



# Grand River Conservation Authority

## Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: September 25, 2020  
Time: 9:30 am  
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting  
This meeting was streamed live 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, Bernie Corbett, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, 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 Kevin Davis

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Brandon Heyer, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Martin Keller, Eowyn Spencer, Sonja Strynatka, Gus Rungis

Others Karen Buratynski, OFSC District 9; Paul Shaughnessy, OFSC; and Patrick Connor, Ontario Trails Council; Prakash Ventkataraman

### 1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:35 a.m.

### 2. Certification of Quorum

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with 23 Members present. A total of 25 Members attended the meeting.

### 3. Chair's Remarks

The following Chair's Remarks were read in the previous Source Protection Authority meeting and are copied here for ease of reference:

- On September 28, S.Lawson and H.Jowett will attend a virtual Conservation Ontario Council meeting. Minister Yurek has been invited to address CO Council this month, and he will be joined by Serge Imbrogno, the Deputy Minister with MECP. Any pertinent information will be shared with this Board.
- On October 1, S.Lawson will host a third virtual Town Hall meeting for staff with a focus on keeping staff connected and engaged throughout the pandemic related closures.
- On October 2, S.Lawson, K.Armstrong, and H.Jowett, along with Superintendent Brad Straus, will host Minister Yurek for a tour of our Brant Conservation Area. The Minister's office reached out for a tour of the park, and it is hoped this interaction will continue to strengthen provincial partnerships, and give the Minister a chance to experience first-hand the natural beauty of the Grand River watershed

**4. Review of Agenda**

20-117

**Moved By** Guy Gardhouse

**Seconded By** Marcus Adili

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**

20-118

**Moved By** Warren Stauch

**Seconded By** Rodrigo Goller

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of August 28, 2020 be approved as circulated.

**Carried**

**7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

B.Whale joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

**8. Hearing of Delegations**

**8.1 Group - Snowmobiling on GRCA Trails**

The Board heard from Karen Buratynski, OFSC District 9; Paul Shaughnessy, OFSC; and Patrick Connor, Ontario Trails Council regarding snowmobiling on GRCA properties. Ms. Buratynski spoke in regard to items that were presented to the Board at the August 28, 2020 meeting, and wished to clarify OFSC permit fees, and highlight infrastructure improvements made on trails by the snowmobile

clubs and the benefits of the shared use of trails. Mr. Shaughnessy addressed the Board regarding insurance information from the perspective of the snowmobile clubs, highlighting the OFSC insurance coverage and its protection for landowners. Mr. Conner then discussed the shared use of trails and insurance protection from the perspective of the Ontario Trails Council. The delegation group wished to encourage collaboration of the many parties involved in seeking a resolution to outstanding matters.

There was discussion from Board members looking to clarify the issue of insurance coverage, liability, and the increased risk to the GRCA. B.Brown responded to questions, highlighting that the proposed changes in the original agreements with the snowmobile clubs would put the GRCA in a position of significantly increased risk, and that the GRCA does not have available resources to create an enhanced risk management program to mitigate the GRCA's obligations, liability and risk.

Following discussion, the Chair noted that the GRCA will continue to work with the OFSC to explore alternate solutions, and the delegation exited the meeting.

B.Banbury joined the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

## **8.2 Prakash Ventkataraman - Scattering of Ashes on GRCA Properties**

The Board heard from Prakash Ventkataraman regarding the scattering of remains on GRCA properties and the Grand River. Mr. Ventkataraman thanked the Board and watershed member municipalities for hearing his request to have the GRCA allow the scattering of remains in the Grand River. Mr. Ventkataraman pointed to Provincial legislation and uncertainty regarding what is allowed, and requested clarity from the Board.

The Board discussed the request, and S.Lawson confirmed that the GRCA does not have the appropriate jurisdiction to provide permission to perform this act in the Grand River, as the GRCA does not own the river. Permission to access the river through private property must be requested from local municipalities or individual landowners. On GRCA properties, the scattering of ashes is not permitted due to permitting and licensing requirements.

The Chair thanked the delegation and reiterated that the GRCA does not have the jurisdictional right to provide permission for this request. The Chair suggested that Mr. Ventkataraman reach out to local municipalities to discuss this request in specific locations. Mr. Ventkataraman then thanked the Members and exited the meeting.

## **9. Presentations**

There were no Presentations.

## **10. Correspondence**

### **10.1 Prakash Ventkataraman - Scattering of Ashes on GRCA Properties**

**10.2 Hunter and Associates - Fergus/Elora Water Supply Master Plan and Tier 3**

**10.3 Robert Nash - Critical Bank Swallow Habitat - LJM Development Property**

J.Mitchell requested further information on this item. K.McGarry and N.Davy confirmed that the development of property in critical habitats falls under Provincial legislation.

**10.4 Jan Beveridge - Concerning Report GM-09-20-65 - Correspondence-Centre Wellington Tier 3 Water Budget Study**

20-119

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Susan Foxton

THAT Correspondence from Hunter and Associates regarding the Fergus/Elora Water Supply Master Plan and Tier 3, and from Prakash Venkataraman regarding scattering ashes on GRCA properties, and from Jan Beveridge regarding the Fergus/Elora Water Supply Master Plan and Tier 3 report, and from Robert Nash regarding Critical Bank Swallow Habitat be received as information.

**Carried**

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

None.

**12. Reports:**

**12.1 GM-09-20-60 - Budget 2021 (Draft #1)**

S.Radoja provided an overview of the Budget 2021 first draft, highlighting the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, potential changes in Provincial regulations, and program areas that will require further analysis and could have a potential impact on the 2021 budget. S.Radoja also discussed major and minor assumptions, projected expenses and revenues used to determine the draft budget for 2021 and the associated municipal levy increase.

