



# Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: August 25, 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, Doug Craig, Mike Devine, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Gord Greavette, Lisa Hern, Colleen James, Daniel Lawrence, Dave Miller, Sandy Shantz, Rob Shirton, Jerry Smith, Shawn Watters, Chris White, Kari Williams, Alex Wilson, Pam Wolf

Regrets Brian Coleman, Kevin Davis, Natasha Salonen

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Brandon Heyer, Janet Ivey, Katelyn Lynch, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Jacqueline Delange, Nathan Munn, Eowyn Spencer, Vahid Taleban

## 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to order at 9:31 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 Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- Chair White and Samantha Lawson attended the AMO conference in London, Ontario earlier this week. Many Board members were also in attendance on behalf of their respective municipalities. Thank you to Vice-chair Mayor Sue Foxton and the Township of North Dumfries for facilitating a briefing note prepared by GRCA staff for the Hon. Minister Graydon Smith. The briefing note relates to the Board Composition Committee's request to discuss the Order-in-Council for the current composition of the GRCA Board.
- Staff are organizing a bus tour for Board members for Thursday, September 28. Tour stops will include the Shand Dam, Elora Gorge, and Guelph Lake.
- Jacqueline Delange, GRCA Accounting Assistant, has been named to the CPA's national honour roll for the May 2023 Common Final Examination, ranking among the top 1% of successful writers across the nation. The National CFE Honour Roll recognizes writers whose performance in the exam demonstrated academic excellence and exceptional abilities. Congratulations Jacqueline!

## 4. Review of Agenda

23-116

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Lisa Hern

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

**Carried**

**5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests made in relation to the matters to be dealt with.

**6. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

23-117

**Moved By** Jerry Smith

**Seconded By** Gord Greavette

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of June 23, 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**

23-118

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Shawn Watters

THAT Correspondence from the Region of Halton regarding the 2024 budget direction, and from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation regarding Greenbelt removals be received as information.

**Carried**

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

None.

**12. Reports:**

**12.a Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee - August 16, 2023**

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-119

**Moved By** Susan Foxtan

**Seconded By** Christine Billings

THAT the minutes of the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting of August 16, 2023 be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.b GM-08-23-60 - Cash and Investment Status**

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-120

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Gino Caputo

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-60 Cash and Investment Status – July 2023 be received as information

**Carried**

A.Wilson joined the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

**12.c GM-08-23-62 - Financial Summary**

- D.Miller asked for clarification about the revenues under nursery and woodlot management, and whether it included seedling sales. S.Radoja confirmed that is correct.

23-121

**Moved By** Lisa Hern

**Seconded By** Rob Shirton

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending July 31, 2023 be approved.

**Carried**

K.Chew joined the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

**12.d GM-08-23-56 - 2023 and 2024 Tree Nursery Plan and Tree Planting Fees**

- K.Armstrong shared with the Board that an error had been made in the originally approved 2023 Tree Planting Fees, which has been corrected in the updated schedule.
- D.Miller asked if this is a self-sustaining program, and S.Radoja responded that historically it has relied on levy funding. With the new budget framework being implemented in 2024, the program will rely on surplus allocation from other program areas and noted that timber sales revenues are allocated to the forestry reserve which may be used for this program.
- J.Challinor inquired about billing errors due to the incorrect fees for 2023. K.Armstrong confirmed that the error was made in the fee schedule that was posted online only where some indicated zero dollar amounts and that landowners were provided with accurate information and billed accordingly.
- S.Shantz noted concern over the differential but given that landowners were given correct information her concerns were alleviated.

23-122

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Bruce Banbury

THAT the 2023 GRCA Fee Policy: Fee Schedule 4 – Tree Nursery be approved retroactive to January 1, 2023 as amended;

AND THAT the 2024 GRCA Fee Policy: Fee Schedule 4 - Tree Nursery and Tree Planting Fees be approved and implemented effective January 1, 2024.

**Carried**

**12.e GM-08-23-55 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation**

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-123

**Moved By** Gord Greavette

**Seconded By** Susan Foxtton

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-55 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.f GM-08-23-59 - ERO Posting 019-6813 - Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement**

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-124

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Guy Gardhouse

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-59 – Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument – Natural Heritage Policies Update be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.g GM-08-23-57 - Canadian Heritage River - 30th Anniversary Report**

- S.Lawson highlighted that the Grand River was designated as a Heritage River 30 years ago by Parks Canada. This year, the anniversary report will highlight First Nations communities in the watershed. The GRCA is applying for funding available through the designation program.

23-125

**Moved By** Mike Devine

**Seconded By** Bruce Banbury

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-57 – Canadian Heritage River – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report be received as information.

**Carried**

**12.h GM-08-23-61 - Current Watershed Conditions**

- S.Shantz asked about the reservoir levels and their storage capacity if the watershed gets more rain. K.Lynch responded, noting that most are currently at the upper rule curve but remain lower than the highest level in June. The level supports flow augmentation and flood control, and with the robust network of gauges to monitor levels and flows, there are no concerns with capacity at this time.
- D.Lawrence inquired if there has been a change in recent years to flood management, and K.Lynch noted that the operational rule curves have not changed, but that this year rainfall patterns were steady with lower or localized intensity of storm systems.

23-126

**Moved By** Pam Wolf

**Seconded By** Gino Caputo

THAT Report Number GM-06-23-61 – Current Watershed Conditions as of August 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**

23-127

**Moved By** John Challinor II

**Seconded By** Sandy Shantz

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting in accordance with the *Municipal Act section 239(2)* for the following purpose(s): personal matters about one or more identifiable individuals.

**Carried**

23-130

**Moved By** Susan Foxtton

**Seconded By** David Miller

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

**Carried**

**17.a Minutes of the previous closed session**

**Moved By** Sandy Shantz

**Seconded By** David Miller

THAT the Minutes of the previous closed session be approved.

**Carried**

**17.b Personal matter about one or more identifiable individuals**

Resolutions 23-128 and 23-129 were passed in closed session in accordance with *the Municipal Act section 239(6)*.

**18. Next Meetings**

**General Membership Meeting** - September 22, 2023

**GRCA Board Tour** - September 28, 2023

R.Shirton inquired about treetop trekking and if the GRCA has any locations that may be suitable for such an activity. The Chair noted that staff can consider the inquiry and report back.

**19. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

23-131

**Moved By** Ken Yee Chew

**Seconded By** Daniel Lawrence

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer