



## **Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting**

Date: August 27, 2021  
Time: 9:30 am  
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting  
Link to be distributed via email prior to meeting

Members Present      Marcus Adili, Les Armstrong, Bruce Banbury, Robert Bell, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Kevin Davis, Cathy Downer, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Joan Gatward, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Jerry Smith, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White

Regrets                Michael Harris, Geoff Lorentz, Joe Nowak  
Staff                    Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Brandon Heyer, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Eowyn Spencer, Mark Anderson, Gus Rungis

**1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:34 a.m.

**2. Certification of Quorum**

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with 18 Members present. A total of 23 Members attended the meeting.

**3. Chair's Remarks**

There were no remarks.

R.Carpenter and B.Coleman joined the meeting at approximately 9:35 a.m.

**4. Review of Agenda**

21-112

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Susan Foxton

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**

21-113

**Moved By** Ian MacRae

**Seconded By** Joan Gatward

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of June 25, 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**

**9.1 Grand River Watershed Water Quality**

K.Davis joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

- D.Boyd provided a presentation on the history of water quality in the Grand River watershed, which highlighted changes in land use and conditions that affected the water quality dating back to the 1920s, the collaborative efforts of the watershed agency, municipalities and other partners, and the ongoing actions taken since then to address issues and improve the quality of the water in the Grand
- M.Anderson continued the presentation, and provided detailed information on the complex nature of water quality, changing conditions of the watershed and surrounding landscape, implementation of programs to improve sewage treatment plants and farming practices, reforestation efforts and wetland restoration, which have all contributed to major improvements in water quality. The Grand River supports a diverse ecosystem, many species-at-risk, as well as a variety of recreation with trail systems, paddling, and fishing
- M.Anderson noted that the key message from the presentation is that through collaboration with and investment by partners, there have been huge strides in improving the quality of water in the river
- Board members thanked staff for the presentation and discussed sharing the information provided with external parties to raise awareness and celebrate the strong efforts and hard work of conservation authorities

21-114

**Moved By** Warren Stauch

**Seconded By** Les Armstrong

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority share the information provided in the presentation on Water Quality in the Grand River watershed with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, watershed Members of Provincial Parliament, all watershed municipalities, and watershed media contacts.

**Carried**

**10. Correspondence**

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Bernie Corbett

THAT Correspondence from the Township of Melancthon in support of the Town of Mono regarding phase 1 regulatory proposals under the Conservation Authorities Act, and from Halton Region regarding the 2022 budget direction, and from Pauline Richards regarding the Land Back Camp, and from Kel Currah regarding fees for the Elora Quarry be received as information.

**Carried**

**10.1 Township of Melancthon - Support for Town of Mono regarding the Phase 1 Regulatory Proposals under the Conservation Authorities Act**

**10.2 Halton Region - 2022 Budget Direction**

- There was a question of whether this budget direction is in line with the GRCA's budget estimate, and S.Radoja noted that the 2022 budget has not yet been determined or approved

**10.3 Pauline Richards - Land Back Camp**

**10.4 Kel Currah - Elora Quarry fee policy**

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

None.

**12. Reports:**

**12.1 GM-08-21-58 - Cash and Investment Status**

21-116

**Moved By** Jane Mitchell

**Seconded By** Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-08-21-58 Cash and Investment Status – July 2021 be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.2 GM-08-21-60 - Financial Summary**

- J.Challinor inquired about a comparison to 2019, and what is the sense of recovery in terms of the pandemic. S.Radoja provided a brief overview of comparisons by program area, noting that revenue in the planning department and conservation areas are tracking higher than expected and in

comparison, and that tree planting revenues are getting back on track with the programs having resumed in the spring. The Nature Centre revenue is definitely reduced compared to 2019.

21-117

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Jerry Smith

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

**Carried**

**12.3 GM-08-21-59 - Exception Request for Chair and Vice-Chair Term Limits**

21-118

**Moved By** Bruce Banbury

**Seconded By** Kathryn McGarry

THAT the General Membership refer discussions relating to the exception request for Chair and Vice-Chair term limits to the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee;

AND THAT the Committee report back to the General Membership at the September meeting.

**Carried**

**12.4 GM-08-21-62 - New Guelph Lake Nature Centre and Environmental Education Update**

- J.Mitchell inquired if the redesign of the Nature Centre would result in a smaller building, and L.Stocco responded that it is too early in the process to determine exact sizing, but that the redesign will ensure that the project is feasible from a financial perspective
- C.Downer noted disappointment with the need to redesign the building, and asked about the potential for future expansion possibilities. L.Stocco noted that options will be considered through the redesign process

21-119

**Moved By** Marcus Adili

**Seconded By** Susan Foxton

WHEREAS the Grand River Conservation Authority remains committed to supporting the construction of a new Guelph Lake Nature Centre;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to proceed with a preliminary redesign of the new building and provide an update to the General Membership by the end of 2021;

AND THAT Report Number GM-08-21-62 – New Guelph Lake Nature Centre and Environmental Education Program Update be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.5 GM-08-21-53 - Provincial Offences Act Officer Appointments**

21-120

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter

**Seconded By** John Challinor II

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority appoint Trevor Heywood and Laura Warner as Provincial Offences Officers.

**Carried**

**12.6 GM-08-21-54 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation**

- B.Whole inquired about the high number of permits in Mapleton Township and general locations for those developments. N.Davy responded that some of these permits would be on cottage lots at Conestogo Lake, and some would be farm structures such as constructing a barn or shed near a wetland

21-121

**Moved By** Bernie Corbett

**Seconded By** Les Armstrong

THAT Report Number GM-08-21-54 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.7 GM-08-21-55 - GRCA Hearing Guidelines Section 28**

21-122

**Moved By** Kathryn McGarry

**Seconded By** Guy Gardhouse

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority adopt the Grand River Conservation Authority Hearing Guidelines: Conservation Authorities Act, Section 28,

AND THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority Hearing Guidelines 2011 be rescinded.

**Carried**

**12.8 GM-08-21-56 - Speed River Weir Rehabilitation Contract Award - Bronte Construction**

21-123

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** Bruce Whale

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority accept the bid from Bronte Construction (2220742 Ontario Ltd.) to carry out the Speed River Weir Rehabilitation at a cost of \$218,400 (excluding HST);

AND that an overall project of \$240,240 (excluding HST) be approved for this project;

AND that the gauge reserve be used to fund costs in excess of the grant received from the Province.

**Carried**

**12.9 GM-08-21-57 – Bridgeport Dike Rehabilitation and Capacity EA Contract Award – KGS Group**

21-124

**Moved By** Kathryn McGarry

**Seconded By** John Challinor II

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority accept the bid from KGS Group to carry out the Bridgeport Dike Rehabilitation and Capacity Improvement environmental assessment at a cost of \$247,230 (excluding HST);

AND THAT an overall project budget of \$275,000 (excluding HST) be approved for the project.

**Carried**

**12.10 GM-08-21-61 - Current Watershed Conditions**

- D.Boyd provided a brief overview of current conditions, highlighting an overall dry season which has resulted in low river flows and low groundwater recharge. Flow levels are being augmented with reservoirs, and some rain is expected in the forecast
- B.Corbett requested an update on Lake Erie water levels. D.Boyd noted that an updated conditions statement will be issued through the media following the meeting. The water level remains high and is above the long term average. As the season changes to fall, there will be a higher risk of lake surges, erosion and flooding, and the public will be notified through the media release and regular advisory channels to prepare for the fall season

21-125

**Moved By** Jane Mitchell

**Seconded By** Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-08-21-61 – Current Watershed Conditions as of August 17, 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**

- R.Carpenter wished S.Foxton a happy birthday, and board members echoed the well wishes

**17. Closed Meeting**

21-126

**Moved By** Susan Foxton

**Seconded By** Richard Carpenter

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

**Carried**

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

21-127

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter

**Seconded By** Marcus Adili

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

**Carried**

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

**17.1 Labour relations or employee negotiations**

21-128

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter

**Seconded By** Marcus Adili

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority approve the addition of the paid holiday National Day for Truth and Reconciliation for non-union employees;

AND THAT the Human Resources Policies be amended to incorporate this change.

**Carried**

**17.2 Security of Property**

**17.3 Minutes of the previous closed session**

21-129

**Moved By** Bernie Corbett

**Seconded By** John Challinor II

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

**Carried**

**18. Next Meeting - September 24, 2021**

**19. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

21-130

**Moved By** Richard Carpenter

**Seconded By** Marcus Adili

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

**Carried**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer