

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES

Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 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 Robert Uhrig called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually and asked Member Jon Farmer to provide a land acknowledgment declaration.

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

Directors Present Virtually: Jon Farmer, Jennifer Shaw

Regrets: NA

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield; Manager of Financial and Human Resource Services, Alison Armstrong; Manager of Environmental Planning, MacLean Plewes; Water Coordinator, John Bittorf

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-24-042

Moved By: Tony Bell
Seconded By: Scott Mackey

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of May 22, 2024.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.: FA-24-043	Moved By: Seconded By:	Nadia Dubyk Scott Greig
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	------------------------------------------

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of April 24, 2024.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes

Nothing at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

A Member asked to pull the correspondence item from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Members discussed the item expressing concern with the level of professionalism of the item.

Motion No.: FA-24-044	Moved By: Seconded By:	Sue Carleton Scott Mackey
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Item listed on the May 22, 2024, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the following item: (iii) Correspondence - Letter from Peter Ferguson,

AND FURTHER THAT the GSCA Board Directors expressed disapproval of the level of professionalism in the tone and content of the letter.

Carried

Motion No.: FA-24-045	Moved By: Seconded By:	Scott Greig Scott Mackey
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the May 22, 2024, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – April 2024; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – April 2024; (v) Minutes – GSCF Minutes February 20, 2024 & April 30, 2024; (vi) Media – Recent Media Articles & GSCA Press Release

Carried

8. Presentation

Sue Bragg from Baker Tilly spoke to the drafted GSCA financial statements for 2023. Ms. Bragg noted that any variances between the budget and actuals were modest and that there was nothing of a material nature to discuss. There were no issues discovered in the course of the audit to make note of.

Ms. Bragg did give an overview of some notable changes to financial accounting for the public sector by CPA Canada that came into effect for the 2023 financial year. These changes included how financial investments must be declared, some new statements, and how asset retirement obligations are to be set up.

It was noted that these changes are put in place by CPA Canada and must be adhered to by all public agencies, including all of GSCA's member municipalities.

Motion No.: FA-24-046	Moved By: Seconded By:	Sue Carleton Tony Bell
----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------

WHEREAS Section 38 (1) of the Conservation Authorities Act states that, “every authority shall cause its accounts and transactions to be audited annually by a person licensed under the Public Accounting Act, 2004 and shall ensure that the annual audit is prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, as they exist from time to time”.

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors accept and receive the draft financial report for 2023 as prepared by Baker Tilly, Licensed Public Accounts

Carried

9. Business Items

i. Administration

Nothing at this time.

ii. Water Management

a. GSCA Dams Update & Clendenan Dam Operation and Maintenance Manual

Water Resources Coordinator, John Bittorf, provided a presentation updating the Board on the spring activities and status of GSCA's dams. Mr. Bittorf noted that this past spring had been complicated by a lack of snow melt and significant rain events.

A Member asked with regard to the sensors that have been set up. Mr. Bittorf noted that they run on a cellular system and capture water levels every hour, adding that the unit are very reasonably priced and durable.

Mr. Bittorf introduced the newly created Operation and Maintenance Manual for the Clendenan Dam site. The manual was created to assist in training and informing staff. The manual gives a history of the site and outlines special characteristics, maintenance needs, and other important information.

b. Town of the Blue Mountains Water Quality Report Back

CAO, Tim Lanthier, provided a report back on the delegation made to the Full Authority Board in March 2024. Staff were requested to bring forward a staff report to speak to the concerns and recommended actions made by the presenter.

It was noted that with respect to GSCA’s mandate, most of the requests and concerns would be considered Category 3 programs and services that would require an agreement with member municipalities and additional resources to fulfill, or the items are beyond GSCA’s mandate. Mr. Lanthier advised that some of the requests/actions could be provide through the stewardship program if funding were provided. It was noted that GSCA does not have the authority to force private landowners to take action. It was added that, education would be another avenue staff could pursue. There was general discussion regarding communicating with member municipalities.

Motion No.: FA-24-047	Moved By: Seconded By:	Scott Mackey Nadia Dubyk
----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

WHEREAS the GSCA Board of Directors received a delegation from Pamela Spence on March 27, 2024, regarding sedimentation in the Craigleith area of Nottawasaga Bay (Georgian Bay);

AND WHEREAS the GSCA Board of Directors asked Staff to review this information and provide a report back;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors accept the Report back on Water Quality Presentation for Town of the Blue Mountains (Report Code 017-2024) as information.

Carried

iii. Environmental Planning

a. Report Back on Enforcement Action

Manager of Environmentally Planning, MacLean Plewes, spoke with respect to enforcement action staff had taken against a landowner on Chelsey Lake. The landowner pled guilty to the offence and was sentenced by the court to a \$1,500 fine and an order of restoration of a portion of the property.

b. Ontario Land Tribunal Appeal

Manager of Environmental Planning, MacLean Plewes, spoke with regard to an appeal that has been made to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) by a landowner in the Town of the Blue Mountains.

GSCA staff were circulated for comments on the zoning by-law amendment in November of 2023 and were not supportive of the proposal. The town refused the zoning by-law amendment resulting in the applicant filing an appeal to the OLT.

GSCA Staff had made a request for and were granted party status to the hearing process. Staff are seeking support from the Board to continue with this process.

Motion No.: FA-24-048	Moved By: Seconded By:	Sue Carleton Kathy Durst
----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

WHEREAS Section 7 (1) of Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services, the Conservation Authority is required to provide planning comments to ensure decisions

made under the Planning Act are consistent with the natural hazards policies of the Provincial Policy Statement;

AND WHEREAS, GSCA provided comments on a zoning by-law amendment in the Town of Blue Mountains that was ultimately denied by the Town;

AND WHEREAS, the applicant has appealed the Town's decisions to the Ontario Lands Tribunal (OLT);

THAT THE GSCA Board of Directors authorizes staff to participate as party in the OLT hearing process.

Carried

iv. **Operations**

Nothing at this time.

v. **Conservation Lands**

a. **Clendenan Dam Management Agreement**

CAO, Tim Lanthier, spoke to a proposed management agreement between GSCA and the Town of the Blue Mountains for the Clendenan Dam property. Due to the distance of the property from the GSCA's base of operations, staff are not always on hand to deal with issues and undesired actions and activities of those utilizing the property.

The agreement would include formal management of the parking area and by-law enforcement of the whole site.

GSCA staff are still in the preliminary stages of discussion with staff at the Town of the Blue Mountains and the proposal has yet to go to council.

Motion No.:
FA-24-049

Moved By: Scott Mackey
Seconded By: Tobin Day

WHEREAS, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) is the owner of the lands known to us as the Clendenan Dam Conservation Area (herein, the Site) in the Town of the Blue Mountains;

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;

AND WHEREAS under Sub-section (d) of Section 21 of the Conservation Authorities Act, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority may lease for a term of five years or less land acquired by the authority;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors directs staff to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Town of The Blue Mountains for the management and enforcement of portions of the Clendenan Dam Conservation Area.

Carried

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 2:55 pm

The Board reconvened at 3:00 pm.

b. Trout Hollow / Bighead River Management Agreement

CAO, Tim Lanthier, thanked Conservation Lands Technician, Margaret Potter, for crafting the staff report outlining the proposed agreement between GSCA and the Trout Hollow Trails Association (THTA). Mr. Lanthier noted that the agreement would see the THTA providing management activities on GSCA's portion of the trail. It was noted that it is similar in structure to those that GSCA holds with other community volunteer trail groups.

A Member asked with regard to insurance coverage and provisions. Mr. Lanthier responded that the agreement includes waivers of liability with respect to the group's activities on the property and that GSCA be included and provided with proof of a valid five-million-dollar policy and a Certificate of Insurance by the group.

Motion No.: FA-24-050	Moved By: Seconded By:	Alex Maxwell Sue Carleton
----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------

WHEREAS, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) is the owner of the lands known to us as the Bighead River Conservation Area, (herein, the Site) in the Municipality of Meaford;

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;

AND WHEREAS under Sub-section (d) of Section 21 of the Conservation Authorities Act, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority may lease for a term of five years or less land acquired by the authority;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorizes the CAO to execute an agreement with the Trout Hollow Trail Association for their use of the Bighead River Conservation Area.

Carried

- vi. Forestry**
Nothing at this time.

- 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, gave a brief report on activities since the April Board of Directors meeting.

All staff have been very busy. Staff hosted four strategic planning sessions over two days, for both municipal stakeholders and the general public. It was noted that attendance was not as high as staff would have preferred; however, useful information was collected. Staff set up information stations at both the GSCA Tree Sale on April 27th and at the Owen Sound Home and Cottage Expo on May 11 & 12th. GSCA Environmental Planning staff were also in attendance at the Home and Cottage Expo to answer questions from the public. Comment and Survey boxes have been circulated to municipal offices and libraries for the public to submit their responses.

The GSCA Tree Sale on April 27 was a great success despite the rainy weather. Mr. Lanthier expressed thanks to those Members who were in attendance to volunteer and shop.

CAO Lanthier provided a presentation at a Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network event. The event was organized as part of the 10-year renewal of the UNESCO Biosphere designation for the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

The GSC Foundation hosted their Earth Film Festival on May 16th at the Roxy Theatre. There were two films along with speakers, Autumn Peltier, and Steve Belford.

The Children's Water Festival saw over 2000 elementary school students attend with the help of 244 secondary school volunteers and close to 100 community volunteers.

GSCA's Education department held its first Specialist High Skills Major programming session with students from St. Mary's High School. The programming was based on GSCA's Watershed Report Card and GIS tools and data extraction.

GSCA staff partnered with Arran-Tara Elementary School to plant 100 trees at GSCA's Tara Dam property along the river. Students raised over \$1500 for the purchase of trees and the Inglis Falls Arboretum Alliance donated 50 trees to the project.

GSCA staff and IFAA volunteers hosted a Trees of the World educational programming on May 8th in the Arboretum with local Grade 3 students.

GSCA's Summer Day Camp is nearly full, with only 13 total spots remaining.

Mr. Lanthier passed along that Jennifer Stephens, General Manager of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority has resigned, and that Erik Downing has taken the Acting role.

12. Chair's Report

Chair Uhrig gave thanks and credit to GSCA staff on their strategic planning efforts.

Chair Uhrig expressed congratulations to GSC Foundation and those Members that sit on the GSC Foundation Board for a successful Earth Film Festival.

13. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

14. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

Motion No.: FA-24-051	Moved By: Seconded By:	Scott Greig Tony Bell
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	----------------------------------------

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors proceed into closed session at 3:20 pm to discuss matters related to the following:

- i. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Board of Directors meeting held on February 28, 2024; and,**
- ii. To discuss an item in the Township of Georgian Bluffs related to litigation or potential litigation including matters before administrative tribunals (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4(xvi)(d).**

AND FURTHER THAT CAO, Tim Lanthier, Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman, and Manager of Environmental Planning, MacLean Plewes will be present.

Carried

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

Chair Uhrig declared that the Board of Directors had resumed Open Session at 3:28 pm.

16. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes

Motion No.: FA-24-052	Moved By: Seconded By:	Kathy Durst Scott Greig
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	------------------------------------------

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the February 28, 2024, Closed Session minutes as presented in the closed session agenda.

Carried

17. Reporting out of Closed Session

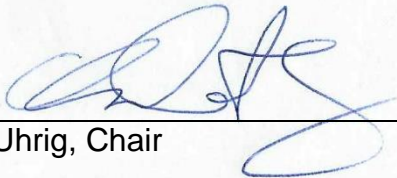
Chair Uhrig reported that the GSCA Board of Directors approved the February 28, 2024, Closed Session minutes and discussed only items on the Closed Session agenda and nothing else.

18. **Next Full Authority Meeting**

Wednesday July 24, 2024

19. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.



Robert Uhrig, Chair



Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant