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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report PDD-20-2021 Grand River Conservation Authority Levy - 2021

For Consideration by Council on February 16, 2021

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## OBJECTIVE:

To advise Council of the upcoming Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) budget meeting to approve their 2021 levy, which requires funding from Haldimand County.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report PDD-20-2021 Grand River Conservation Authority Levy - 2021 be received as information.

**Prepared by:** Shannon VanDalen, MCIP, RPP, CMMI, Manager of Planning and Development

**Respectfully submitted:** Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager of Community & Development Services

**Approved:** Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Haldimand County has been provided with information outlining a proposed 2021 levy of \$175,140 for the Grand River Conservation Authority, an increase of 2.7% over last year's levy and representing a \$4,682 increase. The Authority's meeting to approve this proposed budget is scheduled for Friday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## BACKGROUND:

Haldimand County funds three Conservation Authorities whose watersheds fall within this municipality's boundaries. The general levy for each Conservation Authority is apportioned to its watershed municipalities on the basis of a "modified current value assessment" model as set out in Ontario Regulation 670/2000. The municipal share within the Grand River Conservation Authority watershed is 41.0%.

The *Conservation Authorities Act* (the "Act") requires Conservation Authorities to provide notice to their member municipalities regarding the coming year's levies. Ontario Regulations 139/96 and 106/98 both state that 30 days notice must be provided to the municipality of a meeting being held by the Conservation Authority to approve the non-matching levy. As well, this notice is to include the amount of the non-matching levy to be voted on.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) has provided information regarding their 2021 Municipal Levies (Attachment 1). The GRCA has requested input from its member municipalities prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Grand River Conservation Authority that will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to vote on their 2021 Budget and General Municipal Levy.

The Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) 2021 Municipal Levy and Niagara Peninsula

Conservation Authority (NPCA) 2021 Levy were provided to Haldimand County Council on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 through report PDD-37-2020. The LPCRA 2021 Levy is \$293,461, an increase of 2.17% over last year's levy representing a \$6,230 increase. The NPCA 2021 Levy is \$136,717, which is an increase of 8.87% over last year's levy for a \$11,142.00 increase to Haldimand.

## **ANALYSIS:**

The County's apportionment of the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) municipal levy for 2021 is 1.43%. As reflected by the percentage, Haldimand County does not comprise the weighted majority membership of this Conservation Authority. Any proposed special levies are subject to the approval of only the benefiting municipality. That means that Haldimand County Council has direct approval authority over any of the proposed 2021 special levy projects to be funded by this municipality.

The proposed GRCA 2021 budget reflects an overall municipal levy increase of 2.7% from a 2020 levy of \$170,458 to \$175,140. There is no Special Benefitting Levy to Haldimand County for 2021. The overall GRCA budget expects a percentage increase of 2.5% for a budget total levy of \$12,255,000.

## **FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Haldimand County's share of the projected 2021 levy of the Grand River Conservation Authority totals \$175,140. This represents an overall increase of 2.7% or \$4,682 compared to the 2020 levy for the GRCA.

In the past, Haldimand County Council chose to allow each of its Board appointees to "vote their conscience" at the budget approval meetings. If the current Council supports the same approach, this report need only be received as information. Otherwise, specific direction by resolution should be given to the County's appointees as to how they should vote on the upcoming Grand River Conservation Authority 2021 Budget. Given the small magnitude of change, staff are not recommending any specific direction be given to this municipality's appointees regarding the general levies proposed by the Grand River Conservation Authority for 2021.

## **STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:**

Not applicable.

## **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Summary of Municipal Levy – GRCA Budget 2021.