



**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 1:15 p.m.**

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting was held via the internet on the meeting application, WebEx.

1. Call to Order

Chair Cathy Little called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

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

Staff Present – Tim Lanthier, Nancy Guest, Gloria Dangerfield, Alison Armstrong, John Bittorf, Andy Sorensen

Also Present – Sue Bragg, Baker Tilly Licensed Public Accountants; Esme Batten, Nature Conservancy of Canada

2. 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.

3. Call for Additional Agenda Items – none

4. Adoption of Agenda

The CAO advised that two amendments were made to the Agenda:

- Item 7 – Business out of Minutes, was moved above Item 6 – Consent Agenda; and,
- Item 10(i)(b) was removed and the motion added to Item 8, since they are directly related.

Motion No.:
FA-20-048

Moved by: Dwight Burley
Seconded by: Harley Greenfield

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of June 24th, 2020, as revised.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.:
FA-20-049

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs
Seconded by: Marion Koepke

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of May 27th, 2020.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes – None

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.:
FA-20-050

Moved by: Dwight Burley
Seconded by: Scott Mackey

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the June 24th, 2020, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: i) Environmental Planning - Section 28 Permits – May 2020; ii) Administration - Receipts & Expenses – May 2020; iii) Correspondence: a) Letter from CO and multiple signatories to Prime Minister Trudeau regarding the Value of Natural Infrastructure as an Integral Part of Green Recovery – May 20, 2020; b) Letter from CO to Minister Yurek regarding Next Steps in the Conservation Authorities Act Review – June 3, 2020.

Carried

8. Deputation

Sue Bragg, of Baker Tilly Licensed Public Accountants, reviewed the Financial Report dated December 31, 2019, and advised that these are draft financial statements pending Board approval, and the highlights are a point in time, being December 31, 2019. The report is qualified by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which could adversely affect the Authority's revenues and collections. This situation is being actively monitored; however, the full effect of the possible impacts could not be quantified at this time.

Motion No.:
FA-20-051

Moved by: Marion Koepke
Seconded by: Dwight Burley

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors accept the draft financial report for 2019 as prepared by Baker Tilly, Licensed Public Accountants.

Carried

9. Deputation

Esme Batten, Midwestern Ontario Program Director for the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), reviewed their report dated June 12, 2020 and discussed the work being done by the NCC in collaboration with various conservation authorities and municipalities respecting invasive species. The NCC has received a grant of \$727,000 to manage several invasive species (phragmites, garlic mustard, buckthorn and dog strangling vine) within the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula area north of Highway 21. NCC hopes to partner with various organizations, including GSCA, to augment the work planned by the NCC.

Motion No.:
FA-20-052

Moved by: Scott Mackey
Seconded by: Dwight Burley

WHEREAS GSCA has been approached by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to partner with them and other stakeholders on combating invasive species within the watershed;

AND FURTHER WHEREAS one of Grey Sauble Conservation Authority’s (GSCA) Strategic Plan Goals is to work with partners to enhance GSC land management and natural heritage preservation of the watershed;

AND FURTHER WHEREAS the presence and prevalence of invasive species undermines that natural ecosystems within the watershed;

AND FURTHER WHEREAS under Section 21(1) of the Conservation Authorities Act, GSCA has the following powers: (f) to enter into agreements for the purchase of materials, employment of labour and other purposes as may be necessary for the due carrying out of any project or to further the authority’s objects; (g) to enter into agreements with owners of private lands to facilitate the due carrying out of any project; (n) to collaborate and enter into agreements with ministries and agencies of government, municipal councils and local boards and other organizations and individuals;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority enter into a memorandum of understanding with NCC to assist with combating invasive species, which may include contracting licensed pesticides applicators.

Carried

10. Business Items

i) Administration

a) Update on COVID-19 related Business and Operations Status

The CAO advised that this matter will be a running item on upcoming meeting agendas as the government continues to re-open. The CAO is keeping abreast of the changes and Staff continue to work remotely at this time. The Phase 2 reopening does not include most of the Authority functions, but the plan to return to working in the office continues when health and safety matters are in place. Currently, the plan includes one staff member per

floor per day and future planning includes possibly 2 staff members per floor per day as functions return to “normal”.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the difficult decision was made to cancel summer day camp. It became obvious that health and safety issues were too onerous to be financially feasible and Staff continues to monitor opportunities that are consistent with other resources.

Planning applications are less than this time last year, however permit applications have increased. It is expected that planning applications will begin to increase as areas reopen. Parking fees at various properties are less but there was a substantial increase in June as visitors were allowed access again.

The Operations Department has been increasing its presence at properties respecting maintenance, however, there is no gate staff planned at this time. Staffing is being planned at certain sites to assist visitors with electronic payment for entry, as well as monitoring compliance. The hiring of a permanent Manager of Conservation Lands, as well as an Administrative Assistant is a high priority.

ii) Water Management

a) Rankin Dam Update

Water Resources Coordinator, John Bittorf, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation respecting the Operation History and Proposed Changes with respect to the Rankin Dam located on the Rankin River between Boat Lake and Sauble Beach.

Water management and flood forecasting are generally proceeding as per normal.

iii) Environmental Planning and Regulations

a) Update on Shoreline Workshops and Municipal Collaboration

Environmental Planning Coordinator, Andy Sorensen, advised that workshops conducted in February 2020 are available for viewing online. After consultations with the Works Departments of Blue Mountains and Georgian Bluffs, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet has been developed for users and a Staff presentation respecting the permitting process is available on the GSCA website. Regulations mapping is continuing to be updated. All planning staff are successfully working remotely with individual cell phones and email contact and have been making site visits within the social distancing guidelines.

Respecting shoreline management plans, in some instances, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as well as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada have been involved in the process and some municipalities have included shoreline management plans directly into their zoning bylaws.

Water levels have been above the average highwater level and in cases where a building may be threatened because of high water, GSCA will recommend that a landowner consult a coastal engineer to assist in designing a safe setback. At all

times, if given the opportunity, GSCA will recommend the farthest setback from the water as is necessary.

b) Annual Regulations Mapping Changes Update

The Environmental Planning Coordinator advised that the most recent annual update of regulation mapping guidelines was approved in 2017. Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield, reviewed the mapping updates and advised that it is more logical for the Board to approve the process for updating rather than the actual updates, which change on a regular basis.

iv) Conservation Lands

a) Update on Reopening of GSCA Properties to Public Access

The CAO advised that all properties are open to the public with the exception of Eugenia Falls. Full-time staff is planned for certain properties to assist with parking fees, direction, monitoring, etc. It appears that COVID-19 has altered the timing of use of the properties and GSCA is working with the Counties respecting this change. The possibility of engaging volunteers as “ambassadors” has been discussed.

v) Forestry

No new information at this time

vi) Communications and Public Relations

No new information at this time

vii) GIS/IT

a) Final IT Policy

Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield, advised that she and Network Administrator, Les McKay, prepared an up-to-date comprehensive Information Management & Technology (IM/IT) policy to ensure the appropriate collection, use, storage, accessibility, privacy, security and integrity of GSCA information, and bring the IM/IT Department in line with the requirements of the Risk Management Guidelines previously approved by the Board. This policy includes a list of all equipment, including location, and allows the Department to stay current with all electronic assets.

Motion No.:
FA-20-053

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs
Seconded by: Sue Carleton

WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority has a fully integrated, networked workplace, that requires guidelines for administrators and users to ensure the appropriate collection, use, storage, accessibility, privacy, security and integrity of its information;

AND FURTHER WHEREAS risks to the safety of the information assets and integrity of GSCA will be greatly reduced by the implementation of the Information Management & Technology Policy.

AND FURTHER WHEREAS this policy will bring the Information Management & Technology Department in line with the requirements of the Risk Management Guidelines, approved in 2018;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors accept and endorse the Final Information Management & Technology Policy.

Carried

b) Board of Directors' Sharepoint Website

Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield, demonstrated the sharepoint site available to the Board of Directors members on the GSCA website at www.greysauble.on.ca, explained how to access the site, including the calendar and other helpful information.

viii) Drinking Water Source Protection & Risk Management

Nothing to report at this time.

11. CAO's Report

The CAO reported that a new employee benefits plan with a non-profit benefits trust, CSBT, became effective June 1, 2020 and provides better benefits for employees and costs less annually for GSCA.

Further to a previous presentation to the Board regarding the Positively Green partnership, the Greenbelt Foundation has asked partners to re-frame our proposed projects in light of climate change, flood reduction and green infrastructure, with a goal of aligning with COVID recovery priorities. This is expected to better position these projects to receive funding.

The CAO advised that he met with the new General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of Saugeen Valley Conservation, Jennifer Stephens, Maitland Valley Conservation General Manager – Secretary Treasurer, Phil Beard, and Ted Briggs of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, London Office, respecting the Healthy Lake Huron project. It is hopeful that this project will translate into stewardship or green infrastructure funding.

Director Marion Koepke and CAO Tim Lanthier met with the new Owen Sound City Manager, Tim Simmonds, at the GSCA arboretum to introduce Mr. Simmonds to the GSCA amenities.

Other activities include a possible solution to the Peasemarsch drain matter, which will be updated when finalized.

The "Please Bring Me Home" group engaged in finding missing person, Lisa Maas, has agreed to clean garbage out of a crevice on GSCA's Bognor Marsh property where the group believes there may be a possibility of finding Ms. Maas.

The Sydenham Optimists Club is actively raising funds to provide playground equipment at the Hibou property.

The Children's Water Festival held at and near the Chesley Community Centre for Grade 4 students in the Bluewater Board of Education has been cancelled for 2020. Those Grade 4

students who missed the 2020 festival will be invited to the 2021 festival as Grade 5 stewards, as well as all existing 2021 Grade 4 students. The Festival organizing committee is seeking a Treasurer, as well as volunteers to serve on the organizing committee.

Walkerton quietly noted the 20th anniversary of the water tragedy with news updates. Drinking Water Source Protection Project Manager and GSCA Risk Management Official, Carl Seider, was interviewed by several news outlets, including the magazine 'Environmental Science and Engineering Magazine'.

12. Chair's Report

The Chair noted that the letters to Prime Minister Trudeau and MECP Minister Yurek respectively listed in "Correspondence" may be of interest to Directors' municipal Councils. The Chair will be asking to have these letters included in the Grey Highlands Council's agenda and encourages other Directors to do the same. The Chair has been advised of the delegation of concerned people who are advocating on behalf of conservation authorities to the provincial government through local MPP Bill Walker. She continues to keep in close contact with the Vice Chair, Scott Greig, and CAO, Tim Lanthier, to deal with immediate matters.

13. Other Business

None at this time.

14. Closed Session

Motion No.:
FA-20-054

Moved by: Marion Koepke
Seconded by: Paul McKenzie

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors proceed into closed session at 3:42 pm to discuss matters related to the following:

An Item related to the security of the property of the Authority – s.4(17)(xvii)(a) and litigation or potential litigation including matters before administrative tribunals - s.4(17)(xvii)(d).

AND FURTHER THAT CAO, Tim Lanthier, Administrative Assistant, Nancy Guest, and Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield, remain in attendance.

Carried

Motion No.:
FA-20-055

Moved by: Marion Koepke
Seconded by: Sue Carleton

THAT a closed meeting was held, and only closed session items identified were discussed in closed session.

AND THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the May 27, 2020 Confidential Closed Session minutes as presented in the closed session agenda.

Carried

13. Next Full Authority Meeting – Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 1:15 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Cathy Little, Chair

Nancy Guest
Recording Secretary