



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: December 16, 2022
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership

Members Present Bruce Banbury, Christine Billings, Gino Caputo, John Challinor II, Ken Yee Chew, Brian Coleman, Doug Craig, Kevin Davis, Mike Devine, Susan Foxtan, Guy Gardhouse, Gord Greavette, Colleen James, Daniel Lawrence, David Miller, Jerry Smith, Shawn Watters, Chris White, Alex Wilson, Pam Wolf

Regrets Jim Erb, Lisa Hern, Sandy Shantz, Rob Shirton, Natasha Salonen, Rob Shirton, Kari Williams

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Brandon Heyer, Janet Ivey, Lisa Keys, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Shari Dahmer, Melissa Larion, Katelyn Lynch, Stephanie Shifflett, Eowyn Spencer, Vahid Taleban, Laura Warner

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 more than half of the Members present. A total of 20 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- The Chair introduced all members and welcomed those attending their first meeting. The Chair advised that an orientation session will be held on January 20, 2023, and encouraged all members to attend if available. Outgoing members will be invited to attend the Annual General Meeting in February for years of service recognition.
- The Chair introduced Katelyn Lynch as the new Manager of Water Infrastructure. Katelyn joined the GRCA in 2018 in engineering, and she brings a strong

background in a wide range of water management activities, with her most recent work being involved in managing capital projects on our infrastructure.

- Shari Dahmer has joined the GRCA as our Source Protection Program Manager. Shari joins us from TRCA, where she was a Project Manager in the Watershed Planning and Reporting team and a past program lead.
- On November 28, Conservation Ontario Council voted to change the regular meeting to a listening session on Bill 23 to provide feedback, clarification and support, as well as the CAs ERO submissions. S.Lawson will provide an update later on this agenda.
- On December 15, the GRCA hosted its annual employee recognition event, celebrating milestones and achievements. David Townsend, superintendent at Rockwood Conservation Area is celebrating 25 years this year, and Brian McLeod in Central Services is celebrating 30 years with the GRCA. Congratulations to all employees who reached milestone years of service in 2022, and thank you to this great team of staff.
- Under the Clean Water Act, members of the GRCA board also serve as members of the Grand River Source Protection Authority and as such approve appointments to the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee. A meeting is required today and will be held immediately after this Board meeting.

4. Review of Agenda

- It was noted that the recommendation on the cover page of the agenda for report GM-12-22-97 did not match the recommendation from the report. The recommendation as written in the report is the correct recommendation for the meeting today.

22-173

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting be approved as amended.

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

22-174

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of October 28, 2022 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 CAO Update on Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act 2022

- S.Lawson presented an update on Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, which received Royal Assent on November 23, with the following highlights:
 - A number of comments were submitted to the Province from Conservation Authorities, municipalities and other stakeholders, and no changes were made to schedule 2 of the Bill as released in October.
 - The GRCA submitted comments under two Environmental Registry of Ontario postings regarding legislation impacted by Bill 23, and affecting conservation authorities, with three more to be submitted following this meeting as the reports are on this agenda.
 - Some provisions under the legislation came into effect immediately, including the change in governing Ministry to MNRF from MECP, and permitting under Ministerial Zoning Orders (MZOs) and Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator projects (CIHAs).
 - Other provisions coming into force on January 1, 2023 include process changes for disposition of CA lands, prohibition on municipal services under prescribed Acts, the ability for Ministerial direction to freeze CA fees, permit exceptions for certain Planning Act development, and the Minister's power to impose conditions on projects of authority.
 - For GRCA operations, immediate changes are not required for plan review, permitting (except MZOs and CIHAOs), fee policy and schedules, or negotiations for agreements with municipalities for category 2 programs and services (except Natural Heritage).
- Board Members discussed the Bill and had questions for staff related to major long term impacts, opportunities for appeal, resources to respond and implement changes over time, technical details and further comments for submitting to the Province as applicable.
- S.Lawson responded to questions noting that the Board would be kept up-to-date on changes, technical specifics, and implementation processes as they progress. The GRCA is currently resourced to implement the changes under the previous regulatory updates, and resources will be reviewed and re-prioritized as needed.
- There were further comments related to overall impacts on mandatory CA services and development regulations which may further impact CA services, and a coordinated response from CAs and Conservation Ontario.

- K.Davis commented that staff should look at identifying key areas of significance within the regulatory changes to ensure focus is kept on key matters.
- The Chair added that additional regulations under Bill 23 are anticipated and should clarify some items, and that staff will work closely with Conservation Ontario to ensure responses are collaborative where appropriate.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Hamilton City Council - Conservation Authority Board Composition

- K.Armstrong provided some background information, noting that the City of Hamilton recently reviewed their representation on the four CA boards to which they appoint members. The GRCA Board membership is composed based on an order-in-council (OIC). The OIC for the GRCA Board provides for one representative for the City of Hamilton.
- A.Wilson inquired about an anticipated timeline for discussions related to the City's representation. K.Armstrong responded that the ad-hoc Board Composition Committee will reconvene to discuss the correspondence from the City, and will have new Members appointed today. Staff will look to set a meeting in January.

10.2 Brant Waterways Foundation - Impacts of Bill 23

- There were no comments regarding this correspondence.

10.3 City of Guelph Council - Analysis of Bill 109 and Bill 23

- There were no comments regarding this correspondence.

22-175

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Shawn Watters

THAT Correspondence from Hamilton City Council regarding Conservation Authority Board Composition, and from Brant Waterway Foundation regarding Bill 23, and from the City of Guelph Council regarding Bill 109 and 23, be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 Report of the Ad-hoc CA Act Committee Meeting - November 10, 2022

12.1.1 Correspondence to Premier Doug Ford and Ministers - November 15, 2022

12.1.2 GM-11-22-87 - ERO No. 019-6160 Proposed Update to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System

12.1.3 GM-11-22-88 - ERO No. 019-6141 - Legislative and Regulatory Proposals affecting Conservation Authorities to support the Housing Supply Action Plan 3.0

- There were no comments regarding the Ad-hoc meeting minutes or staff reports dated November 10, 2022.

22-176

Moved By Christine Billings

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT the Minutes of the Ad-hoc CA Act Committee held on November 10, 2022; and Correspondence to Premier Doug Ford and Ministers Clark, Smith, and Piccini; and staff reports GM-11-22-87, and GM-11-22-88 dated November 10, 2022 be received as information.

Carried

12.2 GM-12-22-103 - ERO Posting 019-6161 - Conserving Ontario's Natural Heritage

- There were no comments regarding this report.

22-177

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Colleen James

THAT Report Number GM-12-22-103 – ERO No. 019-6161- Conserving Ontario's Natural Heritage be approved and submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Carried

12.3 GM-12-22-104 - ERO Posting 019-6177 - A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement

- There were no comments regarding this report.

22-178

Moved By Jerry Smith

Seconded By David Miller

THAT Report Number GM-12-22-104 – ERO No. 019-6177- Review of a Place to Grow and the Provincial Policy Statement be approved and submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Carried

12.4 GM-12-22-105 - ERO Posting 019-2927 - Proposed updates to the Regulation of Development

- There were no comments regarding this report.

22-179

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT Report Number GM-12-22-105 – ERO Posting #019-2927 – Proposed updates to the regulation of development for the protection of people and property from natural hazards in Ontario be approved and submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Carried

12.5 GM-12-22-99 - Progress Report #3 - Ontario Regulation 687/21

- The Chair noted that this progress report is a requirement of Ontario Regulation 687/21, which was released under the Conservation Authorities Act in December 2021.

22-180

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By Shawn Watters

THAT Progress Report #3 be approved, circulated to all participating Grand River watershed municipalities, posted on the Grand River Conservation Authority website, and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Carried

12.6 GM-12-22-100 - Inventory of Programs and Services Update

- As with the previous report, the Inventory is a requirement under O.Reg 687/21. There were no comments or concerns from the Board.

22-181

Moved By Christine Billings

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT the updated Inventory of Programs and Services be approved, circulated to all participating Grand River watershed municipalities, posted on the Grand River Conservation Authority website, and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Carried

12.7 GM-12-22-98 - GRCA Fee Policy

- K.Armstrong provided a presentation highlighting GRCA's Fee Policy which was developed as a requirement of Bill 229 with an implementation date of January 1, 2023.
- The Fee schedules may change following recent additional regulatory changes through Bill 23, which includes a provision that will allow the Minister to freeze CA fees in certain circumstances. Staff will provide updates as appropriate.

- This Policy reflects the current budget framework, and will be updated to reflect the new framework as required to comply with regulations regarding fees and levy allocations for programs and services. The presentation included a brief overview of programs and services for which fees are charged.
- P.Walther-Mabee continued the presentation, providing further detail on conservation area fees and related annual increases, as well as the GRCA annual membership program. In 2021, Elora Quarry shifted to ticketed entry in an effort to improve the user experience and effectively monitor capacity. Feedback received has been mostly positive, and reinforced the decision to maintain ticketed entry going forward. Quarry access is no longer included in GRCA annual membership passes.
- Members thanked staff for their presentation and discussed the fees. K.Davis inquired about the significant increases in two items, and P.Walther-Mabee clarified that those specific rates have not been increased in a while and were increased to align with comparable rates and other GRCA conservation area rates. It was also clarified that some items did not see an increase at all, and P.Walther-Mabee clarified that based on comparator information, an increase was not recommended at this time.

22-182

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By Shawn Watters

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority Fee Policy be approved and implemented effective January 1, 2023;

AND THAT Fee Schedule 1 – Outdoor Environmental Education Fees be approved and implemented effective January 1, 2023;

AND THAT Fee Schedule 2 – Conservation Areas Fees be approved and implemented effective January 1, 2023;

AND THAT Fee Schedule 3 – Planning and Regulations Fees be approved and implemented effective January 1, 2023;

AND THAT Fee Schedule 4 – Tree Nursery Fees be approved and implemented effective January 1, 2023

Carried

12.8 GM-12-22-101 - Budget 2023 Notification Letter to Member Municipalities

- The Chair advised that this is a standard letter to inform member municipalities of the 2023 budget schedules. There were no comments from the Board.

C.James left the meeting at approximately 10:40 a.m.

22-183

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT a letter be sent to participating municipalities on January 25, 2023, advising them of the General Membership meeting to be held on February 24, 2023, to approve the 2023 Budget and the municipal levy;

AND THAT the GRCA 2023 Budget Draft #2, which will be presented at the General Membership meeting on January 27, 2023, be included with the letter.

Carried

12.9 GM-11-22-91 - Chair's Report of the Audit Committee

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-184

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Christine Billings

THAT the Report of the Audit Committee be received as information.

Carried

12.10 GM-11-22-86 - Cash and Investment Status

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-185

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Shawn Watters

THAT Report Number GM-11-22-86 - Cash and Investment Status – October 2022 be received as information.

Carried

12.11 GM-12-22-96 - Cash and Investment Status

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-186

Moved By David Miller

Seconded By Jerry Smith

THAT Report Number GM-12-22-96 Cash and Investment Status – November 2022 be received as information.

Carried

12.12 GM-11-22-95 - Financial Summary

- D.Miller inquired about how the GRCA handles surplus amounts, and S.Radoja responded. Some may be transferred to a transition reserve to assist with costs associated with implementing new legislation, some may

carry forward into 2023 based on timing of project work, and the Board may also recommend adding amounts to other special reserves for specific uses.

22-187

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending October 31, 2022 be approved.

Carried

12.13 GM-12-22-102 - Financial Summary

- The Chair noted an adjustment of \$15 million which was a result of an approved land sale in Kitchener.

22-188

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Christine Billings

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending November 30, 2022 be approved.

Carried

12.14 GM-11-22-89 - Reserves Report 2022

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-189

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Shawn Watters

Please see report for full recommendation.

Carried

12.15 GM-11-22-92 - 2023 Board Meeting Schedule

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-190

Moved By Gord Greavette

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the 2023 Grand River Conservation Authority Board Meeting Schedule be approved.

Carried

12.16 GM-11-22-93 - 2023 Complimentary GRCA Membership Passes

- The Chair advised the new Board members that GRCA membership passes are provided to encourage Board Members and local partners to visit the areas and learn more about services provided.

22-191

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT Report Number GM-11-22-93 – 2023 Complimentary GRCA Membership Passes be received as information.

Carried

12.17 GM-12-22-97 - Revised - Shade's Mills Backflow Preventer

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-192

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Pam Wolf

THAT Report Number GM-12-16-97 - Shade's Mill Backflow Preventer quotation award be received as information.

Carried

12.18 GM-11-22-94 - Current Watershed Conditions

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-193

Moved By Alex Wilson

Seconded By Mike Devine

THAT Report Number GM-11-22-94 – Current Watershed Conditions as of November 16, 2022 be received as information.

Carried

12.19 GM-12-22-107 - Current Watershed Conditions

- There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

22-194

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT Report Number GM-12-22-106 – Current Watershed Conditions as of December 7, 2022 be received as information.

Carried

12.20 GM-12-22-106 - Grand River Watershed Flood Notification System

- V.Taleban provided a presentation of the Grand River watershed flood notification system, which highlighted recent testing and flood emergency coordinators meeting. It is a best practice to test the system annually to ensure notifications are being received and confirmed, particularly as there

has recently been a a number of staffing changes in these roles at the watershed municipalities.

- The flood emergency coordinators meeting is held twice per year, and covers information related to processes, the fan-out notification system, and the distinct responsibilities of each group of responders during a flood emergency. This meeting included a guest speaker and a discussion on severe weather events and climate change.
- Board Members have been provided with the flood warning system guide as a reference. This guide is updated annually and is provided to appropriate parties in emergency response.
- In response to a question, V.Taleban noted that in cases where municipalities do not respond during the notification testing, staff follow up as appropriate to ensure contact information is up to date, and that any new staff are familiar with the process.

22-195

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By Shawn Watters

THAT Report Number GM-12-22-106 – Grand River Watershed Flood Warning System be received as information.

Carried

13. Committee of the Whole

Not required.

14. General Business

14.1 Appointments to Committees

14.1.1 Appointments to Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee

- As a result of the Board member changeover, the Chair called upon volunteers to sit on the ad-hoc CA Act Committee. S.Watters and D.Miller volunteered, and J.Challinor, S.Foxton, and C.White remain as previously appointed members.

22-196

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT the following members be appointed the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee: Shawn Watters and David Miller.

Carried

14.1.2 Appointments to Board Composition Committee

- As a result of the Board member changeover, the Chair called upon volunteers to sit on the Board Composition Committee. A.Wilson, P.Wolf,

D.Craig, and K.Chew volunteered, and S.Foxton, and C.White remain as previously appointed members.

22-197

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT the following members be appointed to the Board Composition Committee: Alex Wilson, Pam Wolf, Doug Craig, Ken Yee Chew.

Carried

15. 3rd Reading of By-Laws

None.

16. Other Business

- There was no Other Business.

17. Closed Meeting

22-198

Moved By Kevin Davis

Seconded By Pam Wolf

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting in accordance with the *Municipal Act section 239(2)* for the following purpose(s): labour relations or employee negotiations.

Carried

22-199

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

Resolutions from closed

17.1 Labour relations or employee negotiations

Moved By Doug Craig

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT the salary ranges for non-union positions be increased by 2.5% effective January 1, 2023.

Carried

18. Next Meeting

- **Board Member Orientation Session** - January 20, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
- **General Membership & Election of Officers** - January 27, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

22-201

Moved By Shawn Watters

Seconded By Gord Greavette

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

20. Grand River Source Protection Authority Meeting

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer