



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: August 28, 2020
Time: 9:30 am
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
This meeting was streamed live for public viewing on GRCA's Board Webcast page

Members Present Marcus Adili, Les Armstrong, Bruce Banbury, Robert Bell, Don Brunk, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Joan Gatward, Rodrigo Goller, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Geoff Lorentz, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White

Regrets Bernie Corbett, Kevin Davis, Michael Harris, Ian MacRae
Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Brandon Heyer, Sonja Radoja, George Sousa, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Martin Keller, Eowyn Spencer, Fred Natolochny, Janet Ivey

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with 19 Members present. A total of 22 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- On August 11, Samantha Lawson held a second virtual Town Hall meeting with staff to continue to share information on the impact the pandemic has had on GRCA

operations. The Chair shared a video highlighting new procedures for working at the Administration Centre which was shared during the Town Hall meeting.

- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario held its annual conference virtually this year. Many GRCA Board members attended sessions on behalf of their respective municipalities and it was great to participate alongside so many Members. The Chair noted that she and S.Lawson joined Minister Yurek on August 17 to discuss key success factors of the GRCA and Ontario Conservation Authorities

B.Banbury and J.Mitchell joined the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

4. Review of Agenda

The Chair noted that agenda item 12.12 will be moved to after the closed meeting.

20-97

Moved By Helen Jowett

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting be approved as amended.

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

20-98

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of June 26, 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

8.1 Lee Anne Evans - Snyder's Flats Conservation Area

The Board heard from Lee Anne Evans regarding two recent incidents of drowning at Snyder's Flats. Ms. Evans discussed safety concerns at Snyder's Flats and requested that the Board and GRCA staff consider adding additional signage and life-saving equipment at specific locations within the property. Board members thanked the delegation for her presentation and the Chair noted that

discussions regarding the safety of the property are ongoing. B.Brown was directed to follow up with Ms. Evans following the meeting.

L.Armstrong joined the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Haldimand County - Support for Conservation Authorities

10.2 Halton Region - 2021 Budget Direction

10.3 Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs District 9 - Snowmobiling Agreements

20-99

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Don Brunk

THAT Correspondence from Haldimand County regarding Support for Conservation Areas, and from Halton Region regarding the 2021 Budget Direction, and from the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs District 9 regarding snowmobiling on GRCA properties be received as information.

Carried

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

The first and second readings of the by-law took place at agenda item 12.1.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-08-20-53 - Proposed By-law Changes - Electronic Participation

K.Armstrong provided a brief overview, noting that the update is required to allow electronic participation in meetings outside of a declared state of emergency. The update will allow meetings to continue virtually if Member Municipalities end their declared emergencies, and will allow staff time to consider safety measures and technology requirements possible to facilitate in-person meetings in the future.

20-100

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT By-law 3-2020 be read a first and second time;

AND THAT By-law 3-2020 be read a third time and adopted by the General Membership, to take effect on August 28, 2020;

AND THAT By-law 2-2020 be repealed on August 28, 2020;

AND THAT a copy of By-law 3-2020 be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and posted publicly on Grand River Conservation Authority's website.

Carried

12.2 GM-08-20-47 - Cash and Investment Status

20-101

Moved By Joe Nowak

Seconded By Chris White

THAT Report Number GM-08-20-47 Cash and Investment Status – July 2020 be received as information.

Carried

12.3 GM-08-20-55 - Financial Summary to June 30

The June financial summary was provided to staff in July in the absence of a July Board Meeting.

20-102

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending June 30, 2020 be approved.

Carried

12.4 GM-08-20-56 - Financial Summary to July 31

S.Radoja provided a brief overview of the current financial status, highlighting that measures taken to mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic, as detailed in the report, and preliminary results of self-generated revenue have resulted in an estimated surplus for 2020. S.Radoja also noted that some unknowns related to specific program areas are expected to impact the financial status for fall forecasting.

20-103

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending July 31, 2020 be approved.

Carried

12.5 GM-08-20-51 - Budget 2021 - Timelines and Preliminary Considerations

S.Radoja provided an overview of the budget process for 2021, highlighting challenges with forecasting due to remaining unknowns relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. S.Radoja requested input from the Board regarding the state of

watershed municipalities and any direction available for the 2021 budget. Members discussed ongoing concerns related to the economic impact of the pandemic, funding requests from senior levels of government, and identifying costs directly associated with the pandemic.

G.Lorentz noted that the GRCA levy is paid by the Region from user rates, and indicated that other member municipalities may look to consider how their respective levy installments are funded.

B.Banbury asked if GRCA is expecting any additional funding or cuts from provincial funding, and S.Lawson noted that the Province has not as of yet released any new or updated regulations that would affect provincial funding.

20-104

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT Report Number GM-08-20-51 – Budget 2021 – Timelines and Preliminary Considerations be received as information.

Carried

12.6 GM-08-20-52 - Snowmobiling Agreements on GRCA Lands

B.Brown provided a presentation highlighting the key issues and considerations taken in discussions with snowmobiling clubs in an effort to come to an agreement to allow the use of GRCA trails for snowmobiling. Key issues considered were the snowmobiling club's inability to obtain insurance to align with the proposed agreement changes, and substantially increased liability and obligations as landowners for the GRCA.

Board members discussed the concerns and issues relating to liability and risk on GRCA properties, the large property area and trails in question, increased cost and staffing needs to implement a snowmobile program, increased license fees to cover costs of such a program, insurance coverage and associated risk, and enforcement and trail maintenance.

B.Brown and S.Lawson responded to questions and reiterated that in discussions with OFSC District 9, a suitable agreement could not be reached. B.Brown confirmed that the requested updates to past agreements would significantly increase risk to the GRCA, and that the club is not able to cover an increase to license fees to cover costs that GRCA would require to implement this type of activity.

Members agreed that discussions should not be negotiations; if a cost is associated with a recreational program, there is a requirement that costs be covered by user fees.

B.Whale requested that a press release be issued, and S.Lawson will make arrangements for a statement to be released.

20-105

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Les Armstrong

THAT Report Number GM-08-20-52 – Snowmobiling Agreements on GRCA Lands be received as information.

Carried

12.7 GM-08-20-49 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation

20-106

Moved By Bruce Whale

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT Report Number GM-08-20-49 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

Carried

12.8 GM-08-20-50 - Updating Ontario's Water Quantity Management Framework (ERO #019-1340) GRCA Response

20-107

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Jim Erb

THAT Report Number GM-08-20-50 – Updating Ontario’s Water Quantity Management Framework (ERO # 019-1340) GRCA Response be received as information.

Carried

12.9 GM-08-20-46 - Completion of the Haldimand County Lake Erie Shoreline Hazard Mapping Study

R.Carpenter thanked staff for the report and the effort put in to this study.

20-108

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT updated mapping and technical report of Lake Erie shoreline flood, erosion, and dynamic beach hazards prepared by W.F. Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers be approved for use in planning matters and permit applications in the Grand River watershed;

AND THAT amendments to Grand River Conservation Authority's Ontario Regulation 150/06 mapping of the natural hazards and their associated regulated areas and allowances be approved.

Carried

12.10 GM-08-20-54 - Current Watershed Conditions

20-109

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Geoff Lorentz

THAT Report Number GM-08-20-54 – Current Watershed Conditions as of August 19, 2020 be received as information.

Carried

12.11 GM-08-20-48 - New Guelph Lake Nature Centre Update

20-110

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT Report GM-08-20-48 - Guelph Lake Nature Centre Update Report 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

The third reading of the by-law took place at agenda item 12.a.

16. Other Business

17. Closed Meeting

20-111

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss the security of property of the municipality or local board and labour relations or negotiations.

Carried

20-112

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Rodrigo Goller

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

17.1 Minutes of the Previous Closed Meeting

20-113

Moved By Joan Gatward

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

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

Carried

17.2 GM-08-20-C04 - Update on Snyder's Flats Conservation Area

20-114

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority Board receive GM-08-20-C04 – Snyder's Flats Conservation Area as information.

Carried

17.3 Labour Relations or Negotiations

No motion was required for this item.

17.4 Personal Matter about an Identifiable Individual

No motion was required for this item.

12.12 GM-08-20-57 - Region of Waterloo - Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan

Board members discussed the GRCA's role on this committee going forward and the understanding that since GRCA represents all watershed municipalities, participation on this committee should be that of an observer. The Chair noted that staff sitting on the committee will be cognizant and considerate of concerns. Information or strategies identified by the committee will be presented to the Board for information or consideration.

20-115

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority staff maintain observer status on the development of an Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan within the Region of Waterloo.

Carried

18. Next Meeting - September 25, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

20-116

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Richard Carpenter

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer