



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - Annual General Meeting

Date: February 26, 2021
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, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Kevin Davis, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Joan Gatward, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Geoff Lorentz, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Jerry Smith, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White, Cathy Downer

Members Absent Michael Harris

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Brandon Heyer, Bryan McIntosh, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Eowyn Spencer, Mark Anderson, Louise Heyming

Others Wendy Wright-Cascaden, Wayne Fyffe, Alan Dale, Lisa Burnside, Deb Martin-Downs, Jo-Anne Rzadki, Mayor Gregg Davidson, Mayor Sandy Shantz, Mayor John Woodbury, Hon. Ted Arnott, Milan Novakovic, MPP Mike Harris, MPP Mike Schreiner, MP Tim Louis, MP Alex Ruff

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:32 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

The Secretary-Treasurer certified a quorum with 21 Members present. A total of 25 Members attended the meeting.

Jim Erb joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

3. Chair's Remarks

Les Armstrong and Kathryn McGarry joined the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

- The Chair welcomed Councillor Cathy Downer, the newly appointed GRCA member representing the City of Guelph.
- The Chair welcomed all guests and thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting of the GRCA
- MPP Ted Arnott, Milan Novakovic on behalf of MPP Will Bouma, MPP Mike Harris, MPP Mike Schreiner, MP Tim Louis, MP Alex Ruff, and Mayor Kathryn McGarry on behalf of MP Bryan May each shared greetings with the Board and noted the great work of Conservation Authorities across Ontario

Helen Jowett joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

- The Chair thanked everyone for their kind words, noting that it is nice to hear so much support. Chair White also thanked the Helen Jowett for assisting with a seamless transition of the position of Chair

4. Review of Agenda

21-24

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the agenda for the Annual General 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 Meeting

21-25

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of January 22, 2021 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 City of Hamilton re: Bill 229 Amendments under Schedule 6

21-26

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT Correspondence from the City of Hamilton regarding Bill 229 Amendments under Schedule 6 be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-02-21-13 - Wastewater Optimization Program Update

- Mark Anderson provided a detailed presentation on the Grand River Watershed-wide Wastewater Optimization Program. The presentation highlighted the benefits of strong support from municipal and provincial partners, an overview of challenges faced by municipalities due to limited resource capacity, benefits of improving wastewater infrastructure and reducing contaminants in the water, and the need for developing a sustainable funding model for this program.
- Board members thanked M.Anderson for his presentation and discussed the rating system and recognition program, the effect that reduced contaminants in the river has on the Great Lakes, and the importance of continuing this program with partners and long-term funding support.

21-27

Moved By Bruce Whale

Seconded By Ian MacRae

THAT Report Number GM-02-21-13 – Watershed-wide Wastewater Optimization Program Update be received as information.

Carried

12.2 GM-02-21-14 - Conservation Services Update

- Louise Heyming provided a detailed presentation on GRCA Conservation Services and the programs and projects the GRCA provides to watershed communities. The presentation highlighted the Rural Water Quality Program, tree planting initiatives with private landowners, community partnerships, and outreach and education programs. These programs are supported by GRCA in partnership with municipalities, provincial and federal governments, and private landowners across the watershed.
- Board members thanked L.Heyming for the presentation, and added comments about the importance of these programs in beautifying the watershed and improving water quality.

21-28

Moved By Kathryn McGarry

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT Report Number GM-02-21-14 – Conservation Services Update be received as information.

Carried

12.3 GM-02-21-19 - Grand River Watershed Flood Warning System

- B. Corbett wished to greet and thank the guests and members of government for attending the meeting today and inquired about the potential for requiring the ice breaker in response to ice blockages.
- D. Boyd advised that the ice breaker in Port Maitland can be requested to assist in breaking up ice at the mouth of the river as required.
- Board members briefly discussed the increased risk of spring flooding recently issued by the GRCA. D. Boyd provided an update, noting that some ice and snowpack has begun to melt which has improved ice conditions.
- W. Stauch wished to thank Cameron Linwood for his informative and knowledgeable interview on a recent radio broadcast related to flood risk in flood prone areas of the watershed.
- K. Davis thanked GRCA staff and emergency response team members for their strong flood response system.
- J. Gatward also thanked D. Boyd for distributing the watershed flood warning guide, which is updated annually.

21-29

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT Report Number GM-02-21-19 – Grand River Watershed Flood Warning System be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-02-21-18 - Current Watershed Conditions

21-30

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT Report Number GM-02-21-18 – Current Watershed Conditions as of February 17, 2021 be received as information.

Carried

12.5 GM-02-21-10 - Afforestation Services for Spring 2021

21-31

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority award individual contracts for 2021 afforestation services to Bartram Woodlands Ltd. in the amount of \$35,360.00, Tamarack Reforestation Inc. in the amount of \$50,400.00, and Black River Tree Planting Inc. in the amount of \$21,750.00 (excluding taxes).

Carried

12.6 GM-02-21-11 - Cash and Investment Status

- B. Corbett inquired about expectations for interest rates in the future, and S. Radoja responded that rates are difficult to predict with any degree of certainty but she is not optimistic about favourable rates.

21-32

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT Report Number GM-02-21-11 Cash and Investment Status – January 2021 be received as information.

Carried

12.7 GM-02-21-16 - Financial Summary

21-33

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending January 31, 2021 be approved.

Carried

12.8 GM-02-21-12 - Weighted Voting - 2021 Budget and General Levy

21-34

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT Report Number GM-02-21-12 - Weighted Voting – 2021 Budget and General Levy be received as information.

Carried

12.9 GM-02-21-15 - Budget 2021

The Chair inquired if there were questions relating to this report, and noted that the recommendation to approve the 2021 Budget will be considered at agenda item 14.4. Seeing that there were no questions, the Chair continued with the meeting.

Geoff Lorentz exited the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m.

13. Committee of the Whole

Not required.

14. General Business

14.1 Report of the Audit Committee

21-35

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the Report of the Audit Committee of the Grand River Conservation Authority be received and approved.

Carried

14.2 Approval of Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor

- In response to a question from B.Corbett, S.Radoja noted that the Auditors identified no major concerns, and that the remote audit was an interesting and successful process this year, adding that the Audit team has a strong working relationship with the GRCA.

21-36

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the Financial Statements of Grand River Conservation Authority as at December 31, 2020 and the Report of the Auditors thereon be received, approved and placed on file;

AND THAT copies be made available to all member municipalities, Grand River Conservation Authority Members and the Ontario Ministers of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Carried

14.3 Appointment of Auditors

21-37

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT KPMG Chartered Professional Accountants be appointed as Grand River Conservation Authority Auditors for the year ended December 31, 2021 at a fee not to exceed \$37,600.

Carried

14.4 Presentation of Budget Estimates for the Current Year

21-38

Moved By Ian MacRae

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT the 2021 Budget of the Grand River Conservation Authority of \$31,973,429 be approved;

AND THAT the member municipalities be assessed for payment of:

Matching Levy: \$449,688

Non-Matching Levy: \$10,825,312

Capital Levy: \$950,000

Total General Levy: \$12,225,000;

AND THAT each member municipality's share of the 2021 General Levy be calculated using "Modified Current Value Assessment".

Member	Municipality/Group	Weight	Absent	Present	In Favour	Opposed
Marcus Adili	City of Hamilton	12.6%		12.6%	12.6%	
Les Armstrong	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Bruce Banbury	County of Oxford	0.8%		0.8%	0.8%	
Bob Bell	City of Guelph	6.9%		6.9%	6.9%	
Richard Carpenter	City of Brantford	3.7%		3.7%	3.7%	
John Challinor II	Region of Halton	2.4%		2.4%	2.4%	
Brian Coleman	County of Brant	1.4%		1.4%	1.4%	
Bernie Corbett	Haldimand & Norfolk Counties	0.8%		0.8%	0.8%	
Kevin Davis	City of Brantford	3.7%		3.7%	3.7%	
Cathy Downer	City of Guelph	6.9%		6.9%	6.9%	
James Erb	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Sue Foxtan	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Guy Gardhouse	Group 1	1.0%		1.0%	1.0%	
Joan Gatward	County of Brant	1.4%		1.4%	1.4%	
Michael Harris	Region of Waterloo	5.0%	5.0%			
Helen Jowett	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Daniel Lawrence	Haldimand & Norfolk Counties	0.8%		0.8%	0.8%	
Geoff Lorentz	Region of Waterloo	5.0%	5.0%			
Ian MacRae	Twp of Ctr Wellington	2.6%		2.6%	2.6%	
Kathryn McGarry	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Jane Mitchell	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Joe Nowak	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Jerry Smith	Group 3	0.4%		0.4%	0.4%	
Warren Stauch	Region of Waterloo	5.0%		5.0%	5.0%	
Bruce Whale	Group 2	1.3%		1.3%	1.3%	
Chris White	Group 4	3.1%		3.1%	3.1%	
		100.0%	10.0%	90.0%	90.0%	0.0%
	Weighted Vote Result				100.0%	

Carried

14.5 Provision for Borrowing (Pending Receipt of Municipal Levies)

21-39

Moved By Jerry Smith

Seconded By John Challinor II

WHEREAS it may be necessary for Grand River Conservation Authority (hereinafter called the "Authority") to borrow money, on an interim basis, to meet the Authority's financial obligations while awaiting payment of levies by

participating municipalities designated as such under The Conservation Authorities Act, RSO 1990 (hereinafter called "Participating Municipalities");

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Authority be authorized to borrow, on an interim basis, a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) from the Authority's bank at the said bank's minimum lending rate established from time to time, until the Authority has received payment of levies from Participating Municipalities;

AND THAT the Chair or Vice-Chair together with the Chief Administrative Officer or Secretary-Treasurer of the Authority be and they are hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the Authority, a promissory note or notes for the sum to be borrowed pursuant to this Resolution and to affix thereto the corporate seal of the Authority;

AND THAT the amount borrowed pursuant to this Resolution, together with interest thereon, be a charge upon the whole of the money received or to be received by the Authority by way of levies collected from Participating Municipalities when such moneys are received;

AND THAT the Chair or Vice-Chair or the Chief Administrative Officer or Secretary-Treasurer of the Authority be and is hereby authorized and directed to apply, in payment of the moneys borrowed pursuant to this Resolution together with interest thereon, all of the moneys received by the Authority by way of levies collected from Participating Municipalities.

Carried

15. Appointments to Committees

15.1 Appointment of Audit Committee

21-40

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Ian MacRae

THAT the following Members be appointed to the Audit Committee until the next Annual General Meeting: John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Helen Jowett, Jane Mitchell, and Chris White.

Carried

15.2 Appointment of Special Recognition Committee

21-41

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By Richard Carpenter

THAT the following Members be appointed to the Special Recognition Committee until the next Annual General Meeting: Marcus Adili, Richard Carpenter, Susan Foxton, Joan Gatward, Helen Jowett, Warren Stauch, and Chris White.

Carried

15.3 Appointment of Conservation Ontario Council Representatives

21-42

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Marcus Adili

THAT the Chair and the Chief Administrative Officer of the Grand River Conservation Authority be appointed as Members of Conservation Ontario Council;

AND THAT the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary Treasurer of the Grand River Conservation Authority be appointed as an Alternate Member of Conservation Ontario Council.

Carried

16. 3rd Reading of By-Laws

None.

17. Other Business

W.Stauch shared that he recently discovered the book *Waterloo, Wellington and Guelph Hikes* by Nicola Ross with the Board which highlights trails in the area, and encouraged Members to enjoy the outdoors as the weather improves.

18. Closed Meeting

21-43

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Les Armstrong

THAT the Members enter into a Closed Meeting to discuss a confidential matter.

Carried

The General Membership convened in closed session and the live-meeting was paused.

21-44

Moved By Jerry Smith

Seconded By Cathy Downer

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

The General Membership reconvened in open session and the live-meeting was resumed.

18.1 Minutes of the Previous Closed Session

21-45

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By John Challinor II

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

Carried

18.2 GM-02-21-C03 - Grant of Easement - City of Cambridge

21-46

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE OBJECTS of the Grand River Conservation Authority by assisting a member municipality in facilitating re-development in a downtown core;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Grand River Conservation Authority grant an easement over a portion of lands described as part of Lot 14, Plan D9, City of Cambridge, to be more particularly described on a Reference Plan(s) to be deposited, for the installation, access and maintenance of a driveway and associated fill, for an annual access fee of \$13,000 plus HST for 40 years and \$2.00 thereafter;

AND THAT Grand River Conservation Authority accept an easement in the favour of the Grand River Conservation Authority over a portion of lands described as part of Lots 12 to 14, Plan D9 and Parts 1 to 13 of RP 58R-16178, 130 Water Street North, City of Cambridge, to be more particularly described on a Reference Plan(s) to be deposited, for the purpose of activities related to flood control and access, for the consideration of \$2.00.

Carried

18.3 Security of Property - Verbal Update

Motion not required.

19. Next Meeting - March 26, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

20. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

21-47

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the Annual General Meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer