

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

**Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 30, 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 County Council Chambers and virtually via the meeting application, WebEx.

1. Call to Order

Chair Sue Carleton called the meeting to order at 1:16 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, Tobin Day, Nadia Dubyk, Tony Bell, Scott Mackey, Jennifer Shaw

Directors Present Virtually: Jon Farmer, Alex Maxwell

Regrets: Jay Kirkland, Robert Uhrig

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield; Manager of Financial and Human Resources Services, Alison Armstrong; Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony

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-23-071

Moved By: Tony Bell
Seconded By: Tobin Day

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of August 30, 2023.

Carried

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion No.: FA-23-072	Moved By: Seconded By:	Jennifer Shaw Nadia Dubyk
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THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of June 28, 2023.

Carried

6. **Business Out of Minutes**

Nothing at this time.

7. **Consent Agenda**

Motion No.: FA-23-073	Moved By: Seconded By:	Scott Mackey Scott Greig
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THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the August 30, 2023, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits and Planning – June & July 2023; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – June & July 2023; (v) Minutes – GSCA Agricultural Advisory Committee – April 28, 2023, IFAA – May 1, 2023 and SPC – March 31, 2023; (vi) Recent Media Articles

Carried

8. **Business Items**

i. Administration

a. Q2 Budget Update

CAO, Tim Lanthier, reported that the 2023 budget is on track with nothing out of the ordinary or concerning to mention. There were some changes to note. Planning department revenues and expenses were slightly lower than budgeted. The lower expenses are the result of a later than anticipated start of the new Manager of Engineering Services and the loss of an Environmental Planner. The 2023 actuals from Stewardship are showing some carry over amounts of grant funding from 2022. Insurance premiums were lower than budgeted. Mr. Lanthier noted that the 2023 budget is showing a minor surplus, however; this will be reevaluated in the third quarter.

A Member asked with regard to the insurance premiums. Mr. Lanthier responded that there was still an increase in premiums, however; it was less than had been budgeted for.

A Member asked with regard to planning/permitting numbers and if the decrease in revenue may indicate a trend. Mr. Lanthier responded that staff are still very busy and that it may be too early to make any significant changes, however; staff will be keeping an eye on numbers.

A Member asked with regard to the deferred funds in the Stewardship Program and if these funds will be allocated in 2023 or if they will be carried over in 2024. Mr. Lanthier responded that staff are trying to move forward on applications, however; some funds may carry over to 2024. Manager of Finance and Human Resources Services, Alison Armstrong, added that some of the carry over showing has

already been allocated and was a product of fiscal year end differences between GGCA and the Province.

Motion No.: FA-23-074	Moved By: Seconded By:	Nadia Dubyk Tobin Day
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WHEREAS the Board of Directors approved the GSCA 2023 Operating and Capital Budget on February 22, 2023, by motion FA-23-017,

THAT, the Board of Directors receive staff report 025-2023 – 2023 Q2 Budget Report Back as information.

Carried

b. Q2 Investment Portfolio Update

The Manager of Finance and Human Resources Services, Alison Armstrong, reported that GSCA's portfolio saw a slight decrease between the end of June and end of August, however; it was noted that the interest rate on GSCA's High Interest Savings Account increased from 4.55% to 4.8%. Additionally, Ms. Armstrong noted that GSCA's portfolio manager, has offered an increased discount on the portfolio management fees from 20% to 25%.

Concern was raised regarding the low rate of return on investment that GSCA has been experiencing and the question was raised whether some funds should be reallocated to safer and more lucrative funds such as GICs.

Mr. Lanthier responded that staff could meet with the portfolio manager to discuss conducting another investment survey with the Board. It was noted that GSCA's investment liquidity needs to be considered.

Motion No.: FA-23-075	Moved By: Seconded By:	Jon Farmer Tony Bell
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THAT, the Board of Directors receive the GSCA 2023 2nd Quarter Portfolio update as information.

Carried

c. Category 3 Agreement Endorsement

CAO, Tim Lanthier, gave a brief review of the legislative requirement to establish the Category 3 Agreements with member municipalities. It was noted that the agreements are the product of over two years of work by the CAO and staff.

GSCA has received council endorsement of six of the eight agreements from Member municipalities and staff are confident that GSCA will receive the last two agreements in short order. Thus, GSCA is on track to have all agreements in place prior to the January 1, 2024, deadline.

Members extended thanks to Mr. Lanthier and staff for the considerable work that has been put into meeting with various municipal councils and having the agreements completed on time.

Motion No.:
FA-23-076

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Alex Maxwell

WHEREAS under Section 21.1.2(2) of the Conservation Authorities Act, GSCA is required to enter into agreements with participating municipalities for the provision of Category 3 programs and services,

AND WHEREAS the GSCA has consulted with municipalities on these agreements,

AND WHEREAS the GSCA has received signed agreements from the Municipality of Meaford, the Town of South Bruce Peninsula, the Township of Chatsworth, and the Township of Georgian Bluffs,

AND WHEREAS the GSCA has received positive Council resolutions from the City of Owen Sound and the Town of the Blue Mountains to allow for signing of the agreements,

AND WHEREAS the GSCA is of the understanding that the Municipality of Grey Highlands and the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie will pass positive resolutions in the near future.

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors authorize the CAO and the Board Chair to execute these agreements on behalf of the GSCA.

Carried

d. 2019-2023 Strategic Plan Final Report

CAO, Tim Lanthier, gave an overview of the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, its outcomes, and the preparations for the next plan.

Mr. Lanthier noted that the original plan had been extended due to significant staffing changes, the COVID pandemic restrictions, and the large volume of work required to develop a new plan.

It was noted that one of the challenges of the plan was in establishing metrics that were measurable. Mr. Lanthier adjusted these metrics to provide clarity, however; stressed that not all the percentages are weighted equally.

One area of note was the development of watershed plans with municipalities. There was not sufficient uptake from municipalities to make this strategic direction a success.

The Board was informed that staff are in the process of developing a new plan and taking into consideration some of the lessons learned from previous experience. Mr. Lanthier noted that staff and Board engagement in the process and final product will be improved. Additionally, the Plan will need to be realistic with regard to available resources and the GSCA's mandate and responsibilities.

Mr. Lanthier provided some recommendations for the upcoming strategic plan. It was suggested that the new plan be a ten-year plan with a five-year refresh and yearly check-ins. Mr. Lanthier intends to replace the Support the Development of Watershed Plans with a Corporate Excellence pillar. The intention will be to create short-, medium-, and long-term directions and actions.

Mr. Lanthier reviewed the next steps in the process. Staff surveys and meetings have started and continue. Meeting to be set up with Board Members shortly to discuss goals and directions. Staff will reach out to those committees and groups directly associated with GSCA. Once these consultations have been completed, GSCA will engage the public for comment. Consideration will be given to the best method and platform to garner input from the public.

Support was expressed for the strategic plan in general and in the addition of a corporate excellence piece.

Motion No.:
FA-23-077

Moved By: Tony Bell
Seconded By: Jennifer Shaw

WHEREAS the GSCA Board of Directors approved the 2019-2023 GSCA Strategic Plan at the May 23, 2018, meeting of the Board of Directors,

AND WHEREAS the GSCA has been working to achieve the Strategic Goals established by the Plan,

AND WHEREAS the Term of this Plan is coming to a close,

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors receive for information the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan Final Report.

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. Eugenia Falls Management Plan Presentation

Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony, provided a presentation on the Eugenia Falls Management Plan. It was noted that this is the first management plan for this area.

Ms. Anthony explained that because management plans are a time consuming process, this management plan is based on a 20-year vision with a 10-year check-in, and a bi-annual revisit. Additionally, the structure to this management plan is consistent with others that have been developed and presented to the Board.

Phase 1 and 2 of the process have been completed and phase 3 is nearing completion.

Ms. Anthony expressed thanks to the Board members and community volunteers for their hard work and input. Ms. Anthony spoke to the results of the various surveys that were conducted and the connections fostered during the process.

Ms. Anthony reviewed the five action areas identified in the plan. There was discussion around the value of the pavilion structure and whether it would be better to remove the structure or repair it.

A Member asked with regard to the Grey County Beaver Valley Corridor Strategy and if there would be any opportunities for collaboration. Ms. Anthony responded that staff have been contacted for comment but not as a partner.

A Member asked with regard to the parking lot resurfacing and if consideration has been given as to the materials. This was echoed by another Member and if any environmentally sustainable options have been researched. Ms. Anthony replied that she is open to discussion, however; noted that the NEC must be consulted.

Ms. Anthony spoke to the proposed addition of two trails that would improve accessibility. There was general discussion about funding projects. It was noted that one of the intentions of charging for parking is to reinvest into the property. A question was asked with regard to the newly formed Friends of Eugenia Falls group and if they as of yet have the capacity and/or organization to begin fundraising.

Ms. Anthony noted that a community group has formed with the aim to maintain and enhance the cenotaph area.

vi. Forestry

Nothing at this time.

vii. Communications/Public Relations

Nothing at this time.

viii. Education

a. Education Contract Position

Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield spoke with regard to extending the contract of the Summer Day Camp Supervisor to provide education programming and funding research. This extension is proposed to be funded through the GSC Foundation. Moving forward staff hope to add a full-time education position.

There was discussion around general funding and programming questions.

There was general support from Members for GSCA staff to provide more educational programming.

Motion No.:
FA-23-078

Moved By: Jennifer Shaw
Seconded By: Tony Bell

THAT, the Board of Directors receive staff report 028-2023 – Education Contract Position as information.

Carried

ix. GIS/IT

Nothing at this time.

x. DWSP

Nothing at this time.

9. New Business

Nothing at this time.

10. CAO's Report

The CAO, Mr. Lanthier began by introducing Ian Eriksen the newly hired Manager of Engineering Services.

Mr. Lanthier explained that he had been busy since the Board last met. Mr. Lanthier completed leadership training provided by Conservation Ontario. Both the GSCA Indigenous Relationships and Agricultural Advisory committees met. The IFAA signage project was completed, and an unveiling ceremony was held. Staff are working on enhancing the trail head and wayfinding signage.

The proposed sweat lodge structure has been constructed. Staff will be creating and installing interpretive signage.

It was noted that the planned Watershed Bus Tour was cancelled due to lack of uptake from members, Mr. Lanthier expressed hope that it could be rescheduled for another time down the road.

GSCA had one staff member from the planning department resign to take a position with another firm. GSCA wishes them the all the best. A new planner has been hired and is currently being onboarded with an anticipated start date of September 11th.

In partnership with the IFAA several Norway Maples were removed from the Inglis Falls Arboretum, and new trees will be planted to replace them. Mr. Lanthier noted that Norway Maples are an invasive species that may out compete other native species of trees.

Architectural designs are underway after receiving feedback from staff and the Building Ad Hoc Committee.

11. Chair's Report

Chair Sue Carleton reported that she attended the IFAA signage unveiling and the Conservation Ontario meeting in September.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

13. Resolution to Move Into Closed

Motion No.: FA-23-079	Moved By: Seconded By:	Scott Greig Scott Mackey
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THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors proceed into closed session at 3:27 pm to discuss matters related to the following:

- i. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Board of Directors meeting held on June 28, 2023; and,**
 - ii. To discuss an item in the Town of the Blue Mountains related to litigation or potential litigation including matters before administrative tribunals (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4(xvi)(d)); and,**
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iii. **2023 CAO Mid-Year Review – closed as it relates to personal matters about an identifiable individual including Authority directors or Authority employees (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4(xvi)(b)).**

AND FURTHER THAT CAO, Tim Lanthier and Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman, will be present with the Manager of Environmental Planning, MacLean Plewes being present for item ii only.

Carried

14. Declaration that the Board of Directors has Resumed Open Session

Chair Carleton declared that the Board of Directors had resumed open session at 4:06 p.m.

15. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes of June 28, 2023

Motion No.:
FA-23-080

Moved By: Scott Greig
Seconded By: Jennifer Shaw

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the June 28, 2023, Closed Session minutes as presented in the closed session agenda.

Carried

16. Reporting out of Closed Session

Chair Carleton reported that the Members approved the closed session minutes of June 28, 2023, and gave direction to staff on items that were identified and nothing else.

17. Next Full Authority Meeting

Wednesday September 27, 2023

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.



Sue Carleton, Chair



Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant