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Mar 24 · 52 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1639257807764455426](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1639257807764455426)

Coming up at 9:30, it's the monthly Grand River Conservation Authority membership meeting. Here's what they're talking about for March:



MEETING PREVIEW: Grand River Conservation Board Meeting for Mar...

This month's meeting of the Grand River Conservation Authority membership will cover a wide variety of issues including the usual topics like current watershed conditions, and current financi...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/03/17/meeting-preview-grand-river-conservation-board-m...>

Chair White has called the meeting to order.

Chair announcements: The stocking of trout in the watershed is schedule for May 1 depending on the hatchery. Brantford tree planting on April 24.

Agenda approved.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest. Member Kevin Davis declares one for the closed meeting item.

Motion to approve correspondences, incl. the ones the addendum:

https://calendar.grandriver.ca/directors/Detail/2023-03-24-GRCA-General-Membership-Meeting/Addendum%20Package%20-%20GRCA%20General%20Membership%20Meeting_Mar24_2023.pdf, put on the floor.

Dan Lawrence asks about any update digesting Bill 23. Staff says they're working with municipalities and are expecting new regulations coming in the spring. They'll bring a report to the board with an update about those regs when received.

Lawrence asks if the best tact is to tell constituents that they're still trying to figure it out and are waiting for more info. White says yes, and there will be discussions as the GRCA negotiates the new agreements with municipalities.

Motion to receive correspondences approved.

Motion to receive Minutes of the Ad-Hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee from March 13, 2023 approved.

Minutes of the Ad-Hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee from March 13, 2023 – Five representatives from the membership, including Chair Chris White and Vice-Chair Susan Foxton, are part of this committee who's goal has been to provide input and direction to the ways that the GRCA are implementing changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. Much of what they talked about will be discussed in the next couple of reports.

Motion to approve Updated Inventory of Programs and Services.

Updated Inventory of Programs and Services – Several changes ago, all conservation authorities in Ontario had to come up with an inventory of their programs and file them between three categories: those that are mandatory, those that are requested by the member municipalities, and the ones that they've optionally decided to take on. This will be the final version of this inventory, and much of the recent changes seem tied to Bill 23's instance that conservation authorities play a more limited role in planning.

Member Sandy Shantz asks if all protections of natural heritage are gone now. Staff say only in regard to the planning process and co-ordinating with municipalities.

This motion approved.

GM-03-23-24 - Progress Report #4 - Requirement under O.Reg. 687/21

THAT Progress Report #4 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.

Progress Report #4 - The progress here concerns the above topic around programs and services, and the GRCA staff says that they are on schedule delivering these mandated changes. As of the end of December, staff have not received any concerns or formal comments from participating municipalities, negotiations have begun with half of the participating municipalities on category 2 programs and services, and there's been strong co-ordination with neighbouring authorities.

Next, Cash and investment status. There's a question about the land sale in the sale in the report. The property is in Kitchener, and it took about 10 years to complete. Money goes into land sale reserve and staff are working with different dept.s to look at future projects.

These two items approved:

- d. GM-03-23-23 - Cash and Investment Status
THAT Report Number GM-03-23-23 Cash and Investment Status – February 2023 be received as information.
- e. GM-03-23-28 - Financial Summary
THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending February 28, 2023 be approved.

Cash and Investment Status – As of the end of February, the GRCA has Notes Receivable in the amount of \$53,507,444 with outstanding cheques written in the amount of \$278,810.

Financial Summary – These financial statements include the actual year-to-date income and expenditures pending final approval at this very meeting. The forecast for the year will likely see a nil surplus by the end of the fiscal year.

Next, a matter of procurement. And it's approved.

- f. GM-03-23-26 - Janitorial and Sanitation Supply Request for Proposal
THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority award the contract for Janitorial and Sanitation Supplies to Staples Professional for a term of three years with the option for an additional two years starting April 1, 2023.

Janitorial and Sanitation Supply Request for Proposal – After the conclusion of the request for proposal (RFP) process on February 28, staff have determined that Staples Professional will offer the best bang for their buck when it comes to the procurement of janitorial and sanitation supplies out of the two tenders received. The membership will need to endorse the staff recommendation so that they can enter into a three-year contract with Staples Professional.

Next, pheasant hunting making a comeback!

- g. GM-03-23-27 - Conestogo Pheasant Club Pilot Project
- THAT Report Number GM-02-23-27 Conestogo Pheasant Club Update be received as information;
- AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the agreement with Conestogo Pheasant Club and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters on behalf of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

Conestogo Pheasant Club Pilot Project – The GRCA has been working with the Conestogo Pheasant Club to come up with an agreement to allow pheasant hunting in Area #3 of the Conestogo Lake Conservation Area in Mapleton. The original program was discontinued in 2019 because there was too much of an impact on GRCA resources given the comparatively low number of people taking part, but the board at the time left the door open to a third-party management agreement. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters have volunteered to work with the GRCA to administer the new program, and staff are recommending approval.

Davis asks about competing users. Staff says snow mobilers use the area, and they have been looped in when working out this new contract. Davis notes the difficulties of managing a program with somewhat outside the GRCA and commends staff for innovation.

Member Miller asks about the agreement itself. Staff say they were waiting for the board to authorise it before signing and it's a fairly typical third party agreement. The agreement itself wasn't attached to the agenda.

White says this is operational and the board isn't involved at this level. Miller asks about termination clauses. Staff says that was part of the negotiation, and notes that this is a pilot program.

Next, Permit Application 148/23 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation and there is a presentation.

Melissa Larion, supervisor of resource planning, is presenting but first, a word about permit policy:

Permit Policies at GRCA

Grand River Conservation Authority

Policies for the Administration of the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

Ontario Regulation 150/06

Approved October 17th 2011 Repealed March 13th 12

Effective October 17th 2011

980 Glen Road, P.O. Box 729
Cambridge, ON, N1R 6T4

www.grca.on.ca

Permits for Consideration


Permits 'For Consideration' include applications that:

- are not covered by an approved GRCA policy,
- have factors in addition to the policy considerations which should be considered, or
- precede a decision or settlement of a legal proceeding or tribunal

Most permits approved at staff level (meet policies)


What land are we talking about?

Site location



- Located northeast of the roundabout at Franklin Boulevard and Main Street in Cambridge
- Regulated by GRCA due to wetlands and watercourse

Background



- Draft Plan of Subdivision
- Environmental Impact Study and other technical studies completed
- One wetland area historically used as a dumping site
- Elevated contaminant concentrations (i.e. metal compounds, petroleum hydrocarbons, etc.)
- Risks to plant, animal and human receptors


The plan calls for the removal and remediation of the southern portion of the wetland, and the total land remediated may be bigger depending on how deep the contamination goes. The affected area will be remediated with native trees, and the wetland will be expanded north.

Conformance?

GRCA Policy Conformance

Policy 8.4.4. - Development within a naturally-occurring wetland may be permitted where the wetland is less than 0.3 hectares (1.24 acres), and it can be demonstrated that the wetland is not:

- a) part of a Provincially Significant Wetland ✓
- b) located within a floodplain or riparian community ✓
- c) part of a Provincially or municipally designated natural heritage feature, a significant woodland, or hazard land ✗
- d) a bog or fen ✓
- e) fish habitat ✓
- f) significant wildlife habitat ✗
- g) confirmed habitat for a Provincially or regionally significant species as determined by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or as determined by the municipality ✗
- h) part of an ecologically functional corridor or linkage between larger wetlands or natural areas ✓
- i) part of a groundwater recharge area ✗
- j) a groundwater discharge area associated with any of the above. ✗




Grand River C...


zoom

Remediation will take between 8 months and 2 years, which is why they're creating a new wetland first.

Factors to Consider



- Elevated concentrations of contaminants above MECP regulations and site conditions standards
- Human and ecological health risks reduced through remediation by preventing further discharge
- Municipal support for the proposal
- Hydrologic function of wetland will be maintained/enhanced
- Voluntary wetland creation proposed by applicant
 - Area of wetland removed = 0.1 ha
 - Area of created wetland = 0.19 ha



Grand River C...

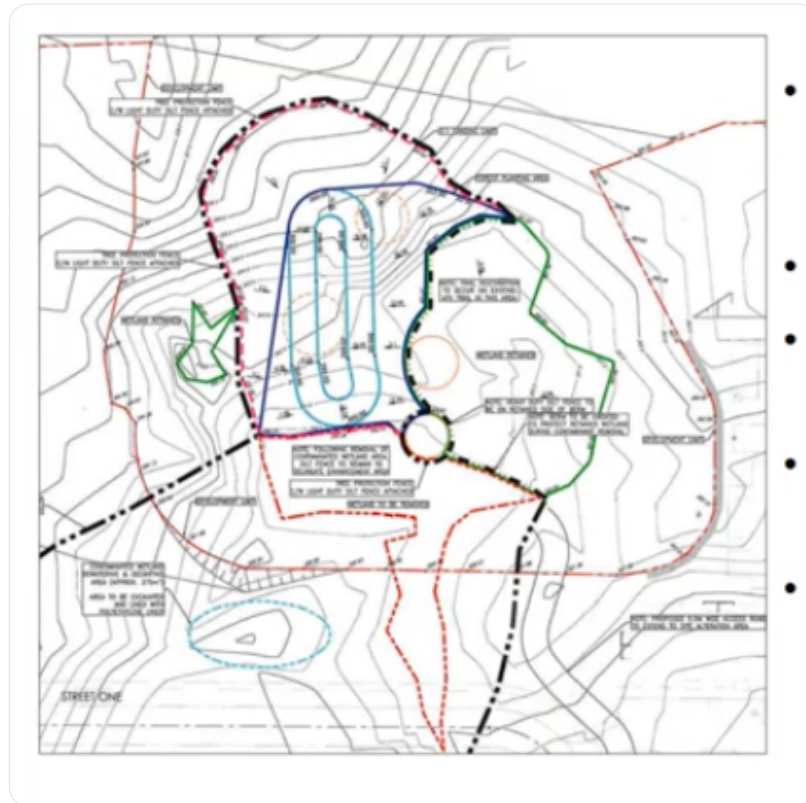
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Motion on the floor:

- h. GM-03-23-22 - Permit Application 148/23 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation
- THAT Grand River Conservation Authority Permit Application #148/23 be approved.

Susan Foxtan asks if the plan is to build on the remediated site, and staff says that it will likely be the location of a new subdivision at some point, also notes that GRCA isn't paying for the clean-up.

Davis asks about the placement of the new wetland. It's the area in blue. It looks like the shape of a stormwater pond, but it's not.



Member Shantz asks why GRCA is being asked for approval if its not GRCA land. Staff say that the CA administers wetlands, hence their involvement.

Shantz asks if this is also a water recharge area. Staff say yes, which is another consideration and why they want to remediate. Member Devine says this is a net improvement to the environment so he's in favour.

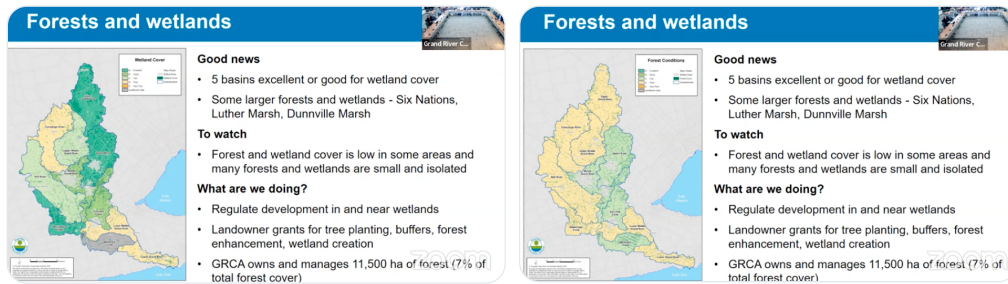
Janet Ivey, manager of water resources will now present the Grand River Watershed Report Card.

We appear to be experiencing technical difficulties.

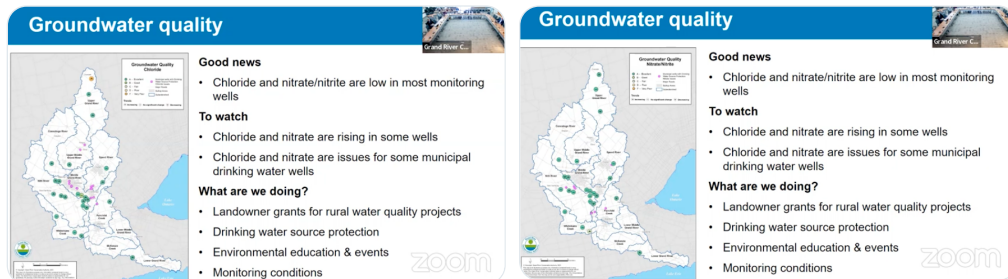


Okay, problem fixed. On with the presentation...

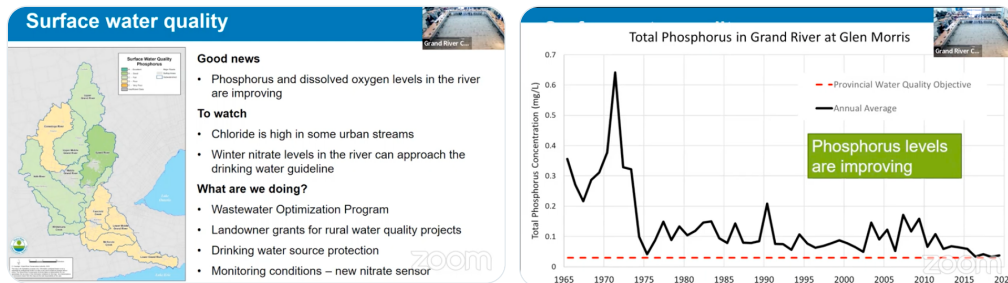
Ivey notes that this is a simplification and doesn't tell the whole story, so she's tried to add a bit more information. High level first (Note: The greener the better) -



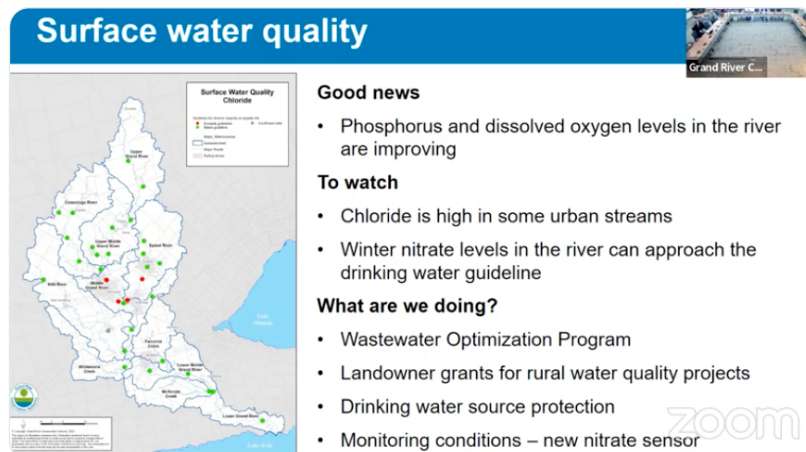
Ground water quality. The up symbol shows wells where chloride and nitrates are on the rise.



Surface water quality. GRCA is inline with the provincial average of "fair". On the other hand, the overall level of phosphorus in the watershed is crashing.



Levels of chloride meanwhile have been increasing since the 1970s, and particularly down river from urban areas. Increase are also seen in the winter months. GRCA are installing new sensors to better understand the increases.



Motion:

- i. GM-03-23-21 - Grand River Watershed Report Card

THAT Report Number GM-03-23-21 – Watershed Report Card be received as information.

Davis asks where chloride and nitrates come from. Chloride can be a byproduct of road salt or even water softeners, and nitrates are a byproduct of some farming practices and fertiliser.

Both of those do contribute to algae - both the green and blue varieties - that you see in rivers and reservoirs.

Municipalities in the watershed have been working to improve their water treatment and have participated in the GRCA optimisation programs. Investing in rural water quality and other stewardship programs to assist farmers are also ways to improve.

Motion to receive report approved.

Next:

- j. GM-03-23-30 - Grand River Watershed Flood Notification System

THAT Report Number GM-03-23-30 – Grand River Watershed Flood Warning System be received as information.

Grand River Watershed Flood Notification System - A Hybrid Flood Co-ordinators meeting took place on February 23 and had 136 participants, and everyone there heard that there was a low risk of river flooding this year due to the lack of snow pack. Also, there's practically no ice on any of the rivers, so there will likely be no ice jams either. The meeting also followed up on the updated Flood Warning System booklet that was mailed out to partners in January and discussed at the December [membership meeting](#).

White says that it smells like the communications systems is working well and that's the core mandate. Motion approved.

Next: Current Watershed Conditions

- k. GM-03-23-29 - Current Watershed Conditions

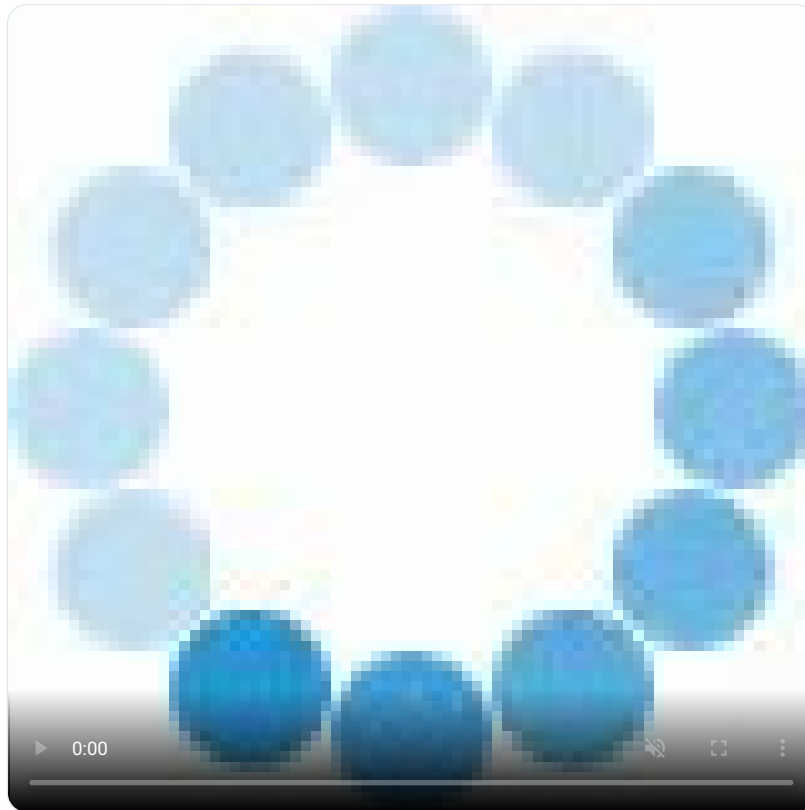
THAT Report Number GM-03-23-29 – Current Watershed Conditions as of March 15, 2023 be received as information.

Current Watershed Conditions - The rain and snow melting in early February resulted in higher river levels, where was used to fill reservoirs to levels higher than normal for the mid-point in February, and then there's all the snow that has fallen since then to factor into future (meaning present) conditions. Lake Erie is also above average in terms of lake levels for this time of year, but it's still below 2022 levels. The forecast looks normal for the next three months.

Member Shirton asks about snow pack in other areas of the watershed, there's not much where he is in Dunville. Staff note that reservoirs in are filling cycle, there was significant melt yesterday and they do think they'll reach levels. No flood concerns at the moment.

Motion approved.

The membership will now move into closed meeting to discuss a) Property Disposition - City of Brantford and b) Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations. Assume that motion went according to plan because now I'm getting the spinning wheel of death.



This is essentially the end of the meeting. If anything comes out of closed, or if the spinning wheel fixes itself, I will update.

Finally circling back to tie off this meeting. There was one motion coming out of closed session: The GRCA provide an easement for a property in Brantford to allow for a utility road. That motion is passed.

And that was the end of the meeting. The next meeting of the membership is Friday, April 28 at 9:30 am.



[@threadreaderapp](#), unroll please.

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