

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

**Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, July 24, 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 County Council Chambers 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 Sue Carleton 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, Jennifer Shaw, Jon Farmer

Directors Present Virtually: None

Regrets: Alex Maxwell, Kathy Durst

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield; Forestry Coordinator, Mike Fry; Operations Manager, Morgan Barrie

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

The Directors were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting.

Member Greig declared a conflict with an item in the consent agenda. The item will be pulled for a separate motion.

3. Call for Additional Agenda Items

A Member asked to include an item regarding GSCA Summer Day Camp.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:
FA-24-053

Moved By: Tony Beall
Seconded By: Jennifer Shaw

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of July 24, 2024, as amended.

Carried

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion No.: FA-24-054	Moved By: Seconded By:	Scott Mackey Nadia Dubyk
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THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of May 22, 2024.

Carried

6. **Business Out of Minutes**

Nothing at this time.

7. **Consent Agenda**

A Member asked to have item (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expense – May & June 2024 pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion.

A Member asked to have item (iii) – Correspondence – GSCA Staff Report to Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee for further discussion.

Motion No.: FA-24-055	Moved By: Seconded By:	Sue Carleton Jennifer Shaw
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THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the July 24, 2024, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – May & June 2024; (v) Minutes – GSCF Minutes April 30 & May 21, 2024 & BRWI Meeting Minutes January 11, February 6 & May 9, 2024; (vi) Media – Recent Media Articles

Carried

Member Greig asked to separate the May and June expenses into two motions and thus recuse himself from voting on the June expense report due to a conflict of interest.

Motion No.: FA-24-056	Moved By: Seconded By:	Nadia Dubyk Jon Farmer
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THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the July 24, 2024, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – May 2024

Carried

Motion No.: FA-24-057	Moved By: Seconded By:	Jennifer Shaw Sue Carleton
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THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the July 24, 2024, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – June 2024;

Carried

A Member asked with regard to any feedback received from the committee since GSCA staff's presentation.

CAO, Tim Lanthier, responded that, generally speaking, the presentation was met with favorable and supportive feedback from the committee. Specifically, they were supportive of including benches on the trail. GSCA staff has applied for a grant to cover a portion of the project costs.

Motion No.: FA-24-058	Moved By: Seconded By:	Jon Farmer Sue Carleton
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THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the July 24, 2024, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (iii) Correspondence – GSCA Staff Report to Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee;

Carried

8. Business Items

i. Orientation **a. Forestry**

Forestry Coordinator, Mike Fry, provided a presentation on GSCA Forestry Operations. Mr. Fry gave an overview of the department's tree sale and planting programs.

A Member asked with regard to agricultural land being planted with trees rather than maintaining the agricultural land, and if there are conversations with the landowner around why. Mr. Fry responded that staff do have those conversations and try to ascertain the landowner's motivation for the planting project. It was noted that staff need to balance that with meeting budgeted revenue targets and the landowner's choice for their property.

A Member asked with regard to the inclusion of a non-native species of Norway spruce. Mr. Fry responded that the species in question has been classed as a naturalized species and is not considered invasive and does not outcompete other native species.

A Member asked if the landowners are required to maintain the planted land in perpetuity or is there a time commitment. Mr. Fry responded that the landowner makes a 15-year commitment with Forest Ontario to not intentionally harm the planted trees.

A Member asked what staffing contingent is required to plant trees, i.e. planting 200,000 trees 10 years ago versus the 41,000 being planted in the present. Mr. Fry responded that in the past, there

were two planter tractors and two teams of staff. With the reduced number of trees being planted in the present, staffing has been reduced significantly.

ii. Operations
a. Fleet Truck Purchase

Operations Manager, Morgan Barrie, spoke to the need to continue updating GSCA's fleet. Staff circulated a tender for a compact truck to twenty-five dealerships and received nine bids. The tender allowed for gas, hybrid, or electric options.

Staff recommended moving forward with the bid from Peninsula Ford for two Ford Maverick AWD compact trucks. This bid also included a full set of winter tires for each truck.

A Member asked if staff have any towing requirements now or in the future that would present an issue with the smaller truck. Mr. Barrie responded that with the towing package on the noted trucks there is a 4,000 lb towing capacity which meets the needs of the operations department. Additionally, GSCA has other larger trucks should the need arise.

A Member asked how the overage between what had been set aside in 2023 would be covered. CAO, Tim Lanthier, responded that the funds were planned to be drawn from the fleet reserve in 2023 and that the amount being withdrawn from the reserve will be extended to cover the full cost of the vehicles.

Motion No.: FA-24-059	Moved By: Seconded By:	Scott Greig Scott Mackey
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WHEREAS GSCA staff issued a tender for the purchase of two new compact trucks.

AND WHEREAS, GSCA Staff and Board of Directors Chair Robert Urig have received and reviewed eight proposals.

AND WHEREAS, Peninsula Ford Owen Sound provided the most reasonable price, which meets our requirements.

THAT the Board of Directors authorize staff to approve the purchase of two new compact trucks from Peninsula Ford.

Carried

iii. Administration
a. Prosecution Agreement

CAO, Tim Lanthier spoke with respect to the pilot project agreement between GSCA and Grey County to provide support in the way of prosecution services for Section 28 and Section 29 offences.

It was noted that GSCA did not utilize Grey County's prosecution services for Section 29 offences within the last year. However, there is an offence under Section 28 that is currently being handled.

Staff recommended entering into a longer-term agreement with Grey County.

A Member asked for the clarification on what geographic areas these services would cover. Mr. Lanthier responded that the agreement covers matters within the GSCA watershed in both Bruce and

Grey Counties. Additionally, it was noted that the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority is also party to the agreement.

Motion No.:
FA-24-060

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Sue Carleton

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 an ongoing agreement with Grey County for prosecution services.

Carried

Motion No.:
FA-24-061

Moved By: Scott Mackey
Seconded By: Nadia Dubyk

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors amend Motion FA-24-60 to read, "THAT the GSCA Board of Directors direct the CAO to negotiate and execute an ongoing agreement with Grey County for prosecution services for GSCA matters in Grey and Bruce Counties."

Carried

b. New Budget Expenditure

CAO, Tim Lanthier spoke to a request made that would see GSCA sponsor the Land Between Water book project through the pre-purchase of 20 copies of the book, at a discounted rate. The project is being spearheaded by photographer and author, Mark Zelinski, and will feature the Niagara Escarpment.

Staff request approval to withdraw up to \$1,200 dollars from the Administration Reserve to cover the cost of the purchase/sponsorship. These copies would be retained and used for gifts of recognition.

There was discussion around the use of public funds and the selection criteria used in sponsoring these types of projects and requests.

CAO, Tim Lanthier noted that GSCA would not be donating funds but rather purchasing the books and that includes the purchase also includes recognition of GSCA as a sponsor in the project.

A Member requested a recorded vote.

Motion No.:
FA-24-062

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Tobin Day

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors approved the GSCA 2024 Budget by Resolution FA-23-122

AND WHEREAS an opportunity has arisen that requires spending outside of the currently approved budget,

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors approve a draw of up to \$1200 from the Administration Reserve for the purchase and sponsorship of the book Land Between Waters.

Carried

Board Member	Yes	No	Absent
Bell, Tony	X		
Carleton, Sue	X		
Day, Tobin	X		
Dubyk, Nadia	X		
Durst, Kathy			X
Greig, Scott		X	
Farmer, Jon	X		
Mackey, Scott		X	
Maxwell, Alex			X
Shaw, Jennifer	X		
Uhrig, Robert	X		
Total	7	2	2

iv. Water Management

a. Town of the Blue Mountains Water Quality Delegation Update

CAO, Tim Lanthier, provided an update on communications between GSCA and the delegate who spoke to the Board in March, regarding water quality concerns in the Town of the Blue Mountains.

A Member asked if GSCA staff have received any communication from the Town of the Blue Mountains since the May Board meeting to request assistance or discussion the issues presented in the delegation. Mr. Lanthier responded that staff have not heard from the Town of the Blue Mountains on this matter.

A Member asked with regard to the Town of the Blue Mountain's official plan. Mr. Lanthier responded that setbacks are considered in two ways, Natural Hazards and Natural Heritage. It was noted that due to the recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, GSCA is restricted from providing comments on Natural Heritage items and can only comment of items of a Natural Hazard nature.

v. Environmental Planning

Nothing at this time.

vi. Operations

Nothing at this time.

vii. Conservation Lands

a. Hunting at Pottawatomi and West Rock Properties

CAO, Tim Lanthier, spoke to the provided report and staff's recommendation for changing permitted uses at the Pottawatomi and West Rocks properties.

Staff recommended removing hunting from the list of permitted uses for both of these properties.

It was noted that both properties are very popular with hikers. West Rocks is particularly popular with students from nearby schools. Additionally, West Rocks falls within the boundaries of the City of Owen Sound, which has a by-law that does not allow hunting within city limits.

Motion No.:
FA-24-063

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Sue Carleton

WHEREAS, under Section 21(l) of the Conservation Authorities Act, GSCA may use lands that are owned or controlled by the authority for purposes, not inconsistent with its objects, as it considers proper;

AND WHEREAS, GSCA maintains a Permitted Uses Guideline that identifies existing permitted uses (Table 1) and will guide future decisions regarding updating, revising, or implementing new permitted uses as endorsed by the Board of Directors on March 27, 2019;

That, the GSCA Board of Directors endorse revising the permitted uses at the West Rocks and Pottawatomi Conservation Areas by removing hunting as a permitted use and clarifying compliance with Municipal by-laws where hunting is permitted.

