

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (GSCA)

Board Meeting Highlights 02/22/2023



AGM

GSCA hosted its AGM on February 22, 2023. We welcomed nine new Members; Sue Carleton, Tobin Day, Alex Maxwell, Robert Uhrig, Tony Bell, Nadia Dubyk, Jennifer Shaw, Jay Kirkland, and Jon Farmer. Returning to the Board of Directors are Scott Greig and Scott Mackey.

Sue Carleton was elected as Chair for 2023 and Scott Greig was elected as Vice Chair for 2023.

Administration

a. GSCA 2023 Priority Workplan

Staff presented the Priority Workplan for 2023. These represent items and projects that are over and above the regular day to day activities of the staff.

The Board approved the 2023 Priority Workplan.

b. GSCA Draft 2023 Budget

Staff presented the 2023 GSCA budget. In December, staff received approval to circulate the draft budget to its member municipalities for the minimum 30 days. Staff extended an invitation to member municipalities for staff to visit councils for information presentations and to field questions. The CAO visited the Town of the Blue Mountains and the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie councils. It was noted that this budget is showing more self-generated revenue than in past years.

The Board approved the 2023 GSCA Budget with no amendments.

c. Q4 Investment Portfolio Update

Staff provided an update on GSCA's investment portfolio. It was noted that 2022 was a difficult year for investments and GSCA's Investment Portfolio was no exception. There was discussion around GSCA's investment policies and strategies. Staff informed the Board of recent changes to the portfolio and the inclusion of ESG investments in 2021.

Staff noted that the portfolio has started to recover since the year-end report was generated.

d. Q4 Budget and Reserves Report Back

Staff provided an update on the 2022 budget and report back on the reserve's continuity. Staff noted that, while the year did not necessarily go as planned, in the end the budget as a whole was balanced. There were substantially less draw-downs of reserves and more was transferred to reserves than had been budgeted.

The Board approved the proposed reserve transfers.

Forestry

a. Forestry Fee Schedule 2023 Update

Staff updated the Board on the proposed 2023 Forestry fee schedule. Staff review the fee schedule annually and focus on providing services at an affordable rate.

The Board approved the updated Forestry fee schedule.

b. Forestry Tenders

Staff presented the results of the Rocklyn Creek and Rob Roy forestry tenders.

The Board approved the awarding of the Rocklyn Creek and Rob Roy forestry tenders as recommended.

Education

a. Day Camp Fee Update

Staff provided an update on Day Camp fees and camper maximums. Staff explained the challenges GSCA had in 2022 recruiting and retaining day camp staff, and their concerns around providing a safe experience. Staff's recommendation was to reduce total camper numbers in order to maintain a safe camper to staff ratio. As a result of decreasing camper spots, staff have recommended increasing the weekly cost to \$285.

There was some discussion regarding financial accessibility and potential solutions for staff to research.

The Board approved the changes as recommended by staff.