



## Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes – CA Act Regulations Committee

Date: June 7, 2023  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting  
Link to be distributed via email prior to meeting  
Members Present: John Challinor II, Susan Foxtton, David Miller, Shawn Watters, Chris White  
Staff: Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Sonja Radoja, Eowyn Spencer

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:00 p.m.

### 2. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified with all Members present.

### 3. 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.**

### 4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

### 5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**Moved by:** Shawn Watters

**Seconded by:** David Miller

THAT the minutes of the previous Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting held on May 10, 2023 be approved as circulated.

**Carried.**

### 6. Discussion Items:

#### 6.1. Programs and services listing update

- K.Armstrong provided an update on the programs and services inventory, noting that when amendments have been made since the original version of February 28, 2022, the updated version has been circulated to the province and partner municipalities to advise them of the changes. This practice is not a regulatory requirement, although some additional amendments have been updated since the most recently approved version, as staff work through the budget framework being implemented for the 2024

budget year, there are likely going to be some additional changes in the next few months. As a result, staff would prefer to wait to do another updated version at this point until the new budget framework is better defined. The Committee supported this approach.

## **6.2. Quarterly Progress Report – Due July 1, 2023**

- S.Lawson provided a brief overview of the required progress report, noting that a draft Category 2 MOU has been circulated to partner municipalities at the staff level.
- Feedback has been requested by the end of June. The timeline is intended to provide time to present an updated draft to the GRCA Board at the August meeting, with final approvals and council presentations going into September and October.

**Moved by:** John Challinor

**Seconded by:** Shawn Watters

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

THAT Progress Report #5 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.**

## **6.3. Feedback on Category Two MOUs**

- S.Lawson noted that the updates and ongoing meetings with municipal staff provided a strong baseline of information so that municipalities were already well-informed when the draft MOU was recently circulated.
- At this time little feedback has been received, and some municipalities have noted support for the MOU in its current draft. GRCA staff anticipate that feedback received may be more administrative in nature.
- J.Challinor asked if a common theme of questions or concerns has been identified through discussions with municipalities. S.Lawson noted that for the most part municipal staff have been supportive. For some groups, further discussion with neighbouring municipalities will occur, and the GRCA has been meeting with adjacent conservation authorities where applicable, as well.
- J.Challinor also asked if it is premature to engage GRCA Board members as representatives of their respective municipalities, and if an FAQ can be prepared for the Board. S.Lawson said that the GRCA Board members will be advised in advance when the final MOU is circulated and included on Council agendas, and that staff will be happy to attend Council meetings at the request of respective Board members, as well. An FAQ related to the category 2 programs and services and the MOU required will be prepared to assist in fielding questions Board members may receive.
- D.Miller asked if any municipalities identified concerns with the expense apportionment as presented. S.Lawson noted that information highlighted to staff is that the scope of the programs and services in category 2 represents a small portion of the overall budget, and most municipalities have expressed appreciation that these program and service costs are being calculated using the same apportionment method as category 1 programs and services.

## **7. Other Business**

There was no Other Business.

## **8. Next Meeting – At the Call of the Chair**

**9. Adjourn**

**Moved by:** John Challinor

**Seconded by:** Susan Foxton

THAT the meeting of the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee be adjourned.

**Carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.