



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

Friday, August 25, 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 Meetings | 1 |
| THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of June 23, 2023 be approved as circulated. | |
| 7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes | |
| 8. Hearing of Delegations | |
| 9. Presentations | |
| 10. Correspondence | |
| THAT Correspondence from the Region of Halton regarding the 2024 budget direction be received as information. | |
| a. Halton Region - 2024 Budget Direction | 8 |
| 11. 1st and 2nd Reading of By-Laws | |
| 12. Reports: | |

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| a. | Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee - August 16, 2023 | 9 |
| | THAT the minutes of the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting of August 16, 2023 be received as information. | |
| b. | GM-08-23-60 - Cash and Investment Status | 12 |
| | THAT Report Number GM-08-23-60 Cash and Investment Status – July 2023 be received as information | |
| c. | GM-08-23-62 - Financial Summary | 14 |
| | THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending July 31, 2023 be approved. | |
| d. | GM-08-23-56 - 2023 and 2024 Tree Nursery Plan and Tree Planting Fees | 19 |
| | 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. | |
| e. | GM-08-23-55 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation | 26 |
| | THAT Report Number GM-08-23-55 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information. | |
| f. | GM-08-23-59 - ERO Posting 019-6813 - Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement | 27 |
| | 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. | |
| g. | GM-08-23-57 - Canadian Heritage River - 30th Anniversary Report | 29 |
| | THAT Report Number GM-08-23-57 – Canadian Heritage River – 30 th Anniversary Report be received as information. | |
| h. | GM-08-23-61 - Current Watershed Conditions | 31 |
| | THAT Report Number GM-06-23-61 – Current Watershed Conditions as of August 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 in accordance with the *Municipal Act section 239(2)* for the following purpose(s): personal matters about one or more identifiable individuals.

- a. Minutes of the previous closed session
- b. Personal matter about one or more identifiable individuals

18. Next Meetings

19. Adjourn

Regrets only to:

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

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: June 23, 2023
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership
GRCA Administration Centre
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present Bruce Banbury, Christine Billings, John Challinor II, Ken Yee Chew, Brian Coleman, Doug Craig, Kevin Davis, Mike Devine, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Gord Greavette, Lisa Hern, Daniel Lawrence, Dave Miller, Rob Shirton, Jerry Smith, Shawn Watters, Chris White, Kari Williams, Alex Wilson, Pam Wolf

Regrets Gino Caputo, Colleen James, Natasha Salonen, Sandy Shantz

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Beth Brown, Ron Gasparetto, Brandon Heyer, Janet Ivey, Lisa Keys, Katelyn Lynch, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Marijan Blazevic, Michael Penney, Tyler Slaght, Eowyn Spencer, Vahid Taleban, David Townsend

Others Martina Cotter

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair 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 22 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- The Grand River Conservation Foundation has released its 2021-2022 Report to the Community, which was received by the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on June 21. The Foundation also approved its strategic plan, both of which will be shared digitally. The annual Grand Champions Appreciation luncheon returned on June 22 after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The luncheon was well attended by past and present donors. The Chair thanked Gord Greavette for attending as well.
- The Chair indicated that he and S.Lawson will be attending Conservation Ontario Council on Monday, June 26, Agenda highlights include CO comments on proposed updates to several pieces of legislation and updates on key CO projects and initiatives.

C.Billings and J.Smith joined the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

4. Review of Agenda

23-100

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By John Challinor II

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 Meeting

23-101

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By Doug Craig

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of May 26, 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

K.Yee Chew and A.Wilson joined the meeting during the presentation, at approximately 9:34 a.m. and 9:40 a.m., respectively.

9.a Unauthorized Activity at Rockwood Conservation Area - Pam Walther-Mabee, Manager of Conservation Area Operations

P.Walther-Mabee provided a detailed overview of unauthorized rock-climbing activities occurring at Rockwood Conservation Area, which included background information regarding the property and permitted uses. The presentation included the following key points and discussion:

- The GRCA is a private landowner and is subject to all obligations and regulations of a private landowner.
- Rock climbing has been considered by the GRCA and remains a prohibited activity at the Board's direction, in consideration of safety and liability, required resources to provide direct and ongoing supervision, ongoing maintenance costs and operational agreements, limited emergency access, insufficient infrastructure, and land ownership at this particular location.
- Among the considerations listed, P.Walther-Mabee elaborated on the existing infrastructure in the location of the CA that rock-climbing has come into question, and noted that there are no formal trails or direct access to the area, which creates unsafe conditions and difficulties for first responders in emergency situations. The area is not included on trail maps and is not maintained for public access. The area is home to two species of endangered bats, and natural heritage staff have expressed concerns about public use near significant native species at risk.
- Rock climbing enthusiasts have installed clips and equipment on the rock wall in question without authorization or agreement. Staff have managed enforcement at

the site given that rock-climbing activity is not permitted and have attempted to deter users from climbing at the site. Use has been discouraged through various methods of education and enforcement, up to and including ticketing, and users have been required to vacate the premises. The associated user group has been informed that the removal of the anchors and clips was required.

- GRCA staff hired a contractor to complete the task of removing the equipment.
- There were questions and comments from Board members, inquiring if reconsideration of the activity may be timely, and if speaking to the owner of the adjacent property is an option.
- P.Walther-Mabee noted that the GRCA does not own the entire rock-face in question, which further prohibits the area as an ideal spot for the sport. S.Lawson confirmed that the property owner has previously declined inquiries related to the sale of the property.
- J.Challinor added concerns from the perspective of emergency access to the area for injuries and fatalities, noting that it is a high-risk activity that is a liability with very little benefit.

10. Correspondence

23-102

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT Correspondence from Danielle Ripsman, Colleen B., Liz Maffett, Ben Webster, and Jessie Blake regarding unauthorized rock-climbing activities at Rockwood Conservation Area, and from Jennifer Saunders regarding protection of Ontario wetlands be received as information.

Carried

10.a Rock climbers re: Unauthorized Activity at Rockwood Conservation Area

10.b Jennifer Saunders re: Wetlands Protection

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

None.

12. Reports:

12.a GM-06-23-49 - Capacity Measures and Operational Improvements at the Elora Quarry

- P.Walther-Mabee provided an overview of capacity management and improvements made to operations at the Elora Quarry. The presentation highlighted challenges that significantly impacted the natural environment, the local community, and the user experience at the CA.
- Pre-pandemic challenges included: parking and user line-ups that spilled out to public roadways and other local businesses causing frustration to the local community and traffic gridlock, a significant number of trespassing incidents, limited beach access and overused restrooms which drained staffing resources and caused frustration for users and safety concerns for employees, as well as destroyed vegetation and a significant negative impact on the natural environment. The GRCA relied on the OPP for ongoing traffic control and enforcement support which was effective but costly, and not a feasible long-term solution.
- A lot of consideration was given to addressing the numerous issues at this location. Implementation of capacity management began in 2021 with the installation of perimeter fencing, an online reservation system for timed day-use

and parking fees, and access limited to a specific number of parking spaces and patrons per day. The impact was significantly improved user and employee experiences, and a return of natural vegetation in trails and surrounding natural areas.

- There was discussion from the Board, with questions related to overall cost of improvements, technological requirements of the booking system currently in place and possible upgrades to include an option for conservation area membership pass holders, potential to increase parking and capacity by a limited number of users per day, carpool or transport options from another location, and consideration of overall increases in the cost of living and accessibility of services.
- P.Walther-Mabee responded to questions and provided context or further background in response, noting that some points will require further consideration.
- The Chair thanked staff for the presentation and confirmed that staff will take the discussion as direction to review capacity and the current reservation system and membership card issue. Staff will bring a report back to the Board.

23-103

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT Report Number GM-06-23-49 Capacity Measures and Operational Improvements at the Elora Quarry be received as information.

Carried

12.b Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee - June 7, 2023

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-104

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Gord Greavette

THAT the minutes of the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting of June 7, 2023 be received as information.

Carried

12.c GM-06-23-47 - Progress Report #5 - Ontario Regulation 687/21

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-105

Moved By Christine Billings

Seconded By Kari Williams

THAT Progress Report #5 be approved, circulated to all participating Grand River watershed municipalities, posted on the Grand River Conservation Authority website, and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Carried

12.d GM-06-23-48 - Cash and Investment Status

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-106

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT Report Number GM-06-23-48 – Cash and Investment Status – May 2023 be received as information.

Carried

12.e GM-06-23-52 - Financial Summary

- D.Miller inquired about the special projects environmental education budget of \$500,000 which appears to be over-budget in 2023 given actual expenses incurred in 2022. S.Radoja reviewed the concern and noted that the budgeted amount of \$500,000 is correct, and represents anticipated spending for construction of a new Guelph Lake Nature Centre.

C.Billings exited the meeting at approximately 10:18 a.m.

23-107

Moved By Shawn Watters

Seconded By Brian Coleman

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

Carried

D.Craig and D.Lawrence exited the meeting at approximately 10:20 a.m.

12.f GM-06-23-51 - Request for Proposals - Engineering Consulting Services, Permits and Plan Review

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-108

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Pam Wolf

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority accept the proposal from Stantec Consulting Limited to carry out engineering consulting services up to the amount of \$150,000, excluding HST.

Carried

12.g GM-06-23-50 - Dunnville Two Zone Floodplain Policy and Mapping Update, County of Haldimand

V.Taleban provided a presentation on the report, with the following key highlights and discussion points:

- Haldimand County retained a consultant to complete a floodplain analysis and scoped master servicing plan for a business park located in Dunnville, in support of phase 2 of their official plan update. This was completed to determine if a two-zone floodplain could be applied, and where it could be applied if applicable. The goal of the study is to permit responsible development within the fringe of the floodplain.
- The study incorporated local streams and waterways with modelling relating to local tributaries and headwaters, and the lands with the business park floodplain study. As a result, it has been determined that development could reasonably be permitted within certain locations and within regulations if a two-zone approach were implemented. This would result in a net gain of developable industrial space, commercial space, and residential units.
- Board members discussed the report and inquired about the anticipated results based on current zoning laws, as well as the fringe area of the floodplain, and the regulation and requirement for the benchmark flooding used in modelling.
- There was further discussion regarding benchmark flooding with consideration of climate change and increased extreme flood events. It was noted that provincial regulations and baselines set the requirements for benchmarks.

23-109

Moved By Shawn Watters

Seconded By Mike Devine

THAT a Two Zone Floodplain Policy Area for portions of Dunnville be endorsed;

AND THAT the updated floodplain mapping, as prepared by J.L Richards & Associates Limited (June 2022), be used as the guiding document when dealing with planning matters and permit applications in the study area.

AND THAT amendments to the Grand River Conservation Authority's Ontario Regulation 150/06 mapping be approved to incorporate the revisions to the floodplain and associated regulated allowance.

Carried

12.h GM-06-23-53 - Current Watershed Conditions

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

27-110

Moved By Gord Greavette

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT Report Number GM-06-23-53 – Current Watershed Conditions as of June 14, 2023 be received as information.

Carried

12.i GM-06-23-54 - Foundation Member Appointments

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-111

Moved By Lisa Hern

Seconded By Rob Shirton

THAT Robert Eilers, Jerry Lawlor and Karen Leiva be appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation for a term of three years;

AND THAT Ted Smith be re-appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation for a term of three years;

AND THAT Wayne Fyffe be re-appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation for a term of one year.

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

There was no Other Business.

17. Closed Meeting

23-112

Moved By Gord Greavette

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

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

Carried

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

23-113

Moved By Jerry Smith

Seconded By Lisa Hern

THAT the General Membership reconvene in open session.

Carried

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

17.a Minutes of the previous closed session

23-114

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT the Minutes of the previous closed session be approved.

Carried

17.b Litigation or Potential Litigation

There was no motion required for this item.

