



NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: March 19, 2026

TIME: 4:00 pm

LOCATION: Hybrid Meeting

AGENDA

MEETING:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBERS:

Randy Barber, Mark Lovshin, Vicki Mink, Miriam Mutton, Lance Nachoff, Tracy Richardson, Adam Pearson, Joan Stover, Willie Woo, Margaret Zwart

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order

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
3. Minutes of Last Meeting – **November 27, 2025– attached**
4. Adoption of the Agenda

5. Business Arising from Minutes:
None.
6. Delegations:
None.
7. Presentations:
None.
8. Correspondence:
02/26 Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Park re: Update on Consolidation Next Phase
Note and file.
9. Applications under Ontario Regulation 41/24 and *Conservation Authorities Act*:
Permits approved by Executive - **schedule attached**

Permit applications requiring Board of Directors discussion:
None
10. Committee Reports:
None.
11. New Business:
 - a) Application to WECl Program for Funds to Undertake an Environmental Assessment for Garden Hill Dam– **staff report attached**
 - b) 2025 Timeline Report for Section 28.1 Applications - **staff report attached**
 - c) Update on Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – **staff report attached**
12. Other Business:
None.
13. Public Question Period - **Agenda Items Only**
 - All questions are to be submitted the day before by 4:00 pm in advance of the Board of Directors meeting in order to allow staff to prepare the answers to the questions. The Chair has discretion for questions on the day of the meeting.
 - A maximum of 10 minutes will be allotted for the Question Period. More time can be allocated at the discretion of the Chair.
 - Persons wishing to ask a question must state their name and address for the record.
 - Questions will be restricted to only those items listed on the agenda.
 - Questions cannot be asked on "In Camera" items.

- Questions cannot be asked with respect to minutes of Board of Directors meetings or committee meetings.

- All persons will speak respectfully when asking the question.

- The Chair may conclude the Question Period prior to the ten (10) minute time limit, where attendees are disobeying the Rules of Order, or a decision of the Chair, or where there are no questions.

14. In Camera:
None.

15. Adjourn

GANARASKA REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 27, 2025 (Hybrid)

GRCA 06/25

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.

CHAIR



CAO/SECRETARY-TREASURER

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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357-2026-754

March 10, 2026

Dear Chairs:

I am writing to provide an update as we move into the next phase of improving Ontario's conservation authority system. This spring, the government intends to introduce legislative amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) that, if passed, would implement this next phase.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the consultation process. We listened closely, and the feedback we received directly shaped and strengthened our plan. Based on the feedback, we adjusted the planned regional boundaries—from the originally proposed boundaries that would have created seven regional conservation authorities—and optimized to boundaries that create nine new regional conservation authorities. These planned boundaries would accommodate areas with distinct geographies and development contexts, better balance differing priorities across rural, urban and northern areas and improve alignment with watersheds and with source protection regions.

We are also building in clear mechanisms to ensure local knowledge continues to guide decision-making. The plan is for the newly created regional CAs to create one or more Watershed Councils to ensure watershed planning is guided by local insights. Regional CAs will continue to operate as independent public bodies with municipally appointed boards that maintain strong local representation and oversight.

The planned consolidation to regional conservation authorities is targeted to occur in early 2027 and is designed to strengthen the system—not weaken it—by increasing consistency, modernizing standards, and providing better tools and resources to support the frontline work your teams deliver every day. Under this plan, regional conservation authorities will continue to rely on the deep local expertise, knowledge, and relationships that your staff bring to their communities. Those who know the watershed best will remain central to delivering local programs and on-the-ground support, helping to ensure decisions reflect the unique environmental priorities of each area.

...2

02/26

Page 2.

This plan to transition to regional conservation authorities marks the beginning of a renewed relationship—one that builds on local strengths while establishing greater consistency and shared capacity across the province. As part of this plan, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) will lead a gradual, carefully managed transition to ensure stability and continuity. Services, programs, and permitting will continue uninterrupted as planning for transition progresses toward early 2027. There will be no cuts to front line jobs. Protecting local service delivery is a guiding principle of this planned transition, and communities will continue to work with the same local teams at conservation authorities they rely on today.

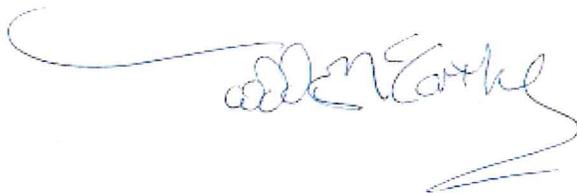
To ensure a smooth and organized transition, the province is providing \$3 million in annual funding, to be administered by OPCA. These resources are planned to be used by OPCA to support conservation authorities throughout the transition period and, in the longer term, will enable regional conservation authorities to achieve program improvements.

Your leadership is vital as we begin this new chapter. I encourage you to share this message with your staff to provide reassurance that their work, expertise, and community relationships remain at the heart of Ontario's conservation system. In the coming weeks, you will be invited to technical briefings to provide further information on the next steps in the planned transition process.

For questions regarding the planned consolidation and the transition process, please contact CCEO@ontario.ca. If you have questions about the planned legislative amendments or day-to-day CA business, please reach out to MECP staff at ca.office@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment. We look forward to working with you over the next year to make important improvements to Ontario's conservation authority system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, MECP
Chloe Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land and Water Division, MECP

Conservation Authorities Act - Ontario Regulation 41/24

Permits approved by Executive:

Date: March 19, 2026

Permit No.	Date	Address	Municipality/ Township	Description of Works
2477-12/25	Dec 19/25	Ontario Street (between 1415 Ontario St. and Forest Hill Drive) Pt.Lts.18 & 19, Concs.1 & 2	Hamilton	Installation of new underground conduits.
2478-12/25	Dec 19/25	Ontario Street (From Highway 401 to Elgin St.W) Pt.Lts.18 & 19, Conc.1	Hamilton	Installation of new underground conduits.
2479-12/25	Dec 19/25	Elgin Street West and Ontario Street Pt.Lts.18 & 19, Concs.1 & 2	Cobourg	Installation of new underground conduits.
2480-12/25	Dec 19/25	Ontario Street (From Elgin Street W. to McGuire Street) Pt.Lt.18, Conc.A	Cobourg	Installation of new underground conduits.
2533-12/25	Dec 3/25	100 Lake Street (Shoreline) Pt.Lts 1 & 2, BF Conc.	Port Hope	Installation of groynes and cobble beach nourishment.
2534-03/26	Mar 6/26	5660 Harmony Road, Unit #155, Bailieboro Pt.Lt.31, Conc.9	Hamilton	Repairing/reconstructing an existing non- habitable structure to the same size.
2535-12/25	Dec 11/25	14 Covert Street	Cobourg	Construction of a new building adjacent to the east bank of Midtown Creek.
2544-12/25	Dec 11/25	5428 Young Street, Unit #100, Harwood Pt.Lt.3, Conc.9	Hamilton	Dredging of an existing pond.
2547-12/25	Dec 3/25	1 Eldorado Place (adjacent to Hayward Street) Pt.Lt.7, BF Conc.	Port Hope	Widening an existing roadway alignment and installation of a new roadway retaining wall, perimeter curb and gutter.
2548-12/25	Dec 2/25	46 Caroline Street Lt.5, Conc.1	Port Hope	Restoration and re- alignment of an existing storm sewer outfall.
2549-12/25	Dec 5/25	Danforth Road West (opposite #8083) Pt.Lt.22, Conc.2	Hamilton	Installation of new underground fibre optic cable via open trench method.
2550-12/25	Dec 9/25	Harwood Road (north of Minifie Road) Pt.Lt.9, Conc.6	Hamilton	Installation of new underground fibre optic cable.
2551-12/25	Dec 18/25	Dale Road (east of Stu Black Road) Pt.Lt.26, Conc.2	Hamilton	Installation of new underground fibre optic cable.

Conservation Authorities Act - Ontario Regulation 41/24

Permits approved by Executive:

Date: March 19, 2026

2552-01/26	Jan 6/26	Walton Street ROW, at west end of bridge over Ganaraska River Pt.Lt.6, Conc.1	Port Hope	Emergency works for the restoration of West Bridge Approach, following a watermain break
2555-02/26	Feb 3/26	2005 Jarvis Road Pt.Lt.8, Conc.1	Hamilton	Construction of a mudroom, covered storage area and front entrance to an existing dwelling.
2556-02/26	Feb 9/26	2608 County Road 28 Pt.Lt.3, Conc.2	Port Hope	Construction of an in-ground pool.
2557-02/26	Feb 6/26	Hutsell Road (adjacent #9544), Baltimore Pt.Lts.4&5, Conc.2	Hamilton	Excavation for pipeline inspection and hydrostatic testing.
2558-02/26	Feb 6/26	Division Street North (adjacent #2666) Pt.Lt.15, Conc.2	Hamilton	Excavation for pipeline inspection and hydrostatic testing
2560-02/26	Feb 9/26	7044 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Garden Hill Pt.Lt.19, Conc.7	Port Hope	Construction of an addition to an existing dwelling.
2561-02/26	Feb 11/26	31 King Street West	Cobourg	Construction of a rear porch on an existing building.
2562-02/26	Feb 16/26	Jibb Road at Alberts Alley, Camborne Pt.Lt.21, Conc.4	Hamilton	Installation of new underground fibre optic cable.
2564-02/26	Feb 25/26	3 Wellington Street Pt.Lt.4, Conc.1	Port Hope	Filling and grading and construction of a soakaway pit.
2565-02/26	Feb 25/26	1371 Ontario Street Pt.Lt.19, Conc.2	Hamilton	Construction of an addition and crawlspace to an existing dwelling.
2566-02/26	Feb 27/26	390 King Street East	Cobourg	Filling of basement areas of existing structures to be demolished.

STAFF REPORT – March 19, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

RE: Application to WECl Program for Funds to Undertake an Environmental Assessment for Garden Hill Dam

Background

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) constructed the Garden Hill Dam on the North Ganaraska River within the village of Garden Hill in 1959. The structure was part of the construction of Northumberland County Road #9. The dam outlets within a large extended concrete box culvert road structure, with an approximate size of 12m x 12m. The original purpose of the structure was to manage flows in the North Ganaraska River, provide recreational opportunities and to provide habitat for wildlife.

The reservoir is also used by the Port Hope Fire Department as a source of water for fire suppression and a dry hydrant is accessed off of Mill Street North.

2023 Dam Inspection and Report

In 2023, GRCA received a small amount of funding from the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) Fund to retain a consultant to complete a formal dam inspection and prepare a summary report. The report was released in December 2023 and included a number of recommendations for the GRCA, including:

- Ongoing monitoring of dam elements, particularly the possible movement in the upstream wingwalls
- Complete a condition assessment of the concrete and prepare plans for remediation
- Prepare an updated Dam Safety Review (DSR)
- Complete a Public Safety Risk Assessment and prepare an updated Public Safety Plan
- Review safety signage
- Remove vegetation along the north embankment (ongoing)
- Relocate shoreline anchors for safety booms away from the sluiceway (completed by GRCA in 2025)
- Install additional erosion protection/stone
- Re-seal the construction joints between the upstream wingwalls and abutment walls
- Reinforce the south wall of the control building
- Replace the deteriorating stoplogs

The report included a number of recommendations for the County as well, relating to the maintenance of the road and culvert, road drainage, safety measures, etc. GRCA and County staff have been in collaborative discussions since September 2025 to explore opportunities to work together in addressing report recommendations. By working together, significant cost savings can be achieved in engineering design and construction, mobilization/demobilization, dewatering, traffic control, etc.

The report initially estimated \$253,000 in costs for GRCA to implement all of the assigned recommendations. In speaking with the County and their engineering consultant, the costs of implementing the recommendations are more realistically between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

Request for Local Funding

In the fall of 2025, GRCA approached Port Hope staff to request funding support to repair the dam and staff presented to Council on October 21, 2025. It was noted that maintaining the dam and reservoir will require significant investment now and ongoing support from the municipality into the future. If support is not available, GRCA will need to consider other long-term options in order to effectively manage risk, including giving consideration to decommissioning of the reservoir.

In January of this year, Council was considering the two previous options GRCA presented in October. However, concerns were expressed about deciding between the two options without community consultation.

Applying a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Framework

To address this concern regarding community consultation, GRCA suggested a third option; that a WECl application be submitted to complete a Class EA to look at the various options between 'do nothing', 'repair', 'decommission', and 'decommission with various mitigation options (to mitigate loss of habitat and use of dry hydrant)'. The EA could include a Cost-Benefit analysis to confirm whether repair is worth considering in the longer term. This option was presented to Port Hope Council on February 24, 2026 in a Special Council Meeting. The Class EA approach will ensure that the public, local residents and indigenous communities are effectively engaged and involved in the process of selecting a preferred option for the future of the dam. The estimated cost to complete the study would be \$150,000+ (\$50,000 ask in both 2026 and 2027).

Port Hope Council supported the option and agreed to provide matching funding to enable the submission of an application to the WECl Program to request matching provincial funding for the study. The approving resolution indicates that funding has been authorized in the amount of \$50,000 per year for two years (2026 and 2027), totalling \$100,000 to support a Class EA for the Garden Hill Dam to evaluate repair and decommissioning alternatives, subject to a

successful application to the WECI program. A copy of the resolution is attached to this report.

Submitting a WECI Application

The province sent out a "Call for Applications" for the WECI Program on March 3 and the submission date for applications is March 31, 2026. Staff are recommending that an application be made to the WECI Fund to complete a Class EA study. The study would be funded 50% by the municipality and 50% by the MNR (if the application is successful) and must be completed within the fiscal year between April 1, 2026 and March 15, 2027.

Decisions on funding applications are normally finalized by the WECI Committee in May. Should the application be successful, staff would release a 'request for proposal' immediately following notification from MNR.

The WECI application process requires that the application submission include a Conservation Authority Board approval/resolution to provide confirmation of matched funding. As such, staff present the following recommendation for consideration of the Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority support an application to the WECI program for funding to complete a Class EA for the Garden Hill Dam to evaluate repair and decommissioning alternatives to determine a preferred option for the future of the Garden Hill Dam.

Prepared by:



Cory Harris, P.Eng.
Watershed Services Coordinator

Recommended by:



Linda J. Laliberte, CPA, CGA
CAO / Secretary-Treasurer

*MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE
RESOLUTION*

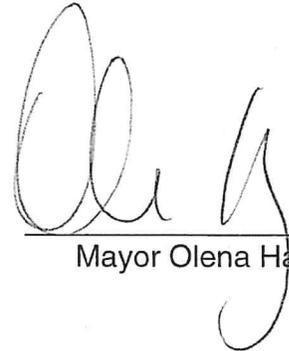
Date: 24 February 2026

58 - 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor Mink

SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Pearson

That Council approve Option 3 as noted in Report WE-02-26 and authorize funding in the amount of \$50,000 per year for two years (2026 and 2027), totaling \$100,000, to be funded from the Community Benefit Reserve Fund, to support a Class Environmental Assessment for the Garden Hill Dam to evaluate repair and decommissioning alternatives, subject to a successful application to the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program.



Mayor Olena Hankivsky

STAFF REPORT – March 19, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

RE: 2025 Timeline Report for Section 28.1 Applications

The purpose of this report is to present GRCA's *Conservation Authorities Act* Section 28.1 application review timeline data, for the year 2025 as required by O. Reg.686/21 section 8.1.

Background:

Ontario Regulation 686/21 (Mandatory Programs and Services) under the *Conservation Authorities Act (CAA)* was amended on April 1, 2024 to include annual reporting requirements for CAs. Further to section 8.1 of the regulation, CAs are required to prepare and publish an annual report outlining statistics on permits, including reporting on the level of compliance with requirements of O. Reg. 41/24 respecting the application for and issuance of permits, including any associated timelines.

In addition to reporting on permit statistics and timelines, the Annual Report provides details on compliance with the following elements of O. Reg. 41/24:

- Public availability and annual review of CA mapping;
- Notification of complete applications; and,
- Completion of administrative reviews (within 30 days following a request).

The *CA Act* and O. Reg. 41/24 outline that:

1. Upon receipt of an application and applicable fee, the Authority has **21 days** to notify the applicant in writing whether or not the application is deemed a “complete application”.
2. Upon providing notice that a **major** or **minor/routine** application is complete, CAs have **90 days for major** applications and **30 days for minor/routine** applications to make a decision (issue permit or recommend refusal).

The following table presents the 2025 Timeline results for the 111 permits that were received and issued by GRCA in 2025. The Major, Minor and Routine application types are based upon the level of complexity and scale of the application, as determined by staff, during the course of the review process.

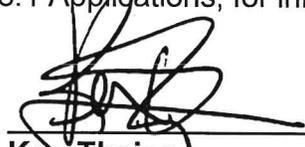
Permits Issued - O.Reg. 41/24 under the CAA (Jan.1st – Dec.31st, 2025)

Permits Issued Within Guideline Timeline			Permits Issued Outside of Guideline Timeline			Total Number of Permits Issued
Major	Minor	Routine	Major	Minor	Routine	
5	69	37	0	0	0	111

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the GRCA Board of Directors receive the Staff Report regarding 2025 Timeline Report for Section 28.1 Applications, for information.

Prepared by:



Ken Thajer
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Recommended by:



Linda J. Laliberte, CPA, CGA
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

STAFF REPORT – March 19, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

RE: Update on Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Further to the email of March 12, 2026, on March 10, 2026, Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks held a press conference to provide an update on the proposed conservation authorities consolidations. It was stated that Ontario's current Conservation Authority (CA) system is fragmented, with inconsistent standards and timelines across 36 individual CAs that can slow down development approvals and risk hampering CAs' abilities to protect their communities from floods and other natural hazards. The announcement included the change of the 36 Conservation Authorities being consolidated into 9 regional conservation authorities rather than the proposed 7 regional conservation authorities. It also revised the Eastern Lake Ontario Region Conservation Authority to remove Central Lake Ontario Conservation and to include Cataraqui Conservation.

Following the announcement, a technical briefing was held with Minister McCarthy and Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive entitled "Improving Ontario's Conservation Authority System". The briefing included Chairs and Chief Administrative Officers of the Conservation Authorities and in addition to the updated boundary changes, the briefing provided some information with regards to the governance model and transition timelines. The plan states the participating municipalities responsible for appointing the board of directors and paying the CA levies will be the upper tier (i.e. regional municipalities and counties) and single-tier levels where applicable for cities and towns. The change means there will be no lower-tiered municipalities participating. The regulation will address how members will be selected based on population percentage within the regional CA's jurisdiction. Following the municipal elections on October 26, 2026, newly elected upper tier municipal councils will select the Board members prior to the amalgamation date of February 1, 2027.

Also, one or more Watershed Councils will be created in each regional CA which will assist the CA in identifying local priorities for programs and services. The specific membership composition of these will be set out in regulation and will include indigenous representatives as well as agricultural and development representation.

The briefing provided an outline for the transition process that included stating that the regional CA will replace the former CA as legal entities. This will include all assets and liabilities, all rights and obligations, all partnerships and agreements and funding obligations, all permit applications and hearings and all rights, duties and liabilities of the predecessor CA's employees. A transition committee for each regional CA will be established under the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). Each predecessor CA will appoint one municipality elected member and its CAO to the Transition Committee. OPCA will appoint a Project Executive to chair each Transition

Committee and who will become the inaugural Chief Administrative Officer of the regional CA for up to 24 months. The Committees will be dissolved following the regional consolidation.

The plan also includes temporary guardrails to be applied to extraordinary financial, asset or employment decisions to mitigate risk and ensure a stable transition to the new regional structure. The minister will also be able to issue directions to manage the 2027 budget process for the predecessor CA's which may include direction that CA budgeting be completed by December 31, 2026, and levies be issued to the current participating municipalities.

In the coming weeks and months, the provincial government will propose further amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* that sets out the amalgamation of the 36 existing CA's to create 9 regional CAs which will include the transitional government and activities to be coordinated by the OPCA. It is also their intent to engage with CAs, municipalities, indigenous communities and other partners to provide updates on the government's plans.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors receive the staff report for information.

Recommended by:



Linda J. Laliberte, CPA, CGA
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer