



**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

**Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018, at 1:20 p.m.**

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting was held at the Conservation Authority Administration Centre located on Inglis Falls Road.

1. Call to Order

Chair Cathy Little called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

Directors Present: Cathy Little, Allan Barfoot, Jaden Calvert, Sue Carleton, Harley Greenfield, Scott Greig, Dick Hibma, John McGee, and Ana Vukovic

Directors Absent – Bob Pringle and Paul Eagleson

Staff Present – Sonya Skinner, Doreen Robinson, Tim Lanthier, Alison Armstrong, John Bittorf, Gloria Dangerfield, Karen Gillan, Vicki Rowsell, and Andy Sorensen

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Sue Carleton**
FA-18-043 **Seconded by:** **John McGee**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of May 23rd, 2018.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

The Directors were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting. No disclosures of pecuniary interest were expressed at this time.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **John McGee**
FA-18-044 **Seconded by:** **Alan Barfoot**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of April 25th, 2018.

Carried

5. Deputation

a) 1:20 p.m. - Mike Konopka, Senior Portfolio Manager, TD Wealth, Annual Investments Report Back re: Authority's Wealth Portfolio Market Outlook 2018

Mike Konopka, Senior Portfolio Manager, TD Wealth, provided the annual update to the Board on GSC's investment portfolio's performance. The Board-approved investment instructions are for conservative investments to be held for the longer term, with access to the funds should the Authority need them.

Mr. Konopka outlined that \$1,000,000 was invested in 2015 and since that time GSC's net return is 3.87%. He also provided an overview of relevant market factors.

The following points were made/discussed

- Mr. Konopka can invest and move funds around to maximize return, as long as the approach is in line with GSC's investment instructions.
- The pros and cons of allowing more risk in the investment instructions.
- Using structured notes to potentially enhance returns.
- TD Wealth is a subsidiary of TD bank, and overall TD has received a 12% +/- profit over the year and GSC's return is much less.
- Whether GSC should consider only investing in environmentally-responsible items or in real estate.
- A meeting between staff and Mike Konopka could be arranged to discuss alternatives and recommendations in response to today's discussion by the Board.

Cathy Little thanked Mike Konopka for attending the meeting and for his presentation to the Board.

6. Business Out Of Minutes

1) Strategic Plan – Summary and Proposal to proceed with external Communications

Sonya Skinner, CAO, updated the Board that input on the updated detailed draft Strategic Plan was received from most Board members, and the CAOs of almost all watershed local municipalities, the Counties of Grey and Bruce, SVCA, NVCA, and GSC staff. There generally was strong support for the proposed Plan. Recommended improvements were provided to Directors.

Discussion included:

- Whether the new resources are absolutely needed, and whether this was due to new scope or if GSC is understaffed and trying to catch up. Sonya walked through each position and articulated why it is recommended – ranging from more severe weather and development pressures, to new legislative requirements, provincial funding limitations and to provide cost-neutral services such as children's camps. It was suggested that expert staff could be shared with another CA.

- John McGee indicated that the federal government should also be asked to contribute to flood risk mitigation, such as stream gauges and expertise. Some federal contributions have started through the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program.
- Directors recommended that day camp be offered outside Owen Sound, and that staff consider developing a curriculum that could be delivered by others. Staff have had an initial meeting with education providers.
- The funding model that was used for Source Water Protection leveraged and funded Conservation Authorities to provide good services. We should promote an approach like this to deliver Watershed Plans on behalf of municipalities and the province, and ensure we stay tied in with the municipal sector in seeking funding.
- Ensure that core green areas and consider linkages to adjacent watersheds and overall regional open spaces and connected trail systems.
- Ensure proposed work is discussed with municipal CAO's at pre-budget meetings for 2019 budget.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **John McGee**
FA-18-045 **Seconded by:** **Sue Carleton**

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors has received input from municipalities, partners, stakeholders and the public, AND FURTHER WHEREAS the Board has reviewed the proposed goals, strategic directions and actions, including comments from GSC, municipal and other Conservation Authority staff, THEREFORE, the Board endorses the preparation of a camera-ready version of this draft strategic plan for consultation.

Carried

John McGee reminded staff to ensure that the Strategic Plan and all documents on the GSC website are in accessible fonts and formats.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Scott Greig**
FA-18-046 **Seconded by:** **Dick Hibma**

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the May 23rd, 2018, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: 1) the list of permits under Ontario Regulation 151/06 – “Development, Interference, with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation”, for April 2018; 2) the Receipts and Expenses for April 2018; 3) Foundation Minutes of April 11th, 2018; 4) Arboretum Alliance Minutes of April 10th, 2018; 4) Correspondence i) Letter from Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters; ii) Letter from County of Grey re: underfunding of Conservation Authorities.

Carried

Scott Greig enquired about the \$8,949 purchase of trail counters. Tim Lanthier advised that GSC is setting the trail counters to enable us to target where and how we are spending our resources. The order includes several counters for Grey County, and GSC will pay \$6,500 of the cost shown, with Grey County reimbursing us for the remainder.

Dick Hibma advised that any letters being sent with regards to underfunding of Conservation Authorities should also be copied to MPP Eleanor McMahon, Treasury Board President, who assists in determining funding for Conservation Authorities.

8. Business Items

- a) Water Management – nothing at this time
- b) Environmental Planning
 - 1) Annual Regulations Mapping Changes Update

Per the process endorsed by the Board in 2017, staff provided the annual listing of regulatory mapping changes and examples. These, per Section 2.1 of the text of Ontario Regulation 151/06, are a screening tool visualizing all the areas where development is to be regulated by GSC through the issuance of permits. This includes:

- Watercourses (meander belt and confined valleys),
- Flood Prone Areas,
- Great Lakes Shoreline,
- Wetlands/Waterbodies,
- Associated Allowances

Regulatory mapping changes are shared with Grey and Bruce Counties for their public-facing mapping websites, put on the GSC website, and also shared with local municipalities and their planners.

GSC’s mapping updates rigor has led to developing some of the best and most detailed mapping available in the watershed. In addition to its use for regulatory permits, it is used for reference when reviewing planning applications under municipal Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) for Natural Heritage and to provide input on behalf of the province on Natural Hazards. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has leadership on changes to provincially significant wetlands boundaries, GSC staff do not update these boundaries, and provide their input to MNRF on recommended changes, and incorporate any decisions from MNRF.

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Harley Greenfield
FA-18-047	Seconded by:	Dick Hibma

WHEREAS Motion FA-17-86 in September 20-17 stated that the GSC Board of Directors approve the procedure for mapping updates described in Report 9-2017; AND FURTHER, that a list of changes and example maps be provided to the Board of Directors in the 2nd quarter of each year for their information; THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors accept the 2018 listing of regulatory mapping changes and examples.

Carried

c) Lands Update

1) Emergency Billing Review

In an effort to address the concerns raised by the Board of Directors regarding the emergency service costs related to activities on GSC lands, staff reached out to other Conservation Authorities in the province to inquire into their experiences with this issue. Based on our outreach, we received responses from Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA). All of these Authorities have similar cliff features on their properties.

Based on these responses, we learned that for the most part, Conservation Authorities are not charged a fee, nor is the individual charged a fee, for emergency rescues. The two noted exceptions are that of the Elora Gorge Conservation Area for which the GRCA pays a flat rate related to the rescues, and NPCA for which the NPCA pays for the costs of forest fire assistance.

Staff continue to monitor risks and take steps to mitigate them, such as updating or replacing signage or waivers.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Alan Barfoot**
FA-18-048 **Seconded by:** **Scott Greig**

WHEREAS, the GSC Board of Directors has directed staff to investigate emergency services billing related to visitors going out of bounds on CA properties, THAT the Board of Directors accept this staff report as information.

Carried

2) Eugenia Falls Update

Cathy Little, Alan Barfoot, Sonya Skinner, Tim Lanthier, and Jason Traynor met with Eugenia Falls stakeholders. The meeting was to discuss potential for upgrading of the property moving forward and preserving structures. There has been an influx of tourism with an increased visitation at the falls. The stakeholders group recommended that GSC staff speak to the OPP with regards to the vandalism at this location. Pay for parking signs went up on a Friday and disappeared by early the next week. There was a suggestion that high school students may be able to paint to cover graffiti, as they recently painted near the Mill Dam. GSC staff will consider contacting schools in the Eugenia Falls area to see if students would be interested in painting at this location. A parking attendant may be provided at Eugenia Falls during busy summer weekends.

3) Memorial Plaque for Merle Gunby

The Arboretum Alliance has approached GSC staff to request permission to install a memorial plaque in honour of Merle Gunby in the southern portion of the Arboretum (Trees of the World section), who was a long-time member and contributor to the

Arboretum Alliance. His knowledge of local tree species played a key role in planning tree species & plantation sites, and he contributed to the development of trail systems, Arbour Day tree planting events with local school children, collecting native seed for propagation in the Arboretum's Greenhouse and planting of the "Trees of Grey and Bruce" Arboretum.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Dick Hibma**
FA-18-049 **Seconded by:** **Jaden Calvert**

WHEREAS, Merle Gunby was a long time member and contributor to the Arboretum Alliance, and,
WHEREAS, GSC Staff have been approached by the Arboretum Alliance requesting permission to install a memorial plaque in honour of Merle,
THAT the Board of Directors provide support and permission for this initiative and direct staff to communicate this support and permission to the Arboretum Alliance.

Carried

Alan Barfoot asked if a Policy for naming of roads and plaques should be established.

d) Administration

1) National Disaster Mitigation Program Funding & Project Approach

In a previous Resolution the GSC Board of Directors acknowledged support for the successful application for \$138,000 in funding toward a \$276,000 study under the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP), which provides funding to undertake projects that will fill a critical gap in Canada's ability to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from flood-related events.

Four potential partners met to develop the proposal for this application and provided letters of support: Grey County, the Town of the Blue Mountains, Greenland International Consulting Engineers (Greenland) and GSC. The intention is that this innovative collaborative will provide value for all parties, and including sharing in the responsibilities, benefits and challenges.

In line with its strategic intentions GSC will increase its science-based capacity as this work will:

- Aid GSC in adopting modern water level prediction tools
- Enhance our flood-related tools and capacity, and
- Support the GSC strategic plan intentions to seek opportunities for collaboration and research with colleges and universities.

The Town of the Blue Mountains will receive detailed information for pressing development decisions, and for the future update of the Watershed Plan/studies in Craigeith/Camperdown.

Grey County will have further information related to flooding risk, including the consideration of Climate Change, and scenarios information for its assets that can be used in asset management planning and emergency management.

Other local municipalities within the study area will have access to more accurate elevation data and flood risk documentation that can be used to apply for funds.

Greenland will use this project as a learning and calibration opportunity for its GIS-based flood analysis/prediction tool the ISWMS™ prototype, which is being developed through an international joint venture.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Sue Carleton**
FA-18-050 **Seconded by:** **John McGee**

WHEREAS Grey County, The Town of the Blue Mountains, Greenland Engineering and Grey Sauble Conservation submitted a successful application for the National Disaster Management Program Funding for elevation mapping along the Georgian Bay shoreline and detailed flood risk reduction work in the Craigeith Camperdown area,

AND FURTHER, THAT all four parties will participate in this collaboration, including in the responsibilities, benefits and challenges,

AND FURTHER, THAT this arrangement will enable cost and technology advantages for the CA and municipal partners that otherwise would not likely be available,

THEREFORE the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve entering into a four-party collaborative agreement for the delivery of this project.

Carried

- 2) CAO's Update and Monthly Calendar
 - Copies of the final 2017 Audit are available
 - Interviews for the Forestry Coordinator are being held shortly
 - Hiring for seasonal positions are largely complete. Still looking for a lifeguard for day camp.
 - Received a grant from Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters for student program funding to hire a student to support Stewardship and Invasive Species work.
 - Environmental Planning interviews are complete – considering an offer
 - Savings on postage machine quotation
 - Mounting workload in planning – hopefully it will help when environmental planner and summer student are hired
 - Refurbishment progress at Spirit Rock – Welding firm with best value proposal was selected (lower cost than expected)
 - The bridge at Jones' Falls will be resurfaced
 - Extensive non-permitted use camping this past long weekend in five or more conservation areas, with up to 22 people at one site
 - Jack Westlake, long term Arboretum Alliance Member and great volunteer, has passed away. A Memorial Tree will be donated in his memory from the Board and staff
 - Tree planting is well underway at Owen Sound Hospital under the Neighbourwoods North project, which GSC has supported
 - SVCA has approached GSC to discuss requesting agricultural stewardship funding from the County level

- Other activities through the past month included a presentation to Bruce Grey Healthy Communities Partnership about GSC's activities related to Climate Change, the annual GSC Tree and Wildflower sale, attending the Healthy Communities Conference on Indigenous Health Equity and the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation Annual conference, assisting in the delivery of the Children's Water Festival in Chesley, and the first meeting of our potential Indigenous Relationships Committee/Group.

e) Forestry – nothing at this time

f) Communications/Public Relations

1) Overview of Partners and Stakeholders

Our proposed strategic plan includes a renewal of our communications. Over the past year staff have been collecting a list of people and groups who have interests related to GSC's work, indicating where we think our stakeholders and partners interests may lie (for example in education or water quality). Staff provided the current list to Directors so:

- a. They know we are actively tracing the 108 or so (so far!) partners and stakeholders, and
- b. Directors can let us know if based on your municipal and conservation experience we are missing any people or groups.

There will not be a BOD's meeting in July.

g) DWSP/RMO Report – nothing at this time

9. Chair's Report

Since the last Board of Directors meeting the Chair indicated that she has:

- Chaired her first meeting of the Source Protection Management Committee on April 26. This group oversees the Source Protection Committee including membership recommendations, as well as funding, spending and staffing issues for the DWSP office.
- Attended her first meeting of the Grey Bruce Community Health Partnership on April 27. Sonya made a GSC presentation on Climate Change that was very well received. Tim and Karen attended as well. She is really impressed with and encouraged by the leadership shown by the GB Health Unit in regularly bringing key people and organizations to the table.
- Was pleased to help out at the Annual Tree Sale on May 5. The weather cooperated and it was well attended. Staff did an amazing job once again.
- Attended the Grey Bruce Healthy Community Conference: Creating Partnerships for Wellbeing on the Thursday, May 9. In summary, there was great positive energy at

the event and she came away with new and sometimes difficult insights but most importantly hope and thoughts about the way forward.

- She believed these powerful messages had a positive impact on the conversation yesterday at our first meeting of the Indigenous Relationships Subcommittee.
- Attended a Eugenia Falls Stakeholder Meeting on May 15.
- Attended the last day of the Children's Water Festival on May 17. The sheer scale of hands-on stations and volunteers, many of them young people engaging with younger kids, was truly impressive. The GSC virtual reality watershed sand table was a great attraction. Alan graciously took the time to talk with her about the role of a Chair. She and Alan had lunch with organizer John Ritchie, MOECC, who wanted to pass along to Sonya and staff his thanks for GSC partnership on this great event.

Up next:

- Conservation Ontario meeting later in June.
- To reinforce our connection with our closest partners.
- Registered for the NVCA Bioblitz at the Minesing Wetlands on June 2.
- Meeting with Directors on GSC properties in each municipality.

10. Other Business

- a) Committees – Minutes – nothing at this time for the following:
 - 1) Friends of Hibou; 2) Forestry Committee; 3) BRWI; 4) Staff;
- b) Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 27th, 2018 – 1:15 p.m.

Scott Greig donated to the GSC Foundation, \$8.00 from a bottle cleanup along roadsides.

11. Closed Session – nothing at this time

12. Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Cathy Little, Chair

Doreen Robinson
Administrative Assistant

This set of minutes was approved by the GSC BOD's at their meeting held on June 27th, 2018.