

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES**

**Full Authority Board of Directors  
Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 1:15 p.m.**

---

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors' meeting was held in a hybrid format of in-person at the Stone Tree Golf and Country Club and virtually via the meeting application, WebEx.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Sue Carleton called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually, and made a land acknowledgement declaration.

Directors Present In-Person: Chair Sue Carleton, Vice Chair Scott Greig, Tobin Day, Tony Bell, Scott Mackey, Robert Uhrig, Jon Farmer, Nadia Dubyk, Jennifer Shaw, Kathy Durst

Directors Present Virtually: Alex Maxwell

Regrets: None

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Financial and Human Resources Services, Alison Armstrong; Water Resources Coordinator, John Bittorf

**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. Call for Additional Agenda Items**

Nothing at this time.

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

---

**Motion No.:**  
**FA-23-117**

**Moved By:** Tony Bell  
**Seconded By:** Jon Farmer

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of December 19, 2023, 2023.**

**Carried**

---

**5. Approval of Minutes**

---

<b>Motion No.:</b> FA-23-118	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Scott Mackey</b> <b>Scott Greig</b>
---------------------------------	---	---

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of November 22, 2023.**

**Carried**

---

**6. Business Out of Minutes**

Nothing at this time.

**7. Consent Agenda**

---

<b>Motion No.:</b> FA-23-119	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Kathy Durst</b> <b>Robert Uhrig</b>
---------------------------------	---	---

**THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the December 19, 2023, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits and Planning – December 2023; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – October 2023; (v) Minutes – GSCA AAC Minutes October 27, 2023; (vi) Recent Media Articles**

**Carried**

---

**8. Business Items**

**i. Board Orientation**

Water Resources Coordinator, John Bittorf, provided a presentation on the watershed monitoring, flood forecasting, and the warning tools and software staff use to collect and disseminate the information gathered.

With the assistance of past students and interns, GSCA has established and gathered data at over 11,000 geo-tagged sites across the watershed. Additionally, there are 35 surface water sites and 10 ground water wells, weather stations, and live cameras that are all monitored by staff. This information feeds into the department's database and is used to generate a variety of charts and reports.

Recently, GSCA acquired a video microscope that Mr. Bittorf and the staff use to live stream identification sessions and conduct training. These sessions have been very popular.

The Water Resources department uses a host of free tools and software to monitor rainfall, snowmelt, snowfall, and weather forecasting to generate and feed forecasting models. Staff's efforts to pull these resources together helps to manage the expense of providing this public service while also giving municipalities and communities as much notice as possible of potential flood events.

Members congratulated and thanked Mr. Bittorf and his staff for all of the work that they have done and continue to do in the best interest of the public and watershed communities.

**ii. Administration**  
**a. 2024 Budget**

CAO, Tim Lanthier, reviewed the import of the three separate motions being voted on by the Board and explained how the weighted voting system works within the Grey Sauble watershed in relation to the budget motions.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the 2024 Draft Budget. The budget was circulated to member municipalities as required by the CAA and Mr. Lanthier spoke to the response from member councils.

Mr. Lanthier explained that the most significant driver to the increase in levy was in wages and salaries. It was explained that, should the motion not carry, the budget would be sent back to staff and then circulated again to member municipalities.

---

<b>Motion No.:</b> <b>FA-23-120</b>	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Jon Farmer</b> <b>Nadia Dubyk</b>
--	---	---

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority adopt a levy for the year 2024 of \$1,724,165.59 as required by Ontario Regulation 402/22.**

**Carried**

---

<b>Director</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>
Alex Maxwell		X
Jon Farmer	X	
Robert Uhrig		X
Tobin Day	X	
Kathy Durst	X	
Tony Bell	X	
Nadia Dubyuk	X	
Jennifer Shaw	X	
Scott Mackey		X
Sue Carleton	X	
Scott Greig		X

---

<b>Motion No.:</b> <b>FA-23-121</b>	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Scott Greig</b> <b>Scott Mackey</b>
--	---	---

**WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act provides that an Authority shall have the power to determine the portion of total benefit afforded to each municipality in establishing the annual levy apportionment, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority resolves as follows, subject to such regulations under the Act:**

- i) That all participating municipalities be designated as benefiting for all programs and services included in the 2024 Operating Budget and the 2024 Capital Budget unless otherwise specified in the budget;**  
**That the appropriate Authority officials be directed to advise the participating municipalities pursuant to the Conservation Authorities Act and the regulations made thereunder; to apportion costs to the said municipalities for the amount of Municipal Levy set forth in the**
-

**2024 Operating Budget, to apportion costs to the said municipalities the amount of the Municipal Levy set forth in the 2024 Capital Budget and in the approved projects of the Authority, and any special levy attributable to any project which has been deemed to be of specific benefit to any particular municipality.**

**Carried**

**Motion No.:**  
**FA-23-122**

**Moved By:** Jennifer Shaw  
**Seconded By:** Jon Farmer

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority adopt the budget as presented for the year 2024 in the amount of \$4,247,593.**

**Carried**

<b>Director</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>
Alex Maxwell	X	
Jon Farmer	X	
Robert Uhrig	X	
Tobin Day	X	
Kathy Durst	X	
Tony Bell	X	
Nadia Dubyuk	X	
Jennifer Shaw	X	
Scott Mackey	X	
Sue Carleton	X	
Scott Greig	X	

**iii. Water Management**  
Nothing at this time.

**iv. Environmental Planning**  
**a. Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Grant**

CAO, Tim Lanthier, spoke to GSCA's grant submission to the Climate Resilient Coastal Communities grant through Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

GSCA has proposed to join CO on a provincial project aimed at six Great Lakes pilot studies. Locally, GSCA has proposed partnering with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Saugeen Ojibway Nation, Neyaashiinigmiing, the lower and upper tier municipalities between Wasaga Beach and the Town of South Bruce Peninsula, and the Toronto Metropolitan University.

The goal of the \$900,000 project will be to improve climate resilience for the southern coast of Georgian Bay. The grant would provide 75% of the total cost with the lower and upper tier municipalities covering the remaining with an equal split over five years.

Mr. Lanthier explained some of the outcomes and deliverables from the project and noted that the project would benefit all of the partners.

A Member asked if a steering committee would be formed and if so, who would sit on it. Mr. Lanthier responded that a steering committee is proposed, however; the specific make up has not yet been determined and will be part of the process should the grant application be approved.

A Member asked when staff will know if the grant application has been approved. It should be known by April 1, 2024.

---

<b>Motion No.:</b> <b>FA-23-123</b>	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Robert Uhrig</b> <b>Tony Bell</b>
--	---	---

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive Staff Report 046-2023 for information.**

**Carried**

---

**b. Planning Fee Freeze**

CAO, Tim Lanthier, spoke in regard to the recently received letter from Minister Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry that extends the freeze on conservation authority permitting and planning fees that had been initiated on January 1, 2023.

Mr. Lanthier noted that staff had not included an increase in fees in the 2024 budget, however; a cost of inflation increase had been planned. The total loss of revenue to GSCA, as a result of this extension, is expected to be approximately, \$19,000.

A Member expressed disappointment in the Minister's decision but applauded staff for their foresight in bringing a motion to increase permitting and planning fees to the Board in prior to the 2023 fee freeze.

Mr. Lanthier has reached out to the Ministry staff requesting a rationale for the fee freeze extension, however; has not received a response.

There was general disappointment with the Ministry decision and discussion on how the Board should respond.

---

<b>Motion No.:</b> <b>FA-23-124</b>	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Scott Greig</b> <b>Kathy Durst</b>
--	---	--

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive Staff Report 047-2023 for information.**

**Carried**

---

A motion was put on the floor to direct staff and Board chairs to set a meeting with the relevant MPPs. The Board voted and accepted the tabling of the motion.

---

<b>Motion No.:</b> <b>FA-23-125</b>	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Jon Farmer</b> <b>Scott Mackey</b>
--	---	--

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors direct Chair Carleton, Vice-Chair Greig, and CAO Tim Lanthier to set a meeting with Grey Sauble watershed MPPs to discuss the freezing of fees for 2024 and beyond.**

**Carried**

---

v. **Operations**  
Nothing at this time.

vi. **Conservation Lands**  
Nothing at this time.

vii. **Forestry**  
Nothing at this time.

viii. **Communications/Public Relations**  
Nothing at this time.

ix. **Education**  
Nothing at this time.

x. **GIS/IT**  
Nothing at this time.

xi. **DWSP**  
Nothing at this time.

9. **New Business**  
Nothing at this time.

10. **CAO's Report**

The CAO, Tim Lanthier gave a brief report on activities from the past month.

It was noted that the Inglis Falls Management Plan has been given final approval from the Ministry after having received approval from the GSCA Board and the NEC. This marks GSCA's first formal management plan. Mr. Lanthier extended thanks and congratulations to Rebecca Anthony, the Manager of Conservation Lands, for all of her hard work.

Mr. Lanthier attended the Owen Sound council to discuss the 2024 draft budget.

Work continues on the GSCA Strategic Plan and on several policy documents.

A good deal of time had been dedicated to working on grants, including the climate resiliency grant.

Mr. Lanthier and Chair Carleton attended the Conservation Ontario council meeting.

11. **Chair's Report**

Chair Sue Carleton reported that she, along with CAO Lanthier, attended the CO council meeting but had nothing to report out of the meeting.

12. **Other Business**  
Nothing at this time.

Member Alex Maxwell left the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

13. **Resolution to Move Into Closed**

---

<b>Motion No.:</b> FA-23-126	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Nadia Dubyk</b> <b>Jon Farmer</b>
---------------------------------	---	---

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors proceed into closed session at 3:54 pm to discuss matters related to the following:**

- i. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Board of Directors meeting held on November 22, 2023; and,**
- ii. CAO Performance Review – closed as it relates to personal matters about an identifiable individual including Authority directors or Authority employees (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4 (xvii)(b)); and,**

**AND FURTHER THAT CAO, Tim Lanthier and Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman, will be present, being present for item ii only.**

**Carried**

---

14. **Declaration that the Board of Directors has Resumed Open Session**

Chair Carleton declared that the Directors resumed open session at 4:25 p.m.

15. **Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes**

---

<b>Motion No.:</b> FA-23-127	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Jennifer Shaw</b> <b>Robert Uhrig</b>
---------------------------------	---	---

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the November 22, 2023, Closed Session minutes as presented in the closed session agenda.**

**Carried**

---

16. **Reporting out of Closed Session**

Chair Carleton reported that the Members approved the closed session minutes of November 22, 2023, and discussed and gave direction to staff on items that were identified and nothing else.

17. **Next Full Authority Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024

18. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.



---

Sue Carleton, Chair



---

Valerie Coleman  
Administrative Assistant