

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 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 Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Administrative Office and virtually via the meeting application, WebEx.

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Greig called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m., welcomed all those present in person back to the newly renovated GSCA Administrative Centre. Thanks were extended to all those involved in the renovation project, to Grey County for hosting the Board during construction, and to the staff for their work and perseverance.

Member Mackey extended his thanks and congratulations to staff on the successful completion of the project on behalf of the Board's Building Ad-Hoc Committee and himself.

Chair Scott Greig provided a land acknowledgment.

Directors Present In-Person: Chair Scott Greig, Vice Chair Jennifer Shaw, Robert Uhrig, Tobin Day, Alex Maxwell, Rick Winters, John Farmer, Tony Bell, Scott Mackey, Nadia Dubyk

Directors Present Virtually: Nadia Dubyk

Regrets: Caleb Hull

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield; Manager of Environmental Planning, MacLean Plewes; Manager of Finance and Human Resources Services, Alison Armstrong; Operations Manager, Morgan Barrie; Manager of Water Engineering Services, Ian Eriksen; 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. Vice Chair Shaw declared a conflict with an expense item captured within the consent agenda.

3. Call for Additional Agenda Items

Nothing at this time.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.: FA-26-060	Moved By: Seconded By:	Nadia Dubyk Jon Farmer
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THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of June 24, 2026.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.: FA-26-061	Moved By: Seconded By:	Rick Winters Robert Uhrig
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THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of May 27, 2026.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes

None at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

Chair Greig pulled the receipts and expense item

Motion No.: FA-26-062	Moved By: Seconded By:	Tobin Day Scott Mackey
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THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the June 24, 2026, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – May 2026; (ii) Committee Minutes – IFAA April 30, 2026; (iii) Recent Media Articles.

Carried

Vice Chair Shaw declared a conflict of interest and refrained from voting on Motion No FA-26-063.

Motion No.: FA-26-063	Moved By: Seconded By:	Rick Winters Jon Farmer
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THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the June 24, 2026, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – May 2026;

Carried

8. **Business Items**

i. **Administration**

a. **2026 Expense Financial Statements**

CAO Tim Lanthier spoke with regard to two budgetary items to be amended.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the need to purchase of a drive-in shed (10x16) structure to store the IFAA golf cart and riding lawn mower. The cost of the shed would be shared with the IFAA and GSCA equally, making each share \$4,000. Mr. Lanthier noted that this would be taken from the lands reserve which is currently sitting at a balance of \$937,000, minus funds ear-marked for the Administration Centre renovation project.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the increased cost in removal of debris from the Clendenan Dam for the spring of 2026. While there is a budgeted allocation for this each year, Spring 2026 saw substantially more debris that required more time and effort on the part of the excavator contractor to be removed. The budget was exceeded by approximately \$825. The overage would be covered by the Dam Reserve which is currently sitting at a balance of \$326,000.

It was noted that as per GSCA's Procurement Policy, these exceedances require Board approval as they are outside of the approved budget.

Member Farmer asked for clarification on volunteer access to the upper portion of the barn. Mr. Lanthier responded that there is no longer any volunteer access to the upper portion of the barn. Though it was noted that IFAA volunteers continue to have access to the lower portion of the barn.

Member Maxwell asked with regard to logs that have accumulated in the river. Chair Greig called on Operations Manager, Morgan Barrie to respond. It was explained that some logs do travel down river of the dam naturally, however; when staff have them cleared by the excavator, they are removed entirely from the river wherever possible.

Member Maxwell asked who's responsible for the removal of those logs. Manager of Water Resources, Ian Eriksen added that from a responsibility perspective it is not GSCA's responsibility to remove debris logs from the river and added that it is the Town of the Blue Mountains' choice to have the logs removed or not.

Motion No.:
FA-26-064

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Alex Maxwell

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Board of Directors approved GSCA's 2026 Capital Budget through resolution FA-26-013;

AND WHEREAS, capital expenses have arisen in-year that are beyond this budget;

THAT the GSCA Board Directors approve an additional draw of \$5,000 from reserves to accommodate these expenses.

Carried

b. 2027 Draft Budget

CAO Lanthier noted that this draft budget is coming forward very early due to the province's legislated requirements to have the 2027 budget approved by December 31, 2026, the minimum required 30-day circulation period, and in consideration of the 2026 Municipal Election.

Mr. Lanthier noted the Board had previously approved a request brought forward by staff to adjust the COLA calculation timeframe in order to work around the timing of the budget roll.

Mr. Lanthier reviewed some of the highlights of the draft budget and noted that the budget presented was a lean and responsible budget that took into consideration the changes that will be coming.

Mr. Lanthier noted that he will be making arrangements to meet with member municipalities to present and discuss the budget at councils.

Member Maxwell asked CAO Lanthier to speak to the work and relationships that GSCA has with the Town of the Blue Mountains while presenting to council.

Member Uhrig spoke to the budget in relation to the upcoming consolidation.

Mr. Lanthier noted that all 36 Conservation Authorities are creating business as usual budgets for 2027.

Chair Greig asked with regard to the Bailey Bridge at Inglis Falls. Mr. Lanthier responded that the bridge is primarily pedestrian; however, there exists the possibility of requiring access to the other side with a vehicle. In winter, GSCA uses a tractor and blower to clear the bridge.

Chair Greig asked for details on the Arboretum project. Mr. Lanthier explained that the listed amount encompassed the entirety of the project and will reestablish the trail and improve accessibility. Staff have reached out to various groups, partners, and stakeholders and are working on creating partnerships for the project.

Motion No.:
FA-26-065

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Tony Bell

WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Staff have prepared the 2027 Draft Operating and Capital Budget for the Board of Directors' consideration,

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors receive the 2027 Draft Budget,

AND THAT the GSCA Board of Directors direct Staff to bring a final draft budget to the July 22, 2026, meeting of the Board for approval to circulate to participating municipalities.

Carried

c. Staff Retirement Recognition

CAO Lanthier spoke to Water Resources Coordinator, John Bittorf's 40-year tenure at GSCA and all of the work and successes of his time.

"It's not often we get to pause and recognize a career that spans forty years, but when we do, it's worth taking a moment to reflect not just on the length of service, but on what it has meant to both the Team and to GSCA.

Today, we're here to recognize our Water Resources Coordinator, John Bittorf.

John's career with this GSCA began, quite literally, at the ground level, as a **tree planter**. From there, he moved into the role of **Water Resources Technician**, and over time, through his steady commitment, became our **Water Resources Coordinator**.

This kind of progression says a lot about John. It speaks to someone who didn't just pass through roles, but grew with the GSCA, and helped shape it along the way.

And when you look at John's impact, it's hard to overstate. John was around when the Harris cuts of the mid-90s decimated GSCA. Over the course of his career, he has played a central role rebuilding and significantly expanding both our **water monitoring network** and our **flood forecasting system**. Systems that are now fundamental to how we serve our municipalities and protect our communities.

Even more impressively, and what you may not know, is that most of that work was done with very limited resources. Like MacGyver, John has a knack for making things happen with the resources that are available.

There's a certain rare skill in that. And there's also a unique mindset that values practical solutions over perfect ones, and long-term results over short-term recognition.

Those who have worked with John know that he was never someone seeking the spotlight, though he never shied away from opportunities to present his work and that of GSCA to various community groups. His approach was consistent, thoughtful, and grounded in a deep understanding of the watershed and the work.

Over time, that consistency adds up. It builds systems, it builds trust, and it has built GSCA into an organization that is stronger because of it.

When we talk about legacy, sometimes it can feel like an abstract concept. But in John's case, it's not abstract at all. You can see it in the networks he helped build, and in the work that will continue long after he finds new projects to put his talents towards.

John, on behalf of myself, the Board and the entire organization, I want to sincerely thank you for your dedication, your expertise, and your steady contribution over the past 40 years.

While the Team will certainly feel your absence, I suspect the network that you built will continue to perform exactly as intended and will continue to serve our communities.

You have made a lasting difference here. To recognize the work that you have done and the impact that you have had over the last 40-years, we would like to name the Benthic ID Lab (Bug Room) in your honour.

Congratulations on an exceptional career, and we wish you all the very best in your well-earned retirement. "

John provided a few remarks and thanks to the staff and Board.

Chair Greig thanked John for his work and dedication to GSCA.

Member Day congratulated John on his retirement and his long tenure with GSCA.

Member Maxwell thanked John for his work on establishing the Biver River Watershed Initiative Committee.

Member Farmer extended his thanks for John's work and wished him well in his retirement.

Member Dubyk extended thanks on behalf of the Lake Management Taskforce for the work and dedication in providing knowledge and advice.

d. Room Naming

CAO, Tim Lanthier noted that in light of the newly renovated space, it seemed fitting that the Board formally endorse room names that reflect GSCA's watershed and history.

Mr. Lanthier made the following suggestions:

- That the Board Room be named the North Grey Room in honour of the original North Grey Region Conservation Authority founded in 1957.
- That the Board Adjacent Room be named the Sauble Valley Room in honour of the Sauble Valley Conservation Authority founded in 1958.
- It was noted that when the two rooms are open to each other, they will be referred to as the Grey Sauble Room in honour of the 69 years of history.
- The upstairs meeting room be named The Inglis Room in honour of GSCA's flagship property, Inglis Falls, on which the Administration Centre sits.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the history and work that has been done in what has been affectionately called "The Bug Room". In honour of John Bittorf's 40-years of service to GSCA, Mr. Lanthier recommended that the Benthic ID Lab be named in honour of John.

Member Uhrig asked if there was any way to cement "Grey Sauble Conservation Authority" somewhere in the building to preserve its legacy after the coming consolidation. Mr. Lanthier suggested that the history, work, and name of Grey Sauble conservation Authority could be represented and honoured through artwork that will be added to the building and in the Boardroom in particular.

Motion No.:
FA-26-066

Moved By: **Scott Mackey**
Seconded By: **Robert Uhrig**

WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority has recently undertaken renovations to its Administrative Offices;

AND WHEREAS GSCA would like to formally recognize its current watershed by naming the office meeting rooms;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors direct Staff to implement the following room names:

- 1. Board Room: The North Grey Room**
- 2. Board Adjacent Room: The Sauble Valley Room**
- 3. Upstairs Room: The Inglis Falls Room**
- 4. Bug Room: TBD in honour of John Bittorf**

Carried

9. New Business

Nothing at this time.

10. CAO's Report

CAO Lanthier noted that it had been a busy month, especially in consideration of the move back to the office. It was noted that staff operations and the building were only closed to the public for three days and commended staff for their perseverance and hard work.

Mr. Lanthier noted that GSCA's Client Service Feedback Loop has been established with a survey linked embedded in staff's email signature.

Pre-consultation work has begun on planned Source Protection Plan amendments for new wells in Chesley and Durham. Notices have been circulated to all affected municipalities and key stakeholder groups.

The Turtle Stewardship program has begun, with volunteers installing more than 130 nest protectors. It was noted that there are still a few spots available in GSCA's day camp.

Mr. Lanthier participated in a tour of Maitland Valley CA watershed along with other CAOs from Southwest Ontario.

Staff have spent significant time in preparing and submitting requested information to the Ernst and Young group to support the provincially mandated amalgamation.

The Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency has conducted interviews for the project executive positions. Announcements will be forthcoming. It was noted that there were no other updates with regard to the consolidation.

There will be a second pre-transition committee meeting held on July 6th.

Staff have conducted interviews for the new Water Resources Technician. The successful candidate will start on July 6th. This position is part of the succession plan for the Water Resources department in light of Mr. Bittor's retirement.

The Memorial Tree ceremony was held on June 14th. The event went well and was well attended.

Mr. Lanthier attended The Ontario Aggregate Resource Corporation (TOARC) Board meeting on June 18th. Mr. Lanthier is appointed environmental representative from Conservation Ontario.

Member Mackey asked for more information regarding TOARC. Mr. Lanthier responded that TOARC was established to act as a trust for holding payments and fees from aggregate contractors. Member Mackey asked how someone would apply to access funding for rehabilitation work. Mr. Lanthier did not know the specific application process.

Member Farmer asked with regard to open day camp spots and if staff have the time and resources to look into partnerships with local agencies to provide subsidized spots. The Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield noted that staff have not had the time recently to explore this in-depth, however; they have been in contact with local schools and utilized their support services to provide candidates.

Member Uhrig asked if there is a timeline for finishing the entry way with art and displays. Mr. Lanthier responded that there is an open house proposed for September and that we hope for the work to be completed in time for the open house.

Member Dubyk asked with regard to the Ernst and Young information gathering and if they are utilizing staff's time well and respectfully. Mr. Lanthier responded that the E&Y group is utilizing the information to develop a preliminary transition plan, which will hopefully minimize the overall amount of staff time needed for this work.

11. Chair's Report

Chair Greig complimented the newly added wayfinding signage for the entrance road and parking area.

Chair Greig extended thanks to Vice Chair Shaw on her work with the pre-transition committee and filling in at the recent Conservation Ontario meeting.

New Vital Signs report produced by Community Foundation Grey Bruce.

Vice Chair Shaw relayed that at the recent Conservation Ontario meeting, it was noted that Ontario has the lowest overland flooding insurance claims in the country despite being the most developed province in Canada. Vice Chair Shaw asked if this statistic could be documented and disseminated. Mr. Lanthier responded that this is something that CAs know well but noted that it is difficult to articulate and calculate the value of damages that didn't happen because it was prevented.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

13. Resolution to Move into Closed Session – Nothing at this time.

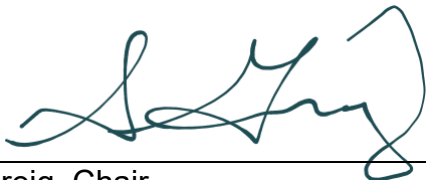
14. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes – Nothing at this time.

15. Next Full Authority Meeting

Wednesday July 22, 2026

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.



Scott Greig, Chair



Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant