



**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES  
Full Authority Board of Directors  
Wednesday, April 24th, 2019, at 1:15 p.m.**

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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**

Chair Cathy Little called the meeting to order.

Directors Present - Cathy Little, Marion Koepke, Dwight Burley, Sue Carleton, Ryan Greig, Scott Greig, Harley Greenfield, Andrea Matrosovs, and Paul Vickers

Directors Absent – Scott Mackey and Paul McKenzie

Staff Present – Sonya Skinner, Doreen Robinson, Andy Sorensen, Tim Lanthier, Alison Armstrong, John Bittorf, Gloria Dangerfield, and Karen Gillan

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

<b>Motion No.:</b>	<b>Moved by:</b>	<b>Dwight Burley</b>
<b>FA-19-038</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>	<b>Sue Carleton</b>

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of April 24th, 2019.**

**Carried**

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

The Directors were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting. Scott Greig declared a pecuniary interest as his company was a sponsor for the Foundation's Earth Film Festival and this was mentioned in the Foundation minutes.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

<b>Motion No.:</b>	<b>Moved by:</b>	<b>Scott Greig</b>
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FA-19-039

Seconded by: Marion Koepke

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, as amended, under the CAO's report, *by changing "that staff met with", to \*will meet with" Hugh Simpson.*

Carried

Discussion was held with regards to TD Wealth Management, who manage a portfolio of investments of GSCA's reserve funds. There was discussion on whether TD is paid too much given the rate of return received. It was clarified that the rate of return is calculated after TD's compensation is removed. The agreement resulting from the 2014 RFP when TD was hired does not require that the Authority stay with this funds manager for a specified amount of time.

**5. 1:20 p.m. – Deputation – Sue Bragg – Baker Tilly Accountants – 2018 Audit Review of GSCA and Financial Statements**

Sue Bragg, Baker Tilly Accountants, made a presentation that walked the board through their 2018 GSCA Auditor's Report, including the Financial Statements.

**Motion No.:** Moved by: Harley Greenfield  
**FA-19-040** Seconded by: Dwight Burley

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors accept the draft financial report for 2018 as prepared by Baker Tilly, Licensed Public Accountants.

Carried

**6. Business Out of Minutes**

a) GSCA Staff & CAO Priorities

CAO Sonya Skinner proposed the 2019 GSC Staff Priorities (CAO's Performance Plan), with proposed actions listed under the five strategic plan goals, other priorities, and fulfilling the purpose of the CAO position.

The five Strategic plan goals are:

- 1) Better Monitor and Manage Flood Risks;
- 2) Enhance Current Land Management;
- 3) Support more Educational Programs and Engage Public with the Environment and GSC;
- 4) Improved Water Quality;
- 5) Support Development of Watershed Plans with Municipalities;

Recent funding cuts include about \$35,000 in transfer payments for flood forecasting (Conservation Authorities Act Section 39 funding), \$11,000 for two summer students in the Water Management Program which will affect water data gathering and invasive species management, \$60,000 over two years for the South Georgian Bay Coastal Initiative project and so far helpful stewardship funding such as the Great Lakes Guardian Fund have not been renewed.

Given the recent cuts to provincial funding and board municipal levy powers, and uncertainties about if there will be further cuts and their effects (e.g. how much tree planting will be reduced due to the cancellation of the 50 Million Tree Program), Sonya recommended that the proposed capital improvements to the administration centre be delayed one year to 2020 in order to protect GSCA's reserves until the Board has a clearer picture of the future. This will delay \$20,000 for hiring an architect for the new conceptual design and \$20,000 to renovate the basement meeting and education rooms.

Harley Greenfield commented on the need to protect the reserves, and Cathy Little stated that at this point it is reasonable to be cautious.

Sonya Skinner indicated that it remains important to proceed to build a business case with municipalities to augment GSCA's flood and water expertise given the weather and development in the watershed.

**Motion No.:                      Moved by:                      Andrea Matrosovs**  
**FA-19- 041                      Seconded by:                      Scott Greig**

**WHEREAS Board Directors and staff have reviewed the proposed 2019 Staff Priorities (CAO Performance Plan) both at the March 2019 Board Meeting and at a Strategic Plan Workshop on April 10th;**

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors endorse the Proposed 2019 Staff Priorities (CAO Performance Plan).**

**AND FURTHER, THAT the following 2019 budget items be deferred until 2020: 1) \$20,000.00 to revamp the basement; and 2) \$20,000.00 for hiring an architect for the design of the administration centre upgrade.**

**Carried**

**7.            Consent Agenda**

**Motion No.:                      Moved by:                      Sue Carleton**  
**FA-19-042                      Seconded by:                      Ryan Greig**

**THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the April 24th, 2019, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: 1) Environmental Planning - Section 28 Permits – March 2019; 2) Administration - Receipts and Expenses – March 2019; 3) Minutes: 1) Foundation – March 13th, 2019; 4) Correspondence – Letter from Steve Clark, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing re: Proposed Restoring Ontario’s Competitiveness Act;**

**Carried**

**8. Business Items**

- a) Water Management – nothing at this time
- b) Environmental Planning – 1) Permits and Planning – What GSCA does, Governance, and Who Gets What Information; 2) Updates on planning agreements with Municipalities;

Andy Sorensen, Environmental Planning Coordinator, made a presentation to the Board on the roles held by his Department at GSCA, including regulation of development near water via CAA Permits, delegated representative of the “Provincial Interest” in Plan Review for Natural Hazards, as a Public Commenting Body, as a Resource Management Agency & Landowner, and as a municipalities service provider on Natural Heritage expertise for Planning Act Applications (i.e. OP and zoning variances, subdivisions/condos, consents to sever) and review of technical studies (i.e. environmental impact studies, stormwater management plans and drainage studies.

Under these roles GSCA provides input and reviews for: Municipal Official Plans and Comprehensive Zoning Updates, applications under the NEC Plan, Aggregate Resources Act (i.e. Pits & Quarries) and environmental assessment act; and municipal building permits such as site plan reviews. Comments on applications under the Planning Act include fish habitat, provincially significant wetlands, locally significant wetlands, regionally and provincially significant areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI), significant woodlands, significant valleylands, significant portions of the habitat of Threatened and Endangered Species, significant wildlife habitat, which includes seasonal concentration areas, rare vegetation communities, or specialized habitats for wildlife, habitats of species of conservation concern, wildlife corridors and linkages.

GSCA does not permit work in the water, as these are approved by MNR and DFO.

A copy of Andy’s presentation will be forwarded to the Board.

Andy also updated the Board on conversations with Bruce County and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority staff about a Memorandum of Agreement with the County to provide Natural Hazard comments to the County prior to their Planning Act decisions. The agreement has been drafted and both CAs are now providing comments and

working out the fees. The Chair commented that GSCA has a great reputation in the community with a quick turn around time for permits/comments.

c) Lands Update – Tim Lanthier, Lands and Habitats Coordinator made the following two presentations.

1) Terms of Reference for Inglis Falls Conservation Area Management Plan

As part of the Strategic Goal to enhance GSCA’s current land management activities, GSCA, through staff, have committed to completing management plans for GSCA lands at a rate of approximately one plan per year.

Due to the high volume of usage at the Inglis Falls Conservation Area and Arboretum, staff determined that commencing with a management plan for this property was of utmost importance.

Staff have developed a Terms of Reference document to guide the management planning process and establish an Advisory Committee.

This planning process will generally include:

1. Collecting and analyzing background and baseline information;
2. Consulting with partners, stakeholders, and the public;
3. Developing draft concept management planning policies and strategies; and,
4. Developing a finalized plan that establishes management policies, steers future use and development, enhances the local environment and user experience, and identifies an approximate cost estimate.

Development of the Management Plan for Inglis Falls is included in the approved 2019 budget. The Terms of Reference will facilitate communication about the Plan with partners, stakeholders, and the public.

Harley Greenfield asked if we had contacted Grey County and Grey Roots with regards to reports on Inglis Falls area and anyone else that would be involved. People walk from Grey Roots to Inglis Falls.

Paul Vickers stated that getting this many people together for an Advisory Committee may become a bit bogged down. Tim Lanthier agreed there is a large spectrum, and that he intended to generally bring scoped issues that require a broad perspective to the group. Others will also be able to provide input during public comment periods.

**Motion No.:**                      **Moved by:**                      **Harley Greenfield**  
**FA-19-043**                      **Seconded by:**                      **Paul Vickers**

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors endorse the provided Terms of Reference for the development of the Plan; and,**

**THAT the following Directors be appointed as members of the Inglis Falls Conservation Area and Arboretum Management Plan Advisory Committee:**

**1. Scott Greig; 2. Sue Carleton; and 3. Chair Cathy Little as ex officio;**

**Carried**

2) Tara Conservation Area – New Walking Bridge Agreement with Municipality

The Sauble Valley Conservation Authority acquired the Mill Property in Tara in 1963 for a purchase price of \$1000. The Ministry of Natural Resources provided a grant for 50 percent of the project and the Authority's share of the project was funded by the Tara Rotary Club.

After being approached by the Tara Rotary Club, in March 2016, the Full Authority Board of Directors passed resolution FA-16-034 "That the Tara Rotary Club be advised that the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority approves, in principle, the construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Sauble River in Tara, with the preferred location being where Ann Street currently ends at the river, and further that staff collaborate with the Rotary Club with regards to any further course of action the Club needs to undertake to continue application for the project."

The Rotary Club has proceeded to coordinate the design of the bridge structure and has worked with GSCA and Municipal staff to coordinate approvals for this project.

GSCA staff have asked that the Municipality assume responsibility for the long-term maintenance and liability associated with this structure. The Municipality has agreed to this arrangement and has instructed their legal counsel to draft the appropriate agreement. This agreement will not be registered on title.

A moderate amount of staff time is required to negotiate this process, including reviewing the agreement, coordinating the process, and being on site occasionally to review the work proposed. Additionally, there will be a cost of approximately \$1000 for our legal counsel to review the agreement and ensure that GSCA's interests are protected.

GSCA will promote the project and partnerships through social media, on our website, and through a media release.

**Motion No.: Moved by: Sue Carleton  
FA-19-044 Seconded by: Ryan Greig**

**WHEREAS the Full Authority Board of Directors, at the March 9, 2016, meeting, passed resolution FA-16-034 supporting a proposal by the Tara Rotary Club to**

**construct a pedestrian bridge on the Tara Dam property, and further, giving staff direction to collaborate with the Rotary Club with regards to any further course of action the Club needs to continue with applications for this project;**

**AND WHEREAS the Tara Rotary Club has engaged consultants to design the bridge and the installation;**

**AND WHEREAS GSCA staff have requested that the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie assume all liability and responsibility for the bridge;**

**AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie has instructed their legal counsel to draft an agreement to this effect;**

**THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to proceed with negotiating and executing a five-year rolling agreement with the Municipality for the installation and maintenance of the subject bridge;**

**Carried**

d) Forestry – nothing at this time

e) Communications/Public Relations

1) Children’s Water Festival

Karen Gillan, Program Supervisor/Communications Planner, GSCA/DWSP, advised the Board that the 19<sup>th</sup> Grey Bruce Children’s Water Festival is being held in Chesley from May 14<sup>th</sup> – May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. 1500 children from Grades 4 and 5 attend the event. Volunteers are welcome to assist in the program, and Directors may also tour the site during the festival.

f) Administration

1) GSCA Working Group to Guide GSCA Responses to the Ontario Government Budget and Proposals from MNRF (Focusing on CA Permits on Protection of People and Property) and MECP (Modernizing CA Operations)

Tim Lanthier made a presentation on this item.

On the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) (ERO) the province states that, “*Conservation Authorities play a key frontline role in helping Ontario families and businesses prepare for the cost and impact of climate change in their communities. Conservation Authorities also play an important role in Ontario’s land use planning and environmental protection process. They not only help protect people and property from extreme weather, such as flooding and other natural hazards, but they also are essential to protecting sources of drinking water and conserving our province’s natural resources*” and has requested input on:

1. Modernizing conservation authority operations - Conservation Authorities Act, ERO number 013-5018, due May 20, 2019, and
2. Focusing conservation authority development permits on the protection of people and property, ERO number 013-4992, due May 21, 2019

The province has also notified GSCA that the transfer payment for Section 39 funding will be reduced. Overall, there are limited details on what is being proposed and how it will be implemented.

### **ERO Postings Background**

The Conservation Authorities Act (CAA), 1946 was legislated by the province of Ontario in response to concerns expressed by agricultural, naturalist and sports groups who highlighted that much of the renewable natural resources of the province were in an unhealthy state as a result of poor land, water and forestry practices during the 1930's and 1940's. The combined impacts of drought and deforestation led to extensive soil loss and flooding.

Leading conservation organizations and many practitioners within the provincial government believed that we could not protect Ontario's important natural resources from contamination, degradation or depletion unless a more integrated watershed management approach was adopted using natural watershed boundaries.

Although legislative responsibility for managing natural resources resided with the province of Ontario at that time, the scale of erosion and water problems was such that a number of municipal councils agreed to become involved and this spirit of cooperation led to the Conservation Authorities Act, 1946, providing the means by which the province and the municipalities could form a Conservation Authority based on watershed boundaries to undertake programs for natural resource management.

Over time, under the direction and governance of Boards of Directors, Conservation Authorities have developed a wide range of programs depending on the resource management of local residents, member municipalities and the Province. Each Conservation Authority's watershed management programs are designed to meet its specific priorities and scoped to the resources available.

In 2017, the Provincial government undertook a large-scale review of the CAA including posting on the ERO. Many changes were made to the Act as a result of this review, many of which are yet un-proclaimed.

### **Section 39 Funding Transfer Payments Background**

The Section 39 Transfer Payments funding funds up to 50% of:

- The staffing and equipment for flood forecasting and warning.
- Operation and maintenance of Clendenan Dam, Taylor Street Detention Pond and other erosion control structures which were installed through the partnership of the municipality, the province and the GSCA.
- Ice Management proactive activities by municipalities, and



- Municipal Plans Input, and technical studies on Natural Hazards.

**Modernizing Conservation Authority operations - Conservation Authorities Act, ERO number 013-5018, due May 20, 2019**

This proposal includes defining the core mandatory programs and services provided by conservation authorities to be:

- natural hazard protection and management,
- conservation and management of conservation authority lands,
- drinking water source protection, and
- the protection of the Lake Simcoe watershed.

GSCA's response could include concerns that it appears that the ability to levy municipalities for funding would be restricted to these core mandatory programs, and separate Memorandums of Understanding would be required to fund the delivery of everything else.

Conservation Authorities do a unique, worthwhile work that is not done by others such as:

- Monitoring and reporting on the water quality, forests, and wetlands in our area.
- Carrying out and working with partners on stewardship projects, targeting work to where it's most needed.
- Supporting municipalities in development decisions related to our natural heritage resources.
- Providing educational programs to get people outside and enhance their connections to our natural resources.

**Focusing Conservation Authority development permits on the protection of people and property, ERO number 013-4992**

According to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) website, the Province is proposing a regulation that outlines how conservation authorities permit development and other activities for impacts to natural hazards and public safety. The proposed regulation will make rules for development in hazardous areas more consistent to support faster, more predictable and less costly approvals.

This proposal includes reducing the restrictions on wetlands to those with hydrological connections, exempting certain low-risk development activities from requiring a permit, and requiring conservation authorities to notify the public of changes to mapped regulated areas such as floodplains and wetland boundaries.

GSCA's response could include concerns that:

- The current protections for bogs, which are not hydrologically-connected, will be reduced, and further, there will be a requirement for conservation authority officers to demonstrate a hydrological connection of a wetland in court situations.
- If regulation moves to a mapping approach, inaccuracies in mapping will reduce the protection of people and property that are currently provided by the text-

based approach (e.g. X m from toe of slope, or Y elevation above sea level) where mapping is used for screening purposes. Unlike zoning, which is judgement-based, GSCA's regulations are largely related to physical features on the landscape.

### **Section 39 Funding Transfer Payments**

GSCA's strategic plan includes significant work and the proposal for additional expertise in Goal 1, Better Monitor and Manage Flood Risks, recognizing that many studies date to the early 1990's or earlier and will be impacted by development and more severe weather, and the municipal emergency management staffs' input to have more real-time flood predictions.

It is unclear whether the Province believes there is a provincial role in flood forecasting and the operation and maintenance of significant dams.

It is also unclear what the Province's intentions are about how this work should be funded in the future, though it appears that the expectation is that municipalities will make up the shortfall, and there is risk that transfer payments could be further reduced in the future.

The 2019 budget shortfall will be about \$37,055. As the transfer payment for this work has not increased since 1996, these programs have become highly efficient in their delivery and as a result, there are very limited opportunities for further efficiencies and savings.

Other known funding cuts include:

- Provincial funding for two summer staff to assist with water quality monitoring and stewardship (\$11 K);
- Provincial funding which supported looking at the health of south Georgian Bay shorelines has been eliminated (\$30K per year for 2 years);

Cathy Little and Sonya Skinner were recently interviewed on the EROs and funding cuts topics for a Beaver Valley Bruce Trail newsletter, and the Owen Sound Sun Times has requested an interview on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Board members asked questions to refine their understanding of the impacts and history, and to ensure that local input is sought and provided to the province for consideration prior to the May 20<sup>th</sup> deadline, especially where councils meet infrequently and as deadlines are before the next meeting of this Board. Dwight Burley recommended refining the motion and sending a statement via e-mail to the watershed municipalities, Bruce and Grey Counties, and MPP Bill Walker.

**Motion No.:**                      **Moved by:**                      **Dwight Burley**  
**FA-19-045**                              **Seconded by:**                      **Sue Carleton**

**WHEREAS the Ontario Government Proposals from MNR on Focusing CA Permits on Protection of People and Property, and MECP on Modernizing CA Operations have closing dates of May 20 and 21, respectively, and**

**WHEREAS in 1996, the total provincial Section 39 Transfer Payment to all of Ontario's conservation authorities for Flood and Erosion Control and Natural Hazard Prevention was reduced from \$50-million to \$12-million, and then further reduced to \$7.4-million, and has remained static since 1996, and**

**WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority's share of this payment was \$71,779, and**

**WHEREAS the recent Provincial Budget has further reduced Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Section 39 Transfer Payments from \$71,779 to \$37,055 or about 50%, and**

**WHEREAS this will affect emergency management and plan input activities provided by Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and**

**THAT a Working Group of staff representatives and the following Board Members be set up to support the development of GSCA's response:**

- 1. Cathy Little**
- 2. Marion Koepke**

**THAT the Working Group work with partners, stakeholders, and municipalities, to articulate the value of conservation authority work, garner support for GSCA's position, and encourage these organizations to convey their support to the Province including via the ERO commenting window. To facilitate this, the Working Group will:**

- Ask to present at County Councils to efficiently provide briefings to Mayors and Deputy Mayors, including information on potential county-level interests**
- Provide succinct information, recommended Motions and ERO input to GSCA Directors, who will carry it to Local Municipal Councils, and appear by invitation**
- Prepare a notice with supportive information for stakeholders/partners asking for their support and ERO submissions**
- Set up discussions with local developer group(s)**
- Seek to meet with MPP Bill Walker.**

**THAT the Working Group prepare responses to Conservation Ontario and the Province, in the context of the above conversations, the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, and the Special Audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and offer all Board Members the opportunity for input.**

**THAT GSCA Staff be directed to support Conservation Ontario's communication Advocacy Strategy through various platforms, including social media, GSCA website, and media releases.**

**Carried**

## **9. CAO's Update and Monthly Calendar**

- Summer staffing is going well; to enhance efficiency and reduce costs there is a pilot this year to do grass cutting in-house and combine it with other operations and maintenance work.
- Spirit Rock is one of GSC's most popular areas. There was a Toronto blog posting that has already attracted visitors, and we will open the CA area earlier than usual.
- The posting for a gate house attendant at the new Eugenia Falls pilot is underway, including postings at locations in the local area.
- Met with Hugh Simpson from Grey Agriculture group on April 4<sup>th</sup> with Cathy Little and Andrea Matrosovs and staff. He has requested a deputation to the Board about increased communication and the possibility of a GSCA Agricultural Advisory Committee.
- From a discussion with Bill Nafziger, he would like a deputation at a BOD's meeting with regards to letting more water out of Skinner's Marsh.
- The Foundation's Earth Film Festival was a success.
- The annual tree sale is being held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers and visits from Directors are welcome.

## **10. Chair's Report**

March 29      Attended SPC Meeting as an interested observer

April 1        Attended Conservation Ontario AGM  
New Chair is Wayne Emmerson, Chair of the LSRCA

April 4        Meeting with Hugh Simpson, Grey Federation of Agriculture. Sonya, Andrea and Tim were also present.

April 8        Agenda and Role of the GSCA Chair discussion with Sonya

April 10       Attended GSCA Foundation Meeting and AGM

April 17       Met with Marion, Sonya, Tim and John about Provincial Budget/ERO Policy Response Options meeting at BOD direction.

### Upcoming

April 27       Annual Tree Sale. Speak to Vicki if you are available to help out.

**11. Other Business**

- a) Committees – Minutes – nothing at this time for the following:  
1) Forestry Committee; 2) Indigenous and GSCA Relationships Committee; 3) Friends of Hibou; 4) Arboretum Alliance; 5) BRWI;
- b) Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, at 1:15 p.m.

All staff left the meeting excluding Sonya Skinner, Doreen Robinson, Alison Armstrong, and Gloria Dangerfield.

**12. Closed Session – 1) Personnel**

**Motion No.:                      Moved by:                      Marion Koepke**  
**FA-19-046                      Seconded by:                      Harley Greenfield**

**THAT the Board of Directors now go to closed session to discuss a Personnel Item.**

**Carried**

**Motion No.:                      Moved by:                      Andrea Matrosovs**  
**FA-19-047                      Seconded by:                      Marion Koepke**

**THAT the Board of Directors now move out of Closed Session.**

**Carried**

**13. Adjournment**

**Motion No.:                      Moved by:                      Sue Carleton**  
**FA-19-048                      Seconded by:                      Harley Greenfield**

**THAT this meeting now adjourn.**

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

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Cathy Little, Chair

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Doreen Robinson  
Administrative Assistant

This set of minutes was approved by the GSC BOD's at their meeting held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.