



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

Friday, November 24, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership

GRCA Administration Centre

Zoom Virtual Meeting

	Pages
10. Correspondence	
<i>a. County of Prince Edward - MECP Proposal</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>b. Kevin Thomson - Nature Centres</i>	<i>3</i>

November 17, 2023

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of November 14, 2023 the following motion regarding support for the Province to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, storm water management systems, and certain water taking activities was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-569

DATE: November 14, 2023

MOVED BY: Councillor Maynard

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roberts

WHEREAS the Municipality, in support of the Quinte Conservation Authority, actively supports the Source Water Protection Program, as part of local efforts to implement the Clean Water Act, 2006 and its regulations to protect local municipal drinking water sources;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is proposing to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, stormwater management systems, and certain water taking activities;

AND WHEREAS In 2018, Bill 68, the Open for Business Act was passed, whereby it legislated that less complex activities that pose low-risk to the environment should not be required to go through the approval process and instead, should self-register on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR);

AND WHEREAS Quinte Conservation Authority has outlined in their October 24, 2023 report to their Board, that the activities proposed to move to the EASR may pose too much risk to drinking water, and can pose threats to human health and the environment;

AND WHEREAS Quinte Conservation Authority noted the source water protection concern generally lies in the fact the Ministry will no longer undertake an up-front detailed review of applications related to the specified activities, thereby potentially weakening regulatory oversight;

AND WHEREAS the specified activities, which have the potential to cause significant adverse impacts to the natural environment and human health will no

longer be subject to public and site-specific scrutiny prior to commencing operation in Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County supports the concerns outlined by Quinte Conservation Authority and urges the Provincial government to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, stormwater management systems, and certain water taking activities; and

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, Todd Smith, Bay of Quinte M.P.P. and Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and all Ontario Conservation Authorities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Maynard and Marcia Wallace, CAO

From: [Karen Armstrong](#)
To: [Eowyn Spencer](#)
Subject: Fwd: GRCA To Terminate Nature Education Centres On Friday, November 24th?
Date: Thursday, November 23, 2023 12:06:44 PM
Attachments: [Agenda Package - GRCA General Membership Meeting Nov24 2023.pdf](#)

From: Kevin Thomason

Date: November 23, 2023 at 12:33:50 AM EST

To: Sandy Shantz <SShantz@regionofwaterloo.ca>, Sue Foxton <SFoxton@regionofwaterloo.ca>, Natasha Salonen <NSalonen@regionofwaterloo.ca>, Colleen James <CJames@regionofwaterloo.ca>, Jim Erb <JErb@regionofwaterloo.ca>, Pam Wolf <PWolf@regionofwaterloo.ca>, Kari Williams <KariWilliams@regionofwaterloo.ca>, Doug Craig <DougCraig@regionofwaterloo.ca>, Mike Devine <devinem@cambridge.ca>, gordon.greavette@rogers.com

Subject: GRCA To Terminate Nature Education Centres On Friday, November 24th?

Mayor Shantz, Mayor Foxton, Mayor Salonen, Councillor James, Councillor Erb, Councillor Williams, Councillor Wolf, Councillor Craig, Councillor Devine, and Dr. Greavette,

I am reaching out to you since you are on the GRCA Board of Directors as representatives of Waterloo Region and our municipalities.

It has just been learned in the community by the release of the latest agenda for Friday's GRCA Board Meeting that it appears that the decision to terminate and close the Nature Education Centres enjoyed by thousands of school children each year has been moved up from January 2024 to this Friday, November 24th.

Even more troubling, it appears that only efforts to save Apps Mills Nature Centre have been undertaken by Brantford representatives with seemingly no visible efforts by any Waterloo Region GRCA Board Members or elected officials to try to find funding and save the Laurel Creek Nature Centre in Waterloo Region that is so integral to the outdoor education of our youth.

These outdoor programs are sometimes the only outdoor education and experiences many children have in our increasingly urban communities. We are in a climate crisis and our youth need a greater understanding of nature and our planet - not seeing these programs cut due to a minor funding gap that could easily be addressed with similar efforts being undertaken in other areas.

Our community is outraged and fear that these program cuts are just the beginning as the GRCA will next seek to sell off and dispose of these nature centre areas to raise funds and meet the demands of the provincial government to identify lands by December 2024 to be sold off to developers for housing - despite the fact that it is broadly acknowledged that there is no land shortage and that destroying environmentally significant lands will not solve our current housing challenges in any

way.

Please respond with what you are doing to speak up for our children, our communities, and save these vital outdoor education programs and centres. Time is of the essence if we only have 48 hours to come up with solutions for our children.

Thank you.

Kevin.

Kevin Thomason
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