



**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 29th, 2018, at 12:45 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.

Directors Present - Sue Carleton, Bob Pringle, Cathy Little, Jaden Calvert, Harley Greenfield, Ana Vukovic, Alan Barfoot, Dick Hibma, Scott Greig, and John McGee

Director Absent – Paul Eagleson

Staff Present – Sonya Skinner, Tim Lanthier, Alison Armstrong, Mike Fry, Kris Robinson and Doreen Robinson

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Bob Pringle
FA-18-060	Seconded by:	Sue Carleton

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of August 29th, 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:	Dick Hibma
FA-18-061	Seconded by:	Ana Vukovic

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of June 27th, 2018.

Carried

5. **Business Out Of Minutes** – nothing at this time.

6. **Consent Agenda**

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Al Barfoot
FA-18-062	Seconded by:	Jaden Calvert

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the August 29th, 2018, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: 1) Environmental Planning - Section 28 Permits – June and July 2018; 2) Administration - Receipts and Expenses – June and July 2018; 3) Minutes: a) Foundation: (i) Regular Mtg – June 13/18 and (ii) Joint GSCF Executive/GSCA Board Members – June 21/18; b) Forestry Committee – June 22nd, 2018; c) BRWI – March to June, 2018; d) Indigenous Relations Committee – May 22/18; 4) Correspondence: a) Letter from Grey Bruce Health Services re: Tree Planting; b) Letter from Grey Highlands to Premier of Ontario re: base funding for Conservation Authorities; c) Letter from Blue Mountain Watershed Trust to Minister of Environment, Conservation & Parks re: Conservation Authorities Act; d) Letter from Blue Mountain Watershed Trust to Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry re: Conservation Authorities Act;

Carried

In the expenses, the dollar value for the SWP Committee mileage should have listed the dollar amount of \$692.80. The dollar value for the GSCA BOD's mileage should have listed the dollar amount of \$352.08.

7. **Business Items**

- a) Water Management
 - 1) Low Water Conditions and Dams Update
 - i) Low Water Conditions

Despite an April that is one of the wettest on record, May, June, and early July were extremely dry for most of our watersheds (below 80% of average) and on July 17th, 2018 the Low Water Response Team recommended GSCA enter Level 1 Low Water Conditions. This means a voluntary 10% reduction in water use (surface and

groundwater) but does not apply to users of Great Lakes water. Media such as the Owen Sound Sun Times published information for the public.

The three-month precipitation will be re-evaluated after the end of August to determine if amounts remain below the 80% of average threshold.

ii) Dams

The Bruce Peninsula has had very little precipitation since April, and water levels for lakes on the Rankin River system have dropped significantly to the lowest in recent memory.

Residents and cottagers, especially at Boat Lake, have contacted their MPP, and the CAO, staff, and Chair of GSCA with concerns, including that mis-management or dam leaks at GSCA's Rankin Dam are problems.

Staff have been striving over the past years to continually improve management of this dam, including an electronic gauge installed three years ago. This year, a diver was hired in August to address leaks. A manual gauge was installed upstream of the lake. there will be a remote gauge reader installed at the dam, and if installation is successful GSC will proceed with a pilot project to leave lower logs in the dam over the winter.

Staff also met with the Hepworth Anglers Club to see their work at Spring Creek and subsequently removed an additional ½ board in the Skinners Marsh dam.

Per the Strategic Plan, John Bittorf has researched and implemented a free software that polls and posts water levels automatically on the GSCA website, and further rollout communications for municipal staff and the public will take place in 2018/19.

Scott Greig arrived at the meeting at 12:55 p.m. Harley Greenfield arrived at the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

2) NDMP Lora Bay Intake Application Support

Staff recommend that GSCA, in collaboration with The Town of the Blue Mountains, put forward an application for National Disaster Mitigation Program Intake 5 Funding to produce a risk assessment for the Lora Bay sub-watershed in The Town of the Blue Mountains.

This program offers 50% funding to Provincial & Territorial agencies 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.

This supports the Strategic Plan intention for a systematic update to background studies and flooding predictions across our watersheds, as many are over 30 years old.

The work is expected to include the following: using a Digital Elevation Model, field investigation and cross-sections, studies/literature/approvals reviews, and precipitation and hydraulic models to determine expected water flows for 2-, 5-, 50-, 100-year and regional storms. This information will be used in the assessment and mitigation plans for existing drainage issues or risks, and as the background for future development proposals or regulatory updates.

Grey Sauble Conservation (GSC) will act as a lead in the application submission and administration of this study and will oversee hiring a third-party consultant. They will also deliver any required ground truthing and spatial data gathering that may be required.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Al Barfoot**
FA-18-063 **Seconded by:** **Ana Vukovic**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors support the application to the National Disaster Mitigation Program Intake 5 for the Lora Bay Sub-Watershed.

AND FURTHER, THAT GSC will make no commitments in terms of contributing funds for this project which will be paid for by The Town of the Blue Mountains and the Public Safety Canada should the project be approved. GSC will be paid through the NDMP program for their time and any necessary materials.

Carried

3) LiDAR Contract Award – NDMP Craigleith Camperdown

Grey Sauble Conservation has, in collaboration with Grey County, The Town of The Blue Mountains, and Greenland Engineering, been undertaking a flood Risk Assessment study for the Craigleith Camperdown area supplemented with funding through the Federal National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP).

Per the project plan, on July 16th, GSC put out a public Request for Proposal (RFP) for the acquisition of the LiDAR on MERX with notification to known potential bidders. The bids received were:

Vendor	Cost
Airborne	\$124,000
ATLIS	\$115,000
PHB	\$104,900
Xeos	\$92,425

Proposals were evaluated per the published evaluation criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Possible Points
Proposal Completeness (contains all requested information)	5
Understanding & Approach	20
Ability to Meet Requirements	35
Price	40

After review by Grey Sauble, The Town of The Blue Mountains, and Greenland Consulting, followed by an evaluation and scoring by Grey Sauble staff per the published evaluation criteria set out in the RFP, the recommended vendor was ATLIS Geomatics.

Kris Robinson, Geospatial Technician, overviewed that the evaluation reflects that while this vendor did not have the lowest bid, they provided the most thoroughly defined approach to achieving deliverables and will provide products that exceed those that were requested.

The area covered by the LiDAR is the Lake Huron Georgian Bay lake fringe sub-watersheds in Grey County, which span from the west side of Collingwood to the east edge of Wiarton.

The LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology uses pulsed lasers that can penetrate vegetation to capture very high accuracy elevation information in non-vegetated and vegetated areas. This elevation data will support flood modelling scenarios that help in assessing Municipal infrastructure. It will also be used in other initiatives such as regulation mapping.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Sue Carleton**
FA-18-064 **Seconded by:** **Jaden Calvert**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors support the award of the LiDAR Acquisition contract, at a cost of \$115,000, to ATLIS Geomatics.

Carried

Kris Robinson, who was recently hired by GSC, briefed the Board on his background and qualifications.

John McGee arrived at 1:15 p.m.

- b) Environmental Planning – nothing at this time
- c) Lands Update

1) GSC Leased Lands Review and Next Steps

Tim Lanthier, Lands and Habitats Coordinator reviewed with the Board the lands owned by GSC that are presently leased.

GSC has approximately 180 hectares (450 acres) of land currently leased out for agricultural purposes. This area is spread across 11 properties distributed throughout the watershed. The leased areas range in size from 1.6 hectares (4 acres) to 36.4 hectares (90 acres). Currently these 11 leases are held by 9 tenant farmers.

At the August 9, 2017, meeting of the Full Authority Board, Operations staff presented a summary report on land leases to the Board on behalf of the Lands Department. The recommendation from this report was to extend the existing five-year agricultural land leases for only one-year to provide staff time to review GSC's agricultural land holdings, current lease rates, and to provide an options report to the Board.

Tim reviewed with the Board with one of four options being considered for each land holding:

1. Re-sign a new lease agreement with the existing tenant utilizing the existing terms for another one-year or five-year period;
2. Renegotiate new terms for lease with the existing tenant;
3. Open the property to a tender process to establish a lease with new terms that represent the best interests of GSC; or,
4. Remove the lands from agriculture.

To assess which option would be most suitable to each land holding, GSC staff undertook a review which considered property location, property size, property access, current lease value, current land tax rate, expected land lease value, surrounding land-uses and natural features, and GSC's perspective on highest and best use. This review was supplemented with site visits to verify site conditions.

Information on each property, including individual recommendations, was presented in detail in an attached report "Review of GSC Agricultural Leases Recommendation Report".

It is anticipated that carrying out the recommended actions, including re-tendering or re-negotiating nine of the leases will result in no net loss in annual revenue for GSC. Depending on the competitiveness of the tendering process, an increase in revenue is possible. This includes consideration of the one-time cost of approximately \$1000 to re-tender, and the one-time cost to re-naturalize two areas over time utilizing surplus trees.

Members asked questions related to the viability of the tenant farmers' businesses and continued access to water for livestock. Staff indicated that the work is in line with the Conservation Authority's mandate for Natural Resources protection and the existing leases, and that adjacent farms retain access to water. However, if farm-related issues

arise, farmers will be informed of the ability to provide a delegation to this Board to express their points of view.

1) Lot 31, Concession 1, WBR, Albemarle Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Scott Greig
FA-18-065 Seconded by: Jaden Calvert**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at Lot 31, Concession 1, WBR, Albemarle Township, not be renewed and the property be replanted with the intent of restoring the ecological integrity of the property.

Carried

2) Lot 24, Concession 2, EBR, Albemarle Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Scott Greig
FA-18-066 Seconded by: Jaden Calvert**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at Lot 24, Concession 2, EBR, Albemarle Township, not be renewed and the property be replanted with the intent of restoring the ecological integrity of the property.

Carried

3) Lot 11, Concession 1, Derby Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Alan Barfoot
FA-18-067 Seconded by: Dick Hibma**

THAT the western portion of the leased land on the GSC property located at Lot 11, Concession 1, Derby Township, that forms a “bulb” be removed from the leased lands and reforested, the remaining lands be re-tendered and that a new lease agreement be signed with the winning bidder, with the lease agreement being for a 5 year term with an appropriate and reasonable escape clause for GSC to terminate early if necessary.

Carried

4) Lots 5 & 6, Concession 2, Derby Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Alan Barfoot
FA-18-068 Seconded by: Dick Hibma**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at Lots 5 & 6, Concession 2, Derby Township, be re-tendered to provide a fair opportunity to other farmers, which update will include a new lease agreement and a delineation of the leased areas as those currently cropped, the portions of the currently “leased” lands, outside the cropped areas, be scheduled for replanting to square off the woodlot and buffer the watercourse feature, and this lease agreement be for a 5 year term with a note that this property will be subject to an evaluation to potentially sever a portion, and an appropriate and reasonable escape clause for GSC to terminate early if necessary.

Carried

5) Lots 5 & 6, Concession HMS, Derby Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Scott Greig
FA-18-069 Seconded by: Sue Carleton**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at Lots 5 & 6, Concession HMS, Derby Township, be re-tendered to try to get a higher rate of return and to provide fair opportunity to other farmers which lease will include an updated lease agreement and a delineation of the leased areas as those currently cropped. The portions of the currently “leased” lands, outside of the cropped areas, be scheduled for replanting to square off the woodlot and buffer the watercourse feature. Additionally, the southern “bulb” should be removed from the leased area and scheduled for tree planting. This lease agreement would be for a 5 year term with an appropriate and reasonable escape clause for GSC to terminate.

Carried

6) Lots 30 & 31, Concession 19, Keppel Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Harley Greenfield
FA-18-070 Seconded by: Jaden Calvert**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at Lots 30 & 31, Concession 19, Keppel Township, be re-negotiated with the current tenant to try to get a higher rate of return, and that as part of the new lease, GSC consider implementing a requirement for later harvesting to improve the survival rate of “at risk” grassland bird species;

Carried

7) Lot 13, Concession 4, Sydenham Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Bob Pringle
FA-18-071 Seconded by: Dick Hibma**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at Lot 13, Concession 4, Sydenham Township, be re-negotiated with the current tenant to try to get a higher rate of return. Additionally, it is recommended that pasturing not be permitted on the property with the term of the lease being 5 years with an appropriate and reasonable escape clause for GSC to terminate early if necessary. IF we cannot get a higher rate of return from the current tenant, staff recommend that we reforest this area.

Carried

8) West ½ Lot 1, Concession 5, St. Vincent Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Alan Barfoot
FA-18-072 Seconded by: Jaden Calvert**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at West ½ Lot 1, Concession 5, St. Vincent Township, be re-tendered to provide fair opportunity to other farmers with the newly tendered lease to include an updated lease agreement and a delineation of the leased areas as those currently cropped. The lease agreement will be a for a 5 year term with an appropriate and reasonable escape clause for GSC to terminate early if necessary.

Carried

9) East ½ Lot 1, Concession 5, St. Vincent Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Bob Pringle
FA-18-073 Seconded by: Harley Greenfield**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at East ½ of Lot 1, Concession 5, St. Vincent Township and the remaining lands be re-tendered with a new lease agreement being signed with the winning bidder; This lease agreement would be for a 5 year term with an appropriate and reasonable escape clause for GSC to terminate early if necessary.

Carried

10) West ½ Lot 30, Concession 5, Euphrasia Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Harley Greenfield
FA-18-074 Seconded by: Alan Barfoot**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at West ½ Lot 30, Concession 5, Euphrasia Township, be retendered to provide fair opportunity to other farmers. The newly tendered lease will include an updated lease agreement and a delineation of the leased areas as those currently cropped. A portion of the current leased area to the west of the woodland to be removed to allow for a 15 – 30 metre buffer strip along wetland edge and watercourse feature.

Carried

11) Lot 29, Concession 4, Euphrasia Township

**Motion No.: Moved by: Dick Hibma
FA-18-075 Seconded by: Jaden Calvert**

THAT the lease agreement for GSC property located at Lot 29, Concession 4, Township of Euphrasia, be re-tendered to provide fair opportunity to other farmers. The newly tendered lease will include an updated lease agreement and a delineation of the leased areas as those currently cropped with a portion of the current leased area to the north and south of the watercourse being removed from the lease to allow for a 15 – 30 metre buffer strip along the watercourse feature. This lease agreement is for a 5 year term with an appropriate and reasonable escape clause for GSC to terminate early if necessary.

Carried

**Motion No.: Moved by: Sue Carleton
FA-18-076 Seconded by: Alan Barfoot**

WHEREAS, The GSC Board of Directors has directed staff to investigate our property leases to ensure that they are current, that GSC is reaping the maximum benefit, and that they are consistent with our long-term goals for our properties; AND WHEREAS Staff have completed a review of these leases and presented this information in a report to the Board of Directors entitled, “Review of GSC Agricultural Leases: Recommendation Report”;

- 1. THAT the Board of Directors accept the recommendations as amended in the report; AND**

2. THAT the Board of Directors direct Staff to conduct another review of GSC's agricultural leases prior to renewing or retendering any leases in 2019 and 2023.

Carried

2) Arboretum Alliance Request for memorial bench/tree for Jack Westlake

Motion No.: Moved by: Bob Pringle
FA-18-077 Seconded by: Jaden Calvert

**WHEREAS, Jack Westlake 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 restore a bench in the Arboretum, install a plaque on the bench, and plant a tree near the bench in honour of Jack,
THAT the Board of Directors provide support and permission for this initiative and direct staff to communicate this support and to work with the Arboretum Alliance to complete this project.**

Carried

3) Comparison of GSC to other Conservation Authorities using Conservation Ontario' statistics

Tim Lanthier presented a summary which determined how GSC compares to the other conservation authorities in the province and to compare the value that we are providing our municipal partners from a land management perspective.

GSC is responsible for approximately eight percent of the total land holdings of all of Ontario's Conservation Authorities, including ten percent of the forests, ten percent of the Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), and four percent of the wetlands within CA ownership province wide.

This land is managed with less than one percent of the provincial CA staff and less than one percent of the total provincial CA revenue. These staff resources and revenue are supported by approximately one percent of the provincial population as a tax base (though we are seeing visitation from a much broader spectrum of the population from Ontario and beyond), which is supplemented by only one percent of the Provincial transfer payments.

GSC is providing excellent value in terms of services versus costs. This analysis also highlights opportunity for the province to adjust the funding model to more evenly distribute funding provided by Ontario taxpayers to assist all of Ontario's Conservation Authorities.

The Board would like this information to get out to the public, including on our website, and in positive stories about our CA.

d) Forestry

1) Updated Terms of Reference for GSC Forestry Committee

Mike Fry, Forestry Coordinator, presented to the Board, an updated Terms of Reference (TOR) for the GSC Forestry Committee, which has already been endorsed by the Committee itself.

It is time to refresh this TOR, as Saugeen Valley Conservation has withdrawn from the Grey Bruce Forestry Service partnership with Grey Sauble Conservation.

Members also commented on the recent decision by the SVCA Board to no longer provide Natural Heritage comments to municipalities, even though the municipalities had indicated via resolution that they are interested in continuing to receive these comments. As GSCA and SVCA share jurisdiction over parts of the Township of Chatsworth, the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, and the Municipality of Grey Highlands, GSCA staff should talk to staff from these 3 municipalities to see what the implications will be.

Ana Vukovic left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Discussion could also be held at the Conservation Authority General Managers meeting.

Motion No.: Moved by: Harley Greenfield
FA-18-078 Seconded by: John McGee

WHEREAS an update to the Terms of Reference for the Grey Sauble Conservation (GSC) Forestry Committee is required due to the withdrawal of Saugeen Valley Conservation (SVC) from the Grey Bruce Forestry Service (GBFS) partnership.

AND FURTHER, THAT GSC agrees to dissolve the joint GBFS and establish an independent GSC-led GBFS keeping the GBFS branding, with a geographic focus on non-SVC areas in and around the GSC watershed.

AND, WHEREAS the purpose of the GSC Forestry Committee is to provide direction and support to GSC Forestry staff in the management of GSC's forested properties and forestry services offered to others, including:

- 1) to provide Forestry Committee members opportunities to learn and understand the full scope of forest management activities carried out by GSC staff;
- 2) to be informed by GSC staff of issues for consideration and resolution as they arise pertaining to forestry matters, e.g. invasive species, infestation threats, market considerations, governmental policy and legislation changes;
- 3) to provide oversight to the completion of the GSC Forest Management Policy and Plan, to best accomplish GSC's desired objectives and performance measures, and to satisfy the requirements of the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program; and
- 4) to provide direction and oversight to the implementation of the GSC Forest Management Policy, Plan and annual tendering plan.

AND FURTHER, THAT Forestry Committee meetings be held at the call of the Chair, at least once per year.

AND FURTHER, THAT the delegated authorities and the responsibilities of committee members are as per GSC's Meetings Policy and Wood Products Tendering Policy.

Carried

- e) DWSP/RMO Report – nothing at this time
- f) Administration
 - 1) 2nd Quarter 2018 Budget Report Back

The Board was presented with the second quarter report back and year end forecast, indicating that expenditures are generally on track. One change is the award of the National Disaster Mitigation Program funding for Craighleith Camperdown, which increases both the expenditures and income relatively equally in the GIS department.

Alison Armstrong, Finance Coordinator, was present for discussion on the 2nd Quarter 2018 Budget Report Back.

- 2) Policy on BOD's authority near municipal election

At the June 27, 2018 Board Meeting a resolution was passed requesting a policy on the limits of BOD's authority in an election year after last nomination day.

The Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) sets out how the Board of Directors will be selected. It states: *(4.2) A member's term begins at the first meeting of the authority after his or her appointment and expires immediately before the first meeting of the authority after the appointment of his or her replacement. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 12 (2).*

GSCA staff and Conservation Ontario interpret this to mean that within the term set out by the nominating municipal council, the current Board member remains a member until the new member is appointed.

The Conservation Authorities Act is silent on whether boards should or should not be making major decisions in a municipal election period.

For the period between end of nominations and the election on Oct. 22, 2018 (i.e. August, September meetings) all board members will be in place.

From the election to the end of November, nine of eleven board members will be in place, as John McGee and Ana Vukovic's appointments are "until end of council term".

As Al Barfoot, Sue Carleton, Harley Greenfield & Jaden Calvert's terms expire on Nov. 30, 2018, from the beginning of December five of today's board members will be in place. However, it is likely that several renewed or new Board Members will have been appointed by the meeting date.

Some other Conservation Authorities are continuing to meet as usual and some are not having board meetings during the election period. Some municipalities including but likely not limited to Grey Highlands and Town of the Blue Mountains have limited or delegated decision-making powers between nomination day and the end of the council term.

Motion No.: Moved by: Sue Carleton
FA-18-079 Seconded by: Dick Hibma

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act indicates that Board Members are appointed until the next meeting of the Authority after the appointment of his or her replacement;

AND FURTHER, WHEREAS more than a quorum of the Grey Sauble Board Members' terms (9 of 11) are in place until or beyond November 30th and in the past most municipalities have confirmed their appointments in December;

AND FURTHER, THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors will continue to hold the planned board meetings and address decisions related to the approved 2018 CAO's Priorities and strategic plan and will voluntarily defer other significant strategy and policy decisions unless they are mandated by an external schedule (e.g. the application date for a funding program).

Carried

3) Administrative By-Law

Sonya Skinner reviewed with the Board the draft Administrative By-Law.

In the hierarchy of governing documents for Conservation Authorities is:

1. Conservation Authorities Act
2. Regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act

3. Polices & Procedures for CAs (from MNRF)
4. Conservation Authority By-laws
5. Internal policies and procedures

In compliance with Section 19.1 of the new Conservation Authorities Act, Conservation Authorities are required to prepare an updated Administrative By-Law in 2018. The intention is to ensure compliance with public sector best management practices and standards.

Comments from the Board included:

- Subdividing sections and headings
- Any members who have a pecuniary interest should have it put in writing and presented at the meeting to which it pertains
- All discussions should go through the Chair
- Ensure correct Ministry is referenced in the document
- Recorded vote – each member gets a vote
- Abstaining from a vote is a “no” vote
- Check on spelling/grammar/naming consistency in document

The minor changes will be made and presented at the September BOD’s meeting for endorsement.

Sonya acknowledged Doreen Robinson’s work on this by-law.

4) Personnel Policy Update – Geospatial Technician Job Description

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **John McGee**
FA-18-080 (a) **Seconded by:** **Alan Barfoot**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve updating the Personnel Policy effective August 29th, 2018, to include the Job Description for the Geospatial Technician;

Carried

5) CAO’s Update and Monthly Calendar

- Work on the strategic communications plan has commenced, including a workshop and training session with Lorne Kirshenbaum, who is providing us with advice and expertise. Further analysis and a workshop with Foundation members is upcoming.
- GSCA staffing has been active. In line with the funded plan, GSCA hired NDMP Geospatial Technician Kris Robinson; Mike Fry was promoted to Forestry

Coordinator, and an Environmental Planner has been hired and will start on September 10th.

- Grey County staff and GSCA Directors who attended indicated that the AMO meeting with Minister Phillips about increasing CA funding went well. The minister listened, indicated that the transition would take some time and that we can expect further guidance on watershed planning.
- Between May 23rd and August 23rd the new people counters indicate we have seen almost 31,000 visitors at only the three following properties: Spirit Rock – 11,143; Bruce’s Caves – 13,536; Jones Falls – 6,086.
- An event called “Subaru Multisport Race” was held at Spirit Rock this summer. GSC is very pleased to be selected to receive the proceeds from it.
- GSC land leased to the City at no charge where the Inn on the Bay is located is about to change tenants. GSCA is signing an acknowledgement of the transfer, as the GSC solicitor has reviewed it and no concerns were raised.
- The Tara Legion has an agreement with GSC for their parking lot but have never been charged a fee for this. An agreement has been negotiated and includes a nominal fee that will cover the land tax.
- The OPP issued trespass and marijuana charges at Inglis Falls.
- Staff submitted an application for 50% of purchase funds for lands at Gowan Lake. The potential land is eligible under the Conservation Lands Tax Program, has about 90 acres of upland maple bush with 490 metres of waterfront along the edge of the lake, and is beside a property GSCA already owns. It is all regional and provincial ANSI, has PS Wetland, significant woodland, potential Species at Risk habitat, is part of the Grey County Core Natural Heritage Area and is all Escarpment Protection and Natural. After a partial donation by the owners (who would like to see the lands in conservation hands) and if we are successful in the funding program application our GSC commitment would be about \$25K, subject to a third-party appraisal. Staff also continue to actively review whether GSC also has properties to lease for higher rates and/or sell.
- Drones Actions – Marsh, our insurer, informed GSCA that drone activity on our property is not insured under our coverage, and adding this coverage is expensive. Effective immediately GSCA will communicate that we prohibit drone use on our properties. The action is a note on our webpage and a commitment from staff to engage and stop anyone they observe using a drone on our lands and refusing special requests.
- We remain on track to hit our stretch target of \$86,000 for land user fees, including parking.
- Field Operations has completed the Spiral Stair case upgrades at Spirit Rock and have had manufactured and installed an enhanced railing for the Mill Dam. The resurfacing of the Jones’ Falls walking bridge over the Pottawatomi will be completed soon.
- On-street parking issues continue at Inglis and Eugenia Falls.

- A funding application is being submitted in cooperation with the City of Owen Sound for salary for one person to carry out water analysis related to potential climate change.

8. Chair's Report

July 28 – attended the official opening of the Hibou Interpretive Trail;
July 25 – attended Indigenous Relationships sub-committee meeting;
August 10th – agenda review meeting with Sonya;
Summer of 2018 hikes on the following properties: South Bruce Peninsula – St. Jean Point; Georgian Bluffs – Spirit Rock and McNeil Estates, Jones Falls, and Pottawatomi; Meaford – Hibou, and Ainslie Woods; Grey Highlands – Eugenia Falls and Feversham Gorge.

9. Other Business

- a) Committees – Minutes – nothing for the following: 1) Friends of Hibou;
2) Staff
- b) Next meeting – September 26th, 2018 at 1:15 p.m
- c) Dick Hibma reminded the BOD's about early bird registration for the A. D. Latornell Symposium

10. Adjournment – On motion by Bob Pringle, the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Cathy Little, Chair

Doreen Robinson
Administrative Assistant

This set of minutes was approved by the GSCA Board of Directors at the September 26th, 2018, BOD's meeting.