

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES**

**Full Authority Board of Directors  
Wednesday, March 27, 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 1:19 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually and asked Member Tobin Day 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

Directors Present Virtually: Alex Maxwell, Jon Farmer, Kathy Durst, Jennifer Shaw

Regrets: None

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

**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-24-024**

**Moved By: Tony Bell  
Seconded By: Scott Mackey**

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of  
March 27, 2024.**

**Carried**

5. **Approval of Minutes**

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**Motion No.:**  
**FA-24-025**

**Moved By:** Alex Maxwell  
**Seconded By:** Scott Greig

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of February 28, 2024.**

**Carried**

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6. **Business Out of Minutes**

Nothing at this time.

7. **Delegation**

**i. Town of the Blue Mountains Water Quality**

Pamela Spence provided a presentation to the Board with respect to water quality and run-off in watercourses within the Town of the Blue Mountains. Concern over increased sedimentation and the speed of the outflow from the watercourses into the bay.

There was general discussion regarding GSCA's role and limitations under the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) related to this situation. Staff clarified Grey Sauble Conservation Authority's (GSCA) mandated role and what actions, or role is permitted and not permitted under the CAA legislation and provided some options to consider, such as the Stewardship Program that may be helpful in this situation.

A Member moved to have staff provide a report back from staff with regard to what can be done at the GSCA level.

There was general discussion related to the root cause of the situation.

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**Motion No.:**  
**FA-24-026**

**Moved By:** Scott Greig  
**Seconded By:** Tobin Day

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors request GSCA staff to prepare a report on the situation in the Town of Blue Mountains as it relates to current practices and future opportunities.**

**Carried**

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8. **Presentation**

**i. TD Wealth Management with Mike Konopka**

Mike Konopka, from TD Wealth, provided a presentation on GSCA's investment portfolio with TD Wealth Management. Mr. Konopka introduced himself, his team, and GSCA's portfolio mandate.

Mr. Konopka outlined market activity over the past few years with a look at interest rates and inflation amid the recent financial climate.

There was general discussion regarding the make-up of the portfolio.

## **9. Consent Agenda**

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**Motion No.:**  
**FA-24-027**

**Moved By:** Sue Carleton  
**Seconded By:** Scott Greig

**THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the March 27, 2024, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – February 2024; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – February 2024; (iii) Correspondence – GSC Donation Letter; GSC Foundation Earth Film Festival Flyer**

**Carried**

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A Member asked to have the Administration Expenses for February pulled for discussion.

## **10. Business Items**

### **i. Administration**

#### **a. Section 29 Regulation Changes**

CAO, Tim Lanthier, spoke to the Section 29 Regulation changes with regard to the rules of conduct on authority owned properties. It was noted that the changes are minor, including updated wording around visitors bringing domestic animals onto authority properties with clarification around service animals.

A Member asked a question around equestrian use of GSCA properties. CAO Tim Lanthier responded that horses, at present, are not permitted on GSCA trails. There was discussion around permitted uses and how GSCA communicates what the permitted uses are. It was stressed that GSCA's primary goal is education over enforcement.

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**Motion No.:**  
**FA-24-028**

**Moved By:** Scott Grey  
**Seconded By:** Scott Mackey

**WHEREAS the Government of the Province of Ontario has introduced a new Conservation Areas regulation,**

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive Staff Report 006-2024 as information.**

**Carried**

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**The Board recessed for 10 minutes at 3:05 p.m.**

**Member Kathy Durst and Scott Mackey left the meeting at 3:11 p.m.**

**The Board resumed session at 3:13 p.m.**

## **b. CAA and Regulation Changes**

Manager of Environmental Planning, MacLean Plewes, provided a presentation outlining the recently approved Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits. Ontario Regulation 41/24 replaces the previous Ontario Regulation 151/06: Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines.

Mr. Plewes outlined each of the specific changes that will come into effect April 1, 2024, and the impact those will have. As part of these changes, GSCA needs to implement several new or updated policies or documents, update mapping, and provide communications to partners and the public.

There was a discussion around the amended wetland buffer zones and new definition of watercourse, and what that may mean moving forward.

A Member asked what the implications on staff are with the changes. Mr. Plewes responded that staff are busy; however, staff are working through the changes and working with other departments to make the transition as smooth as possible.

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**Motion No.:**  
**FA-24-029**

**Moved By:** **Scott Greig**  
**Seconded By:** **Alex Maxwell**

**WHEREAS the Provincial Government approved Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits under subsection 28(1) of the Conservation Authorities Act effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024;**

**AND WHEREAS, certain documents, guidelines and procedures are required to support the transition to Ontario Regulation 41/24**

**THAT THE GSCA Board of Directors approve the following:**

- **Interim Policies & Guidelines for the Administration & Implementation of Ontario Regulation 41/24**
- **Transitional Procedures & Guidelines**
- **Permit Application Form and Fee Schedule**

**Carried**

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## **c. Interim Administrative Review Policy**

CAO Tim Lanthier spoke to the drafted Interim Administrative Review policy document as needed to accommodate the newly proclaimed Ontario Regulation 41/24.

The policy guides the process should an applicant request an administrative review.

The policy delegates responsibility for the administrative review to the CAO with an option for applicants to appeal this decision to the Board of Directors. This satisfies the timelines of the regulation and exceeds the legislated standard.

It was noted that Conservation Ontario has indicated that they will be creating a policy that conservation authorities may utilize, however; it is not yet ready.

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<b>Motion No.:</b> <b>FA-24-030</b>	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Sue Carleton</b> <b>Nadia Dubyk</b>
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**WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority must review and issue permits under the Conservation Authorities Act,**

**AND WHEREAS the Ontario Regulation 41/24 stipulates that an Authority must have a policy related to the review of a complete application,**

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the attached Interim Administrative Review Policy as attached.**

**Carried**

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**d. Designation of Officers**

CAO Tim Lanthier spoke to the need to re-designate provincial offences officers with the newly proclaimed regulation. It was noted that there were no new officers being designated.

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<b>Motion No.:</b> <b>FA-24-031</b>	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Tony Bell</b> <b>Tobin Day</b>
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**WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority must monitor compliance with the Conservation Authorities Act and, where appropriate, enforce the provisions of that Act,**

**AND WHEREAS certain staff have completed the appropriate Provincial Offences Officer training,**

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors designate Tim Lanthier, MacLean Plewes, Olivia Sroka, and Chris Scholz as a Provincial Offences Officer under the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24 for Section 28 and Section 30 related offences.**

**AND THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors designate Tim Lanthier, Morgan Barrie, and Spencer Young as a Provincial Offences Officer under the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 688/21 for Section 29 and Section 30 related offences, and to enforce the Trespass to Properties Act.**

**Carried**

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**e. Delegation of Powers under Section 28.4 of the CAA**

CAO Tim Lanthier spoke to the need to re-delegate the authority to issue permits in response to the newly proclaimed regulation. In addition, Mr. Lanthier spoke to the delegation of authority to notify applicants of an intent to cancel permits to the CAO. The Board of Directors will retain power and responsibility for hearings under the Act.

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**Motion No.:**  
**FA-24-032**

**Moved By:** Nadia Dubyk  
**Seconded By:** Jon Farmer

**WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority must review and issue permits under the Conservation Authorities Act,**

**AND WHEREAS the Board may delegate its power in this regard,**

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors delegate powers relating to the issuance or renewal of permits to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Manager of Environmental Planning, and the Manager of Engineering Services.**

**AND THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors delegate powers relating to providing notice of the cancellation of a permit to the Chief Administrative Officer.**

**Carried**

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**ii. Water Management**

Nothing at this time.

**iii. Environmental Planning**

Nothing at this time.

**iv. Operations**

Nothing at this time.

**v. Conservation Lands**

Nothing at this time.

**vi. Forestry**

Nothing at this time.

**vii. Communications/Public Relations**

Nothing at this time.

**viii. Education**

**a. Education Fees Update**

Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield spoke to the drafted education fee schedule.

It was noted that staff analyzed the fee structures of 18 of conservation authorities and solicited feedback from partners, stakeholders, and school staff on programs and a proposed fee structure.

Ms. Dangerfield reviewed the fees and associated programs.

Ms. Dangerfield outlined some successful funding/granting opportunities for the education program.

A Member asked with regard to equipment rentals, and if this is equipment that GSCA already owns or would staff be looking to purchase new equipment. Ms. Dangerfield responded that the equipment referenced is already owned by GSCA. It was noted that any equipment rentals would be accompanied by a rental agreement to protect against loss or damage of equipment.

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**Motion No.:**  
**FA-24-033**

**Moved By:** Tony Bell  
**Seconded By:** Sue Carleton

**WHEREAS GSCA must charge fees to cover the costs associated with offering environmental education-based programming as defined in the Environmental Education Framework;**

**AND WHEREAS, staff have done a comparison of fees charged for this type of programming at other Conservation Authorities (CA) across the province and proposed fees similar to the average of these rates.**

**AND FURTHER WHEREAS, after consultation with partners, stakeholders and school staff via online survey, the majority of responders deemed the fees acceptable.**

**THAT, the GSCA Board of Directors approve the rates provided in the Proposed Rates Table of this report.**

**Carried**

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**ix. GIS/IT**  
Nothing at this time.

**x. DWSP**  
Nothing at this time.

**11. New Business**  
Nothing at this time.

**12. CAO's Report**

The CAO, Tim Lanthier, gave a brief report on March's activities.

Mr. Lanthier updated the Board on the status of the Environmental Planning Department's financial status, noting that a deficit throughout 2023 pushed GSCA to restructure the associated budget for 2024. As of the end of February 2024, the department is sitting at 111% of target budget.

Staff have advertised and will be hiring a Planning Assistant to assist with digitizing the department's files in preparation of the administration office renovation.

Mr. Lanthier encouraged the Board members to attend the GSCF Earth Film Festival.

Mr. Lanthier will be attending the Great Lakes City initiative meeting at the Town of the Blue Mountains office on March 28, 2024.

It was noted that Grey County EMS will be conducting training at Inglis Falls CA end of April.

Mr. Lanthier gave an update on the strategic planning process. Staff are preparing to gather feedback and comment from partners, stakeholders, and the general public.

Mr. Lanthier reported that, due to insufficient response, staff made the decision to postpone the April Volunteer Appreciation event. Staff have requested feedback from volunteers to tailor an event that receives more uptake.

**13. Chair's Report**

Chair Uhrig noted that he didn't have much to report.

**14. Other Business**

Nothing at this time.

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

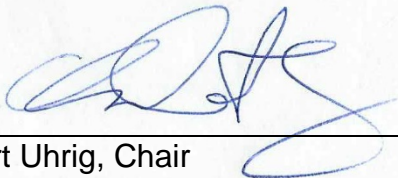
**16. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes – Nothing at this time.**

**17. Next Full Authority Meeting**

Wednesday April 24, 2024

**18. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.



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Robert Uhrig, Chair



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Valerie Coleman  
Administrative Assistant