



NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: September 1, 2022

TIME: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

MEETING:

**GANARASKA FOREST
RECREATIONAL USERS
COMMITTEE**

MEMBERS:

Mark Gardiner, Mark Ryckman, Dave Grant, Jennifer Jackman, Garry Niece, Randy Cunningham, Cam Lowe, Amber Panchyshyn, Mike Ainsworth, Peter Wood, Mark Cousins, Marven Whidden, Tracy Richardson

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
3. Minutes of Last Meeting – June 2, 2022 - **attached**
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Delegations:
None
6. Presentation:
None

7. Business Arising from Minutes:
None
8. Correspondence:
None
9. New Business:
 - a) Forestry and Trail Update Pertaining to the Derecho Storm – **staff report attached**
 - b) Ganaraska Forest Operational Recovery Plan of Recreational Trails – **staff report attached**
0. Adjourn

MINUTES OF THE GANARASKA FOREST RECREATIONAL USERS COMMITTEE

June 2, 2022

RUC 2/22

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm. The Chair of the committee welcomed the members, Pam Lancaster, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) Conservation Lands Coordinator and Gus Saurer, GRCA Forester and introduced New RUC Member Peter Wood of Ontario Federation of 4X4 Clubs.

MEMBER PRESENT: Mark Gardiner, Chair
Lauren Tonelli, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Dave Grant, Ontario Trail Riders Association
Jennifer Jackman, Ontario Nature
Randy Cunningham, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
Cam Lowe, Ontario Federation of Trail Riders
Peter Wood, Ontario Federation of 4X4 Clubs
Marven Whidden, Municipality of Clarington

ALSO PRESENT: Ed Van Osch, GRCA Forest Recreation Technician
Pam Lancaster, GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator
Gus Saurer, GRCA Forester

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Tracy Richardson, GRCA Board Representative
Amber Panchyshyn, Ontario Orienteering (Temporary Rep)
Garry Niece, Hike Ontario

ALSO ABSENT: Mike Ainsworth, Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs Canadian
Larry Melynchuk, City of Kawartha Lakes
Mark Cousins, Township of Cavan Monaghan
Cross Country Ski Ontario (Position unfilled)
Ontario Cycling Association (position unfilled)
Municipality of Port Hope (position unfilled)

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RUC 8/22

MOVED BY: Cam Lowe

SECONDED BY: Marven Whidden

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee approve the minutes of the April 7, 2022 meeting.

CARRIED.

4. Adoption of Agenda

RUC 9/22

MOVED BY: Cam Lowe

SECONDED BY: Dave Grant

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED.

5. Delegations

None

6. Presentations

Forestry in the Ganaraska Forest. Presented by Gus Saurer, GRCA Forester

RUC 10/22

MOVED BY: Cam Lowe

SECONDED BY: Marven Whidden

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee receive the Forestry in Ganaraska Forest presentation for information.

CARRIED.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. New Business

a) May 21, 2022 Storm Damage Update

Staff report presented for discussion. Ed Van Osch, GRCA Forest Recreation Technician provided a Ganaraska Forest closer update which will be made public June 3, 2022.

RUC 11/22

MOVED BY: Peter Wood

SECONDED BY: Cam Lowe

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee received the May 21, 2022 Storm Damage Update staff report for information.

CARRIED.

b) Role of RUC in GRCA Public Outreach

Staff report presented for discussion.

RUC 12/22

MOVED BY: Jennifer Jackman

SECONDED BY: Dave Grant

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee received the Role of RUC in GRCA Public Outreach staff report for information.

CARRIED.

c) User Groups Informing the Future of the Ganaraska Forest Recreation Program

Staff report presented for discussion.

RUC 13/22

MOVED BY: Marven Whidden

SECONDED BY: Peter Wood

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee received the User Groups Informing the Future of the Ganaraska Forest Recreation Program staff report for information.

CARRIED

d) RUC Involvement in Informing Ganaraska Forest Recreation Programming

Staff report presented for discussion.

RUC 14/22

MOVED BY: Cam Lowe

SECONDED BY: Peter Wood

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee received the RUC Involvement in Informing Ganaraska Recreation Programming staff report from information.

CARRIED.

10. Other Business

None.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

RUC 15/22

MOVED BY: Randy Cunningham
SECONDED BY: Marven Whidden

THAT the meeting adjourn.
CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee is Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Whidden", is positioned above a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Chair

Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – September 1, 2022

TO: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Forestry and Trail Update Pertaining to the Derecho Storm

The Derecho storm that struck the Ganaraska Forest on the afternoon of May 21, 2022 caused significant damage to the Ganaraska Forest and trail systems. The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) Forester, Gus Saurer, estimates that scattered blocks of trees totalling approximately 600 acres have suffered significant damages, including blowdown. This amount of damage is a major threat to the forest ecosystem and impacts ways in which the Forest is managed. To address these threats the GRCA has contracted two logging companies to implement salvage-logging efforts. This logging activity is in addition to annual harvest operations.

Three logging crews are currently accessing the Ganaraska Forest from many locations surrounding the Central and West Forests. In an effort to gain access to areas of the Forest with significant storm damage, logging crews are clearing downed trees, removing standing hazards and widening narrow trails to accommodate for the safe access of logging crews. GRCA estimates salvage logging efforts to continue well into the fall, at which point regular annual logging will continue as planned. GRCA estimates standard logging efforts to continue into the winter of 2023.

In addition to large-scale blowdowns, GRCA staff have encountered hundreds of downed or hazardous trees blocking trails throughout the Ganaraska Forest. GRCA staff and contract logging crews are encountering unusual tree damage caused by the Derecho storm. Staff are working diligently to remove hazards to facilitate the opening of the trail network where possible. Due to a precautionary approach, the GRCA is not authorizing public volunteer opportunities to assist with clean up efforts until all hazards have been isolated or removed. Considering the overwhelming cleanup effort requirements, the GRCA staff is very thankful for the assistance received from Rideau Valley Conservation, Saugeen Valley Conservation and Northumberland County Forest who provided professional forestry crews to assist with trail clearing efforts. To date, most of the primary roads and ski trails have been cleared, although many downed trees and standing hazards remain elsewhere around the Forest. Fortunately, most of the East Forest has experienced less storm damage than the West and Central.

Due to the success of the clearing and logging efforts, the GRCA is planning a limited reopening of the Ganaraska Forest on September 30, 2022. This reopening provides Ganaraska Forest members and day pass holders with limited access to the trails which have been cleared of known hazards. Staff and contractors continue to clear hazards and the GRCA will open more trails as hazards are addressed. In addition, to providing a safe trail system for the public, GRCA Provincial Offences Officers and Police will be strictly enforcing all trail closures that remain after the September 30, 2022 reopening date.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receive the Forestry and Trail Update staff report as information.



Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – September 1, 2022

To: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Ganaraska Forest Operational Recovery Plan of Recreational Trails

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) is viewing the disastrous Derecho Storm as an opportunity to improve recreational trail systems in the Ganaraska Forest while enhancing, restoring and protecting the ecological integrity of the Ganaraska Forest. In order to do so, the GRCA has developed an Operational Recovery Plan of Recreational Trails (ORP), that is adaptive to the ongoing challenges that storm recovery is posing. The implementation actions contained in the ORP considers the Ganaraska Forest ecosystem as the primary focus, with education and recreation programs as the secondary focal points.

Implementation of the ORP will result in the permanent closure of certain Forest areas, access points and trails to recreational users, but also the development of new trails/trail modifications where appropriate. Decision making will be based on ecological factors, as well as health and safety of recreational users and future trail maintenance and access considerations. The GRCA will preserve multi-use recreational opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee received the Ganaraska Forest Operational Recovery Plan of Recreational Trails as information.



Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician