



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes – CA Act Regulations Committee

Date: June 3, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Members Present: John Challinor II, Susan Foxtton, Helen Jowett, Chris White
Regrets: Michael Harris
Staff: Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Sonja Radoja, Eowyn Spencer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:02 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was confirmed with 4 Members present.

3. Chair's Remarks

None.

4. Review of Agenda

Moved by: Sue Foxtton

Seconded by: Helen Jowett

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

Carried.

J Challinor joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by: Helen Jowett

Seconded by: Sue Foxtton

THAT the minutes of the previous Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting held on February 16, 2022 be approved as circulated.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1. Draft Progress Report to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP)

- S.Lawson shared a draft of the Progress Report to be submitted to the Province in accordance with O.Reg 687/21. This is one of six progress reports due to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks during the transition period. This report is due July 1, 2022.
- The progress reports are not required to receive Board approval, but as a best practice staff will bring the report to the June meeting for review and approval to submit it to MECP, circulate the report to participating municipalities of the Grand River watershed, and post it on the GRCA's website

Moved by: John Challinor

Seconded by: Sue Foxton

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

THAT Progress Report #1 be approved, circulated to all participating Grand River watershed municipalities, posted on the GRCA website, and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Carried.

7.2. Draft Revised Programs and Services Inventory

- S.Lawson noted that all participating municipalities have been contacted through meetings or correspondence and have received the first approved version of the Programs and Services Inventory.
- On May 4, the MECP held a webinar to provide feedback to conservation authorities (CA) on the inventories submitted. The MECP requested that updated versions should include a listing of existing Memorandums of Understanding between CAs and respective watershed municipalities. Any updates to the inventory will be included on progress reports as well.
- The revised document will be presented to the Board at the June meeting, and will be distributed in the same manner as the previous version.
- The Chair requested clarification on what will be included on the listing of MOUs, and S.Lawson noted that the listing will provide a high level overview of agreements as opposed to specific details.

Moved by: John Challinor

Seconded by: Helen Jowett

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

THAT the update to GRCA's Inventory of Programs and Services be approved, circulated to all participating Grand River watershed municipalities, posted on the GRCA website, and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Carried.

7.3. Strategy on Approach to Category 2 Programs and Services

- J.Challinor inquired about the participation rate of watershed municipalities thus far, and S.Lawson noted that discussions have been held with all participating municipalities through email or virtual meetings.
- Staff are now seeking direction on an approach to moving forward with the process of completing MOUs for all category 2 programs. S.Lawson noted that a webinar is being considered to provide a general overview to municipal staff, prior to more specific meetings around detailed agreements.
- J.Challinor noted agreement with a webinar approach, and suggested that staff prepare an executive summary for each participating municipality.
- Committee members discussed the approach as suggested, noting that representatives on the GRCA Board can encourage attendance from their respective municipalities.
- The Chair added that an executive summary would be beneficial if kept specific to each municipality, and directly addressed levy impacts and programs provided by the GRCA.
- S.Lawson noted that at this time discussions are at the staff level as operational matters, and Councils will be addressed upon request, or as required for approvals.
- There was discussion about the GRCA entering into MOUs with other watershed municipalities who are not participating municipalities as they may be the funder for certain programs or have an approval role. The discussions with participating municipalities will be the first priority.

7.4. Status of Municipal Meetings

- Meeting with municipalities continue to go well, and will continue as needed.
- Further meetings with adjacent CAs will be scheduled when and where appropriate.
- Committee Members, following review of the draft Board reports, agreed with staff recommendations as presented.

8. Other Business

- There was discussion about asking Board members for support for the GRCA when communicating with their participating municipalities about category 2 programs and services.

9. Next Meeting – At the Call of the Chair

10. Adjourn

Moved by: John Challinor

Seconded by: Sue Foxtton

THAT the Ad-Hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee be adjourned.

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.