



**Grand River Conservation Authority
Agenda - General Meeting**

Friday, May 26, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership

GRCA Administration Centre

Zoom Virtual Meeting

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
2. Certification of Quorum	
3. Chair's Remarks	
4. Review of Agenda	
THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting be approved as circulated.	
5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest	
6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	1
THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting held on April 28, 2023 be approved as circulated.	
7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes	
8. Hearing of Delegations	
a. Martina Cotter - Entrance fees at Elora Quarry	
9. Presentations	
10. Correspondence	
THAT Correspondence from Natasha Huyer regarding protection of Ontario wetlands be received as information.	
a. Natasha Huyer re: Wetlands Protection	8
11. 1st and 2nd Reading of By-Laws	

12. Reports:

- a. Conservation Authorities Act Committee - May 10, 2023 9
THAT the minutes of the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee meeting held on May 10, 2023 be received as information.
- b. GM-05-23-42 - 2024 Budget Framework - New Regulations 14
THAT Report Number 05-23-42 – Budget 2024 - Draft Framework be received as information.
- c. General Membership Composition Committee - May 17, 2023 18
THAT the minutes of the General Membership Composition Review Committee meeting held on May 17, 2023 be received as information;
AND THAT the General Membership consider the following options as preferred options to move forward with discussion about General Membership Composition:
- Continue with the status quo Order-in-Council.
 - Request a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to discuss amending the Order-in-Council to increase the City of Hamilton’s membership from 1 to 2 members.
- d. GM-05-23-40 - Cash and Investment Status 24
THAT Report Number GM-05-23-40 Cash and Investment Status – April 2023 be received as information.
- e. GM-05-23-41 - Financial Summary 26
THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending April 30, 2023 be approved.
- f. GM-05-23-45 - Changes to the Land Disposition Process for Section 38 Land Holdings 31
THAT Report Number GM-05-23-45 – Changes to Land Disposition Process for Section 39 Land Holdings be received as information.
THAT the 2008 Property Disposition Guidelines for Establishing Standards for Sustainable Development policy be rescinded.
- g. GM-05-23-43 - ERO Posting 019-6813 - Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement 39
THAT Report Number GM-05-23-43 – Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument be approved and submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

- h. GM-05-23-44 - Provincial Offences Act Officer Designation - Section 29 (Conservation Areas) 43

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority appoint Caden Hammond, Spencer Ireland, and Taylor Schell as Provincial Offences Act Officers to enforce section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

- i. GM-05-23-46 - Current Watershed Conditions 44

THAT Report Number GM-05-23-46 – Current Watershed Conditions as of May 15, 2023 be received as information.

13. Committee of the Whole

14. General Business

15. 3rd Reading of By-Laws

16. Other Business

17. Closed Meeting

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

- a. Minutes of the previous closed session

18. Next Meetings - Friday, June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. (Hybrid)

19. Adjourn

Regrets only to:

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Phone: 519-621-2763 ext. 2200



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: April 28, 2023
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, Mike Devine, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Gord Greavette, Lisa Hern, Colleen James, Daniel Lawrence, Dave Miller, Natasha Salonen, Rob Shirton, Jerry Smith, Shawn Watters, Chris White, Kari Williams, Pam Wolf

Regrets Kevin Davis, Sandy Shantz, Alex Wilson

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Janet Ivey, Lisa Keys, Katelyn Lynch, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Shari Dahmer, Mark McKinnon, Vahid Taleban, Eowyn Spencer

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:48 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

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

3. Chair's Remarks

The following Chair's remarks were made during the preceding Source Protection Authority meeting and are copied here for ease of reference:

- On April 3, Conservation Ontario held its Annual General Meeting, which included the election of the Board of Directors. This year Samantha Lawson stepped down as Director, and I was acclaimed as Chair for this term. I am thankful for the opportunity to participate at that level with Conservation Ontario as our supporting organization and another voice with our provincial and federal partners.
- Other AGM agenda items of interest included appointment of conservation area working and discussion groups, approval of special projects, projects under Nature

Smart Climate Solutions, and the launch of the 2023 watershed report card and CO's Annual Report.

- GRCA staff are organizing a watershed tour for Board members, tentatively scheduled for September 28. The tour will include a coach trip leaving from head office, with a tour of Shand Dam in Belwood, and a visit to Elora Gorge and Guelph Lake Nature Centre grounds. A save the date will be sent following today's meeting.
- GRCA staff, in collaboration with watershed partner organizations and supporting municipalities are hosting the Children's Water festivals in May and June after a 3-year hiatus. These events offer interactive learning opportunities for children to learn about the importance of water resources. If Board members would like more information about the events, please send an email to staff.
- April 28 is the National Day of Mourning; a day that commemorates workers who have been killed, injured, or suffered illness due to workplace-related hazards and occupational exposures. It is also a day for organizations and employees to reflect on their joint commitment to health and safety in the workplace. Flags at GRCA properties will be flown at half-mast in honour of the day. M.Devine suggested a moment of silence, and L.Keys advised that it is held at 11 a.m.

4. Review of Agenda

The Chair advised that an additional item has been added to the Closed meeting agenda for the purpose of discussing a matter related to litigation or potential litigation.

23-63

Moved By Mike Devine

Seconded By Doug Craig

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 Meeting

23-64

Moved By Jerry Smith

Seconded By Christine Billings

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of March 24, 2023 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

There were no comments or questions regarding the Correspondence.

10.1 Jan W. Jansen re: Wetlands Protection

10.2 Nicole Doro re: Wetlands Protection

23-65

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Mike Devine

THAT Correspondence from Jan W. Jansen and Nicole Doro regarding protecting Ontario wetlands be received as information.

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-04-23-38 - General Insurance Renewal - 2023-2024

D.Miller inquired as to when deductibles were last adjusted, noting that higher deductibles generally equal lower premiums. K.Armstrong noted that the GRCA is part of a group insurance policy that includes Ontario conservation authorities and is reviewed on an annual basis. Conservation authorities have a number of high-risk areas to be considered, and finding a balance is a consideration during annual discussions. D.Miller also inquired about what becomes of the adjustment to the premium amount as a result of the lower than budgeted premiums and S.Radoja indicated that it will be shown as surplus at this time and there may be a year-end discussion about potential re-allocation.

23-66

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-04-23-38 – General Insurance Renewal – 2023-2024 be received as information.

Carried

12.2 GM-04-23-34 - Revised Joint GRCA/GRCF Donor Naming Policy

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-67

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By Rob Shirton

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority approves the revised Joint GRCA-GRCF Naming Policy.

Carried

- 12.3 GM-04-23-31 - Cash and Investment Status**
There were no comments or questions regarding this report.
23-68
Moved By Jerry Smith
Seconded By Shawn Watters
THAT Report Number GM-04-23-31 Cash and Investment Status – March 2023 be received as information.
Carried
- 12.4 GM-04-23-39 - Financial Summary**
There were no comments or questions regarding this report.
23-69
Moved By Pam Wolf
Seconded By Christine Billings
THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending March 31, 2023 be approved.
Carried
- 12.5 GM-04-23-34 - Provincial Offences Act Officer Designation - Section 29 (Conservation Areas)**
There were no comments or questions regarding this report.
23-70
Moved By Kari Williams
Seconded By Gord Greavette
THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority appoint Rhonda Card and Avery Jenks as Provincial Offences Act Officers to enforce Section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act.
Carried
- 12.6 GM-04-23-37 - Provincial Offences Act Officer Designations - Section 28 (Planning Services)**
M.Devine asked if the proposed POA officers for both reports are current employees and staff confirmed that is correct.
23-71
Moved By John Challinor II
Seconded By Kari Williams
THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority appoint Nicholas Stasiak and Tyler Slaght as Provincial Offences Officers to enforce Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act.
Carried
- 12.7 GM-04-23-32 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation (Quarterly Permits)**
There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-72

Moved By Shawn Watters

Seconded By Pam Wolf

THAT Report Number GM-04-23-32 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

Carried

12.8 GM-04-23-36 - April 2023 Flood Event

- V. Taleban provided an overview of recent flooding in the watershed, noting that the three-day event began on March 31 and continued until April 2.
- The presentation highlighted that the event occurred in three separate waves of precipitation, and combined with higher temperatures and melting snowpack to create ideal flooding conditions in parts of the watershed.
- The GRCA issued several flood warnings, and one high-level warning for Lake Erie.
- The GRCA reservoirs had reached the normal April 1 target, but the presentation illustrated the flood mitigation and flow reduction that was realized with effective management from staff and emergency flood response coordinators.

23-73

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Pam Wolf

THAT Report Number GM-04-23-36 – April 2023 Flood Event be received as information.

Carried

12.9 GM-04-23-33 - Current Watershed Conditions

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-74

Moved By Doug Craig

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-04-23-33 – Current Watershed Conditions as of April 15, 2023 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

23-75

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting in accordance with the *Municipal Act section 239(2)* for the following purpose(s): proposed or pending acquisition or disposition, security of property, labour relations or employee negotiations, and litigation or potential litigation.

Carried

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

23-76

Moved By Mike Devine

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

The General Membership returned to open session and the live stream was resumed.

17.1 Property Disposition - Township of Mapleton

23-77

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Jim Erb

IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE OBJECTS of the Grand River Conservation Authority by assisting a utility in providing services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Grand River Conservation Authority grant an easement over a portion of lands described as part of Lots 1,15-18, Concession 3, Lots 1,3,14-18, Concession 4, Lots 1,18,19, Concession 5, Lot 18, Concession 6, Township of Mapleton, County of Wellington, to be more particularly described on a Reference Plan(s) to be deposited, for the installation, access and maintenance of fibre optic line, for the nominal consideration of \$2.00.

Carried

17.2 Security of Property - Verbal Update

There was no motion or direction to staff during the closed session for this item.

17.3 Labour relations or employee negotiations

23-78

Moved By Shawn Watters

Seconded By Doug Craig

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority ratify the Collective Agreement as negotiated with OPSEU Local 259 for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2025, and;

THAT the Human Resources Policies be amended to incorporate the applicable changes for non-union staff.

Carried

17.4 Minutes of the previous closed session

23-79

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Gord Greavette

THAT the Minutes of the previous closed session be approved.

Carried

18. Next Meeting - May 26, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

Some Board members identified concerns with the low in-person attendance at meetings, and in particular a concern about good governance, noting that the intent of the hybrid set-up was to offer an alternative for extenuating circumstances. The Chair noted the concerns and summarized them for the virtual attendees and members of the public who were unable to hear the Board members speaking.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

23-80

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

From: [NatashaH 123](#)
To: Jaime.Tellier@conservationhamilton.ca; Tamara.Chipperfield@cvc.ca; gbivol@npca.ca; Eowyn.Spencer;admin@hrca.on.ca
Subject: Save wetlands from Bill 23 and changes to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System by Ford.
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 8:52:48 PM

Greetings All,

As a concerned member of the public and regular user of Conservation Authorities (we just spent the weekend in Elora Gorge CA, it was wonderful seeing the many eagles, the kingfishers, the herons, all beautiful creatures and unique environments), I ask you to please use your knowledge and expertise to contact and influence the Federal Government to intervene where Bill 23 threatens Ontario's wetlands. Since at risk species and fisheries fall under federal jurisdiction, please use all means possible to quickly protect wildlife and woodlots which will be destroyed under Bill 23 and its total disregard for the value of wetlands and the Greenbelt.

Thank you, Natasha Huyer

[REDACTED]



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes – CA Act Regulations Committee

Date: May 10, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Members Present: John Challinor II, Susan Foxtton, David Miller, Shawn Watters, Chris White
Staff: Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Sonja Radoja, Eowyn Spencer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:00 p.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified with all Members present.

3. Review of Agenda

Moved by: Shawn Watters

Seconded by: Susan Foxtton

THAT the agenda for the Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by: David Miller

Seconded by: John Challinor

THAT the minutes of the previous Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2023 be approved as circulated.

Carried.

6. Discussion Items:

6.1. Municipal MOU for Category 2 Programs and Services Meetings Update

- S.Lawson noted that staff have met with nearly all of GRCA's participating municipalities to discuss the draft Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) as required under new regulations, and two remaining meetings are scheduled for May and June.

- Participating municipalities have been showing support for the draft as presented, and it is anticipated that the final agreement will come back to this Committee near the end of summer. Staff expect that the MOUs will be presented to municipal councils in early fall.
- S.Lawson has also been coordinating with neighbouring conservation authorities where there is shared jurisdiction with a municipality.

6.2. Overview of O.Reg. 402/22 Budget & Apportionment – presentation

K.Armstrong provided an overview of the budget and apportionment regulation under the CA Act, which is replacing the current levy and apportionment regulations, and proposed an updated timeline for the 2024 budget cycle. The new regulation is in effect and will be implemented for the 2024 budget.

The presentation highlighted that the regulation clarifies budgetary limitations on the Minister-appointed agricultural sector representative, which does not immediately apply to the GRCA as a representative has not been appointed at this time. Additionally, it identifies that an annual budget be prepared for 2024 and subsequent years, and includes four phases:

- Phase 1: categorizing revenue and expenses and apportionment. K.Armstrong identified the different methodologies for apportionment of expenses for the various categories. For category 1 expenses, the options for apportionment are based on the evaluation of the benefit of programs and services, including:
 - i. all participating municipalities using modified current value assessment (MCVA) or agreement;
 - ii. one or more participating municipalities but not all municipalities in the watershed using a benefit-based calculation; or
 - iii. all participating municipalities benefit but with a disproportionate benefit-based calculation.

Category 2 expenses are to be apportioned according to the terms agreed to in the MOUs. Category 3 expenses are apportioned according to MOU, if applicable, or a benefit-based calculation or MCVA, as applicable. General operating and capital expenses are apportioned using MCVA.

Allocation of self-generated or other revenue to individual categories will be discussed and documented annually, and category 1 programs and services must be evaluated to determine the most appropriate method of apportionment. These considerations are discussion points for this Committee and will require Board direction or approval.

- Phase 2: Outlines the draft budget format, approval, and consultation requirements. This phase requires little to no change in the process the GRCA follows with the current budget timeline, however, the budget format will change to comply with the regulation, and consideration for opportunities to raise additional funds and use self-generated revenue to finance programs and services must be included in the budget. The draft budget must be approved by the Board for consultation, circulated to participating municipalities with apportionment information for consultation as required, and posted to the GRCA website.
- Phase 3: The regulation requires that the Board approve the apportionment amounts in a recorded vote that requires a weighted majority. 30 days' advance notice of the apportionment vote is to be provided to municipalities along with the most recent version of the draft budget and each municipality's apportionment amount. This is similar to the process the GRCA currently has in place, although the timing will change.
- Phase 4: Relates to the approval process of the final budget. The final budget must be in the same format as the draft, include the approved apportionment amounts and reflect any

consultations or feedback from participating municipalities. The final budget approval must be a recorded vote, which is already in practice, and it may be a majority vote or weighted vote, whichever is stated in the by-law (currently a weighted vote at the GRCA). Following approval, a copy of the final budget must be sent to the Minister (MNR), each participating municipality, and posted on the GRCA website.

S.Lawson indicated that the process as outlined in the new regulation is in keeping with practices already in place at the GRCA.

Board members discussed the regulation and the required changes to the 2024 budget framework. There were questions related to the apportionment of specific expenditures and whether the GRCA is adequately resourced to undertake the large task; the overall impact on the municipal apportionment as related to the levy in prior years; and how surpluses may be handled on an annual basis.

K.Armstrong and S.Radoja responded to questions, noting the following:

- If the Board chooses to implement the MCVA methodology for category 1, given that this is the current methodology used, the categorization of expenditures will not be as onerous as attempting to quantify a benefit-based approach. If it is determined that a different approach be taken this year, resources and the impact on staff time will have to be considered.
- With the initial draft of the budget with the 2024 framework in place, it is anticipated that the overall increase in municipal apportionments will be in line with previous years' levy increases.
- In the initial draft framework, surpluses have been allocated in a manner that removes the use of the water management operating reserve transition fund for a permanent staffing position that was approved as a temporary measure in 2022 and uses the transition reserve for some category 3 programming, which is an approved use.

It was noted that decisions on reserve allocations will be presented annually to the Board for consideration prior to approval of the budget.

S.Lawson added that some category 1 and 3 categorizations have been shifted as a result of the regulatory changes, meaning that some programs that were not previously funded by the levy can now have municipal apportionments allocated to them, and vice versa.

6.3. Draft 2024 Budget Framework

S.Radoja provided a detailed overview of the draft budget framework for the 2024 budget cycle. The presentation of charts included details regarding high-level assumptions of all programs and services revenue and expenses, funding mechanisms, self-generated funds, and highlighted municipal and other funding sources for all four categories (three categories of programs and services, and general operating and capital expenses).

To provide a starting point, an estimated increase of 2.5% was added across all areas, and surplus allocations and adjustments were considered. The draft template also assumes ongoing operations are status quo with no changes to any programs and services.

The allocation of surplus enables removing the use of water management operating reserve to fund the new engineer position in 2024, which created a deficit. Based on additional updates under category 3 programming, it was identified that the transition reserve may be used to offset a deficit in the environmental education program, which creates an overall surplus in category 3 programs and services that can be allocated to reduce category 1 programs and services expenses which will reduce the overall impact on municipal apportionment.

Based on the initial assumptions outlined in this first round of implementing a draft budget template under the new framework, the estimated outcome is an impact that is very similar to prior years' budget.

S.Radoja reiterated that the figures provided are a rough estimate of the budget with the new framework. Surpluses and surplus allocations are speculative at this stage in planning based on the initial draft of the budget. Any allocations of surpluses will require Board approval and will be presented appropriately.

The Committee thanked staff for the overview, noting that the initial draft looks reasonable and makes sense with the explanations. The Chair added that as there are still several items to be considered, the initial draft looks promising for a minimal impact on the municipal apportionment.

6.4. May Board Report

Staff asked about the preference of having a report and presentation to the Board in May to provide a general overview of the 2024 budget cycle and introduction of the proposed timelines for implementation of the new framework. It was determined that a high level presentation and introductory report would be beneficial. K.Armstrong and S.Radoja will prepare a report and presentation.

Discussion: Confirmation of timelines

The proposed timeline of the new budget cycle was supported by the Committee. The Board will receive an initial overview in May of the new regulation, with a first draft budget to be approved in September/October, a second draft, as applicable, presented in January with a vote to approve apportionment, and the final budget approval will occur at the Annual General Meeting. Municipalities to be notified in accordance with timing in the regulation.

Discussion: Apportionment – category 1, and category 3 surplus

Karen reiterated the options for calculating the allocation of operating and capital revenue and expenses for program categories one and three to determine the amount to be apportioned to participating municipalities. The identified methodologies are all participating municipalities benefit equally (MCVA); one or more participating municipalities benefit but not all (benefit-based calculation); or all participating municipalities benefit but with a disproportionate benefit.

The Committee briefly discussed the methodologies, identifying challenges with any attempt to break out individual benefits of various programs and services, aside from what is already in use with the MCVA method. The MCVA method reflects the watershed approach. Identifying a disproportionate benefit would be challenging because, much like a municipality, programs and services may vary year over year and it is difficult to predict future needs e.g. planning. The Committee also discussed the proposed use of category 3 surplus to be allocated back to category 1.

The Chair reiterated that this is the first budget with the new budget framework, and it can evolve going forward as applicable. In terms of discussion or Board direction on surplus allocation, staff would defer to the Board, which will be an annual consideration during the budget cycle.

Moved by: Sue Foxton

Seconded by: John Challinor

THAT the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee supports the proposed timelines for the 2024 Budget Cycle;

AND THAT the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee supports the use of the watershed benefit methodology using the modified current value assessment method to

determine the apportionment of category 1 programs and services to participating municipalities;

AND THAT the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee supports the proposed allocation of the estimated surplus in category three.

Carried.

7. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

8. Next Meeting – At the Call of the Chair

9. Adjourn

Moved by: John Challinor

THAT the meeting of the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee be adjourned.

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-05-23-42

Date: May 26, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Budget 2024 – Draft Framework

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number 05-23-42 – Budget 2024 - Draft Framework be received as information.

Summary:

This report outlines a preliminary budget 2024 framework that was created to comply with Phase 1 requirements under the new regulation O.Reg.402/22: Budget and Apportionment.

Phase I of the budget process requires the GRCA to identify:

- Total revenue by source, including municipal apportionment
- Total operating and capital expenses by category
- Funding/revenue that could be used to offset (reduce) expenses, and any restrictions or rules on certain revenue sources
- The apportionment method (formerly referred to as levy distribution) that will be applicable to Category 1 expenses

Categories that need to be identified in the budget are:

- Category 1 – mandatory programs and services
- Category 2 – programs and services delivered based on Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with municipalities
- Category 3 - Other programs and services the Authority determines are advisable
- General Operating/Capital Expenses

See appendix A for the draft Budget 2024 Framework.

Report:

This report outlines a preliminary budget 2024 framework that was created to comply with Phase 1 requirements under the new regulation O.Reg.402/22: Budget and Apportionment. The budget framework highlights the allocation of surplus and outlines a preliminary strategy related to use of the transition reserve and the water management operating reserve for 2024. The Ad Hoc Conservation Authorities (CA) Act Committee met on May 10, 2023 and supported the allocation of surplus and reserve strategies as outlined in the budget 2024 framework. The committee also discussed the matter of apportionment and timelines for the various phases identified in the regulation.

Budget 2024 Framework:

The budget 2024 framework (see attached) includes the following assumptions:

Category 1

- Increase operating expenses by 2.5%
- Hold capital maintenance spending constant
- Hold revenue constant except for Source Protection Program (SPP)
- SPP Revenue increased to offset expense increase
- Increase municipal funding by the amount needed to cover expense increases

- Allocate \$100,000 from Transition reserve for staffing needed to address mandates applicable to the new regulations (i.e. conservation lands strategy, land inventory, etc.)

Category 2

- Combined all activities under 'Watershed Services' (will update P&S Inventory Listing in May)
- Increase operating expenses by 2.5%
- Hold revenue constant
- Increase MOU funding by amount needed to cover the expense increase

Category 3

- Increase expenses by 2.5%
- Park Revenue increased by the amount of expense increase
- Nature Centre revenue increased by \$100K
- Property Revenue increased slightly to get to overall surplus of \$175,000
- All other revenue held constant.
- Use Transition Reserve to fund NC Program deficit.

General Operating/Capital Expenses

- Increase expenses by 2.5%
- Increase Municipal apportionment (formerly referred to as levy) by the amount needed to cover the expense increase.

Budget Highlights:

- Municipal Funding 2024 (Category 1 + Category 2 + General Operating expenses) is 2.6% higher than 2023 General Levy
- Transition Reserve to be used to fund Environmental Education Program deficit
- Using the transition reserve creates a Category 3 surplus
- Remove use of Water Management Operating reserve to fund 1.0 FTE which in turn creates a Category 1 deficit
- Use Category 3 surplus to offset Category 1 deficit
- Alternate breakeven scenario: (a) continue to fund engineer position with Water Management Operating Reserve and (b) use Category 3 surplus to fund Environmental Education Program.

Apportionment Method

Phase I of the budget process requires the Board to establish how municipal funding requirements for Category 1 net expenses will be apportioned (formerly referred to as Municipal Levy). The CA Act Committee has recommended that Category 1 net expenses be apportioned to municipalities based on Modified Current Value Assessment (MCVA) which is the same apportionment methodology used under the old regulations.

Category 2 expenses will be apportioned in accordance with the MOUs. The draft MOU indicates that MCVA will be used (same as Category 1 as applicable).

Category 3 expenses do not require any municipal funding.

General Operating expenses are to be apportioned using MCVA. General Capital expenses are to be apportioned using MCVA or by agreement, if applicable.

Timing of Approvals

Phase 2 of the budget process is approval and consultation. The draft budget is typically presented to the Board in September or October annually. The new regulation requires that the draft budget be approved by the Board for consultation purposes, posted on the GRCA's website, and sent to participating municipalities along with apportionment information. The draft budget must include total revenue by source, including apportionment, total operating and

capital expenses by category, and what opportunities were considered to raise funds and use self-generated revenue to finance operations (reduce expenses).

Phase 3 is the board apportionment approval process. 30 days' notice of the meeting to approve apportionment must be sent to participating municipalities, as well as the most recent draft of the budget, and that municipality's apportionment amount. The vote must be recorded and will be based on a weighted majority. Following approval of apportionment, notification is to be sent to participating municipalities. It is proposed that this will occur in January 2024.

Phase 4 is the final budget approval process. The final budget is to be in the same format as the draft budget and include approved apportionment amounts, and any matters agreed to during the consultation phase. The budget vote must be recorded and may be approved by majority vote, or weighted majority if specified in the by-law. Once the final budget is approved, a copy must be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, each participating municipality, and posted on the GRCA's website. It is proposed that this will occur in February 2024 at the Annual General Meeting.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to work towards finalizing MOUs with municipalities for category 2 programs and services

An updated Program and Services Inventory listing will be provided at the June 23, 2023 General Membership meeting

Budget 2024 - draft #1 will be provided at the September or October 2023 General Membership meeting

Financial Implications:

This budget draft is meant to serve as a framework and contains very high-level assumptions to comply with Phase I requirements. The first draft of budget 2024 will be presented to the board in September or October 2023.

Other Department Considerations:

None

Prepared by:

Sonja Radoja
Manager of Corporate Services

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

APPENDIX A

BUDGET 2024 - New Regulations - draft Template

for discussion-Ad Hoc Committee meeting May 10, 2023

P&S Inv #	CATEGORY 1							General Operating Expenses 19 & 21	CATEGORY 2 Watershed Services 9 <i>(w/wop (special)- draft NIL)</i> 1,869,000	CATEGORY 3							TOTAL Category 1,2,3, & Gen Oper	
	Watershed Resources-Planning 6	FFW & Flood Plain Mapping 1 & 3	Water Control Structures 2	Resource Planning 4 & 5	Conservation Lands Mgmt 11 & 12 & 13	Source Protection Planning 8	TOTAL CATEGORY 1 1,2,3,4,6,8,11,12,13			Tree Planting/Nursery Program 14	Conservation Services 10	Environmental Education 15	Property Rentals 16	Hydro Production 17	Conservation Areas 18	Corporate Services & Communications 20 & 22		TOTAL CATEGORY 3 10,14,15,16,17,18,20,22
Expenditures																		
Expenses-Operating	1,307,900	917,400	2,196,800	2,656,600	3,223,200	656,000	10,957,900	3,460,000										29,882,400
Expenses-Capital Maintenance	110,000	190,000	1,500,000				1,800,000	304,000					2,000,000					4,104,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,417,900	1,107,400	3,696,800	2,656,600	3,223,200	656,000	12,757,900	3,764,000	1,869,000									33,986,400
Funding																		
General Municipal Levy (Category 1)	1,305,400	858,062	2,591,450	1,427,600	2,981,200		9,163,712	3,125,000										12,288,712
Municipal Funding - MOU's (Category 2)							-		1,018,000									1,018,000
Municipal Funding - Other							-		850,000									850,000
Provincial-Transfer Payments (Section 39)		164,338	285,350				449,688											449,688
Provincial-Source Protection Program						656,000	656,000											656,000
Provincial-Other	37,500		700,000				737,500	70,000			30,000						30,000	837,500
Federal				40,000			40,000											40,000
Self Generated																		
Resource Planning Fees				1,144,000			1,144,000											1,144,000
Tree Planting Revenue							-										580,000	580,000
Conservation Lands Income					15,000		15,000											15,000
Conservation Areas User Fees							-											-
Environmental Education Fees							-											-
Property Rental Revenue							-											-
Hydro Generation Revenue							-											-
Grand River Conservation Foundation					27,000		27,000											27,000
Other Donations							-											-
Investment Income							-	100,000										-
Miscellaneous Income							-											-
Total Self-Generated Revenue	-	-	-	1,144,000	42,000	-	1,186,000	100,000	-									16,331,000
Funding from Reserves	75,000	25,000	50,000	-	100,000		250,000	369,000										1,121,000
Funding from Reserves -Transition							100,000		1,000									294,500
Funding from Reserves -Water Mgmt Operating		60,000	70,000	45,000			175,000											175,000
Eliminate Use of Water Mgmt Reserve		(60,000)	(70,000)	(45,000)			(175,000)											(175,000)
Surplus CFWD from prior year							-	100,000										100,000
TOTAL FUNDING	1,417,900	1,107,400	3,696,800	2,656,600	3,223,200	656,000	12,582,900	3,764,000	1,869,000									33,986,400
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-	(0)	(0)	-	-	-	(175,000)	0	-									(0)
Surplus DISTRIBUTION							175,000											(0)
NET RESULT after surplus allocation	-	(0)	(0)	-	-	-	0	0	-									(0)

Apportionment + MOU's -2024	13,306,712
Levy - 2023	12,968,000
Increase	338,712
	2.6%

Park Deficit Created by adding:

Manager 100%	150,000
Hazard Trees	246,000
Luther 50%	69,000
	465,000



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes – General Membership Composition Review Committee

Date: May 17, 2023
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Members Present: Doug Craig, Susan Foxton, Chris White, Alex Wilson, Pam Wolf
Regrets: Ken Yee Chew
Staff: Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Eowyn Spencer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:30 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified with four Members present.

3. Review of Agenda

Moved by: Pam Wolf

Seconded by: Alex Wilson

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Composition Review Committee be approved as circulated.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Moved by: Sue Foxton

Seconded by: Pam Wolf

THAT the minutes of the previous meeting held on February 10, 2023 be approved as circulated.

6. Reports:

6.1. GRCA General Membership Composition – Options

K.Armstrong noted that in addition to previous options discussed, option five has been added based on input from legal counsel. A letter drafted by legal counsel has been provided, should option five be pursued. The Committee Report and letter are attached to the Minutes as Appendix A.

A.Wilson began the discussion noting that they have received direction from the City of Hamilton that option four would be the City's desired option, which is the population-based method of determining municipal representation. A.Wilson also shared concerns

with option 2, noting that as population growth continues through the watershed a precedent may be set if this option is used and this issue may be repeated in the future.

The Chair reminded the Committee that it was a 2017 provincial ruling that resulted in a significant increase in the City Hamilton's levy allocation. which subsequently brought on discussions related to representation on the Board. Hamilton's percentage of the weighted vote was increased respectively, and the Chair noted that additional seats will not impact the voting on budgetary or other matters. The Chair also noted that the Members' fiduciary duty on this Board and Committee is with the GRCA as opposed to the municipality.

Committee members discussed the options, weighing in on potential challenges with each option and the reality of disproportionate representation on Boards, Councils, and Committees, which is mitigated in part by implementing a weighted vote on the budget at the GRCA. Members noted that the Board functions well and members have historically acted responsibly and in the best interest of the GRCA.

P.Wolf inquired if the status quo is maintained, or option one, would this be acceptable for all participating municipalities other than the City of Hamilton. K.Armstrong noted that other municipalities have not expressed inquiries or concerns about membership.

There was further discussion regarding representation. A.Wilson noted that not having a citizen representative is an additional concern for Hamilton. They also suggested that it would be helpful if this Committee could narrow the options so that they could be brought back to the City of Hamilton for further consideration. A.Wilson advised that the City of Hamilton requested that membership be reviewed in 2018 and given that the current Order-in-Council is from 1994, the status quo should not continue indefinitely due to the evolving nature of populations.

The Chair noted that there are many unknowns with this current government, and there have been many changes impacting conservation authorities in recent years. There was further discussion related to deferring the matter until regulatory changes and other possible impacts have been completed.

The Committee discussed options two and five, noting that requesting input from the Ministry at this time may also result in a different outcome than what the Board prefers..

In the interest of supporting the City of Hamilton as a participating municipality, the Chair agreed that narrowing the options would be helpful and could provide the Board with a clearer understanding of the overall preference.

There followed a brief discussion regarding proceeding with option one and two, and a variation of option five by requesting a meeting with the Minister. S.Foxton noted that a municipality can request a delegation to the Ministry at the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference on behalf of the GRCA for a discussion related to Board Composition and to determine Ministry interest in implementing option two. The Committee agreed on this approach, understanding that the Province has many competing priorities and may wish to table the discussion for future consideration.

On motion by D.Craig, seconded by A.Wilson, the recommendation to consider options one and two as provided in the report was tabled for consideration.

A motion was brought forward by A.Wilson to amend the recommendation to include option four in the consideration, and was seconded by P.Wolf. Committee members previously expressed concern that option four was singularly beneficial, and the vote was lost with the remaining members voting against the amendment.

The following motion was then voted on:

Moved by: Doug Craig

Seconded by: Alex Wilson

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership Composition Review Committee recommends to the General Membership that the following options be considered as preferred options to move forward with discussion about General Membership Composition:

- Continue with the status quo Order-in-Council.
- Request a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to discuss amending the Order-in-Council to increase the City of Hamilton's membership from 1 to 2 members.

Carried.

7. Next Meeting – At the Call of the Chair

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:59 a.m.

Grand River Conservation Authority

To: GRCA Board Composition Committee

Date: May 17, 2023

From: Karen Armstrong, Deputy CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Subject: GRCA General Membership Composition - Options

As discussed at the February 10, 2023 meeting of the General Member Composition Review Committee, the Committee decided to review the options available in response to the City of Hamilton's request to increase the number of members they appoint to the Board. Legal input was sought to discuss options and some procedural items related to the options.

The options available, and high-level considerations for each option, include:

- **Option 1 – Continue with the status quo Order-in-Council (OIC)**
There is no action required to proceed with this option. The OIC was issued in 1994 and was made, in part, to limit the number of board members for the GRCA, which was unreasonably high at that time due to the large number of municipalities covered by the watershed.
- **Option 2 – Request that the Province Amend the OIC to increase the City of Hamilton's membership from 1 to 2 members**
A resolution from the GRCA Board would be required outlining the new board composition being requested, along with resolutions from all participating municipal councils. This process could lead to requests for other membership appointment increases to the GRCA Board from other municipalities.
- **Option 3 – Cancel the OIC and establish an agreement determining the membership composition as per the CA Act**
To cancel an OIC, a request is to be submitted to the government ministry that has jurisdiction, so in the case of the GRCA, this would be the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. A resolution from the GRCA Board would be required, along with resolutions from all participating municipal councils. This option could allow for a change in the number of members to be appointed by the City of Hamilton, e.g. a request to increase to 2 members appointed. This process could lead to requests for other membership appointment increases to the GRCA Board from other municipalities.
- **Option 4 – Cancel the OIC and follow the population-based methodology in the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act)**
To cancel an OIC, as noted above, a request would need to be submitted to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. A resolution from the Board would be required indicating the Board's intention to change board composition to the population-based methodology. Following the population-based methodology would result in an increased number of members on the board which is counter to the reasoning applied when establishing the current board composition in 1994. The current grouping of municipalities for the purposes of appointments may continue but this would be subject to Board resolution and resolutions from the participating municipalities in the watershed.

- **Option 5 – Ask the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to review the OIC and advise**

This option is recommended by legal counsel who could also provide assistance in drafting the letter. Given the potential implications of any change, the Minister could be asked to provide guidance and their opinion on the preferred approach for the GRCA. A draft letter is attached as Appendix A

The risk of seeking input from the Minister is that they may make a decision that does not feel practical for the GRCA. That could possibly be mitigated by laying out the background, issues, and unique challenges of GRCA Board composition.

Dear Minister,

As you are aware, the current board composition for the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) is set out by Order in Council (OIC) 2610/94 dated October 7, 1994. The OIC designates municipal groups and sets out how many members each municipality (or group) may appoint. Recently, a participating municipality raised concerns that the OIC is inconsistent with the population-based member appointment formula as set out in 14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and they have requested a review of the current board composition.

Our current board has 26 members as established by the OIC. If the GRCA follows the population-based method set out in the Act, board size could increase to up to 39 Board members. The GRCA has some concerns that this will result in a Board that is so large that it will be difficult to conduct business, and counter to the justification for the board composition set out in the 1994 OIC.

To date, the GRCA has continued to follow the OIC. The Board has considered trying to come to an agreement amongst all participating municipalities to update the number of members, pursuant to 14.(2.1) of the Act, but given our large and diverse composition, this would be a significant endeavour and the GRCA may not obtain the necessary resolutions from each participating municipality. The GRCA is also unclear whether it has the authority to set aside the OIC and switch to the population-based method set out in the Act, in addition to concerns about the resulting significant increase in board size.

The GRCA is seeking guidance from the Minister about Board composition moving forward. We see our options as follows:

- 1) Maintain the status quo, and follow the existing OIC;
- 2) Follow a new OIC, possibly setting out new municipal groups;
- 3) Follow the population-based methods as set out in the Act, with the resulting increase in Board size.

The GRCA would also require guidance from the Minister about how to implement changes to the composition of the Board, if any. Most of our current members began a term of 4 years following the municipal election in November 2022. To avoid significant disruptions, we would propose that no changes take effect until the next municipal election in November 2026, which is the anticipated date when the next Board members would be appointed.

The GRCA would appreciate participating in any meetings or consultations about how to move forward with this issue. If you would like any further details or background on this issue, please contact us at.....

Yours truly,

BOARD/ COMMITTEE

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-05-23-40

Date: May 26, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Cash and Investment Status – April 2023

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-05-23-40 Cash and Investment Status – April 2023 be received as information.

Summary:

The cash position including Notes Receivable of the Grand River Conservation Authority as at April 30, 2023 was \$56,173,393 with outstanding cheques written in the amount of \$82,109.

Report:

See attached.

Financial Implications:

Interest rates, etc. are shown on the report.

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable.

Prepared by:

Carol Anne Johnston
Senior Accountant

Approved by:

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO/Secretary Treasurer

Sonja Radoja
Manager of Corporate Services

**Grand River Conservation Authority
Cash and Investments Status Report
April 30, 2023**

BANK ACCOUNTS	Location	Type	Amount	Interest Rate
	CIBC	Current Account	8,367,174	4.90%
	RBC	Current Account	126,965	nil
	Wood Gundy	Current Account	0	nil
	CIBC - SPP Holding	Current Account	575,964	4.90%
	TOTAL CASH - CURRENT ACCOUNT		9,070,103	

INVESTMENTS	Date Invested	Location	Type	Amount	Face Value Interest Rate	Yield Rate	Date of Maturity	2023 Total Interest Earned/ Accrued
		CIBC Renaissance	High Interest Savings Account	2,520,737	4.05%	4.05%	not applicable	84,146
		One Investment Savings	High Interest Savings Account	4,488,860	4.965%	4.965%	not applicable	220,951
	October 23, 2019	Cdn Western Bank	Bond	2,010,000	2.800%	2.78%	September 6, 2024	55,625
	December 23, 2019	Laurentian Bank	Bond	3,821,000	3.450%	2.57%	June 27, 2023	48,406
	January 16, 2020	Cdn Western Bank	Bond	3,000,000	2.597%	2.45%	September 6, 2024	73,383
	September 15, 2021	Cdn Western Bank	Bond	1,500,000	2.597%	1.21%	September 6, 2024	18,537
	September 23, 2021	Province of Ontario	Bond	2,300,000	1.230%	1.23%	December 2, 2026	27,156
	September 23, 2021	ManuLife Financial	Bond	2,000,000	2.237%	1.34%	May 12, 2030	37,326
	December 8, 2021	Province of B.C.	Bond	2,050,356	1.180%	1.18%	December 18, 2023	22,978
	June 29, 2022	TD Bank	Bond	4,008,000	3.005%	3.54%	May 30, 2023	57,788
	December 14, 2022	Royal Bank	Bond	2,000,000	2.333%	4.87%	December 5, 2023	87,901
	December 14, 2022	National Bank	Bond	4,054,000	2.983%	4.84%	March 4, 2024	190,857
	December 14, 2022	CIBC	Bond	4,100,000	3.300%	4.36%	May 26, 2025	174,281
	December 14, 2022	Bank of Montreal	Bond	4,096,000	2.700%	4.59%	September 11, 2024	182,053
	February 7, 2023	CIBC	GIC (cashable after 90 days)	5,154,337	3.800%	3.80%	February 7, 2024	175,473
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS			47,103,290				\$1,456,860

TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS **\$56,173,393**

* Reserve Balance at December 31st, 2022 33,621,402

Investment By Institution

	% of Total Portfolio
TD Bank	9%
C.I.B.C.	25%
Royal Bank	4%
Bank of Montreal	9%
National Bank	9%
Cdn Western Bank	14%
Laurentian	8%
ManuLife Financial Bank	4%
One Investment Program	10%
Province of B.C.	4%
Province of Ontario	5%
	<u>100%</u>

* Reserve balances are reviewed annually by the Board in November.

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-05-23-41

Date: May 26, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Financial Summary for the Period Ending April 30, 2023

Recommendation:

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending April 30, 2023 be approved.

Summary:

The Financial Statements include the 2023 *actual* year-to-date income and expenditures. The budget approved at the February 24, 2023 General Meeting is included in the *Budget* column. The *Current Forecast* column indicates an estimate of income and expenditures for the whole year. At this time a net surplus of \$311,000 at year-end is anticipated.

Report:

The Financial Statements for the period ending April 30, 2023 are attached.

A. Provincial Funding decrease by \$38,000

- Source Protection Program funding decrease in relation to compensation and benefit expenditures decrease (vacancy)

B. Self-Generated Revenue increased by \$134,000

- Environmental Education revenue increased by \$9,000 related to Jane Goodall Institute 'Roots & Shoots Climate Leaders Program'
- Conservation Lands timber revenue increased by \$125,000

C. Operating Expenses decreased by \$329,000

- Water Resources and Planning – decrease of \$60,000 due to position vacancy
- Communications – net decrease of \$54,000 due to position vacancy savings of \$64,000 and a \$10,000 increase in website development expenses
- Environmental Education expenses increase of \$9,000 related to delivery of the Jane Goodall Institute program
- Conservation Lands – decrease of \$45,000 due to position vacancy
- Property Rentals – decrease of \$37,000 due to position vacancy
- Source Protection Program – decrease of \$38,000 due to position vacancy
- Insurance expenditures net decrease by \$104,000 as a result of the premiums that came into effect on April 1, 2023 (partial year impact in 2023)

D. Funding to Reserves increased by \$125,000

- Transfer to the Forestry reserve increased by \$125,000 related to revenue from timber sales

E. Funding from Reserves increased by \$11,000

- Funding from the Motor Pool reserve increased by \$11,000 to fund an \$11,000 increase in motor pool insurance expense

Financial Implications:

The activity summarized will result in a \$311,000 surplus as at December 31, 2023.

Other Department Considerations:

The management committee and appropriate supervisory staff receive monthly financial reports and advise the finance department of applicable forecast adjustments.

Prepared by:

Kayleigh Keighan
Financial Controller

Approved by:

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO/Secretary Treasurer

**GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - FORECAST**

General Membership - May 26, 2023

FORECAST - MARCH 31, 2023 - NET RESULT			\$0	
<u>CHANGES - APRIL 2023</u>				
Sch 1	Water Resources-Planning and Environ	\$60,000 \$46,000	Compensation and Benefit Expenses decrease - vacancy Insurance Expense decrease	\$106,000
Sch 7	Communications	\$64,000 (\$10,000)	Compensation and Benefit Expenses decrease - vacancy Other Operating Expense increase - website development	\$54,000
Sch 8	Environmental Education	\$9,000 (\$9,000)	Self Generated Revenue increase - community program Other Operating Expense increase - community program	\$0
Sch 9	Corporate Services	\$33,000	Insurance Expense decrease	\$33,000
Sch 10	Conservation Lands	\$45,000 \$26,000 \$125,000 (\$125,000)	Compensation and Benefit Expenses decrease - vacancy Insurance Expense decrease Timber Revenue increase Transfer to Forestry Reserve increase	\$71,000
Sch 11	Property Rentals	\$37,000 \$10,000	Compensation and Benefit Expenses decrease - vacancy Insurance Expense decrease	\$47,000
Sch 15	Source Protection Program	\$38,000 (\$38,000)	Compensation and Benefit Expenses decrease - vacancy Provincial Funding decrease	\$0
Sch 16	Information Systems & Motor Pool	(\$11,000) \$11,000	Insurance Expense increase Funding from Motor Pool Reserve increase	\$0
FORECAST - APRIL 30, 2023 - NET RESULT			\$311,000	

**GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING April 30, 2023**

SCHEDULE		Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
REVENUE							
Municipal							
General Municipal Levy (Operating)	various	11,580,000	12,018,000	4,006,000	12,018,000	12,018,000	-
General Municipal Levy (Capital)	various	950,000	950,000	316,667	950,000	950,000	-
Special Municipal Levy	various	99,593	130,000	305	130,000	130,000	-
Other	various	536,972	825,000	1,216,823	825,000	825,000	-
		13,166,565	13,923,000	5,539,795	13,923,000	13,923,000	-
Government Grants							
NDMNRF Transfer Payments	various	449,688	449,688	-	449,688	449,688	-
Source Protection Program-Provincial	various	569,995	640,000	131,562	640,000	602,000	(38,000)
Other Provincial	various	688,888	982,500	982,938	982,500	982,500	-
Federal	various	431,024	190,000	257,432	190,000	190,000	-
		2,139,595	2,262,188	1,371,932	2,262,188	2,224,188	(38,000)
Self Generated							
User Fees and Sales							
<i>Enquiries and Permits</i>	4	591,330	590,000	205,543	590,000	590,000	-
<i>Plan Input and Review</i>	4	598,852	554,000	227,748	554,000	554,000	-
<i>Consulting</i>	4	-	-	3,726	-	-	-
<i>Nursery and Woodlot Management</i>	5	636,389	415,000	495,099	445,000	570,000	125,000
<i>Conservation Lands Income</i>	10	65,050	71,000	2,004	71,000	71,000	-
<i>Conservation Areas User Fees</i>	13	11,232,460	10,000,000	1,876,033	10,000,000	10,000,000	-
<i>Nature Centres and Camps</i>	8	519,747	-	224,838	-	9,000	9,000
<i>Merchandising and Sales</i>	8	872	-	-	-	-	-
Property Rentals	11	2,910,172	3,006,000	1,617,206	3,006,000	3,006,000	-
Hydro Generation	12	589,334	580,000	130,641	580,000	580,000	-
Land Sales	10	15,196,404	-	-	-	-	-
Grand River Conservation Foundation	various	435,141	527,000	14,929	527,000	527,000	-
Donations	various	23,473	635,000	56,935	635,000	635,000	-
Landowner Contributions	5	163,602	180,000	170,729	180,000	180,000	-
Investment Income	14	866,001	1,350,000	323,685	1,350,000	1,350,000	-
Miscellaneous Income	various	27,822	35,000	2,797	35,000	35,000	-
Total Self-Generated Revenue		33,856,649	17,943,000	5,351,913	17,973,000	18,107,000	134,000
TOTAL REVENUE		49,162,809	34,128,188	12,263,640	34,158,188	34,254,188	96,000

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING April 30, 2023

SCHEDULE	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change	
EXPENSES							
OPERATING							
Water Resources Planning & Environment	1	1,979,753	2,373,900	790,278	2,373,900	2,267,900	(106,000)
Flood Forecasting and Warning	2	774,798	923,000	377,815	923,000	923,000	-
Water Control Structures	3	1,667,314	1,944,200	428,107	1,944,200	1,944,200	-
Resource Planning	4	2,229,262	2,574,200	702,687	2,574,200	2,574,200	-
Forestry & Conservation Land Property Taxes	5	1,327,936	1,402,500	493,288	1,402,500	1,402,500	-
Conservation Services	6	449,256	605,700	144,218	605,700	605,700	-
Communications & Foundation	7	406,064	597,500	150,588	597,500	543,500	(54,000)
Environmental Education	8	817,034	810,100	334,576	810,100	819,100	9,000
Corporate Services	9	4,048,436	3,890,790	1,308,247	3,890,790	3,857,790	(33,000)
Conservation Lands	10	2,100,710	2,613,600	931,391	2,613,600	2,542,600	(71,000)
Property Rentals	11	1,257,435	1,665,200	308,560	1,665,200	1,618,200	(47,000)
Hydro Production	12	250,261	95,500	23,304	95,500	95,500	-
Conservation Areas	13	8,144,188	8,500,000	1,116,541	8,500,000	8,500,000	-
Miscellaneous	14	19,233	-	15,919	-	-	-
Information Systems	16	1,171,003	1,557,000	431,539	1,557,000	1,557,000	-
Motor Pool	16	1,001,110	939,000	308,527	939,000	950,000	11,000
Less: Internal Charges (IS & MP)	16	(2,172,113)	(2,496,000)	(740,066)	(2,496,000)	(2,496,000)	-
Total OPERATING Expenses		25,471,680	27,996,190	7,125,519	27,996,190	27,705,190	(291,000)
CAPITAL							
Water Resources Planning & Environment	1	56,922	110,000	16,841	110,000	110,000	-
Flood Forecasting and Warning	2	188,310	190,000	66,051	190,000	190,000	-
Water Control Structures	3	1,347,653	1,500,000	227,820	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
Nature Centres	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conservation Areas	13	934,152	2,000,000	916,252	2,000,000	2,000,000	-
Corporate Services	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Information Systems	16	154,773	170,000	3,672	170,000	170,000	-
Motor Pool	16	615,925	850,000	413,115	850,000	850,000	-
Less: Internal Charges (IS & MP)	16	(390,588)	(241,000)	(661,572)	(241,000)	(241,000)	-
Total Capital Expenses		2,907,147	4,579,000	982,179	4,579,000	4,579,000	-
SPECIAL							
Water Resources Planning & Environment	1	127,969	210,000	51,066	210,000	210,000	-
Flood Forecasting and Warning	2	341,735	90,000	49,743	90,000	90,000	-
Forestry	5	52,653	100,000	1,939	100,000	100,000	-
Conservation Services	6	757,372	1,090,000	451,151	1,090,000	1,090,000	-
Environmental Education	8	26,600	500,000	1,866	500,000	500,000	-
Conservation Land Purchases/Land Sale Expe	10	17,660	-	3,637	-	-	-
Conservation Lands	10	229,921	-	76	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	14	27,323	35,000	102	35,000	35,000	-
Source Protection Program	15	569,995	640,000	131,562	640,000	602,000	(38,000)
Total SPECIAL PROJECTS Expenses		2,151,228	2,665,000	691,142	2,665,000	2,627,000	(38,000)
Total Expenses		30,530,055	35,240,190	8,798,840	35,240,190	34,911,190	(329,000)
Gross Surplus		18,632,754	(1,112,002)	3,464,800	(1,082,002)	(657,002)	425,000
Prior Year Surplus Carryforward		567,177	562,502	-	562,502	562,502	-
Net Funding FROM/(TO) Reserves		(18,637,430)	549,500	-	519,500	405,500	(114,000)
NET SURPLUS		562,502	-	3,464,800	-	311,000	311,000

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-05-23-45

Date: May 26, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Changes to the Land Disposition Process for Section 39 Land Holdings

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-05-23-45 – Changes to Land Disposition Process for Section 39 Land Holdings be received as information.

THAT the 2008 Property Disposition Guidelines for Establishing Standards for Sustainable Development policy be rescinded.

Summary:

The GRCA currently adheres to the 1997 Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) guidelines for land dispositions. More recently, Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, incorporated a number of legislative changes, including the review and approval processes as they relate to disposing of Section 39 lands for conservation authorities. This report highlights the proposed changes related to land disposition process and identifies the approach that the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) will be incorporating to comply with the new legislation.

Part of these changes included updates to Section 21 of the Act wherein the disposition of Section 39 land holdings now requires conservation authorities to provide a notice of the proposed disposition to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry instead of requiring the Minister's approval. Section 39 land holdings represent land initially acquired through financial contributions from the MNRF. The Act now also requires conservation authorities to conduct public consultations prior to disposition of lands that meet specific criteria.

After reviewing the land disposition process, GRCA staff recognized that the 2008 Property Disposition Guidelines for Establishing Standards for Sustainable Development policy should be rescinded to reflect limited opportunities for implementation and changes in building standards.

Report:

The GRCA's current process for land disposition follows the MNRF guidelines (1997), specifically 37.3 Section 7: Policies and Procedures for the Disposition of Conservation Authority Property. This guideline outlines requirements and a detailed process for the disposition of Section 39 lands in order to obtain written approval from the Minister.

At a high level this process includes:

1. From time to time, staff will identify land holdings that are eligible to be declared as surplus, specifically for lands that no longer align with the strategic priorities of the GRCA or the mandates of the Province. When this occurs, staff seek resolution from the General Membership to declare the land surplus and then prepare the land for sale. The report is received and considered in closed session, with all resolutions taking place in open session.
2. Staff obtain an appraisal to determine fair market value of the property.

3. Staff initially approach local government and public agencies to provide an opportunity to consider the purchase of the lands. If the local government / public agencies have not expressed interest in the purchase, the land is made available for sale on the open market and equal opportunity to acquire the property is provided to all interested parties.
4. Once an acceptable offer has been received by staff, a conditional Agreement of Purchase and Sale (APS) is prepared and executed by GRCA staff and the buyer. Among other project-specific conditions deemed necessary, property dispositions are (with certain exceptions) conditional on:
 - a. Approval of the offer by the GRCA's General Membership; and,
 - b. Approval of the disposition by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
5. A report is presented to the General Membership recommending approval of the best offer. The report is received and considered in closed session, with all resolutions taking place in open session. Upon approval, Step 4a above is considered fulfilled in the APS.
6. Staff then prepare and submit an application for approval to MNRF. Upon approval of the disposition by the Minister, the GRCA can proceed to close the disposition. This process could take upwards of 12 months to complete the transaction.

Further, in 2008 the GRCA Board approved Property Disposition Guidelines for Establishing Standards for Sustainable Development that provided opportunities for the GRCA to influence sustainable design and construction when disposing of surplus lands for urban development, which is attached as Appendix A. These guidelines form part of Step 3 of the disposition process and were developed to encourage all urban development that occurs on GRCA surplus lands to exhibit exemplary standards of sustainable development that could also serve as a target or benchmark for others. Since inception, GRCA staff found that there were limited opportunities to enact the objectives of this policy and also received legal advice that incorporating this policy could present barriers to land disposition in urban areas due to the limited influence that the GRCA would have to enforce these standards.

Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, was passed this fall, receiving Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. Several changes were made to the Conservations Authorities Act ("the Act") that are intended to support faster and less costly approvals, streamline conservation authority processes, and help make land suitable for housing available for development.

As a result, disposition processes for Section 39 land holdings have changed for conservation authorities and now include a public consultation requirement and written notice of the proposed land disposition to the Minister.

The public consultation process includes posting disposition information on a conservation authority's website for a minimum of 45 days and is required to include the following information at minimum:

- A description of the type of land that the authority is proposing to dispose of, including details related to (if applicable):
 - areas of natural or scientific interest
 - habitats of threatened or endangered species
 - forestry developments
 - natural hazard features
- The proposed date of disposition
- The proposed future use of the lands (if known)

After the public consultation period closes, the Authority must provide written notice of the proposed land disposition to the Minister at least 90 days before the disposition, which includes

the comments received through public consultation, and consideration taken for the comments. The Minister may determine how we use the funds from the land sale. If there is no direction received, the GRCA will place proceeds into the Land Sale Reserve Fund.

GRCA Approach to Incorporate Changes into Existing Practices

The new legislative changes will not have an impact on the current process under Steps 1 through 4 above and these steps will remain the same. The remaining steps of the process would be modified to reflect the requirements of public consultation. GRCA staff obtained a legal opinion to ensure compliance with the intent of the new legislation. After Step 4 as noted above, the following would take place:

5. A report to the Board summarizing all offers received and a resolution to begin the 45-day public consultation period for the best offer with a draft transaction notice for board approval. The draft notice will contain:
 - Property identification number (for internal use)
 - Location (address, municipality, and GIS Link)
 - a description of the type of land that the authority is proposing to dispose of;
 - the proposed date of disposition; and
 - the proposed future use of the lands, if known.
6. Staff will prepare for public notification, which will consist of:
 - A transaction notification (including the details noted in step 5) will be posted on the Land Disposition webpage of the GRCA website
 - Comments will be received through the website and documented internally. Individuals submitting comments will receive information on how to stay informed on the progress of the disposition.
7. A report to the Board will summarize public comments. The report will include a recommendation to accept the best offer. The report will be received and considered in closed session, with all resolutions taking place in open session.
8. Staff will then prepare a notification to the Minister. If no comments are received by the Minister after the 90-day period, staff will proceed to finalize the land disposition.

This change in process exceeds the legislative requirements in order for the GRCA to effectively implement the change, while ensuring that the General Membership is receiving as much information about the land disposition as required to make an informed decision.

Overall, Bill 23 imposes changes that have an impact on existing GRCA processes for land disposition. The next steps for staff include:

1. Staff will post the updated process on our Land Disposition webpage on the GRCA website.
2. Rescind the 2008 Property Disposition Guidelines for Establishing Standards for Sustainable Development policy. Since inception, GRCA staff found that there were limited opportunities to enact the objectives of this policy and received legal advice that incorporating this policy could present barriers to land disposition in urban areas due to the limited influence that the GRCA would have to enforce these standards. Further, there are other mechanisms that require more restrictive sustainable design, including recent iterations of the Building Code, which recognizes high standards in sustainable design for new infrastructure.

Financial Implications:

There are no anticipated financial implications at this time.

Other Department Considerations:

Land Management staff are collaborating with Strategic Communications staff to develop an online resource to support the implementation of this process.

Prepared by:

Lisa Keys
Director of Land Management

Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

REPORT NO. CW-02-08-15

DATE: February 12, 2008

TO: Committee of the Whole (Administration, Finance and Personnel)

SUBJECT: **Grand River Conservation Authority Property Disposition Guidelines
Establishing Standards for Sustainable Development**

RECOMMENDATION:

That when Grand River Conservation Authority disposes of surplus lands for urban development, wherever possible, processes be used and conditions be placed on the sale of such lands, to ensure that the resulting development of those lands be exemplary leading edge models of green sustainable design and construction.

SUMMARY:

The Grand River Conservation Authority's formally adopted vision, is for a healthy and sustainable natural environment in the Grand River watershed. The Grand River Conservation Authority's mission includes being involved with programs to improve water quality, reduce flood damage, maintain reliable water supply and provide environmental education. As stated in our environmental policy, the Grand River Conservation Authority will:

- Meet or exceed the requirements of all environmental laws and regulations.
- Participate in exchange of environmental management techniques and, where feasible, adopt best available environmental technologies and best business practices.
- Promote ownership, responsibility and accountability for environmental protection and management.
- Increase environmental awareness of employees and the public through training, education, outreach, and communication programs.
- Contribute to conservation of resources through minimization programmes in energy, materials, and water consumption.
- Minimize environmental impact of operations through environmental management programmes to minimize waste generation, air emissions, and effluent discharges.
- Continually improve environmental performance through:
 - Setting and reviewing measurable environmental performance objectives and targets; and
 - Reporting on environmental performance.

To meet the above mentioned objectives the Grand River Conservation Authority would encourage all development that occurs on its surplus lands exhibit exemplary standards of sustainable development that could also serve as a target or benchmark for others.

REPORT:

The Grand River Conservation Authority owns approximately 50,000 acres of land in the Grand River watershed. From time to time small parcels of these lands which do not perform a significant environmental, educational or recreational purpose may be considered surplus to the needs of the organization.

Revenue from the disposition of surplus Grand River Conservation Authority lands must be placed in a special reserve fund, which is only available for Capital Projects that meet the criteria set out by the “Policies and Procedures for the Treatment of Conservation Authority Generated Revenue” (MNR, June 1997). These reserve funds are generally used for land acquisitions that meet the goals of the Grand River Conservation Authority’s approved land acquisition policy.

Municipalities in the watershed are at various stages in the move toward implementation of sustainable development policies. As an environmental agency with the aforementioned policies, it is imperative that the Grand River Conservation Authority ensure that it promotes environmental responsibility to its utmost ability.

As an agency that also has regulatory responsibilities, we need to lead by example, if we are to credibly encourage positive change in the behaviour and practices of others, when it comes to the form and function of urban growth.

There are disposition methods available that will allow us to ensure minimum property development standards for the planning and development of surplus property. We can ensure, through the use of “expressions of interest” and “requests for proposals”, (with specific conditions), that only those organizations willing and able to design and build to these standards have the opportunity to acquire our surplus lands.

The “Policies and Procedures for Disposition of Conservation Authority Property” (MNR, June 1997) require that open and transparent disposition processes be utilized.

Some of the environmental technologies that a developer may propose in response to a Request For Proposal could include:

- Opportunities for district / alternate energy systems.
- Solar orientation, passive and active solar systems, wind, vegetation and landform techniques.
- Ground source heating on an individual or communal scale.
- “Leed Certified” Buildings.
- Rainwater and grey water recycling systems.
- Planting Programmes.
- Minimize impervious surfaces.
- Leading edge storm water techniques.
- Meeting or exceeding the 2012 building code standards for energy efficiency starting now.
- Emissions reductions – “0” footprint.

APPENDIX A

- Renewable energy opportunities such as co-generation and energy from waste. (The cleanest and cheapest energy source is existing energy that is wasted through inefficiency).
- Maximize use of recycled materials.
- On-site composting.
- Setting overall development performance targets such as:
 - % reduction in household water requirements.
 - % reduction in household discharge flows (sanitary / storm).
 - % reduction in household solid waste.
 - % reduction in household energy use (aim for European standard).
 - % reduction in household greenhouse gas emissions

The Grand River Conservation Authority has the ability to ensure through the municipal planning approval process, that the form and configuration of land use provides for the most opportune type of sustainable development. Implementing architectural design and mechanical systems is only one way to achieve improved performance targets. To be able to achieve the most impact, the form of urban development needs to be considered very early in the planning process. Innovative planning from day one will allow for planning to be holistic, system based, and integrated, as opposed to addressing opportunities on a case by case basis. Some technologies such as district energy systems, communal and more efficient ground source heating systems, and building massing opportunities which take advantage of solar orientation can only be properly incorporated when the intent is included from the outset.

The GRCA can enlist the services of leaders in these fields with our selected planning consultants, to ensure that these developments are successful.

Municipalities are starting to promote and demand that these issues be considered. Helping to reduce the “peak” energy requirements of a municipality assists society by reducing the need for new electrical infrastructure, and its resulting environmental impacts.

With the adoption of the motion in this report, staff will be able to share our organizational objectives with municipal staff involved with processing our land development initiatives. Approvals and decisions would come from the shared understanding of common goals. Reduced consumption and discharges will also assist municipalities in reaching population and sustainability targets contained in the Provincial “Places to Grow” policy.

The adoption of this position by Grand River Conservation Authority will help the development application process, and provide assurances to Municipal Councils, staff, and the public, about what they can expect from land development applications that involve Grand River Conservation Authority lands.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

Placing conditions on property for sale may impact the potential selling price by a small amount.

The cost of development of this type is projected to cost between 5 & 10% more than traditional development. It is reasonable to conclude that one third of these additional costs associated with development of this type can be absorbed in market pricing, and two thirds offset by avoiding long term energy supply costs. (Payback over time).

By being at the leading edge of this initiative, grants may also be available to pilot some of these concepts, from organizations such as NRCAN, F.C.M., and A.M.O., to name a few!

OTHER DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

All departments are in support of this initiative.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Tom Smith
Manager of Property

Keith Murch
Assistant C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-05-23-43

Date: May 26, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: ERO Posting 019-6813 - Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-05-23-43 – Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument be approved and submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Summary:

On April 6, 2023, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) posted a proposal for consultation on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) titled “Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument”. The proposal outlines the province’s plan to integrate the Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe into a single province-wide land use planning policy document. Currently, both documents provide high-level direction on land use planning matters that are of provincial interest such as growth management, housing, infrastructure planning, protection and management of agricultural, natural and cultural heritage resources and protection of public health and safety. The proposal, if passed, would result in sweeping changes to the way communities are planned in Ontario.

Should the province move forward with the new Provincial Planning Statement, the government would revoke both the Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The posting is open for consultation until June 6, 2023.

Of note, the province has removed the natural heritage policies of the PPS/Growth Plan in their entirety from the current proposed draft. The ERO posting notes that the proposed policies for natural heritage and associated definitions have not been finalized and will be posted on the ERO for consultation when completed.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) recommends the following:

1. That the province, through their review of the natural heritage sections of the Provincial Policy Statement and Growth Plan continue to recognize the importance of natural heritage and water resource features (i.e. wetlands and watercourses) and systems.
2. That the province clarifies the roles of municipalities and conservation authorities in the identification and management of hazardous lands and hazardous sites.
3. That the document include a requirement for watershed/subwatershed planning to support settlement area boundary expansions, secondary planning and other large-scale planning projects (i.e. planning for potable water, stormwater, and wastewater systems).

Report:

To further promote the objectives outlined in the Housing Supply Action Plan (2022), MMAH has posted a consultation notice on the Environmental Registry (ERO #019-6813) which outlines a proposed merging of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), 2020 and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan) 2019. The province aims to make this

new Provincial Planning Statement more housing and growth supportive in order to construct 1.5 million new homes by 2031.

The PPS is the primary guiding land use planning policy document for all of Ontario. The Growth Plan provides more detailed land use policy direction to address issues specific to the Greater Golden Horseshoe. It focuses on where and how growth should occur and is to be read and interpreted in conjunction with the PPS. The Planning Act requires that planning decisions be consistent with policy statements such as the PPS and conform to provincial plans like the Growth Plan.

The most significant changes proposed include:

- Identification of “large and fast-growing municipalities” where growth must be directed to strategic growth areas
- Removal of intensification and density targets in planning for growth
- Reduced requirements for the identification of new settlement areas and settlement area boundary expansions
- Eliminating the need for municipal comprehensive reviews
- More allowances for residential development in rural areas including agricultural lands
- Prohibiting municipalities from developing policies that are more restrictive than the new PPS and providing a stronger role for Ministerial Zoning Orders
- Reduced requirements for cross-boundary coordination of water management

In 2022, GM-12-22-104 outlined GRCA’s comments on the initial ERO posting where the province consulted on the idea of integrating these two documents. GRCA’s comments focused on natural heritage and water resource protections, reconciling growth pressures in Special Policy Area floodplains and the need for updated technical guidelines to support PPS and Growth Plan policy implementation.

Natural Heritage

Through GM-12-22-104, GRCA’s comments on the initial proposal recommended that the PPS-Growth Plan integrated document maintain the recognition of the importance of natural heritage protection. It was recommended that the province consider the value of not only the features themselves but also the larger Natural Heritage Systems of which they are a part. Given the interrelated nature of ecological and hydrologic systems, it was also recommended that Water Resources be included as a core element in the new planning document. Wetlands, for example, play a key role in reducing impacts of flooding as well as offering water quality improvements and other functions that all contribute to safe and healthy communities.

The province has removed the natural heritage policies of the PPS/Growth Plan in their entirety from the current proposed draft. The ERO posting notes that the proposed policies for natural heritage and associated definitions have not been finalized and will be posted on the ERO for consultation when completed. GRCA will provide comments on that proposal when it is posted. The Water Resource policies of the PPS have remained in the new document but reduced in content substantially.

Natural Hazards

GRCA’s comments on the initial proposal recommended that the policy framework for floodplains should be maintained, specifically policies for One Zone, Two Zone and Special Policy Areas. These policies offer flexibility to existing development, outline more stringent standards for new development, but also allow for risk-based decision-making while balancing local growth needs.

The natural hazards section of the proposed Provincial Planning Statement remains mostly unchanged from the PPS except a new policy was added to ensure that “Planning authorities shall identify hazardous lands and hazardous sites and manage development in these areas, in

accordance with provincial guidance”. GRCA staff recommend that the province provide clarification on the intent of this new policy. Specifically, the policy should include reference to conservation authorities given natural hazard mapping and review of development proposals in natural hazard areas is a mandatory program and service under the CA Act and respective regulations (Ontario Regulation 686/21 and Ontario Regulation 150/06). Municipalities and CAs work together collaboratively to ensure that public health and safety is ensured through the development review process.

Another recommendation was that the province consider the current review and approval process for Special Policy Areas (SPAs). The Growth Plan encourages intensified development in Urban Growth Centres, yet the PPS and other Growth Plan policies limit the amount of growth in these areas. Within Special Policy Areas, increases in density/intensification are not permitted and proposed changes to land use (i.e. residential, employment or commercial) need to be approved by the province. This creates a longer review process for applicants.

The draft document does not include changes to the SPA policies of the PPS or suggest any changes to the approvals process. As noted previously, GRCA staff continue to recommend that the province consult with the CA Working Group (CAWG) to make updates to the associated technical guidance which outlines the process for any proposed policy, land use designation and boundary changes to SPAs (Technical Guide River & Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit, 2002 and Technical Guide River & Stream Systems: Erosion Hazard Limit, 2002).

It is important to note that the new document removes mandatory intensification and density targets for municipalities except for density targets for Major Transit Station areas in large and fast-growing municipalities. This may allow for more flexibility in terms of local needs and directing development outside of SPA floodplains should municipalities choose to do so.

Climate Change

GRCA recommended in the initial proposal that the direction in the PPS to “prepare for the impacts of a changing climate that may increase the risk associated with natural hazards” be carried forward to the new planning document.

Many of the references to climate change in the PPS and Growth Plan have been removed from the draft document, but it does provide some general policies for municipalities to consider climate change in planning decisions. More specifically, it notes that “Potential risks to public health or safety or of property damage from natural hazards and human-made hazards, including the risks associated with the impacts of climate change will be mitigated. This will require the Province, planning authorities, and conservation authorities to work together.”

Subwatershed Planning

GRCA’s previous comments highlighted that watershed (and subwatershed) planning is the most appropriate scale for integrated, cross-municipal planning to consider cumulative effects, protect water resource systems and watershed health, inform urban area expansions and master planning for drinking water, stormwater and wastewater services.

The draft document includes references to watershed planning, however, the requirements laid out in the Growth Plan for subwatershed plans (or equivalent) are now less specific and are only encouraged. Of particular concern is the proposed ability for settlement area expansions outside of municipal comprehensive reviews. A number of criteria are included in the new document for municipalities to consider in identifying new settlement areas and boundary expansions. There is no requirement for subwatershed planning, however, or consideration of the impacts to natural hazards or the natural environment in the list.

Staff recommend that an additional policy be added under Section 2.3 Settlement Areas and Settlement Area Boundary Expansions of the Provincial Planning Statement to require subwatershed planning. Consistent with the Growth Plan, it should also be required for secondary planning or large-scale development proposals. This proactive approach to planning

will better streamline the development review process since requirements (i.e. stormwater management targets) for future development proposals such as subdivisions are outlined in advance of the submission of applications to the municipality. Further, Policy 2.3 (4) should state that planning authorities should consider the protection of (or avoidance of impacts on) water resource systems and the quality and quantity of water in identifying new settlement areas or expansions.

The draft document also excludes Growth Plan policy 3.2.6 (4): “4. Municipalities that share an inland water source or receiving water body will co-ordinate their planning for potable water, stormwater, and wastewater systems based on watershed planning or equivalent to ensure that the quality and quantity of water is protected, improved, or restored”. This is a fundamental and critical issue for the Grand River watershed, where 30 wastewater treatment plants discharge treated effluent and residents in the City of Brantford, Six Nations of the Grand River, Region of Waterloo and City of Guelph are at least partially reliant on the Grand River as a source of drinking water. This policy should be retained in the proposed PPS.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Other Department Considerations:

Water resources staff were consulted in the preparation of this report.

Prepared by:

Melissa Larion, MCIP, RPP
Supervisor of Resource Planning

Approved by:

Samantha Lawson,
Chief Administrative Officer

Beth Brown
Manager of Engineering and
Planning Services

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-05-23-44

Date: May 26, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Provincial Offences Act Officer Designations – Section 29 Conservation Areas

Recommendation:

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority appoint Caden Hammond, Spencer Ireland, and Taylor Schell as Provincial Offences Act Officers to enforce section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

Summary:

Not applicable

Report:

The Conservation Authorities Act, section 29 authorizes the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) to make regulations applicable to lands owned by the GRCA. R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 106 authorizes GRCA to appoint staff members as Provincial Offences Act Officers (POA) to enforce the Act and regulations on GRCA properties, including Conservation Areas and passive land properties.

The focus of the GRCA enforcement program is adapted as required to meet the organization's current challenges. Some of the enforcement issues at GRCA properties include alcohol use, vandalism, off-leash dogs, and trespassing.

Conservation Area Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and Park Operations Technicians are typically designated as POA officers to enforce the Conservation Authorities Act and the Trespass to Property Act. Caden Hammond and Spencer Ireland were recently hired as Park Operations Technicians; Caden works at Laurel Creek Conservation Area, and Spencer works at Byng Island Conservation Area. Both have completed POA training. Taylor Schell is the Senior Security Guard at Elora Gorge/Elora Quarry Conservation Areas, has completed POA training, and has been employed by the GRCA for the past two seasons.

Based upon their enforcement training and prior work experience, these staff members meet the GRCA requirements for appointment, and the criteria established by the Regulatory Compliance Committee of Conservation Ontario, to be designated as Provincial Offences Act Officers.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable

Prepared by:

Pam Walther-Mabee
Manager of
Conservation Area Operations

Approved by:

Lisa Keys
Director of Land Management

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-05-23-46

Date: May 26, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Current Watershed Conditions as of May 15, 2023

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-05-23-46 – Current Watershed Conditions as of May 15, 2023 be received as information.

Summary:

April was a significantly wet month with warmer than usual temperatures. The month started with high temperatures and considerable rainfall which resulted in the loss of the remaining snowpack and significant amount of runoff. Warmer temperatures were observed throughout April.

Two major rainfall events at the beginning of April and on April 22 to 23 resulted in more than 100 millimeters of rainfall across the watershed. The consequent runoff was used to fill the reservoirs to their mid spring targets. The first half of May has been dry with temperatures consistent with long term averages.

Lake Erie continues to be above the long-term average, but below the levels in 2022. Lake Erie is free of ice.

The long-term forecast over the next three months is for near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.

Report:

Precipitation

April precipitation was significantly above normal across the watershed. Two major rain fall events at the beginning of the month and on April 22 to 23, along with few smaller events throughout the month resulted in the entire watershed to receive more than 100 millimeters of rainfall. In addition, rain and warmer temperatures resulted in the remainder of the snowpack to fully melt and contribute to observed runoff. While the large amount of rainfall and snowmelt generated substantial runoff across the watershed, no major flooding was observed as the watershed is still recovering from the observed dry conditions since last year and also reservoirs had enough flood storage to prevent major flooding downstream.

Precipitation over the first two weeks of May on the other hand has been below normal, as shown in Table 1. With the exception of the northern portion of the watershed (Luther Area) where observed rainfall has been slightly above normal, almost everywhere else in the watershed has received rainfall lower than long-term averages, ranging from 44 percent in south to around 84 percent in Conestogo Area.

Trends in precipitation, Table 2, show that over the short term, the watershed is showing signs of recovery from dry conditions in 2022. During the month of April, the watershed received rainfall totals which ranged 36 to 65 percent higher than normal. Over the long term, the precipitation levels appear to be closer to normal averages; however, they are still slightly below the long-term average values, specifically for 12 to 18 month periods. In other words, the

watershed is still in a precipitation deficit. In particular, over the past 12 months the watershed has averaged 88 percent of normal precipitation. A prolonged period of at or above normal precipitation is needed for the watershed to recover from the extended dry period in 2022. A visual representation of these trends for the Shand climate station is also provided in Figure 1.

Table 1: Current monthly precipitation for climate stations across the watershed up to May 15, 2023 including the long term average precipitation for half of May.

Climate Station	Current Month Precipitation (millimeters)	Long Term Average Precipitation (millimeters)	Percentage of Long Term Average Percent (%)
Shand	28.8	40.5	71%
Conestogo	37.8	44.7	84%
Guelph	32.5	39.6	82%
Luther	47.4	44.3	107%
Woolwich	18.6	33.9	55%
Laurel	24.0	41.1	58%
Shades	33.7	40.0	84%
Brantford	16.3	37.1	44%

Table 2: Precipitation trends as a percentage (%) of the long-term average over the last 18 months

Climate Station	Last Month	Last 3 Months	Last 6 Months	Last 12 Months	Last 18 Months
Shand	136%	140%	116%	91%	95%
Conestogo	145%	137%	111%	95%	95%
Guelph	143%	134%	114%	91%	92%
Luther	165%	147%	129%	98%	101%
Woolwich	142%	134%	109%	80%	88%
Laurel	155%	138%	110%	80%	84%
Shades	152%	128%	108%	82%	85%
Brantford	157%	176%	128%	96%	95%

Air Temperatures

April was a slightly warmer than normal month. The average temperature during the month was approximately 1.6 degrees above the long-term average. At the Shand Dam climate station, daily maximum temperatures exceeded 20 Celsius for 7 days during the month of April and daily averages ranged between -1 to 19 Celsius with an average daily temperature of 7 Celsius.

The first half of May was warmer than April with temperatures peaking to mid to high Twenties across the watershed. The average temperatures at the Shand Dam climate station over the first two weeks of May was 11 Celsius which is almost equal to long term average for the first half of the month of May.

A visual representation of these trends for the Shand climate station is provided in Figure 2.

Lake Erie Water Levels

During April, the average lake level was approximately 0.48 meters above the long-term average. Levels remained elevated during the first half of May and are approximately 0.32 meters above the long-term average. The forecast for Lake Erie is for lake levels to continue to remain elevated over the spring months following regular seasonal patterns. Lake Erie is currently not ice covered and is anticipated to remain ice free. Figure 3 shows the range of water levels that are expected over the next six months as well as the observed water levels over the last three years.

Reservoir Conditions

Runoff from the rainfall throughout the month of April and snow melt event in early days of the month has been routed through the reservoirs. With the significant amount of runoff generated by rainfall events in April, the Shand, Conestogo and Guelph reservoirs were filled to their normal spring operational targets and are currently in a good condition.

Reservoirs will be used to manage flows during spring rain events over the next couple of months. The amount of flood storage available will be balanced with the amount of runoff expected from precipitation. Year to date reservoir levels and operating rule curves are shown in Figures 4 and 5 for the four largest reservoirs.

Long Range Forecast

Environment and Climate Change Canada is forecasting near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation over the next 3 months.

Flood Preparedness and Flood Centre Activities

Reservoir conditions are being monitored closely and staff continue to hold weekly meetings as part of planning initiatives, dam operations and flood emergency preparedness. Training sessions on the flood program and emergency management are being conducted frequently for new staff and for staff in new roles.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable

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Figures:

Figure 1: Shand Dam Monthly Precipitation 2019 to May 15, 2023

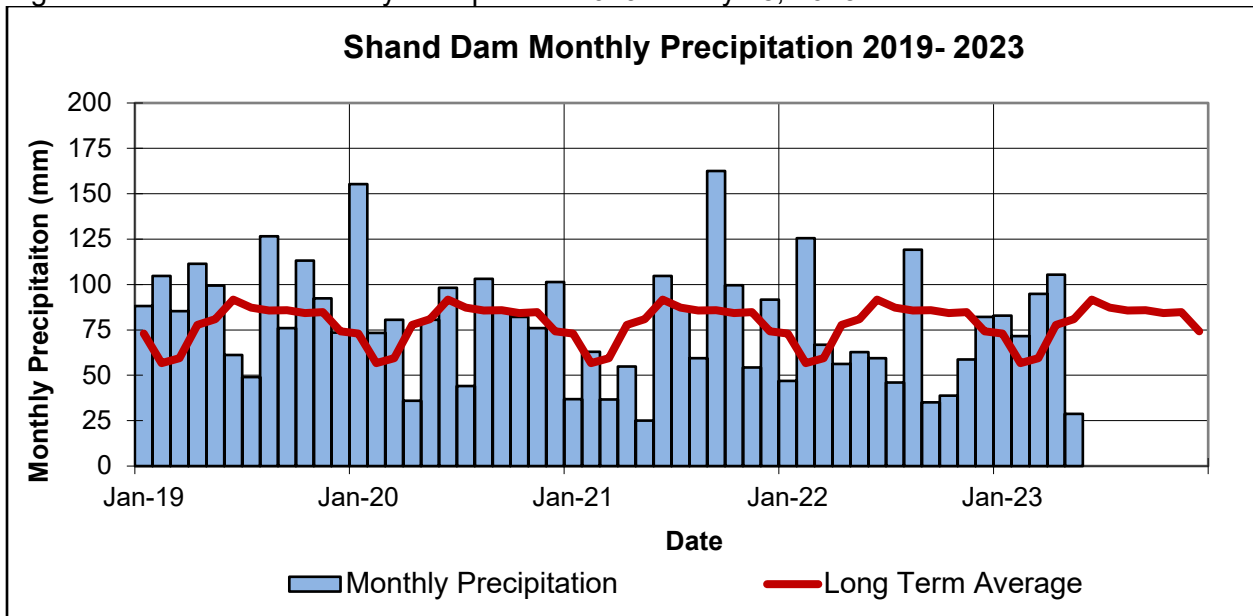


Figure 2: Monthly Average Air Temperatures at Shand Dam from 2019 to May 15, 2023

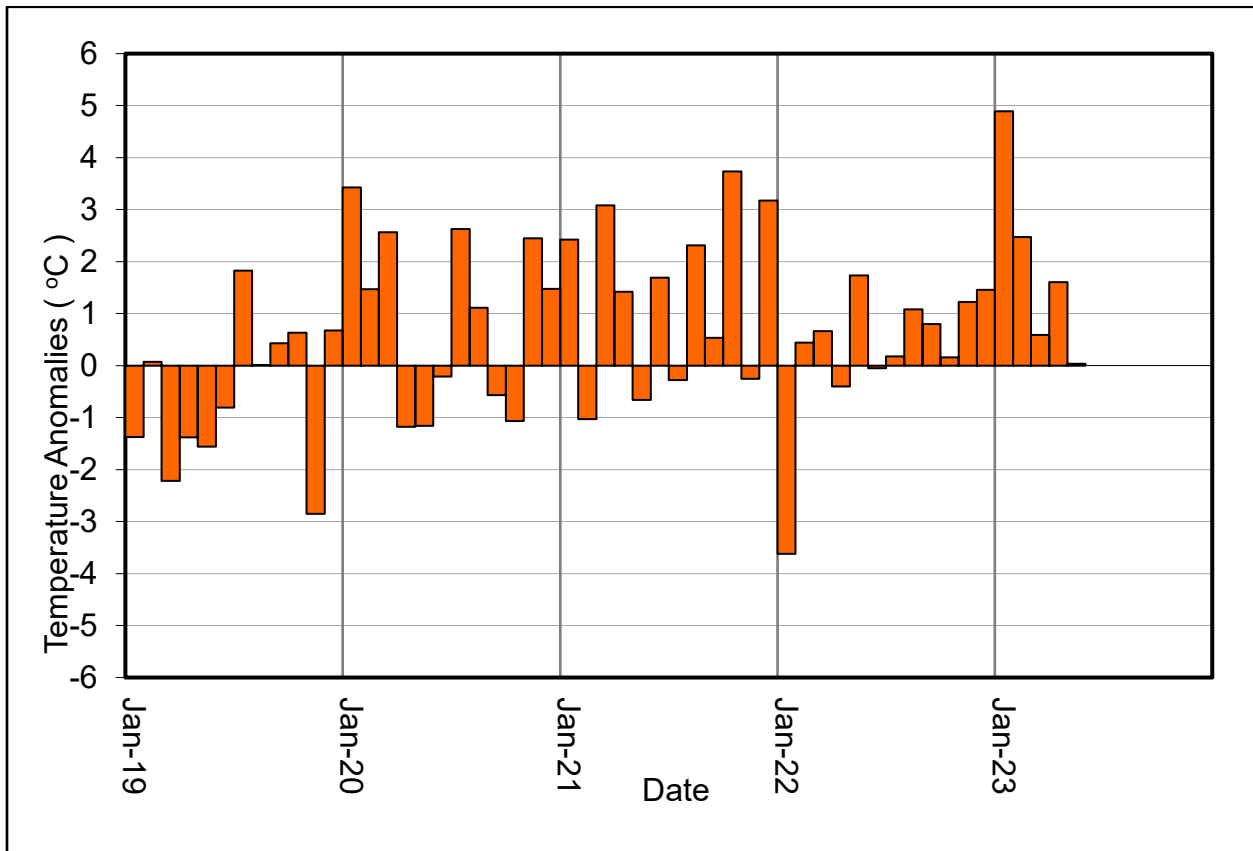


Figure 3: Water levels for Lake Erie at Port Colborne

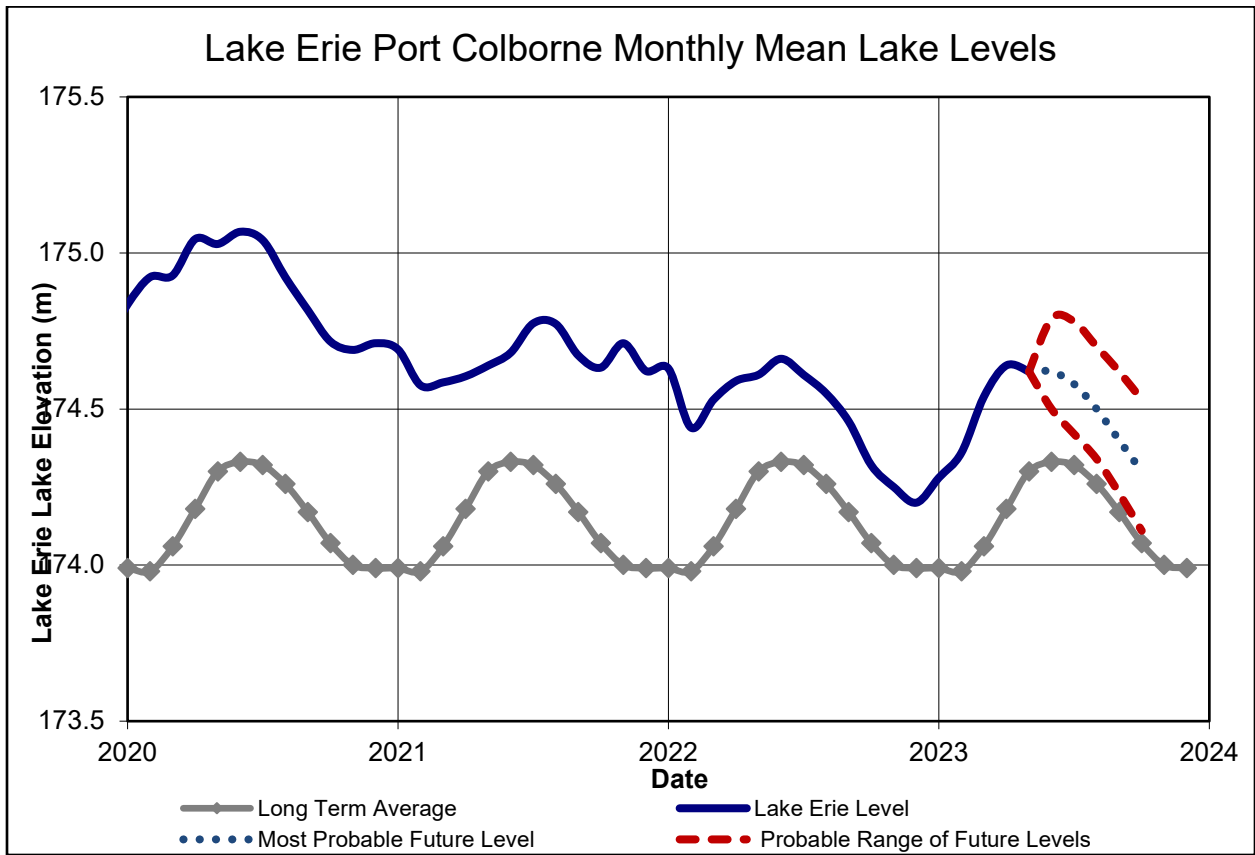


Figure 4: Shand and Conestogo Reservoir Elevation Plots for 2023

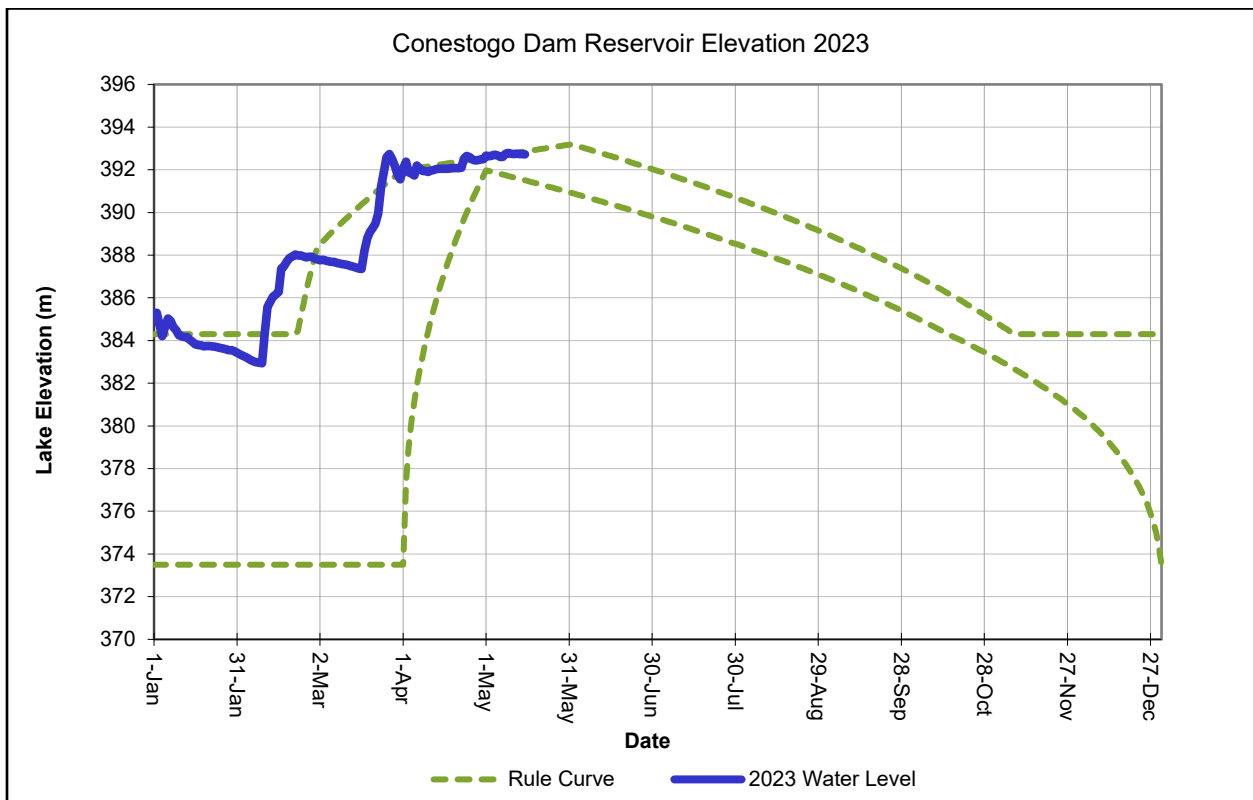
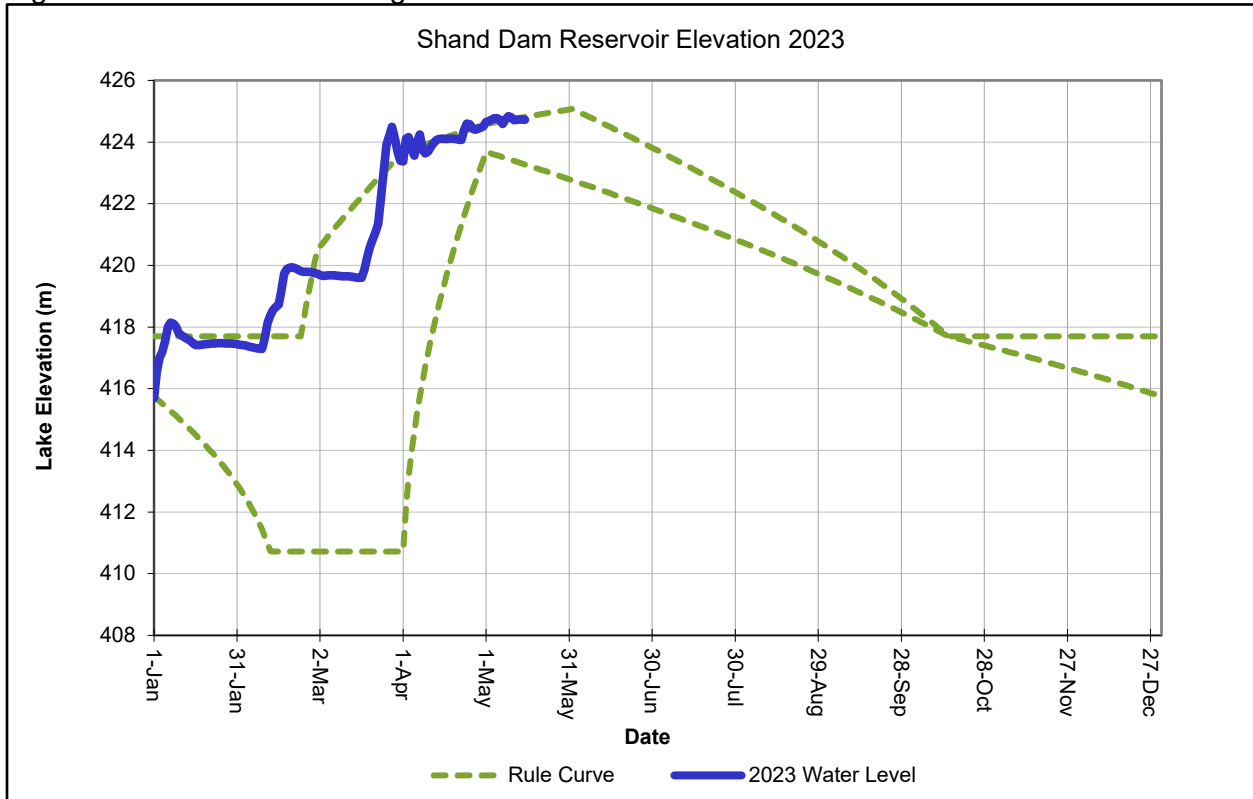


Figure 5: Guelph and Luther Reservoir Elevation Charts for 2023

