



GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JUNE 28, 2013

The following are the minutes of the General Membership Meeting held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 28, 2013 at the Administration Centre, Cambridge, Ontario.

Members Present: J. Mitchell, Chair, L. Armstrong, B. Banbury, B. Bell, L. Boyko, J. Brennan, B. Coleman, T. Cowan*, R. Deutschmann* J. Haalboom*, J. Jamieson, R. Kelterborn, M. Laidlaw*, B. Lee, G. Lorentz, F. Morison, T. Nevills, V. Prendergast, J. Ross-Zuj, P. Salter, S. Schmitt, W. Stauch, G. Wicke

Members Regrets: J. d'Ailly, R. Hillier, C. Millar

Staff: J. Farwell, K. Murch, D. Bennett, D. Boyd, N. Davy, L. Minshall, S. Radoja, D. Schultz, B. Brown, N. Munn, F. Natolochny, M. Neumann, B. Parrott, S. Wilbur

1. Call to Order:

J. Mitchell, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum – 13 members constitute a quorum (1/2 of members appointed by participating municipalities).

The Secretary-Treasurer called the roll and certified a quorum with 19 members present. A total of 23 members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks:

J. Mitchell welcomed members, staff and guests and made the following comments:

- A copy of the spring edition of The Grand was included in the members' agenda packages.

*T. Cowan, R. Deutschmann and J. Haalboom joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

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- On May 29, 2013 J. Mitchell attended the VIP Luncheon for the Waterloo-Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival. That evening she and V. Prendergast attended the 25th Silver Anniversary Dinner for the Brant Waterways Foundation at Brant Park Conservation Area.
- On June 20, 2013 the Grand River Conservation Foundation's (GRCF) Annual General Meeting was held at Shade's Mills Conservation Area.
- On June 23, 2013 Guelph Lake Conservation Area hosted the Party in the Park which included free admission to the Conservation Area. The event was sponsored by Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), and radio stations Magic 106.1 and 1460 CJOY. The Rockwood Lion's Club hosted a hamburger and hotdog booth and GRCA staff organized a number of activities including critter shows, craft tables and tree planting. Approximately 1,200 people attended.
- On June 24, 2013 J. Mitchell and J. Farwell attended a Conservation Ontario Council meeting. Agenda items of interest included the status of the Conservation Ontario White Paper and Next Steps and an update on the amended federal *Fisheries Act*. The GRCA's role will be more important when the amendments come into effect and J. Farwell will report further to the members at that time.
- On June 26, 2013 an event was held at Rockwood Conservation Area in celebration of the Conservation Area's 50th anniversary. Michael Chong, MP, Wellington-Halton Hills, Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills and Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa spoke as well as Doug Brock, Chair of the GRCF. Norm Lundvall, who has been involved with the GRCF for 37 years also spoke. Mr. Lundvall was instrumental in forming a partnership between the GRCF and MacIntyre and Son Funeral Home and Chapel which has resulted in donations of approximately \$250,000. Mike MacIntyre, Sr. spoke as well and presented a cheque to the GRCF in the amount of \$22,000. J. Mitchell, J. Jamieson, J. Ross-Zuj, P. Salter, B. Banbury, J. Brennan, V. Prendergast and L. Boyko attended. A newspaper article was published in the Guelph Mercury the following day and a copy of the article has been placed on the members' desks.
- On July 8, 2013 Creemore Springs Brewery and The Neighbourhood Group will host the Annual River Fundraiser & Brewer's Feast at the Borealis Restaurants in Kitchener and Guelph and at the Woolwich Arrow Pub in Guelph. Information concerning this event was included in the members' agenda packages. All proceeds benefit the GRCF.
- On June 27, 2013 J. Mitchell, B. Bell and J. Brennan attended a Visioning Session related to the Guelph Lake Conservation Area Management Plan.
- An invitation to a workshop for the 2013 Grand River Water Management Plan to take place on August 15, 2013 was on the members' desks. Heads of Councils will also be invited.

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- \$412,500 in Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) funding was recently received by GRCA.
- At the Region of Waterloo council meeting on June 26, 2013, Peter Gray received the Ontario Heritage Trust Certificate of Lifetime Achievement Award for his involvement with the Children's Water Education Council and the Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival.
- On July 27, 2013 the annual training event for Run for the Toad will be held at Pinehurst Conservation Area. Admission is \$15 and registration can be completed on-line at www.runforthetoad.com. J. Mitchell thanked Race Directors George and Peggy Sarson for their efforts in organizing the Run for the Toad event and in fund raising for Pinehurst Conservation Area. She noted that George and Peggy have been nominated for a GRCA Watershed Award this year.
- The GRCF will hold its Donor Celebration and Kiosk Unveiling for the Taquanyah New View Project on September 26, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Approximately \$250,000 was raised to complete the project, which will offer new recreational opportunities for the community. It will also give the students new habitat features and trails.
- J. Mitchell announced that, unfortunately, there was a drowning at the Elora Quarry and in the Grand River at Brantford this week.

*M. Laidlaw joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

G. Lorentz referred to drownings and said that the members would like to receive notice when people die on GRCA property before hearing of it through the media. J. Farwell said that failure to notify the members' of the situation at the Elora Quarry was a staff oversight. G. Lorentz said he was concerned about liability issues. J. Farwell advised that staff have notified the GRCA insurer of the incident, the Ministry of Labour has inspected the site and the coroner has investigated the incident. He also said that the GRCA insurer will handle any issue of liability that might arise.

4. Review of Agenda:

The following item was added to the agenda:

10. Correspondence

a) Copies for Members

ii) Correspondence from David Oraziotti, Minister of Natural Resources to Jane Mitchell, Chair, Grand River Conservation Authority dated June 12, 2013 Re: Unlawful Harvesting of Deer at Luther Marsh.

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Moved by: S. Schmitt
Seconded by: J. Brennan (carried)

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting of June 28, 2013 be approved as amended.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made in relation to the matters to be dealt with.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

General Membership Meeting – May 24, 2013

Moved by: L. Armstrong
Seconded by: P. Salter (carried)

THAT the Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of May 24, 2013 be approved as circulated.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

None

8. Hearing of Delegations:

None

9. Presentations:

None

10. Correspondence:

- a) Copies for Members
- i) Correspondence from Katherine McLaughlin, Manager, Land Development, Thomasfield Homes Limited to Joe Farwell, Chief Administrative Officer, Grand River Conservation Authority dated June 12, 2013 Re: Request for GRCA Support – Proposed Spillway Concept – Grand Valley.

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- ii) Correspondence from David Oraziotti, Minister of Natural Resources to Jane Mitchell, Chair, Grand River Conservation Authority dated June 12, 2013 Re: Unlawful Harvesting of Deer at Luther Marsh.

J. Farwell advised the members that GRCA staff do not have sufficient information to make comments with respect to the letter from Thomasfield Homes Limited at this time.

T. Nevills said that six months ago he was asked to go to a Grand Valley Economic Development Committee meeting and the gist of the discussions was that this proposal was futuristic and would not be advanced for 20 years. He felt that this request for support is premature.

M. Laidlaw referred to the map attached to the correspondence and said the proposal includes the narrowing of a 100 year storm flood plain. She then said that considering climate change, in her opinion, it should be a ten year storm flood plain.

- b) Not Copied:

None

Moved by: L. Boyko
Seconded by: V. Prendergast (carried)

THAT correspondence from Katherine McLaughlin, Manager, Land Development, Thomasfield Homes Limited to Joe Farwell, Chief Administrative Officer, Grand River Conservation Authority dated June 12, 2013 Re: Request for GRCA Support – Proposed Spillway Concept – Grand Valley and correspondence from David Oraziotti, Minister of Natural Resources to Jane Mitchell, Chair, Grand River Conservation Authority dated June 12, 2013 Re: Unlawful Harvesting of Deer at Luther Marsh be received as information.

11. 1st & 2nd Reading of By-Laws

None

12. Presentation of Reports:

- a) **GM-06-13-66** Financial Summary for the Period Ending May 31, 2013

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

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Res. No. 85-13 Moved by: G. Wicke
Seconded by: T. Nevills (carried)

THAT the *Financial Summary* for the Period Ending May 31, 2013 be approved.

b) GM-06-13-67 Designation of Provincial Offences Officers

T. Nevills said that a couple of years ago two enforcement positions were created. He asked whether the appointment of Provincial Offences Officers is different. N. Davy answered that the two enforcement positions remain in effect and this recommendation involves the designation of one of those individuals as well as other existing staff.

Res. No. 86-13 Moved by: M. Laidlaw
Seconded by: V. Prendergast (carried)

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority designate Beth Brown, Nathan Garland and Craig Bolton as Provincial Offences Officers.

c) GM-06-13-68 Foundation Member Appointments

M. Laidlaw said that she was pleased that Bob Desautels is joining the GRCF as a member because he has been most friendly to the river system in Guelph.

Res. No. 87-13 Moved by: S. Schmitt
Seconded by: J. Brennan (carried)

THAT the following members be re-appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation for a term of three years (renewable for one further three year term):

- Malcolm Matheson
- Robin-Lee Norris
- Dan Potje

AND THAT the following members be re-appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation for a term of three years:

- Doug Brock
- J. Crawford Reid

AND THAT the following new member be appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation for a term of one year (renewable for two further three year terms):

- Bob Desautels

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d) GM-06-13-69 Cash and Investments Status Report

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Res. No. 88-13 Moved by: L. Armstrong
Seconded by: T. Nevillos (carried)

THAT Report No. GM-06-13-69 – Cash and Investments Status Report be receiving as information.

e) GM-06-13-70 Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

T. Nevills said that the GRCA is dealing with a wide range of things that are going to be flooded. He referred to the present flooding on the west coast of Canada. He asked if there has been any discussion, at any level, for review of the regulations to stop building things that are going to be flooded. J. Mitchell said that this was a valid point. N. Davy said that no such discussions are taking place to her knowledge. T. Nevills asked if the GRCA should initiate those discussions. N. Davy said that staff are reviewing policies internally and will report to the members in the future. She is not aware of whether Conservation Ontario is reviewing regulations. T. Nevills said that what he is hearing is that the GRCA is not doing anything to change the situation.

B. Coleman said that he lives on the flood plain and he has never been flooded. He said that flooding depends on where “the line is drawn on the map”.

Res. No. 89-13 Moved by: B. Coleman
Seconded by: B. Banbury (carried)

THAT Report No. GM-06-13-70 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

f) GM-06-13-71 Environmental Assessments

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Res. No. 90-13 Moved by: G. Wicke
Seconded by: B. Coleman (carried)

THAT Report No. GM-06-13-71 – Environmental Assessments be received as information.

g) GM-06-13-72 Environmental Contamination – River Road and Birkett Lane, Brantford

G. Lorentz noted that there was no sketch attached to the report. D. Bennett displayed a PowerPoint map. He explained the location of the property and that it was previously a landfill site for primarily household waste. He said that barrels

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sticking out of the river bank were noticed by canoists who notified the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). MOE subsequently contacted GRCA. Staff met MOE staff on site and then retained the services of a consultant. The materials were removed and stored in a trailer until test results were available. There is still an area upstream with what appears to be old asphalt on it. To date the GRCA has spent approximately \$35,000 for the cleanup which will, hopefully be reimbursed from the GRCA insurer, less the applicable deductible.

G. Lorentz asked if it is typical that a landfill site would be near a river. D. Bennett said that the landfill site was operated from 1930 to the 1950s and the river has moved.

W. Stauch quoted from the report: "More recently the site has been used as a dumping ground for construction related waste ..." He asked what "more recently" means and noted that the GRCA acquired the property in 1974. D. Bennett responded that it appears as if someone has dumped fill on the property such as concrete and asphalt shingles. W. Stauch said that he "gives credit" to the canoists. He asked why, if the barrels were discovered on May 1, 2013, GRCA did not receive notice until May 3, 2013. D. Bennett answered that it took MOE time to determine the owner of the property.

Res. No. 91-13 Moved by: G. Lorentz
Seconded by: L. Boyko (carried)

THAT Report No. GM-06-13-72 – Environmental Contamination – River Road and Birkett Lane, Brantford be received as information.

h) GM-06-13-73 Governance Review

J. Mitchell said that there was an article in the Record setting out compensation for Region of Waterloo councilors sitting on other boards that revealed some discrepancies in compensation. She indicated that an ad hoc committee would be struck to review the members' compensation. She noted that the last review took place in 2007. She advised the members that the Chair and Vice-chairs cannot be part of this committee. T. Cowan, M. Laidlaw, B. Coleman and P. Salter volunteered to sit on the ad hoc committee.

Res. No. 92-13 Moved by: W. Stauch
Seconded by: J. Brennan (carried)

THAT Report No. GM-06-13-73 – Governance Review be received as information;

AND THAT an ad hoc committee consisting of T. Cowan, M. Laidlaw, B. Coleman and P. Salter be struck to review members' compensation.

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i) GM-06-13-74 Emerald Ash Borer Strategy

M. Neumann conducted a PowerPoint presentation indicating:

- Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an Asian insect introduced to North America in the late 1990s
- EAB has killed millions of ash trees as it makes its way across Ontario and the eastern United States
- EAB was first confirmed in the Grand River watershed in 2010
- An EAB infestation typically results in the elimination of ash trees from a given region within approximately a decade
- To date there is no federal or provincial funding available to assist in offsetting the cost of managing an EAB infestation
- A short time frame exists between the first visible signs of an infestation in an individual tree and that tree's potential structural collapse – this rapid deterioration results in a high risk associated with dead and dying ash trees
- Wherever a structurally unsound tree is within “striking distance” of a “target” the tree meets the definition of a “hazard tree” – “targets” include people, buildings, trails, roads, wires and other infrastructure
- It is possible to protect an individual healthy ash tree from EAB with ongoing treatment however it is not economically feasible to control EAB in the regional ash tree population
- The proposed GRCA strategy seeks a prudent balance between risk, benefits and costs
- The EAB management strategy employs existing GRCA programming and staff, where possible
- Data gathering to enable precision in related budgeting is ongoing – it is anticipated that EAB will have a financial impact on GRCA in the range of \$5 million to \$10 million over the next five to ten years beginning in 2013
- The majority of the impact will be in the area of hazard tree removal where the annual budget of \$171,000 will not be adequate and where failure to address the matter may result in liability exposure and/or decreased public access to amenities
- A more detailed funding strategy will be developed in the 2014 budgeting process

G. Lorentz asked if EAB has any natural predators. M. Neumann said that EAB is an Asian insect and it does not cause similar problems in Asia. He then said that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has approved the release of two wasps from China for the biological control of EAB. G. Lorentz asked how EAB can be eradicated. M. Neumann said that no one expects EAB to be eradicated. G. Lorentz asked “what else is coming”? M. Neumann said that invasive exotics are “coming in waves” because of global trade.

W. Stauch asked how the borers move, i.e. do they fly or move on the ground? M. Neumann said they are transported usually in firewood and crating material. W. Stauch said he has noticed signs along the highway concerning removal of wood from certain areas. M. Neumann said that the signs depict regulated areas which mean that wood should not be removed from the area. W. Stauch referred to the

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“401 corridor” and Chatham/Kent where there are large piles of wood in fields. He asked if this is EAB related. M. Neumann said that he did not know the answer. He then said that area had attempted to create a “firewall” consisting of a 10 kilometre strip which, in theory, and if the regulation was obeyed, would contain the infestation.

M. Laidlaw referred to ash trees in Asia having a “natural defence mechanism” to EAB. She asked whether any thought has been given to bringing some of those trees to North America in an attempt to establish such a mechanism in local ash trees. M. Neumann answered that he is certain there are some scientists looking at this. He then said that a decision would have to be made whether another non-native species is wanted in the area.

T. Cowan referred to the traps used to determine whether EAB is present and asked for clarification that this is the first year that GRCA has used them. M. Neuman responded in the affirmative. T. Cowan asked whether a pheromone is used in the traps. M. Neumann said that such is the case and the pheromone “mimics” the smell of fresh leaves. T. Cowan asked how long the GRCA has had this issue. M. Neumann said that the infestation is usually in existence for two to three years before it is detected. He said that EAB was identified on GRCA property in 2010 and was therefore probably in existence in 2007. T. Cowan asked what the plan is. M. Neumann said areas are still being regulated but this has not been successful.

L. Boyko asked “what is second on the menu”? M. Neumann said he is hoping that it is ash.

G. Wicke commended M. Neumann on the work that the GRCA forestry staff has done. He said, in his opinion, the affected area would not have been so large if it had been clearly communicated how EAB was transported. He said he recently attended a Friends of Ellis and Gadshill Swamps meeting where a presentation was given on invasive species. He said he would like municipal tree by-laws reviewed and asked whether the GRCA should be communicating with municipalities in this regard. He then said his concern is that farmers will look at taking over land after the ash trees are gone. He also said that he has been attempting to contact a tree inspector in his constituency because this individual would have influence over a municipal council. J. Mitchell asked whether the member wanted a letter sent to municipalities in this regard. J. Farwell suggested that the issue of tree by-laws should remain at a staff to staff level at this point and if municipal staff felt a letter of support from the GRCA is needed then it could be done.

B. Banbury asked whether harvesting healthy, mature ash trees so that the revenue could be used for remediation has been considered. M. Neumann said that there are published guidelines for woodlots and the value of ash is not as high as he would have thought. B. Banbury asked what species will be used for replacement of affected trees. M. Neumann said the species will depend upon the site conditions.

J. Brennan asked for additional information relating to the EAB traps, i.e. the cost, maintenance, etc. M. Neumann said that the traps are not expensive to purchase, however the expensive component is the staff resources required to install, monitor

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and remove them.

Res. No. 93-13 Moved by: J. Jamieson
Seconded by: S. Schmitt (carried)

THAT Report No. GM-06-13-74 – Emerald Ash Borer be received as information.

j) GM-06-13-75 Current Watershed Conditions as of June 24, 2013

S. Shifflett conducted a PowerPoint presentation indicating as follows:

- June, 2013 has been a moderately wet month – total rainfall has been at or above the long term average throughout the Grand River watershed
- June, 2013 has been a cool month with the average air temperature 0.7 degrees below the long term average at the Shand Dam climate station
- The level of Lake Erie is below the long term average – Environment Canada is forecasting that Lake Erie levels will continue to be below the long term average for the next six months
- Reservoir levels are all near the upper end of normal operating range for this time of year
- Stream flows throughout the Grand River watershed have been well above the long term average for June, 2013
- Environment Canada's 30 day forecast for the June to August period for southern Ontario is for normal temperatures and above normal precipitation

Res. No. 94-13 Moved by: M. Laidlaw
Seconded by: P. Salter (carried)

THAT Report No. GM-06-13-75 – Current Watershed Conditions as of June 24, 2013 be received as information.

k) Report of the Special Recognition Committee – June 10, 2013

V. Prendergast reviewed the report and the recommended recipients of the GRCF Community Conservation Grants and the GRCA Watershed Awards. He indicated that the GRCF Community Conservation Grants will be presented in the Spring starting in 2014.

G. Wicke expressed appreciation to the Committee for recommending that former GRCA member Lynne Woolstencroft receive a Watershed Award posthumously.

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20. Grand River Source Protection Authority Meeting (if required)

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT	
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AUG 02 2013

Township of Puslinch

MEMORANDUM

From: Janet Baine, Communications Specialist
519-621-2763, Ext. 2302, jbaine@grandriver.ca

Re: July/Aug 2013 Issue of Grand Actions

I.G.# 8



The current issue of *Grand Actions* is enclosed for distribution to the members of your municipal council, senior staff and others.

This issue contains stories about a cold water stream reborn in the southern Grand, a Carolinian forest in Brant, the devastation of the emerald ash borer and wind breaks in farmer's fields.



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Ideas, photos and questions are always welcome.

Thanks,

Janet Baine