



Grand River Conservation Authority Agenda – CA Act Regulations Committee

Date: December 3, 2021
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Members Present: John Challinor II, Susan Foxtton, Michael Harris, Helen Jowett, Chris White
Staff: Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Joe Farwell, Sonja Radoja, Eowyn Spencer

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was confirmed with 4 members present.

3. Chair's Remarks

None.

4. Review of Agenda

Moved by: Susan Foxtton

Seconded by: John Challinor

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

Carried.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by: Helen Jowett

Seconded by: John Challinor

THAT the minutes of the previous Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting held on October 29, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Carried.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1. Feedback on Draft Transition Plan

- S.Lawson advised the Committee that meetings with GRCA's participating municipalities are being held to discuss the transition plan and timelines associated with the regulatory requirements, and to identify members of staff who will act key contacts moving forward. During the meetings, some municipalities have shared concerns related to requirements for council approval, and having MOUs approved during an election year
- The regulatory requirement to have MOUs in place where applicable is January 1, 2024, for implementation in budget year 2024. To meet the requirement, the MOUs will need to be finalized before budget preparations begin in mid-2023.
- The draft plan was distributed to participating municipalities on November 29, and no formal comments or feedback has yet been received.

M.Harris joined the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

7.2. Programs and Services Inventory

- S.Lawson highlighted that a staff group comprised of herself, Karen Armstrong, Sonja Radoja, and Joe Farwell have completed a first draft of the programs and services inventory, noting that this inventory listing is another requirement under the new regulations.
- To comply with the regulation, all GRCA programs and services will be categorized according to the three categories defined by the Province. The categories are levy funded, municipally driven with agreements, and Board approved programs.
- S.Radoja provided a detailed overview of the current status of the categorized listing, and discussed breakdowns of levy and other sources of funding, highlighting that the draft charts are a first attempt to meet the criteria defined in the Transition regulation (O.Reg. 687/21) and that discussion and analysis will be ongoing.
- The Inventory will be submitted to the Province in February 2022, but can continue to be updated, if and when needed, through provincial reporting requirements under these regulations.
- The Committee discussed the inventory, and offered suggestions and areas where further considerations should be made.
- Other considerations discussed included new requirements under the remaining two regulations, which will include operational plans for lands and natural hazard areas, conservation area strategy and asset management, all which may also create an impact on future resource allocations.
- Board members further discussed the provincial requirements and the intended purpose of the new regulations. S.Lawson responded to questions and noted that further regulations related to levy allocation requirements are still expected.

7.3. Surplus Allocation – Verbal Discussion

- S.Radoja noted that there will be further discussion at the staff level related to the allocation of surplus revenues and how they may impact the categorization of the inventory listing before the next version is brought to the Committee for review.
- The Committee discussed the program suggestions under category 3, noting that further analysis for determining sustainable methods of self-generated or alternative funding will be required
- S.Lawson added that the GRCA has a strong transition reserve that can be used as a stabilization fund throughout the transition process as needed

7.4. Status of Meetings with Municipalities and Adjacent Conservation Authorities

- As previously noted, S.Lawson is meeting with GRCA's participating municipalities to discuss the regulatory requirements that will require collaborative discussion and agreements.
- S.Lawson said the initial meetings are going well, and municipalities are offering support through the process, and guidance and assistance where appropriate.

8. Next Steps

- Following discussion, it was confirmed that the Transition Plan and timeline will be prepared for Board approval at the December meeting. The draft Programs and Services Inventory will be prepared for the January meeting, and finalized for the February Annual General Meeting, which allows time for any suggested changes to be made before it is submitted to the Province.

9. Next Meeting – Friday January 14, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

10. Adjourn

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