



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: June 26, 2020
Time: 9:30 am
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
This meeting was streamed live for the public on GRCA's board webcast page

Members Present Bruce Banbury, Don Brunk, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Kevin Davis, Jim Erb, Susan Foxtton, Guy Gardhouse, 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, Les Armstrong, Robert Bell

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Brandon Heyer, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Sara Wilbur, Eowyn Spencer

Others Mark Anderson

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with 23 Members present. A total of 23 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- Helen Jowett and Samantha Lawson hosted the first Virtual Town Hall meeting for staff on June 24. Staff were given the opportunity to ask questions in advance of the meeting, and discussion focused on actions taken since the start of the pandemic. Another Town Hall will be held for staff over the summer.

4. Review of Agenda

20-82

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Brian Coleman

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

20-83

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of May 22, 2020 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

10.1 Township of Puslinch - Council Resolution

G.Lorentz commented that it is encouraging to see this type of support for Conservation Authorities from municipalities and hopes to see it continue.

20-84

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT Correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding a Council resolution in support of Conservation Authorities be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-06-20-39 - Cash and Investment Status

20-85

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report Number GM-06-20-39 Cash and Investment Status – May 2020 be received as information.

Carried

12.2 GM-06-20-42 - Financial Summary

K.Armstrong provided a presentation to update the Members on GRCA's phased approach to re-opening the Conservation Areas. The presentation highlighted activities that have been re-opened to date, and plans for re-opening additional activities such as overnight camping in the coming weeks. Considerations for re-opening camping and other activities include financial feasibility, health and safety, staffing and physical worksite modifications, capacity management and public education.

S.Radoja continued the presentation providing an overview of the estimated impact on the 2020 budget due to reduced services and self-generated revenue. The presentation highlighted the financial forecast as presented in April and compared the forecast with new financial information based on updated estimates as services and activities are re-opened to the public and some staff have been recalled to work. S.Radoja also reviewed steps the GRCA has taken since March to mitigate the financial impact due to the pandemic.

Board Members thanked GRCA staff for their hard work in mitigating the potential financial impact of the pandemic. Members discussed the steps being taken to re-open services, security challenges with specific locations, Provincial direction, individual membership passes, and summer student hiring. K.Armstrong and S.Radoja responded to questions, and S.Radoja said that a cost benefit analysis of individual membership passes could be prepared for Board review.

20-86

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending May 31, 2020 be approved,
AND THAT decisions on deferral of commercial lease and license payments for tenants for amounts owing during the 2020 calendar year be delegated to staff to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and no interest will be assessed for late payment.

Carried

12.3 GM-06-20-41 - Current Watershed Conditions

20-87

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Jane Mitchell

THAT Report Number GM-06-20-41 – Current Watershed Conditions as of June 17, 2020 be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-06-20-40 - Elora Quarry Perimeter Fencing Tender Results

J.Mitchell inquired about the late timing of the work to be completed given the issues that are currently occurring, and K.Armstrong shared that there were ecological and permit requirements that need to be completed prior to the fencing being installed.

J.Gatward noted the difference in bid amounts, and K.Armstrong noted that there may be a number of reasons a bid would be higher or lower than a competitors bid. The GRCA has Board approved processes for all tenders that are carefully followed.

I.MacRae thanked staff, noting a high number of concerns from the public regarding trespassing through private property to gain access to the area, and mentioned that a reservation system may help reduce traffic issues.

20-88

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority award the tender for the construction of perimeter fencing at the Elora Quarry Conservation Area to Avion Construction Group Inc. of Mississauga, Ontario for the amount of \$155,890.00 excluding HST;

AND THAT a total project budget of \$175,900.00 excluding HST be approved.

Carried

12.5 GM-06-20-44 - Pinehurst Lake and Byng Island Conservation Areas Seasonal Camping Winter Storage

20-89

Moved By Don Brunk

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-06-20-44 - Pinehurst Lake and Byng Island Conservation Areas - Seasonal Camping Winter Storage be received for information.

Carried

12.6 GM-06-20-43 - Status of Beach Monitoring Program

20-90

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Geoff Lorentz

THAT Report Number GM-06-20-43 – Status of Beach Monitoring Program be received as information.

Carried

12.7 GM-06-20-45 - Grand River Conservation Foundation Member Appointments

20-91

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Bruce Whale

THAT the following Members be re-appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation for a term of three years:

Wayne Fyffe, Paris

Phil Hauser, Dunnville

Ted Smith, Belwood

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 shared the recent news of the passing of G.M. 'Mac' Coutts. Mr. Coutts was the first employee hired by the Grand Valley Conservation Authority in 1953. In 1966 when the GVCA and the Grand River Commission amalgamated, he became the first General Manager of the GRCA, a role he served until his retirement in 1991.

W.Stauch also shared the news of the retirement of Dr. Gary Warrick. Dr. Warrick has worked in collaboration for over 15 years with the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations of the Grand River) in Ontario, has acted as an expert witness and advisor on archaeological matters, and has been an integral member of the Heritage Working Group of the Grand Strategy since the late 1990s.

M.Harris inquired about the status of discussions with snowmobiling groups. B.Brown responded that discussions are ongoing but a resolution has not yet been reached. B.Brown is expecting to bring a report to the Board on the matter in August.

17. Closed Meeting

20-92

Moved By Michael Harris

Seconded By Jane Mitchell

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition, and labour relations or employee negotiations.

Carried

20-93

Moved By Michael Harris

Seconded By Jane Mitchell

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

17.1 Minutes of the Previous Closed Session

20-94

Moved By Kathryn McGarry

Seconded By Susan Foxtan

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

Carried

17.2 Property Disposition - Town of Erin

The subject lands were acquired by the GRCA in 1972 and 1975 as part of the Everton Flood Control project. The proposed disposition is a condition of severance for two houses, known as the Ellis and Grigg residences located at 5319 and 5339 Eramosa-Erin Townline, which were declared surplus on March 23, 2018 (Resolution #2018-71). The condition of approval requires the dedication of a portion of the property along the

severed and retained parcels on the Eramosa-Erin Townline for future municipal road widening. The parcel proposed for the road widening (see attached map) consists of approximately 0.15 ha (0.36 acres). The area does not have any natural hazards or regulatory features and does not form part of the Everton Reservoir. Because the property is being transferred for municipal infrastructure, the proposed disposition will require MNRF notification, not approval.

20-95

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Warren Stauch

IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE OBJECTS OF the Grand River Conservation Authority by assisting a member municipality in providing municipal services

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority declare surplus and convey to the Town of Erin the lands described as parts of Lot 11 and 12, Concession 1, Township of Erin, County of Wellington, to be further described on a Reference Plan to be deposited, for the nominal consideration of \$2.

Carried

17.3 Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations

20-96

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Richard Carpenter

THAT the Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations verbal update be received as information.

Carried

18. Next Meeting

- July - No scheduled meeting
- General Membership - August 28, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

20-97

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer