

# GANARASKA REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 27, 2025 (Hybrid)

GRCA 06/25

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### 1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order

The Chair called the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vicki Mink, Chair - Municipality of Port Hope  
Randy Barber, Vice-Chair - Town of Cobourg  
Mark Lovshin - Township of Hamilton  
Miriam Mutton - Town of Cobourg  
Lance Nachoff - Township of Cavan Monaghan  
Adam Pearson - Municipality of Port Hope  
Tracy Richardson - City of Kawartha Lakes  
Joan Stover - Township of Alnwick/Haldimand  
Margaret Zwart - Municipality of Clarington  
Willie Woo - Municipality of Clarington

**ALSO PRESENT:** Linda Laliberte, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer  
Cory Harris, Watershed Services Coordinator  
Ken Thajer, Planning and Regulations Coordinator  
Pam Lancaster, Conservation Lands Coordinator

**ABSENT WITH  
REGRETS:**

**ALSO ABSENT:**

### Land Acknowledgement

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississauga's and Chippewa's of the Anishinabek, known today as the Williams Treaties First Nations. Our work on these lands acknowledges their resilience and their longstanding contribution to the area. We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

### 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting**GRCA 41/25**

**MOVED BY:** Joan Stover  
**SECONDED BY:** Adam Pearson

**THAT** the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025, meeting.

**CARRIED.**

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Randy Barber asked that the agenda be amended to Item 7

**GRCA 42/25**

**MOVED BY:** Randy Barber  
**SECONDED BY:** Miriam Mutton

**THAT** the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority adopt the agenda.

**CARRIED.**

7. Business Arising from Minutes:a) 2026 Municipal Levy

The CAO/Secretary-Treasurer explained the weighted vote procedure to the Board of Directors.

**GRCA 43/25**

**MOVED BY:** Joan Stover  
**SECONDED BY:** Randy Barber

A recorded vote is required.

Randy Barber – Town of Cobourg (10.6284%)	- Yes
Mark Lovshin - Township of Hamilton (10.7473%)	- Yes
Vicki Mink - Municipality of Port Hope (8.3628%)	- Yes
Miriam Mutton - Town of Cobourg (10.6284%)	- Yes
Lance Nachoff - Township of Cavan Monaghan (0.2062%)	- Absent
Adam Pearson – Municipality of Port Hope (8.3628%)	- Yes
Tracy Richardson - City of Kawartha Lakes (0.0895%)	- Yes
Joan Stover - Township of Alnwick/Haldimand (0.9747%)	- Yes
Willie Woo – Municipality of Clarington (25.0%)	- Yes
Margaret Zwart - Municipality of Clarington (25.0%)	- Yes

The total percentage present to vote was 99.7938%. To carry the motion, 51% total of those present, or 50.8948% is required and cannot be from a single municipality.

**THAT** the GRCA Board of Directors approve the staff report that includes the 2026 levy in the amount of \$1,357,798.00 and a 3.0% increase in the salary grid effective January 1, 2026.

**CARRIED.**

6. Delegations

None.

7. Presentations

## a) Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee (RUC) Annual Report

Bob Gallagher, Chair of the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee, presented his annual report to the Board of Directors. Members asked questions with regards to the committee and there was a brief discussion with regards to the terms of reference for the committee. It was suggested that the terms of reference be forwarded to the committee for discussion prior to finalizing.

Randy Barber left the meeting.

**GRCA 44/25**

**MOVED BY:** Mark Lovshin

**SECONDED BY:** Miriam Mutton

**THAT** the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority receive the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee (RUC) Annual Report for information.

**CARRIED.**

Lance Nachoff came into the meeting.

## b) Ganaraska Forest Year In Review

Pam Lancaster, Conservation Lands Coordinator, gave a presentation highlighting projects and initiatives undertaken in 2025 within the Ganaraska Forest. The Board of Directors asked questions with regards to volunteers working in the forest.

**GRCA 45/25**

**MOVED BY:** Adam Pearson

**SECONDED BY:** Margaret Zwart

**THAT** the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority receives the Ganaraska Forest Year in Review presentation for information.

**CARRIED.**

8. Correspondence

a) 03/25 Charlotte Batty email re: Mountain Biking Access

b) 04/25 Julie Hunt email re: Ganaraska Forest

**GRCA 46/25**

**MOVED BY:** Tracy Richardson

**SECONDED BY:** Lance Nachoff

**THAT** the Board of Directors forward the correspondence items 03/35 and 04/25 to the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee.

**CARRIED.**

- c) 05/25 Essex Conservation re: Resolution 90/25 (Bill 68 and ERO Posting 025-1357)
- d) 06/25 United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry re: Resolution 2025-159

**GRCA 47/25****MOVED BY:** Mark Lovshin**SECONDED BY:** Joan Stover

**THAT** the Board of Directors receive correspondence items 05/35 and 06/25 and note and file.

**CARRIED.**

9. Applications under Ontario Regulation 41/24 and *Conservation Authorities Act*:

Permits approved by Executive:

**GRCA 48/25****MOVED BY:** Adam Pearson**SECONDED BY:** Tracy Richardson

**THAT** the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority receive the permits for information.

**CARRIED.**

Permit Application requiring Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors discussion:

None.

10. Committee Reports:

Ganaraska Forest Recreation Users Committee Minutes

**GRCA 49/25****MOVED BY:** Lance Nachoff**SECONDED BY:** Mark Lovshin

**THAT** the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority receive the Ganaraska Forest Recreation Users Committee Minutes of November 6, 2025, for information.

**CARRIED.**

11. New Business:

a) *CA Act* Amendments as per Bill 68 Update

There was discussion regarding the significant implication of Bill 68 and the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) proposal number 025-1257 'Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities'.

**GRCA 50/25****MOVED BY:** Joan Stover**SECONDED BY:** Miriam Mutton

**WHEREAS** the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors acknowledges and supports the Province's goals of improved efficiency of watershed management, through the implementation of digital applications and permitting system,

consistent policies, flood standards, fees, and technology; and

**WHEREAS** consistent policies, and resources across the existing conservation authority boundaries could be achieved without structural consolidation through direction and tools such as technical guidelines provided by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; or Conservation Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** conservation authorities are locally based, grassroots organizations formed by municipal governments in response to the challenges posed by a changing landscape; especially, the increased exposure to flooding and erosion hazards and the resulting risks to lives and property. In the case of GRCA, supported by its seven municipalities, this vision has proven a successful model for nearly 80 years; and

**WHEREAS** the GRCA, with the guidance and support of our seven member municipalities, demonstrates fiscal prudence in conservation delivery, ensuring stable growth through stable funding. GRCA has successfully leveraged funding to support programs and services that are locally important and are driven by community engagement through GRCA's Conservation Land Strategy and the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy; and

**WHEREAS** GRCA consistently meets or exceeds provincial service standards, and participates in staff-sharing initiatives with neighbouring conservation authorities that already deliver many of the efficiencies the Province seeks; and

**WHEREAS** plans to regionalize conservation authorities through consolidation would dilute local accountability and municipal partnership and is contrary to the basic principle that decisions are best made closest to the communities they affect. Effective representation by municipal partners remains core to the success of conservation authorities. The GRCA, while not unique among conservation authorities in this respect, is effective in working with our community to support sustainable development, and keeping communities safe; and

**WHEREAS** being front-line means being responsive and accountable to the community by delivering the services that are essential and valued to the best interest of the community. The front line of provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and climate resilience are in the decisions between municipalities working together to address issues around floodplain (and hazard) protection and resilient upland and landscape management. Further, staff and Board are responsive and accountable to the needs of the watershed community, while meeting or exceeding provincial service standards. The staff and Board are reachable through publicly available contact information. Local governance and direction combined with local service provision allows GRCA to continue to be responsive to our community; and

**WHEREAS** consolidation will result in substantial transition costs, not the least of which is time. In all facets, that would divert resources from front-line service delivery and delay desired outcomes. Further, the loss of local watershed knowledge and community relationships will add greater uncertainty, loss of trust, and delay for our watershed residents. This includes the agricultural community, businesses, builders, developers, and our municipal partners that seek timely and effective local advice, which is provided

through local pre-consultation; and

**WHEREAS** a proposed regional watershed would create a geographically vast and administratively complex organization when joining the seven conservation authorities as proposed in Eastern Lake Ontario. This would be considerably worse if local offices do not remain available and accountable to its membership, partners and the communities they serve.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors does not support the proposed “Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration as outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; and

**FURTHER THAT** meaningful modernization can occur within the current watershed-based governance framework; and

**FURTHER THAT** the GRCA Board endorses further provincial evaluation of a more focused specific model as a geographically coherent, cost-effective and locally accountable alternative that advances the government’s priorities of efficiency, red-tape reduction and timely home construction; and

**FURTHER THAT** the Board asks that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks engage directly with affected municipalities and conservation authorities across Eastern Lake Ontario through a working group; and

**FURTHER THAT** the Board of Directors direct staff to make a submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations asking the Province to pause any consolidation until more consultation can take place; and

**FURTHER THAT** a letter from the Chair containing this resolution, be forwarded to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics;
- the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (CA Office);
- Ontario’s Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit;
- Local Member of Provincial Parliament David Piccini, Northumberland – Peterborough South and
- All local watershed municipalities, all municipalities in Ontario, and Counties within GRCA ‘s watershed.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. Other Business

None.

13. Public Question Period

None.

14. In Camera

**GRCA 51/25**

**MOVED BY:** Mark Lovshin  
**SECONDED BY:** Tracy Richardson

**THAT** the Board of Directors go in camera.  
**CARRIED.**

**GRCA 52/25**

**MOVED BY:** Joan Stover  
**SECONDED BY:** Tracy Richardson

**THAT** the Board of Directors go out of camera.  
**CARRIED.**

**GRCA 53/25**

**MOVED BY:** Joan Stover  
**SECONDED BY:** Lance Nachoff

**THAT** the Board of Directors receive the verbal report for information.  
**CARRIED.**

15. Adjourn

**GRCA 54/25**

**MOVED BY:** Margaret Zwart

**THAT** the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.  
**CARRIED.**

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**CHAIR**

  
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**CAO/SECRETARY-TREASURER**