Carried

b. Update to Grey County By-Law Management Agreement

CAO, Tim Lanthier, spoke to GSCA's Grey County Forest Management and Forestry By-Law Agreements and the need to amend the agreements. It was noted that the current agreement had been renewed in 2019. However, it places restrictions on GSCA's business practices, namely GSCA's ability to mark woodlots within Grey County on a fee for service basis. Mr. Lanthier added that GSCA's forestry staff provide this service in Bruce County and has previously provided this service in Grey County.

It was stressed that forestry has been an integral part of GSCA's business model since it's inception and that not being permitted to mark trees in Grey County reduces revenue generation work in planting, tree sales, and MFTIPs.

There was general support expressed for the proposed changes to the agreement.

Motion No.:
FA-24-064

Moved By: **Scott Greig**
Seconded By: **Jon Farmer**

WHEREAS GSCA Staff have prepared this report to facilitate discussion of the Board of Directors,

THAT Report 025-2024, Grey County Forest Management Agreement, be received for information.

Carried

viii. Forestry

Nothing at this time.

ix. Communications/Public Relations

Nothing at this time.

x. Education

a. Day Camp

A Member expressed congratulations to the Day Camp Staff on the quality of the day camp programming. CAO, Tim Lanthier, thanked the Member and promised to pass along his kind words to the Day Camp staff.

xi. GIS/IT

Nothing at this time.

xii. DWSP

Nothing at this time.

9. New Business

Nothing at this time.

10. CAO's Report

The CAO, Tim Lanthier, gave a brief report on activities from June and July.

GSCA staff are working with several community groups in the Eugenia area to revitalize the cenotaph at the Eugenia Falls Conservation Area. The project will include redoing the gardens with native plants, installing natural stone urns and benches, and repainting the fencing. GSCA received a \$3,000 grant from Community Foundation Grey Bruce at assist with funding the project and other fundraising and volunteer efforts will facilitate funding the remainder of the project.

GSCA has completed construction on three new parking areas at Massie Hills, Griersville Memorial Forest, and Wodehouse to support access to trails in the areas. Funding for the Massie Hills lot was provided by Grey County and the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC), while the funding for the Griersville

and Wodehouse lots were provided entirely by the BTC. The BTC has created a new side trail that connect the Griersville Memorial Forest site with the main trail.

The Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation received a \$2,000 bequest from the estate of Elwood Moore. This was presented to the GSC Foundation on May 23rd by Elwood's son, Brian Moore.

Additionally, the GSC Foundation held its annual Memorial Forest Commemorative event on June 24th at the Inglis Falls Arboretum. It was a well attended and well received event.

Chair Robert Uhrig and Mr. Lanthier attended the CO quarterly council meeting on June 24th. There was nothing to report.

Mr. Lanthier and the GSCA Chair and Vice-Chair met with the executive members of the GSC Foundation Board on July 2nd. There was great discussion and several action items resulted.

On July 11th, Mr. Lanthier gave a presentation on GSCA's strategic plan to the SON Joint Council at the Chippawa's of Saugeen Band Office.

Mr. Lanthier presented to the Silver C's organization on July 23rd.

Work on GSCA's strategic plan continues, with the consultation period nearly completed. Staff are collating the collected data and conducting gap analysis. A meeting with Board members will be scheduled to discuss directions and actions.

Lastly, Mr. Lanthier informed the Board that there is to be a Source Protection Committee meeting on July 26th.

11. Chair's Report

Chair Uhrig reported that he had nothing additional to add to the CAO report.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

13. Resolution to Move into Closed Session – Nothing at this time

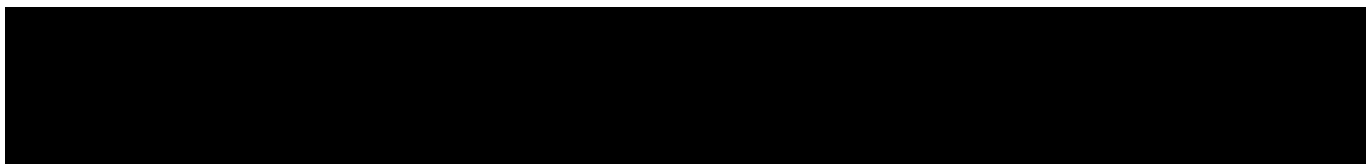
14. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes - Nothing at this time

15. Next Full Authority Meeting

Wednesday August 28, 2024

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.



Robert Uhrig, Chair

Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant