



**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, September 26th, 2018, at 1:15 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 – Alan Barfoot, Sue Carleton, Paul Eagleson, Harley Greenfield, Scott Greig, Cathy Little, Bob Pringle, and Ana Vukovic

Directors Absent – Jaden Calvert, Dick Hibma, and John McGee

Staff Present – Sonya Skinner, Alison Armstrong, John Bittorf, Karen Gillan, Andy Sorensen, and Doreen Robinson

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Scott Greig
FA-18-080	Seconded by:	Ana Vukovic

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of September 26th, 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:	Harley Greenfield
FA-18-081	Seconded by:	Alan Barfoot

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of August 29th, 2018.

Carried

5. Business Out Of Minutes

1) Administrative By-Law

Motion No.: Moved by: Ana Vukovic
FA-18-082 Seconded by: Scott Greig

WHEREAS Section 19.1 of the new Conservation Authorities Act sets out Conservation Authorities bylaw requirements and requires Conservation Authorities to update their Administrative Bylaws by December 2018, AND WHEREAS Conservation Ontario provided a template bylaw that was further tailoured by GSCA staff, fulfills the CAA requirements, and incorporates this Board's input, THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Administrative By-law as presented at the September 26th, 2018, meeting.

Carried

6. Consent Agenda

Elwood Moore forwarded a letter thanking the GSC Board and staff for the donation of a Memorial Tree in memory of his wife. This letter will be added to the consent agenda.

Alan Barfoot asked how often GSC hired Shred North to shred documents. The Township of Georgian Bluffs hires them once a month to carry out shredding and this could be co-ordinated. GSC staff can contact the Township office when there is a surplus of shredding required.

A question was raised as to the number of portable washrooms at each GSC areas.

Motion No.: Moved by: Alan Barfoot
FA-18-083 Seconded by: Bob Pringle

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the September 26th, 2018, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: 1) Environmental Planning - Section 28 Permits – August 2018; 2) Administration - Receipts and Expenses – August 2018; 3) Minutes: a) Foundation - August 15th, 2018; b) Arboretum Alliance – August 31st, 2018; 4) Correspondence – a) Letter from Environment and Climate Change

Canada re: approval of “Fertile Fields and Clean Streams” Project; and b) Letter from Elwood Moore re: Memorial Tree for his wife;

Carried

7. Business Items

- a) Water Management – nothing at this time
- b) Environmental Planning
 - 1) Update to Memorandums of Understanding with Municipalities For the Provision of Natural Heritage Comments form GSCA

Per the 2018 Staff Priorities and CAO’s Performance Plan, the Board have asked staff to update Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with watershed municipalities for Natural Heritage comments commitments, and in August 2018 the Board asked staff to review whether the SVCA decision to not offer Natural Heritage comments in their watershed would create issues or opportunities for GSCA.

GSCA has a high degree of forest cover and spaces that have not been developed. This provides an argument that the preservation of continuous ribbons of Natural Heritage is more strategically important in this area. For example, with respect to forest cover:

- In the GSCA watershed it is 43%,
- In the SVCA watershed it is 28%, and
- In the Maitland Valley and Grand River CA watersheds it is 16%.

The GSCA has agreements and arrangements with municipalities to collect fees and provide comments to municipalities on planning applications circulated under the Planning Act.

GSCA’s planning and permits work is well received, and strategic plan conversations and other forums indicated broad support for GSCA’s services from developers and municipalities. Each application generally involves a site inspection, background review, and preparation of either formal comments or a formal permission. With GSCA providing Natural Heritage comments it is a “one stop shop” for developers and landowners, and ensure no duplication of services. GSCA would be circulated on these applications in any case given our delegated provincial interests under an MOU with MNRF, MMA and Conservation Ontario.

GSCA’s Natural Heritage comments are also supported by excellent mapping and screening information, which GSC also invests in through the GIS department, and the ongoing map updates made by GIS, Planning/Permits and Forestry staff.

Options include:

- Continuing to provide Natural Heritage services to the watershed and to North Bruce Peninsula under existing or refreshed agreements.
- With the Local Municipalities, Counties and SVCA, exploring expanding Natural Heritage services to include all of Arran-Elderslie, Chatsworth and a greater portion of Grey Highlands.
- With the Local Municipalities, Counties, SVCA and MVCA, exploring expanding Natural Heritage services to include essentially all Grey County and Bruce County.

Discussion and Board input included:

- If GSC continues to participate in Natural Heritage comments, we are supporting a reasonable approach to development
- Could have implications if we expanded and co-ordinated, including more revenue for additional staff.
- Huge undertaking for GSC to take on an expansion to the parts of Chatsworth, Arran Elderslie, and Grey Highlands that were formerly under SVCA jurisdiction.
- Who will pay for this service? Staff noted that the Planning and Permits department is currently supported by application fees other than \$57,000 from the Municipal Levies which covers the municipalities' own permits and input into zoning and OPs. The province also contributes about \$5000.
- If GSCA were not providing Natural Heritage comments to applicants we do not know if we would reduce our GSCA fees for Permits alone, as the Conservation Authority will still need to visit and review each site. This means that in addition to the GSC fees, the applications would pay separately for Natural Heritage comments preparation (possibly to a Consultant or to the municipality for new internal staff). How this works would be the municipalities' decisions.
- GSCA provides an excellent level of service now. It is important to focus on our own jurisdiction and to continue to deliver this good service.
- GSC reluctant to take on the south end of Bruce County; however there could be a potential fiscal advantage, and a desire to ensure the County continues to have high quality independent Natural Heritage services and advice.
- This could be viewed as an opportunity for GSC. Do we have the mappings and services available? Staff confirmed that we would have to expand both.
- NBP is handled by GSC and is charged the same fee. We have done projects for NBP on a contract basis on a fee for services basis.
- We need to know how many properties SVCA provides comments on each year.
- Address shortfall somehow. GSCA may be more competitive, and perhaps something should be done at a County level compared to municipality getting their own planner to do these studies.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Bob Pringle**
FA-18-084 **Seconded by:** **Al Barfoot**

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors has directed staff to review planning agreements and make recommendations on modifications and/or fee changes to offset the additional person added in 2018 within the Environmental Planning and Regulations department, and

WHEREAS Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) have decided to stop offering Natural Heritage comments to their municipalities by January 2020, several of which are shared with GSCA,

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors direct staff to continue to offer high quality and timely natural heritage comments to our municipalities, with 2019 fee updates to keep up with an inflation index and level of effort, and

THAT staff be directed to further investigate and to consult with Bruce County, Grey County, member local municipalities and SVCA staff to gather more information for refreshed municipal planning Memorandums of Agreement (if required), considering the current geographic scope and the potential addition of non-GSCA portions of Arran-Elderslie, Chatsworth and Grey Highlands, with a target implementation date of January 2020.

Carried

c) Lands Risk Update

A risk management report and draft guideline were presented, with feedback requested from the Board by Friday, October 12th, 2018.

The intention is to undertake a more structured approach to gathering information for decisions related to risks to the public and GSCA, with the guideline being implemented and improved as experience is gained with using it over the next few years.

The proposed guideline includes a risk management cycle including:

1. Risk Planning
2. Implementation of Mitigation Measures
3. Checking and Corrective Actions
4. Reporting

BOD's comments

- Re-circulate the information as a separate document in an email to assist in providing comments.
- Staff confirmed that the proposed guideline includes input from GSCA's insurance company. Representatives from the insurance company and GSC

staff went to Inglis Falls, Hibou and a management area recently and discussed risk management, and the company has also provided risk management guidance documents.

- Suggestion that the type of footwear worn should be documented in the Incident Report form.
- Research appropriate wording for signage, such that it provides appropriate guidance to property users, such that they understand risks and act appropriately, yet it does not disadvantage the CA in if a risk-related legal proceeding occurs.
- Consider whether some properties, for example with waterfalls, need a review to confirm risks not too high.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Scott Greig**
FA-18- 085 **Seconded by:** **Ana Vukovic**

WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority has committed a strategic initiative to enhance current land management practices, including a renewal of land management policies;

AND FURTHER WHEREAS staff have developed a draft risk management guideline;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors agree to review and provide feedback on this document prior to a resolution supporting the adoption of this guideline at the October 2018 Board of Directors meeting.

Carried

- d) Forestry – nothing at this time
- e) DWSP/RMO Report – nothing at this time
- f) Community Relations
 - 1) Recommended Educational Niches for GSCA

In line with GSC’s new Strategic Plan Goal to “Strengthen Environmental Education and Communication” Karen Gillan provided staff recommendations on the topics/areas where a high level of staff expertise or experience exists and will also actively contribute toward achieving the goals in the GSCA Strategic Plan:

- Benthics identification and monitoring, and their relationship to healthy, clean water
- Water quality monitoring and what affects quality
- Stewardship to protect and improve water quality (e.g. riparian plantings, fencing and dirty water diversion)

- Predicting water volumes and levels
- Flood forecasting
- Precipitation and water level monitoring
- Automated reading of gauges and automated analysis/posting on the web
- Low impact development (*expertise actively being developed*)
- Naturalization, including shorelines (*expertise actively being developed*)
- Watershed report cards and monitoring of cumulative effects of land use decisions
- What is Natural Heritage, why is it important and how do the Planning Act, OPs and Zoning protect it?
- What is required to have GSCA Permit decisions and Planning Comments be positive for the environment and development, and how to go about these processes
- Low-impact hiking/nature enjoyment and their links to mental health (with support from CO)
- *Future, pending provincial government finalization of guideline: Watershed planning*

Staff also recognized that GSCA owns locations that can facilitate education programming opportunities for GSCA as well as outside providers and schools:

- Administration Centre/Arboretum – tree identification
- Bognor – wetland, good forestry practices
- Bruce’s Caves – cave environment without the hazards of confined space spelunking
- Eugenia – waterfalls, historical significance re: power generation and war cenotaph
- Inglis Falls – waterfalls, historic significance re: industry and water filtration plant, geology of karst, Niagara Escarpment wall panels and display cases in the Interpretive Centre
- Spirit Rock – historical significance re government and immigration, escarpment face features, spiral staircase
- Wodehouse – Karst rock formations
- All Conservation Areas with trails: potential for Indigenous awareness and significance to be highlighted, and hiking/physical fitness

Staff will proceed to review funding opportunities and further identify the target demographics, target geographic locations and delivery approaches (e.g. via day camp in new locations, via DEER/WREN program with Saugeen Conservation, via seminars offered to seniors, via our own or existing programs for teens, etc.)

Motion No: **Moved by:** **Harley Greenfield**
FA-18-086 **Seconded by:** **Ana Vukovic**

WHEREAS the GSCA Board-endorsed Strategic Plan text asks staff to further develop educational programs for all demographics and to be delivered across the geography of the watershed, and

WHEREAS GSCA has the expertise to develop and deliver education in the fields outlined in the Board Report 17-2018,

THAT the Board support developing educational programming on the following topics which also support achievement of Strategic Plan Goals: Better Monitor and Manage Flood Risks, Enhance GSC Land Management and Natural Heritage Preservation, Support the Development of Watershed Plans with Municipalities and Improve Water Quality

Carried

Communications staff updated the board on other work underway, including: Interpretation and displays at Harrison Park for the Salmon Celebration on September 30th; the Forest Festival in Allan Park in the first week of October; an educational program for schools funded by the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust; an updated webpage on Grey Sauble's website showing curriculum-based environmental education providers (<http://www.greysauble.on.ca/childrens-programs/grey-bruce-environmental-education>); and a new highly-appreciated grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation that will enable us to buy binoculars, field guides and two tablets for groups and day camp use to further enhance our educational offerings, under the "See, Hear, and Experience our Watershed" Program.

g) Administration

1) 2019 Budget – Introductory Discussion

Staff asked the Board to provide their initial recommendations or priorities prior to staff finalization of the draft GSCA budget, which will be provided for comments at the November Board meeting.

The Board's discussion and input included:

- The 2018 increase was high, to accommodate asset management needs. Hopefully 2019 budget is kept around 1% or less or keep in line with cost of living percentage change, with a short want list.
- This Board's experience will be reflected in their comments in November, for the consideration of the renewed Board in their subsequent budget finalization decisions.
- Consider including more fencing at Inglis Falls to further improve safety.
- Properties development continues and GSC planning comments come through in an orderly and timely fashion. Ensure that this continues.
- Make it a priority to fix the problems inside/outside the present Administration Centre.
- Include the 2019 capital works plan and show what was and was not accomplished in 2018. Sonya advised that several capital projects planned in 2018 are still on track for delivery, including the washroom at Arran Lake.
- Continue with a good education program

- Look into a property along the Sydenham River, where new property owners appear to have removed fencing that had previously kept animals out of the river.
- Considering supporting Georgian Bluffs and Chatsworth in having septage brought to their shared biodigester, instead of being spread untreated on properties.
- Collaboration and partnerships would benefit all municipalities.
- Trim/remove trees along Highway #21 to enable the a better view of Jones Falls.

2) CAO Update and Monthly Calendar

The CAO provided the following updates:

- A Level 1 drought continues, with stream flows below 70% of normal. This assessment will be revisited by the committee on October 1st.
- Work on a GSCA Strategic Communications Brief continues with Lorne Kirshenbaum, communications staff and the Foundation fundraising committee. A presentation will be made to the Board at the October meeting.
- Staff are working with municipal staff to address parking issues outside the GSCA property entrances at Inglis Falls and Eugenia Falls.
- The Indigenous and CA Relationships Group met. All considered the group very worthwhile, and resources are available to others who wish to learn more about Indigenous culture and history.
- The Metis Nation of Ontario has proposed an MOU and would like GSCA to consider increased hunting opportunities and elimination of parking fees for members of the Metis Nation of Ontario.
- Staff are working with the Community Foundation Grey Bruce and Sustainability Grey Bruce on international coordination and funding for improvements to Lake Huron and Georgian Bay water quality.
- GSCA was notified that MECP has confirmed there was a blue-green algae bloom in Lake Eugenia in September. Nutrients, from sources such as septic, wildlife or fertilizers can contribute to an algae bloom. Ideally a source will be identified so it can be addressed, and the Board is interested if information becomes available.
- On Sept 5th GSCA, SVCA and Conservation Ontario met with Bill Walker with regards to base funding to Conservation Authorities, and their continuing contributions to the preservation of natural resources. Per discussion at this meeting, Alan Barfoot suggested that a letter will be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and Bill Walker, MPP, Bruce Grey Owen Sound, with regards where their stance would be to support the importance of the problems we are encountering with phragmites and a recommendation that Bill Walker be their Ministry's contact.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Alan Barfoot**
FA-18-087 **Seconded by:** **Bob Pringle**

THAT a letter be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and Bill Walker, MPP, Bruce Grey Owen Sound, with regards where their stance would be to support the importance of the problems we are encountering with phragmites and a recommendation that Bill Walker be their Ministry's contact.

Carried

8. Chair's Report

- Attended meeting at Bill Walker's office on September 5th
- On September 20th attended and Indigenous Workshop on understanding treaties.
- Attended Conservation Ontario Council meeting, which is a constant source of education
- There was a recent news release from the provincial government, which provided some information on how they plan to go forward on environmental priorities
- Many people are questioning whether the MNRF funding to Conservation Authorities will remain and at what level.

9. Other Business

- a) Committee Minutes – nothing at this time for the following:
 - 1) Friends of Hibou; 2) Staff; 3) Forestry; 4) Indigenous
- b) Next Meeting – October 24th, 2018, at 1:15 p.m.
- c) Copies of “The Bruce” are available. 'The Bruce' is a 3-part documentary series exploring the history of Bruce County and the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, Canada. The series was created as part of the non-profit Ontario Visual Heritage Project, in partnership with the Bruce County Historical Society, and in collaboration with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

10. Closed Session – nothing at this time

11. Adjournment – The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Cathy Little, Chair

Doreen Robinson
Administrative Assistant

This set of Minutes was approved by the GSCA BOD's at their meeting held on October 24th, 2018.