

Administration

a. Q2 Budget Update

Staff provided an update on GSCA's 2022 budget. Staff noted that there were \$1.57 million in operating expenses and \$1.77 million in revenue recorded to the end of Q2. The reported revenue included a large percentage of Stewardship and Drinking Water Source Protection funding. Staff are projecting a small deficit at year end due to several unforeseen expenses, insurance premium increases and staffing changes. Very few capital expense were realized by the end of Q2. However, the majority of these projects are slated for completion in Q3.

b. Q2 Investment Portfolio Update

Staff provided an update on the status of GSCA's Investment Portfolio. Staff reported that the market value of portfolio dropped \$129,000 in June. Though it was noted that the market value had recovered some since the statement was released and now sits at \$1.463 million versus the \$1.399 million at end of June.

Forestry

a. Invasive Species Strategy

Staff presented a newly drafted Invasive Species Strategy and requested the Board's approval to put the strategy into place and include funds in the 2023 Budget to implement it.

The strategy is designed to provide GSCA staff with a consistent approach to addressing invasive species on GSCA-owned properties. The strategy excludes native species that spread quickly or non-native species that are not invasive. Staff noted that the economic return on dealing with invasive species early is roughly 100 to 1 compared to once a colony is established.

The Board supported the adoption of the presented strategy and approved, in principle, the recommendation that \$15,000 be put in the 2023 operating budget for the management of invasive species on GSCA properties.

b. CCIRP Request for Support

Staff presented a request for support from the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR) to the Board. The CCIPR is a new group focused on lobbying the Federal Government to enforce greater regulations with regard to the import of invasive species. The CCIPR has asked GSCA to lend its name to their call-to-action. Other CAs have been approached and some have given their support.

The GSCA Board agrees with the coalition's aim but there was concern raised around the use of GSCA's name and logo on materials that GSCA does not have control over. It was felt that Conservation Ontario may be a more appropriate vehicle for this level of support and advocacy. The Board agreed to support, in principle, the aims of regulating, managing, and stopping invasive species.