

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION

AGM & Board Meeting Highlights 01/24/2018

(adopted on February 28, 2018)



Guest Speaker – Peter Middleton – talked about Consideration for and Challenges of Providing Lands for Public Benefit and Use. It was an engaging, insightful and inspirational presentation. Mr. Middleton is a respected naturalist, ornithologist, retired outdoor education teacher, and scholar of nature from Owen Sound.



Greetings from Guests

- Dick introduced the following guests:
 - Stewart Halliday, Warden, County of Grey & Deputy-Mayor, Municipality of Grey Highlands
 - Paul Eagleson, Warden, County of Bruce & Mayor of Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
 - Phil Beard, CAO, Maitland Conservation Authority
 - Wayne Brohman, CAO, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
 - Gail Ardiel, Vice-Chair, Nottawa Valley Conservation Authority and Deputy Mayor, Town of the Blue Mountains
 - Shawn Carey, MNRF
 - Deb Croskill and Frank Muschella, BRWI
 - Don Sankey, Chair, Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation
 - Brian Murray, Chair, Inglis Falls Arboretum Alliance
 - John McGee, Town of Blue Mountains, GSC BOD
 - Paul McQueen, Mayor, Municipality of Grey Highlands
 - Elwood Moore, Retired Director
- Each guest brought greetings from their respective organizations and expressed their appreciation of the work done by, working relationship with, and co-operation of Grey Sauble Conservation Board of Directors and staff. All guests expressed their appreciation and thank you to Dick Hibma for his leadership, guidance and dedication.
- Paul McQueen advised that Grey Highlands is working on a resolution to the province calling for an increase in funding for Conservation Authorities. It is timely to get the resolution out to AMO, Conservation Authorities, and ROMA.



2017 Accomplishment and 2018 Highlights

Sonya Skinner, CAO, made a presentation on accomplishments made in 2017 and projects for 2018. Items included completing an asset management plan, Stewardship pilot, Phragmites removal, a new brochure, a flow chart for the public called “Navigating the Process” to make it easier to seek permits, Riverfest, planting of over 100,000 trees, a new GPS base station, Drinking Water Source Protection Plan amendments, Drinking Water Risk Management Plans, improvements at Bognor and Inglis Falls and the first phase of GSC’s Strategic Plan update. Several items were completed with support from the GSC Foundation. Two accomplished senior staff also retired, Anne Lennox and Krista McKee.

Elections

- Cathy Little (Grey Highlands) was elected Chair and Al Barfoot (Georgian Bluffs) Vice Chair for 2018

• Committee Appointments for 2018

Conservation Foundation	Forestry Committee	Arboretum Alliance	Conservation Ontario
Jaden Calvert Sue Carleton Dick Hibma	Cathy Little John McGee Dick Hibma Ana Vukovic	Bill Moses Rodney Saunders	Cathy Little Sonya Skinner Dick Hibma – voting delegate

- Scott Greig has been appointed as City of Owen Sound representative for 2018 Board of Directors replacing Marion Koepke

Chair’s Report

- Dick Hibma encouraged Board to attend the A D Latornell Symposium held annually in November as it is a tremendous opportunity for learning. Attended at Queen’s Park for the 3rd reading of Bill 139, where there was talk about the lack of funding for Conservation Authorities. Met Minister Chris Ballard from the MOECC during the Bill 139 reading. It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board. Look forward to seeing Cathy Little in the position of Chair.

GSC Department Updates:

- The 2018 Budget was passed
- Dissolution of Yearly Borrowing Resolution
In past years, a resolution has been passed by the Board of Directors authorizing the borrowing of up to \$400,000 if needed. Borrowing has never been required. As there is a fee at the bank for setting up a borrowing agreement, staff recommended that this resolution was not required for 2018.
- Andy Sorenson, Jason Traynor, and Tim Lanthier were designated as Provincial Offences Officers to enforce the provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act

Strategic Plan – Summary of Municipal and Stakeholder Meetings

- Between 100 and 200 people have provided comments that highlight their thoughts on GSC’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) and how they think we can better conserve, restore, develop, or manage the natural resources in our watershed. Input can be categorized into four focus areas: clarification, protection, adaptation, and expansion.
- Ana Vukovic brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Hepworth Anglers Club, with regards to the Spring Creek which they own and abutting lands across private property. Grey Sauble Conservation and the Hepworth Anglers Club have had a long-standing relationship. The Club will be contacted with the possibility of being a deputation at a future BOD’s meeting.

AGM General Highlights:

The Watershed Sandbox was available for guests to try out, it allows users to simulate elevations, using sand, and shows the flow of water through the watershed based on those elevations.

New Explore Brochure Samples were shared with attendees

