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May 26 · 49 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1662088698408599553](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1662088698408599553)

Coming up at 9:30, it's the monthly membership meeting of the Grand River Conservation Authority.



MEETING PREVIEW: Grand River Conservation Membership Meeting f...

This month, the Grand River Conservation Authorities membership meeting has money matters on the mind. First, there's a major update on the fiscal year so far, and then the membership will di...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/05/19/meeting-preview-grand-river-conservation-member...>

Chair White has called the meeting to order.

First, an announcement. White says that GRCA has received money from the Province for erosion control. This is an annual shared funding grant, but White says its always nice to receive god news. Also, the GRCA Foundation will have the Grand Champions luncheon in June.

Starting with official business: The Source Protection Authority Meeting. This is in advance of the regular meeting.

One motion for this: THAT the Grand River Source Protection Authority re-appoint John Sepulis and appoint Linda Vandendriessche as municipal representatives to the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee for a four-year term. It passes unanimously.

So that business is concluded, we're now moving on to the main meeting.

No Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

First, a delegation! Martina Cotter from Guelph wants to discuss Entrance fees at Elora Quarry. She talks about going to Elora Quarry in the summers, and is delegating to expand access to the quarry, which has become very limited in the wake of COVID.

Member Craig says that he found the comments from the delegate profound and notes that its hard to come delegate to the board. He wanted to let her know she appreciates her comments.

White explains that now the staff will take her comments away and decide how to respond. Member Watters notes that it would be a good idea for the membership to have a primer about how the current capacity decision was made.

Next, correspondences. There was one about protecting wetlands in Guelph. It's received unanimously.

Approved:

- a.

Conservation Authorities Act Committee - May 10, 2023

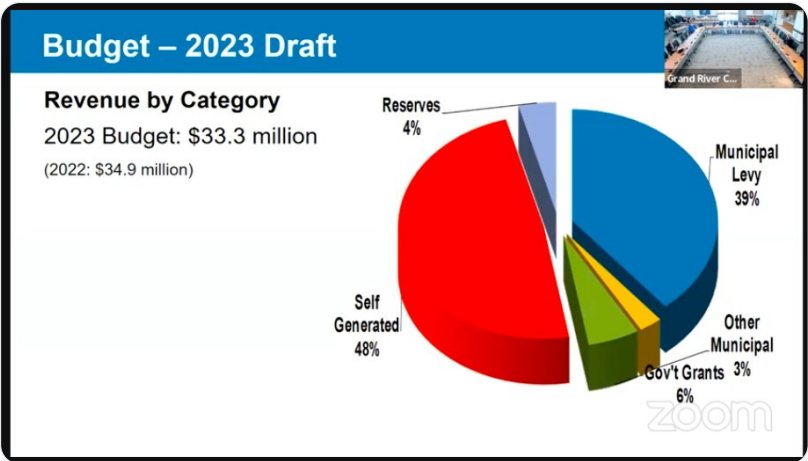
THAT the minutes of the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Committee meeting held on May 10, 2023 be received as information.

Coming out of that meeting, there's the 2024 Budget Framework: New Regulations. Given the recent changes to conservation authorities, a new budgeting process was requires and it was already approved earlier this month in the CAA committee.

Typical timeline for the budget:



This is revenue by category in 2023:



This is how things have changed in terms of budgeting and identifying categories:

New Legislation & Regulations	Applicable Regulations
<p>During the 2023 budget process, staff advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Regulations do NOT impact the 2023 budget. New Regulations will impact the 2024 budget. <p>Conservation Authorities Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category 1 – mandatory programs and services (s.21.1) Category 2 – municipally-requested programs and services (s.21.1.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require MOUs or other agreements Category 3 – other programs and services as determined by the Board (s.21.1.2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires an agreement if it involves a participating municipality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O.Reg.686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services – category 1 O.Reg.687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act – category 3 O.Reg.402/22: Budget and Apportionment <p>Potential Future Implications (Clean Water Act):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> O.Reg.401/22: Determination of Amounts Under Subsection 27.2 (2) of the Act O.Reg.402/22 Budget and Apportionment

The ONgov has changed how WAs budget in order to standardise. Staff say that this doesn't impact the GRCA too much b/c they were already doing these things in policy or in principle.

O.Reg.402/22: Budget and Apportionment

- New requirement that an annual budget be prepared for 2024 and every subsequent year
- Four Phases:**
 - Categorizing revenue and expenses, and apportionment
 - Draft budget format, board approval, and consultation
 - Board apportionment approval process
 - Final budget approval process

Category 1: mandatory programs & services offered by the GRCA;
category 2: p&s provided based on agreements with the member municipalities;
category 3: discretionary p&s typically paid for through cost recovery (ie fees);
general operating & capital expenses.

One of the changes, board has to vote to approve the draft budget, which now **must** be sent out to member municipalities.

O.Reg.402/22: Budget and Apportionment

Phase 2 – Draft budget format, board approval, and consultation

- Board approval on draft budget
 - Approval for consultation purposes – a vote is required
- Consultation
 - Approved draft budget sent to each participating municipality, including all apportionment information
 - Draft budget and related financial information is posted to 'Governance' section on website
 - Consultation with participating municipalities as required

Phase 3 - budget and levy used to be passed at the same meeting, now it has to be done separately.

O.Reg.402/22: Budget and Apportionment



Phase 3 – Board apportionment approval process

- Board meeting must be held to approve apportionment to participating municipalities
- 30 days' notice of meeting to participating municipalities
 - Include most recent draft of budget
 - That municipality's apportionment amount
- Vote – weighted majority and recorded
- Once approved, notice of apportionment sent to participating municipalities

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The final budget vote should likely take place in February like usual.

O.Reg.402/22: Budget and Apportionment




Phase 4 – Final budget approval process

- Final budget must be in the same format as the draft budget
 - Reflect any matters agreed to during consultations
 - Include amounts voted on for apportionment
- Vote – board approval is required
 - Majority vote or weighted majority if stated in the by-laws
 - Must be recorded
- Once approved, copy sent to Minister (MNRF), each participating municipality, and post on 'Governance' section of website

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In summary:

Summary – Changes for 2024 Budget Process



- Different budget format
- Additional discussion and board decisions pertaining to:
 - Allocation of self-generated or other revenue to category 1, 2, and/or 3 expenses, if appropriate (and documented in draft budget)
 - Apportionment of category 1 expenses – evaluate the benefit of programs and services to determine the apportionment method
- Timing of approvals
 - Draft budget approval (for consultation) – September/October
 - Separate apportionment vote - January
 - Final budget at next (or subsequent) meeting - February

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Sonja Radoja, manager of corporate services, will now go over a template.

Question: Have any MOU's been signed yet? Staff say that they have sent out drafts to the municipalities but nothing's been approved yet.

What happens if someone doesn't sign? There have been ongoing discussions w/ municipalities too, so if there's a concern it will be raised.

Member Shirton asks about inflation, estimates seem low. Radoja says that's a good point, but the biggest impact on budget is labour, and there's now a collective agreement in place, which should create some stability. Also, this is still a framework. 1st draft coming in Sept/Oct

Cllr Billings asks about a service will be paid for if requested by a specific municipality. Radoja says it will be cost recovery through the municipality, and that's outlined in MOUs, it's just the ratio that will change depending on how many municipalities sign on to service.

Motion to receive the framework as information received unanimously.

Next, General Membership Composition Committee report. This is in regards to a request from Hamilton to increase their representation on the GRCA Board.

Deputy CAO Karen Armstrong is presenting this one, starting with a history of Hamilton's role and apportionment in the GRCA.

Background – City of Hamilton and Levy c

- **Board Budget and Levy approval – from 2001 (until 2017)**
THAT the 20XX Budget of Grand River Conservation Authority of \$___ be approved:
AND THAT the member municipalities be assessed for payment:
Matching Levy \$___
Non-Matching Levy \$___
Capital Levy \$___
Total General Levy \$___

AND THAT each member municipality's share of the 20XX General levy be calculated using "Modified Current Value Assessment" with an adjustment for the City of Hamilton which is based on a "local agreement" with the municipality and its four Conservation Authorities.
• Annual levy notification to municipalities also included this wording
• Annual CVA information from MNR was adjusted to reflect the "agreement"

There has been some debate about how much of Hamilton is in the Grand River Watershed over the years.

Background – City of Hamilton and Levy c

- 2004 – formula updated based on detailed study using geo-referencing of property tax assessment roll numbers

Conservation Authority	Estimated Watershed Assessment (per 2004 Agreement)	Geographic Area in Watershed (per GIS study in 2018)
Hamilton CA	87.4 %	37.98 %
Halton Region CA	4.0 %	14.17 %
Grand River CA	4.7 %	26.75 %
Niagara Peninsula CA	3.9 %	21.09 %
Total	100.0 %	100.00 %

- GRCA recommended the geo-referencing methodology to MNR during CA Act consultations (Dec.2019)

Further background:

Background – City of Hamilton and Levy



- GRCA continued to follow the “agreement”
- Dec.21, 2017 – Mining and Lands Commissioner decision dismissed the City of Hamilton’s appeal
- City of Hamilton requested a judicial review - decision Apr.2019 in NPCA’s favour
- GRCA - MCVA without adjustment effective 2018
 - 2018 impact for Hamilton - \$271,563 to \$1,389,640 (+412%)
- City of Hamilton appealed GRCA’s levy in 2018 and 2019 and later dropped the appeals

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Progress was made in the review in 2019, but then paused as the Province began a series of perpetual review of CAs. This came back to the fore in 2022.

Board Composition Review



2019

- GRCA General Membership Composition Review Committee
- Objective: reviewing composition to ensure equitable representation
- Feedback through City of Hamilton appointee at the time was for 1 additional member
- Meetings suspended pending provincial review of CAs

2022

- City of Hamilton reviewed appointments to all 4 CA Boards
- Requested use of population-based appointment method if composition is amended OR follow the Order-in-Council

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Current composition:

GRCA Board Composition – Current



- 26 Members
- Per 1994 Order in Council
- One representative:
 - Town of Grand Valley, Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Melancthon, and Southgate
 - Townships of Wellington North and Mapleton
 - Township of Centre Wellington
 - Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph-Eramosa and Puslinch
 - Town of North Perth and Township of Perth East
- Regional Municipality of Halton
- City of Hamilton
- County of Oxford
- Two representatives:
 - City of Guelph
 - City of Brantford
 - County of Brant
 - Counties of Norfolk and Haldimand
- Ten representatives:
 - Regional Municipality of Waterloo
- **Agricultural representative*

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How do you compose a board? There are a couple of options.

Board Composition – CA Act

- CA Board membership can be determined by:
 - Population-based methodology
 - Agreement by all participating municipalities
 - *Order-in-Council (OIC)
 - GRCA's 1994 OIC continues to be valid

These are the options, and the recommendation, which I believe Chair White said is going to amended.

Board Composition Committee – next step

Options Discussed:

- Option 1 – Continue with the status quo Order-in-Council (OIC)
- Option 2 – Request that the Province Amend the OIC to increase the City of Hamilton's membership from 1 to 2 members
- Option 3 – Cancel the OIC; establish an agreement as per the CA Act
- Option 4 – Cancel the OIC; follow the population-based methodology in the CA Act
- Option 5 – Ask the Minister to review the OIC and advise

Recommendation:

THAT the General Membership continues to support the status quo Order-in-Council for determining membership composition;
AND THAT the Chair requests a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to discuss amending the Order-in-Council to increase the City of Hamilton's membership from 1 to 2 members.

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The meeting with the minister is a preliminary meeting, so it's not like the GRCA can go in there and get their recommendation rubber stamped.

White says that everyone on this board recognises what hat they're wearing when they're at the board and they work a lot better than some boards. He also notes that Hamilton has had a shift even tho 38 municipalities all work together here. Don't want to crack whole thing open.

He also notes that there are moving pieces on the board. Might be changes to Waterloo Region in the next few years.

The motion on slide is the motion, and it's approved.

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Cash and Investment Status: Approved.

Financial Summary: Approved.

Next, Changes to the Land Disposition Process for Section 38 Land Holdings. Motion to receive this for information.

We kind of blew by it, but it's important information. Here's what I wrote about that report in the preview of this meeting:

Changes to the Land Disposition Process for Section 38 Land Holdings – When the GRCA owns land that they feel they don't need anymore, there's a process for that, and it's been more or less unchanged since 1997. Then along came Bill 23. The bill added a public consultation process and the caveat to have written notice about a proposed disposition sent to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

What's involved in the new public process? The GRCA will have to provide written notice for at least 45 days (the minister gets 90 days notice) and begin with the draft transaction notice that will include the location, a description of the land, the date of disposition and potential future use. Comments will be received through the GRCA's website, and a report about the public comments will be prepared for the membership. That feedback, along with the recommendation of the best offer for the land, will be discussed and debated in-camera before resolution is moved in open session.

Next: Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement.

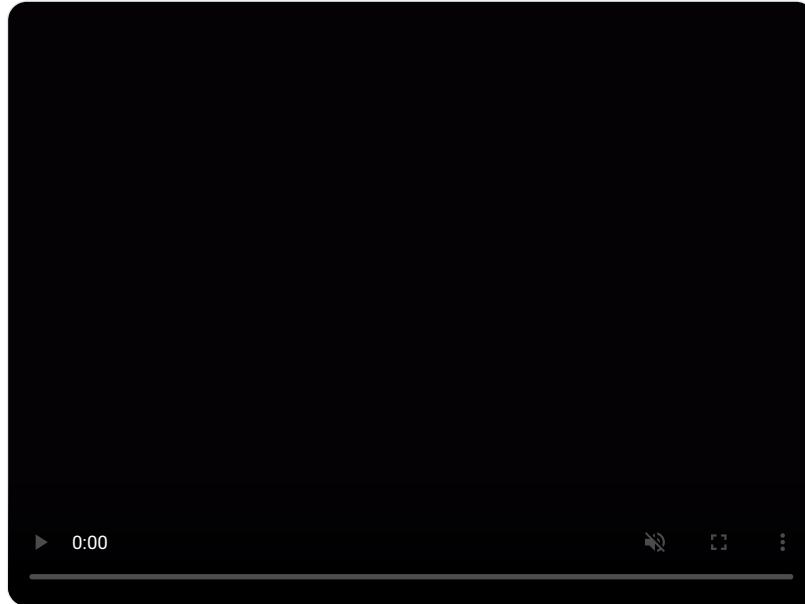
Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement – So back in April, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing sent a proposal for consultation. It asked for feedback about combining two major documents: the Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow. As noted in the report, "The proposal, if passed, would result in sweeping changes to the way communities are planned in Ontario."

The GRCA has three recommendations: that they recognize the importance of natural heritage and water resources, that the Ontario government clarify the role of municipalities and conservation authorities when it comes to the management of hazardous sites, and to emphasize the need for watershed and subwatershed planning.

Next, motion to approve hiring of three Provincial Offences Act Officers passes unanimously.

Motion to receive Current Watershed Conditions report as info passes unanimously.

The membership is now moving into closed session to discuss a matter of land disposition. I'll let you know what comes out of it...



So that was fast. The membership is out of closed.

Motion to have GRCA declare lots 11,12 to be surplus land and sold to City of Kitchener approved unanimously.

And that's a wrap for this meeting!



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