

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-03-23-25

Date: March 24, 2023

To: General Membership of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Updated Inventory of Programs and Services – Requirement under O.Reg.687/21

Recommendation:

THAT the updated Inventory of Programs and Services be approved, circulated to all participating Grand River watershed municipalities, posted on the Grand River Conservation Authority website, and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Summary:

The P&S Inventory charts have been updated to reflect the:

- 1) government mandate that prohibits Conservation Authorities from providing planning services related to natural heritage, and
- 2) reallocation of certain Conservation Services activities from Category 2 to Category 3.

Report:

As a requirement under *O.Reg.687/21*, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) has developed an Inventory of Programs and Services based on the three categories identified in the Regulation. These categories include: (1) Mandatory, (2) Municipally requested, and (3) Other (Authority determines are advisable).

On January 28, 2022, Feb 25, 2022, and December 16, 2022 draft versions of the Inventory of Programs and Services were presented to the Board. Following Board approval, they were posted on the GRCA website, and circulated to all participating municipalities and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

Updated Charts A, B, C, and D are attached and a summary of the changes are provided in TABLE 1 – Summary of Changes. These updated charts reflect the government mandate that prohibits Conservation Authorities from providing planning services related to natural heritage and a reallocation of certain Conservation Services activities from Category 2 to Category 3.

Chart A updates:

- a) Eliminate Item #5 – Planning Services (Natural Heritage) as a Category 2 group given mandate by government which prevents conservation authorities from commenting on planning services related to natural heritage.
- b) Revise description wording for item #9 -Watershed Services (Category 2) to better define the scope of conservation services activities undertaken.
- c) Revise description wording for item #10 Conservation Services (other program areas) to reflect the reallocation of certain conservation services from Category 2 to Category 3.

Chart B updates:

- a) Item #4 Resource Planning-Plan Input and Review, Permitting and Solicitor Enquiries
 - Reallocated costs from item #5 to item #4. The percentage revenue distribution figures represent the estimated revenue distribution for the draft 2023 budget. The full cost from item #5 that is being eliminated has been allocated to item #4. It is expected that some of the item #5 category 2 costs will be considered category 1

activities. For example, wetland assessment related to hydrological features are considered category 1 and staff time will be reallocated to category 1 activities to meet service demands. Funding for added costs will be managed by use of the transition reserve as a short-term strategy.

- b) Item #5 Planning Services (Natural Heritage) – Category 2
 - Reallocated costs to item #4 – Category 1 planning services.
- c) Item #9 – Watershed Services
 - The cost figures remained the same given that the only specific service delivery item being reclassified are water festivals which have not been held since 2019, thus no costs were included in the draft 2022 budget and draft 2023 budget. The applicable costs being considered are nominal in nature historically.
- d) Item #10 - Conservation Services-(other program areas)
 - The costs remained the same given the nominal amounts involved. See item #9 above for rationale to not adjust costs.

Chart C updates:

- a) Remove ‘Planning Services (Natural Heritage)’
- b) Revise description for Watershed Services to coincide with description from Chart A (item #9)

Chart D updates:

- a) Revise description for Conservation Services (non-municipal program areas) to coincide with description from Chart A (item #10)

TABLE 1 - Summary of Changes:

Item #	P&S Inventory Jan 1, 2023	Revised P&S Inventory April 1, 2023	Comments
4	Resource Planning-Plan Input and Review, Permitting and Solicitor Enquiries	Modify Costs	Reallocated costs from item #5 to items #4. Recalculated revenue percentages.
5	Planning Services (Natural Heritage)	Eliminated.	Reallocated costs to item #4
9	Watershed Services	Reclassify certain types of conservation services from Category 2 to Category 3 (i.e. water festivals)	Rationale: (a) the expectations of participating municipalities would be better managed by classifying certain activities as category 3, (b) benefiting municipality clearly delineated and serviced based on specific agreement, and (c) limited available GRCA resources can be better managed (i.e. manage the capacity of existing staff resources)
10	10(a) Conservation Services (non-municipal program areas)	10(a) title changed to Conservation Services (Other Programs)	See item #9 above for rationale.

Item #	P&S Inventory Jan 1, 2023	Revised P&S Inventory April 1, 2023	Comments
	10(b) Volunteer Engagement	Reclassify certain types of conservation services from Category 2 to Category 3 (i.e. water festivals)	

Once the updated Inventory of Programs and Services is approved, it will be circulated to all participating municipalities and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) prior to the legislative deadline of April 1, 2023. The Inventory will also be posted on the Grand River Conservation Authority's website for public access.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable.

Submitted by:

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