NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: November 5, 2026

TIME: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Hybrid, In-Person / Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

MEETING: **GANARASKA FOREST RECREATIONAL USERS COMMITTEE**

MEMBERS: Bob Gallagher, John Hockley, Jim Pearson, Matt Mair, Rick Trumper, Lisa Thompson, Shawn Marshall, Peter Innes, Alex Schmidt, Carolyn Richards, Peter Wood, Steve Brownell, Maureen McDonald, Paul Kravis, Lance Nachoff

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 – September 3, 2026 – **attached**

4. Adoption of the Agenda

5. Delegations:
None

6. Presentation:
None

7. Business Arising from Minutes:
Central Ganaraska Forest Single-Track Trail Development, Phase 3 Consideration - **Staff Report attached**

8. Correspondence:
None

9. New Business:
   a) Terms of Reference, 4-Year Term - **Staff Report attached**
   b) Update on Consolidation of Conservation Authorities - **Staff Report attached**

10. Adjourn

MINUTES OF THE GANARASKA FOREST

RECREATIONAL USERS COMMITTEE

September 3, 2026

RUC 3/26

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order

The Chair welcomed all present. The Chair called the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee (RUC) meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

MEMBER PRESENT:	Bob Gallagher, Chair Matthew Robbins, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Matt Mair, Ontario Nature Rick Trumper, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club Shawn Marshall, Cross Country Ontario Peter Innes, Orienteering Ontario Carolyn Richards, Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs Peter Wood, Ontario Federation of 4WD Recreationists Maureen McDonald, Township of Cavan Monaghan Jim Pearson, Ontario Trail Riders Association
ALSO PRESENT:	Ed Van Osch, GRCA Forest Recreation Technician
ABSENT WITH REGRETS:	Lisa Thompson, Ontario Federation of Trail Riders Paul Kravis, Municipality of Clarington
ALSO ABSENT:	Alex Schmidt, Ontario Cycling Steve Brownell, Municipality of Port Hope Lance Nachoff, GRCA Board of Directors Hike Ontario (position unfilled) City of Kawartha Lakes (position unfilled)

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RUC 8/26
MOVED BY: Carolyn Richards
SECONDED BY: Maureen McDonald

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee approve the minutes of the June 4, 2026 meeting and receive the minutes of the June 4, 2026 meeting for information. **CARRIED.**

4. Adoption of Agenda

RUC 9/26
MOVED BY: Peter Innes
SECONDED BY: Matt Mair

THAT the agenda be adopted.
CARRIED.

5. Delegations
None

6. Presentations
None

7. Business Arising from the Minutes
None

8. Correspondence
None

9. New Business

a) Single-Track Trail Development, Phase 3 Update

Jim Pearson proposed that Staff meet with interested RUC members to plan single track development and compose a framework for volunteer work efforts.

Ed Van Osch, explained that phase 3 of the single-track development project involves marking and plotting the physical trail. Construction of the single-track trail will not take place during phase 3.

Maureen McDonald stated that the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) single-track development volunteer job ad seemed more suited to a consultant position and expressed that people do not want to volunteer on multiple Sundays during the summer months. Maureen stated that GRCA should pursue funding to hire consultants to assist with phase 3 and suggested that funding could focus on mitigating the effects of climate change and the effects of extreme weather patterns on trail structures within the Ganaraska Forest. It would be challenging to find a volunteer(s) with all these skill sets. Additionally, Maureen stated that it would be a good idea for GRCA to attempt to draw more volunteer attention for this project in the fall and spring months.

Matt Robbins sought clarification if GRCA required phase 3 volunteers all summer long. Ed Van Osch informed the RUC that GRCA advertised for volunteers with specific trail development knowledge and experience and that the position was required on Sundays during August 2026.

Jim Pearson requested that GRCA share the single-track modeling route maps with the RUC. Additionally, Jim would like GRCA Staff to meet with him and other RUC members to discuss how to push the single-track development forward during fall of 2026. Ed Van Osch stated that the area identified by GRCA modeling software will be temporarily closed for logging during fall of 2026. Jim stated that he doesn't want this construction to be delayed and wants to see construction start in spring 2027.

With support from the Chair, a friendly amendment was made and Jim Pearson's suggestion for staff to meet with interested RUC members was added to the original motion.

Maureen McDonald asked if logging efforts will impact the single-track planned areas. Ed Van Osch stated that logging will directly impact the single-track planned areas and phase 3 will not occur until the area is reopened after logging.

RUC 10/26
MOTION: Jim Pearson
SECONDED BY: Rick Trumper

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee inform their respective user groups about volunteer opportunities found on Ganaraska Conservation - Volunteering.

FURTHER THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Single Track Trail Development, Phase 3 Update staff report for information.

FURTHER THAT RUC recommends to the Board of Directors that Staff meet with RUC members in September/October to consider the plan for the single-track trails and volunteer recruitment to allow for construction to start in Spring 2027.
CARRIED

b) Central Forest Orange and Green Trail Infrastructure Improvements

Ed Van Osch explained that these trail improvements addressed technically challenging trail infrastructure and that both users and maintenance operations will benefit from the changes and the trail is now fully reopened on Ganaraska Forest Trails Map.

RUC 11/26
MOVED BY: Jim Pearson
SECONDED BY: Maureen McDonald

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee inform their respective user groups to regularly review and adhere to all posted Ganaraska Forest signage and

remain on trails that are posted as Open on Ganaraska Forest Trails Map while visiting Ganaraska Forest.

FURTHER that the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Central Forest Orange and Green Trail Infrastructure Improvements staff report for information.
CARRIED.

c) Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Public Communications

Bob Gallagher asked when the GRCA will announce or communicate specifics regarding the GRCA merger with Eastern Lake Ontario Region Conservation Authority (ELORCA). Ed Van Osch informed the RUC that Staff are not aware of any further information regarding the merger at this time.

RUC 12/26
MOVED BY: Matt Robbins
SECONDED BY: Jim Pearson

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee inform their respective user groups and encourage them to follow all GRCA public communications and social media platforms.

FURTHER THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Public Communications staff report for information.
CARRIED.

d) Discussion:

Bob Gallagher informed the Recreational Users Committee that he has submitted his resignation as Chair from the Recreational Users Committee but will remain as Chair until a replacement is found.

Jim Pearson inquired as to GRCA's response to the signage reported to Staff by Steve Brownell. Ed Van Osch informed the RUC that Staff were dispatched to the East Forest and the vicinity of the reported signage. After a lengthy search Staff located two signs, both of which were deemed to be unauthorized and were posted on GRCA owned land. Ed Van Osch stated that these signs were posted at the entrances to a trail that is not part of the official Ganaraska Forest trail system and not identified on Ganaraska Forest Trails Map. Staff removed the unauthorized signage.

Bob Gallagher asked how GRCA will ensure signs are not posted again. Ed Van Osch informed the RUC that Provincial Offences Officers and Staff will routinely visit the area to ensure that unauthorized signage is not reposted and to ensure that Ganaraska Forest Users adhere to Ganaraska Forest Trails Map.

10. Adjourn

RUC 13/26
MOVED BY: Jim Pearson
SECONDED BY: Peter Wood

THAT the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.
CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee is Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm.



Chair **Forest Recreation Technician**

STAFF REPORT – November 5, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Central Ganaraska Forest Single-Track Trail Development, Phase 3 Consideration

At the October 15, 2026 Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) Board of Directors meeting, a resolution was passed that directed staff to meeting with interested members of the Recreational Users Committee to consider the plan for the single-track trails and volunteer recruitment.

As such GRCA staff will be hosting an in-person meeting with interested RUC members in November. This meeting is exclusive to GRCA Staff and RUC members.

Meeting discussions will include:

- Mapping that identifies the general location and looping design of Central Ganaraska Forest single-track trail that starts and ends at the Ganaraska Forest Centre (GFC) Trailhead.
- Single-track trail standards that will be incorporated into the design.
- Multi-use design considerations including winter use.
- Considerations of existing trails (e.g., avoiding use of existing ski/snowshoe trails, 90 degree crossing at trail junctions).

Meeting participants will visit the GFC trailhead to obtain a sense for the terrain and to gain an understanding of project challenges and design aspects that this project must consider or incorporate to accommodate current and future uses of the Central Ganaraska Forest trail system.

The tentative meeting date is Monday, November 23 from 1pm to 4pm at the Ganaraska Forest Centre. An agenda will be sent to interested RUC members prior to the meeting date. Meeting participants should dress appropriately for the weather conditions with approximately 30 minutes of outdoor work.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT All Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee members that utilize the Central Ganaraska Forest single-track trails attend the in-person meeting at the Ganaraska Forest Centre.

FURTHER that the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Central Ganaraska Forest Single-Track Trail Development, Phase 3 Consideration staff report for information.

Prepared by: _____

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – November 5, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Terms of Reference, 4-year Term

The Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee (RUC) Terms of Reference Section 2.0 “Committee Structure” states that:

- *Each representative will sit on the RUC as a voting member for a four (4) year term, which will coincide with municipal elections.*
- *Newly appointed RUC membership will be in place by April of the year following the municipal election.*

Municipal elections occurred on October 26, 2026 and the governing body/municipality identified in the Terms of Reference must appoint their representatives for the next 4-year term by April 2027. Appointment methods are determined by the governing body/municipality. The appointments are volunteer based and no renumeration nor per diem is provided. The governing body/municipality have the authority to re-appoint their current representative if they satisfied with the representative’s performance.

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) Staff will contact the governing body/municipality to inform them of their requirements to appoint and to ensure they are aware of the expectations from their representative. These expectations are listed under Section 2.2 “Responsibilities of Voting Members”.

- *Members must communicate and provide updates to the governing body, organization, or municipality after each meeting.*
- *Members need to have an open line of communication with the user or municipality that they represent.*
- *Members are to bring concerns related to recreational use conflict to the Committee.*
- *Members must participate cooperatively, collaboratively and with respect, with other members of the Committee.*
- *Members must make decisions that are best for the Ganaraska Forest rather than in the best interest for the individual use type, group or individual.*

The appointment process will be occurring during transition processes from the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority to the Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority. Therefore there may be alterations to the process outlined above.

During a similar time period, a posting to fill the Chair position will also be occurring.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee inform their respective organizations about the 4-year term requirements.

FURTHER that the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Terms of Reference, 4-year Term staff report for information.

Prepared by: 

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – November 5, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Update on Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

In accordance with recent changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) is being amalgamated with six other Conservation Authorities to form the Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority (ELORCA). This amalgamation is comprised of the following Conservation Authorities:

- Ganaraska Region
- Kawartha Region
- Otonabee Region
- Lower Trent Region
- Crowe Valley
- Quinte
- Cataraqui Region

The amalgamation schedule is defined by three phases (Day 0, Day 1 and Day 2)

Day 0 - September 2026: GRCA functions as the existing Authority and prepares for February 1, 2027 transition date. During this time, a Transition Committee has been established, chaired by a Project Executive that will become the inaugural Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). On July 15, 2026, Alison McDonald was selected for this position. Alison McDonald was the former CAO for Rasin Region Conservation Authority.

Day 1 - February 1, 2027: On February 1, 2027 ELORCA legally becomes the Regional Conservation Authority and the GRCA is dissolved. During the Day 1 phase, ELORCA will assess and streamline internal operations to be standardized under the new Regional Authority. The GRCA name, logo and offices will remain during this time period.

Day 2 - January 1, 2029): signifies the date that the transition to ELORCA will be complete.

Staff will provide the Recreational Users Committee with further information as it becomes available. For past GRCA Board of Director Staff reports with amalgamation updates, please visit https://grca.on.ca/our-people/board-of-directors-governance/

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Update on Consolidation of Conservation Authorities staff report for information.

Prepared by: _____

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician