



**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 26th, 2019, 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.

Brian Murray, Chair, Inglis Falls Arboretum Alliance (IFAA), briefed the Board on how the IFAA was formed, including their goal to develop an arboretum for the public to provide information about and access to see as many of the native trees and shrubs of Grey and Bruce Counties as possible. The IFAA is also setting a renewed vision for the Arboretum that will be a major contribution to multi-year Management Planning for the larger Inglis Falls Conservation Area.

IFAA members and volunteers collect seeds, experiment with propagation methods, and manage acres of plantings, pollinator gardens and 'pods'. They also deliver programs for children, such as the annual Grade 3 Trees of the World days, sell native trees and shrubs to the public, volunteer at the annual GSCA tree sale and community projects such as Chapman House (where they provided plants, advice and labour) and tree planting and tending at the Grey Bruce Regional Hospital in Owen Sound.

The Board then toured the Arboretum and shade house/greenhouse with Brian Murray and Nancy Brown. The IFAA and the Board expressed mutual appreciation for each other's ongoing support.

1. Call to Order

Chair Cathy Little called the meeting to order.

Directors Present - Cathy Little, Sue Carleton, Ryan Greig, Scott Greig, Harley Greenfield, Scott Mackey, Andrea Matrosovs, Paul McKenzie, Dwight Burley, Marion Koepke and Paul Vickers

Staff Present – Sonya Skinner, Doreen Robinson, Andy Sorensen, John Bittorf, Gloria Dangerfield, Jason Traynor, Tim Lanthier, and Karen Gillan

Guests – Brian Murray, Chair, IFAA and Nancy Brown, Member, IFAA

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.: Moved by: Dwight Burley
FA-19-059 Seconded by: Paul McKenzie

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of June 26th, 2019, as amended by moving Item 7) c) Lands 1) Fee Schedule Update; and 2) Parking Charges Complaints and Communication up in the agenda after Item 4) Approval of Minutes;

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: Marion Koepke
FA-19-060 Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of May 22nd, 2019.

Carried

7. Business Items

c) Lands Update

Tim Lanthier, Lands and Habitats Coordinator and Jason Traynor, Operations Supervisor, made the following 2 presentations.

1) Fee Schedule Update

Pavilion Rentals

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority has set fees for the rental of GSCA pavilion facilities. However, these fees have been static for many years and are not sufficient to cover the staff time to take the reservation, issue the license, clean the site (before and after), etc. Additionally, facility rental fees help offset land management and capital asset needs.

In 2018, GSCA made approximately \$450 in gross revenue from a total of about 10 pavilion rentals. Based on the proposed rate changes, the gross revenue should increase to a total in the range of \$700 to \$1000.

Commercial Filming, Commercial Photography, and Other Events

With the advent of social media and increased coverage in both print and online publications, GSCA staff are observing an increase in requests for use of GSCA properties for commercial filming (movies and commercials), commercial photography (weddings, advertisements, and magazine articles), and private event use of properties.

Other conservation authorities in the province charge fees to accommodate these uses. GSCA does not currently have any fee schedule in place to accommodate these requests.

We note that this is not intended to apply to those non-profit events and activities that the Board previously considered under Board Motion 20-2018 related to ski clubs, snowmobile clubs, school groups and/or youth group race events.

In order to establish the recommended fees, staff reviewed fee schedules at other conservation authorities throughout the province, including our neighbouring conservation authorities.

Revenues for filming, photography, and private events are currently highly dependent on users approaching GSCA. Any future revenues earned from these uses will be an increase from the current situation. This also opens future opportunities for GSCA to explore promoting these uses to increase revenues.

Recommended Communications/Support by Staff:

The fee schedule will be included on Grey Sauble Conservation Authority's website on the Conservation Lands pages and the orientation will be provided to Operations field staff to ensure that they are familiar with the new fees and are prepared to respond to public inquiries.

Board members may wish to notify their respective councils of the updates for informational purposes.

Comments by Board Directors included:

- Would people taking wedding photos be charged a fee? Yes, in the future they could be if they are looking for exclusive access to the site and/or the photos are being used for commercial purposes.
- Does GSCA's insurance provider require we have a special rider for events at our facilities? Yes, GSCA's insurance covers this.
- Does a staff person need to be at the event? No GSCA personnel attend routine pavilion rentals, though if there was an agreement for a larger event with exclusive use of a site, GSCA staff and/or security staff are priced into the

agreement. Any area reserved has a “reserved” sign at the pavilion and there will be a way to contact staff if there is an issue.

- Regular users of the pavilions will be made aware of the fee increase.
- In inviting people to GSCA’s properties, we are raising liability, and as such we should make sure that the Authority’s costs for insurance are factored into the costs to operate the properties and into the rental fees. Staff confirmed that insurance costs were considered in the recommended fees.
- It was clarified that fee changes would be effective immediately.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Sue Carleton**
FA-19-061 **Seconded by:** **Harley Greenfield**

WHEREAS under Section 21(1)(m) of the Conservation Authorities Act, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) may charge fees for the use of its properties and facilities;
AND WHEREAS these fees are required to support the management and maintenance of GSCA’s properties;
THAT the GSCA Board of Directors support the revised Conservation Lands Fee Schedule update as presented.

Carried

2) Parking Charges, Complaints, and Communication

GSCA started collecting parking fees in the 1980’s at Hibou Conservation Area, and in 2003, GSCA installed a gatehouse at Inglis Falls Conservation Area and began collecting a parking fee.

In 2015, GSCA implemented the MacKay Pay parking app to compliment the gatehouse system and the paid parking areas expanded to include Ainslie Woods, Spirit Rock, Bruce’s Caves, Old Baldy, Eugenia Falls, and Bognor Marsh.

The parking fee is \$6 per vehicle, with a premium rate of \$8 per vehicle at Inglis Falls Conservation Area on Saturday and Sunday in high seasons. An Annual Pass to all Conservation Areas is \$40 per year.

Over the years GSCA has received occasional complaints about parking fees. More recently we have received the complaints about Eugenia Falls Conservation Area and Inglis Falls Conservation Area. The most prominent of these tend to be from people who identify themselves as local residents, not tourists. Based on counter and gate data, staff conservatively estimate that we receive over 100,000 annual visitors across the eight sites that have paid parking. Over these sites, we hear approximately 5 to 10 complaints per year, or less than 0.01% of the users.

GSCA Staff have created and posted signage which explains to property users that:

- (a) These are paid parking areas;
- (b) The parking fee is mandatory;
- (c) The revenues realized through these fees are used to offset the costs of managing and maintaining the properties.

In 2018, the revenue produced through MacKay Pay, the Inglis Falls gatehouse, and the Hibou gatehouse netted over \$90,000 in revenue for the Authority. This revenue is a revenue source that allows the Authority to pay property taxes, pay staff, and invest in these properties so the public can access them.

GSCA's parking fees are in line with or less than those at other CAs. For example:

- Credit Valley Conservation and Halton Region Conservation Authority charge a fee of \$6-\$7 per person (not per vehicle),
- Hamilton Conservation Authority has a parking rate of \$15 per vehicle, and
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority charge \$6.50 and \$5.00 respectively per vehicle per day.
- The Town of South Bruce Peninsula charges \$3 per hour or \$15 per day, and along Sauble Parkway (closest to beach) the rate is \$15 per day during the week and \$20 per day on the weekend.

Parking Fees are identified for users on GSCA's website, on signage at the relevant conservation areas, in GSCA's 2018 brochure, and are relayed by staff to any members of the public inquiring about visiting these areas.

The email received from the Eugenia Falls visitor was responded to by GSCA Chairperson Cathy Little. Staff will respond to the resident that emailed about Inglis Falls. Further, staff will continue to deal with these issues on a case-by-case basis. Board Members are encouraged to inform the public and other members of their respective councils of the rationale for GSCA's parking fees if and when the occasion arises.

Staff are working with the municipal staff and council members/GSCA Directors to address parking issues outside the Inglis Falls and Eugenia Falls Conservation Area sites where people are choosing to park on the road, and this will be incorporated in the 2019 Inglis Falls Management Plan update.

Discussion held by the Board Members included:

- We receive numerous complaints about cars parked on the road instead of on site; garbage on the road and in our areas; fees being unreasonable;
- Would it be possible to put a sign up that states "please be advised that you are heading towards a paid parking area"?
- Bring Township of Georgian Bluffs on board to enforce parking on Inglis Falls Road; people parking their vehicles on the road where parking is prohibited and signed should be ticketed with a fine. Staff advised that the Georgian Bluffs By-Law Enforcement Officer and OPP have been contacted previously about the

parking on the Inglis Falls Road, but they are extremely busy on long weekends with emergency issues.

- Put a tow truck on the road to deter illegal parking?
- People are also advised that there is parking available at the Administration Centre and a trail they can walk to get to Inglis Falls.

Motion No.: Moved by: Marion Koepke
FA-19-062 Seconded by: Sue Carleton

WHEREAS under Section 21(1)(m) of the Conservation Authorities Act, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) may charge fees for the use of its properties and facilities;

AND WHEREAS GSCA charges fees for parking at eight property locations and these fees are used to support the management and maintenance of GSCA's properties;

AND WHEREAS GSCA Staff receive occasional complaints about these fees; THAT the GSCA Board of Directors receive this report and endorse positive messaging about how fees are used and the continuation of the collection of these fees.

Carried

5. Business Out Of Minutes

- a) 2019 Continuous Improvement Proposal for GSCA's Board, Staff, Committees, Volunteers, Donors, and Partners Events

Resulting from continuous improvement suggestions from attendees, staff and the Board, staff proposed the following:

- Continue with GSCA and Foundation AGMs in January and April, with a focus on municipalities, other levels of government and key partners.
- Hold a volunteer-, donor-, partner- and stakeholder-focused event each fall, with communication and mingling similar to the Owen Sound Creative Mixer concept.
- Hold a staff appreciation event with staff and the Board each November.
- Create two awards programs, an external-facing set, to recognize and publicize natural-resource related accomplishments including those by volunteers, donors, partner and stakeholder organizations, developers and consultants, and municipalities, and an internal-facing set including Board- and CAO- and Peer-awarded ones to provide opportunities to express two-way appreciation, recognize and publicize staff and Board members accomplishments and years of service.
- The Foundation is also developing appreciation event(s) for executive and volunteers and the 500 Club of significant donors.

It is intended that these events and awards be managed within the existing staffing and budget.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Dwight Burley**
FA-19-063 **Seconded by:** **Ryan Greig**

WHEREAS GSCA sponsors, organizes and hosts events annually to support and recognize staff, committees, volunteers, donors and partners; and

WHEREAS to progress on the GSCA strategic plan and to strengthen environmental communication, GSCA must increase engagement with a diverse set of groups in our communities;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors direct staff to develop and roll out external and internal conservation awards related to GSCA’s mandates and desired outcomes; and

FURTHER THAT events for GSCA and Foundation volunteers, donors, partner and stakeholder organizations are endorsed to proceed as outlined in Report 6-2019 and to replace current events.

Carried

b) Next steps after Conservation Authority Act change

The province and Conservation Ontario have provided some insights on the timing for potential changes to Conservation Authorities’ (CA) future funding, including a transition period into 2021 for CAs to develop individual agreements with municipalities or find other funding to continue programs the province deems ‘non-core’ such as tree planting, stewardship, water quality monitoring and environmental education.

Under Bill 108, there is also one year within which the provincial government has left a window open for them to add additional ‘core’ work.

The GSCA working group considering the provincial Bill 108 and funding changes met to consider the emerging issues and opportunities and is recommending that GSCA proactively focus on our relationships with and service to Local Municipalities and Counties. There will be proactive CAO/staff outreach including:

- what services municipalities value highly and need, considering their strategic plans and goals,

- enhanced communication of our programs and activities now and their value, including the benefits of working on a watershed basis and specialized expertise delivered with economies of scale,
- the proposal of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CA and all municipalities to continue with an approach like today including a board-approved “levy” after consultation with municipal councils (in lieu of many individual MOUs by program), and
- the offer to provide supportive template material for a future municipal staff report to their Councils.

Provincially, Conservation Ontario’s messaging continues that CAs want the province to stay at the table as a partner, and that CAs are the right level for governance for water volume/quality (as these are beyond the jurisdictions of regions/municipalities).

In fall 2019, when more information is known about the proposed provincial regulation, and after analysis of staff-level consultation results and Board’s input and support, GSCA could formally approach Councils (grouped with budget discussions) which, pending analysis, will ask councils to consider an MOU approach.

The workgroup also suggested that GSCA work with one of our municipalities to request a delegation at AMO. Conservation Ontario indicated they are generally supportive and could accompany our delegation, schedules permitting.

Staff have already started to also:

- Continue with work overhauling GSCA’s public communications, including website updates (per existing 2019 GSCA Priorities);
- Consider options to increase income (such as increased parking and pavilions income, hosting weddings/events and other fees),
- Support the provincial approach and actions recommended by Conservation Ontario,
- Work with local developers to educate them on the value of CAs, to understand the improvements they need and seek their support, and
- Provincially promote a redistribution of provincial funding from larger CAs to smaller and more rural CAs.

The Board’s discussion included:

- We must recognize the value of our Foundation as an excellent fundraiser and enabler.
- We should proactively let municipalities know how much could be cut provincially from GSCA’s budget and the implications on each, particularly for drinking water protection (\$200K) and the flood mitigation (\$35K). Consider both the local municipal and county levels.
- It is important for staff to get an emphatic information package out as soon as possible, for example, Meaford’s budget meeting is in the 2nd week of September.

- It is important to continue to explain to Councils how important a watershed approach is for water quality and quantity purposes. CAs provide a municipally-appointed governance body who consider the entire river/watershed, as water does not respect geographic boundaries.
- The highest AMO delegation priority is the Minister MECP, followed by Minister MNRF. CAO will contact Grey County to ask that the county partner with GSCA to request a delegation. Board Members Sue Carleton, Dwight Burley, and Scott Mackey sit on County Council and will be present for this upcoming discussion. Cathy Little will also be attendance.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Marion Koepke**
FA-19-064 **Seconded by:** **Harley Greenfield**

WHEREAS changes to the Conservation Authorities Act may decrease the powers of the Board of Directors and provincial funding cuts may affect all five goals of the Strategic Plan threatening the overall viability of GSCA as it currently exists;

THAT the Board of Directors directs staff to initiate proactive outreach to County and local municipal staff about what services municipalities value highly and need, what GSCA is providing now, and the concept of a future Memorandum of Understanding for all programs;

FURTHER THAT staff continue to seek options to address the changes and issues including increasing self-generated income, support for Conservation Ontario’s actions and outreach to developers; and

FURTHER THAT GSCA seek to partner with local municipalities and/or Counties on an AMO Delegation Request.

Carried

6. Consent Agenda

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Dwight Burley**
FA-19-065 **Seconded by:** **Sue Carleton**

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the June 26th, 2019, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: 1) Environmental Planning - Section 28 Permits – May 2019; 2) Administration – Receipts and Expenses – May 2019; 3) Minutes: 1) Foundation – May 8th, 2019; 4) Correspondence – 1) Letter from Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport re: Summer Experience Program 2019; 2) Letter from Municipality of Meaford re: CA Funding; 3) Letter from City of Owen Sound re: Changes to CA’s; 4) Ottawa funding 50 million tree

program cut by Ontario government; 5) Letter from Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Club re: donation to GSC tree planting; 6) Letter from Town of The Blue Mountains re: CA's;

Carried

7. Business Items

- a) Water Management – nothing at this time
- b) Environmental Planning
- 1) Planning Agreement with Bruce County and next steps

Andy Sorensen updated the Board. The Memorandum of Agreement between Bruce County, GSCA, SVCA and MVCA is nearing completion, and Bruce County would like to finalize it by August 1, 2019. This agreement is an update of a previous agreement signed in the 1990's. The proposed agreement represents professional skills related to Natural Heritage that GSCA has to offer and that are needed by Bruce County and its local municipalities.

Discussion is ongoing with staff at Bruce County and the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula (MNBP) on any non-GSCA-watershed surcharge applicable to that geographic area to enable full cost recovery. The proposed fee increases and full cost recovery in MNBP represent a fair price for the work, and will maintain financial viability for GSCA going forward for this work including consideration of the Bill 108 Conservation Authority Act changes. There will be little change to current approaches as seen by the public and our local municipalities and thus extensive communication is not required.

Board comments.

- Board members were very supportive of full cost recovery, and that as a non-watershed municipality MNBP may need to pay more as they don't support the overall administration, etc. of GSCA
- It is not unlike City of Owen Sound in that water rates are charged to properties outside of Owen Sound who are on the city's water system.
- The travel time and expenses to MNBP are higher than the other watershed municipalities.
- All Bruce County and Grey County municipalities are not charged for permits by GSCA.
- As there is no BOD's mtg in July, information on the negotiation outcomes will be returned to the August meeting.

Motion No.:
FA-19-066

Moved by:
Seconded by:

Scott Greig
Ryan Greig

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors has directed staff to refresh Memorandums of Agreement for Planning services to municipalities;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the general direction of the draft agreement developed between Bruce County, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and GSCA; and

FURTHER THAT the Board empower the Chair and CAO to finalize and sign this agreement.

Carried

2) Annual Regulations Mapping

Andy Sorensen and Gloria Dangerfield made this presentation.

Section 2.1 of the text of Ontario Regulation 151/06 states the areas where development is to be regulated by GSCA through the issuance of permits. This includes:

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

The text of the Regulation determines the actual regulated area, and GSC staff use mapping as a screening tool. Staff visit sites prior to making permit decisions. Unlike municipal zoning, most GSCA mapping is related to physical features on the ground (such as the toe of a slope or wetland edge).

Minor mapping updates are continuously made and checked to reflect the most accurate conditions on the ground using current sources and technology, and this mapping 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 (MNRF) has leadership on changes to provincially significant wetland boundaries, GSC staff do not update these boundaries, and provide their input to MNRF on recommended changes, and incorporate any decisions from MNRF.

Per the September 2017 Board-endorsed process, GSC staff have used the newest-available map version for:

- discussions with the public and the screening of applications, and
- the maps on GSC's own website and the Grey and Bruce County mapping websites. Updated data is provided to member local municipalities and the counties 2 to 3 times per year depending on the number of updates.

In-depth information on the recommended guidelines (including public consultation), for more significant mapping updates, such as multi-property or watershed flood line studies, is available on the Conservation Ontario website.

The Board's comments and questions included:

- An inquiry on whether the square km of regulated areas is decreasing or increasing? Staff confirmed that some areas are increasing and others decreasing, netting to about the same overall area yet a more accurate representation of it.
- GSCA's regulations are not part of comprehensive by-laws, though municipalities may designate some regulated areas with appropriate zoning such as Environmental Hazard.

Motion No: **Moved by:** **Dwight Burley**
FA-19-067 **Seconded by:** **Scott Mackey**

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 2018-2019 listing of regulatory mapping changes and examples.

Carried

- c) Forestry - nothing at this time
- d) Communications/Public Relations

1) Improving communication and potential for a GSC Agricultural Advisory Committee and Other Communication Options

Karen Gillan presented this material to the Board.

On May 22, 2019, Hugh Simpson, presented to the GSCA Board. Highlights included that the Federation represents 1500 farm families and there have been three priorities identified– 1) Rural economic development; 2) Fair farm properties taxation; and 3) Environmental Stewardship.

He recommends that GSCA consider an Agricultural Advisory Committee, similar to those at Nottawasaga Valley CA and Saugeen Valley CA. Their purpose as per their Terms of References are to:

- Improve communications with a diverse agricultural representation group.
- Identify areas of common interest/issues and or concerns with respect to CA programs as they relate to the agricultural community.
- Act as a discussion group to bring forward communication and recommendations to the CA Board of Directors/Authority Members.

GSCA is already active in a number of agricultural forums, such as:

- As members of the local Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Committee and have found it to be a useful venue for interacting with local farmers in the watershed.
- As a Network Representative with a staff person holding a board member position on Stewardship Grey Bruce. A goal of this group is “To encourage action that helps people value, look after, and improve the land and resources of Grey and Bruce counties.”
- GSCA and Drinking Water Source Protection have had a display at Farmers’ Week in Elmwood for several years to make themselves available for interaction with farmers.
- March 2019 staff attended and presented at the 11th Annual Politicians Meeting hosted by Grey and Bruce County Federations of Agriculture and found it to be a positive engagement event.
- Soil and Crop Tours – Drinking Water office staff have participated in past tours and found them to be a positive event for networking and an opportunity to see different operations and innovations
- Grown in Grey is for grade 5 students, to learn what is happening in agriculture and related industries in our region. Staff and co-op students have attended some years when available.
- Roots of Bruce, students in grade 5 and 6 learn about agricultural community, food production and supporting industries. Drinking Water Staff have attended in past but not consistently.

- Displays at Keady Market on Tuesdays in partnership with Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority. Staff have attended a couple days each summer to field questions from the public and make resources available.
- Agricultural leased lands are an opportunity to engage with farmers bidding on and using our lands.
- Coffee, Crops and Donuts – program coordinated by Saugeen Valley CA staff. Risk Management Staff have attended as they have producers in that jurisdiction – learn about and see the innovative practices like cover crops being implemented by farmers and why they participate.
- Flesherton Farmers Market select Saturdays in 2019

GSCA is also aware of several other groups for the agricultural community, including:

- Grey Bruce Christian Farmers Association
- National Farmers Union of Ontario Grey County Local 344
- Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario
- The Bruce County Federation of Agriculture
- Ontario Sheep Farmers District 2
- Chicken Farmers of Ontario District 1
- Grey-Bruce Pork Producers
- Grey County Dairy Producers
- Georgian Bay Fruit Growers
- Georgian Central Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- Grey County Beef Farmers Association, Bruce County Beef Farmers Association
- The Grey Agricultural Services office in Markdale is a hub for many rural organizations, coordinating training and outreach efforts since the departure of a local office for OMAFRA

GSCA has received about \$85,000 from the federal government for agricultural stewardship over the next three years, starting at about \$17,000 per year with increased amounts in years two and three.

Other options for increased and longer duration funding are being actively sought, including intentions by Stewardship Grey Bruce to expand funding and land coverage for a current SVCA program across the GSCA jurisdiction, and the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association has also started to deliver agricultural stewardship in South Bruce Peninsula.

Staff see a need to have enhanced communication with our farm communities:

1. To communicate and investigate any concerns with the CA Permits requirements and approach.
2. To advise GSCA on farming techniques and practices, as we have limited in-house agricultural expertise.
3. To help GSCA reach farmers when we have stewardship funds available.

4. To enable GSCA to be better known across the agricultural communities and vice versa.

The agricultural community is also a key player in any future climate change-related activities.

However, given their reasonably good care of the land in our watershed, the agricultural community was not identified as a priority group during the recent strategic plan analysis, and resources were allocated elsewhere, such as to developing staff expertise to mitigate development impacts through Low Impact Development, naturalization and other initiatives.

Enhanced communication and engagement with the agriculture community could occur without a structured committee, allowing a broader audience to be nimbly engaged and promoting a broader recognition of GSCA and what we do. Possible activities could include:

- Board representatives and Staff attending existing GCFA and BCFA meetings annually to make presentations and/or bring a display. Could include presentations to explain permit requirements and accept feedback, and to show the stewardship funding available that year, and/or to have a two-way discussion about environmental best practices.
 - A sign-up list could be used to identify attendees who want to stay in contact with GSCA on agriculturally-related news or are willing to provide us with advice.
- An open invitation for agricultural delegations to attend GSCA Board meetings.
- An open letter to known agricultural groups indicating our willingness to be engaged with them.
- Staff continue to pursue opportunities to participate in agricultural groups, events or workshops as appropriate i.e. ALUS, Stewardship Grey Bruce, Soil and Crop Tours, Grown in Grey, Roots of Bruce (staff to seek input from GCFA, BCFA and Grey Agricultural Services of appropriate key events)

A letter from GSCA BOD Chair to local OFA office as a proactive communications effort extending the willingness of staff to attend an upcoming meeting or bring a display to a meeting or event, and to thank them for making environmental stewardship a priority for their organization will be prepared.

A letter from the BOD Chair to each known agricultural group indicating our willingness to be engaged with them, and the opportunity to suggest a delegation at any time.

- Board Members commended Karen Gillan on an excellent report.
- Great information – and how we are reaching out. Why was the OFA coming to us asking for this structured Committee? This report shows we are reaching out so why does OFA feel we should have a Committee. Maybe we are not hitting

our mark, and need a more visible and deliberate reach-out to our agricultural community.

Marion Koepke left the meeting at 4 p.m.

- Can we solicit a survey from our farming groups?
- Would be interested to see a summer tour and winter meetings
- Keep tabs and respond back to formal request and then we would know if the agricultural community is satisfied.
- GSCA should speak at farmer's week and get on agendas for agricultural events.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Paul McKenzie**
FA-19-068 **Seconded by:** **Scott Mackey**

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors (BOD) received a deputation from the Grey County Federation of Agriculture and requested a report from staff on the feasibility of an Agricultural Advisory Committee;

AND WHEREAS agricultural practices and relationships have generally been perceived as positive and have not been identified as a strategic change priority for GSCA;

AND WHEREAS GSCA staff already interact with the agricultural community through participation as members in the local ALUS Committee, as a board member on Stewardship Grey Bruce, in a display at Farmers' Week in Elmwood, as participants at the Annual Politicians Meeting hosted by Grey and Bruce County Federations of Agriculture, in Soil and Crop Tours, at Grown in Grey and Roots of Bruce with students, in Displays at Keady Market in partnership with Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, with the farmers bidding on and using GSCA's leased agricultural lands, and in the Coffee, Crops and Donuts – program coordinated by Saugeen Valley CA staff;

AND WHEREAS GSCA currently has limited resources to actively fund agriculture-specific stewardship initiatives;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors supports that GSCA staff members continue to seek opportunities to interact with, engage with and get the input of the membership of the Grey County Federation of Agriculture and other agricultural associations within our watershed, including annually at Federation meetings, without establishing a formal Agricultural Advisory Committee immediately, and reconsider upon the next Strategic Plan update.

AND THAT GSCA actively discuss and compile the future information or supports that the agricultural industry would like CAs to have and provide to them.

Carried

2) Update on July 24th, 2019, bus tour

Karen Gillan reviewed with the Board the route in the western part of the watershed that the bus tour will take, and highlighted significant stops. Board members, municipal council members and some GSCA staff, as well as other guests are encouraged to come out.

e) Administration – nothing at this time

f) DWSP/RMO – nothing at this time

8. CAO's Update and Monthly Calendar

- LiDAR flying complete, and consultant is now processing elevation information.
- Spring dam activities are underway including the installation of the Clendenan Dam earlier this week
- John Bittorf made a successful WECl application for \$11,000 in provincial funds for Clendenan Dam railings and signage.
- Ainslie Wood washroom replacement is complete
- At Eugenia Falls staff have decided not to install a gatehouse in 2019. The staff person will use a GSCA truck as a base for the work.
- Staff have achieved savings for the new vault washroom at Arran Lake by trying some new materials and suppliers.
- The public consultation opportunity for the Forest Management Policy and the GSCA Forest Management Plan continues. Input can be provided directly on the GSCA website forestry page through a survey tool.
- There has been significant media coverage of the Emerald Ash Borer parasitoid release, including interviews/coverage by Bayshore, Sun Times, and Life 100.3.
- New notifications on site and online indicating that rock climbers at Old Baldy must sign a waiver are working, and the number received has increased.
- There is an upward trend in # of seasons passes sold, and approximately 75% of the total 2018 sales (173) had occurred by the end of May 2019 (130).
- The Trout Hollow Trail along the Bighead River on the GSCA property has been re-routed again due to river meander erosion. There have been significant challenges establishing communication with the Trout Hollow Trail representatives. Paul Vickers stated that the river at this location keeps moving, and if there is a plan to correct? John Bittorf advised that we do not have the resources for erosion protection, and there are no grants.
- GSCA staff have reduced grass cutting in some areas to decrease greenhouse gas, encourage biodiversity and reduce costs. Some complaints have been received, including at Feversham Gorge, where there are also calls to re-open the washroom (it has been closed for 6 years with a cracked vault). The interpretive signage generously supported by the Nature League is installed.
- Dick Hibma notified us of the passing of Bob Day who previously served on the GSCA Board. A memorial tree has been purchased.

- Day Camp staff have started.
- SVCA has arranged a meeting with the Realtors' Association of Grey Bruce Owen Sound (RAGBOS). GSCA may be invited to attend this meeting.
- The tender for a new GSCA auditor is being advertised.

9. Chair's Report

- June 9 Memorial Forest Celebration – on behalf of the BOD I expressed thanks for the work of the Foundation and appreciation for this event that has run successfully for just over 25 years.
- June 11 At the invitation of the Markdale Rotary Club, I made a presentation on the role of CAs (Markdale is within the SVCA watershed) and GSCA in particular. I was asked about our relationship with government.
- June 12 Attended Foundation meeting, followed by a meeting of the GSCA CAA working group.
- June 20 Meeting between GSCA and the Foundation.
- June 22 Screening of Resilience in Flesherton. In the discussion afterwards, I highlighted what CAs and GSCA are doing that most directly address climate change. Handouts.
- June 24 Attended Conservation Ontario with Sonya. Discussion of next steps re: anticipated Provincial regulations affecting CAs.

Scott Mackey stated that we need the opportunity to advocate with the Feds for climate funding. Sonya Skinner advised that we have been watching aggressively and monitoring where to apply. We are appreciative of having received 2 grants so far.

10. Other Business

- a) Committees – Minutes – nothing at this time for the following:
 1) Forestry Committee; 2) Indigenous and GSCA Relationships Committee; 3) Friends of Hibou; 4) Arboretum Alliance; 5) BRWI;
- b) Next Meeting: 1) **Bus Tour – Wednesday, July 24th, 2019, leaving GSCA Administration Centre at 9:00 a.m.;**
 2) **Wednesday, August 28th, 2019, at 1:15 p.m.**

11. Closed Session – nothing at this time

12. Adjournment

Motion No.: Moved by: Dwight Burley
FA-19-069 Seconded by: Paul McKenzie

THAT this meeting be now adjourned.

Carried

Cathy Little, Chair

Doreen Robinson
Administrative Assistant

This set of minutes was adopted by the Grey Sauble Conservation Board of Directors at their meeting held on August 28th, 2019.