further nominations were presented during the second and third call

13.3.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Vice-Chair

20-14

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership be closed.

Carried

13.3.3 Distribution and collection of ballots by Scrutineer (if required)

Not required.

13.3.4 Announce Election Results

- C.White was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority for a fifth one-year term to commence January 24, 2020
- C.White thanked Members and looks forward to continuing partnerships and supporting the Chair and Board

13.3.5 Motion to Destroy Ballots (if required)

Not required.

H.Jowett resumed the Chair and thanked J.Rzadki for coming to the meeting and conducting the election.

14. Committee of the Whole

Not required.

15. General Business

There was no General Business.

16. 3rd Reading of By-Laws

None.

17. Other Business

W.Stauch said that the Heritage Day Workshop will not be running this year, but will be held again in February 2021. Next year's event will be hosted by Guelph-Eramosa Township, thanks to Chris White, and will focus on the Eramosa River. W.Stauch asked that Members share this information with Heritage groups in their own communities.

18. Closed Meeting

20-15

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By Richard Carpenter

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss a confidential matter relating to a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of property.

Carried

20-16

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Marcus Adili

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

19. Resolutions from Closed Meeting

18.1 GM-01-20-C01 - Property Disposition - City of Brantford

The GRCA acquired a 36 acres parcel of land in the City of Brantford in 1981 as part of the Brantford Flood Control project. As part of the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan for the Special Policy Area 2 in the south of Brantford, 1.62 hectares (4.51 acres) of GRCA land has been identified as part of the preferred alternative for the overall stormwater strategy. The land will be used for stormwater management infrastructure.

20-17

Moved By Ian MacRae

Seconded By John Challinor II

IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE OBJECTS of the Grand River Conservation Authority by assisting a member municipality in providing municipal infrastructure;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority sell the lands described as Part Lot 10, Eagles Nest Tract, Part 1 and 2 on Plan 2R-8421; City of Brantford, to The Corporation of the City of Brantford, at the offered price of \$823,000.

Carried

20. Next Meetings

- Audit Committee - February 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
- Annual General Meeting - February 28, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

W.Stauch shared his gratitude for the GRCA membership cards, noting that they have been distributed to Members and encouraged the Board to enjoy our conservation areas.

21. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

20-18

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer