



Grand River Conservation Authority Agenda – CA Act Regulations Committee

Date: February 16, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Link to be distributed via email prior to meeting
Members Present: John Challinor II, Susan Foxtan, Michael Harris, Helen Jowett, Chris White
Staff: Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Joe Farwell, Sonja Radoja, Eowyn Spencer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:01 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was confirmed with all Members present.

3. Chair's Remarks

None.

4. Review of Agenda

Samantha noted an addition to the agenda regarding the Ministry appointment of an agriculture sector representative on Conservation Authority Boards.

Moved by: Susan Foxtan

Seconded by: John Challinor

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

Carried.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by: Susan Foxtan

Seconded by: John Challinor

THAT the minutes of the previous Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting held on January 14, 2022 be approved as circulated.

Carried.

9. Discussion Items:

9.1. Inventory of Programs and Services

- S.Lawson advised that the Inventory of Programs and Services as provided for review on this agenda will be presented to the Board for approval at the Annual General Meeting on February 25, 2022.
- The accompanying staff report provides additional information related to justifications for determining where programs and services would be categorized, and highlights changes made from the previous draft.
- The updated Chart B now reflects the requirement to include a five year historical costing average column. Samantha noted that through review and consideration, it has been determined that using the figures provided in the first draft of the 2022 budget is preferable to using a five-year average. This is acceptable under the legislation, and is justified due to anomalies in recent years, which include fluctuation in program costs, growth in the watershed, pandemic-related budget impacts to specific program areas, and changes in provincial funding allocations. It was determined that these anomalies provide justification that the estimated 2022 first draft budget figures are a more accurate estimate of actual program costs.

Moved by: John Challinor

Seconded by: Susan Foxtan

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

THAT the 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.

H.Jowett joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m. but was disconnected shortly thereafter.

9.2. Update on Chair and Vice-Chair term limits and rotation requirements

- K.Armstrong advised the Committee that a request for clarification has been submitted to MECP with respect to the term limits and rotation requirements and the Ministry's recent denial of the GRCA's exemption request. The Board will be kept apprised of details as they are received.

M.Harris joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

9.3. Ministry Appointment of Agricultural Representative

- Samantha shared with the Committee that the Ministry (MECP) has recently chosen to implement their legislated ability to appoint to Conservation Authority Boards a representative of the Agricultural sector.
- The position is currently posted on the Ministry's website and is open to members of the agricultural community, but excludes any person who is already municipally appointed to a Conservation Authority Board.

- K.Armstrong will attend a webinar hosted by MECP and will seek clarification on a number of administrative items related to the Appointment. The provincial posting does provide details regarding remuneration and voting rights, however further information related to Board status, indemnification, subcommittee appointments, eligibility to be appointed as Chair and/or Vice-Chair, and attendance reporting will be requested from the Ministry.
- This change will be reflected in a by-law update that will be presented at this month's meeting.
- J.Challinor raised a concern related to governance and the number of representatives on Boards for the purpose of voting, which may present challenges for some CAs.
- The Committee discussed the Appointment, noting clarification will be beneficial, and suggested that previous Board members who meet the criteria be made aware of the posting.
- Following discussion, staff were directed to draft a letter to the Ministry to show support for the Appointment and address noted concerns that they may consider in future iterations of legislation or provincial appointments.

10. Other Business

None.

11. Next Meeting

At the Call of the Chair.

12. Adjourn

Moved by: Michael Harris

Seconded by: John Challinor

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

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.