MINUTES OF THE GANARASKA FOREST

RECREATIONAL USERS COMMITTEE

November 5, 2026

RUC 4/26

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order

The Chair welcomed all present and introduced the new Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters representative, John Hockley. The Chair called the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee (RUC) meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

MEMBER PRESENT: Bob Gallagher, Chair
John Hockley, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Jim Pearson, Ontario Trail Riders Association
Lisa Thompson, Ontario Federation of Trail Riders
Peter Innes, Orienteering Ontario
Alex Schmidt, Ontario Cycling
Steve Brownell, Municipality of Port Hope
Maureen McDonald, Township of Cavan Monaghan
Paul Kravis, Municipality of Clarington
Lance Nachoff, GRCA Board of Directors

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

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

ALSO ABSENT: Matt Mair, Ontario Nature
Rick Trumper, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club
Shawn Marshall, Cross Country Ontario
Carolyn Richards, Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs
Peter Wood, Ontario Federation of 4WD Recreationists
Hike Ontario (position unfilled)
City of Kawartha Lakes (position unfilled)

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RUC 14/26
MOVED BY: John Hockley
SECONDED BY: Paul Kravis

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee approve the minutes of the September 3, 2026 meeting.

CARRIED.

4. Adoption of Agenda

RUC 15/26
MOVED BY: John Hockley
SECONDED BY: Lisa Thompson

THAT the agenda be adopted.
CARRIED.

5. Delegations
None

6. Presentations
None

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Central Ganaraska Forest Single-Track Trail Development, Phase 3 Consideration

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician, described the type of information that will be presented during the proposed RUC meeting regarding single-track trail development, and expressed that the meeting includes a site visit of Ganaraska Forest Centre trailhead where the trail is proposed to start and end.

Alex Schmidt expressed that the RUC is voluntary, and some members have jobs that may interfere, and not allow them to attend the meeting scheduled for November 23, 2026 at 1pm. Alex inquired to the possibility of sending delegates in the place of RUC members. Pam Lancaster, Conservation Lands Coordinator, informed the RUC that this meeting is an extension of an RUC meeting and follows the RUC Terms of Reference (ToR) procedures and that delegates are not permitted under the ToR.

Bob Gallagher asked if a member of the public can attend the proposed meeting similar to the regular RUC meeting structure. Pam Lancaster responded by informing the RUC that according to the ToR the public can attend a regularly scheduled RUC meeting but cannot participate.

Maureen McDonald stated that it is important that all interested RUC groups have representation during the Phase 3 consideration meeting and proposed that this meeting be rescheduled to a Sunday. Pam Lancaster stated that staff will send a poll to RUC members regarding the possibility of rescheduling the Phase 3 meeting.

RUC 16/26
MOVED BY: Maureen McDonald
SECONDED BY: John Hockley

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.
CARRIED

8. Correspondence
None

9. New Business

b) Terms of Reference, 4-Year Term

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician, informed the RUC that the 4-Year term of RUC members is coming to completion and governing bodies/municipalities must appoint RUC members for the April 2027 RUC meeting. Pam Lancaster, Conservation Lands Coordinator, confirmed that staff will contact all governing bodies/municipalities to facilitate RUC member appointments ahead of April 2027. Pam Lancaster, further noted that the re-appointment will be occurring during the transition period of the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority to the Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority and as a result there may be delays.

RUC 17/26
MOTION: Jim Pearson
SECONDED BY: Lisa Thompson

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee inform their respective governing body/ municipality of the 4-year term requirements.
FURTHER THAT that the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Terms of Reference, 4-year Term staff report for information.
CARRIED

c) Update on Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Pam Lancaster, Conservation Lands Coordinator provided the RUC with an explanation of Day Zero, Day One and Day Two processes that will occur during Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority (ELORCA) transition with full consolidation completed by January 1, 2029. Additionally, Pam Lancaster informed the RUC that the most up to date

ELORCA Transition information is posted on the GRCA website Ganaraska Conservation - ELORCA Transition.

Lisa Thompson stated that many other Conservation Authorities prohibit Off-Road Vehicle use and inquired if users can expect changes to motorized use rules in the Ganaraska Forest resulting from consolidation. Pam Lancaster informed the RUC that, it is expected that the transition period between Day 0 and Day 1, which ends January 1, 2029, will be business as usual. In addition, Pam Lancaster also informed the RUC that the province has not (at this time) made changes to Ontario Regulation 688/21, which governs the rules of conduct in conservation areas.

RUC 18/26
MOVED BY: Steve Brownell
SECONDED BY: John Hockley

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

10. Adjourn

Bob Gallagher stated that this would be his last meeting as Chair,and thanked the committee and staff for their support during his time with the RUC.

RUC 19/26
MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:

THAT the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.
CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee is Thursday, April 1, 2027 at 7:00 pm.



Chair **Forest Recreation Technician**