



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: November 26, 2021
Time: 9:30 am
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Link to be distributed via email prior to meeting

Members Present 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, Michael Harris, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Jerry Smith, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White

Regrets Marcus Adili, Geoff Lorentz

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

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 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:

- Reminder that the Audit Committee will meet immediately following adjournment of the General Membership. Audit members are asked to remain on the call once adjourned.
- GRCA staff will be holding a virtual employee recognition and appreciation event on December 3. I will be offering opening remarks to bring greetings and congratulations on behalf of the Board to all of our employees, as well as those celebrating milestone years with the GRCA.

- Samantha has been meeting with senior staff at participating municipalities to begin initial discussions related to key contacts and information sharing on the new regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act. Meetings have been well received so far and will continue to be scheduled as needed.
- Senior staff have also been continuing to present the draft 2022 budget as requested as in previous years. This month presentations were provided to Guelph, Mapleton, and Region of Waterloo Councils.

M.Harris joined the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

4. Review of Agenda

21-164

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Ian MacRae

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

21-165

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Ian MacRae

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of October 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

None.

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 Minutes of the Ad-Hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee - October 29, 2021

21-166

Moved By Joan Gatward

Seconded By Jane Mitchell

THAT the Minutes of Ad-Hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee meeting held on October 29, 2021 be received as information.

Carried

12.2 GM-11-21-80 - Draft Transition Plan - Requirement under Ontario Regulation 687/21

- The Chair noted that to meet the Provincial requirement, this draft transition plan will be circulated to the GRCA's participating municipalities with a final version coming back to the Board for approval at the December Board meeting.

K.Davis joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

21-167

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority Draft Transition Plan be approved;

AND THAT the Draft Transition Plan be circulated to all participating municipalities;

AND THAT the finalized Transition Plan be presented to the General Membership for approval at the December meeting.

Carried

12.3 GM-11-21-77 - Cash and Investment Status

21-168

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Ian MacRae

THAT Report Number GM-11-21-77 Cash and Investment Status – October 2021 be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-11-21-88 - Financial Summary

21-169

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Jerry Smith

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

Carried

12.5 GM-11-21-85 - Reserves 2021

21-170

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Brian Coleman

See report for full motion.

Carried

12.6 GM-11-21-81 - Complimentary GRCA Membership Passes 2022

- K.Davis raised a concern regarding public perception of Board Members and watershed politicians receiving passes for free entry to the Conservation Areas, noting that some similar organizations have ended the practice of providing gratuities to politicians.
- Board members discussed the concern, and provided historical information regarding the practice of providing free memberships to Board members and other watershed politicians and heads of councils.
- The Board generally agreed that the purpose of the passes is to provide Board members and local provincial and federal representatives to be able to access the pay-for-use areas in order to view the grounds and better understand the programming and services provided by Conservation Authorities.
- It was also noted that there is a boost to staff morale when Board members enter the conservation areas, providing employees the opportunity to highlight their work and their role in providing recreational activities to our watershed citizens.
- K.Davis inquired about data related to usage of the free memberships, and K.Armstrong noted that data on specific card use is not available.
- K.Davis will consider the information provided and discuss a potential notice of motion to be provided in accordance with GRCA's procedural by-laws if warranted.

21-171

Moved By Joe Nowak

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-11-21-81 – 2022 Complimentary GRCA Membership Passes be received as information.

Carried

12.7 GM-11-21-83 - Conservation Area User Fees 2022

- B.Corbett inquired about the varied nature of the increase, and P.Walther-Mabee responded that some increases are higher as the conservation areas are aligning rates with specific amenities, such as premium waterfront sites. The difference in increases reflects that premium sites will have a higher rate.

21-172

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the proposed 2022 Conservation Area user fees be approved and become effective as of January 1, 2022.

Carried

12.8 GM-11-21-79 - Permit, Planning and Inquiry Fee Schedule 2022

21-173

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Les Armstrong

THAT the proposed 2022 Permit, Planning and Inquiry Fee Schedule be approved and become effective as of January 1, 2022.

Carried

12.9 GM-11-21-82 - Water and Sanitary Servicing Consulting Services

21-174

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority retain R.J. Burnside and Associates to provide consulting services related to water and sanitary servicing for a term of three years and an option to extend the assignment for up to two additional one-year terms;

AND THAT a total budget of \$157,136.86 excluding HST be approved which includes the 3 year assignment, 2 optional one-year terms and a 10% contingency.

Carried

12.10 GM-11-21-84 - Head Office Life Safety System Upgrades

21-174

Moved By Kathryn McGarry

Seconded By Cathy Downer

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority award the tender for the Life Safety Systems Upgrades at the GRCA Head Office to Live Electric of Cambridge, Ontario for the amount of \$114,944.20 excluding HST;

AND THAT a total budget of \$134,944.20 excluding HST be approved.

Carried

12.11 GM-11-21-86 - Update on Lands Declared Surplus - Guelph

- In response to a question from the Board about the demolished stone materials, B.Brown noted that salvaged components of the building have been transported to the City of Guelph to be stored for the potential to be used for rehabilitation of other Heritage buildings.

21-176

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Jerry Smith

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership receive GM-11-21-86 – Update on Lands Declared Surplus as information.

Carried

12.12 GM-11-21-88 - Snowmobiling on GRCA Properties

- Following a question regarding complaints from other trail users, B.Brown noted that the multi-use purposes of the trails was taken into consideration to minimize user conflicts on the snowmobile trails.
- The Chair noted previous Board discussions regarding challenges with insurance and liability with snowmobile use on GRCA trails, and said staff are working to accommodate the activity where feasible.
- M.Harris thanked staff for continuing to work with the snowmobiling clubs to find an agreeable solution to the concerns about use of the GRCA properties.
- K.Davis noted that conflicts amongst trail users can create challenges. B.Brown noted that multiple uses of trail systems are a consideration in coming to agreements, and said that this specific area is part of the OFSC network, which is part of the provincial network of trails.

W.Stauch joined the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

21-177

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Ian MacRae

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority enter into a license agreement with the Lake Conestoga Snowmobilers Inc. for the use of a seasonal cottage, auxiliary structures and to establish a snowmobile trail network, provided mutually agreeable revisions to the licensing agreement are made.

Carried

12.13 GM-11-21-78 - Current Watershed Conditions

- R.Carpenter inquired about the GRCA's preparedness for climate adaptation in consideration of recent flooding events in British Columbia.
- D.Boyd noted that GRCA systems are constantly tested through live flood events, and collaboration with municipal flood coordinators helps ensure preparedness for extreme events. The GRCA flood warning system is effective, maintained, and constantly tested and reviewed to identify where improvements can be made.
- Board members noted that the work of conservation authorities should be regularly highlighted to the community to keep the public informed of our significant role in flood management and minimizing risks from flood damage.
- J.Smith thanked staff for providing the flood warning guide.

21-178

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Joe Nowak

THAT Report Number GM-11-21-78 – Current Watershed Conditions as of November 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

None.

17. Closed Meeting

21-179

Moved By Kathryn McGarry

Seconded By Richard Carpenter

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 paused.

21-180

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

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

During the closed session, J.Smith noted that he was incorrectly recorded as absent for the previous closed session. The correction will be made for the final minutes.

17.1 Minutes of the previous closed session

21-181

Moved By Kathryn McGarry

Seconded By Susan Foxton

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

Carried

17.2 Labour relations or employee negotiations

21-182

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Bernie Corbett

THAT the salary ranges for non-union positions be increased by 2.00% effective January 1, 2022.

Carried

18. Next Meetings

- W.Stauch wished to acknowledge the Township of Guelph/Eramosa for one of their citizen's nomination for a Nobel Prize in economics. The Chair thanked W.Stauch, adding that the residents are proud to have Mr. Card as a member of their community, and the province.
- B.Corbett expressed concern about a recent news article regarding the conditions of the Grand River, noting that staff should consider a response to the comments being made.
- L.Armstrong shared the status of the *Mike Shout Wetlands Project* in Wilmot, noting a recent tree planting event held in coordination with the GRCA, Ducks Unlimited, and the Township. The event was well received by residents, and the project is expected to be nearing completion next year. It is hoped that the wetland will help mitigate some flooding events in Wilmot.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

21-183

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer