



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes – CA Act Regulations Committee

Date: September 12, 2022
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Members Present: John Challinor II, Susan Foxtan, Michael Harris, Helen Jowett, Chris White
Staff: Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Sonja Radoja, Eowyn Spencer

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

Confirmed with 4 Members present at the time of certification.

3. Chair's Remarks – None.

4. Review of Agenda

Moved by: Helen Jowett

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

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by: John Challinor

Seconded by: Susan Foxtan

THAT the minutes of the previous Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting held on June 3, 2022 be approved as circulated.

Carried.

7. Discussion Items:

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

- S.Lawson shared the draft quarterly progress report, as required by the Province under Regulation 687/21. There have not been updates to the programs and services inventory since the last report was submitted.
- S.Lawson is meeting with municipalities upon request to clarify high level details as required. Township of Erin Council will receive a presentation from S.Lawson and C.White per their request for information on the inventory.
- In terms of next steps, the GRCA is hosting two virtual webinars in October for all watershed municipalities (participating and non-participating). The webinars will provide a high level overview of the GRCA and category two programs and services, and the anticipated process for developing municipal agreements. Invitations have been sent to municipal clerks and CAOs/General Managers.
- The webinars are intended to provide a framework prior to getting into more detailed discussions with the municipalities about the MOUs.
- It was noted that administration of the Conservation Authorities Act has recently been shifted back to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Moved by: Susan Foxtton

Seconded by: John Challinor

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 Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Carried.

Michael Harris joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

7.2. Exception Request for Chair and Vice-Chair Term Limits

- K.Armstrong provided a draft of the exception request letter based on previous direction from the General Membership to pursue an exemption for the term limits as well as the rotation of the Chair position.
- The Ministry response to the 2021 request provided that the rotation relates to concurrent Chairs and does not need to rotate amongst all participating municipalities before one municipal representative can fill the role again.
- Following discussion, it was determined that the updated exemption request only needs to be about the term limits, and that the rotation request is no longer needed. K.Armstrong will amend the draft letter to confirm the request for an exception to the two one-year term limits to allow up to four consecutive one-year terms with an annual election for each position.
- It was confirmed that this request will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.
- A recorded vote of the Board is required as part of the exception request.

Moved by: John Challinor

Seconded by: Michael Harris

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

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority submits a request to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry for an exception as per s.17 (1.3)(a) of the Conservation Authorities

Act to the two-year term limit for Chair and Vice-Chair of the GRCA Board of Directors to allow up to four one-year consecutive terms for the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Carried.

7.3. Status of Municipal Agreements

- Staff are developing a template to use as a guideline for the development of agreements and negotiations with municipalities relating to category 2 programs.
- The template will provide consistency to the approach being taken, and will include many typical contract clauses e.g. termination, length, etc.. It is hoped that costing and annual increase adjustment details can be built into the template in order to avoid an annual review and discussion on costs.
- Initial comments from municipal staff in response to the inventory has been positive, and some are eager to begin more detailed discussions following the webinar presentations.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Next Meeting

To be scheduled for early December 2022.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.