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Report to the Town of Blue Mountains Council on the Haines Dam **August 8, 2011**

Background:

The GSCA made a presentation to Council on April 27, 2011. At that time, options were presented for your consideration, as well as an offer to hold an Open House to gauge public reaction to the options.

Options for 2011/2012:

The GSCA 2011 budget contains the \$125,000 estimated cost for studies in 2011, including a 50% grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure program.

At this point in time, the overall condition of the dam is unknown. Also unknown is the cost of decommissioning and removal of the dam in relation to the current and potential future repair costs.

Given the age and general condition of the structure, a further engineering assessment of the entire structure will likely be required in the near future regardless of whether or not further repair work is done. The proposed repair would be necessary to maintain the structure in the short term.

The 2010 engineer's report did not indicate that the dyke portion of the dam was in danger of imminent failure and the temporary repair in 2010 has slowed the progression of the erosion. Given the cost estimate for the initial repair and the unknown condition of the remainder of the dam, it is our recommendation to complete the remaining phases of the study in 2011 in order to have a complete picture with respect to possible future costs. Once the studies are completed, work could proceed in 2012.

Member of



Watershed Municipalities

Arran-Elderslie, Chatsworth, Georgian Bluffs, Grey Highlands,
Meaford, Owen Sound, South Bruce Peninsula, Blue Mountains



AUTHORITY POSITION:

The GSCA Board of Directors supports moving directly to a study to determine the cost of decommissioning the structure, subject to the support of the Town of Blue Mountains Council.

Public Open House:

The public open house took place June 21, 2011 in the basement of the Marsh Street Centre, 187 Marsh Street, Clarksburg. Time: 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 9pm. Notices were delivered by hand (due to the Postal strike) to neighbouring residences, newspaper ads were placed in local papers, and a notice was placed on the Town's Web Site.

GSCA staff provided information on the history of the dam, and showed the options available. About 30 people attended the Open House, with comments in support of or non-committal about the removal of the dam. No one voiced a request to keep the dam in place. (A copy of the pamphlet prepared for the Open House is attached for your review).

A letter of support was received from the Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Club, and several e-mails were received from individuals who attended the open house, just to confirm their support for the removal of the structure.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, in a memo received in May 2011, indicated support for the dam removal, and agreed to apply for COA funding in 2012 to help offset some of the project costs.

Recommended Next Steps:

For the reasons outlined in the pamphlet, the GSCA is requesting Council's support to move forward with the necessary studies and approvals required, leading to full decommissioning of the Haines Dam in the future, subject to the availability of funding.

Subject to your approval, we would like to complete the studies, seek the necessary approvals, and receive cost estimates for the removal of the structure. We would like to undertake the studies, and seek agency approvals in 2011, and budget for the removal in 2012, if funding assistance can be secured.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. John Cottrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke.

R. John Cottrill, B.A., M.E.S.
Chief Administrative Officer