Board members discussed the levy increase as well as the proposed increase for staffing costs, and S.Radoja confirmed that the increase is consistent with recent years.

C.White noted that it should be highlighted through the budget process that the GRCA did not receive government funding to offset unexpected costs associated with the pandemic.

20-120

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** Kathryn McGarry

THAT Report Number GM-09-20-60 – Budget 2021 (Draft #1) be received as information.

Carried

**12.2 GM-09-20-59 - Budget 2021 (Draft #1) - Municipal Levy Apportionment**

B.Whale had questions about the levy breakdown and clarity on the different impact for municipalities. K.Armstrong will follow up directly with B.Whale to ensure the request is understood for future budget drafts if required.

*\*Following the meeting, an error was noted in the draft levy apportionment table. A corrected version will be provided to Members and included in the October board package.*

20-121

**Moved By** Chris White

**Seconded By** Les Armstrong

THAT Report Number GM-09-20-59 – Budget 2021 (Draft #1) – General Municipal Levy Apportionment be received as information.

Carried

**12.3 GM-09-20-63 - Financial Summary**

20-122

**Moved By** Bernie Corbett

**Seconded By** Bruce Whale

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

Carried

**12.4 GM-09-20-58 - Cash and Investment Status**

20-123

**Moved By** Joan Gatward

**Seconded By** Marcus Adili

THAT Report Number GM-09-20-58 Cash and Investment Status – August 2020 be received as information.

Carried

**12.5 GM-09-20-62 - Request for Handling Remains (cremation or alkaline hydrolysis) on GRCA Property**

Board members inquired about private landowners needing to be contacted to access the water through their property, granting permission for river access on GRCA properties for the specific purpose of scattering ashes, and what is allowed in Provincial parks. P.Walther-Mabee confirmed that the land surrounding the Grand River has various landowners, and permission would be required from the landowner to access the water through their land, and that as private landowners the GRCA would be required to register as a cemetery for each of its properties along the river.

K.McGarry provided some information on the Provincial parks, noting that the scattering of ashes is allowed on Provincial parks properties and any waterbodies contained therein, and that in some of the parks, infrastructure has been created to provide shelter while performing ceremonies. K.McGarry added that municipalities do have the ability to obtain a cemetery license for their own properties.

There was some discussion about one local municipality that may have passed a motion for their municipal properties, and P.Walther-Mabee will follow up with municipal staff to confirm.

R.Carpenter requested that a copy of the resolution in that municipality, as well as a copy of Mr. Ventkataraman's correspondence be forwarded to Board Members following the meeting, along with a copy of staff report GM-09-20-62.

20-124

**Moved By** Marcus Adili

**Seconded By** Jane Mitchell

THAT Report Number GM-09-20-62 – Request for Handling Remains (cremation or alkaline hydrolysis) on GRCA Lands be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.6 GM-09-20-64 - Brantford Ice Jam Mitigation Feasibility Study Consulting Contract**

20-125

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter

**Seconded By** Marcus Adili

THAT Report Number GM-09-20-64 – Brantford Ice Jam Mitigation Feasibility Study Consulting Contract be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.7 GM-09-20-65 - Correspondence - Centre Wellington Tier 3 Water Budget Study**

20-126

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** John Challinor II

THAT Report Number GM-09-20-65 – Correspondence – Centre Wellington Tier 3 Water Budget Study be received as information;

AND THAT a copy of this board report be sent to the Township of Centre Wellington and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

**Carried**

**12.8 GM-09-20-61 - Current Watershed Conditions**

20-127

**Moved By** Kathryn McGarry  
**Seconded By** Joan Gatward

THAT Report Number GM-09-20-61 – Current Watershed Conditions as of September 16, 2020 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**

**17. Closed Meeting**

20-128

**Moved By** Marcus Adili  
**Seconded By** Chris White

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition.

**Carried**

Board members convened in closed session and the live meeting stream was stopped.

20-129

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter  
**Seconded By** John Challinor II

THAT the General Membership return open session.

**Carried**

Board members reconvened in open session and the live meeting stream was resumed.

**17.1 Minutes of the Previous Closed Session**

20-130

**Moved By** Marcus Adili  
**Seconded By** Bruce Whale

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

**Carried**

**17.2 GM-09-20-C05 - Granting of Easement to Enbridge Gas Inc.**

Enbridge Gas Inc. will be installing a corrosion line within the Water Street North road allowance to help reduce corrosion on steel pipes in the area. As part of that work, Enbridge Gas Inc. has requested an easement (as shown on Map 1) for the installation of a rectifier and a hydro meter. The scope of the work will involve the installation of a post with a mounted hydro meter and rectifier box, with an underground connection to the corrosion line and hydro supply. The location was chosen as it is adjacent to a number of other utilities and hydro supply is readily available from a pole directly to the east. Approval to grant the easement will be required from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

20-131

**Moved By** Joe Nowak

**Seconded By** Richard Carpenter

IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE OBJECTS of the Grand River Conservation Authority by assisting a utility in providing services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Grand River Conservation Authority grant an easement over a portion of lands described as Part of Lot 15, Plan D-9, City of Cambridge, Region of Waterloo, to be more particularly described on a Reference Plan to be deposited, for the installation and maintenance of a rectifier and hydro meter, for the nominal consideration of \$2.00.

**Carried**

18. **Next Meeting - October 23, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.**

19. **Adjourn**

20-132

**Moved By** Warren Stauch

**Seconded By** Marcus Adili

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer