GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (GSCA) Board Meeting Highlights 09/28/2022



Administration

a. Update to CAA Governance

Staff informed the Board that oversight on Conservation Authorities and the Conservation Authorities Act has been changed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

b. Q2 Transition Plan Report to the MNRF

Staff have submitted the second quarterly report on the Transition Plan to the MNRF. It was noted that there were very few changes made to the plan.

c. GSCA Fee Policy

Staff brought forward a drafted Fee Policy for Board approval to move to move forward with consultation. This is a requirement that came from the changes to the CAA, GSCA did not previously have a formal fee policy. The policy outlines the how fees are established, the process to appeal a fee, and the period for review of the policy and its schedules. It was noted that the policy is based on the ministry established user pay principle.

The drafted policy will be posted to the GSCA website for a 21-day period and will be circulated to senior staff at all municipal partners and counties. Following this consultation period, the policy will be brought back to the Board for approval.

d. Personnel Policy Update

Staff brought forward a change to the GSCA personnel policy with regards to employee benefits and OMERS enrollment. As of January 1, 2023, all staff will be eligible to be enrolled in the OMERS pension plan. The change was necessary to disconnect health benefit eligibility from OMERS eligibility.

Environmental Planning

a. Environmental Planning Fee Review

Staff presented the results of the consultation process of the comprehensive fee review conducted by Watson and Associates.

Staff reviewed the concerns that been raised during process. Staff explained the major fee category and how they are structured differently with the technical review fees being rolled into the one fee instead of being separate items.

Staff have recommended creating a "Routine Project" fee category that would capture permit applications that require less staff time and pose little to no risk to natural hazards.

The Board endorsed the final report of the Program Rates and Fees Review and approved the staff amended proposed fee structure.

Conservation Lands

a. GSCA Parking Lots

Staff proposed the expansion or addition of four parking lots; Massie Hills, Griersville, Hepworth, and Wodehouse areas. Staff reviewed each of the four and noted that some of the user groups for those areas have offered to assist with funding the projects. Staff noted that this was a preliminary discussion and that permits would need to applied for and workplans created.