



GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Minutes
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 12th, 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

Chair Dick Hibma called the meeting to order.

Directors Present

Al Barfoot, Sue Carleton, Paul Eagleson, Harley Greenfield, Dick Hibma, Marion Koepke, Cathy Little, John McGee, and Ana Vukovic

Directors Absent - Jaden Calvert and Shawn Greig

Staff Present – Sonya Skinner, Chris Hachey, Doreen Robinson, Anne Lennox, John Bittorf, Alison Armstrong, and Jason Traynor

2. Motion to Adopt Agenda

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Al Barfoot**
FA-17- 044 **Seconded by:** **Ana Vukovic**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of April 12th, 2017, with the addition under 7. Business Items a) Water Management – 1) Introduction of Stewardship Technician, and Under e) 1) Petal Furness from Grey Roots re: Extraordinary Tree Program.

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. Approval of Minutes

- 1) Full Authority – March 8th, 2017

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Harley Greenfield**
FA-17-045 **Seconded by:** **John McGee**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of March 8th, 2017.

Carried

Al Barfoot asked the status of removal of personal belongings of the person who was presently leasing a cottage at Boat Lake. Chris Hachey advised that all of the personal belongings have been removed except the deck, which will be removed soon with a minor extension of time.

5. **Business Out Of Minutes** – nothing at this time

6. **Correspondence** – nothing at this time

7. **Business Items**

- b) Environmental Planning
 - 1) Section 28 Permits – March 2017

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **John McGee**
FA-17-046 **Seconded by:** **Sue Carleton**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the list of permits under Ontario Regulation 151/06 – “Development, Interference, with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation”, for March 2017.

Carried

Marion Koepke asked if the final version of the “Navigating the Process” flow chart for building, development and/or property transactions was available. The MNRF and municipal watershed planning departments are being contacted and have begun forwarding their comments. When this has been completed, the final draft will be brought back to the Board.

c) Lands Update

1) Award of Vehicles Tender – Update

Jason Traynor advised the Board of Directors that the tenders for both vehicles were awarded, in line with their unanimous acceptance of the recommended tender awards in the e-mail and summary forwarded to them from Sonya Skinner. The KIA Forte 5 LX car from KIA of Owen Sound has been delivered and delivery of the Dodge Ram from Goudy Motors is expected in 8 to 10 weeks.

d) Forestry, Fish and Wildlife

1) Update from Forestry Industry Drop-In on March 28th

Anne Lennox discussed with the BOD’s the Forestry Drop-In held on March 28th. The event was very successful. It was attended by Klemmer Lumber (the only sawmill left in Grey County), plus several independent contractors, forestry consultants (Saugeen Conservation, Lands & Forests Consulting), Grey County & Bruce County Forest Managers/By-Law officers, GSCA Forestry Committee members, the GSCA CAO & forestry staff.

- There was an open discussion about tree marking, tendering, logging operations, & market conditions for wood products, with many points brought up, including:

- Sawlog Volumes - loggers said they are not interested in tenders for operations with low sawlog volumes (< 1,000 fbm/acre)
 - Marking – loggers disagree that marking should follow the silvicultural guidelines (Ideal Basal Area) – they feel that the larger trees should be cut because large trees contain more volume & do not grow as fast as the smaller trees
 - Tendering Process – pits loggers against one another & forces them to bid higher if they want the wood products
 - Logging Operations – getting more costly – there are insurance & WSIB costs, plus it is difficult to get young people interested in doing this type of work – many loggers now want to use harvesters which are very expensive (\$500,000) but safer. They also require the operator to get fairly close to the tree being cut & can therefore cause more damage to regeneration
 - Timing of Operations – a longer season is desired, as GSCA does not allow harvesting in the spring since the trees are actively growing (more susceptible to damage) & wildlife are nesting
 - Market Conditions – both sawlog & firewood markets are down, making it more difficult for loggers to make ends meet.
 - One contractor was very satisfied with our operations and the protections for the environment.
- Some suggestions were made:
 - Keep in contact with local loggers about current market conditions, especially for determining ‘reserve bids’
 - Provide more inventory detail on upcoming operations
 - Favour good operators over poor operators
 - Favour local operators in the bidding process, especially if all bids are below the ‘reserve bid’
 - Investigate other ways of selling wood products than using the tendering process
 - Loggers want to hear from Grey Sauble Conservation on a regular basis and provide input.

There is only one sawmill in Grey County. Grey Sauble Conservation will investigate other ways to sell wood products. Marion Koepke asked if GSCA could sell camp firewood. Al Barfoot commented that cutting firewood is labour

intensive. The wood would need to be stored for two years to dry out. Grey Sauble Conservation staff do not currently cut their own trees. John McGee requested that for the 2018 budget, staff recommend how we want to treat the income from harvesting including the forestry reserve, money generated, and costs incurred, as income should not be a Conservation Authority's primary motivation. Dick Hibma said the discussion demonstrated the mind set of today's market and what a tough business it is for loggers. They have a hard time getting people to work for them, there is the cost of the equipment and the cost of WSIB. The draft Forest Management and Tendering Policies were sent broadly to all loggers with whom Grey Sauble Conservation deal with a request for their comments by April 24th, 2017.

2) Métis Harvester Card Request

- An individual came to the GSCA offices last fall with a Métis Harvester Card and indicated an interest in harvesting wildlife and/or wood products at GSCA's Massie property.
- This individual came back in January with a specific request to cut cedar trees for 'decking' at their home.
- Staff undertook research including an internet search such as the Métis Nation of Ontario and MNRF websites, and communication with Conservation Ontario, other CAs, the MNRF Conservation Authorities lead and the MNRF Midhurst office.
- Staff updated the individual that they would like to discuss the request with the Board of Directors.

Staff verbally reviewed the following items:

- 1) Background about the Métis and their Rights
- 2) What a Métis Harvester's Card is
- 3) Harvesting Trees on GSCA Lands

Recommended Motion:

**Motion No.: Moved by: Marion Koepke
FA-17-047 Seconded by: Paul Eagleson**

**WHEREAS GSCA properties are private property, therefore the Métis Harvester's Card does not apply to GSCA land;
AND FURTHER THAT harvesting trees on GSCA properties will follow GSCA's Tendering Policy and that hunting & fishing where permitted on GSCA's properties is in accordance with MNR's hunting & fishing regulations;
AND FURTHER THAT the GSCA's Board of Directors consider advance requests for harvesting of trees for medicinal, ceremonial, and social purposes.**

Motion Tabled

**Motion No.: Moved by: John McGee
FA-17-048 Seconded by: Cathy Little**

THAT the motion with regards to the Métis Harvester's Card be tabled pending a staff report with a policy on Métis Harvester Cards being presented at the next meeting.

Carried

Grey Sauble does not exclude anyone from permitted activities on Grey Sauble Conservation trails.

To acquire a Métis Harvester card, one applies to the Captains of the Hunt. Discussion indicated that pending the staff report, directors are inclined to not agree with the request as Authority land is not public land and the purpose in harvesting trees is beyond the allowed activities.

John McGee asked that in future, staff have a report and a recommendation included for any agenda items.

- g) Administration
 - 1) Receipts and Expenses – March 2017

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Cathy Little**
FA-17-049 **Seconded by:** **Harley Greenfield**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the receipts and expenses for March 2017.

Carried

- e) Communications/Public Relations
 - 1) Extraordinary Tree Project

Petal Furness, Grey Roots Museum and Archives, entered the meeting and spoke on the Extraordinary Tree Project. She spoke on what a great asset Krista McKee, Community Relations Coordinator, Grey Sauble Conservation, was to the Project. Funding came to GSCA from the Community Foundation and Bruce Power. There was a photography contest, stories on trees, and a book has been published and is available from the Ginger Press. The Extraordinary Tree lecture series was sold out and has received international recognition.

Grey Roots, with support from the project's steering group and GSCA staff, would like to complete the remaining work under the leadership and accountability of Grey Roots, with all project funding being transferred there. The work will include an education program for students from Fanshawe College to create a medicine wheel garden at Grey Roots. Georgian College students were not used as they do not have the same program at their college.

Grey Roots is also partnering with Grey Sauble and Friends of Harrison Park for the 150/160 and GSCA 60 celebrations in July of this year. Petal hopes Grey Sauble and Grey Roots will even work together more in the future. It is a great partnership.

f) DWSP/RMO Report – Budget and Chair – Update

Bill Twaddle has been appointed as Chair for the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee (SPC) by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, effective March 22, 2017. Bill was identified as the recommended candidate through a competitive selection process involving the three Source Protection Authorities in our Region. We look forward to working with Bill and the rest of the Committee on the continued implementation of the Source Protection Plan.

MOECC has approved the DWSP Budget for 2017/2018 at a total of \$254,150. This is roughly the same amount that was allocated for the 2016/2017 fiscal year budget and is in line with our budget request.

With respect to our delivery of Risk Management work on behalf of municipalities, an implementation workshop was held on April 5th with municipal staff representatives to discuss source water Plan updates and consider options going forward for plan implementation and Risk Management cost recovery. Municipalities have the ability under the Clean Water Act to charge fees through municipal tax rolls; water user rates; and/or services charges to review applications. Further discussions on these options will take place over the next year prior to seeking Council decisions.

The Board asked for a copy of the request to local municipalities for comments on the Source Water Management Committee Members and the municipalities each will represent going forward. Sonya Skinner will ensure this takes place.

7 g) 2) – First Quarter Budget Report

Alison Armstrong reviewed the first quarter budget report for 2017 which ended on March 31st. Staff have proposed a one page new format and includes year-end forecasts.

While some minor transactions made during that period have not been fully posted, major items are all included and the attachment is current as of April 5th. It is early in the year, however we are financially on track. Minor notes include:

There is a potential pressure from the Boat Lake cottages decommissioning which has not yet been included, as staff are confirming the value; and funding for Source Water Risk Management is higher than anticipated with the addition of the Owen Sound municipality, however there is also additional work required.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **John McGee**
FA-17-050 **Seconded by:** **Cathy Little**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the First Quarter 2017 Budget Report.

Carried

3) GSCA Meetings Policy First Discussion

Sonya Skinner reviewed the board’s Meetings Policy and recommended updates and changes from the 2015 Policy. Doreen Robinson provided input, and there was also an initial discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair to get their input.

Directors walked through the draft, and provided a number of comments, including the introduction of a Notice of Motion approach.

Staff will update the draft and bring the Meetings Policy back to the May meeting.

7. a) Water Management

1) Stewardship Technician

John Bittorf introduced Rebecca Ferguson, the Stewardship Technician. Rebecca gave a brief outline of her previous experience. The Board welcomed her to Grey Sauble Conservation.

7. g) 4) Personnel Policy Change Proposals

As the result of an internal operational review, as well as the request from the last BOD meeting that a policy be created for CAO performance Sonya Skinner, with the support of Alison Armstrong GSCA’s Finance and HR lead, recommends a

number of changes to the Personnel Policy. In accordance with the policy's requirements, the proposed changes have already been circulated to all staff for input.

The CAO presented the recommended changes, and Directors provided several comments.

Staff will update the draft and bring the Personnel Policy back to the June meeting.

5) Benefits Plan Changes – Update

The benefits plan offered to staff is a cooperative plan managed by the Conservation Ontario Group Insurance and Benefits Committee, who make the recommendations and agreements on how it will run. This approach enables group volume discounts across over 20 Conservation Authorities. The benefits provider is Buffett Taylor.

Effective January 1st, 2018 the benefits plan will change. For example, in some cases employees will pay the first 20% of the cost of the benefit when incurred (e.g. dental care). Staff have been provided with initial notice, and will receive more information as it becomes available.

6) Monthly Calendar – Update

An updated calendar which lists key upcoming meetings and date for Grey Sauble Conservation was provided to the Board.

Cathy Little was very impressed with the phragmites Workshop held on March 16th in Holstein, particularly as there was a broad participation including all levels and aspects of government.

7) Strategic Planning Introduction – Update

Sonya Skinner reviewed a document with the proposed approach for Strategic Plan Renewal, including three steps: 1) Take Stock; 2) Determine Where We Are Going; 3) Get There.

It was recommended that GSCA initiate Step 1, including a full day Directors' and staff workshop on July 12th, and Directors' leadership of input discussions in their home municipalities in the fall.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **John McGee**
FA-17-051 **Seconded by:** **Marion Koepke**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors provide direction to move forward with the Proposed Approach for Strategic Plan Renewal for the Board of Directors.

Carried

8. GSCA's 2017 Priorities and Deliverables, per CAO's Performance Plan – Update

At the last BOD meeting, members asked that the CAO's performance plan be discussed. In line with the proposed process, in which the CAO will provide recommended priorities to the Board at the beginning of the year, a document of priorities was provided to the board. These priorities were taken from the budget recommendations which the Board endorsed in January, as well as a recent short discussion with Dick and Marion.

The high level goals are: 1) Improve Financial and HR Sustainability, including new funding, capital asset plans, and a succession plan; 2) Deliver Actions and the Call to Action, including a Stewardship pilot that will aid in addressing water quality, riparian zone, species at risk and invasive species challenges, preparations for the 5-year update of the watershed report card and initiation of an updated GSCA strategic plan; 3) Improve Service Excellence, including plain language public regulatory requirements, and improved regulatory mapping and public signage; and 4) Other, including an update of the GSCA Forest Management Plan and Forest Management Policy.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Sue Carleton**
FA-17-052 **Seconded by:** **Ana Vukovic**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors agree with the 2017 priorities for the CAO's Performance Plan.

Carried

8. Chair's Report

Dick Hibma attended: the Forestry Open House, a meeting in Michigan, Conservation Ontario Meeting and Queen's Park Day.

9. Other Business

- a) Committees – For acceptance
 - 1) BRWI – nothing at this time
 - 2) Arboretum Alliance – nothing at this time
 - 3) Forestry Committee – Joint Forestry Committee Draft Minutes – February 24th, 2017
 - 4) Foundation Minutes – March 8th, 2017

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Al Barfoot**
FA-17-053 **Seconded by:** **Cathy Little**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the Draft Joint Forestry Committee minutes of February 24th, 2017, and the Foundation Minutes of March 8th, 2017.

Carried

- b) The next meeting will take place on May 10th.

10. Closed Session – There was nothing at this time

11. Adjournment

On motion by John McGee, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

"Original Signed"
Dick Hibma, Chair

Doreen Robinson
Administrative Assistant/
Accounting Clerk