

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES**
Annual General Meeting & Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 1:15 p.m.

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors' meeting was held in a hybrid format of in-person at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Administrative Office and virtually via the meeting application, WebEx.

1. Call to Order

Chair Sue Carleton called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually, and made a land acknowledgement declaration.

Directors Present In-Person: Chair Sue Carleton, Vice Chair Scott Greig, Scott Mackey, Robert Uhrig, Tobin Day, Nadia Dubyk,

Directors Present Virtually: Jon Farmer, Jennifer Shaw

Regrets: Alex Maxwell, Tony Bell, Jay Kirkland

Guest: Mike Konopka

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield; Water Resources Coordinator, John Bittorf; Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony, Forestry Coordinator, Mike Fry;

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 the time.

3. Call for Additional Agenda Items

Nothing at this time.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:
FA-23-042

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Scott Greig

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of April 26, 2023.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.:
FA-23-043

Moved By: **Scott Mackey**
Seconded By: **Nadia Dubyk**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of March 22, 2023.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes

Nothing at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.:
FA-23-044

Moved By: **Robert Uhrig**
Seconded By: **Jennifer Shaw**

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the April 26, 2023, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – March 2023; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – March 2023; (iii) Correspondence – Donations made to GSCA; (v) Minutes – GSC Foundation – February 28, 2023 & IFAA – March 6, 2023; (vi) Recent Media Articles

Carried

8. Presentation

i. Mike Konopka – TD Wealth Management

Mike Konopka of TD Wealth Management and GSCA's Investment Portfolio Manager provided a presentation on the status of GSCA investments. Mr. Konopka noted that he has been working with TD for 20 years and worked with GSCA staff in 2015 to develop the portfolio. Mr. Konopka noted that TD employs a not-for-profit specialist, Andrea Robinson, that would be a beneficial contact with a significant knowledge base in the needs of not-for-profit agencies.

Mr. Konopka explained that there is a TD investment policy statement for the GSCA portfolio and suggested that if GSCA does not already have its own investment policy, it would be a good idea to create one.

Mr. Konopka reviewed the parameters and goals of the portfolio and noted that in 2021 funds were shifted into Environment Social Governance (ESG) funds.

The provided portfolio was current as of April 18, 2023, and showed a total value of \$1.4 million, however; Mr. Konopka noted that the value as of April 25, 2023, was sitting at \$1.505. 2022 was the worst year since the portfolio's inception with a return of negative 9.5 percent. So far in 2023, the portfolio has experienced a four percent increase in the first quarter, though Mike cautioned that this level of growth will likely not continue. It was noted though that while Bonds did not perform well in 2022, they will perform much better in 2023 with the current market outlook.

Mr. Konopka outlined how GSCA's investments are allocated. It was noted that GSCA's cash balance was increased and is seeing a 4.2 percent return. The remainder is in bonds and equities, primarily North American equities; however, there is some movement back to European equities.

Mr. Konopka stated that his outlook for the fund is cautiously optimistic but noted that there are indicators of a recession possible in late 2023. Though he noted that bonds do very well under those conditions.

Mr. Konopka recommended that the Board, in conjunction with staff, look at including some private asset class investments. GSCA's portfolio is currently made up of publicly traded assets. It was noted that private asset class investments can perform very well and help to counter volatility in the market. However, the funds would only be available quarterly, and are therefore less liquid. Further, there would be a one percent increase in management fees on funds invested in private assets (not the whole portfolio). Mr. Konopka stated that it is their policy to only commit a maximum of 10 percent of the total portfolio to private assets.

Mr. Konopka reviewed the fee schedule and noted that as a not-for-profit, GSCA has been granted a 20 percent discount on fees. The fee schedule is tiered and once the fund reaches the two million dollar mark the fees are reduced further.

A Member asked if the fees are negotiable. Mr. Konopka answered that these fees were negotiated by staff at the inception of the fund and noted that an increase in funds being invested could result in lower fees. Mr. Konopka stated that he would have a look at the fees and report back to staff.

There was discussion about asset allocation, ESG funds, and other investment options. CAO Tim Lanthier noted that the Board may not want to lock up too many funds for a long period based on the anticipated capital needs of the Authority over the next few years.

9. Business Items

i. Administration

a. Investment Portfolio Update

Motion No.:
FA-23-045

Moved By: Nadia Dubyk
Seconded By: Robert Uhrig

WHEREAS, every calendar year near the anniversary date of Grey Sauble Conservation Authority's investment of reserve funds with TD Wealth Management our portfolio manager reviews the portfolio structure and reconfirms our objectives;
AND WHEREAS, each year we renew our Investment Policy Statement (Guidelines and Solutions);
THAT, the GSCA Board of Directors accept our Portfolio Manager's market update and continue to follow the advised strategy.

Carried

b. Programs and Services Inventory

CAO, Tim Lanthier, provided an update on the Ministry required Programs and Service Inventory with a brief review of the three categories. Presentations to member municipalities have been made with

very little comment aside from interest expressed in expanding educational programming. This will be something that staff explore more in the future.

Mr. Lanthier expanded on the Category 3 program areas. These programs fall outside of the “mandatory” category and require agreements with participating municipalities in order to continue to levy municipalities for these program costs. It was noted that the Category 3 programs requiring levy contribution only comprise 2% of the total budget.

Mr. Lanthier outlined next steps for GSCA and the Board. An agreement will be presented to the Board at either the June or August Board meeting for approval. Once approved and signed they will be circulated to member municipalities.

Motion No.:
FA-23-046

Moved By: Scott Greig
Seconded By: Scott Mackey

WHEREAS on October 4, 2021, the Province of Ontario released Ontario Regulation 687/21 – Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act,

AND WHEREAS the GSCA Board of Directors approved GSCA’s Inventory of Programs and Services for consultation,

AND WHEREAS GSCA Staff have consulted on the Inventory of Programs and Services,

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors endorse the attached “Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Final Programs and Services Inventory” as presented,

AND THAT the CAO be directed to negotiate and finalize agreements with GSCA’s participating municipalities for certain Category 3 Programs and Services,

AND THAT the GSCA Board of Directors direct Staff to bring the final Category 3 Agreements back to the Board of Directors for endorsement prior to execution.

Carried

The Board recessed session at 2:56 p.m. for a 10-minute break.

The Board resumed session at 3:05 p.m.

c. Prosecutor Pilot Project

CAO, Tim Lanthier, presented a proposed pilot project wherein Grey County’s legal counsel would prosecute Provincial Offences Act cases, under the Conservation Authorities Act, on behalf of the GSCA. Mr. Lanthier noted that this began with questions from the Board around utilizing the Crown Prosecutor for Conservation Authority Act offences as opposed to private counsel. It was discovered that it is not possible as Crown Prosecutors are restricted to criminal cases. In the course of discussions with Grey County’s legal team the option of having an agreement with Grey County to have the Grey County legal team prosecute GSCA offence cases. Grey County required bringing Saugeen Valley CA into the agreement as well and prepared a draft agreement for review.

As prosecuting offences with private prosecutors is very expensive for the GSCA this agreement will ultimately provide for a more effective use of public funds. GSCA would still reserve the option of utilizing a private prosecutor at any time.

Motion No.:
FA-23-047

Moved By: Scott Greig
Seconded By: Robert Uhrig

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) is responsible for enforcing Sections 28, 29 and 30 of the Conservation Authorities Act CAA,

AND WHEREAS under Section 21(1)(n) of the CAA, GSCA may collaborate and enter into agreements with municipalities, other organizations or individuals,

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the efficient and responsible use of public resources for GSCA and Grey County to collaborate on this item,

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors direct the CAO to negotiate and execute a one-year pilot project agreement with Grey County for prosecution services.

Carried

ii. Water Management

Nothing at this time.

iii. Environmental Planning

Nothing at this time.

iv. Operations

Nothing at this time.

v. Conservation Lands

a. Inglis Falls Management Plan Presentation

Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony, provided a presentation on the Inglis Fall Management Plan. Mrs. Anthony spoke to the rationale of the plan, its scope, and deliverables.

Member Scott Mackey left the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Mrs. Anthony outlined consultation and public outreach process. The proposed projects are organized into five categories; Conserve & Protect, Visitor Experience, Heritage, Partnerships & Education, and Operations & Risk Management. Mrs. Anthony gave a brief overview of the proposed projects within each category.

A Member expressed concern with regard to the cost of some of the project ideas and suggested that the list could be coded in a way to prioritize projects.

A Member asked if staff have established a funding plan or strategy for completing the listed projects. It was stated that the renovation of the Administrative Building is an immediate priority, however; with the success of parking revenues, some of the listed projects could be achieved. Additionally, it was noted that staff will be investigating granting opportunities and funding partners to assist with project costs.

b. Town of the Blue Mountains Lease Agreement Report

Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony, spoke to the lease agreement between GSCA and the Town of the Blue Mountains for a suite of GSCA properties within the Town of the Blue Mountains. Mrs. Anthony outlined some of the changes to the agreement, including: a provision for the TBM to collect parking revenues at the GSCA Peasemash property; an agreement that the TBM will share 25% of the net earnings this program with the GSCA, and recognition of the GSCA Members Parking Pass at the Peasemash property.

Motion No.: FA-23-048	Moved By: Seconded By:	Scott Greig Nadia Dubyk
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WHEREAS, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) is the fee-simple owner of the lands known to us as Clarksburg Floodplain, Haines Dam, Clendenan Conservation Area and Peasemash Nature Preserve, (herein, the Properties) in the Town of the Blue Mountains (herein, the Town);

AND WHEREAS, under Section 21(n) of the Conservation Authorities Act, GSCA has the ability to collaborate and enter into agreements with ministries and agencies of government, municipal councils and local boards and other organizations and individuals;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve GSCA staff signing this agreement with the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Carried

vi. Forestry

a. Carbon Credit Report Back

Forestry Coordinator, Mike Fry, and Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony, spoke to the completed Carbon Credit Feasibility Report from Carbonzero. Staff identified two specific concerns with the report; percentage of land that is managed forest and the concept of “leakage”. These result in the potential revenue being significantly reduced. With the limited potential for revenue and high development costs, staff are not recommending moving forward with this carbon credit project at this time.

Motion No.: FA-23-049	Moved By: Seconded By:	Robert Uhrig Tobin Day
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WHEREAS, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approved Motion # FA-21-135 to engage Carbonzero to conduct a Feasibility Assessment of GSCA lands to assess the potential of a viable Forest Carbon Offset project;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors accept the Carbon Credit Feasibility Report Update (Report Code 017-2023) as information.

Carried

vii. Communications/Public Relations

Nothing at this time.

viii. Education

Nothing at this time.

ix. GIS/IT

Nothing at this time.

x. DWSP

Nothing at this time.

10. New Business

Nothing at this time.

11. CAO's Report

The CAO, Tim Lanthier, started his report with a thank you message from the Municipality of Meaford Planning Department for the quality of work being completed by GSCA's planning staff.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the recent court decision regarding a land claim in Sauble Beach. It was Mr. Lanthier understanding that the Municipality of South Bruce Peninsula will be appealing the decision. The immediate result is that the lands that have been returned to the Saugeen First Nation Reserve #29 are no longer under the jurisdiction of GSCA.

In place of the Board's regular meeting in July, staff will be providing a guided bus tour of a portion of the GSCA watershed, including some of GSCA's properties. Transportation and lunch will be provided. All Members will be invited along with a selection of staff, committee chairs, Mayors, and Deputy Mayors.

Mr. Lanthier updated the Board on the GSCA Summer Day Camp. All slots are full, and three camp staff have been hired.

Mr. Lanthier and Chair Carleton attended the Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting on April 2, 2023. Election results were: Chair - Chris White (GRCA), Vice Chair - Pierre Leroux (SNC), Vice Chair - Robert Rock (KRCA), Directors - Rob Baldwin (LSRCA), Chandra Sharma (NPCA), and Linda Laliberte (GanRCA).

Mr. Lanthier attended two focus group sessions for Grey County. One was focused on Economic Development and Tourism within the County, and the other was focused on the future of Grey Roots Museum and Archive.

The GSC Foundation hosted its annual Earth Day Film Festival on April 20th. While the evening showing didn't have the attendance they were hoping for, the two daytime shows were both full with students.

On April 21st, Mr. Lanthier joined members of the Friends of Hibou to do an annual beach clean up.

On April 27th, the Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony hosted a student volunteer cleanup at West Rocks CA.

GSCA Staff attended the Owen Sound Earth Day event.

12. Chair's Report

Chair Carleton reported on the CO Annual General Meeting. Chair Carleton also noted that she had participated in a webinar speaking about changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.

13. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

14. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

Nothing at this time.

15. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes

Nothing at this time.

16. Reporting out of Closed Session

Nothing at this time.

17. Next Full Authority Meeting

Wednesday May 24, 2023

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Motion No.:
FA-23-050

Moved By: Scott Greig
Seconded By: Robert Uhrig

THAT this meeting now adjourn.

Carried

Sue Carleton

Sue Carleton, Chair

Valerie Coleman

Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant