



GRAND VALLEY

MEMO TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor Soloman and Members of Council
From: Mark H. Kluge, Manager of Planning
Meeting Date: 2025-08-12
Subject: Scoped Agricultural Policy Review Ontario Reg. 41- 42 GRCA

Purpose

To advise Council on the proposed changes to Grand River Conservation Authority's (GRCA) policy document ["Grand River Conservation Authority Scoped Agricultural Policy Review Policies for the Administration of Ontario Regulation 41/24 \(Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits Regulation\)"](#).

Background

Under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 41/24, GRCA regulates development activities in natural hazards, including the riverine flooding hazard (floodplain). The GRCA has begun a scoped review of their policies used to make decisions on permit applications for farm buildings located in the floodplain and is seeking comments from stakeholders on the policy document. The deadline for comment is August 15, 2025.

Discussion

The GRCA has proposed new draft policies:

- Continue to allow small farm building and additions associates with existing uses, but increase the maximum size permitted to 600m² instead of the current 100m² limit.
- Use clearer terms like "Farm Buildings or structures" with a definition.

- Ask for technical studies if needed to make sure new farm buildings will not increase flooding risks.

According to the GRCA; *With the trend towards larger farm sizes, equipment needs are evolving to improve efficiencies and yields which results in the need for larger farm buildings.*

Planning has reviewed the document and finds the revisions appropriate and has no further comment.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this Memo.

This Council Memo was submitted by,
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This Council Memo was approved by,
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