



GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Minutes
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 9th, 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

Sue Carleton, Jaden Calvert, Harley Greenfield, Shawn Greig, Dick Hibma, Marion Koepke, and Ana Vukovic

Directors Absent - Al Barfoot, Paul Eagleson, Cathy Little, and John McGee

Staff Present – Sonya Skinner, Doreen Robinson, Anne Lennox, John Bittorf, Andy Sorensen, Tim Lanthier, Carl Seider, Alison Armstrong, and Jason Traynor

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.: Moved by: Sue Carleton
FA-17-072 Seconded by: Harley Greenfield

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Agenda of August 9th, 2017.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

The Directors were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting. No disclosures of pecuniary interest were expressed at this time. Sue Carleton advised that her husband works for the person who owns the land described in the item on the Bruce Trail Conservancy's request for fee waiver.

4. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Motion No.: Moved by: Marion Koepke
FA-17-073 Seconded by: Shawn Greig

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the consent agenda of August 9th, 2017.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.: Moved by: Ana Vukovic
FA-17-074 Seconded by: Sue Carleton

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

Carried

6. Business Out Of Minutes

- 1) Auditor's request for additional payments

Sonya Skinner, C.A.O., updated the Board on the request from Collins Barrow, the Authority's auditor, for additional payment for this year and next year due to the addition of two departments, Drinking Water Source Protection and the Risk Management Office. Staff have negotiated with Collins Barrow, and an agreed amount of \$10,000 was reached for next year's audit in it's entirety.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Harley Greenfield**
FA-17-075 **Seconded by:** **Jaden Calvert**

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda, Items listed on the August 9th, 2017, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: 1) List of permits under Ontario Regulation 151/06 – “Development, Interference, with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation”, for June 2017 and July 2017; 2) Receipts and Expenses for June 2017 and July 2017; 3) Foundation minutes of June 14th, 2017, and July 11th, 2017; 4) Forestry Committee minutes of June 20th, 2017; 5) Beaver River Watershed Initiative Minutes of May 18th, 2017, and June 22nd, 2017; 6) Thank you card from Doors Open; 7) Letter from Fred Scheel, Bruce Ski Club; 8) Letter from Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon.

Carried

8. Business Items

a) Water Management

1) Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund Project

Grey Sauble has received preliminary approval for this project from MNRF for a maximum of \$25,000, of which up to \$5,000 was proposed to be towards wages for the pilot Stewardship position. To execute the agreement, MNRF has asked that the Board of Directors provide a resolution authorizing the authority to enter into the funding agreement.

Staff highlighted that this project is very advantageous, as it targets one of the watercourses where the GSC Watershed Report Card identified water quality challenges, and it is also in a Drinking Water Source Protection area.

The project is taking place adjacent to the Upper Sauble River Watershed just southeast (upstream) of the Village of Tara in the Municipality of Arran – Elderslie.

The objective of the Project is to reduce agricultural run-off into Lake Huron by planting a riparian buffer zone and installing cattle fencing that will help to reduce the amount of manure and therefore nutrients (e.g. phosphorus) from reaching the waterway. There have already been about 5,000 trees planted, and potential fencing areas are being confirmed. To-date landowners have been very positive and supportive.

Directors asked about maintaining access to water for cattle, and staff confirmed that the work will be done such that cattle can continue to access water to drink.

The Board expressed that this work is positive, complimented staff, and commented that staff should continue to seek projects and funding of this type.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Shawn Greig**
FA-17-076 **Seconded by:** **Ana Vukovic**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorize the Authority to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, with the funding being up to the maximum of \$25,000, for a water quality improvement project on the Upper Sauble River Watershed.

Carried

c) Lands Update

1) Land Leases & Extensions

Jason Traynor, Field Superintendent, reviewed with the Board the summary with regards to land-related leases that are presently held by Grey Sauble Conservation with various persons/organizations.

Some leases are tendered on a five-year cycle to the highest bidder. The initial five-year term of these leases expires in 2017 and these leases include a clause enabling GSC to extend for one year. There are also many annual leases. Records indicate some were tendered some years ago for one year, and have continued to roll over to the original successful bidder on an annual basis.

Staff recommend that the Board extend these annual and five-year leases for one year, to enable the update of the GSC strategic plan, a thorough analysis and the completion of tenders (if recommended) prior to the end of summer 2018. Conversations with most lessees indicate that the proposed extension is desired.

There are several non-standardized long-term leases, such as those with the City of Owen Sound for the Bayshore Community Centre property and with the Owen Sound Transportation Company (OSTC) for the property with their offices near the Pottawatomi/Jones' Falls area. The OSTC lease five-year fee review is due in 2017.

Board Members questioned the fee of \$1,500 per year paid by the City of Owen Sound for the Inn On The Bay property compared to fees paid by persons leasing agricultural land. The Health Unit is also on GSC's land. Members also mentioned other potential uses for lands such as wind farms and solar energy and that it could be advantageous to connect payments to the income from the lands.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Marion Koepke**
FA-17-077 **Seconded by:** **Jaden Calvert**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors extend the specified five-year land leases for an additional one (1) year and continue existing annual lease renewals for 2018.

AND FURTHER, THAT staff be instructed to renegotiate with the Owen Sound Transportation Company a fee structure for the next five years as per the long-term lease with the Company for GSC property near Jones' Falls.

Carried

b) Environmental Planning

1) Request for Fee Waiver by the Bruce Trail Conservancy

Andy Sorensen, Environmental Planning Coordinator, reviewed with the Board a fee waiver request by the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The request is related to two consent to sever applications (B04/2017 & B05/2017) proposed by the Bruce

Trail Conservancy and a private landowner in the Township of Georgian Bluffs, former Keppel Township. The properties are located adjacent to the northeast of GSC's Bass Lake property.

This allows the Bruce Trail to be re-routed from Township and County roadways and onto the severed parcels.

From a Planning and Regulatory perspective, the severances are not resulting in new developable lots or impacting natural hazard features, natural heritage features, and/or GSCA regulations. Given the nature of the proposal and that the severances are for conservation purposes, there is minor effort involved in GSCA's review.

GSCA and the BTC have shared values regarding conservation and passive recreational uses. We look forward to future opportunities to work in partnership with the BTC where our shared values align. While exempting the BTC from individual planning fees has an impact on immediate revenue, the BTC creates, patrols, and maintains many kms of trails on GSCA lands, and attracts users who may pay for parking and increase GSCA's revenue. It is intended that at a future meeting, representatives from the Bruce Trail Conservancy will be asked to attend a Board meeting to make a presentation.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Harley Greenfield**
FA-17-078 **Seconded by:** **Jaden Calvert**

WHEREAS the Bruce Trail Conservancy is a non-profit organization that provides significant effort and materials to create and maintain trails on GSCA's lands and the mandate of the Bruce Trail Conservancy is in line with and supports GSCA's mandate;
THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the request from the Bruce Trail Conservancy to waive the GSCA consent review fee of \$360.

Carried

Shawn Greig was opposed to this motion.

d) Forestry, Fish, and Wildlife

1) Wood Products Tendering Policy

Anne Lennox, Forestry and Wildlife Coordinator, reviewed the recommended Wood Products Tendering Policy with the Board. The Forestry Committee previously reviewed and endorsed the draft policy. Under Section 4.2, the word “experience” will be changed to “performance”. Under Section 5.1, the word “trees” will be replaced with “marked trees”.

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Ana Vukovic**
FA-17-079 **Seconded by:** **Marion Koepke**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Wood Products Tendering Policy, as presented and amended at the August 9th, 2017, meeting.

Carried

e) Communications/Public Relations – nothing at this time

f) DWSP/RMO Report

1) Staffing update

Carl Seider, Program Manager, advised the Board that Justine Lunt has been selected as the successful candidate for the position of Source Protection Supervisor/Risk Management Inspector and will start on September 5th. Justine is currently completing the Environmental Technology advanced diploma program at Georgian College and has worked with the City of Guelph and City of Barrie in their respective Water and Infrastructure Planning departments, and with the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

g) Administration

1) CAO Update and Monthly Calendar

Sonya Skinner, CAO, updated the Board on the following items:

- The Greenbelt Golden Horseshoe CAOs group provided members with a summary of the 2017 changes to the Four Provincial Plans: Growth Plan (2017), Greenbelt Plan (2017), Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2017), and Niagara Escarpment Plan (2017). The new Niagara Escarpment Plan does not include an expansion of the area covered.
- The strategic plan work to complete step 1 “Taking Stock” is progressing. Members were provided with draft lists of the meetings set-up to date in watershed municipalities and GSC’s known stakeholder and partner groups. The meetings will seek input from municipal councils, staff, stakeholders and the public. They will be publicly advertised, and invitations will also be sent to known stakeholders and partners.
- Staff are recommending the submission of a National Disaster Mitigation Program funding application. The proposed work to further complete and refine 3D mapping and watercourse cross-sections, as well as pilot the use of that information supports GSC’s mandate and also the needs of our municipalities and Counties to develop asset management plans considering climate change and mitigate potential flooding emergencies. The program provides up to 50% funding.
- Per Board request, GSC’s insurance coverage was reviewed. GSC purchases an insurance offering developed through Conservation Ontario. Pending that good risk mitigation practices are in use (such as signing and waivers), the insurance covers the Authority for both permitted and non-permitted uses.
- There have been several requests for new and the reconfirmation of potentially-existing easements across GSC properties. Staff are reviewing.
- John Anderson met with GSC representatives with regards to a climate change community resiliency documentary. Staff indicated that GSC cannot financially sponsor the endeavor, but pending more information can provide information on what GSC does to improve communities’ resiliency.
- The Bruce County Heritage Documentary Project recently entered into an agreement with GSC and will be filming re-enactments of Bruce County’s history at St. Jean’s Point Nature Preserve. Proof of insurance has been provided and a fee has been paid to GSC for use of the property.
- A historical plaque has been erected at the site of the former Haines Dam.
- The function/state of the washrooms at Inglis Falls have been challenging this

season, and after several repairs are now back in use. The wood decking has also been replaced at Inglis Falls.

- The phragmites cutter sign-out program is very popular. Cuts have been held at the Fishing Islands, Lake Eugenia, Christie Beach, and Wilcox Lake, and will be held shortly at Peasemarth.
- The job ad for the position of Watershed Planner is being advertised.
- The provision of staff to support and deliver the Owen Sound Field Naturalists' Young Nats Program will be paused for the 2017-18 offering.
- We have had challenges with our internet on an on-going basis. There is a possibility that a 2nd internet line will be needed which may be a significant investment. Staff are investigating options.
- Staff have developed new signage to seek online donations and encourage volunteering through a new volunteer@greysauble.on.ca email. It is being piloted at Christie Beach.
- The Owen Sound Forest School is in the process of signing an agreement to use our Arboretum Pavilion for 3 days a week this fall and next spring. There is an associated fee.
- Staff are updating trail markings at a number of properties.
- The CAO was approached by a local marine historical group who are interested in putting up a historical plaque about the sinking of the Hibou at the Hibou Conservation Area. The CAO and board members present informally indicated that this would be a positive addition to the site.
- Staff have supported the Bruce Trail Conservancy to update a trail route in the Kimberly area, and it has now been completed.

All staff, excluding Sonya Skinner and Doreen Robinson left the meeting.

12. Closed Session

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Jaden Calvert**
FA-17-080 **Seconded by:** **Shawn Greig**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors move into Closed Session to consider a Personnel Matter.

Carried

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Shawn Greig**
FA-17-081 **Seconded by:** **Sue Carleton**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors rise from Closed Session at 3:25 p.m.

Carried

Alison Armstrong returned to the meeting.

8. Business Items – Cont’d

- g) Administration – 1) CAO Update and Monthly Calendar – Cont’d
- A Forestry Committee meeting is scheduled for September 26th, 2017.
 - The monthly calendar was reviewed with several changes noted.
- 2) 2nd Quarter Budget Report

Alison Armstrong, Finance Coordinator, reviewed the 2nd quarter budget, by department. GSC is financially on target. The portfolio with TD Wealth Management has increased since the December 31st, 2016, report.

9. Items from Conservation Ontario

- 1) CA Act Review outcomes and MPP briefings

Meetings have been scheduled in August with both MPP Jim Wilson and MPP Bill Walker. The meetings are to provide a Conservation Authorities perspective on the proposed updates to the Conservation Authorities Act under Bill 139.

The government has the authority to require qualifications for Board members under Bill 139, through the development of a regulation. The province's past practice has been to have extensive consultation on a draft Regulation. Discussion was held with regards to a separate private member's bill (Bill 86), which proposed that fifty percent of Board Members have a relevant scientific degree. This is not part of the proposed Bill 139.

2) Implications of recent EBR Postings and Conservation Ontario's Comments

The CAO provided the brief overviews below, and suggested that Directors bring these items to the attention of the planning staff in their home municipalities. If there is a desire for further information, GSC staff can provide more in-depth information.

i) Public Lands Act Enabling occupations of public land without the need for an occupancy instrument (e.g. land use permit or lease)

This item affects most waterfront properties. Conservation Ontario submitted concerns to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) on May 19th, 2017. The proposed regulations were influenced by the *Glaspell v Ontario* decision. Conservation Ontario's comments focused on the need for the Province to develop advice for municipalities on how to incorporate shoreline development policies into their Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws; the need for the Province to complete an assessment on how their proposed regulatory changes would impact the full breadth of MNRF's responsibilities; the need for the Province to incorporate criteria related to the scale and location of the structures into the regulation; and to consider the cumulative impact of these structures.

Conservation Ontario recommended that the comments on the "Proposed regulation under the Public Lands Act to enable certain occupations of public

land without the need for an occupancy instrument (e.g. land use permit, lease, license of occupation)” (EBR # 013-0211) submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry be endorsed.

ii) Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal

On April 24th, 2017, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change put forth the “Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal” (EBR # 013-0299) which is a plain-language version of proposed regulations. The proposal includes a new excess soil re-use regulation (and complimentary changes to associated regulations under the Environmental Protection Act and Building Code Act) and new excess soil re-use standards and sampling guidance to support the implementation of the new excess soil reuse regulation. Further to those proposed regulations, excess soil in large quantities will generally be designated as a waste when it leaves the project site until it is deposited at a receiving site. Conservation Ontario’s draft submission to the Province focuses on identifying how CAs will operate within this new regulatory framework.

Related changes to the Municipal Act also mean that CAs and municipalities will need to work together to ensure that where their mandates overlap both parties have permitted any fill-related development.

10. Chair’s Report

Chair Hibma presented the following report.

Since I last reported to the Board back in April, I feel somewhat like Bilbo Baggins, the Hobbit having been There and Back, Spain, Italy, and Greece that is.

Thereafter, CAO Sonya and I attended the Drinking Water Source Protection Committee (DWSP) meeting at the Clean Water Centre in Walkerton followed by the Conservation Ontario meeting in late June. (I circulated the E-Bulletin from that meeting to the Board members by email this past month).

There was a teleconference meeting of the Source Protection Management Committee the following week to address a vacancy on the DWSP Committee. The Riverfest celebration was a success from my perspective, and thanks to all the staff and volunteers that supported this event, as well as the partners who worked to make it so successful!

Our July 12th session was a tremendous start to our Strategic Planning process, and I'm hoping you're all thinking of ways to support this process, and what you might want to see included as key strategic elements for our next 10 years and beyond.

A busy late summer and fall season lies ahead!

11. Other Business

- a) Committees – Minutes
 - 1) Arboretum Alliance – nothing at this time
 - 2) Friends of Hibou – nothing at this time
 - 3) Staff Meeting Minutes – nothing at this time
- b) Next meeting – Wednesday, September 13th, 2017, at 1:15 p.m.

- 13. Adjournment** – On motion by Sue Carleton, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes adopted September 13th, 2017.

Dick Hibma, Chair

Doreen Robinson,
Administrative Assistant/Accounting Clerk