



**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES  
Full Authority Board of Directors  
Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at 1:15 p.m.**

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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, Ryan Greig, Vice Chair Scott Greig, Marion Koepke, Scott Mackey, Andrea Matrosovs, Paul Vickers

Staff Present – Tim Lanthier, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Nancy Guest, Gloria Dangerfield, Alison Armstrong, Rebecca Ferguson

Regrets – Harley Greenfield, Paul McKenzie

**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 Chair advised that three amendments were made to the Agenda:

- Item 5 – the date of the Minutes being approved was changed to “June 24”, 2020;
- Item 7(i) the Section 28 Permits date was changed to “June” 2020; and
- Item 7(ii) the Receipts and Expenses date was changed to “June” 2020.

**Motion No.:**  
**FA-20-056**

**Moved by:** Dwight Burley  
**Seconded by:** Scott Mackey

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of July 22nd, 2020, as amended.**

**Carried**

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion No.:**  
**FA-20-057**

**Moved by:** Marion Koepke  
**Seconded by:** Scott Greig

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of June 24th, 2020.**

**Carried**

**6. Business Out of Minutes – None**

**7. Consent Agenda**

**Motion No.:**  
**FA-20-058**

**Moved by:** Scott Mackey  
**Seconded by:** Ryan Greig

**THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: i) Environmental Planning - Section 28 Permits – June 2020; ii) Administration - Receipts & Expenses – June 2020; iii) Correspondence: a) Letter from Wayne Emerson, Chair, Conservation Ontario to Federal Ministers regarding Federal Stimulus Opportunities – May 28, 2020.**

**Carried**

(Scott Greig was absent from the meeting from 1:32 pm to 1:57 pm)

**8. Business Items**

**i) Administration**

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

The CAO advised that the Grey-Bruce region has entered into Phase 3 of the Provincial reopening guidelines and accordingly, all Authority operations are functional. Efforts continue in arranging for staff to return to the office on a rotating basis. Member municipalities have been contacted respecting their reopening plans and it is hoped that a plan will be

implemented by September 2020. The Health and Safety Committee is reviewing a reopening plan and will report back to the CAO with its comments and recommendations. In the meantime, staff have been successfully working remotely and have been effectively dealing with matters by phone and email. It is anticipated that staff may return on a cohort basis to enable ease of contact tracing, if necessary.

Operations staff has been increased to cover the Eugenia Falls and Inglis Falls Conservation areas with two staff off-setting each other at each site seven days a week. These staff members are assisting with compliance, paid parking procedures and general information, and the result has been well-received.

Funding was successfully applied for respecting summer student employment grants for four students working outdoors. Funding was also approved for two additional students, but since there was a stipulation that they work inside the office job-shadowing, it was not feasible to meet this criterium due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

The position of Manager of Conservation Lands was posted prior to COVID-19 and the hiring process put on hold temporarily. The CAO hopes to begin the interview process within the next week and have a new employee in this vacancy by the end of August 2020.

The Administrative Assistant vacancy will be posted shortly with the goal of having a new staff member in this position by the end of August 2020.

### **b) Second Quarter Financial Update and Forecast**

Manager of Financial and Human Resource Services, Alison Armstrong, and the CAO reported that there is a possibility that original projections for the year may be achieved with the loss of revenue being offset by lower costs due to, among other things, staff vacancies and operations expenses. Section 39 funds will become available in the third quarter, and there has been a surplus in watershed monitoring and stewardship as more funding was received than was expected.

The CAO advised that reduced revenues recorded in the second quarter are expected to rebound in the third and fourth quarter as areas become more active. There has been a decrease in Environmental Planning applications which should eventually balance out with increasing applications. Respecting Forestry, a reduction in revenues has been balanced by a reduction in expenditures. A surplus exists in Conservation Lands due to the lack of salary expenditure while the Manager position remains vacant. The contract with the County of Grey continues without change; and the Administrative department is currently showing a surplus. All surpluses and deficits will be reassessed in the second half of the year.

With respect to capital spending, the plan is to move forward with most projects approved in the 2020 Budget. Some 2019 projects were also carried forward into 2020 and are planned to move forward.

## **ii) Water Management**

### **a) Bothwell Creek Subwatershed Report Card**

Stewardship Technician, Rebecca Ferguson, provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Bothwell's Creek Subwatershed Report Card 2019. Every five years, GSCA prepares a larger watershed report card including stream health, forest and wetland conditions, groundwater and surface water quality, and actions for improvement for the whole GSCA jurisdiction. As part of our Strategic Plan, GSCA is providing more refined Subwatershed report cards to provide a more localized overview of a subwatershed and to enable action for improvements specific to a particular area. Some recommendations would be, among other things, a three-metre riparian buffer along streams including fences and trees, maintenance and improvement of septic systems, and decommissioning of unused wells.

The full Report Card is posted for viewing on the Authority website at <https://www.greysauble.on.ca/3d-flip-book/bothwell-subwatershed-report-card/>. This is the first of approximately twenty-five subwatershed report cards.

## **iii) Environmental Planning**

Nothing at this time.

## **iv) Conservation Lands**

### **a) Update on Reopening of GSCA Properties to Public Access**

The CAO advised that there has been a renewed interest in Authority properties including the booking of facilities. Eugenia Falls, which had previously been temporarily closed, now has increased signage and fencing, rerouting of the Bruce Trail away from the slope, installation of portable washrooms, which are cleaned regularly, and staff circulating through the property to ensure compliance.

### **b) Eugenia Falls Management Plan**

The CAO provided a PowerPoint presentation to introduce the commencement of the Eugenia Falls Conservation Area and Cenotaph management plan. The goal is to develop a plan with input from partners, stakeholders and the general public that will lay out the groundwork to improve the management and integrity of the property, now and into the future. Public consultation will be initiated with surveys, open houses, website information, mail-outs to abutting landowners, and discussions with other stakeholders. The process, intended to start at the beginning of 2020, was delayed due to COVID-19 and staffing shortages. Staff and Board Chair Cathy Little had a productive meeting with a local group, Saving Lives at Eugenia Falls, who offered several suggestions. An advisory committee will be assembled including local interests, board members, First Nation representation, and staff. More information is available at [www.greysauble.on.ca](http://www.greysauble.on.ca).

### **c) Hibou Conservation Area Playground Equipment Update**

The Sydenham Optimists Club is raising funds to contribute playground equipment to the Hibou Conservation area. At this time, approximately \$1500 has been raised with a goal of \$50,000. The Club is researching several themes for the equipment including nautical and nature and three possible designs have been submitted for discussion.

#### **v) Forestry**

No new information at this time.

#### **vi) Communications and Public Relations**

No new information at this time.

#### **vii) Education – Enbridge Grant**

Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield, advised that the Authority had applied for a \$3500 grant to subsidize supplies and was approved for the purchase of an “augmented reality sandbox” similar to the existing sandbox used for educational purposes, except the new design is much more portable and user-friendly.

#### **viii) GIS/IT**

No new information at this time.

#### **ix) Drinking Water Source Protection & Risk Management**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **9. CAO's Report**

The CAO reported that the aforementioned correspondence from Wayne Emerson, Chair of Conservation Ontario to the federal government suggesting conservation authorities as implementation agents for a more resilient, sustainable and green Canadian economy, was forwarded to the local federal Member of Parliament, Alex Ruff, requesting his support.

The CAO and board member, Marion Koepke, had a positive and productive meeting at the Authority arboretum with the newly appointed Owen Sound City Manager, Tim Simmonds, to introduce him to Grey Sauble Conservation.

The CAO met with Grey County Warden Paul McQueen to brief him respecting visitors to Eugenia Falls prior to Warden McQueen being interviewed on the CBC radio program Ontario Morning regarding visitors to the County.

**10. Chair's Report**

With respect to the accidents at Eugenia Falls, the Chair reported that the Municipality of Grey Highlands has invoiced the second accident casualty in the amount of \$15,000+ for the costs incurred by the rescue teams to recover him. The Chair thanked all involved in acting quickly and responsibly in this matter.

She continues to keep in close contact with the Vice Chair, Scott Greig, and CAO, Tim Lanthier, to deal with immediate matters.

**11. Other Business**

Board member, Scott Mackey, commended staff for their immediate response to a request to rectify the danger of a tree overhanging the rail trail.

**12. Closed Session**

Nothing at this time.

**13. Next Full Authority Meeting – Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 1:15 p.m.**

**14. Adjournment**

Board member Sue Carleton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Scott Mackey. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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Cathy Little, Chair

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Nancy Guest  
Recording Secretary