Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

Full Authority Minutes

1:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 12th, 2010

The Full Authority meeting was held at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Administration Centre located on Inglis Falls Road.

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Hibma called the meeting to order.

**Directors Present**
Dick Hibma
David Clarke
Dwight Burley
Judy Gay
Harley Greenfield
Ross Herron
Michael Martin
Terry McKay
Mark Wunderlich

**Directors Absent**
Deb Haswell
Jim McPherson

**Staff Present**
John Cottrill, Doreen Robinson, Doug Hill, Chris Hachey, and Marg Johnston

**Media Present**
Erika Engel – Meaford Express

2. **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion No.:** FA-10-054 **Moved by:** Terry McKay **Seconded by:** Mark Wunderlich

THAT the agenda, with the addition of two items under Other Business, be approved.

Carried
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

Mark Wunderlich declared a conflict in voting on the receipt to Greenfield and Barrie listed in the April receipts and on any discussions related to wind turbines.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion No.:</th>
<th>Moved by:</th>
<th>Seconded by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FA-10-055</td>
<td>Mark Wunderlich</td>
<td>Dwight Burley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority approve the Full Authority minutes of April 14th, 2010, and the Arboretum Alliance minutes of April 13th, 2010.  

Carried

Judy Gay advised that she had spoken with the Township of Georgian Bluffs Council concerning the Authority budget and apologized to her Council with regards to her actions taken pertaining to the Authority budget. The Council accepted her apology.

Dwight Burley said there will not be a Notice of Motion with regards to the 2010 Grey Sauble Conservation Authority budget. Georgian Bluffs Council looks forward to the upcoming meeting with member municipalities with regards to CA funding.

5. **Business Out of Minutes**

a) Letter to Honourable Linda Jeffrey re: MNR Policies and Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities

A motion was passed at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority April meeting to send a letter to Minister Jeffrey, Ministry of Natural Resources, in support of a request from Conservation Ontario for the release of the CALC Chapter. The Directors reviewed the letter which was sent on April 22nd, 2010. Copies going to all watershed municipalities.

6. **Correspondence**

a) Letter from Township of Chatsworth re: MNR Policies and Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities

A letter from the Township of Chatsworth supports the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority’s position that the Minister of Natural Resources be urged to finalize and release the “Ministry of Natural Resources Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities”.
b) Letter to Mayors of Watershed Municipalities re: Proposed meeting regarding CA Funding

In order to develop a better understanding of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, its role and mandate, and its financial responsibilities as outlined by the Conservation Authorities Act, a letter was sent to the Mayors of all watershed municipalities advising that Grey Sauble Conservation staff would like to arrange a half day meeting with Mayors, members of Council, CAOs, and financial representatives from each member municipality. The meeting would also include Authority Directors.

Authority Directors advised that their municipality was in favour of the two above noted items of correspondence a) Letter to Minister of Natural Resources with regards to the MNR Policies and Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities and b) Proposed meeting with member municipalities and Grey Sauble Conservation Staff regarding CA funding.

Motion No.: FA-10-056
Moved by: Harley Greenfield
Seconded by: Dave Clarke

THAT the correspondence from the Township of Chatsworth with regards to MNR Policies and Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities and the correspondence to Mayors of Grey Sauble Conservation Watershed municipalities regarding CA Funding be received.

Carried

7. Business Items

a) Water Management

1) Haines Dam Study Proposal

At the September 2009 meeting of the Board, a motion was adopted directing staff to issue a Request for Proposals for a three stage assessment of Haines Dam to include: 1) an evaluation of the leak through the dam; 2) a full dam assessment study; 3) a study of the potential for decommissioning and removal of the dam. An RFP was forwarded to five engineering firms with expertise in dam assessment studies as recognized by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Three firms submitted proposals. They are Hatch Energy, Trow Associates and AECOM. The initial intent of the RFP was to determine the cost of the various options for budget purposes. A report on the three proposals was presented to the Board at the December meeting. Based on the proposals it was estimated that the cost for the 3 levels of study would be approximately $28,000 for Option 1, $60,000 for Option 2 and $85,000 for Option 3. During the fall months, the leak through the dam became noticeably worse. A site inspection was held with an engineer from the Ministry of Natural Resources who offered the opinion that, regardless of the long term
initiatives for the dam (rehabilitation or removal), the current problem needed to be addressed as soon as possible.

Given the cost of the full dam assessment and dam removal study options and the urgency of the problem with the leak through the dam, staff proposed that the budget for 2010 cover only the first phase of the study at an estimated cost of $28,000. The budget as approved includes this item. A request for a grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources to cover 50% of the cost has been submitted and accepted by the review committee. Formal approval by the Minister is pending. Staff has evaluated the three proposals received in October of 2009. The estimated costs for the evaluation of the leak, as provided by the consultants, are as follows: Hatch $24,327, Trow $36,000, AECOM $40,000. The quoted figures do not include tax. The lowest estimated cost is from Hatch. The Hatch proposal was the most comprehensive and complete. In addition Hatch has previously done dam assessment studies on Clendenan Dam, immediately upstream from Haines Dam, for GSCA and on the Thornbury Dam for the Ministry of Natural Resources. They have significant knowledge of the river and have a body of data already collected that will be valuable to the study and any future work that we may wish to carry out on Haines Dam. Based on the experience of Hatch Energy on dams in the Beaver River system, overall experience in dam assessments and their competitive costing, staff is of the opinion that Hatch Energy would be the most appropriate firm to undertake the study.

Motion No.: FA-10-057
Moved by: Michael Martin
Seconded by: Judy Gay

THAT subject to the receipt of 50% funding from the Water And Erosion Control Infrastructure Program of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the firm of Hatch Energy be contracted to undertake Study Option 1, Evaluation Of The Leak Through Haines Dam, at an estimated cost of $28,000,

AND FURTHER, THAT a draft report be brought to the Board for discussion and consideration, with the inclusion of staff from the Town of The Blue Mountains being involved in any discussions.

Carried

Mark Wunderlich was opposed to this motion.
b) Environmental Planning

1) Section 28 Permits

Motion No.: FA-10-058  Moved by: Harley Greenfield
Seconded by: Dave Clarke

THAT the list of permits under Ontario Regulation 151/06 – “Development, Interference with Wetlands an Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation”, for the period April 1st – April 30th, 2010, be approved.

Carried

2) Procedures for Administration of Ontario Regulation 151/06

The Directors reviewed the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Procedures for the Administration of Ontario Regulation 151/06 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses. The summary document outlined the process for permit applications and the guidelines followed by staff.

Mark Wunderlich expressed his concerns on the $960.00 that is being charged for a permit to allow farmers to clean out drains that were completed by the farmer in the first place. There should be something to coincide under the Drainage Act where municipalities can be obligated to assist. No fee should be charged for private ditches on private property that need cleaned out to avoid causing harm to homes or the municipality. Doug advised that there has been no application made to the Authority to clean out the ditch nor has any fee been charged on the property to which Mark is specifically referring. Unless the Board of Directors changes the fee schedules, staff is obligated to charge what is presently set. If there is a problem with the present fee schedule the schedule should be reviewed by the Board of Directors and staff.

Michael Martin said that where an applicant disputes a major or minor classification and fee charged, the applicant has the right to appeal to the Chief Administrative Officer with the matter being brought before the Board prior to the application being filed. Some discretion should be allowed.

Mark stated that in this particular instance, it is a ditch across the farmer’s property to prevent flooding. Municipal drains still require permits. The definition of a water course is broad. Discussion was held on whether a manmade ditch is a water course. If the ditch dries up in the summer and there is no flow, is the ditch considered a minor or major project. The auditors, have in past, questioned the right to waive a fee for a permit.
Motion No.: FA-10-059 Moved by: Mark Wunderlich
Seconded by: Dave Clarke

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Procedures for Administration of Ontario Regulation 151/06, Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses be adopted with the following amendment.

Under Section 7.0 – Enforcement Procedures - in the last paragraph relating to rehabilitation of the site/ and or removal of any buildings and/or structures ruled in contravention of Ontario Regulation 151/06, wording presently reads “GSCA may also request the court to grant an award of court costs from the violator upon conviction”. The wording is to be changed to “GSCA will request the court to grant an award of all legal costs and staff and administration expenses associated with the violation.”

Carried

Motion No.: FA-10-060 Moved by: Mark Wunderlich
Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT staff look at criteria relating to the seasonal nature of water courses and refine the definition of major works relating to width and length, classification of projects and fee schedule.

Carried

c) Property Management

1) Solar Power – Microfit Program

Chris Hachey made a presentation to the Directors on a Microfit Program for the use of solar power. Due to recent government financial incentives and the opportunity to promote green energy, a possible solar energy project was briefly discussed at a recent Board of Directors meeting. The opportunity to establish a solar energy project on or near the barn (located in the Arboretum) was suggested as a potential project site. This type of project would be categorized as a “micro Feed-in Tariff” project. The following information will briefly summarize how the program works.

On September 24, 2009, the Government of Ontario launched the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program, a new renewable energy initiative established under the Green Energy Act. The FIT Program is designed to accelerate the growth of renewable sources of energy, including bio-energy, solar, water, and wind. The program attracts a diverse range of renewable energy producers including homeowners, community-based groups and larger scale commercial generators.
FIT Program facts:

- The Ontario Power Authority is responsible for administering FIT and microFIT projects.
- Rates are guaranteed for energy generated from renewable sources. Example - through the 20 year microFIT offering, Solar PV is the highest paying at $0.802 per kWh generated.
- It provides the right to connect to the LDC electricity grid for renewable energy projects that meet technical, economic, and other regulatory requirements.
- It delivers a one-stop, streamlined approval process and provides service guarantees for renewable energy projects that meet regulatory requirements.
- There must be domestic content for renewable energy projects – creating job opportunities within Ontario
- Applications have been accepted since October 1, 2009.

MicroFIT Projects

MicroFIT projects are renewable energy projects that generate less than 10 kW of electricity and are administered as “micro-Feed-in Tariff project”. Projects eligible for the microFIT Program receive a 20 year contract for the payment of electricity produced from the renewable energy project, at a fixed price for the contract term. Projects can typically receive full return on the original project investment within 7-9 years.

Applicant responsibilities include:

- researching available products and offers to find the best renewable energy system for you
- purchasing and installing your renewable energy system
- meeting all applicable safety standards, including arranging for and paying for inspection of your project by the Electrical Safety Authority
- obtaining permitting and other approvals, including municipal building permits if required
- working with your local electricity distribution company to connect your project to the electricity grid and paying for all connection-related costs
- entering into a long-term contract with the Ontario Power Authority
- meeting the domestic content rules set by the Ontario Government.

Terry McKay stated that a project such as this is good for big companies. Michael Martin asked that staff come back with a report listing the anticipated savings with the project being approached with caution. Funds would be borrowed from the reserve to finance this project. Judy Gay asked the status on Scott Brown and his hydro project at the Clendenan Dam. Scott had encountered problems getting on the grid and he has not pursued the project further.
Motion No.: FA-10-061
Moved by: Mark Wunderlich
Seconded by: Dwight Burley

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority further investigate the opportunity to build a solar energy project by taking the following steps:

1. Register with the Ontario Power Generation Feed-In Tariff program (no cost or obligation)
2. Develop a Solar Power Project “Request for Proposal” – develop details / advertise
3. Set up a RFP review team – summarize information
4. Report back to the Board of Directors
5. Recommendation

AND FURTHER, THAT Michael Martin and Mark Wunderlich be part of the RFP Review Team.

Carried

d) Forestry, Fish and Wildlife

1) 2010 Tree Sale

The total for the Annual Tree Sale which was held on Saturday, April 24th, 2010, is $25,327.94. This amount exceeds prior years.

e) Communications/Public Relations

1) Trails Open

Trails Open will be held on June 5th and 6th with guided tours from Inglis Falls to the Inglis Falls Water Filtration plant to allow the public to look inside the caverns. The Directors will be contacted via e-mail to see if they are available to volunteer to assist in the tours.

2) Events in the Park

All Events in the Park are held at the Grey Sauble Conservation Administration Centre from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and include Birds of Prey on June 12th, Geo-What on July 10th at the Administration Centre, and an Arboretum Event on August 14th.
f) Administration

1) Receipts and Expenses – April 2010

Motion No.: FA-10-062
Moved by: Terry McKay
Seconded by: Harley Greenfield

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority approve the receipts and expenses for April 2010.

Carried

8. In Camera Items - nothing at this time

9. Chairman’s Report

Since the last meeting, Dick has met with John Cottrill, C.A.O., for his 3 month evaluation. Dick is pleased with his performance and together have mapped out the next three months and longer term. On April 22nd, Dick represented this region at a luncheon at Queen's Park hosted by United Nations Association in Canada where the Ripple Effect Ontario released it “Youth Statement on Conserving and Protecting Ontario Water.” There are 5 community based groups of high school and post-secondary youth actively engaged in raising awareness of water issues. On April 24th, along with staff, Foundation members, Arboretum Alliance members, and other Directors, enjoyed the Tree Sale. Thanks to all who worked on and supported this event. On April 26th Conservation Ontario held its Annual General Meeting. Minister of Natural Resources, Linda Jeffrey, was welcomed. She offered very positive, but realistic comments in support of Conservation Authorities. Highlights of the meeting included presentation of the 2009 Annual Report, a report positioning Conservation Authority’s in response to the December report from the Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation, update on the progress of multiple changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, and the election of officers. Dick has been returned for his 5th year as Chair of Conservation Ontario. Dick thanked everyone for their support which makes this possible. Reports and minutes are available on the Conservation Ontario website. In Dick’s dual role as Chair, he attended the 50th Anniversary celebration of Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority in Collingwood on May 1st. On May 7th Dick participated in a teleconference with other Advisory Committee members on SAROS to continue crafting recommendations to Minister Jeffrey on the aggregate studies conducted in 2009. On May 5th, John Cottrill and Dick attended a meeting of the Foundation Board. These are challenging times for the Foundation with the vacancy of the Chair’s position and a change in staffing.
10. Other Business

a) Drinking Water Source Protection Report

This year commemorates the 10th Anniversary of the Walkerton water tragedy. Members reflected on how a farmer and two municipal employees were held responsible for the contamination and lack of disclosure of results in water tests. The agricultural community is still taking a hit for this and it was not the farmer’s fault. It was due to lack of protection at the well head location. The Chair and Project Manager attended a regular Band Council meeting at the Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation. The Chair asked the Band Council to consider becoming involved.

b) Hog Weed

Ross Herron asked staff to review the growth of hog weed at the Tara Conservation Area and see what steps can be taken to have the weed safely destroyed.

c) A D Latornell Trail

Grey County Council at their May 4th, 2010 session approved the naming of the Lookout Trail located within the St. Vincent Forest Tract, Municipality of Meaford, the “Arthur D. Latornell Lookout Trail”. Interpretive signs will be installed indicating the reason behind the name.

d) Next Meeting -- Wednesday, June 9th, 2010, at 1:15 p.m.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

____________________________  ______________________________
Dick Hibma  Doreen Robinson
Chair  Administrative Assistant