



**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 28th, 2019, at 1:15 p.m.**

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, Sue Carleton, Scott Greig, Harley Greenfield, Scott Mackey, Andrea Matrosovs, Paul McKenzie, Dwight Burley, Marion Koepke and Paul Vickers

Director Absent – Ryan Greig

Staff Present – Tim Lanthier, Doreen Robinson, Andy Sorensen, John Bittorf, Gloria Dangerfield, Jason Traynor, Mike Fry, Alison Armstrong, Rebecca Ferguson, Carl Seider, and Karen Gillan

Guest – Dick Hibma

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Sue Carleton
FA-19-076	Seconded by:	Dwight Burley

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of August 28th, 2019, as amended with the addition of the following items. i) Under Consent Agenda add letter to 4 2) Letter from Don Kerr to Minister Yakabuski; ii) Under 9 b) Memorandum of Agreement with Bruce County – change from Information to a Report; iii) Under Item #6 – Business out of Minutes – add Collaboration with Saugeen Valley Conservation re: CAO;

Carried

Scott Greig asked that a report be brought to the Board in September with regards to remuneration for sub-Committees of the Grey Sauble Conservation Board.

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. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.: Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs
FA-19-077 Seconded by: Scott Greig

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of June 26th, 2019;

Carried

Motion No.: Moved by: Paul Vickers
FA-19-078 Seconded by: Marion Koepke

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the minutes of July 24th, 2019;

Carried

5. Deputation – 1:20 p.m. – Friends of the Greenbelt review of the Positively Green Campaign – Kevin Beaulieu and Shelly Petrie

Kevin Beaulieu and Shelly Petrie of Friends of Greenbelt made a presentation introducing collaborative initiative developed by the Greenbelt Foundation and 13 conservation authorities. They are seeking endorsement and support for moving forward with outreach and funding proposals. An overview included the current landscape and recent changes, benefits of collaboration, the positively green initiative, status and next steps, and branding/communications. The Interim General Manager will bring a report to the September BOD's meeting.

Chair Little thanked them for their presentation.

6. Business Out of Minutes – a) Media Release – CAO/General Manager for GSCA/SVCA

Dick Hibma presented some points/information on this item.

The Chairs of GSCA and SVCA collaborated on this topic. They met on August 27th, 2019, to discuss sharing of a CAO/General Manager between the two Authorities. The executive committee including Mark Davis, shared some concerns and have some possibilities. The GSCA Board agreed to continue the discussion with SVCA about

sharing the General Manager/CAO position for both Authorities as a positive step. The next step is a meeting for discussion including both Boards of Directors, senior Authority staff, the CAO's of Bruce and Grey Counties, and Grant McLevy from Grey County. The proposed change is not intended to result in a reduction of staff. Anecdotal information was brought forward that the amalgamation of three conservation authorities into the Quinte Conservation Authority was finalized within the last 5 years. It was noted that this process took approximately 15-years to come to fruition. It was also noted that Grey Sauble Conservation Authority is the result of an amalgamation between the North Grey Region Conservation Authority and the Sauble Valley Conservation Authority. Although the Board of Directors is not currently proposing an amalgamation between SVCA and GSCA, the Board sees the opportunity to share a CAO/General Manager as opportune at this time.

The following discussion/comments were made.

- The Board members hear from the public and their municipalities that GSCA is doing a great job and may have a better public perception than SVCA.
- The two Boards, offices, and staff compliment would remain separate, but would operate under one shared CAO/General Manager.
- With the Provincial Government's cutbacks to conservation authorities, and changes in Conservation Authorities Act legislation, the Board is uncertain about future provincial requirements and changes. The Board views the review of a joint position as an opportunity to get out in front of legislative changes.
- At the recent AMO conference, MECP staff listened to Grey County's deputation on the value of conservation authorities. It is anticipated that regulations will be issued for review in September or October 2019.
- There has been no comment regarding dissolution of conservation authorities by the Province. Proposed legislation allows authorities to carry on with "other programs and services" (non-core) subject to being revenue neutral or entering into agreements with participating municipalities.
- Members noted that if an amalgamation were proposed in future, it would take a long time to finalize.
- Some discussion questioned why GSCA would partner with SVCA instead of NVCA.
 - One suggestion being the concurrent vacancy of the CAO/General Manager positions
 - Another suggestion incorrectly stated that SVCA and GSCA are the bottom 2 in CA's size (GSCA is 17th largest, SVCA is 5th largest in watershed area. Combined they would become the 2nd largest watershed jurisdictional CA).
 - GSCA has a long history of work with SVCA (Drinking Water Source Protection, Educational Programming, Grey-Bruce Forestry Service, etc.)
 - Better alignment through shared counties (Grey County and Bruce County)
- Terry Murphy, Manager at Quinte, has offered to speak to the GSCA Board about the process.
- Both conservation authorities have department heads. Is a CAO/General Manager required, and if so, how soon?
- CAO/GM is separate from any future amalgamation. GSCA needs its own head.

- GSCA has an obligation to other conservation authorities to share its knowledge and best practices (ie: what we are doing correctly). Should we help SVCA? Show more leadership.
- Is there an opportunity to hire a GM jointly – look at what GSCA is doing already. Benefits if the right person is in this position. In the meantime, align own services
- Going forward – set up a follow-up meeting for the directors and staff from both GSCA & SVCA for September 17th (location to be determined). Also included would be Kim Wingrove, CAO Grey County and Murray Clarke, Acting CAO Bruce County, and Grant McLevy, HR, Grey County. Meeting to explore the concept of a joint CAO/GM.

For the September 17th meeting, go with the joint committee first. Do BOD's agree to hold the meeting on September 17th at 3 pm with both GSCA and SVCA BOD's, staff, 2 county CAO's and Grant McLevy on the concept of sharing this position. By a show of hands, 8 Board members agreed. Scott Greig and Harley Greenfield were opposed.

The press release would go to the media on August 29th, 2019. By a show of hands, 8 Board members agreed. Paul McKenzie and Dwight Burley were opposed.

The press release creates more confusion. General public doesn't see what the provincial government is going to do. We should wait and see and go forward with recruitments.

All staff, excluding Tim Lanthier and Doreen Robinson, left the meeting.

7. **Closed Session**

a) **Property of the Authority**

Motion No.	Moved by:	Harley Greenfield
FA-19-79	Seconded by:	Dwight Burley

THAT the Board of Directors now move to closed session to consider a Property Related Matter.

Carried

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Scott Mackey
FA-19-80	Seconded by:	Harley Greenfield

THAT the Board of Directors now rise from closed session.

Carried

All staff previously in attendance for the regular meeting returned.

8. **Consent Agenda**

Motion No.:
FA-19-081

Moved by:
Seconded by:

Andrea Matrosovs
Sue Carleton

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the August 28th, 2019, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items, *with one addition*: 1) Environmental Planning - Section 28 Permits – June and July 2019; 2) Administration – Receipts and Expenses – June and July 2019; 3) Minutes: 1) Foundation – June 12th, 2019; 2) Indigenous and GSCA Relationships Committee – May 6th, 2019; 4) Correspondence – 1) Letter Service Canada re: Canada Summer Jobs Program; 2) Letter from Don Kerr, Blue Mountain Watershed Trust to Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister, Environment, Conservation & Parks, and letter from John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources to Don Kerr, re: cuts to Conservation Authorities; *with the addition of letter from Don Kerr to Minister Yakabuski*;

Carried

Scott Greig referred to an error in the Foundation Minutes.

9. Business Items

- a) Water Management – nothing at this time
- b) Environmental Planning
 - 1) Memorandum of Agreement with Bruce County

Bruce County would like to finalize this agreement as soon as possible. They have approved the agreement subject to the GSCA entering into a separate agreement with the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula (MNBP). Staff made a presentation to the Council of MNBP and asked that they consider an annual lump sum payment \$15,000 (indexed to inflation), in addition to the base fees collected by the county. The Council of MNBP approved option 1 to continue to have the GSCA to provide planning comments at full cost recovery on an individual application basis and enter into an agreement with the GSCA if necessary or incorporate fees in the Bruce County Agreement to cover full cost recovery. The County has agreed to collect the additional fees on behalf of GSCA, pending signing of an agreement.

The Bruce County agreement and the potential separate MNBP/GSCA agreement is an update to the original agreement signed in 1997 and the present 2006 agreement.

The proposed agreements represent professional skills that GSCA has to offer and that are required by Bruce County and its municipalities including MNBP. The GSCA, SVCA and MVCA agreed upon a base fee per application of \$360. Based on additional travel time/staff time/administration, it is recommended that an additional supplementary fee per application of \$100.00 is justified to cover costs over and above the base application fee. GSCA plans to incorporate this fee into the Bruce County Agreement or a separate MNBP agreement.

For any work over and above planning application circulations, a separate agreement would be required at full cost recovery. (i.e. additional mapping and database information/analysis)

Discussion will be held on August 29, 2019 to discuss a separate MNBPG/GSCA agreement or incorporation of full cost recovery clause in the Bruce County agreement.

The proposed fees in the agreement and full cost recovery in MNBPG represent a fair price for the work and will maintain financial viability for GSCA going forward including consideration of the Bill 108 Conservation Authority Act changes. There will be little change to current approaches as seen by the public and our local municipalities and thus extensive communication is not required. This enables delivery of the natural hazard identification for protection from flood and erosion hazards and natural heritage conservation “to better monitor and identify flood risk and provide natural heritage preservation” goal in the GSCA strategic plan and supports financial and human resources sustainability for the Environmental Planning and Permits Department.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Scott Greig**
FA-19-082 **Seconded by:** **Marion Koepke**

THAT the Board empower the Chair and Interim General Manager to finalize and sign this agreement with Bruce County.

AND, FURTHER THAT the Board empower the Chair and Interim General Manager to finalize and sign a separate agreement with the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula (if required) for full cost recovery for planning services in that municipality.

Carried

c) Lands Update

1) Inglis Falls Road Divestment Proposal

The Township of Georgian Bluffs is proposing to reconstruct Inglis Falls Road in a section that is immediately adjacent to our Inglis Falls Conservation Area property.

Three alternatives were considered by the Township as part of the Niagara Escarpment Commission's review and conditional approval. These alternatives were:

1. Do Nothing Approach;
2. Close the Current Road; and,
3. Road Reconstruction.

Alternative 1:

The "do nothing" approach reflects the existing conditions of the subject road section. Its current state does not fully satisfy the requirements of the provincial safety and design standards. Unaltered, the road would continue to provide unsafe conditions for vehicles and the cyclists and pedestrians who share the road with them. Inaction to address the continuing slope migration of the road's base would increase the risk of road failure, threatening not only the public safety of the road's users, but also the public health in terms of damage of the sensitive natural environment.

Alternative 2:

To remove the risk to the traveling public, closure of the current road was considered. Closure would result in considerable inconvenience to the cars, trucks, school buses and emergency vehicles that use the road for access to the south-end of Owen Sound as well as the popular Inglis Falls Conservation Area. The risk of potential road failure and threat to the natural and social environment associated with the Sydenham River would not be addressed by the closure of the current road, which would continue to migrate due to seasonal frost heave and water infiltration.

Alternative 3:

To address both the threat posed to the traveling public by the road's current state as well as the potential for road failure, reconstruction of the road section was considered. Reconstruction not only achieves the requirements of provincial design and safety requirements but provides slope stability to the road base. Additional benefits will be provided by the proposed storm water infrastructure in terms of improved drainage and water quality treatment. For these reasons, the road construction alternative was chosen as the best alternative to address the identified issues. This alternative has been conditionally approved by the NEC.

The proposed works include the reconstruction of approximately 640 metres of Inglis Falls Road. The proposed works are largely located within the existing roadway and include a new retaining wall, road base, shoulders, asphalt, curb and gutters, drainage improvements and guardrails.

The reconstructed roadway will generally maintain the same horizontal and vertical alignment as existing, but with improved super elevation at bends and grade transitions. Deficient guide rail would be replaced.

Culverts and sub-drains will be installed to improve surface runoff and sub-surface drainage across the roadway from west to east. Storm sewers are proposed along the reconstructed section to collect road surface runoff and convey it to the new water quality treatment unit and provide an appropriate outlet.

Road reconstruction will include the installation of a large retaining wall along the easterly side to improve road stability and the installation of paved shoulders.

In order to accommodate the full road construction and ongoing long-term maintenance, a three-metre wide section of GSCA's land adjacent to the existing road is proposed to be transferred to the Township.

There will be no financial implications associated with this transaction. GSCA will require that the Township of Georgian Bluffs cover all costs (legal, survey, land registry) associated with this land transfer. The construction of the Inglis Falls Road is to start in the spring of 2020.

Motion No.: Moved by: Marion Koepke
FA-19-083 Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

WHEREAS, the Township of Georgian Bluffs is planning to reconstruct a substantial portion of Inglis Falls Road in 2020;
AND WHEREAS, widening of the road allowance is required to facilitate the ongoing maintenance of the reconstructed road;
AND WHEREAS, Staff have reviewed the plans in consultation with the Township and the Township's consulting engineer;
THAT the Board of Directors authorize staff to negotiate the divestment, to the Township of Georgian Bluffs, of an approximately 3-metre wide strip of land adjacent to Inglis Falls Road.

Carried

Motion No.: Moved by: Scott Greig
FA-19-084 Seconded by: Paul McKenzie

THAT a friendly amendment be made to Resolution FA-19-083 as follows: THAT the Township of Georgian Bluffs cover all costs for the Inglis Falls divestment proposal, including legal, survey, land registry;

Carried

2) Agricultural Land Lease

On August 29, 2018, GSCA Staff brought forward a report to the Board of Director's with recommendations for each of the agricultural leased lands owned by GSCA. The Board of Director's reviewed each of the recommendations brought forward in the report and passed a separate motion for each property.

Board motion number FA-18-066 stated that the current lease for pasturing of livestock on GSCA property at Lot 24, Concession 2 EBR, Albemarle in South Bruce Peninsula would not be renewed due to ecological concerns related to the Rankin River and Isaac Lake. As per the report presented in support of this motion, Staff noted that the Lessee is the adjacent landowner and has historically pastured and watered livestock on GSCA's land under lease.

GSCA staff conveyed this information to the current Lessee. The Lessee initiated further discussions with Staff to determine if an alternate solution could be realized.

Based on these discussions with the Lessee, both in office and on site, it was determined that the Lessee is willing to fence the livestock within an area that is acceptable to GSCA Staff. This would maintain a vegetated buffer between the livestock and the Rankin River, with the exception of a single point, gated watering area. This would largely address GSCA's concerns about negative impacts on Isaac Lake and the adjacent shore lands.

Additionally, this will be part of a larger fencing effort that will extend onto the lessee's lands and adjacent MNRF managed Crown lands.

The cost of the fencing will be funded by stewardship grants shared between GSCA's stewardship program and the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association stewardship program.

Based on discussions with the Lessee, and staff observations in the field, it is noted that the subject property is actively acting as bobolink and meadowlark habitat. Additionally, MNRF has identified this area as potential upland habitat for waterfowl. The continued use of this property as pasture land will assist in maintaining this field bird and waterfowl habitat into the future.

The Lessee has agreed to a lease rate of \$30 per acre per year for a total lease cost of \$1140 per year. This slightly over triple the previous lease rate and brings this lease on to par with other GSCA and MNRF pasture lease rates.

Therefore, GSCA Staff are recommending that the Board of Director's authorize Staff to negotiate a new lease with updated terms of use with the current lessee for an additional 5-year term. If Staff cannot realize a written agreement with the landowner based on the verbal agreement that has occurred, Staff would proceed to terminate the lease as per motion FA-18-066.

There will be a net gain of \$790 per year to GSCA's budget over previous lease conditions. Staff will continue to communicate directly with the Lessee.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Paul McKenzie**
FA-19-085 **Seconded by:** **Scott Greig**

WHEREAS, The GSC Board of Directors has passed motion FA-18-066 for GSCA Staff to terminate the lease relationship on this property at the end of the existing term;

AND WHEREAS Staff have had follow up discussions with the Lessee following notification of termination of the lease;

AND WHEREAS Staff have reached an amicable solution with the Lessee that addresses GSCA's previously raised concerns and the Lessee's needs;

THAT the Board of Directors authorize staff to negotiate a new 5-year lease with the current lessee.

Carried

3) Fee Schedule Update – Facilities Rental Cancellation Fee

On June 25, 2019 at the Full Authority meeting, the GSCA Board of Director's approved an amendment to the Conservation Lands Fee Schedule that would better compensate the GSCA for rental of its facilities and properties. It has since come to the attention of staff that a cancellation fee should be utilized to deter frivolous reservations and to compensate GSCA for staff time and potential missed revenue associated with preparing and holding reservations.

Due to the staff costs involved in taking reservations, preparing a license agreement, and processing payments, as well as the potential for lost revenue associated with a held reservation, GSCA staff recommend the following additions to the fee schedule:

1. Administrative fees associated with license agreement negotiation and preparation is non-refundable.
2. The daily and/or hourly fee rate for facility and premises rental licenses is partially refundable if that cancellation occurs more than 14-days prior to the reservation date. A 50% cancellation fee will be retained by GSCA.
3. Any cancellation that occurs less than 14-days prior to the reservation date is not eligible for a refund.

The retained cancellation and administrative fees are intended to offset staff time requirements. The fee schedule will be updated on Grey Sauble Conservation Authority's website.

Motion No.: Moved by: Paul Vickers
FA-19-086 Seconded by: Scott Mackey

WHEREAS at the June 26, 2019 Full Authority meeting of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA), the Board of Directors passed motion FA-19-061 to update the Authority’s Conservation Lands Fee Schedule for Facilities Rentals;

AND WHEREAS the GSCA recognizes the need to include a cancellation fee for these facility rentals;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors support the revised Conservation Lands Fee Schedule update as presented.

Carried

4) Royal Canadian Legion – Tara Branch Pavilion Request

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority has been leasing an approximately 0.25-hectare portion of the Tara Conservation Area to the Tara Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion (herein, “the Legion”) since approximately 2002. The leased area is immediately adjacent to the Tara Legion building on the north and east sides. Through this lease agreement, GSCA has been permitting the Legion to utilize an area to the north of their building as a parking area and has permitted paving of this area. The area to the east of the building is utilized as a yard area. The Legion has historically maintained picnic tent structures in this area.

GSCA leases this land to the Legion on a 5-year term for \$100 per year.

GSCA Staff have been approached by representatives of the Legion with a request to construct a pavilion structure in the “yard area” to the east of the existing Legion building. The structure would occur partially on Legion property and partially on GSCA’s property.

GSCA’s current lease with the Legion states that the Lessee shall not make any improvements (construct) on the premises without the express written consent of the Authority. Further, the lease states that all such improvements to the premises shall become the property of the Authority.

Staff recommend that the Board of Director’s authorize staff to provide written permission to the Legion to construct the pavilion, and that further, the Board of Directors authorize a change to the lease agreement that would allow the Legion to retain ownership of the pavilion structure, and thus require its removal if the lease is terminated for any reason. GSCA does not want ownership of this proposed structure.

There will be no financial or budget implications of this proposal. A small amount of staff time will be required to amend the lease agreement. Staff will continue to communicate directly with the Lessee.

**Motion No
FA-19-087**

**Moved by:
Seconded by:**

**Dwight Burley
Marion Koepke**

WHEREAS, The Tara Legion has a 5-year lease agreement to utilize a portion of the Tara Conservation Area for the purposes of a parking lot and yard area;

AND WHEREAS, The Tara Legion has approached GSCA with an interest to construct a pavilion structure on this portion of the Tara Conservation Area;

THAT the Board of Directors authorize staff to negotiate an amendment to the lease with the Royal Canadian Legion – Tara Branch, to facilitate the construction of a pavilion on GSCA’s Tara Conservation Area property.

Carried

d) Forest Festival

Mike Fry, Forestry Coordinator advised the Board that the Forest Festival will take place at Allen Park from October 1st to 3rd, 2019, at Allen Park. The event is hosted by GSCA, SVCA, and Hydro One. 400 grade 7 students and 200 high school students attend. Education includes forest ecosystems, interactions, forest resource management and sustainability and there are 35 educational stations.

e) Communications/Public Relations

1) Personnel Update

The strategic plan states that GSCA will enhance children’s programming across the watershed, align and encourage curriculum-based K-12 programming and develop new education offerings to youth and adults. Over the summer season GSCA employed a qualified teacher to act as day camp supervisor. We plan to offer this individual a part time contract position for 2 days per week until the end of 2019 or until further notice. This individual is currently on the supply list for Bluewater District School Board and 2 days per week should fit well with her working schedule.

This position would involve assisting the Programs and Communications Planner with creating programming for our existing and the potential expansion of Grey Sauble day camps (ex. in other areas, for March Break and PD days) and other education programs (e.g. Water Festival, Forest Festival, workshops). It would also involve assisting with additional documents such as a day camp staff training manual, parent handbook and policies/procedures for incident reporting and other best management practices.

This individual’s hands-on and administrative background in education, including outdoor education, will help us greatly with improving efficiencies and streamlining our

general day camp administration. She has worked with day camp registration software and is a good fit to help in selecting our preferred avenue for this process.

The cost associated with this is within the current budget for wages and salaries for Communications and Education and will therefore not affect the bottom line.

Approximately \$33,000, gross, in day camp fees have been made in 2019. The idea is to carry on work until the end of the current year. Anyone next summer could take on the supervisor day camp position.

f) Administration

1) 2nd Quarter Investment

Alison Armstrong, Finance Coordinator, presented the 2nd Quarter Investment for 2019. We are over \$100,000 higher this year than last year at this time.

2) Q2 Report and Forecast

Alison Armstrong reviewed the Q2 Report and Forecast for the 2019 budget. We are on target as of this date. There are some adjustments to year end, including salary and wages. Water Management is okay even with the government shortfall. There is a savings in Forestry due to a staff person being on maternity leave. Provincial contributions are minimal, just 1% of our overall budget. 2019 budget was about 7% but is now 6% based on provincial cuts this spring.

3) Auditor Tender Award

On June 21, 2019, a Call for Proposal for the Provision of External Audit Services was sent to four Audit firms for the Financial Auditing Services of Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. The period of service is to commence with the 2019 fiscal year and run for a period of five years. Our legal requirements for our annual audit are set out by Section 38 of the Conservation Authorities Act. Proposals for Audit services were received until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 16th, 2019. Based on the selection criteria weighted significantly by price and less significantly by experience in working with Conservation Authorities, other public sector entities and Not-for-Profit organizations, continuity of staff, professional resources and support services available it is recommended that the external Audit Services for Grey Sauble Conservation be awarded to Baker Tilly. Based on the tender received and recommended, GSCA will spend \$15,000 on the 2019 Audit. The Audit price will increase by 3% per year thereafter. The Finance Coordinator will reach out to both firms who submitted tenders for this RFP to advise them of the decision of the Board of Directors and to offer the contract to Baker Tilly.

Motion No.
FA-19-088

Moved by:
Seconded by:

Sue Carleton
Paul Vickers

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2019, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Provision of External Audit Services for Grey Sauble Conservation Authority for the five years commencing with 2019;

AND WHEREAS this RFP yielded two submissions by the August 16, 2019 deadline;

AND WHEREAS the GSCA Interim General Manager, the Finance Coordinator and the Vice-Chair opened, reviewed and rated these submissions;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors award the External Audit Services to Baker Tilly as recommended in this report.

Carried

- 4) NDMP (X2); LiDAR; Owen Sound MCIP; Bruce-Grey Climate Change Work Update**

**Motion No.: Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs
FA-19-089 Seconded by: Scott Greig**

THAT Item 9) Business Items – f) 4) NDMP (X2); LiDAR; Owen Sound MCIP; Bruce-Grey Climate Change Work Update, be deferred.

Carried

- 5) Signing Authority – Section 28 and Financial**

**Motion No.: Moved by: Scott Greig
FA-19-090 Seconded by: Harley Greenfield**

THAT effective August 28th, 2019, the signing authorities for Grey Sauble Conservation Authority will be as follows:

Section 28 Permits – Andy Sorensen, Tim Lanthier, and John Bittorf;

Financial – signing authorities for cheques – Cathy Little, Marion Koepke, Tim Lanthier, Gloria Dangerfield, and John Bittorf;

Agreements that bind the Authority (licenses, leases, MOU's, etc.) – Tim Lanthier, Gloria Dangerfield;

Carried

- 6) Delegation of Interim GM to sit on Conservation Ontario Council**

**Motion No.: Moved by: Dwight Burley
FA-19-091 Seconded by: Scott Mackey**

THAT the following amendment be made to the Committee-related appointments for 2019.

Conservation Ontario Council Voting Reps – Cathy Little, Marion Koepke, and Tim Lanthier;

Source Protection Region Management Committee – Cathy Little, Scott Greig, and Tim Lanthier.

Carried

g) DWSP/RMO Report - nothing at this time

10. Letter from Minister Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, regarding Conservation activities; and letter and report to Minister Yurek from Interim GSCA General Manager

In the Spring of 2019, the Provincial Government, through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, issued a series of proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for public comment. Conservation authorities were not pre-consulted on these proposed legislative changes and were only given one day's forward notice of the postings.

These postings were only on the ERO for 45-days. This commenting period is very short, especially when considering organizations such as conservation authorities which operate through a Board of Directors, who are in turn accountable to municipal councils.

Prior to the end of the 45-day commenting period, the Provincial Government released Bill 108 and gave the Bill first reading. The Bill formalized into draft legislation the changes that were being proposed via the ERO posting.

At the end of the commenting period, the Bill went to Standing Committee, unchanged, despite ample comments from conservation authorities, municipalities, and the public. Changes to the legislation were proposed at Standing Committee by both opposition parties but failed to sway the Government.

The Bill received third reading in June 2019 with very little change from its original form.

Conservation authorities have continued to lobby the Government for changes to this legislation and to request inclusion and consultation on the development of the regulations that will support the revised *Conservation Authorities Act*.

On Friday, August 16, 2019, all conservation authorities in the province received a letter from Minister Yurek, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks. The key messages in this letter is that conservation authorities should start planning to wind-down "non-core" programs and refrain from developing new policies that do not align

with our core mandates or with Provincial Policy. Further, that conservation authorities should not proceed with any increases to fees or levies while the Ministry is investigating ways to further re-focus conservation authority programs and services.

GSCA has prepared a response letter to Minister Yurek. The intent of the letter is to:

1. Acknowledge that we have received the Minister's letter;
2. Express our disappointment with the Ministry's messaging and the relationship between the Ministry and Ontario's conservation authorities;
3. To clarify an apparent misunderstanding by the Ministry of conservation authorities' business practices;
4. To clarify for the Ministry the importance and value of all of GSCA's programming, not just the "core" mandate programs and services.
5. To request that the Minister and his staff initiate meaningful consultation and engagement with Ontario's conservation authority as municipal and provincial partners.

Staff will issue the letter to Minister Yurek, and will forward copies via email to MPP Bill Walker, to the Mayors of GSCA's member municipalities, and to Conservation Ontario. The Board asked that copies also be forwarded to the CAO's of Bruce and Grey Counties.

Motion No.:
FA-19-092

Moved by:
Seconded by:

Marion Koepke
Andrea Matrosovs

WHEREAS, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority received a letter from Minister Jeff Yurek, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, asking conservation authorities to begin preparations and planning to wind down those activities that fall outside of our core mandate and to refrain from developing new policies that are not aligned with our mandate or with provincial policies;

AND WHEREAS, the subject letter also asked conservation authorities to refrain from proceeding with any increases to our fees or levies;

THAT, the Board of Directors endorse the attached response letter to Minister Yurek and instruct the Interim General Manager and the Chair of the Board to sign and issue this letter;

AND FURTHER THAT, the Board of Directors direct staff to forward a copy of this letter to MPP Bill Walker, the mayors of GSCA's member municipalities, and Conservation Ontario.

Carried

11. Interim General Manager's Update and Monthly Calendar

- Designated Provincial consultant has been appointed as a flood advisor. C.A.'s have been dealing with it for 70 years. CO reps met with Mr. Doug McNeil. Mr. McNeil has 2 months to prepare his report on flood management.
 - There is a meeting on September 9th with CO Chair Wayne Emerson
- Staff met with Grey Highlands staff and an entrance sign has been installed. Grey County installed directional signing
 - GSCA staff are moving forward with the installation of a fence as per our Capital investments. Partners Municipality of Grey Highlands, Bruce Trail Conservancy, and Ontario Power Generation have committed to help fund this endeavour.
- There is a meeting in Feversham with the Seniors League on September 11, 2019 to unveil a newly installed interpretive sign which was funded by the Seniors League.
- Hibou Park washrooms are open

12. Chair's Report

- Positive feedback after bus tour
- Scott Mackey asked if there could be a spring tour to do the remainder of the watershed
- Andrea Matrosovs asked if there could be more regular bus tours
- Volunteer/staff appreciation event at Hibou Conservation Area on September 20th starting at 12 noon which includes lunch and various events.

Scott Greig left at 4:45 p.m.

It was mentioned that a report on accessibility to our properties is necessary. This will be presented in the spring.

13. Other Business

- a) Committee Minutes – nothing at this time for the following:
 - 1) Forestry Committee; 2) Friends of Hibou; 3) Arboretum Alliance; 4) BRWI:
- b) Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 25th, 2019, at 1:15 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Dwight Burley
FA-19-093	Seconded by:	Scott Mackey

THAT this meeting be now adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Cathy Little, Chair

Doreen Robinson
Administrative Assistant

This set of minutes was approved by the GSCA BOD's at their meeting held on September 25th, 2019.