



**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019, at 1:20 p.m.**

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Cathy Little called the meeting to order.

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

Directors Absent – Harley Greenfield and Andrea Matrosovs

Staff Present – Tim Lanthier, Doreen Robinson, Andy Sorensen, John Bittorf, Gloria Dangerfield, Mike Fry, Alison Armstrong, Vicki Rowsell, Carl Seider

Marion Koepke, Vice Chair, read the Indigenous Lands Acknowledgement.

2. Additional Items for Agenda

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Dwight Burley
FA-19-103	Seconded by:	Paul Vickers

THAT the following items be added to the October 23rd, 2019, agenda: 1) Friends of Hibou – Family Fun Community Event under Item 8 c) 4); Season Parking Pass for Volunteers under Item 8 c) 5); and Closed Session Under Item 12; and Update on CAO Recruitment Process under Item 8 f) 4);

Carried

2 a). Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Ryan Greig
FA-19-104	Seconded by:	Scott Mackey

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of October 23rd, 2019.

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:	Sue Carleton
FA-19-105	Seconded by:	Marion Koepke

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of September 25th, 2019.

Carried

5. Deputation

1) Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) and MOU Signing

Michael McDonald, CEO, Bruce Trail Conservancy, made a presentation to the Board of Directors about the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC). He thanked Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) for all their support. BTC's main goal is to raise money to protect and secure the path of the Bruce Trail. The Bruce Trail has been in existence for over 50 years. There are 900 kms of trails and 16,000 acres of land. Head office and staff are located in Dundas. Jane Goodall and David Suzuki have written letters to Michael thanking him for all the efforts put forward by the BTC. Properties donated to GSCA by BTC include Bass Lake and the Slough of Despond. Additionally, the BTC contributed financially towards the purchase of West Rocks and the base of Old Baldy. BTC has supported GSCA in funding upgrades to the arched Pottawatomie Bridge, staircase at Spirit Rock and a new safety fence at Eugenia Falls. Substantial portions of the Bruce Trail occur within the GSCA watershed area, with over six percent of the trails occurring on GSCA owned properties.

The Bruce Trail is the oldest and longest continuous footpath in Canada, tracing its roots back to the early 1960's. The BTC is a charitable organization dedicated to establishing a conservation corridor containing a public footpath along the Niagara Escarpment. The GSCA has a long-standing partnership relationship with the BTC. Through this partnership both parties have benefited greatly.

Based on GSCA's Risk Management Guidelines, and as part of staff's commitment to enhancement of current land management activities, it is in GSCA's best interest to enter into formal agreements with partners and stakeholders that use GSCA properties.

GSCA has had such agreements with BTC in the past. However, it is time for a renewal of the license agreement.

Lands Management and Administrative staff have been working with staff from the BTC to come to a mutually acceptable license agreement for the use of GSCA properties by the BTC.

There are no specific financial or budget implications to executing this license agreement. No fees are proposed to be charged to BTC. Staff will continue to encourage a positive working relationship between BTC, BTC's local member clubs, and GSCA.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Dwight Burley**
FA-19-106 **Seconded by:** **Paul McKenzie**

WHEREAS, the Bruce Trail Conservancy is committed to preserving a publicly accessible footpath through a ribbon of wilderness through the securement of a permanently protected natural corridor along the Niagara Escarpment;
AND WHEREAS the goals and vision of the Bruce Trail Conservancy are consistent with the goals and vision of the GSCA;
AND WHEREAS the Bruce Trail Conservancy and GSCA have shared a positive partnership relationship leading to substantial portions of the Bruce Trail system occurring on GSCA property;
THAT the GSCA Board of Directors authorize staff to execute a new 5-year license agreement with the Bruce Trail Conservancy for the continued use of this trail system on portions of GSCA's properties.

Carried

2) Staff perspective on benefits of BTC (planning, trails, strategic goals, etc.)

There has been an agreement in past with the new five-year agreement reflecting updates. Georgian Bluffs is completing a Master Plan for trails. The impact of ATV's will be reviewed. There are no parking areas along some portions of the trail which leads to vehicles parked on the roadside, sometimes blocking field entrances. It could be a consideration in future to have a pull off area for parking. Porta potties should also be a consideration for placement along the trails.

6. Board Training/Orientation Topic: Flood Forecasting – Software Demo

John Bittorf, Water Resources Coordinator, provided a software demo on flood forecasting. John reviewed the existing google maps available on GSCA website that have live links to real-time watershed webcams, rain gauges, flow gauges and products he produces showing past 72 hour conditions. Through our webpage, this real-time data is available to the public and our municipal partners. This past year, John has been investigating some of the flood forecasting software products. Ideally the software needs

to gather stream flow, water level, rainfall and radar data based on watersheds. It would be ideal if the radar data could be corrected by rain gauge data. John has found a free software that has all the requirements as well as forecasting rain and flows. The software package is called "Getrealtime". John did a live demo of the software. It grabbed recent data from the Wunderground rain gauge network (which John continues to expand with the help of volunteers), the Water Survey of Canada flow and water level data and radar data from the Environment Canada's Exeter station. The radar data was corrected in real-time using the Wunderground rain gauges and flows were estimated using the built-in models. John has been very happy with the package and the developer continues to provide support. Eventually, John hopes to integrate the flow outputs with GIS mapping to create real-time and forecasted flood inundation maps.

It was noted at the meeting that a new webcam at the Big Bay dock is available online through the Griffith Island Hunt Club. John indicated that he will look into it and add the link to our web map. The Board thanked John for his presentation and noted that the information that he is gathering is greatly appreciated by their Municipal staff and the general public.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Scott Greig
FA-19-107	Seconded by:	Sue Carleton

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the October 23rd, 2019, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: 1) Environmental Planning - a) Section 28 Permits – September 2019; b) Provincial Policy Statement Review – Proposed Policies; 2) Administration – Receipts and Expenses – September 2019; 3) Minutes: Foundation – October 9th, 2019; 4) Correspondence – a) Letter to Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Club re: their donation to GSCA's tree planting program; b) Letter from Owen Sound Forest School; c) Letter from Municipality of Grey Highlands to Minister Yurek re: C.A.'s;

Carried

8. Business Items

- a) Water Management - nothing at this time
- b) Environmental Planning
 - 1) Planning MOUs & Fee Schedule**

Andy Sorensen, Environmental Planning Coordinator, provided the following presentation.

Importance of Work - Through the timely response to development inquiries, as required in legislation such as the Planning Act (including the Provincial Policy Statement), and the Aggregates Resources Act, among other acts, GSC supports economic development, prevents the loss of life and unreasonable social burdens from flooding, ice and erosion, and helps to conserve natural heritage corridors and species at risk.

GSC's planning work is generally well received, and strategic plan conversations and other forums brought to light the expertise, timeliness and support from developers, stake holders and municipalities for GSC's services.

Planning Application Numbers: Over the last five years, application numbers have been consistent with a slight trend upward and average application count per year of 518 (includes inquiries). Generally, each staff person is reviewing approximately one application per working day, regardless of application complexity (e.g. minor variance or Plan of Subdivision) and responds to numerous phone calls per year. Each application generally involves a site inspection, background review, and preparation of formal comments. These applications are supported by excellent mapping and screening information, which GSC also invests in through the GIS department, and the ongoing updates made by GIS, Planning/Permits and Forestry staff.

GSC Staffing Resources: Staffing resources working on planning (as well as regulations) proposed for 2020 include 5 full time staff along with support from GIS department, water management department, forestry and administration.

GSC Fee Mechanism:

Under Section 21(m.1) of the Conservation Authorities Act, the Authority has the power to charge fees for services. Under Section 21(n) of the Conservation Authorities Act, the Authority has the power to enter into agreements with ministries and agencies, municipal councils and local boards, and other organizations.

GSC's Planning Fees have been currently largely set out in the signed agreement with Bruce County, and thereby carried over into the individual agreements that the GSC has in Grey County and other municipalities. These fees currently increase with cost of living (tied to the Consumer Price Index) whenever the next nearest \$10 increment is reached, and this increase is embedded in the agreement(s). However, the new proposed fees have been adjusted to account for current level of effort and actual costs and will need to be discussed with these municipalities for the updated agreements. The current agreement with Bruce County attempts to bring revenue gained by fee collection closer to full cost recovery with the base fee of \$360. It should be noted that the GSC does provide reviews for municipalities such as Official Plan and comprehensive Zoning

By-law review and development permits, development meetings etc. that require the department to rely on some municipal levy funds.

Staff are requesting approval and direction to update the Agreements and consult with lower tier and upper tier municipalities to bring the current agreements up to the same standard as the Bruce County 2019 agreement as per the resolutions provided.

In reviewing fees for the Bruce County Agreement negotiations, a fee analysis was completed and agreed to by the County, the SVCA, and MVCA. Staff hope to transfer these fees to the other updated agreements.

Bruce County has agreed to collect fees on behalf of the GSC and we hope to take the same approach with the other municipalities.

The new agreement fees will assist in paying for the existing planning and regulations positions, help cover the loss of funding from the province through the watershed management budget and section 39 funding and get closer to full cost recovery. The new Bruce County Agreement has been signed and is being implemented.

Environmental Planning Staff will be negotiating updated planning agreements with other municipalities using the Bruce County Agreement and provincial agreement templates. Following the successful execution of the revised municipal MOUs, the website and planning documents will need to be revised to reflect the new fee schedule.

(Note that MOU-set Fees are updated per existing Cost of Living amounts only)

Motion No.: Moved by: Ryan Greig
FA-19-108 Seconded by: Dwight Burley

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors has directed staff to update and/or enter into planning agreements with all watershed municipalities/counties consistent with the fees and direction of the recently signed Bruce County agreement.

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors direct the Interim General Manager or CAO and the chair of the Board of Directors to sign planning service agreements for implementation.

THAT the attached 2020 fee schedule be approved consistent with the fees in the signed Bruce County Planning Agreement to take effect on January 1, 2020.

THAT staff be directed to further consult with Municipal Staff and councils to implement updated planning agreements in accordance with the Bruce County agreement.

Carried

Andy advised that we hope to get the draft agreements out to the municipalities within the next month. Andy attended a Blue Mountains Builders Liaison Meeting on October 23, 2019. Another meeting of this group will be held next month.

c) Lands Update

- 1) Update on Capital Projects
- 2) Parking network updates and future plans

Motion No.: Moved by: Paul Vickers
FA-19-109 Seconded by: Scott Mackey

THAT item 8 c) 1 – Update on capital projects and 8 c) 2 – Parking network update and future plans – be deferred.

Carried

- 3) Update of Forest Management, Forests By-Law Enforcement and Trails Management Memorandum of Agreement with Grey County

Grey Sauble Conservation has experienced in-house staff who provide property management services for the County of Grey. One of the Board members stated that Randy Scherzer from the County of Grey commended GSC staff on the great job they are doing. Including administration costs, the total is around \$180,000. It is full cost recovery. The plan for 2020 is to bill the County of Grey on a quarterly basis.

Motion No.: Moved by: Paul Vickers
FA-19-110 Seconded by: Scott Mackey

WHEREAS, the GSCA has been providing property management services to the County of Grey for the management of the County’s forest properties and rail trail;

AND WHEREAS GSCA has been providing Forest Management By-Law Enforcement services to the County of Grey;

AND WHEREAS these contract agreements are in need of renewal;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors authorize staff to negotiate and execute new 5-year contract agreements with the County of Grey for provision of Forest Management By-Law Enforcement, and Property and Trail Management of Grey County Forest Properties and the County Rail Trail.

Carried

4) Friends of Hibou – Family Fun Community Event

The Friends of Hibou have requested that GSCA permit the Friends of Hibou to host, in conjunction with GSCA, a family-based community event at the Hibou Conservation Area in 2020. The specifics of the event are unknown at this time, but the Friends of Hibou would like some assurance that the principle of the event is supported by the Board prior to investing time and resources into planning. General concepts available at this time are:

- Event will be family oriented with the intent of drawing attention to Hibou Conservation Area as a family friendly destination for both locals and tourists;
- The event will likely take place on a Saturday or Sunday in June 2020;
- GSCA will agree to waive all parking fees at Hibou Conservation Area on the day of the event;
- GSCA may consider offering discounted Season Pass sales at the event in an effort to boost awareness and sales of the passes;

Staff are seeking endorsement from the Board for this event. Further details would follow as “information” for the Board. At this point GSCA has not committed any funding to this event. As the details develop, and budget permitting, GSCA may seek to invest in this event. Any funding provided would come from the approved 2020 budget or additional funds raised through grants or donations.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Marion Koepke**
FA-19-111 **Seconded by:** **Dwight Burley**

WHEREAS, the Friends of Hibou offer volunteer and financial support for the betterment and improvement of the Hibou Conservation Area property and the related user experience;

AND WHEREAS GSCA Staff have received a request from the Friends of Hibou for the Friends of Hibou to host a family oriented community event at the Hibou Conservation Area in 2020;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors endorse the general event concept and authorize staff to work with the Friends of Hibou to host a family oriented community event at the Hibou Conservation Area in 2020;

Carried

5) Season Parking Pass for Volunteers

GSCA has many dedicated volunteers that generously donate their time and resources to assist in making GSCA properties and programs better. Volunteers may assist on an individual basis, such as those people who work at GSCA’s annual tree sale.

Volunteers may also act as part of a larger group or committee that is directly related to GSCA, such as the Arboretum Alliance, the Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation, or the Friends of Hibou.

There is little doubt that our volunteer base are also strong supporters of the Season Pass. Therefore, this move will undoubtedly affect the sale of Season Passes. However, this gesture is important to help to demonstrate our appreciation for our volunteer base. It may also serve to expand this base and/or act as a further incentive for membership growth within our volunteer groups. Staff will communicate this directly with our volunteer groups and will encourage these groups to use this as an incentive for growing their memberships, where relevant.

The following discussion was held by the Board.

- Be cautious about discounting season pass prices
- Most organizations set a 20-hour minimum for volunteering
- 7-hours is enough hours for volunteering
- Staff advised that GSCA has approximately 120 volunteers
- This is an incentive to volunteer
- Maybe discount price for a season pass for volunteers rather than free. It would be an insult to charge volunteers to park.
- It is hard to get volunteers.
- There are volunteers at Massie Hills for trail maintenance and on the Bruce Trail.
- The idea behind a parking pass is for people to contribute back to the areas. The other side is a volunteer donating time back to GSCA.
- Staff will sort out a mechanism

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Scott Greig**
FA-19-112 **Seconded by:** **Dwight Burley**

WHEREAS, GSCA offers for sale a Season Pass for parking at various paid parking Conservation Area parking lots;
AND WHEREAS GSCA wishes to acknowledge and show appreciation for the dedicated volunteers that assist GSCA in carrying out its objects and purposes;
THAT the GSCA Board of Directors endorse issuing of a Season Parking Pass for the current or next calendar year to all GSCA volunteers that meet the criteria of volunteering for GSCA or a directly associated committee or group for a minimum of seven hours in single calendar year;

Carried

d) Forestry – nothing at this time

e) Communications/Public Relations/GIS

1) Strategic Communications Next Steps – RFP Award

The creation of a corporate image design and brand strategy will help guide GSCA with a consistent image to become immediately recognizable by our watershed stakeholders and will provide key messaging that is easily understood and promoted by the general population.

The Master Communications Brief was presented to the Board of Directors at the October 2018 meeting. As an outcome of this brief, it was recommended that GSCA obtain a consultant to undertake a Corporate Image Design and Brand Strategy. The 2019 budget had \$15,000 allocated to this project.

An update on the release of the RFP was provided at the September board meeting. At that time, it was stated that an update on the selection process would be provided at the October 2019 meeting.

There were 11 proposals submitted on October 4th, 2019 in response to the RFP for Corporate Image Design, Strategy and Training. Staff undertook an evaluation process that scored components of each proposal separately and then compared and discussed the resulting scores together. The top 4 vendors were selected and contacted for an interview which took place on October 15th, 2019.

Following the interview process, staff are reading up on additional material including design and communications portfolios provided by the top vendors and contacting references provided. \$15,000 was included in the 2019 budget. An additional \$5000 may be required to select the preferred consultant. This additional \$5000 will be included in the Contracts and Services portion of the Communications budget for 2020. Communications staff will contact and meet with the selected vendor to confirm cost, milestones, deliverables and timelines and create a contract of consultation. The Board of Directors will be kept updated on this outcome and will be provided information updates as milestones are reached and if approvals are necessary.

The 11 proposals were reviewed by Tim Lanthier, Gloria Dangerfield, and Vicki Rowsell. The criteria was based on price and creativity/portfolios. These employees are recommending E-Solutions from Waterloo. The following points were made.

- Is this a budget item. Is there some way we can change this system as companies bidding already know what we budgeted?
- Was the extra we get for extra money worth it?
- The work GSCA tendered for is fairly broad.
- People don't know what GSCA does. How much will it cost to implement? What is in the future? Is it social media?
- Including training in the proposal, it will help us towards working together.
- Letterhead would be updated, reports and social events more eye catching. We can control what we do. Hope that GSCA reflects well and looks professional.
- Previous BOD's approved the concept at the October 24th, 2018 meeting.

Scott Mackey felt that the background information from that BOD's meeting would be valuable for members who weren't on the board at that time. Dreaan will send that set of minutes to the Members.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Paul McKenzie**
FA-19-113 **Seconded by:** **Sue Carleton**

WHEREAS focused communications planning is one of Grey Sauble Conservation Authority's strategic initiatives under the current strategic plan; AND FURTHER, WHEREAS Grey Sauble needs a consistent corporate image and design strategy that will allow the public to recognize the source of our materials and understand and support our key messages; AND FURTHER, WHEREAS After undertaking the RFP process, staff have scored all eleven submitted proposals, interviewed the top four vendors and have come to a consensus on the preferred vendor; THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors endorse the staff recommendation for award of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Corporate Image Design Strategy and Training contract to the preferred vendor as presented by staff at the October 23rd, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

Carried

2) Information GSCA 2020 Budget Companion

The 2020 Budget Companion is a consumable document that goes with the budget. It breaks down every section of the Authority. It will be circulated to the municipalities as part of the 2020 budget. It improves GSCA's transparency.

3) GIS Day

GIS Day is being held at East Ridge School on November 5th, 2019 for grades 6 – 8 students. For future years, it would be good to expand.

The Chair called a break from 3:30 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

f) Administration

1) First Review of 2020 Draft Budget

Alison Armstrong, Finance Coordinator, presented the proposed 2020 budget.

Alison pointed out that the mileage would increase from 41 cents to 45 cents. There was an error in addition with the budget that was e-mailed last week. It is a reduction from last year and does not affect the levy amount.

Budget is \$73,000 less than last year's budget, including the cuts from Section 39 funding. GSCA has saved some money on salary and wages due to staffing changes.

Levy increase is \$43,042. This equates to a 3.1% levy increase.

Decrease in funding from Provincial Government.

The 2020 budget will be sent to the municipalities by Friday of this week

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Dwight Burley**
FA-19-114 **Seconded by:** **Scott Greig**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the 2020 draft budget;

AND FURTHER, THAT staff be directed to distribute the 2020 Draft Budget to municipalities for the 30 day review period.

Carried

Scott Mackey congratulated the staff for their work on the budget and for keeping the increases to a reasonable and responsible level.

2) Ministry of Infrastructure Grant re: renovate/renew the Administration Centre

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) is a federal program designed to create long-term economic growth, build inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities and support a low-carbon economy. Through the ICIP, the federal government is providing \$11.8 billion dollars in federal infrastructure funding to cost-share projects under the following four streams:

- Public Transit
- Green Infrastructure
- Community, Culture and Recreation
- Rural and Northern Communities

The Province of Ontario is a cost sharing partner in these programs. Under this intake of the Community, Culture and Recreation Funding stream, Ontario is supporting community infrastructure priorities across the province. Community infrastructure is defined as publicly accessible, multi-purpose spaces that bring together a variety of different services, programs and/or social and cultural activities to reflect local community needs.

Through this funding program, project cost-sharing will be distributed as:

- Federal: 40.00%
- Provincial: 33.33%
- Applicant: 26.67%

The Community, Culture and Recreation stream supports projects that improve access to and/or quality of community, cultural, and recreation priority infrastructure projects. Priority is given to projects that are community-oriented, non-commercial and open to the public. Projects must be completed prior to 2027-28.

In addition to federal criteria, Ontario's objectives for the current proposed Community, Culture and Recreation stream project intake are:

- Meets community and user needs or service gap;
- Promotes good asset management planning;
- Represents good value for money;
- Fosters greater accessibility

As previously presented to the Board of Directors, staff have identified that the current GSCA Administrative Centre is in need of revitalization in order to provide adequate service to the organization and to assist staff in delivering vital community programming and client services.

Through GSCA's Asset Management Plan, approximately \$600,000 has been earmarked to support this revitalization effort, plus \$20,000 to be invested into project design. This money is expected to represent the bare minimum spend required to improve the accessibility, energy efficiency, corporate and staffing needs, as well as address existing deficiencies related to the roof and the façade.

Through this grant proposal, GSCA may be able to leverage the ear-marked \$620,000 into approximately \$2.3-million.

Revitalization of the building will already accomplish the objectives of promoting good asset management planning and fostering greater accessibility.

Through working with partners to develop a concept design that incorporates a public use function, staff are hopeful that the project will also accomplish the objectives of meeting a community and/or user needs gap. This combination of office space and community facility is expected to represent excellent value for money.

Although the exact details are not finalized, it is staff's intent to leverage the location of the office on the Inglis Falls Property, a nodal park within the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Spaces System (NEPOSS), as a community destination, resource centre, and recharge area. In this way, the office meeting rooms could be utilized for community events, an expanded entrance area could function as a resource centre for clients and the public, and an interior and/or exterior rest area could provide opportunity for traveller's and tourists to recharge and reflect on nature and the arboretum.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy has already expressed an interest in partnering on this initiative. Other potential partners could include Grey County Tourism, the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce, Grey Roots Museum, the Owen Sound Field Naturalists, the Arboretum Alliance, the Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation, and local gardening clubs.

Through GSCA's Asset Management Plan, GSCA is committed to upgrading and revitalizing the existing Administrative Office Centre. If successful in acquiring this grant, GSCA would be able to leverage proposed contributions by almost three to one, allowing for a more inclusive and functional space. Staff will work with potential partners to develop the grant application based on a community centre concept.

The following comments were made.

- The Administration Centre needs to be accessible
- Deficiencies in wiring and energy as building is 45 years old
- Infrastructure grant would cover 73% of the costs
- Plan is to position the renovated building as a Watershed Innovation Centre and partner with various local organizations, including the Bruce Trail Conservancy
- Other potential partners could be County museums, Grey Bruce Mental Health, local Indigenous communities.
- If endorsed by the BOD's for the grant, we would then need to come up with 27 percent of the capital investment by the end of March 2027.
- Programs that we run in pavilion could be leveraged for this application.
- Donations made towards ECO Centre are in the City's receipts
- GSCA can branch out beyond what we do today, but still within scope of Conservation Authorities Act.
- This grant opportunity is the same as parks and recs from the municipalities.
- We need to revitalize the building with the next 8 years and see if we can get funding.
- Some members felt that this proposal is delving outside the scope of GSCA's mandate. If we don't get the money it is not where we should go. Be focused and do it well.
- This is conceptual at this point. Bruce Trail occurs on property and the area and the opportunity are very unique. Need asset and ability to attract visitation.
- SVCA has the Children's Village.
- The applications take a lot of work. If the first application does not get approved, GSCA could apply for a second round of applications.
- GSCA was prepared to move forward with a design RFP in 2019, but this was deferred. Staff have discussed the proposal with the administrators of the grant, and they have advised that an application can be made at the pre-design stage.
- Have staff considered maintenance and operating costs associated with an expansion. Building is funded, but what about other costs?

- GSCA has an asset here that requires investment. Any renovations need to be up to standard. One member mentioned that staff are thinking outside of the box to accomplish this. We have ample time to stop and move forward. See what happens when we submit the grant.
- GSCA has staff that are experienced at writing and submitting grants.
- Some members wanted to know what the BOD/GSCA is committing to.
- \$600,000 is a commitment. Money would have to be used. If grant was approved and we had decided we didn't have funds to subsidize the project, we would decline the money.
- There is a lack of information being presented.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Dwight Burley**
FA-19-115 **Seconded by:** **Sue Carleton**

WHEREAS, the GSCA Administrative Centre is in need of upgrades and renewal to continue to provide adequate service to the organization and to meet AODA standards;

AND WHEREAS GSCA the Board of Directors has approved the undertaking of architectural designs and, in principle, the renovation of the Administrative Centre;

AND WHEREAS a federal infrastructure grant is currently available through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program that may cover up to 73 percent of the project costs;

AND WHEREAS unique partnership opportunities will better position GSCA to be successful on this grant application;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors authorize staff to forge, encourage, and leverage unique partnership opportunities to apply for this grant funding, which will include incorporating a community recreational element into the Administrative facility design; AND,

FURTHER THAT GSCA Board of Directors commit to undertaking to complete the revitalization of the GSCA Administrative Building prior to 2027.

The recorded vote on this motion is as follows:

Dwight Burley – yes; Sue Carleton – yes; Harley Greenfield – absent; Ryan Greig – No; Scott Greig – no; Marion Koepke – yes; Cathy Little – yes; Scott Mackey – no; Andrea Matrosovs – absent; Paul McKenzie – no; Paul Vickers – yes;

Carried

3) Letter to Honourable Jeff Yurek, MECP – re: Conservation Authorities Act

The Board reviewed a letter, with a resolution, drafted by Tim Lanthier, Interim General Manager, to Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, with regards to mandatory and non-mandatory programs of services of GSCA, based on a request

from Board Chair Cathy Little. The following friendly amendments were made to the resolution. In Paragraph 4 of the resolution, remove the wording “or of other CA’s in Ontario”; Change the last sentence in the letter to read: “I look forward to hearing from you.” The letter should also be copied to Conservation Ontario.

The Minister is hearing from municipalities who have an axe to grind and aren’t hearing that municipalities are in favour of Conservation Authorities. Where do Conservation Authorities stand at this point as far as the provincial government cuts go? For the budget, 50% is self funded, 44% is levy, and the remainder is provincially funded. The Province is hearing from municipalities that do not value conservation authorities. It is equally important that the Province hears from the municipalities that do value these services. GSCA operates its programs in an effective and efficient way.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Scott Greig**
FA-19-116 **Seconded by:** **Marion Koepke**

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors is comprised of elected representatives from the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, the Township of Chatsworth, the Township of Georgian Bluffs, the Municipality of Grey Highlands, the Town of Meaford, the City of Owen Sound, the Town of South Bruce Peninsula, and the Town of the Blue Mountains; and,
WHEREAS the Board of Directors determines the policies, priorities, projects, fees and budget of the GSCA; and,
WHEREAS the GSCA provides important and valued programs and services to the residents of its member municipalities that include recreation, education, water quality monitoring, forestry services, biodiversity preservation, stewardship, as well as protecting life and property through a variety of measures;
THEREFORE, be it resolved that the publicly elected and municipally appointed GSCA Board of Directors supports the continuation of the programs and services of the GSCA, both mandatory and non-mandatory, and that no programs or services of GSCA be “wound down” at this time; and,
THAT the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks give clear direction as to what programs and services are considered mandatory and non-mandatory and how those programs will be funded in the future; and,
THAT the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks utilize the Conservation Authorities Act regulations to ensure that all programs and projects of the Authority that are consistent with the Objects and Powers of an Authority be considered core programs.
THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Bill Walker, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Conservation Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

g) DWSP/RMO Report – nothing at this time

9. Interim General Manager's Update & Monthly Calendar

- Have received confirmation that the MECP will reach out to CA's on consultations with regards to CA's. Tim Lanthier, Gloria Dangerfield, John Bittorf, and Alison Armstrong are attending a meeting with the MECP on November 6th, 2019. The Board asked that Bill Walker, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound be extended an invitation to this meeting.
- Minister Yurek will be attending the December Conservation Ontario meeting.
- GSCA has previously met with Bill Walker and Bill Walker's assistant.
- On September 26th GSCA staff met at the GSCA offices with RAGBOS (Realtors Association Grey Bruce Owen Sound). The meeting was very positive and a lot of the RAGBOS members' concerns seemed to have been allayed by the meeting. The RAGBOS members alluded to being able to provide funding towards floodplain mapping at a provincial level.
- There have been ongoing discussions with a neighbour at Old Baldy regarding concerns about public users of Old Baldy blocking up the easement access road with cars parking on the road. A new sign has been put up advising visitors that parking on the roadway is not permitted. The CAO of Grey Highlands has spoken to this neighbour and the owner is generally satisfied with the course of action being taken.
- The Foundation has committed to donating \$25,000 to capital projects in 2020; \$2,300 to bio mapping; \$5,000 to education - specifically the Children's Water Festival and the Forest Festival.
- The climate change projects with NDMP and TOBM presentation made by our staff

10. Chair's Report

- Attended Conservation Ontario meeting
- CAO recruitment committee held a meeting and updated the job description for the CAO position. Cathy reviewed the following changes with the Board. 1) Under Education – add “or other related field or commensurate experience” 2) Under Skills – add “counties and provincial ministries”; 3) Responsibilities ratio as follows: 50% for Program Administration Co-ordinator; 30% Liaison; 20% Public Awareness and Other; 4) Under Liaison, add after municipalities “Counties” and Collaboration with peer groups locally and at “Conservation Ontario”

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Paul McKenzie**
FA-19-117 **Seconded by:** **Scott Mackey**

THAT the changes to the GSCA CAO/General Manager job description be endorsed.

Carried

The job ad for the CAO position will be advertised as soon as possible with a closing date the end of November. Interviews will be arranged for January and by March the CAO/General Manager position should be filled.

11. Other Business

- a. Committees – minutes – nothing at this time for the following: 1) Forestry Committee; 2) Friends of Hibou; 3) BRWI; 4) Arboretum Alliance; 5) Indigenous & GSCA Relationship;
- b. Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 27th, 2019, at 1:15 p.m.; No Meeting in December

All staff excluding Tim Lanthier, Doreen Robinson, and Vicki Rowsell, left the meeting.

12. Closed Session

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Dwight Burley
FA-19-118	Seconded by:	Sue Carleton

THAT the Board of Directors now go to closed session to discuss the receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client a client privilege;

Carried

Motion No.	Moved by:	Marion Koepke
FA-19-119	Seconded by:	Dwight Burley

THAT the Board of Directors now move out of Closed Session.

Carried

13. Adjournment

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Dwight Burley
FA-19-120	Seconded by:	Scott Mackey

THAT this meeting be now adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Cathy Little, Chair

Doreen Robinson,
Administrative Assistant

This set of minutes was approved by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors at their meeting held on November 27th, 2019.