



GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Minutes
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 14th, 2017

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting was held at the Conservation Authority Administration Centre located on Inglis Falls Road.

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Marion Koepke called the meeting to order in the absence of Chair Dick Hibma.

Directors Present

Sue Carleton, Paul Eagleson, Marion Koepke, Cathy Little, Jaden Calvert, Harley Greenfield, and Ana Vukovic

Directors Absent - Al Barfoot, Dick Hibma, Shawn Greig, and John McGee

Staff Present – Sonya Skinner, Doreen Robinson, Anne Lennox, Krista McKee, Carl Seider, MacLean Plewes, Rebecca Ferguson, John Bittorf, and Alison Armstrong

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Cathy Little
FA-17-065	Seconded by:	Sue Carleton

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of June 14th, 2017.

Carried

3. 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 this time.

4. Adoption of Consent Agenda

**Motion No.: Moved by: Harley Greenfield
FA-17-066 Seconded by: Ana Vukovic**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the consent agenda of June 14th, 2017, with the following amendments: Item 7) 4) ii) Auditors Request for Additional Payments – move to Item 9) Business Items – g) 3); Add under Item 7) 4) ii) Letters from Community Foundation Grey Bruce re: \$3,000.00 grant towards the Riverfest celebrations, \$1,590.00 grant towards the Friends of Hibou Conservation, and a \$2,000.00 grant towards the Friends of Hibou Wetland Interpretation Project;

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

**Motion No.: Moved by: Ana Vukovic
FA-17-067 Seconded by: Jaden Calvert**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of May 10th, 2017.

Carried

6. Business Out Of Minutes

1) Updates of sponsorships for Riverfest

Krista McKee, Community Relations Coordinator, updated the Board on the free Riverfest events being held on Sunday, July 9th. In addition to the \$5,000 previously

approved by GSCA, the Community Foundation Grey Bruce has approved a grant of \$3,000 towards the event. Including private donors the grand total is now over \$9,000. Board Members were also given paper boat cut outs to take to their municipalities to be given to children to decorate and enter in the miniature boat races. It has been decided that there will be no fee to get a boat. At the event, there will also be log sawing competitions, olde tyme music featuring 1860's folk tunes, a period costume photo kiosk, indigenous teachings, bannock bread roasting, a blacksmith forge demo, a grain grinding demonstration, a live snake exhibit, and critter dipping for kids. There are also food and refreshment booths.

2) Métis Harvester Card Update

Anne Lennox contacted the Captain of the Hunt to advise of the request to Grey Sauble Conservation to cut logs using a Métis Harvester Card and the Resolution passed by the Board of Directors for such requests. The Captain was unaware of this request to Grey Sauble, and questioned whether Grey Sauble Conservation lands are private lands. The requester was informed in person at the Authority offices and accepted the Board's decision and indicated an interest in bidding on appropriate wood contracts in the future.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Jaden Calvert**
FA-17-068 **Seconded by:** **Cathy Little**

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda, Items listed on the June 14th, 2017, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: 1) the list of permits under Ontario Regulation 151/06 – “Development, Interference, with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation”, for May 2017; 2) the Receipts and Expenses for May 2017; 3) the following minutes: the Foundation Minutes of May 17th, 2017; the Staff Minutes of May 31st, 2017; the Friends of Hibou Meeting Summary notes of May 24th, 2017; the BRWI Minutes of February 16th, 2017, and April 20th, 2017; 4) the correspondence item with regards to Clendenan Dam and e-mails to and from Mike Hahn, representing the Lake Huron Fishing Club and Sonya Skinner, CAO, GSCA; 5) the three letters dated May 25th, 2017, from Dave Waddington, Chair, Grants Committee, Community

Foundation Grey Bruce with regards to 3 separate grants for Grey Sauble Conservation projects;

Carried

8. Program Update to kick off Strategic Planning – Information

Grey Sauble Conservation, CAO, Sonya Skinner, handed out a preparatory package to Directors for the 'Taking Stock' Strategic Planning Session. The session will involve Directors and staff and is taking place on Wednesday, July 12th, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bayshore Community Centre. Directors were asked to consider their opinions on GSCA's top three strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and to think about the change drivers that will affect us in the coming years. The Board Members who are absent today will also be asked for their input.

9. Business Items

a) Water Management

1) Dam Installs Update (Slide Show) – Information

John Bittorf, Water Resources Coordinator, presented a slide show on the following dams:

Berford Lake Dam – installed April 12th, 2017

Bognor Marsh Dam 2 – installed May 16th, 2017

Mill Dam – (hydraulic gates) – installed May 18th, 2017

Inglis Falls Dam – installed May 19th, 2017

Clendenan Dam – installed May 24th, 2017 (manage sheet ice)

b) Sign Out Information for Phragmites Cutter

Rebecca Ferguson, Stewardship Technician, made a presentation on starting to get the word out about the two trimming units that are available for community groups (such as cottage associations, ratepayers, Rotary etc.) There is a process to enable them to sign out the cutters to cut phragmites. These units were purchased by the Beaver River Watershed Initiative (BRWI) group. There is also a supporting fact sheet that will be distributed to each municipal office and posted on our GSCA website. A draft is included in the meeting materials.

GSCA is in the progress of trying the trimmers to determine the best methods for cutting under water and on land. Safety training, a safety manual, equipment sign out and volunteer sign off forms will be provided to groups. The groups on board so far include the Oliphant Fishing Islands Phragmites Group, the Lake Eugenia Group and the BRWI.

We are also working with Grey County to map phragmites on their road allowances and trails and will be reviewing what work is being done in our area to tackle phragmites. This information will be rolled into a short report that we have committed to provide to the Board and will include recommendations, opportunities, and go-forward role options for GSCA.

There are no herbicides approved for over water use.

Sue Carleton advised that Rick Winters of Georgian Bluffs staff made a presentation to their Council. The report was very educational. His report advised that European phragmites can still be purchased at different venues.

Cathy Little advised that in May there was a workshop with discussion held on phragmites and at that point a working group was formed on this topic. Grey Sauble staff should check to see if they are liaising with or should be part of this group.

- c) Environmental Planning
 - 1) Request for Fee Waiver by the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club – Resolution

MacLean Plewes, Intermediate Planner, made a brief presentation to the Board on the following subject: Request for Fee Waiver by the Meaford & District Ridge Runner Snowmobile Club and the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Cathy Little**
FA-17-069 **Seconded by:** **Sue Carleton**

WHEREAS the Bruce Trail Conservancy is a non-profit organization that provides significant effort and materials to create and maintain trails on GSCA's lands and the mandate of the Bruce Trail Conservancy is in line with and supports GSCA's mandate;

AND FURTHER WHEREAS the owner of the subject land is the Municipality of Grey Highlands, and GSCA does not require that watershed municipalities pay fees for planning comments and permits for municipal lands;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the request from the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club to waive the GSCA NEC review fee of \$250.00 to install a new 1.5 metre diameter X 4.8 metre long culvert within an unnamed tributary of the Beaver River and on an unmaintained road allowance owned by the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

Carried

d) Lands Update

1) Conservation Value of CA Lands Study – Update

Last year Grey Sauble Conservation participated in a federally government funded study around conservation values for Eugenia Falls, Feversham Gorge and Inglis Falls Conservation Areas. The draft study results are available, and assess the lands against various conservation tests (with intention to meet Canada's biodiversity targets).

The study leads have approached GSCA to go back this year and also evaluate Bognor Marsh, Skinner Marsh, McNab Lake, and The Glen. The CAO has indicated to the study leads that she is supportive of further participating in the study.

e) Forestry, Fish, and Wildlife

1) Tree Planting Update – Information

Anne Lennox, Forestry and Wildlife Coordinator, updated the Board on the 2017 tree sales, and other programs (50 Million Tree Program, Seedling and Landscape Planting Programs, MFTIP, Tree Marking, Site Inspections, and EAB Inoculations) offered by Grey Bruce Forestry Services, including a comparison to years starting in 2010. Included in the work are 43 Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) applications to complete for private woodlot owners and submitted to the MNR by the end of July 2017.

f) Communications/Public Relations

1) Social Media Policy – Resolution

Krista McKee, Community Relations Coordinator, reviewed with the Board the draft Social Media Policy. Discussion was held with regards to staff being contacted with any negative or positive feedback that the Directors receive about Grey Sauble Conservation. The Policy is a collaborative effort amongst staff, led by Krista McKee.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Paul Eagleson**
FA-17-070 **Seconded by:** **Cathy Little**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Social Media Policy as presented on June 14th, 2017.

Carried

2) Updated GSCA Brochure – Information

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority brochure is being updated to include about 20 properties from the 11 properties previously included in the brochure, and covering one or more in each of our watershed municipalities. The brochure includes updated/new mapping with the print-ready pages available in July. The

information will also be used on the GSCA website, and is strategically important for promoting GSCA, positive outdoor experiences, and our fiscal sustainability.

- g) DWSP/RMO Report – nothing at this time
- h) Administration
 - 1) Personnel Policy – Resolution

Alison Armstrong, Finance Coordinator, informed the Board that the current draft Personnel Policy includes changes endorsed by the Board during their May 2017 meeting. The current draft also includes updated Lands and Habitats Coordinator, Source Protection & Risk Management Inspector, and Stewardship Technician job descriptions.

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Jaden Calvert
FA-17-071	Seconded by:	Harley Greenfield

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority approve the Personnel Policy as presented on June 14th, 2017.

Carried

- 2) CAO'S Update and Monthly Calendar – Information

Monthly Calendar

The Directors reviewed the Monthly Calendar. A brief discussion was held with regards to the Water Festival which is held in Chesley. For 2018, more concentration needs to be placed on sending out invitations and having a dedicated day for dignitaries or another special group. A media release may also help keep the program running. Paul Eagleson advised that Bruce County will soon be setting their 2018 budget and they should be contacted soon if we would like a donation from them for the 2018 Water Festival. Grey Sauble Conservation and most watershed municipalities will be observing July 3rd as the July 1st Canada Day statutory holiday as Canada Day falls on a Saturday this year.

CAO's Update

Nottawasaga Conservation Authority recently had an important appeal ruled in their favour. Conservation Ontario and MNRF were also supporters. It involved a house that had been built in a flood plain without municipal or conservation authority permits, and had the appeal gone the other way, it would have been precedent setting and greatly impacted municipal and CA's powers.

The Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) is being updated by the provincial government, and it has received first reading. The new proposed CAA moves the ability to create regulations from CAs to the government. It also increases the penalties for development not being carried out in accordance with Authority regulations. Conservation Ontario has issued a positive media release.

Over forty applications were received for the Lands and Habitats Coordinator Position which closed on June 12th, 2017. The Source Protection Supervisor and Risk Management Inspector position has been advertised and closes on June 23rd, 2017.

Grades 1, 2, and 3 students of Timothy Christian School visited Bognor Marsh in several seasons with Krista McKee and produced a calendar. Profits from the sale of the calendar of \$621.60 were donated to Grey Sauble Conservation. A sample of the calendar was reviewed by the Board.

The Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation generously donated funding for recycling bins at several Authority properties.

An article in the Grey-Bruce Boomers magazine showcases Spirit Rock and states what a gem it is. Some photos show the partially-removed graffiti which was done in 2016. Grey Sauble is using a product which gradually deteriorates the unwanted paint without harming the historical stone walls. The Foundation has committed \$25,000 towards rehabilitating the iconic spiral staircase up the escarpment.

An enhanced fence will be installed at the Mill Dam along the public walkway, and is targeted to be in place before the Riverfest celebrations. It is estimated to cost about \$5,000.

Staff are working with Grey County staff on an electronic form to continuously improve our risk management inspections and approaches.

Staff and conservation area visitors continue to have challenges with our McKay Pay system which is intended to allow people to pay with the use of a smart phone app or via a phone call. Staff are working with the McKay Pay vendor, doing field trials ourselves and in the longer term will also look at other alternatives.

A partner group has developed and funded new signage for the beginning of the Trout Hollow Trail on the Bighead Conservation Area. A hard copy was passed around for members.

Access road maintenance is being carried out at Bruce's Caves and McNab Lake. A discussion will be held between Township of Georgian Bluffs staff and Grey Sauble Conservation Staff with regards to this project.

The pump replacement for the washroom at Indian Falls has been done with 50% of the cost being shared through a mutually-beneficial agreement with the Township of Georgian Bluffs for service to both the sports fields and the trail users.

The Owen Sound Forest School has been using Grey Sauble Conservation Facilities and to date during their pilot year have not paid anything towards Grey Sauble. Discussions are being held to put an agreement in place for next year.

The Forest Certification audit (involving the Rainforest Alliance and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest) for Grey Sauble Conservation lands is being carried out today.

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust stakeholder/partner group has asked staff at NVCA, NEC and GSCA to have discussions about the watershed boundaries and the respective roles and the first discussions have taken place.

Four new standup desks have been purchased for various staff. Experience with the two previously purchased has been very positive.

GSCA has received the new truck purchased from Goudy Motors through the recent vehicles tender.

At their May meeting our adjacent Conservation Authority NVCA approved a climate change strategy and action plan. GSCA has also been approached by a local group who is interested in doing a documentary on community resilience in the context of climate change, and staff will talk further with the group to get more information.

3) Auditor's Request for Additional Payments

Audit services for Grey Sauble Conservation were selected through a public tender for a five year term, with bidders providing prices for each of the five years. At that time Collins Barrow was selected.

Collins Barrow have stated that they are unable to continue as Grey Sauble's auditors at the previously agreed upon fees and are requesting additional payment for this year and next year. Their justification is the addition of two departments, Drinking Water Source Protection and Risk Management Office. They have asked for a 64% increase in the bid amount with increases of 3% per annum.

The Board instructed staff to negotiate with Collins Barrow with regards to fairly addressing the additional work, in line with the contract provisions.

10. **Chairs Report** – nothing at this time

11. **Other Business**

- a) Committees – Minutes
 - 1) Arboretum Alliance – nothing at this time
 - 2) Forestry Committee – Meeting June 20th, 2017

- b) Next Meeting – Wednesday, July 12th, 2017, Strategic Planning at Shore Room #1 at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre – 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; coffee and lunch will be provided

12. **Closed Session** - nothing at this time

13. **Adjournment** - The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Marion Koepke, Vice Chair
(Acting Chair)

Doreen Robinson
Administrative Assistant/
Accounting Clerk