

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