18. Next Meeting - August 25, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. (Hybrid)

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

23-115

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Ken Yee Chew

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer



July 13, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Finance Department
Office of the Commissioner
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, ON L6M 3L1

Mr. Chris White, Chair
Grand River Conservation Authority
400 Clyde Road, PO Box 729
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

Dear Chair White:

The Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton approved the 2024 Budget Directions at its meeting, held Wednesday, July 12, 2023 as attached in this letter (Report No. FN-28-23 Re: 2024 Budget Directions), and adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: FN-28-23 – 2024 Budget Directions

- 3. THAT a letter from the Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer identifying the 2024 Budget Directions target not to exceed the following budget increases and a copy of Report No. FN-28-23 be forwarded to the respective boards as follows:
 - a. Halton Regional Police Service 5.7% increase
 - b. Conservation Halton 5.7% increase
 - c. Credit Valley Conservation 5.7% increase
 - d. Grand River Conservation Authority 5.7% increase
 - e. Royal Botanical Gardens 4.0% increase

To achieve the budget directions approved by Regional Council, the budget guideline for Grand River Conservation Authority is a net expenditure increase of no more than 5.7%. A key priority for the Region is to maintain tax increases at or below the rate of inflation. The 2024 budget is to be prepared such that the tax increase does not exceed 4.0%, after budgeted assessment growth of 1.7%. As part of the 2024 Budget process, Halton Region Finance staff will meet with Grand River Conservation Authority Finance staff during the upcoming months to discuss Grand River Conservation Authority’s 2024 budget submission.

Sincerely,

Cyndy Winslow
Commissioner of Finance & Regional Treasurer

Cc: Samantha Lawson, Chief Administrative Officer, Grand River Conservation Authority
Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair
Jane MacCaskill, Chief Administrative Officer, Halton Region

Regional Municipality of Halton

HEAD OFFICE: 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
905-825-6000 | Toll free: 1-866-442-5866



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes – CA Act Regulations Committee

Date: August 16, 2023
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Members Present: John Challinor II, Susan Foxtan, 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 2:00 p.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified with all Members present.

3. Review of Agenda

Moved by: John Challinor

Seconded by: Shawn Watters

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

Carried.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by: Susan Foxtan

Seconded by: David Miller

THAT the minutes of the previous Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting held on June 7, 2023 be approved as circulated.

Carried.

6. Discussion Items:

6.1. Category 2 MOU Update

Feedback from Municipalities

- Samantha updated the Committee regarding the Category 2 MOUs with participating municipalities. The draft MOU was circulated to staff at participating municipalities in June. Leading up to the circulation, GRCA staff provided municipalities with information related to the categories of programs and services and provincial regulatory changes. Additionally, GRCA staff met with municipal staff

who were identified as key project leads and hosted a webinar regarding the MOUs and Category 2 programs and services.

- Samantha reminded the Committee that the new budget framework provides municipalities with a different breakdown of programs and services provided, but the funding requirements for categories 1, 2, and general operating expenses remain approximately the same to what has been included in the general municipal levy.
- Positive feedback has been received throughout the process, and comments on the draft MOU have been received from the majority of participating municipalities.
- Comments and questions received are mainly administrative in nature and relate to items such as the termination clause, apportionment, re-apportionment if one or more municipalities opt out of the agreement, clarification of permitted user fees, and length of the contract.
- Some challenges arose through the process due to changes in the key contacts at some municipalities, and further clarification regarding categories 1 and 2 programs and services has been required.
- With respect to the clause about the ability for the GRCA to charge user fees, staff clarified that they have to include this clause in order to have the ability to charge user fees to third-party users of programs under category 2, not the municipality. There are not currently any user fees of this nature for any category 2 programs or services.
- There was also clarification provided related to the termination clause and the timing of notification. The draft MOU provides a long timing requirement for notification and termination to allow time for staff to seek Board direction on reapportionment, or use of the transition reserve, to finance the difference if one or more municipalities opt out of the MOU.
- Overall, staff at most of the participating municipalities have indicated that they are ready to recommend approval of the MOU, and meetings will continue to be held to provide further clarification and discuss any limiting factors.
- Staff are now looking at finalizing the draft MOU for circulation back to the participating municipalities along with a summary of the feedback provided and any changes that have been incorporated. The final draft of the MOU template will be brought to the Board for approval in September.
- The intention is that the same MOU template will be used for all participating municipalities. Some administrative differences may arise, such as dispute resolution clauses, but the core principles of the MOUs will be consistent.

Extension Request

- Samantha noted that an extension request for the timeline of submissions of the MOUs to the Province is required to be submitted to the Ministry by October 1. An extension would be required if the GRCA is unable to provide signed MOUs from all participating municipalities by the end of the year.
- K.Armstrong added that a timeline is also required to be included in an extension request, to clarify how much additional time would be needed

- At this point it is difficult to determine if an extension will be required, as timelines are subject to change under many contributing factors (ie. Conflicting meeting schedules, Council meeting dates, etc.)
- The Committee discussed the timelines and the provincial submission requirements and generally agreed that finalizing and signing the MOUs will require more discussion and meeting dates, which may be a complicated process and that staff should be directed to make a determination about whether or not to submit an extension request to the Ministry, and if one is to be submitted, staff can determine an appropriate length of time to include in the extension request.
- J.Challinor inquired about Board members providing assistance with discussions if needed with respective municipalities, and S.Lawson noted that in September there may be consideration if needed.
- D.Miller asked for clarification around the impact of one or more municipalities requesting alterations to the MOUs, and S.Lawson clarified that there may be nuances with administrative aspects of the agreements, but that the programs and services provided are a package deal.

Moved by: Susan Foxton

Seconded by: John Challinor

THAT the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee recommends to the General Membership:

THAT staff be directed to submit a request under Ontario Regulation 687/21 for an extension of time beyond the transition date of December 31, 2023 to conclude the cost apportioning agreements for category two programs and services if it is determined that it may be required, with the length of time for the extension request also to be determined.

Carried.

7. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

8. Next Meeting – At the Call of the Chair

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-08-23-60

Date: August 25, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Cash and Investment Status – July 2023

Recommendation:

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

Summary:

The cash position including Notes Receivable of the Grand River Conservation Authority as at July 31, 2023 was \$59,770,256 with outstanding cheques written in the amount of \$50,965.

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
July 31, 2023**

| BANK ACCOUNTS | Location | Type | Amount | Interest Rate |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | CIBC | Current Account | 11,668,072 | 5.40% |
| | RBC | Current Account | 124,292 | nil |
| | Wood Gundy | Current Account | 0 | nil |
| | CIBC - SPP Holding | Current Account | 455,995 | 5.40% |
| | TOTAL CASH - CURRENT ACCOUNT | | 12,248,359 | |

| 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 | 7,549,250 | | 4.55% | | 4.55% not applicable | 237,971 |
| | | CIBC High Interest | High Interest Savings Account | 4,316,956 | | 4.55% | | 4.55% not applicable | 115,580 |
| | | One Investment Savings | High Interest Savings Account | 4,545,335 | | 5.155% | | 5.155% not applicable | 228,333 |
| | October 23, 2019 | Cdn Western Bank | Bond | 2,010,000 | | 2.800% | | 2.78% September 6, 2024 | 55,625 |
| | 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, call date 2025 | 37,326 |
| | December 8, 2021 | Province of B.C. | Bond | 2,050,356 | | 1.180% | | 1.18% December 18, 2023 | 22,978 |
| | 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 |
| | June 28, 2023 | CIBC | Non-Redeemable GIC | 4,000,000 | | 5.250% | | 5.25% June 28, 2024 | 107,014 |
| | | TOTAL INVESTMENTS | | 47,521,897 | | | | | \$1,558,994 |

TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS **\$59,770,256**

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

Investment By Institution

| | <u>% of Total Portfolio</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| C.I.B.C. | 42% |
| Royal Bank | 4% |
| Bank of Montreal | 9% |
| National Bank | 9% |
| Cdn Western Bank | 14% |
| 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-08-23-58

Date: August 25, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Financial Summary for the Period Ending July 31, 2023

Recommendation:

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending July 31, 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 \$435,000 at year-end is anticipated.

Report:

The Financial Statements for the period ending July 31, 2023 are attached.

A. Self-Generated Revenue increased by \$650,000

- Resource Planning revenue decreased by \$100,000 due to decreased volume of plan review, permit fees, and solicitor enquiries
- Environmental Education revenue increased by \$100,000 given the current status of the 2023-2024 school board contracts
- Grand River Conservation Foundation income increased by \$50,000 to fund equipment for the nature centres
- Conservation Area revenue increased by \$600,000 due to revised projection of annual fee revenue.

B. Operating Expenses decreased by \$90,000

- Water Resources-Planning and Environment compensation and benefits expenditures decreased by \$80,000 due to vacancies
- Flood Forecasting and Warning compensation and benefits expenditures decreased by \$136,000 due to vacancies and reallocation of wages
- Resource Planning compensation and benefits expenditures decreased by \$100,000 due to vacancies, although this is offset by an increase in other operating expenses of \$100,000 for consulting services
- Conservation Services compensation and benefits expenditures decreased by \$35,000 due to the ability to reallocate wages to special projects
- Communications compensation and benefits expenditures decreased by \$48,000 due to vacancies
- Environmental Education operating expenses increased by \$229,000 made up of an increase to compensation and benefits expenditures of \$100,000 due to increased staffing requirements, an increase of \$70,000 related to cleaning expenditures, \$50,000 in expenses related to equipment funded by donation income, and \$9,000 related to a repair at Laurel Creek Nature Centre
- Conservation Lands Management compensation and benefits expenditures decreased by \$15,000 due to rate savings

- Property Rentals compensation and benefits expenditures decreased by \$15,000 due to vacancy
 - Conservation Area operating expenses increased by \$200,000 related to increased merchant fees, motor pool charges, and preventative roads and buildings maintenance
 - Information Systems compensation and benefits expenditures decreased by \$190,000 due to vacancy
- C. Net funding from Reserves decreased by \$581,000
- Transfer from Nature Centre Reserve increased by \$9,000 to fund capital expenditures
 - Transfer from Conservation Area Reserve decreased by \$400,000 as a result of the increase in forecast revenue
 - Transfer from Information Systems Reserve decreased by \$190,000 due to reduction in operating expenditures
- D. Funding to Reserves increased by \$35,000
- Transfer to Watershed Restoration Reserve increased by \$35,000 related to surplus created from special projects funding

Financial Implications:

The activity summarized will result in a \$435,000 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 - August 25, 2023

| FORECAST - June 30, 2023 - NET RESULT | | | | \$311,000 |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------|
| <u>CHANGES - JULY 2023</u> | | | | |
| Sch 1 | Water Resources-Planning & Environment | \$80,000 | Compensation & Benefits Expense Decrease (vacancy) | \$80,000 |
| Sch 2 | Flood Forecasting & Warning | \$136,000 | Compensation & Benefits Expense Decrease (vacancy) | \$136,000 |
| Sch 4 | Resource Planning | (\$100,000) \$100,000 (\$100,000) | Self Generated Revenue Decrease - enquiries, permits, plan review Compensation & Benefits Expense Decrease (vacancy) Consulting Expense Increase | (\$100,000) |
| Sch 6 | Conservation Sevices | \$35,000 (\$35,000) | Compensation & Benefits Expense Decrease (reallocation) Funding to Wetland Restoration Reserve Increase | \$0 |
| Sch 7 | Communications | \$48,000 | Compensation & Benefits Expense Decrease (vacancy) | \$48,000 |
| Sch 8 | Environmental Education | \$50,000 (\$50,000) \$100,000 (\$100,000) (\$70,000) (\$9,000) \$9,000 | Foundation Income Increase Other Operating Expense Increase (Special) Self Generated Revenue Increase - School Programs Compensation & Benefits Expense Increase (increased staffing) Other Operating Expense Increase - Cleaning Major Repairs Expense Increase Funding from Nature Centre Reserve Increase | (\$70,000) |
| Sch 10 | Conservation Lands Management | \$15,000 | Compensation & Benefits Expense Decrease (rate savings) | \$15,000 |
| Sch 11 | Property Rentals | \$15,000 | Compensation & Benefits Expense Decrease (vacancy) | \$15,000 |
| Sch 13 | Conservation Areas | \$600,000 (\$200,000) (\$400,000) | Conservation Area Revenue Increase (\$10M to \$10.6M) Other Operating Expenses Increase Transfer from Conservation Area Reserve Decrease | \$0 |
| Sch 16 | Information Systems | \$190,000 (\$190,000) | Compensation & Benefits Expense Decrease (vacancy) Funding from IS Reserve Decrease | \$0 |
| FORECAST - July 31, 2023 - NET RESULT | | | | \$435,000 |

**GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING July 31, 2023**

| SCHEDULE | | Actual 2022 | Budget 2023 | Actual YTD | Previous Forecast | Current Forecast | Forecast Change |
|---------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>REVENUE</u> | | | | | | | |
| <u>Municipal</u> | | | | | | | |
| General Municipal Levy (Operating) | various | 11,580,000 | 12,018,000 | 8,011,999 | 12,018,000 | 12,018,000 | - |
| General Municipal Levy (Capital) | various | 950,000 | 950,000 | 633,333 | 950,000 | 950,000 | - |
| Special Municipal Levy | various | 99,593 | 130,000 | 305 | 130,000 | 130,000 | - |
| Other | various | 536,972 | 800,000 | 1,216,823 | 800,000 | 800,000 | - |
| | | 13,166,565 | 13,898,000 | 9,862,460 | 13,898,000 | 13,898,000 | - |
| <u>Government Grants</u> | | | | | | | |
| NDMNRF Transfer Payments | various | 449,688 | 449,688 | 449,658 | 449,688 | 449,688 | - |
| Source Protection Program-Provincial | various | 569,995 | 640,000 | 244,986 | 602,000 | 602,000 | - |
| Other Provincial | various | 688,888 | 982,500 | 927,212 | 982,500 | 982,500 | - |
| Federal | various | 431,024 | 190,000 | 283,116 | 190,000 | 190,000 | - |
| | | 2,139,595 | 2,262,188 | 1,904,972 | 2,224,188 | 2,224,188 | - |
| <u>Self Generated</u> | | | | | | | |
| User Fees and Sales | | | | | | | |
| <i>Enquiries and Permits</i> | 4 | 591,330 | 590,000 | 351,727 | 590,000 | 550,000 | (40,000) |
| <i>Plan Input and Review</i> | 4 | 598,852 | 554,000 | 307,592 | 554,000 | 494,000 | (60,000) |
| <i>Consulting</i> | 4 | - | - | 3,726 | - | - | - |
| <i>Nursery and Woodlot Management</i> | 5 | 636,389 | 415,000 | 546,873 | 650,000 | 650,000 | - |
| <i>Conservation Lands Income</i> | 10 | 65,050 | 71,000 | 5,066 | 71,000 | 71,000 | - |
| <i>Conservation Areas User Fees</i> | 13 | 11,232,460 | 10,000,000 | 7,564,395 | 10,000,000 | 10,600,000 | 600,000 |
| <i>Nature Centres and Camps</i> | 8 | 519,747 | 500,000 | 354,366 | 509,000 | 609,000 | 100,000 |
| <i>Merchandising and Sales</i> | 8 | 872 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Property Rentals | 11 | 2,910,172 | 3,006,000 | 2,247,542 | 3,006,000 | 3,006,000 | - |
| Hydro Generation | 12 | 589,334 | 580,000 | 384,904 | 580,000 | 580,000 | - |
| Land Sales | 10 | 15,196,404 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grand River Conservation Foundation | various | 435,141 | 552,000 | 72,266 | 552,000 | 602,000 | 50,000 |
| Donations | various | 23,473 | 135,000 | 56,935 | 135,000 | 135,000 | - |
| Landowner Contributions | 5 | 163,602 | 180,000 | 187,788 | 180,000 | 180,000 | - |
| Investment Income | 14 | 866,001 | 1,350,000 | 832,294 | 1,350,000 | 1,350,000 | - |
| Miscellaneous Income | various | 27,822 | 35,000 | 2,807 | 35,000 | 35,000 | - |
| Total Self-Generated Revenue | | 33,856,649 | 17,968,000 | 12,918,281 | 18,212,000 | 18,862,000 | 650,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | | 49,162,809 | 34,128,188 | 24,685,713 | 34,334,188 | 34,984,188 | 650,000 |

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING July 31, 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 | 1,305,091 | 2,267,900 | 2,187,900 | (80,000) |
| Flood Forecasting and Warning | 2 | 774,798 | 923,000 | 619,361 | 923,000 | 787,000 | (136,000) |
| Water Control Structures | 3 | 1,667,314 | 1,944,200 | 1,054,162 | 1,944,200 | 1,944,200 | - |
| Resource Planning | 4 | 2,229,262 | 2,574,200 | 1,281,302 | 2,574,200 | 2,574,200 | - |
| Forestry & Conservation Land Property Taxes | 5 | 1,327,936 | 1,402,500 | 1,061,993 | 1,482,500 | 1,482,500 | - |
| Conservation Services | 6 | 449,256 | 605,700 | 291,089 | 605,700 | 570,700 | (35,000) |
| Communications & Foundation | 7 | 406,064 | 597,500 | 240,868 | 543,500 | 495,500 | (48,000) |
| Environmental Education | 8 | 817,034 | 810,100 | 738,258 | 819,100 | 1,048,100 | 229,000 |
| Corporate Services | 9 | 4,048,436 | 3,890,790 | 2,212,022 | 3,857,790 | 3,857,790 | - |
| Conservation Lands | 10 | 2,100,710 | 2,613,600 | 1,599,602 | 2,542,600 | 2,527,600 | (15,000) |
| Property Rentals | 11 | 1,257,435 | 1,665,200 | 656,391 | 1,618,200 | 1,603,200 | (15,000) |
| Hydro Production | 12 | 250,261 | 95,500 | 40,586 | 95,500 | 95,500 | - |
| Conservation Areas | 13 | 8,144,188 | 8,500,000 | 5,027,314 | 8,500,000 | 8,700,000 | 200,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 14 | 19,233 | - | 36,864 | - | - | - |
| Information Systems | 16 | 1,171,003 | 1,557,000 | 736,359 | 1,557,000 | 1,367,000 | (190,000) |
| Motor Pool | 16 | 1,001,110 | 939,000 | 551,029 | 950,000 | 950,000 | - |
| Less: Internal Charges (IS & MP) | 16 | (2,172,113) | (2,496,000) | (1,287,388) | (2,507,000) | (2,507,000) | - |
| Total OPERATING Expenses | | 25,471,680 | 27,996,190 | 16,164,903 | 27,774,190 | 27,684,190 | (90,000) |
| CAPITAL | | | | | | | |
| Water Resources Planning & Environment | 1 | 56,922 | 110,000 | 23,939 | 110,000 | 110,000 | - |
| Flood Forecasting and Warning | 2 | 188,310 | 190,000 | 103,082 | 190,000 | 190,000 | - |
| Water Control Structures | 3 | 1,347,653 | 1,500,000 | 307,280 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | - |
| Conservation Areas | 13 | 934,152 | 2,000,000 | 1,618,093 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | - |
| Information Systems | 16 | 154,773 | 170,000 | 53,550 | 170,000 | 170,000 | - |
| Motor Pool | 16 | 615,925 | 850,000 | 560,797 | 850,000 | 850,000 | - |
| Less: Internal Charges (IS & MP) | 16 | (390,588) | (241,000) | (1,387,215) | (230,000) | (230,000) | - |
| Total Capital Expenses | | 2,907,147 | 4,579,000 | 1,279,526 | 4,590,000 | 4,590,000 | - |
| SPECIAL | | | | | | | |
| Water Resources Planning & Environment | 1 | 127,969 | 210,000 | 103,917 | 210,000 | 210,000 | - |
| Flood Forecasting and Warning | 2 | 341,735 | 90,000 | 53,216 | 90,000 | 90,000 | - |
| Forestry | 5 | 52,653 | 100,000 | 44,260 | 100,000 | 100,000 | - |
| Conservation Services | 6 | 757,372 | 1,090,000 | 627,940 | 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 | 7,096 | 35,000 | 35,000 | - |
| Source Protection Program | 15 | 569,995 | 640,000 | 281,298 | 602,000 | 602,000 | - |
| Total SPECIAL PROJECTS Expenses | | 2,151,228 | 2,665,000 | 1,123,306 | 2,627,000 | 2,627,000 | - |
| Total Expenses | | 30,530,055 | 35,240,190 | 18,567,735 | 34,991,190 | 34,901,190 | (90,000) |
| Gross Surplus | | 18,632,754 | (1,112,002) | 6,117,978 | (657,002) | 82,998 | 740,000 |
| Prior Year Surplus Carryforward | | 567,177 | 562,502 | - | 562,502 | 562,502 | - |
| Total Funding FROM Reserves (Funding) | | 3,377,001 | 4,653,000 | - | 4,664,000 | 4,083,000 | (581,000) |
| Total Funding TO Reserves | | (22,014,431) | (4,103,500) | - | (4,258,500) | (4,293,500) | (35,000) |
| NET SURPLUS | | 562,502 | - | 6,117,978 | 311,000 | 435,000 | 124,000 |

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-08-23-56

Date: August 25, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: 2023 and 2024 Tree Nursery and Tree Planting Fees

Recommendation:

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.

Summary:

At the December 16, 2022 General Membership meeting, a Fee Policy and the 2023 fees were approved. The Tree Nursery fee schedule for 2023 contained some incorrect amounts and a corrected 2023 schedule is attached in Appendix A for retroactive approval to January 1, 2023.

In preparation for 2024 tree planting, staff are seeking approval for updated tree nursery fees to be effective January 1, 2024, which are included in Appendix B.

Report:

As required by the CA Act, Fee Schedules have been developed that include a listing of the programs and services for which the GRCA charges fees, and the corresponding fee amount for each program and service. The proposed 2024 Tree Nursery and Tree Planting Fees are attached in Appendix B.

Staff recently became aware that the 2023 Tree Nursery Fee Schedule that was approved by the General Membership in December 2022 contained some incorrect amounts. An updated fee schedule for 2023 with correct amounts in attached as Appendix A. The correct amounts were used for communication with and landowners and determining project costs in 2023.

The GRCA annually coordinates the planting of approximately 100,000 trees. In order to facilitate this, there are many individual tasks that contribute to our operating costs such as seed processing, fertilization, soil care, irrigation, weed control, the length of time it takes to grow various tree species to saleable size, lifting trees, packaging trees, transporting trees from our Nursery in Burford, sourcing trees from external commercial nurseries, transporting trees, storing trees in our cooler until they are distributed, and the distribution of all of these trees to tree planting contractors.

The GRCA’s nursery and tree planting programs are currently augmented by municipal levy funds to cover costs. Fees are charged for plant material and planting services and are determined through analysis of operating costs as listed above, market comparators, and inflation. Fees are analyzed and established in the late summer or early fall of any given year for the following year’s planting season.

Due to changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, the tree planting program will no longer be eligible for municipal levy funding as of January 1, 2024. As a result, staff are proposing that some of the surplus from category 3 programs and services will be applied to nursery and tree

planting expenses not covered through fees. This will be discussed further through the budget process.

Tree planting costs are determined through an annual contractor Request For Proposal (RFP) process that occurs over the winter in preparation for the spring tree planting season. Award of these contracts typically requires General Membership approval based on the dollar amounts.

As per O.Reg.400/22 Information Requirements, once approved, the amended Fee Schedule will be updated on the GRCA website, and in other printed materials, as applicable. The Fee Policy, which was approved at the December 2022 General Membership meeting, will be reviewed before the end of 2023 and any proposed updates will be brought back to the Board.

On the second Friday in May every year, the GRCA holds an end-of-season tree sale. All watershed residents are welcome to purchase trees at this tree sale on a first come first-served basis. Trees sold at the sale are left over from the planting season, due to cancelled orders or stock overruns. Trees sold at the end-of-season sale are typically sold at a discount with the hope that trees are planted instead of being composted. The quantity of the discount is determined by staff reviewing the tree species, tree quality and the quantity of trees remaining but it typically ranges from 15%-30% off of the approved tree price.

Starting in 2024, we are no longer offering bulk order discounts as they created customer confusion and invoicing challenges. We do not anticipate a drop in sales as a result.

Financial Implications:

The fees outlined in Appendix B are proposed to be effective January 1, 2024. If any fee adjustments arise during 2024, they would be brought to the General Membership for approval and their impact would be reflected in a forecast adjustment to the General Membership.

Other Department Considerations:

Various departments participated in the preparation of the proposed fee increases.

Prepared by:

Nathan Munn
Supervisor of Forestry Operations

Brandon Heyer
Manager of Central Services

Approved by:

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO, Secretary-Treasurer

TITLE GRCA Fee Policy: Fee Schedule 4 – Tree Nursery
DEPARTMENT Central Services
APPROVED DATE August 25, 2023
EFFECTIVE DATE January 1, 2023

SPRING 2023 PRICING (excluding HST)

| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
|---|---|------------------|---------|--------|
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 25-475 | 500-975 | 1000+ |
| SPA | white pine | \$1.07 | \$0.99 | \$0.82 |
| SPB | white spruce, Norway spruce, European larch, tamarack | \$1.34 | \$1.24 | \$1.03 |
| SPC | white cedar, red pine | \$1.56 | \$1.44 | \$1.20 |
| SPD | balsam fir, red cedar | \$2.04 | \$1.89 | \$1.57 |
| Seedlings sold in bundles of 25, approx. 8-12" in height | | | | |
| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 10-90 | 100-190 | 200+ |
| SPA1 | redosier dogwood | \$1.53 | \$1.42 | \$1.18 |
| SPB1 | silver maple, red oak, hybrid poplar | \$1.79 | \$1.66 | \$1.38 |
| SPC1 | nannyberry, staghorn sumac | \$1.89 | \$1.74 | \$1.45 |
| SPD1 | black walnut, black willow, bur oak, elderberry, highbush cranberry, ninebark, serviceberry, swamp white oak, tulip tree, trembling aspen | \$1.98 | \$1.82 | \$1.52 |
| SPE1 | speckled alder, oversized redosier dogwood | \$2.28 | \$2.10 | \$1.75 |
| SPF1 | American chestnut | \$3.25 | \$3.00 | \$2.50 |
| Seedlings sold in bundles of 10, approx. 12-16" in height | | | | |
| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 10-90 | 100-190 | 200+ |
| SPCP | Large tooth aspen, trembling aspen | \$2.15 | \$1.98 | \$1.65 |
| SPDP | hazelnut | \$2.87 | \$2.65 | \$2.20 |
| SPEP | flowering dogwood | \$3.40 | \$3.14 | \$2.62 |
| Plug seedlings sold in quantities of 10, approx. 10-16" in height | | | | |

| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
|---|---|------------------|---------|---------|
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 10-20 | 30-40 | 50+ |
| SPA2 | oversized highbush cranberry | \$3.02 | \$2.78 | \$2.32 |
| Seedlings sold in quantities of 10, approx. 18-36" in height | | | | |
| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 1 acre bag | | |
| HSM1 | native seed mix | \$143.36 | | |
| 0.28 kg native prairie/meadow seed mix, suitable to cover a 1 acre site | | | | |
| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 1/2 acre bag | | |
| HSM2 | native seed mix | \$71.68 | | |
| 0.14 kg native prairie/meadow seed mix, suitable to cover a 1/2 acre site | | | | |
| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 5-25 | 30-45 | 50+ |
| SPB2 | oversized hazelnut | \$5.37 | \$4.96 | \$4.13 |
| Seedlings sold in quantities of 5, approx. 18-36" in height | | | | |
| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 1-20 | 30-40 | 50+ |
| SSS1 | butternut | \$4.52 | \$4.18 | \$3.48 |
| Seedlings sold in individually, approx. 12-14" in height | | | | |
| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 5-25 | 30-45 | 50+ |
| WPA | silver maple | \$16.88 | \$15.58 | \$12.98 |
| WPB | (none currently in this code) | \$18.06 | \$16.67 | \$13.89 |
| WPC | black cherry, Kentucky coffee, sugar maple, swamp white oak, bur oak, white oak, red oak | \$19.50 | \$18.00 | \$15.00 |
| Whips sold in bundles of 5, 3-4' in height | | | | |
| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 5-25 | 30-45 | 50+ |
| TPA | silver maple | \$29.14 | \$26.90 | \$22.41 |
| TPB | gray birch, sugar maple, | \$30.77 | \$28.40 | \$23.67 |
| TPC | bitternut hickory, bur oak, black cherry, red oak, white oak, Kentucky coffee, red maple, swamp white oak | \$31.69 | \$29.25 | \$24.37 |
| Saplings sold in bundles of 5, 5'+ in height | | | | |

| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
|---|--|------------------|---------|---------|
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 1-29 | 30-49 | 50+ |
| PPA | 1 gal Norway spruce | \$10.28 | \$9.49 | \$7.91 |
| PPB | alternate dogwood, gray dogwood, highbush cranberry, nannyberry, fragrant sumac, ninebark, sumac, serviceberry | \$13.27 | \$12.25 | \$10.01 |
| PPC | buttonbush, hazelnut, white cedar, witch hazel | \$20.58 | \$19.00 | \$15.83 |
| PPD | white spruce, white pine, black cherry, hackberry, sugar maple, red maple, tulip tree, white birch, hemlock | \$23.65 | \$21.83 | \$18.19 |
| PPE | flowering dogwood | \$30.12 | \$27.81 | \$23.17 |
| PPF | large potted deciduous | \$46.59 | | |
| Potted trees sold individually | | | | |
| | | QUANTITY ORDERED | | |
| PRICE CODE | DESCRIPTION | 1-29 | 30-49 | 50+ |
| WRAPS | rodent guards | \$1.37 | \$1.27 | \$1.05 |
| 30" tree wraps used to deter girdling by rodents & rabbits | | | | |
| DIS | mulch mats | \$1.65 | \$1.52 | \$1.27 |
| Coco disks used to assist in controlling competitive vegetation | | | | |

PLEASE NOTE: Tree species availability and quantities may vary year over year

Prices are per item and sold in bundles as indicated; are subject to change without notice; do not include HST; and are F.O.B. the cold storage facility in Cambridge. Due to higher costs of producing small orders, the total order must have a minimum of 200 seedling trees or 20 Saplings and/or Pots.

A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$50.00 MUST ACCOMPANY EACH TREE ORDER. THIS WILL BE APPLIED TOWARDS THE FINAL INVOICE WHICH WILL BE SENT OUT PRIOR TO TREE PICK-UP.

TITLE GRCA Fee Policy: Fee Schedule 4 – Tree Nursery
DEPARTMENT Central Services
APPROVED DATE August 25, 2023
EFFECTIVE DATE January 1, 2024

Trees, shrubs, plant material:

| Price Code | Description and Examples | Price per item |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| PPA | 1-gallon potted conifers and shrubs (e.g. Norway spruce, white cedar, chokeberry) | \$11.32 |
| PPB | 2-gallon potted shrubs and cedars (e.g. 50cm+ gray dogwood, high bush cranberry, nannyberry, pussy willow, redbud, white cedar) | \$15.88 |
| PPC | 2-gallon potted conifers and small deciduous trees (e.g. 50cm+ Norway spruce, white spruce, tamarack, white pine; 60cm+ sycamore, black walnut, hoptree) | \$20.58 |
| PPD | 2-gallon potted deciduous trees and 4-gallon potted conifers (e.g. 2 gallon 80cm+ bur oak, red maple, hackberry, trembling aspen; 4 gallon 40cm+ hemlock, 4 gallon 60cm+ Norway spruce) | \$26.85 |
| PPE | 2-gallon potted trees of rare and/or difficult to grow species (e.g. flowering dogwood, American chestnut, butternut) | \$35.13 |
| PPF | 10–15-gallon large potted deciduous trees (e.g. 200cm+ bur oak, Kentucky coffee tree, sugar maple) | \$85.26 |
| SPA | 15cm+ bare root conifer seedlings (e.g. white pine, red pine) | \$1.20 |
| SPA1 | 20cm+ bare root deciduous seedlings (e.g. redosier dogwood, silver maple) | \$1.60 |
| SPB | 20cm+ bare root conifer seedlings (e.g. white spruce, Norway spruce, tamarack) | \$1.30 |
| SPB1 | 20cm+ bare root deciduous seedlings (e.g. gray dogwood, staghorn sumac, white birch) | \$1.75 |
| SPC | 25cm+ bare root conifers (e.g. white cedar) | \$1.50 |
| SPC1 | 20cm+ bare root deciduous seedlings (e.g. black walnut, ninebark, red oak, white oak) | \$1.80 |
| SPD | 20cm+ bare root conifers (e.g. balsam fir, eastern hemlock) | \$2.15 |
| SPD1 | 20cm+ bare root deciduous seedlings (e.g. bitternut hickory, bur oak, sycamore, sugar maple, high bush cranberry) | \$2.10 |

| Price Code | Description and Examples | Price per item |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
| TPA | 150cm+ bare root saplings (e.g. silver maple) | \$29.59 |
| TPB | 150cm+ bare root saplings (e.g. sugar maple, red maple) | \$31.24 |
| TPC | 150cm+ bare root saplings (e.g. black cherry, black oak, red oak) | \$32.18 |
| WPA | 90-150cm+ bare root whips (e.g. silver maple) | \$17.14 |
| WPB | 90-150cm+ bare root whips (e.g. red maple, sugar maple) | \$18.34 |
| WPC | 90-150cm+ bare root whips (e.g. red oak, swamp white oak, white birch) | \$19.80 |
| HPL | Herbaceous plug of native wildflower and grass species (e.g. big bluestem, Indian grass, boneset, wild bergamot) | \$1.25 |
| WRAPS | Spiral tree trunk guard | \$1.25 |
| MAT | Mulch mat | \$1.50 |

Planting Services:

| Stock Type | Description | Price per tree |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Tall Stock Planting Fee | Fee for hand planting of tall stock, i.e. potted and/or saplings and/or whips. Fee includes installation of mulch mats and tree wraps as required. | \$12.00 |
| Seedling Planting Fee | Fee for hand or machine planting of seedling sized trees. Fee includes spraying of herbicide as required. | \$2.00 |

PLEASE NOTE: Tree species availability and quantities may vary year over year

Prices are per item and sold in bundles as indicated; are subject to change without notice; do not include HST; and are F.O.B. the cold storage facility in Cambridge. Due to higher costs of producing small orders, the total order must have a minimum of 200 seedling trees or 20 Saplings and/or Pots.

A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$50.00 MUST ACCOMPANY EACH TREE ORDER. THIS WILL BE APPLIED TOWARDS THE FINAL INVOICE WHICH WILL BE SENT OUT PRIOR TO TREE PICK-UP.

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-08-23-55

Date: August 28, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

Recommendation:

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

Summary:

To provide the General Membership of the Grand River Conservation Authority with a quarterly summary of permits approved and issued by staff which conform to current Grand River Conservation Authority policies for the Administration of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation Ontario Regulation 150/06.

Report:

April, May, and June 2023 total number of Permits approved and issued: **238**

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|
| City of Brantford: | 12 | Town of Milton: | 2 | Township of Norwich: | 1 |
| City of Cambridge: | 20 | Township of Amaranth: | 8 | Township of Perth East: | 5 |
| City of Guelph: | 7 | Township of Blandford-Blenheim: | 2 | Township of Puslinch: | 14 |
| City of Hamilton: | 15 | Township of Centre Wellington: | 18 | Township of Southgate: | 4 |
| City of Kitchener: | 12 | Township of Guelph/Eramosa: | 10 | Township of Wellesley: | 8 |
| City of Waterloo: | 7 | Township of East Garafraxa: | 3 | Township of Wellington North: | 1 |
| County of Brant: | 22 | Township of Mapleton: | 12 | Township of Wilmot: | 11 |
| Haldimand County: | 16 | Township of Melancthon: | 2 | Township of Woolwich: | 11 |
| Town of Erin: | 7 | Township of North Dumfries: | 5 | | |

Financial Implications:

Not Applicable.

Other Department Considerations:

Not Applicable.

Prepared by:

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Beth Brown
Manager of Engineering and
Planning Services

Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-08-23-59

Date: August 25, 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 – Natural Heritage Policies Update

Recommendation:

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.

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 posting outlines the province’s plan to integrate the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe into a single province-wide land use planning policy document.

Should the province move forward with the new Provincial Planning Statement, the government would revoke the Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The posting was initially open for consultation until June 6, 2023. It was noted that the province had removed the natural heritage policies of the PPS/Growth Plan from the proposed draft and that, once finalized, would be posted on the ERO for consultation. GM-05-23-43 outlined the proposed changes and GRCA comments which were approved by the General Membership on May 26, 2023, and submitted to the Province.

On May 30, 2023, the comment period was extended to August 4, 2023. The posting was also updated on June 16, 2023, to provide notice that natural heritage policies were posted for public input. The previous natural heritage policies of the Provincial Policy Statement have been placed back into the new Provincial Planning Statement in their entirety. Only minor modifications to the associated definitions have been made. The detailed policies within the Growth Plan related to natural heritage systems and features have not been carried over.

Report:

In 2022, report GM-12-22-104 outlined GRCA’s comments on the initial ERO posting where the province consulted on the idea of integrating the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), 2020 and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan) 2019. GRCA’s comments focused on natural heritage and water resource protections, reconciling growth pressures in Special Policy Area floodplains and updating technical guidelines to support PPS and Growth Plan policy implementation.

On April 6, 2023, as noted in report GM-05-23-43, MMAH posted a consultation notice on the Environmental Registry (ERO #019-6813), which outlined a proposed merging of the PPS and Growth Plan into a single province-wide land use planning document. 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. Both policy documents include requirements to protect natural heritage features and systems while balancing growth needs.

Natural Heritage Policies

The role of natural heritage features, particularly wetlands, in flood hazard management has long been recognized. Acting like sponges, they hold onto floodwaters and release water slowly into streams and rivers, reducing flood-related impacts on the landscape. For the same reason, wetlands also reduce drought impacts as water is released into rivers and streams over time, even under extended periods of low precipitation.

Through report GM-12-22-104, GRCA's comments on the initial proposal recommended that the new PPS 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.

No changes have been proposed to the Natural Heritage policies in the new PPS based on the update to the ERO posting on June 16th. Therefore, development continues to be prohibited in areas like provincially significant wetlands in specific areas of the province, including the Grand River watershed. Development is also restricted in or near sensitive natural heritage features to protect their hydrologic functions. Furthermore, policies continue to require that "natural features and areas shall be protected for the long term" (Policy 4.1.1) and "The diversity and connectivity of natural features in an area, and the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of natural heritage systems, should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing linkages between and among natural heritage features and areas, surface water features and ground water features" (Policy 4.1.2).

The more prescriptive policies contained within the Growth Plan for natural heritage systems and features have not been carried over into the PPS. For example, policies that require distances from features for certain types of development and requirements for environmental or hydrologic studies are not included.

Implementation of Provincial natural heritage policies will be through incorporation into municipal official plans and development application review processes.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable.

Prepared by:

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Beth Brown
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Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-08-23-57

Date: Friday August 25, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Canadian Heritage River – 30th Anniversary Report

Recommendation:

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

Summary:

2024 will mark the 30th anniversary of the designation of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River. A 10-year report will be prepared for Parks Canada summarizing events, actions, stewardship, studies, and changes to cultural and recreation heritage over the period of 2014-2024. Development of the report is an opportunity to advance GRCA's Strategic Plan priority to enhance Indigenous awareness, understanding, and relationships.

Report:

The Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) is a national program for recognizing Canadian rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational heritage. The Grand River and its main tributaries (Eramosa, Speed, Conestogo, and Nith) were designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1994. Table 1 summarizes the cultural and recreational features for which the Grand River was designated.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) is the custodian of The Grand Strategy, the collaborative management plan originally developed to promote and maintain the river's heritage. The designation carries no regulatory or legal authority or restrictions.

TABLE 1: CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL HERITAGE VALUES OF THE GRAND RIVER.

| Cultural (Human) Heritage | Recreational Heritage |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The watershed's cultural mosaic since the mid-19th century• The strong association of Indigenous Peoples with the watershed for thousands of years• The Grand River's industrial heritage• Human adaptation to fluctuating river flows• The many famous people associated with the watershed | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water sports: paddling, sailing, power boating, water skiing and swimming• Nature/scenic appreciation: picnicking, camping, bird watching and photography• Fishing and hunting• Trails and corridors: pedestrian and/or equestrian trails, scenic drives, cycling routes, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling trails• Human heritage appreciation: historic walking tours, historic buildings, events and festivals |

To maintain the designation, GRCA submits short annual reports to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, via Parks Canada, the CHRS Secretariat. Every 10 years, a more extensive monitoring report is required. The reports describe events, actions, stewardship, research and studies, and changes and threats to cultural and recreational heritage. While GRCA actions and activities are included, the reports are broad, documenting available information on cultural and

recreational heritage along the Grand River. The next 10-year report will mark the 30th anniversary of the designation and will cover the 2014-2024 period.

Since the previous report, the federal government has endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action have been released, and residential school legacies and land claims are becoming better understood. The upcoming 10-year report is an opportunity to advance GRCA's Strategic Plan priority to enhance Indigenous awareness, understanding, and relationships. Opportunities could include engaging the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River in development of the 10-year report; incorporating information about treaties, land claims, and local activities; and partnering on a community event. For example, a recent CHRS report for the Boundary Waters-Voyageur River drew on observations gathered during a canoe monitoring trip with Indigenous youth.

During the fall of 2023, staff will develop a work plan to create the 10-year report. Sources of information for the report may include a scan of websites to gather information on events and activities, Indigenous engagement, meetings with municipal heritage staff, and a survey targeting the recreation industry and/or the public. A draft of the 10-year report will be submitted for review by Parks Canada in late 2024.

Financial Implications:

In the context of recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, maintenance of the Canadian Heritage River designation is a Category 3 (Authority) program. Expenses associated with maintaining the designation could be covered by GRCA's self-generated revenues or external grants. It is anticipated that Parks Canada may provide funding for up to 50% of the costs of the 10-year report, to a maximum of \$5,000. Additional federal funding may be available for replacement of two heritage river plaques lost to vandalism.

Other Department Considerations:

Staff from the Water Management Division, Land Management Division, and Communications will be engaged in developing the work plan for the 10-year report.

Prepared by:

Janet Ivey
Manager of Water Resources

Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-08-23-61

Date: August 25, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Current Watershed Conditions as of August 15, 2023

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-06-23-61 – Current Watershed Conditions as of August 15, 2023 be received as information.

Summary:

July was a wet month with average temperatures. The month started with high temperatures and above normal rainfall which allowed the reservoirs to be filled to normal summer operating targets. From mid-June to end of July the watershed experienced warmer temperatures and above normal precipitation resulting in an average monthly temperature with above normal rainfall.

Rainfall in July exceeded 150 percent of the long-term average at all climate stations in the watershed with stations in Guelph, Woolwich and Cambridge experiencing more than twice the normal rainfall for the month of July.

Groundwater levels are showing signs of recovery from all-time lows experienced throughout most of 2022.

Lake Erie continues to be above the long-term average, and close to the levels in 2022.

Although precipitation and streamflow indicators suggest that the watershed has returned to normal conditions; the watershed remains in a Level 1 Low Water condition pending confirmation of recovery of groundwater conditions anticipated to be obtained in early September.

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

Report:

Precipitation

Through the months of February, March and April, the watershed received significant amounts of precipitation in the form of rainfall and snow. This trend towards recovery reversed during the latter half of May into early June. After experiencing a relatively dry May and first half of June, the watershed received significant rainfall in the latter half of June and through July.

Precipitation over the first two weeks of August has varied across the watershed between 80 percent and 173 percent of the long-term averages for the first half of the month as shown in Table 1. This is largely attributed to the localized nature of summer thunderstorms which result in high intensity events occurring in portions of the watershed. For example, Brantford received 34.4 millimeters of rainfall on August 15, which is more than half of the total rainfall observed at Brantford in August, whereas Shand Dam only received 0.4 millimeters during the same event representing only about 1 percent of the total rainfall observed at Shand in August.

Trends in precipitation, Table 2, show that over the short-term the watershed has experienced more rainfall than normal with 200 percent of the rainfall typical for July occurring at Guelph,

Woolwich and Cambridge (Shades) and all other locations above 150 percent. A map of the total rainfall for July has been included as Figure 9 based on the proprietary radar mapping software Hydromaster developed by Kisters. Over the mid-term, the watershed has recovered from dry conditions in 2022 with above normal precipitation at all locations except Waterloo (Laurel). Over the long term, the precipitation levels appear to have returned to normal averages. A visual representation of these trends for the Shand climate station is provided in Figure 1.

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

| Climate Station | Current Month Precipitation (millimeters) | Long Term Average Precipitation (millimeters) | Percentage of Long Term Average Percent (%) |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Shand | 51.6 | 42.9 | 120% |
| Conestogo | 35.2 | 44.1 | 80% |
| Guelph | 52.0 | 39.1 | 133% |
| Luther | 64.6 | 43.7 | 148% |
| Woolwich | 37.4 | 37.8 | 99% |
| Laurel | 50.0 | 38.8 | 129% |
| Shades | 64.1 | 37.0 | 173% |
| Brantford | 50.0 | 34.0 | 147% |

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 | 162% | 112% | 124% | 104% | 100% |
| Conestogo | 184% | 121% | 128% | 108% | 103% |
| Guelph | 195% | 119% | 126% | 105% | 100% |
| Luther | 179% | 127% | 135% | 113% | 108% |
| Woolwich | 204% | 124% | 128% | 103% | 98% |
| Laurel | 151% | 96% | 114% | 93% | 87% |
| Shades | 208% | 132% | 130% | 104% | 96% |
| Brantford | 168% | 109% | 137% | 106% | 101% |

Air Temperatures

July was a normal month for temperatures across the watershed. Warmer temperatures at the beginning of the month and cooler temperatures over the last two weeks of the month resulted in a monthly temperature consistent with the long-term average at the Shand Dam climate station. The average temperature across the watershed during the month of July was 0.3 degrees above the long-term average. At the Shand Dam climate station, daily maximum temperatures exceeded 25 degrees Celsius for 15 days during the month of July and

daily averages ranged between 16.0 to 24.0 degrees Celsius with an average daily temperature of 20.3 degrees Celsius.

The first half of August was cooler than July with temperatures peaking from mid-Teens to high-Twenties across the watershed. The average temperatures at the Shand Dam climate station over the first two weeks of August was 19.1 degrees Celsius which is 0.5 degrees cooler than the long-term average for the first half of the month of August.

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

Lake Erie Water Levels

During July, the average lake level was approximately 0.25 meters above the long-term average. Levels remained elevated during the first half of August and are approximately 0.29 meters above the long-term average. The forecast for Lake Erie is for lake levels to continue to remain above the long-term average over the summer and fall months following regular seasonal patterns. 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

Significant precipitation in the latter half of June and through July has filled the reservoirs to normal summer operating levels with flows being managed to follow the upper rule curve. The Luther Dam reservoir has been consistently above the upper rule curve throughout July. This can be attributed to the relatively high inflows resulting from above-normal precipitation in July to the reservoir. Flows through the watershed continue to be above the flow augmentation targets, with increased inflows to the Shand Dam reservoir as well. As a result, there has been a reduced necessity to draw down the Luther reservoir for flow augmentation downstream of the Luther and Shand Dam reservoirs. Notwithstanding, there remains sufficient storage available in Luther reservoir to provide flood control.

Reservoirs will be used to manage flows during summer and fall rain events over the next couple of months as well as to augment the flows above the low flow targets as needed. 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.

The reservoirs have been used for augmentation to meet low flow targets between summer thunderstorms. Approximately 20 to 60 percent of the flows in the Grand River through Kitchener and approximately 10 to 30 percent of the flows in the Grand River through Brantford having been augmented from the reservoirs during periods without rainfall (reference. Figure 6). On the Speed River approximately 10 to 30 percent of the water downstream of Guelph has been augmented from reservoir discharges (reference. Figure 7).

Groundwater

Groundwater levels in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network and Grand River Conservation Authority monitoring wells across the watershed were analyzed to the end of June and are shown in Figure 8.

Water levels in monitoring wells were low going into the summer with historic lows observed at several wells within the watershed in 2022. As of the last watershed wide sampling, water levels in monitoring wells had improved slightly due to moderate precipitation in June. Significant precipitation in July is anticipated to have improved groundwater conditions back to normal ranges across the watershed. The available data for monitored wells in Dundalk and Burford show recovery of groundwater levels from the Tenth percentile at the end of June to the sixtieth percentile and the Twenty-fifth percentile, respectively, to the end of July (i.e. within normal range).

Long Range Forecast

Environment and Climate Change Canada is forecasting average probability of near normal precipitation (low confidence) and average probability of above normal temperatures (low confidence) over the next 3 months.

Low Water Response

Due to low precipitation in May and the first half of June, the Low Water Response Team met to discuss the potential of moving the watershed from a Level 1 condition to a Level 2 condition. The result of the meeting was to maintain the Level 1 condition and reassess at the end of June. Significant rainfall for the latter half of June and through July have recovered the watershed into a normal range based on precipitation and surface water indicators.

A Low Water Conditions Report was prepared July 28, 2023 which summarized that based on the precipitation and streamflow indicators the watershed had returned to a normal range. Notwithstanding, the groundwater levels assessed to the end of June did not show significant signs of recovery of the groundwater network and the decision was made to maintain the declared Level 1 condition. The limited groundwater data available for July at Dundalk and Burford suggests a trend towards recovery which is anticipated to have continued into August. The groundwater network is scheduled to be assessed in August with results anticipated in early September at which time it is highly likely that the declared low water condition for the watershed will be removed.

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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Water Resources Engineer

Katelyn Lynch, P. Eng
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Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

Figures:

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

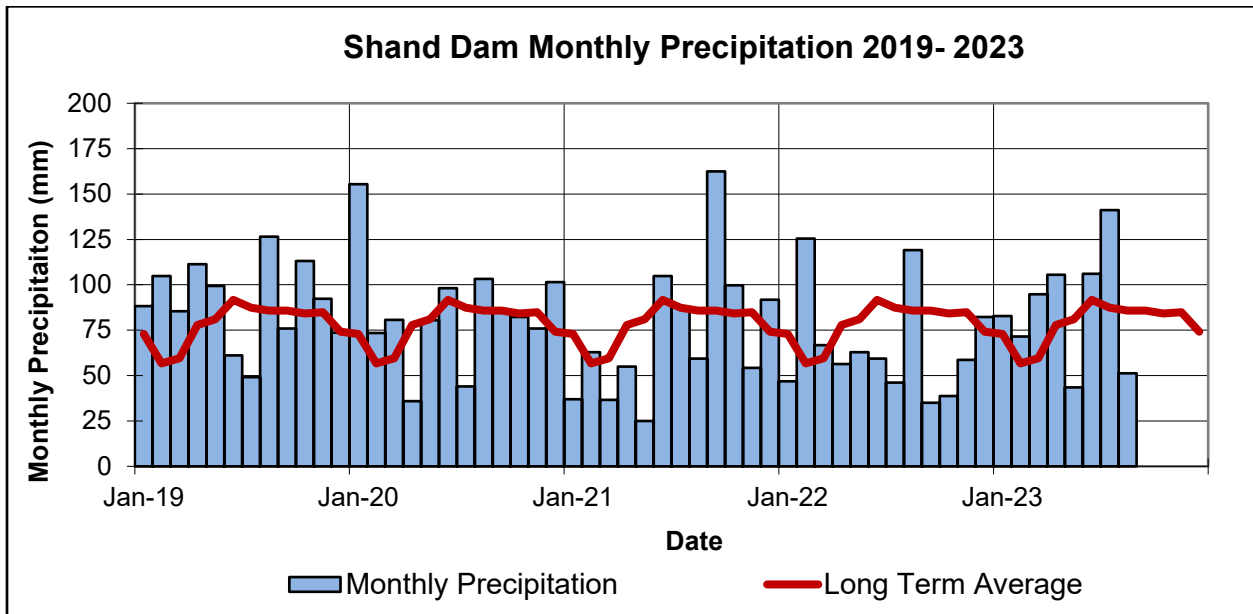


Figure 2: Monthly Average Air Temperatures at Shand Dam from 2019 to August 15, 2023

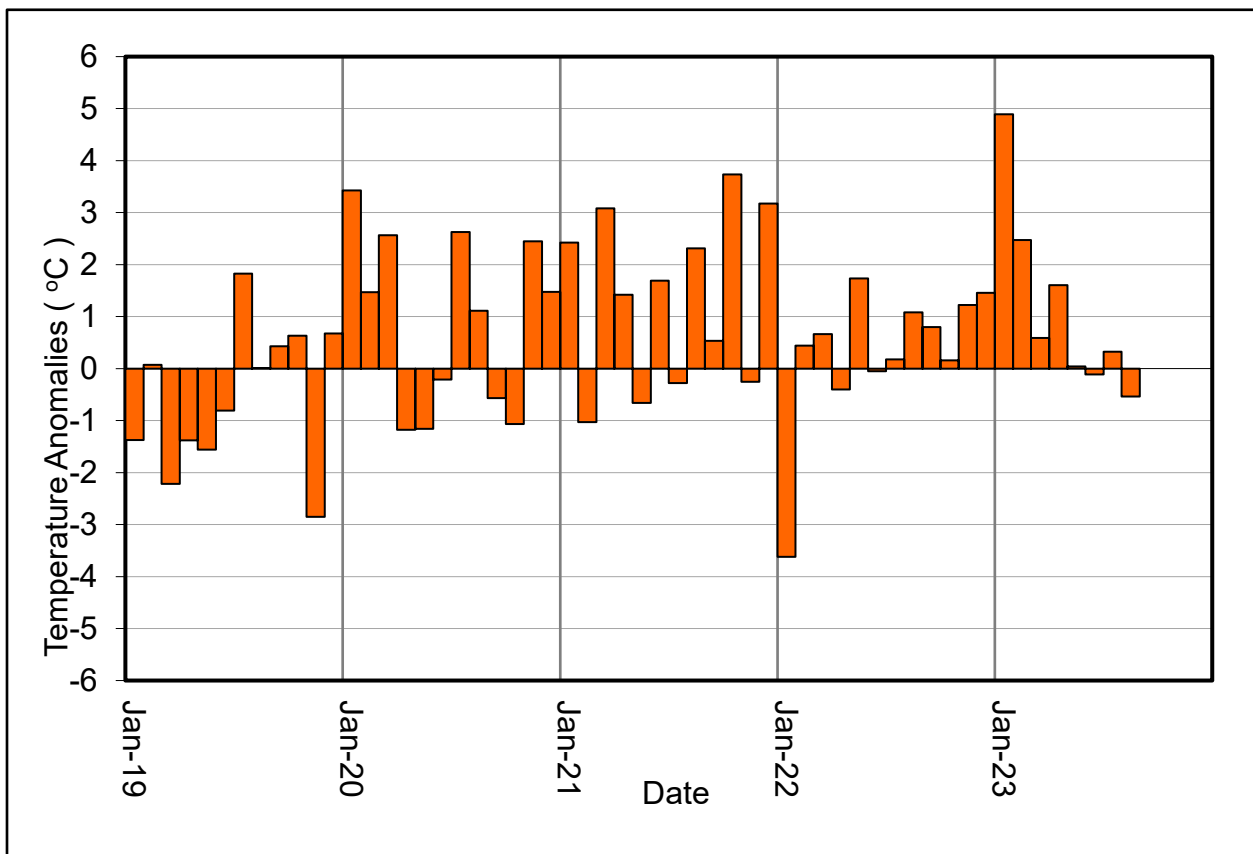


Figure 3: Water levels for Lake Erie at Port Colborne

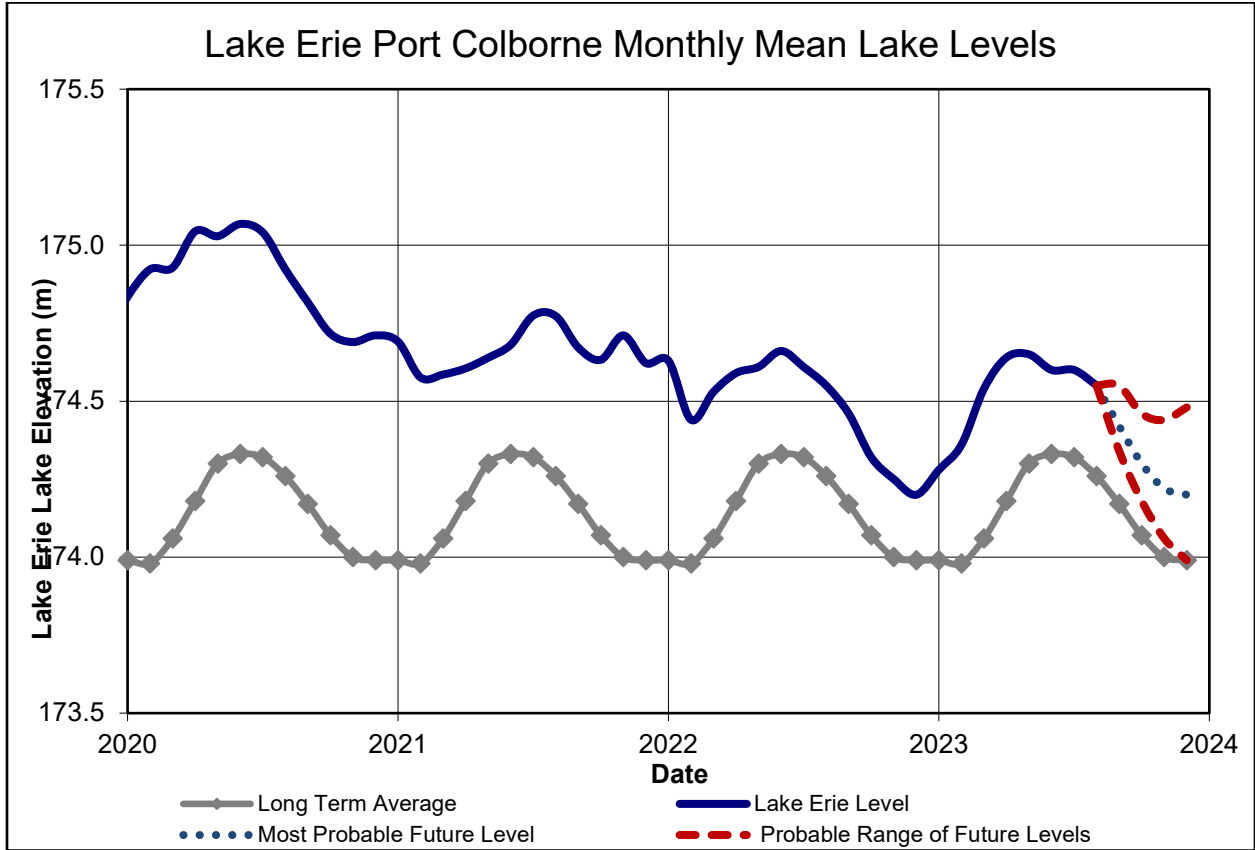


Figure 4: Shand and Conestogo Reservoir Elevation Plots for 2023

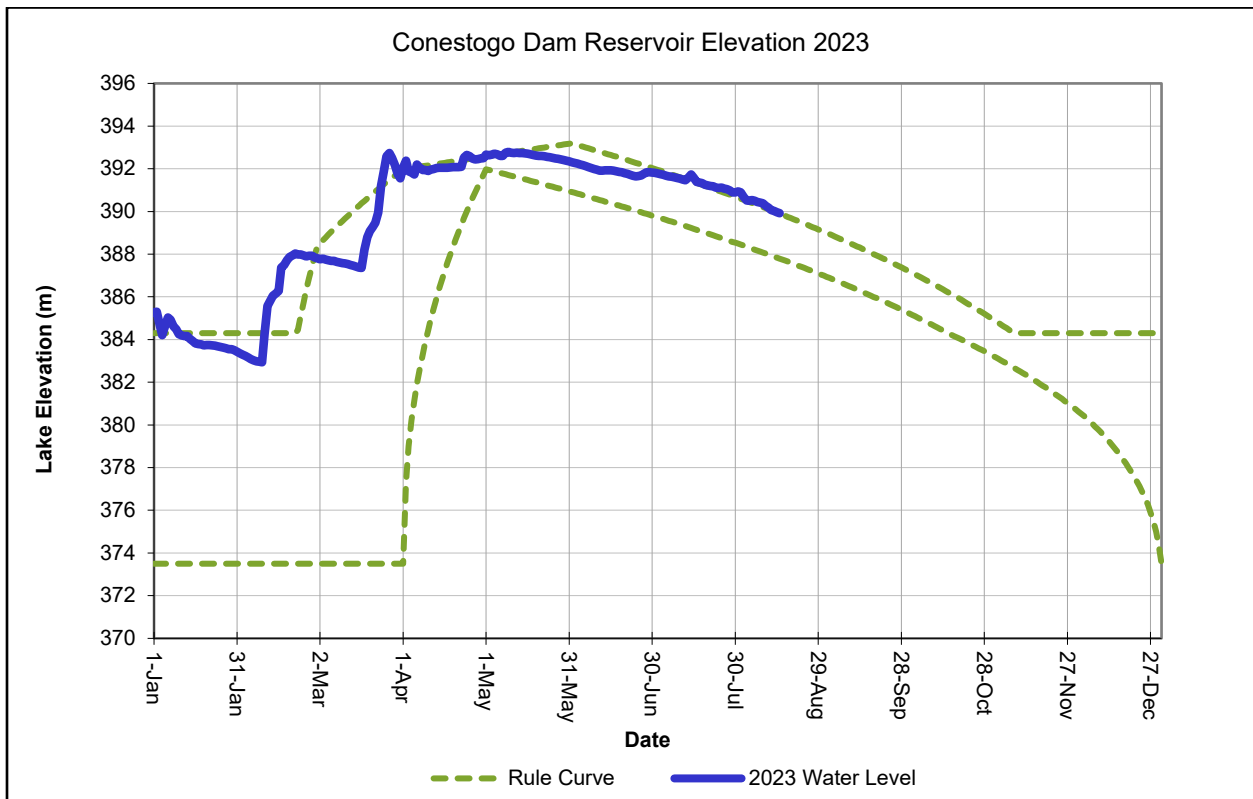
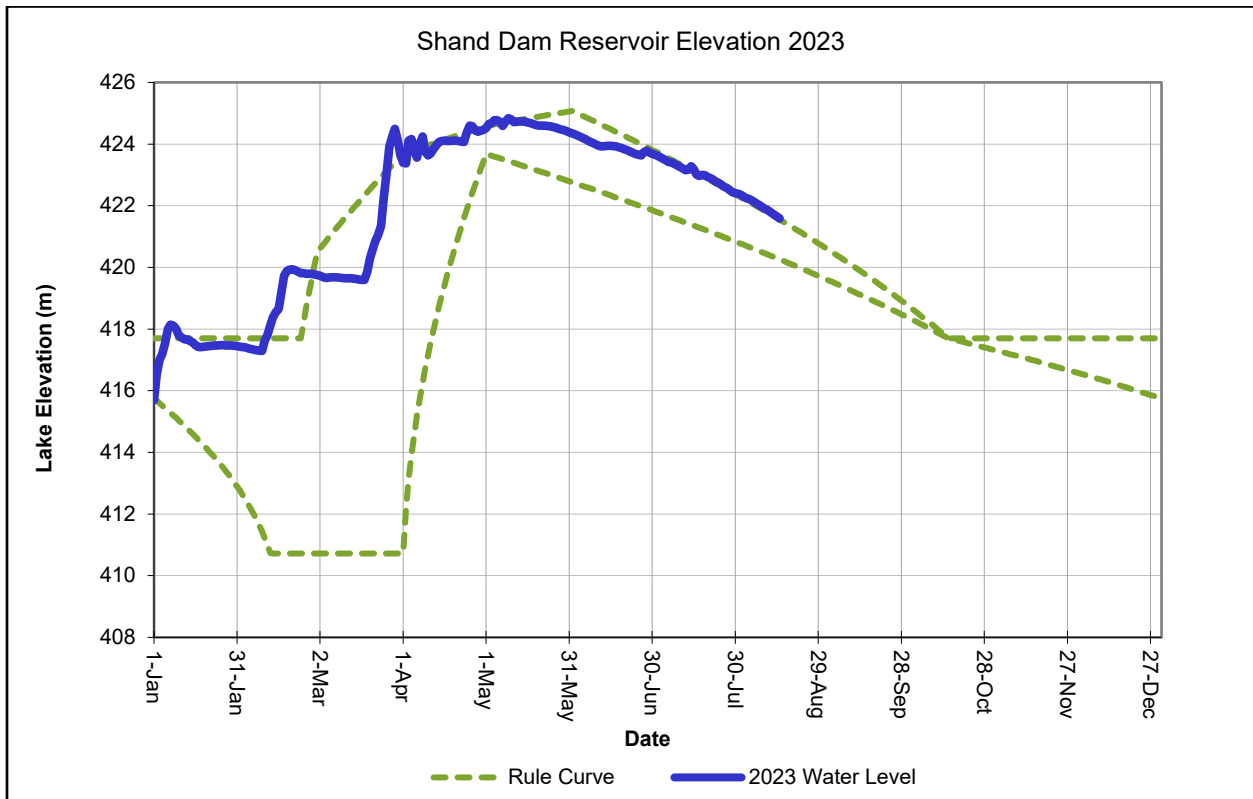


Figure 5: Guelph and Luther Reservoir Elevation Charts for 2023

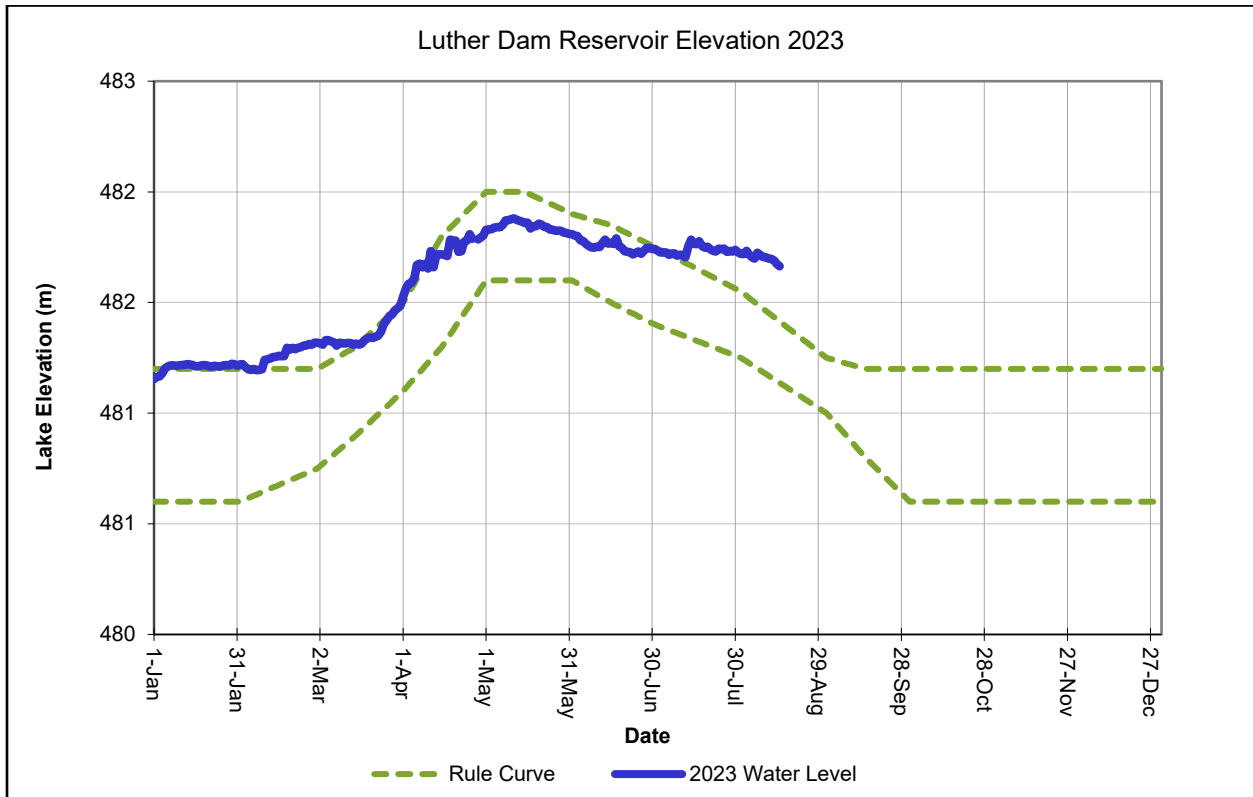
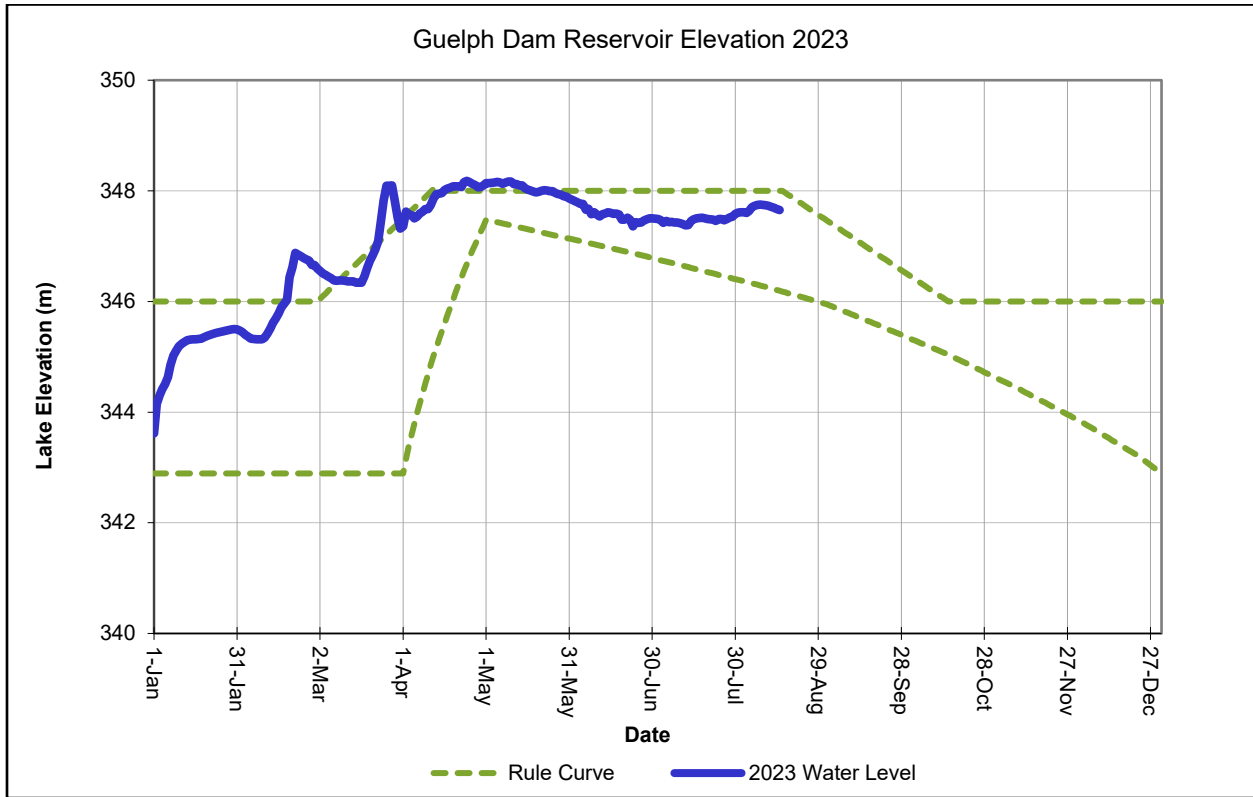


Figure 6: Grand River augmentation Chart showing percent augmentation at Doon, Galt and Brantford for 2022

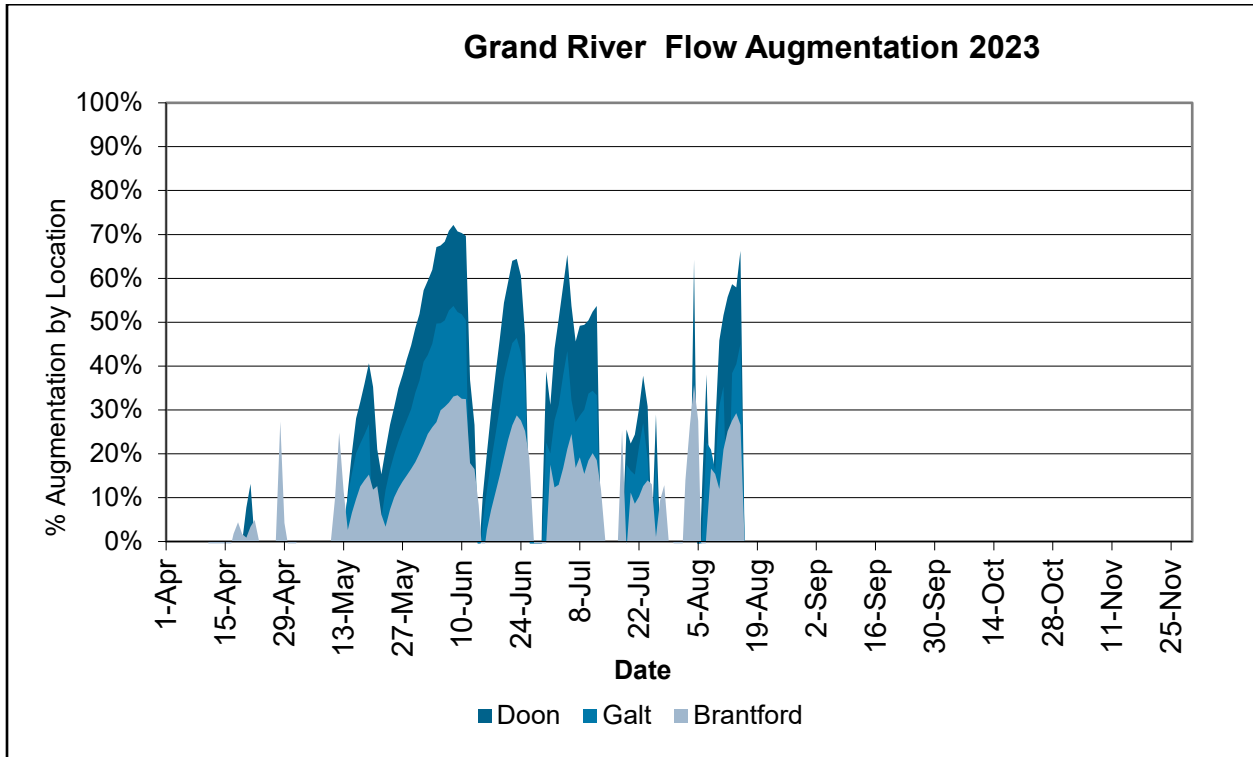


Figure 7: Speed River Flow Augmentation for 2023

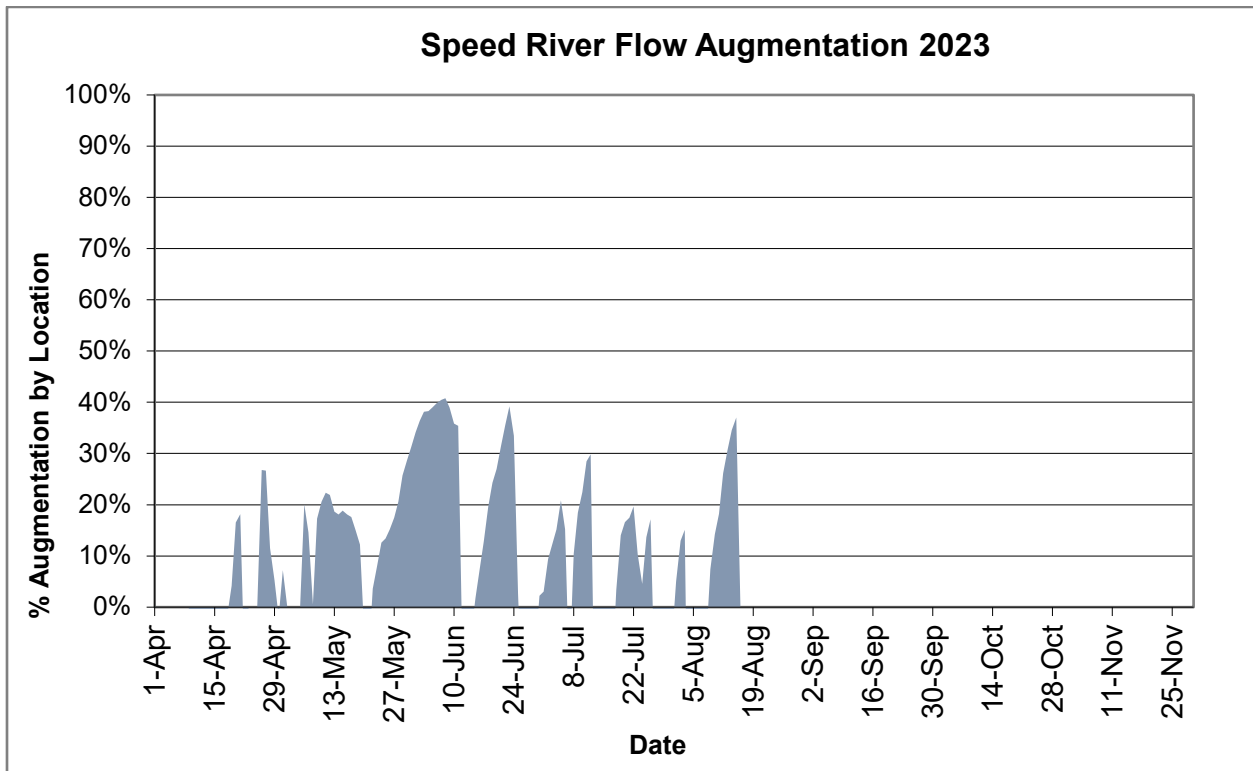


Figure 8: Groundwater Conditions as of June 2023

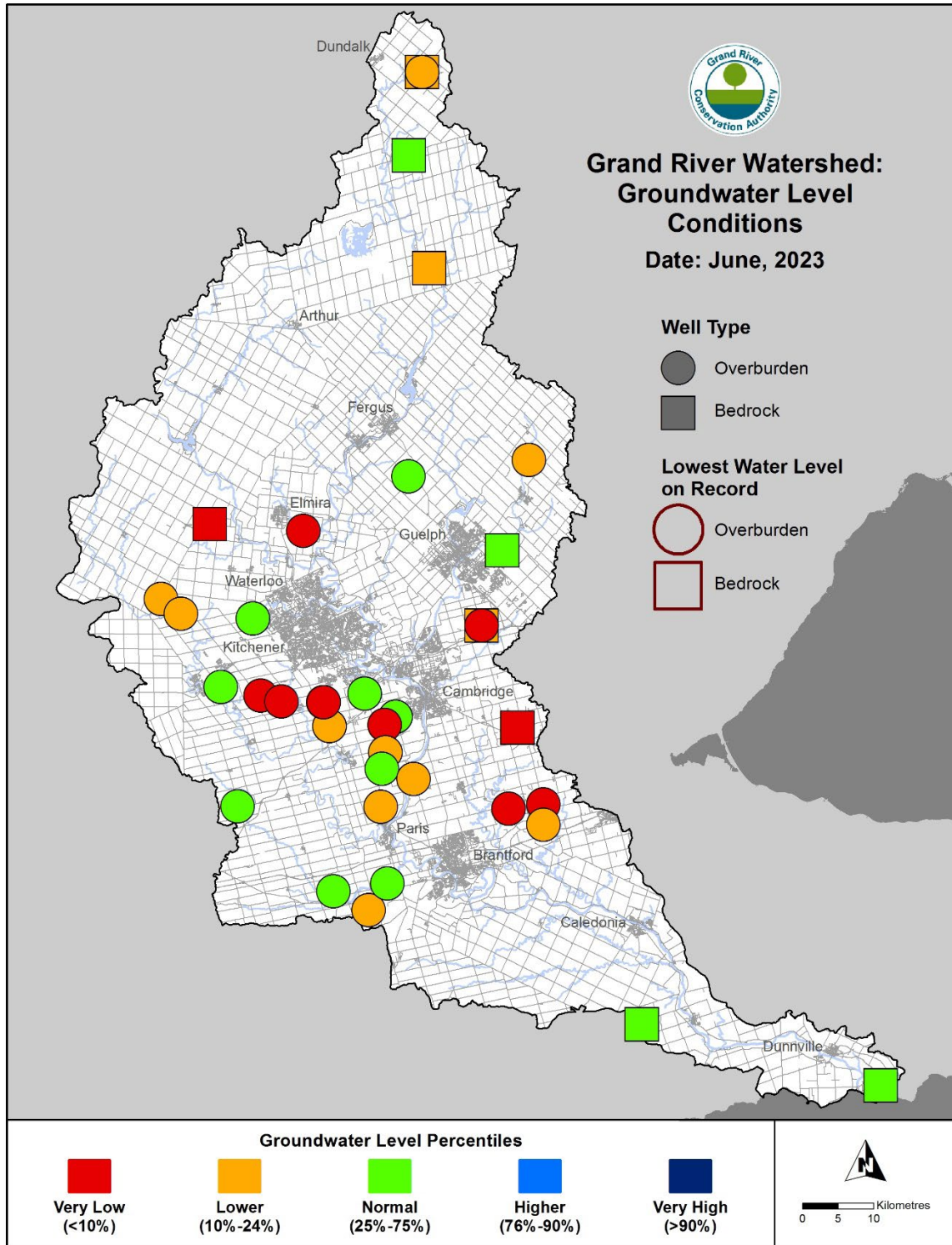


Figure 9: Total Rainfall for July 2023 based on Hydromaster Proprietary Radar Software

