**Minutes of GREN Executive Meeting by Zoom, Oct 14, 2021**

Attendees: Kevin, Greg, John, Susan B., Susan K., with Dr. Franz Hartman

Kevin convened the meeting because of urgency re: discussing GREN’s response to

1) the province’s upcoming announcements on Greenbelt expansion in the next weeks and

2) the updated ROP, due to the province by July 22.

Greenbelt issue:

* Little is known about what Ford will actually propose and how meaningful the promised consultation will be.
* The Region has stronger environmental protections than the greenbelt, and will likely oppose expansion into Waterloo Region unless assured that the stronger environmental protections will apply. GREN supports that position. Yet other municipalities have no local protections, so environmental groups there would likely want greenbelt expansion in their areas to get some level of protections. It was agreed that GREN would also support them.
* Thus GREN could be put in an awkward position, supporting both. All agree that without clear maps of the planned expansion, we can’t go further determining how to handle the situation.
* We need to meet with downstream people to figure out their needs and learn more about the position of all the downstream groups as well as the levels of gov’t within Waterloo Region.
* GREN will engage in the usual ways: EBR submission, media outreach, a statement on our website, teaming up with local groups to get the word out.
* We agreed that some of GREN’s greenbelt funding will be distributed to local groups to help them participate, such as the Nith Valley Eco Boosters for webinars/Zooms and Hold the Line as well downstream community groups..
* We will also use it to compensate Kevin, working with Franz, for the hours he spends as he takes the lead on GREN activities. These include, at the start,
  + reaching out to Karen Redman to see what she’s thinking
  + reaching out to Ella in Brant and Mike in Guelph to understand their needs
  + drafting an update to GREN members
  + working with Scott Wicken on a GREN website update

ROP issue:

* With increased population mandated for Waterloo Region by the province, the pressure from developers is on.
* Hamilton costed 3 growth options, and the people voted for 0 growth. Ford gov’t not happy, and developers are pushing back hard.
* Kevin Eby says we could meet the needs of population growth without moving the countryside line.
* Kevin will see what Karen Redman is thinking on this.

Minutes by Susan Bryant