

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 12:30 p.m.

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting was held via the internet on the meeting application, WebEx.

1. Call to Order

Chair Cathy Little called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m.

Directors Present: Chair Cathy Little, Vice Chair Scott Greig, Dwight Burley, Cathy Moore Coburn, Harley Greenfield, Ryan Greig, Marion Koepke, Cathy Little, Scott Mackey, Paul McKenzie, Paul Vickers.

Regrets: None

Staff Present: Tim Lanthier, Valerie Coleman, Gloria Dangerfield, John Bittorf, Mike Fry, Alison Armstrong, Rebecca Ferguson, Morgan Barrie, Carl Seider, Andrew Sorensen.

Guests: Dick Hibma, Jennifer Stephens, Paul McQueen, Bob Hann, Ron Savage, Don Sankey, Marie Knapp, Kim Wingrove, MPP Bill Walker, MP Alex Ruff, Karen Govan, Cameron B, Brian Low.

2. 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 the time.

3. Remarks from the Chair

Welcome – GSCA staff, fellow Board members, and honoured guests. It is really good to see you again even if virtually. I look forward to the day, as I'm sure we all do, when we can once again be in the same space, have a face-to-face conversation, connect on a personal level and perhaps share a hug.

At our AGM a year ago, that was the reality, when none of us knew what lay ahead and when perhaps we still took such things for granted.

Shortly after that, Tim Lanthier in his new role as CAO, and I gathered in London along with a few hundred other stakeholders from across the province, the culmination of many consultations held by the provincial Government about proposed changes to the CAA. Then COVID and lockdown.

Putting differences aside for a moment, I want to recognize Premier Ford and his government, and thank our own MPP, the honourable Bill Walker, for their leadership throughout this unprecedented and ongoing crisis.

In March, GSCA staff immediately began to deal with the new logistical challenges of working either from home or in the field and continued to not only deliver programs and services one way or another but to actually move forward with many GS strategic goals. I don't think the public always appreciates just how passionate and dedicated our GS staff members are about the work they do. I offer sincere thanks to all GSCA staff and I particularly want to thank department heads and CAO Tim. To continue as seamlessly as GSCA has done, getting us through 2020, takes strong leadership and a real team effort. On behalf of the Board, thank you and well done!

Our 11 board members represent 8 watershed municipalities from both Grey and Bruce Counties. It has been my distinct pleasure working with each and every one of you. Thank you to Scott Grieg for taking such an active role as Vice Chair this past year. A GS Board member's duty is still to the GS Authority, thank goodness. I want to acknowledge how each one of you brings such integrity and political and community experience to the table at every single meeting of the Board. This is why the watershed model works and why it is so critical to keep it intact especially now, as the impacts of climate change are with us more and more.

We here at GSCA truly value our municipal partners, and our relationships with the County of Grey and Bruce County. We thank you for your support over the years and we look forward to continuing a relationship that brings mutual benefits as we navigate the regulations to come.

In December 2020, the Omnibus Budget Bill was an unexpected shock to CAs, including GSCA but on a positive note the issue lit up the media and the response from individuals and organizations opposed to Schedule 6 was overwhelming. It confirmed, in a way no survey could, that the public holds conservation authorities and the work they do in very high esteem indeed. Moving ahead, a positive step is the striking of the MECP Conservation Authorities Working Group. CAs and CO are well represented and with input from municipal planners and the development industry, it will help the province develop regulations that will implement the new legislation. GSCA and member municipalities can look forward to the clarification of rules, regulations and resources that will shape our planning together for 2022 and beyond.

Today as we move into the second wave, awaiting roll-out of the vaccine in Grey-Bruce we have a little more experience than we did before. We know we are resilient, and we know we are especially resilient when we pull together. Please keep extending your support and your kindness to each other.

I thank each one of you here today for all that you do, with compassion, and in service to our watershed environment, and our watershed communities.

Thank you.

4. 2020 Highlight & Accomplishments

The CAO thanked guests for their attendance and support, GSCA partners, stakeholders, and the community for their support, the GSCA Board of Directors for ongoing support through a challenging year, and GSCA staff for their ability to adapt quickly and their high caliber of service.

CAO Tim Lanthier and GSCA staff made a presentation on the highlights and accomplishments of 2020. This was accompanied by a visual presentation.

5. Greetings from Guests

Chair Little offered guests the opportunity to introduce themselves and bring greetings from their respective organizations. (In order of appearance.)

MPP Bill Walker	Ontario Provincial Government
MP Alex Ruff	Federal Government
Jennifer Stephens, GM	Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
Kim Wingrove, CAO	Grey County
Paul McQueen, Mayor	Municipality of Grey Highlands
Don Sankey, Chair	Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation
Marie Knapp	Friends of Hibou Conservation Area
Brian Low	Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation
Ron Savage, Trail Director	Sydenham Bruce Trail Club
Robert Hann	Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club
Dick Hibma	Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation
Karen Govan, CAO	Municipality of Grey Highlands
Marion Koepke on behalf of	The City of Owen Sound
Ian Boody, Mayor	

6. Board Appointment

i. Election of Officers

Cathy Little and Scott Greig vacated their Chairs.

a. Appointment of Chair Pro Tem

Motion No.:
FA-21-005

Moved By: Paul Vickers
Seconded By: Marion Koepke

THAT Dick Hibma be appointed as Chair Pro Tem for the 2021 election of officers.

Carried

b. Review of Voting Procedures

Dick Hibma reviewed the voting procedures and asked if there were any questions.

c. Motion to Appoint Scrutineers

Motion No.:	Moved By:	Dwight Burley
FA-21-006	Seconded By:	Harley Greenfield

THAT Jennifer Stephens and Kim Wingrove be appointed scrutineers.

Carried

d. Election of 2021 Chair

Chair Pro Tem, Dick Hibma, called three times for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair for 2021.

1. Scott Greig nominated Cathy Little for the position of Chair for 2021.
2. Scott Mackey nominated Scott Greig for the position of Chair for 2021.
3. None declared.

Motion No.:	Moved By:	Ryan Greig
FA-21-007	Seconded By:	Andrea Matrosovs

THAT nominations for the election of Chair for 2021 close.

Carried

Cathy Little respectfully declined her nomination for Chair for 2021 and thanked Scott Greig for nominating her.

Scott Greig accepted his nomination for Chair for 2021 and thanked Scott Mackey for nominating him.

Dick Hibma declared Scott Greig acclaimed as Chair for 2021.

a. Election of 2021 Vice Chair

Chair Pro Tem, Dick Hibma, called three times for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair for 2021.

1. Ryan Greig nominated Andrea Matrosovs for the position of Vice Chair for 2021.
2. None declared.

Motion No.:	Moved By:	Dwight Burley
FA-21-008	Seconded By:	Paul McKenzie

THAT nominations for the election of Vice Chair for 2021 close.

Carried

Andrea Matrosovs accepted her nomination for Vice Chair for 2021 and thanked Ryan Greig for nominating him.

Dick Hibma declared Andrea Matrosovs acclaimed as Vice Chair for 2021.

ii. Remarks by 2021 Chair Elect and 2021 Vice Chair Elect

2021 Chair Elect Scott Greig extended his thanks to Member Scott Mackey for his nomination and to the Board for their support and had this to say.

“It has been a privilege to spend time during this past year with Past Chair Cathy Little. Your commitment, outreach to various stakeholders and groups with the Conservation Authority, knowledge, and past leadership to the Board has been exceptional and provided me a strong positional framework.

Thank you to all of the staff with the Conservation Authority led by our CAO, Tim Lanthier. I have appreciated all of the past support and communication and look forward to working with you (Tim) in 2021.

Thank you to all of our guest here today for joining us for our Annual General Meeting. We, at Grey Sauble Conservation Authority cherish the close relationships we have with our committed partners and stakeholders. All of whom have the best interests of ensuring the protection of our natural resources, protecting and enhancing our natural infrastructure, and expanding conservation efforts and education throughout the watershed.

To our guest MP Alex Ruff, thank you for bringing greetings today. You can count on the Conservation Authority to be a valuable partner for any national funding opportunities to deliver meaningful results within the watershed to fulfill the Federal government's efforts on Climate Change action.

Also, to our guest MPP Bill Walker, thank you for bringing greetings. We look forward to continuing to provide valuable insight to the Provincial government which will enhance protections to our residents. Grey Sauble Conservation Authority is a partner to the Provincial government which can respond and deliver on behalf of the Province, initiatives that meet the challenges of a changing climate, the needs of ensuring sustainable development and the ecology in our watershed.

I would like to acknowledge the presence of Dick Hibma here today. As someone who was immersed in politics at an early age and an individual who highly values the environment around me I somewhat witnessed your years of leadership to Grey Sauble. Leadership which greatly contributed to being the respected public partner which we maintain today.

2021 will again be a challenging year for many people in many ways. I look forward to the conservation authority continuing to invest in efforts to enhance the main administration building, meeting forthcoming requirements for improved accessibility. As a very large landowner, the loss of our Ash trees is an impending issue to respond to. And as was seen in 2020, the wave of people coming to the authority properties, partially due to COVID, will have us continuing to respond in positive ways to protect our natural environments, utilizing methods which do not fall back upon the watershed residents to entirely fund.

I will be eager to meet as many of our partners, so many of whom are valuable, irreplaceable volunteers as possible in 2021, either virtually or in person skiing, hiking, biking, and exploring our great watershed.

Thank you.”

2021 Vice Chair Elect Andrea Matrosovs extended her thanks and had this to say.

“I would like to extend my thanks not just to you (Scott) and Cathy for your leadership in the last year, but prior to that the leadership provided by Marion as well. I appreciate all that has come before, and I duly accept the responsibility to work by your side and welcome the opportunity to work together as such a consolidated board.

The provincial challenges earlier in this year and that we will continue to have, has galvanized my passion to fulfill this role, that we have all been appointed to by our respective Councils, to bring forth the value that Conservation Authorities are offering to Ontario, to the people of Ontario, and to the environment itself.

We strike a balance here at Grey Sauble Conservation between the protection and prevention aspects but also the education aspect, because if we are going to look at the big picture sustainably, it means bringing forth that and planning for seven generations down the road- not just what we can do for the environment but what those who come after us can do, and education is a real key. That said, I also acknowledge that we all have a fiscal responsibility, a responsibility to look after the environment but also responsible to act in accordance with our Councils appointing us to make decisions in these roles- and most importantly the constituents who are behind those Councils. I think we do that.

I really look forward this next year of continuing to work together with staff in a professional, agile way in this Covid-19 circumstance, and looking for that accountability fiscally while we provide really good quality programing and protection for the environment.”

iii. Appointments

- a. Conservation Foundation
- b. Forestry Committee
- c. Arboretum Alliance
- d. Drinking Water Source Protection Management Committee
- e. Indigenous and GSCA Relationships Committee

Motion No.:
FA-21-009

Moved By: Scott Mackey
Seconded By: Dwight Burley

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors make the following appointments to the Committees as listed:

Conservation Foundation: Cathy Little, Scott Greig

Forestry Committee: Paul Vickers, Dwight Burley, Ryan Greig, Harley Greenfield

Arboretum Alliance: Scott Greig

Indigenous Relationships Committee: Cathy Moore Coburn, Dwight Burley, Cathy Little, Paul McKenzie

Source Protection Region Management Committee: Scott Greig, Andrea Matrosovs

Carried

4. Adjournment

Motion No.:
FA-21-010

Moved By: Paul Vickers
Seconded By: Harley Greenfield

THAT this meeting now adjourn.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Scott Greig, Chair

Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant