

Administration

a. Appointment of Provincial Offenses Officers

Staff requested that the Board approve the appointment of four new Provincial Offenses Officers. Olivia Sroka (Regulations Technician), Jake Bousfield-Bastedo (Watershed Planner), Justine Lunt (Environmental Planner), and Spencer Young (Field Assistant) have all completed the required training. The Board approved all appointments.

b. Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Update

Staff asked the Board to approve changes to the Terms of Reference that would increase the total number of members on the committee from 5 to 8 and to increase GSCA Board representatives from 2 to 3 to include the Ministry appointed Agricultural Representative should one be appointed to Grey Sauble CA. The Board approved the changes as presented.

Environmental Planning

a. Environmental Planning Program Rates and Fees Review

Staff presented the Board with the final report from Watson and Associates outlining the results of their comprehensive service rates and fees review.

Sean-Michael Stephen from Watson and Associates provided a presentation of their report and findings, including the objectives and deliverables of the review, and the legislative context and trends, especially with regards to the recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.

Watson and Associates uses their Activity-Base Costing methodology to determine the full cost of providing a service. Results showed that current fees are insufficient to fund the department at a full cost recovery level. The short fall would either need to come from an increase in fees or an increase in the Municipal Levy. Watson and Associates proposed fee increases would achieve full cost recovery and decrease Municipal levy funding.

The next step will be a public consultation process. Staff will be setting up meetings with member municipalities, partners, and stakeholders that will include developers, contractors, consultants, as well as the general public. Staff will bring a report to the Board with the results.

This is the first comprehensive service rate and fee review that GSCA has undertaken. Moving forward, staff will be creating a policy to guide future review processes.

The Board approved staff moving forward with public consultation.

