



Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

Minutes

Full Authority Board of Directors

Wednesday, February 12th, 2014 – 1:15 p.m.

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

Dick Hibma, Dave Clarke, Paul Eagleson, Judy Gay, Jan Chamberlain, Bob Lennox, Terry McKay, Michael Martin, and Paul McKenzie

Directors Absent – Harley Greenfield and Mike Poetker

Staff Present – John Cottrill, Doreen Robinson, Krista McKee, Carl Sadler, Chris Hachey, Anne Lennox, and John Bittorf

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Bob Lennox
FA-14-021	Seconded by:	Michael Martin

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of February 12th, 2014, with the following changes.

**Under Item 6 – Correspondence – Add Item b) Letter from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation – Ontario Junior Ranger Program;
Remove Item 7 b 2) Permit Application Guide from the agenda;**

Under Item 7 d) Forestry, Fish and Wildlife – add Item b) Emerald Ash Borer and Certification;
Under Item 10 – Other Business, Next Meeting – possible change in date;
Under Item 10 – Other Business, add Item d) Work Plan for Administration Building;
Under Item 10 – Other Business, add Item e) Environment Canada Newsletter;
Under Item 10 – Other Business, add Item f) Update on Meeting between MNR staff and Authority staff;

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

- a) Full Authority – January 15th, 2014
- b) Arboretum Alliance – January 14th, 2014

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Judy Gay
FA-14-022	Seconded by:	Paul McKenzie

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of January 15th, 2014, and the Arboretum Alliance minutes of January 14th, 2014.

Carried

5. Business out of Minutes

a) Trees at the Tara Conservation Area

Authority staff visited the Tara Conservation Area site to review the area for downed trees. The trees are buried under the snow. Authority staff will clean up the trees in the spring. Paul Eagleson has offered the resources of the municipality in this cleanup.

6. Correspondence

a) Letter from Town of Newmarket re: Motion – Ontario Junior Ranger Program

b) Letter from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority re: Reinstatement of Ontario Junior Ranger Program

The Town of Newmarket and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority have both raised concerns to the Premier of Ontario regarding the discontinued Ontario Ranger Program.

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Judy Gay
FA-14-023	Seconded by:	Terry McKay

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors endorse the resolutions from the Town of Newmarket and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority sent to the Premier of Ontario with regards to the reinstatement of the Ontario Junior Program;

AND WHEREAS in September 2012 the provincial government cancelled the 70 year old Ontario Ranger Program (ORP), formerly known as the Ontario Junior Ranger Program;

AND WHEREAS when the government cancelled the Ontario Ranger Program it claimed the Stewardship Youth Ranger Program (SYP), an existing day program would deliver the same experience and would offer more jobs;

AND WHEREAS this day program does not offer the same quality of experience youth gained under the previous ORP in respect to knowledge of resource management and without the distractions of daily life;

AND WHEREAS since 2012, 278 Ontario Ranger jobs have been eliminated;

AND WHEREAS in previous years more than half of the Ontario Rangers were students from large urban centres. By contrast this year, the current day program is just not accessible to those students in those urban centres;

AND WHEREAS when the government cancelled the ORP, many youths lost an opportunity for a once-in-a-lifetime experience because the ORP only required enrolment in an Ontario high school and acceptance into the program was based on a postal code lottery system;

AND WHEREAS cancellation of the 70 year old ORP does a disservice to public services in Ontario to those who have come to admire and respect the natural beauty of our province;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities encourage students to learn about the importance of conserving our shared natural environment and what they can do to make a positive impact;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government committed 295 million dollars in the 2013 provincial budget for youth employment;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority supports the Friends of the Ontario Ranger Program campaign to restore the Ontario Ranger Program in the 2014 provincial budget;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority shall send a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Minister of Natural Resources, David Oraziatti, urging their government to restore the Ontario Ranger Program for future generations of young people;

AND be it finally resolved that the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority forward this resolution for support to the Town of Newmarket and the other 35 Conservation Authorities.

Carried

7. Business Items

- a) Water Management – nothing at this time
- b) Environmental Planning
 - 1) Section 28 Permits – January 3rd, 2014 to January 31st, 2014

Motion No.: **Moved by:** **Dave Clarke**
FA-14-024 **Seconded by:** **Bob Lennox**

THAT the list of permits under Ontario Regulation 151/06 – “Development, Interference, with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation”, for the period January 3rd to January 31st, 2014, be received by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors.

Carried

- c) Lands Management
 - 1) Land Disposition/Acquisition Policy Review

Chris Hachey made a presentation to the Directors on the criteria of the policy which was approved February 2006 for donations of lands to the Authority. The purpose of the policy is to deal with any types of acquisitions or partnering or straight land donations. The policy does not necessarily mean that the Authority would purchase a property. There is a property acquisition fact sheet filled out for each potential property. The Authority has presently been offered a donation of 100 acres of property which backs on to Sucker Creek. Anne Lennox and Chris will go through the criteria list of any property being donated. A site visit is also made. It is checked for Forest Management potential, recreation potential, etc. Legal fees, survey costs, and capital costs are also reviewed. A detailed site plan is provided for any surplus lands that could be sold. The peer review includes the

Board Director from that area. An evaluation is made on the information and a recommendation made to the Board in document form.

Paul McKenzie questioned the continued accumulation of property by the Authority. Would it be possible to rent some Authority lands?

Paul Eagleson – the Authority gets a discounted tax payment where you would get more from a private ownership of a property.

Bob Lennox – Can some of the properties be sold? One property has a cabin on it – could it be rented?

Other Conservation Authorities have similar policies. Saugeen Valley Conservation are inventorying property they have and listing what can be sold.

Judy Gay – close to one half of the properties are wetlands. One of the roles of Conservation Authorities is to conserve and hold water.

Paul McKenzie – need to review Grey Sauble Conservation’s properties to see if there is anything that can be sold.

Michael Martin – there is an on-going maintenance cost which would be determined. Is there an endowment to offset costs when property is donated?

Some donated properties fit into the Authority’s plans and others will need money spent on them.

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Michael Martin
FA-14-025	Seconded by:	Bob Lennox

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors confirm the existing Land Disposition/Acquisition Policy previously approved in 2006 with the possible inclusion for the condition of a donation of money endowment to offset costs for fees associated with the acquisition.

Carried

Bob Lennox – Years ago we would not think of disposing of any properties. Nice to see revenue to offset taxes.

Paul McKenzie – If the purchase of 100 acres in South Bruce Peninsula would be perfect for the Authority, is there 100 acres in other areas that could be sold?

Judy Gay – completely opposed to selling conservation authority properties. It's the opposite to what conservation authorities stand for. We do not take on any properties that do not suit the Authority.

John Cottrill – Our net capital assets should be reviewed.

Other Conservation Authorities have done these types of asset reviews and have bench marks in place. Would it be a good idea to have another Conservation Authority make a presentation?

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Jan Chamberlain
FA-14-026	Seconded by:	Bob Lennox

THAT staff prepare a report to begin a net capital asset review process and how to structure that review, with the report being presented in two months.

Carried

Judy Gay was opposed.

2) South Bruce Peninsula ATV Club Trail Proposal Review

Chris made the following presentation.

Grey Sauble Conservation has received a request from the South Bruce Peninsula ATV Club to establish a trail through the Skinner Marsh – McNab Lake Management Area. The proposed ATV trail route follows established forest access roads traveling north and south through the management area. On October 2, 2013, Anne Lennox and Chris Hachey met with representatives from the club at Skinner Marsh – McNab Lake to further review the proposal and hike the proposed access areas

Background

The Skinner Marsh – McNab Management Area is 1,648 acres and is located within the Hepworth – Parkhead Creek Watersheds. The majority of the land was originally purchased in 1959 and 1960 for the purposes of water control, lake restoration, wetland and forest management. In 1960 the Authority began the McNab Lake restoration project to revitalize the existing dam structure thus increasing water levels in McNab Lake in an effort to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

The Skinner Marsh – McNab Lake Management Area Master Plan was developed and approved in 1982. The master plan designated the land for low intensity recreation activity such as hiking, hunting and snow mobile trails. The plan notes the existing trail system between Skinner Marsh and McNab Lake and recommends closing trail access points with gates and restricting motorized traffic to winter use only.

In 1986 Ducks Unlimited entered into a 30 year agreement with GSC to build a new water control structure to replace the existing dam structure from 1960. The new structure included removable boards to better control water levels which improved habitat for nesting and migrating birds. The habitat enhancement plan also requires that open areas along the lake shoreline be retained for duck nesting habitat. In some cases, the proposed trail is located within or adjacent to the open area habitat zones.

Request summary

The Skinner Marsh – McNab Lake Management Area is largely designated as Provincially Significant Wetland and is important habitat for area wildlife and migratory birds. The proposed ATV trail route is located within and adjacent to the Provincially Significant Wetland. The proposed activity does not adhere to the goals of the master plan as the use of motorized vehicles during sensitive spring, summer and fall seasons would be disturbing to wildlife. The master plan recommends closing trail access points to motorized traffic and this should be carried out to assist with protecting the original goals for the property.

Bob Lennox will check with the Township of Georgian Bluffs to ask the Township to put a gate up at the culvert.

Paul Eagleson stated that this recommendation does not mean we would discontinue to work with ATV Clubs. We continue to support ATV clubs, but not in this area.

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Jan Chamberlain
FA-14-027	Seconded by:	Paul McKenzie

THAT the proposal from the South Bruce Peninsula ATV Club be declined as the proposed activity does not adhere to the goals of the Skinner Marsh – McNab Lake Management Area Master Plan.

Carried

d) Forestry, Fish and Wildlife

A video hosted by Carl Sadler, was presented. Carl outlined the importance of trees and what role they play.

Of the last six hardwood tenders, four went FSC mills – the need is there. According to loggers they do not place certified products at a higher standard than non-certified. An external group says that our Certified Forests are sustainable and we are doing a good job. Loggers will pay more per cord of pulpwood if the wood is certified. The Forest Stewardship Council feedback from

Grey County is good. The Directors commented on what a great idea certification is and what a great job Carl Sadler is undertaking.

e) Emerald Ash Borer

Anne Lennox made a presentation to the Board. Approved in the budget are funds for the purchase of equipment to carry out the inoculation of trees to attack the emerald ash borer. Anne has concerns that there may not be enough business for the utilization of this inoculation equipment and that the funds be diverted to FSC certify Authority properties. The estimated cost for certification is between \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00 for gap analysis. There is an annual audit fee of \$8,000.00 to maintain certification.

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Terry McKay
FA-14-028	Seconded by:	Judy Gay

THAT the funds approved in the 2014 Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Budget for the purchase of equipment for the inoculation of the Emerald Ash Borer be diverted to the certification process, with the future costs being maintenance of the certification.

Carried

The colder weather this year may have killed some larvae but it will not be a large kill.

e) Communications/Public Relations

1) Wildwater Program

Krista McKee presented a video on the Wildwater Program which is shown to Grades 4 and 5 students at various schools with the watershed. Nine schools have signed up, which includes 26 classes and 750 students. The in-school programs start on February 18th.

f) Administration

1) Receipts and Expenses

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Dave Clarke
FA-13-029	Seconded by:	Michael Martin

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the receipts and expenses for January 2014.

Carried

2) 2013 Year End Report

Alison Armstrong entered the meeting.

John Cottrill reviewed the Year End Report to December 31st, 2013, with the Directors.

The Directors received the 2013 Year End Report as information.

8. **In-Camera Items** – nothing at this time

9. **Chairman's Report**

Since our January meeting, the Chairman has attended with John Cottrill, the AGM for Saugeen Valley Conservation. Dick also attended the Owen Sound City Council meeting on January 27th to introduce Peter Middleton and provide context for the Leadership Award he received at the Latornell Symposium in November. On January 30th he was in Tillsonburg to meet with South Central Ontario Region Economic Develop Committee (SCOR-EDC) to discuss messaging at upcoming ROMA that supports Conservation Authority concerns. Later that day he attended retirement celebrations for Tom Prout in Exeter. Tom was CAO at Ausable-Bayfield Conservation Authority. Last week the chair was in Guelph to meet with people at Co-Operators Insurance to discuss their project about Overland Flooding – understanding the risk and what is needed in flood plain

mapping. The effort ties in to the Public Safety Canada initiative responding to floods in Bracebridge/Muskoka, Toronto area, Calgary area, etc. in the past year – stay tuned!

10. Other Business

- a) Foundation Minutes – January 15th, 2014
- b) Staff Minutes – January 23rd, 2014
- c) Next Meeting – To be determined
- d) Work Plan for Administration Building

The furnace in the Administration Centre needs replaced. \$22,000.00 has been budgeted for repairs, but it has been determined that all four units of the furnace need replacement. An estimate from Riddell Contracting is \$39,400.84 plus HST for the supply and installation of four new Legend LSH060A 5 ton water furnaces. Riddell Contracting has worked previously on the furnace for any repairs/upgrades. The furnace is 27 years old. Rebates for the upgrade may be available.

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Judy Gay
FA-14-030	Seconded by:	Dave Clarke

THAT the quotation from Riddell Contracting in the amount of \$39,400.84, plus HST, be accepted for the supply and installation of four new Legend LSH060A, 5 ton water furnaces.

Carried

- e) Environment Canada Newsletter

The Environment Canada Newsletter outlines Great Lakes Significant Events for September to November 2013. The regional climate overview includes

information on precipitation, lake surface temperature, and Great Lakes Water Levels.

Anne Lennox and Carl Sadler left the meeting.

f) Update on Meeting with Owen Sound Ministry of Natural Resources Area Office

On February 6th, 2014, several Authority staff met with staff from the Owen Sound Ministry of Natural Resources Office. The meeting covered several topics including:

1. An update from the MNR on their recent reorganization, and the resulting increase in staff at the Owen Sound area office. This will allow them to have an increased presence in the field.
2. A confirmation of GSCA's role and mandate, and a discussion of roles of both parties related to permits for shoreline work by landowners.
3. MNR Staff outlined recent changes to the Public Lands Act, effective January 1st, 2014, including exemptions, on-line registration of activities, issuance of work permits, and compliance issues.
4. A discussion of recent changes made by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and what that means for both MNR and GSCA programs.
5. An outline of current and future meetings with SON regarding shoreline and fisheries issues.
6. Clarification of MNR/GSCA roles in the Plan Review Process, and a commitment to work together on resource management issues with our local municipalities as it relates to the Planning Act.

There was specific discussion regarding permitting for works on inland lakes as well as the Great Lakes shoreline, work along river banks, and enforcement of unauthorized works.

Some discussion took place regarding MNR mapping PSW's, ANSI's, Deer Yards, and Species at Risk.

Regarding aggregates, clarification was given regarding the licensing process and planning approvals process for both new applications and amendments to existing licences.

Next Steps:

1. It was suggested we meet on a regular basis.
2. Future meetings could include staff from DFO, SVCA.
3. A workshop with contractors and consultants in the area may help with future applications (the new GSCA Permit Guide may help as a basis for the workshop).


11. Adjournment

Motion No.:	Moved by:	Terry McKay
FA-14-031	Seconded by:	Paul McKenzie


THAT this meeting now adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.



Dick Hibma, Chairman



Doreen Robinson, Administrative Assistant