



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: April 23, 2021
Time: 9:40 am
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
This meeting was streamed live for public viewing on GRCA's Board Webcast page

Members Present Marcus Adili, Bruce Banbury, Robert Bell, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Kevin Davis, Cathy Downer, Jim Erb, Susan Foxtan, Guy Gardhouse, Joan Gatward, Michael Harris, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Geoff Lorentz, Ian MacRae, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Jerry Smith, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White

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

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:40 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with 21 Members present. A total of 24 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair made the following remarks in the preceding Source Protection Authority meeting and they are copied here for ease of reference:

- Samantha and I attended the Conservation Ontario Council Annual General Meeting on April 12. At that meeting, Samantha was re-elected for a second term on the

Board of Directors. We continue to support Samantha's expanded role on that Council

- The GRCA and GRCF hosted a virtual Town Hall on April 15 to discuss the status of the Guelph Lake Nature Centre project. Attendees expressed their continued support for the project and stressed the need to continue with fundraising for the project. GRCA and GRCF will be working together to develop a communication strategy for donors and ways in which fundraising for the Guelph Lake Nature Centre project can be enhanced.
- In support of the mental health and well-being of Grand River watershed residents during the Provincial lockdown, Grand River Parks, with the exception of Elora Quarry, will open for limited day-use access on April 23, ahead of the previously scheduled May 1 opening date. Due to the stay-at-home order, seasonal and overnight camping at all GRCA Parks has been suspended until the order is lifted
- GRCA will be applying another round of treatment to protect tree and forest health and control the Gypsy Moth infestation at Pinehurst and Brant Conservation Areas this spring. These properties will be temporarily closed to the public while the treatment is being applied. A news release will be issued in advance to inform members of the public, and campers will be informed directly
- As discussed at the March Board meeting, GRCA staff are reviewing and gathering information regarding the requested exemptions for the term limits of Chair and Vice-Chair positions on Conservation Authority Boards. An information report will be brought back to this Board in the next few months

4. Review of Agenda

21-62

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Warren Stauch

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

21-63

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By Ian MacRae

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

8.1 Grand Valley Trails Association

- The Board heard from members of the Grand Valley Trails Association regarding trail access at Elora Gorge Conservation Area. The delegation provided a presentation which highlighted the long-standing relationship with the Conservation Area, the informal nature of their trail use agreement, current issues and challenges with access to the trail. The delegation shared concerns with the GRCA decision to close the access point currently in use by GVTA members in light of legislation under the CA Act which prohibits access to conservation areas outside of permitted access points, trespassing challenges, and public safety concerns. The delegation suggested proposed solutions for consideration.
- The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation. I.MacRae shared concerns about trail users accessing the permitted entry point by use of a main road, and noted that the Township is prepared to discuss alternative solutions and welcomes GVTA's input on future discussions.
- J.Challinor inquired if GRCA staff will be preparing an information report so that the Board may better understand the challenges in question. The Chair confirmed that a report will be brought to a future meeting, noting that the concerns related to alternate access points may impact other GRCA properties which also needs to be considered.
- The Chair thanked the members of the GVTA for their presentation, and the delegation exited the meeting.

J.Smith and R.Carpenter joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 Chief Administrative Officer's Report - Verbal Update

- S.Lawson noted that a CAO Update is not required at this time.

12.2 GM-04-21-33 - General Insurance Renewal 2021-2022

- B.Corbett inquired if the Chair had information to share regarding joint and several liability for insurance claims where multiple parties are named and the Provincial response to relevant legislation, and also inquired about the GRCA's methods of mitigating liability and risk.
- In response to B.Corbett's initial question, the Chair highlighted that it is an ongoing challenge for municipalities as well as property owners, in terms of

catastrophic injury claims. Board members discussed the concern, and K.Davis noted that if an update is provided at a future AMO meeting, that he would be happy to pass the information along to this Board.

- K.Armstrong responded to the second question, noting that the GRCA takes several measures to mitigate risk and liability, including risk management policies, risk assessments, inspections by staff and third parties, documentation, training, procedures, maintenance programs, waivers and agreements, appropriate signage, and regular review and updates of all relevant policies and procedures.
- There was some further discussion related to GRCA's group insurance membership, and a question about self-insuring. K.Armstrong said it could be brought to a future insurance committee meeting, and can be explored if needed.

21-64

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report Number GM-04-21-33 – General Insurance Renewal 2021-2022 be received as information.

Carried

12.3 GM-04-21-31 - Cash and Investment Status

21-65

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Marcus Adili

THAT Report Number GM-04-21-31 Cash and Investment Status – March 2021 be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-04-21-35 - Financial Summary

- B.Corbett inquired about the impact of the current pandemic lockdown and related financial forecasting. S. Radoja highlighted that revenue projections with greatest risk are conservation areas programs and the ability to open for camping. Interest in making camping reservations has been strong, day use and membership sales have been going well, and the revenue projections for Conservation Areas are on the conservative side for this period. Conservation area revenues are also dependent on camping, which will be impacted by current and future lockdowns.

21-66

Moved By Jerry Smith

Seconded By Brian Coleman

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

Carried

12.5 GM-04-21-30 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation

21-67

Moved By Ian MacRae

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT Report Number GM-04-21-30 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

Carried

12.6 GM-04-21-32 - Conestogo Dam Concrete Rehabilitation Phase 2B - DR 21.013 Tender Award

- In response to questions, D.Boyd highlighted that the project oversight fees are in line with this type of project, and that the phase two work is expected to be completed closer to September.

21-68

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Michael Harris

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority accept the tender with Marbridge Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$798,910 (including HST) as it was the lowest tender submitted meeting all tender requirements, and

THAT AECOM Canada Ltd. be retained to oversee the Contract Administration and Quality Assurance for the project at a cost \$100,457 (including HST).

Carried

12.7 GM-04-21-34 - Current Watershed Conditions

D.Boyd highlighted uncommonly low precipitation so far this year, noting that conditions are being carefully monitored.

21-69

Moved By Ian MacRae

Seconded By Geoff Lorentz

THAT Report Number GM-04-21-34 – Current Watershed Conditions as of April 14, 2021 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

21-70

Moved By Joan Gatward

Seconded By Cathy Downer

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss a confidential matter.

Carried

The General Membership convened in closed session and the live meeting stream was stopped. S.Lawson requested that L.Stocco, P.Walther-Mabee, and B.Brown remain for the closed session, and all other staff were asked to exit the meeting.

17.1 Security of Property - Verbal Report

B.Whale joined the meeting at 10:19 a.m. during the closed session.

21-71

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

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

18. Next Meeting - May 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

21-72

Moved By Marcus Adili

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

