



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: April 28, 2023
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership

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

Regrets Kevin Davis, Sandy Shantz, Alex Wilson

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Certification of Quorum

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

3. Chair's Remarks

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

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

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

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

4. Review of Agenda

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

23-63

Moved By Mike Devine

Seconded By Doug Craig

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

Carried

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

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

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

23-64

Moved By Jerry Smith

Seconded By Christine Billings

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of March 24, 2023 be approved as circulated.

Carried

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

8. Hearing of Delegations

There were no Delegations.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

There were no comments or questions regarding the Correspondence.

10.1 Jan W. Jansen re: Wetlands Protection

10.2 Nicole Doro re: Wetlands Protection

23-65

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Mike Devine

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

Carried

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

None.

12. Reports:

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

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

23-66

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

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

Carried

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

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-67

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By Rob Shirton

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

Carried

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

23-72

Moved By Shawn Watters

Seconded By Pam Wolf

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

Carried

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

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

23-73

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Pam Wolf

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

Carried

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

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

23-74

Moved By Doug Craig

Seconded By Susan Foxton

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

Carried

13. Committee of the Whole

Not required.

14. General Business

There was no General Business.

15. 3rd Reading of By-Laws

None.

16. Other Business

None.

17. Closed Meeting

23-75

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

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

Carried

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

23-76

Moved By Mike Devine

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

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

17.1 Property Disposition - Township of Mapleton

23-77

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Jim Erb

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

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

Carried

17.2 Security of Property - Verbal Update

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

17.3 Labour relations or employee negotiations

23-78

Moved By Shawn Watters

Seconded By Doug Craig

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

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

Carried

17.4 Minutes of the previous closed session

23-79

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Gord Greavette

THAT the Minutes of the previous closed session be approved.

Carried

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

19. Adjourn

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

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

23-80

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer