

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 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 Scott Greig called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually, and made a land acknowledgement declaration.

Directors Present In-Person: Chair Scott Greig, Vice Chair Matrosovs, Dwight Burley, Paul Vickers, Marion Koepke, Scott Mackey, Harley Greenfield, Ryan Greig

Directors Present Virtually: Cathy Moore Coburn

Regrets: Cathy Little, Paul McKenzie

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Network Administrator, Les McKay; Manager of Environmental Planning, Mac Plewes; Forestry Coordinator, Mike Fry

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

CAO, Tim Lanthier asked for an item to be added to the Closed Session agenda.

Motion No.:
FA-22-069

Moved By: Scott Mackey
Seconded By: Marion Koepke

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the addition of an item regarding litigation or potential litigation including matters before administrative tribunals (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4(xvii)(1)(d) to the agenda of August 24, 2022.

Carried

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:
FA-22-070

Moved By: Dwight Burley
Seconded By: Harley Greenfield

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of August 24, 2022, as amended.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.:
FA-22-071

Moved By: Marion Koepke
Seconded By: Scott Mackey

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of July 27, 2022, as amended.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes

Nothing at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.:
FA-22-72

Moved By: Cathy Moore Coburn
Seconded By: Dwight Burley

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the August 24, 2022, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – July 2022; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – July 2022; (iii) Petition for Biking at Inglis Falls Conservation Area; Hepworth Anglers Club; (vi) Recent Media Articles

Carried

A Member commented on the volume of work the Environmental Planning Department has reported for July.

A Member spoke to the attached Petition for Biking at Inglis Falls. The CAO answered that biking is not currently permitted at the Inglis Falls property but confirmed that staff will address biking at Inglis Falls through the Inglis Falls Management Plan.

8. Business Items

i. Administration

a. Q2 Budget Update

The Manager of Financial and Human Resources Services, Alison Armstrong, spoke to the 2nd Quarterly budget report and overall financials.

Staff noted that there were \$1.57 million in operating expenses and \$1.77 million in revenues reported to the end of the second quarter. The reported revenue included a large percentage of Stewardship and Drinking Water Source Protection annual program funding.

Staff are projecting a small deficit at year end due to several unforeseen expenses, insurance premium increases and staffing changes.

It was noted that there are not a lot of capital expense activities reported at the end of Q2, however a number of projects are slated to be completed in Q3.

A Member asked with regard to the increase in insurance premiums.

Staff replied there was a 15% increase, resulting in a \$30,000 to \$40,000 increase. The CAO added that in 2018 GSCA's insurance premium was between \$60,000 - \$70,000 and had increased to \$134,000 by 2022.

Member Ryan Greig joined the meeting at 1:31 pm.

A Member asked if there were any claims to account for the increase? Staff replied that the increases were reflective of the industry at present.

A Member asked with regard to the deficit shown in the Education department.

Staff answered that this was the result of increased staffing costs and slightly lower than anticipated camper turnout. However, turnout was still excellent.

A Member asked if staff were required to restrict the number of campers due to COVID restrictions?

Staff answered that the restrictions were lifted prior to summer and therefore did not affect the number of campers.

A Member asked with regard to the planning departments expenses vs. revenue and why the increase in expenses. Staff responded that there was an additional position hired in February/March that had not been budgeted for and made up the bulk of the increase showing in the expenses.

Motion No.:
FA-22-073

Moved By: Harley Greenfield
Seconded By: Dwight Burley

WHEREAS the Board of Directors approved the GSCA 2022 Operating and Capital Budget on December 22, 2021, by motion FA-21-151,

THAT, the Board of Directors receive staff report 022-2022 – 2022 Q2 Budget Report Back as information.

Carried

Member Paul Vickers joined the meeting at 1:36 pm.

b. Q2 Investment Portfolio Update

The Manager of Finance and Human Resources Services, Alison Armstrong spoke to the provided investment portfolio update.

Staff reported that the market value of portfolio dropped \$129,000 in June. Though it was noted that the market value had recovered some since the statement was released and now sits at \$1.463 million versus the \$1.399 million at end of June.

A Member asked with regard to the investment management fees and what the percentage is that GSCA is charged.

Staff answered that the fee structure is based on a tiered rate structure. GSCA's fee would decline at the \$5 million investment mark.

A Member asked if staff could negotiate a better rate. Staff will investigate.

A Member asked with respect to previous conversations about safeguarding and moving funds into cash. Staff responded that some funds in the equity had been moved to bonds and that the fund manager makes these changes when it is most advantageous for GSCA.

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

a. Invasive Species Strategy

Forestry Coordinator, Mike Fry, reported to the Board with respect to GSCA's Draft Invasive Species Strategy.

The strategy is designed to provide GSCA staff with a consistent approach to addressing invasive species on GSCA-owned properties. The strategy excludes native species that spread quickly or non-native species that are not invasive.

Staff noted that the economic return on dealing with invasive species early is roughly 100 to 1 compared to once a colony is established.

There was general discussion around the particulars of the strategy, how the funds are to be allocated, staffing, and municipal and county partnerships.

A Member asked what the current process is when a member of the public informs staff of invasive species on GSCA properties.

It was explained that staff try to identify and verify the species noted, decide if the area should be closed off, or if controls need to be initiated. It was stressed that staff do not always have the resources to act immediately.

A Member asked if staff communicates with the public what decisions have been made.

Staff answered that the strategy document will help give staff consistent direction on how to deal with reports from the public and how to communicate afterwards.

A Member asked if there would or could be an opportunity to work with community volunteers who are properly equipped and trained.

Staff noted that in some instances volunteers are already engaged in this work. However, for some species, staff will need to investigate the insurance and the training required to utilize volunteers in managing invasive species. Species that do not require specialized equipment, chemicals, or training would be a good fit for volunteers to be engaged.

Motion No.:
FA-22-074

Moved By: Scott Mackey
Seconded By: Marion Koepke

WHEREAS, invasive plant species have negative impacts on the environment, economy, and society;

AND WHEREAS, the GSCA watershed is seeing an increasing number of invasive species annually and GSCA have been working to control invasive species on its properties;

THAT, the GSCA Board of Directors approve the Invasive Plant Species Strategy;

AND THAT, the GSCA Board of Directors approve, in principle, the recommendation that \$15,000 be put into the 2023 operating budget for GSCA to manage invasive species on GSCA properties as per Appendix B of the Strategy;

Carried

b. CCIRP Request for Support

The Forestry Coordinator, Mike Fry, presented a request for support from the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR) to the Board.

This is a new group, stemming from the Master Gardener’s of Ontario, with a focus on lobbying the Federal Government to enforce greater regulations with regard to the import of invasive species. The CCIPR has asked GSCA to lend its name to their call-to-action. Other CAs have been approached and some have offered their support.

Concern was raised about the lack of information about the group’s mandate and long-term goals in light of their recent inception.

Staff had reached out to CCIRP to get more information about the group and to determine what level of support they are seeking. CCIRP requested that GSCA support the group in lobbying the government to include stronger regulations on the import of invasive species.

A Member commented that this type of support would be best coming from Conservation Ontario and that GSCA would be willing to support CO supporting the aims of the coalition.

Discussion was conducted around what “support” means and to what extent GSCA lends its name to the group. It was agreed that the Board and GSCA staff agree with the concept and principle of regulating, managing, and stopping invasive species.

Motion No.:
FA-22-075

Moved By: Marion Koepke
Seconded By: Paul Vickers

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors amend Motion FA-22-076 to include, “in principle”.

Carried

Motion No.:
FA-22-076

Moved By: Cathy Moore Coburn
Seconded By: Andrea Matrosovs

WHEREAS, invasive plant species have negative impacts on the environment, economy, and society;

AND WHEREAS, invasive species have become established within the GSCA watershed and a coordinated approach is needed to curtail their expansion and further introductions;

THAT, the GSCA Board of Directors offer support, in principle, to the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation’s Call to Action.

AND THAT the GSCA Board of Directors provide staff with any relevant feedback or direction.

Carried

vii. Communications/Public Relations

Nothing at this time.

viii. Education

Nothing at this time.

ix. GIS/IT

Nothing at this time.

x. DWSP

Nothing at this time.

9. New Business

Nothing at this time.

10. CAO’s Report

The CAO, Tim Lanthier, gave an update on activities from the past month.

- August 4th - the Eugenia Falls Management Plan Committee met. The meeting was well attended with lots of representation and engagement from the community.
- August 7th - the Friends of Hibou Family Fun Day was very successful and was very well attended. Estimated in excess of 200 attendees.
- August 10th – GSCA hosted a Cultural Mindfulness Training session with George Couchie from Redtail Hawk Consulting. This session was well attended by staff, in addition to some GSCA Board Members, some staff from the City of Owen Sound, and Georgian Bluffs’ Deputy Mayor Sue Carleton. The session was very impactful and was well received.

- August 12th – The GSCA Board and GSC Foundation Executives met. There was discussion around fundraising and potential projects to fundraise for. There was also a presentation from Grant Advance regarding their funder database platform.

A Member asked with regard to the tendering of GSCA’s agricultural land and if stipulations around “4R” fertilizer standards could be included.

Chair Greig commented that the item could be included on the next Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda. The CAO answered that staff will look into this prior to the next tendering process.

A Member asked if GSCA had heard anything with regard to the Ministry Appointed Agricultural member. The CAO answered that, at this point and to his knowledge, no Agricultural members have been appointed anywhere in Ontario.

11. Chair’s Report

Chair Greig had nothing to report.

Chair Greig encouraged Members to visit Eugenia Falls CA and consider the property in light of the pending management plan and the call for comments that will be coming from staff.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

13. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

Motion No.: FA-22-077	Moved By: Seconded By:	Harley Greenfield Ryan Greig
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THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors proceed into closed session at 2:37 pm to discuss matters related to the following:

- i. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Board of Directors meeting held on July 27, 2022; and,**
- ii. To discuss an item related to “a position, plan procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority”.**
- iii. To discuss an item regarding litigation or potential litigation including matters before administrative tribunals (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4(xvii)(1)(d).**

AND FURTHER THAT CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Environmental Planning, Maclean Plewes, and Network Administrator, Les McKay, will be present.

Carried

Member Cathy Moore Coburn left the meeting at 3:09

14. Resolution that the Board of Director's has Resumed Open Session

Motion No.:	Moved By:	Harley Greenfield
FA-22-078	Seconded By:	Ryan Greig

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors resume open session.

Carried

15. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes

Motion No.:	Moved By:	Dwight Burley
FA-22-079	Seconded By:	Harley Greenfield

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the June 22, 2022, Closed Session minutes as presented in the closed session agenda.

Carried

16. Reporting out of Closed Session

Direction was provided by the Board to staff on both items (ii) and (iii).

Member Burley left the meeting at 3:18 pm.

A Member asked if staff are able to take action when they witness a violation firsthand, despite there not being a public complaint reported. The CAO replied that yes, staff will pursue the matter in the same way that a public complaint would be pursued.

17. Next Full Authority Meeting

Wednesday September 28th, 2022

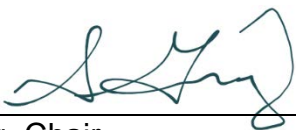
18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Motion No.:	Moved By:	Ryan Greig
FA-22-080	Seconded By:	Andrea Matrosovs

THAT this meeting now adjourn.

Carried



Scott Greig, Chair



Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant