

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 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 Robert Uhrig called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually, and asked Member Jon Farmer to make a land acknowledgement declaration.

Directors Present In-Person: Chair Robert Uhrig, Vice Chair Nadia Dubyk, Tony Bell, Jon Farmer, Scott Greig, Kathy Durst

Directors Present Virtually: Jennifer Shaw

Regrets: Rick Winters, Scott Mackey, Tobin Day, Alex Maxwell

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield, Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony, Education Specialist, Chelsea Vieira

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

A Member asked for an item be added to discuss a request made to defer an upcoming Board Hearing.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:
FA-25-075

Moved By: Scott Greig
Seconded By: Tony Bell

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of October 22, 2025.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.:
FA-25-076

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Kathy Durst

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of September 24, 2025.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes

Nothing at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.:
FA-25-077

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Nadia Dubyk

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the October 22, 2025, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – September 2025; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – September 2025; (iii) Conservation Ontario – June 23, 2025, Council Minutes; (iv) Minutes – GSC Foundation – June 17, 2025; (v) Recent Media Articles.

Carried

8. Presentation – Canada’s 30 x 30 Commitment – Conservation Ontario

Rick Wilson of Conservation Ontario (CO) provided a presentation about Canada’s 30 x 30 Protected Areas Target. The program started in 2014 in partnership with ECCC, MECP, Ontario Nature and Consultants to work towards a goal of reaching 30% terrestrial and 30% marine protected areas by 2030. It was noted that, while Canada is on track to meet the 30% of marine protected areas; terrestrial lands are lagging and that Ontario is sitting at only 10-15% of terrestrial lands.

In an effort to push the needle forward, CO has taken a lead role in making it as easy as possible for CAs to get involved. CAs own and manage roughly 150,000 hectares but less than 25% have been screened for inclusion in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD) to date.

CO is looking to work with five to seven CAs between October and March to get between 15,000 and 25,000 hectares of CA land added to the CPCAD.

Mr. Wilson noted that there are two methods to get lands registered in the database. One that sees CO do the bulk of the labour and one that sees the individual CAs do the necessary work to get them registered.

A Member asked with regard to the purpose of the available funding and if it is ear marked for anything specific. Mr. Wilson noted that the initial funding availability has been used or allocated; however, noted that additional funding may become available in the future.

A Member asked if a participating CA is allowed to divest itself of lands that have been included in the database. Mr. Wilson responded that there are no restrictions on landowners. Any lands divested in the future would be removed as a protection area.

A Member asked with regard to the screening criteria. Mr. Wilson explained that the land must have less than 25% area with infrastructure.

A Member asked with regard to the creation of a special tax class for protected lands, such as the MFTIP system. Mr. Wilson was not able to provide a fulsome answer as it is outside his scope.

A Member asked if participating in this program would justify more closely supervising GSCA Lands against infringement. CAO, Tim Lanthier responded that this program in particular would not have any bearing on preventing or dealing with infringement issues; however, noted that GSCA's new strategic plan does encompass this concern.

9. Business Items

i. Lands

a. GSCA Participation in Canada's Protected Areas Target (30x30)

Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony, spoke with regards to GSCA's participation in the 30x30 program.

Ms. Anthony went through the initial questions and hesitations that staff had when the initiative launched. After further investigation, staff found that participating in the 30 x 30 initiative is low-risk with potential for high reward. And that working with CO now could save significant staff resource in the future.

A Member asked which direction GSCA will take to have properties included. Ms. Anthony responded that staff are well positioned to take care of the work in house.

Member Jennifer Shaw joined the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Motion No.:
FA-25-078

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Scott Greig

WHEREAS, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) under Section 21(n) has the power to collaborate and enter into agreements with ministries and agencies of government, municipal councils and local boards and other organizations and individuals;

WHEREAS, many of GSCA lands are already eligible to contribute to Canada's target of protecting and conserving (at minimum) 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030, known as the 30x30 Target;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors approve GSCA staff moving forward with an agreement with Conservation Ontario to enroll GSCA lands that meet the criteria of the 30x30 target into Canada's Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD).

Carried

ii. Administration
a. 2026-2028 GSCA Budget – 1st Draft

CAO, Tim Lanthier spoke to the first draft of the budget in the new three-year format. Mr. Lanthier explained how the budget will be rolled out over the lifespan of the budget.

It was noted that the capital budget has not been included at this time. With the new asset management plan coming forward, the capital budget will be presented along side the asset management plan.

Mr. Lanthier reviewed some of the major change drivers that affect the levy over the three-year life of the budget.

Members sought clarification around the recalibration and reallocation of planning revenues from various departments. Mr. Lanthier responded that the changes stemmed from an overestimation of planning revenues based on the client services study conducted previously.

A Member asked with regard to the funding for the education department and if there is an intention to put efforts towards continuing to apply for grants for that program. Mr. Lanthier responded that GSCA is working towards stabilizing the funding for the education department to continue the success of the department.

Concerns raised over the proposed levy increase in 2027 and 2028.

There was general discussion and clarification regarding various departments and associated levy increases over the three years.

Motion No.: FA-25-079	Moved By: Seconded By:	Jon Farmer Tony Bell
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WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Staff have prepared the 2026-2028 Draft Operating Budget for the Board of Directors' consideration,

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors receive the 2026 Draft Budget,

AND THAT the GSCA Board of Directors direct Staff to bring a final draft budget to the November 26, 2025, meeting of the Board for approval to circulate.

Carried

Motion No.: FA-25-080	Moved By: Seconded By:	Jon Farmer Kathy Durst
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THAT the GSCA Board of Directors amend Motion FA-25-079 to reflect that the GSCA Board of Directors receive the 2026 Draft Budget.

Carried

iii. Education
a. Education Update

Education Specialist, Chelsea Vieira, provided a presentation on GSCA's Education Department for 2025 and plans moving forward into 2026.

Ms. Vieira gave some highlights of 2025, including:

- Delivered camps, hikes, and field trips across all seasons
- \$75,000+ in grants brought in to support programming
- Reached students from K-12 across the watershed
- Formed new partnerships with other like-minded organizations/community groups and Indigenous communities
- Launched a Turtle Stewardship Program

Ms. Vieira recognized some of the major funders including:

- Jane Goodall Foundation (APE Fund)
- Greenbelt Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment
- Hydro One
- Invasive Species Action Fund
- Community Foundation Grey Bruce

Ms. Vieira outlined some of the programs for 2026, these included some new programs and the expansion of current programming.

Ms. Vieira ended her presentation with a Call to Action. The department is actively seeking sponsors for environmental education and noted that information can be found on the GSCA website.

Members congratulated Ms. Vieira on her work over the past year.

10. New Business

Nothing at this time.

11. CAO's Report

CAO Tim Lanthier, spoke briefly about recent activities.

On October 4th GSCA staff participated in Salmon Discovery Day. The event was well attended and received.

On October 19th GSC Foundation Members hosted a Bench Dedication in memory of Anne Cathrae and Don Knight, both long time supporters of the Foundation.

Mr. Lanthier informed the Board that the barn located at the Big Head River / Trout Hollow trail head is slated to be removed. It was explained that snow loads in winter pose a liability and risk to visitors and neighbouring property. Staff have contacted Meaford Museum, Grey Roots Museum and Archives, and a local historian to determine if there exists any cultural and/or historical significance to the structure and nothing was noted. The approximate cost of removal will be between \$10,000 and \$15,000, to be drawn from reserves.

12. Chair's Report

Chair Robert Uhrig had nothing to report.

13. Resolution to Move into Closed Session – None at this time.

14. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes – None at this time.

15. **Other Business**

Nothing at this time.

16. **Next Full Authority Meeting**

Wednesday November 26, 2025

17. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Robert Uhrig, Chair



Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant