Grey Sauble CONSERVATION

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GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 26, 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 1:18 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually and provided a land acknowledgment.

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

Directors Present Virtually: NA

Regrets: Jon Farmer, Caleb Hull

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

The Directors were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting.

3. Call for Additional Agenda Items

Nothing at this time.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Nadia Dubyk**
FA-26-075	**Seconded By:**	**Rob Uhrig**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of August 26, 2026.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Scott Mackey**
FA-26-076	**Seconded By:**	**Rick Winters**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of July 22, 2026.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes

None at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Tony Bell**
FA-26-077	**Seconded By:**	**Rob Uhrig**

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the August 26, 2026, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – July 2026; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – July 2026; (iii) Minutes – IFAA – May 21, 2026; (iv) Recent Media Articles.

Carried

8. Business Items

i. Administration

a. 2026 Q2 Budget Report

CAO Tim Lanthier spoke with regard to the 2nd Quarter update of the 2026 Budget Report noting that the budget is proceeding well to the end of Q2 with expenditures on track at 45% spent.

It was noted that the year-end forecast is showing a surplus though it is too soon to know with certainty.

Mr. Lanthier noted that the Stewardship department is showing higher than budgeted revenues and expenditures due to a Greenbelt funding grant in the amount of $30,000.

Staff will be bringing forward a final report on the Administration Centre financing once the project is deemed complete.

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Rick Winters**
FA-26-078	**Seconded By:**	**Nadia Dubyk**

WHEREAS the Board of Directors approved the GSCA 2026 Operating and Capital Budget on January 28, 2026, by motion FA-26-014,

THAT, the Board of Directors receive staff report 030-2026 – 2026 Q2 Budget Report Back as information.

Carried

b. CAA Updates

CAO Lanthier provided a presentation to the Board regarding the details to date and the recent updates to the CAA and the consolidation of Conservation Authorities.

Mr. Lanthier noted that effective February 1, 2027, the Board of Representatives will be made up of upper tier and single tier elected officials. Mr. Lanthier provided details received from the province on how the number of members per municipality will be determined.

The province has released ERO Posting 026-0740 for comments until September 12th regarding their proposed Tiered Allocation Formula for governance representation by population.

Mr. Lanthier noted that, according to the proposed formula, Bruce County would provide one representative and Grey County would provide two representatives out of a total of 21 representatives.

It was noted that there continues to be some discussion around fine tuning the breakdown.

Vice Chair Shaw suggested Members make comment on the ERO posting.

There was general discussion around the details of the province's proposed representation by population with concern being raised about the rural versus urban representation split. Members discussed whether geography and land mass should be factored into the representation calculation.

Member Alex Maxwell joined the meeting at 1:45 pm.

Members asked with regard to the LHRCA budgets and funding, and the timeline for the transition.

Mr. Lanthier responded with an overview of the transition phase in period and noted that the first official Transition Committee meeting is to be held on September 9th.

It was reported that as of February 1st 2027, Don Goodyear would be officially installed in the role of CAO of the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority and that the first two years are expected to be a transformation period that would see substantial change and integration.

Mr. Lanthier noted that the province has also included a question with regard to ineligibility of the OPCA Board Members.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the timeline provided by the MECP.

Mr. Lanthier noted that in the course of the pre-transition committee meetings held by representatives of the six CAs, several guiding principles were developed. These included:

- Governance and Accountability
- Service and Community Outcomes
- Watershed Management Options
- People and Organizational Transition
- Engagement and Trust

Member Dubyk asked in regard to the possibility of the local watershed committees that had been suggested. Mr. Lanthier responded that OPCA's focus is currently on the larger transition and setup of the new Board and believes that any development of Watershed Councils would come later.

Member Maxwell asked what might happen if there is a change in leadership after the next provincial election. Mr. Lanthier responded that there is no way of knowing.

Member Day asked to clarify if the Board would be providing comments to the province's ERO posting. Mr. Lanthier responded that he will submit a comment that will capture the Board's thoughts and concerns.

Member Uhrig noted that local municipalities are getting very little say and asked if there will be any mechanism for local public input.

Member Bell expressed his concern with regard to how the province has handled the consolidation and transition process, and the loss of local voices at the table.

Member Maxwell asked how small municipalities with less say or representation will lobby for resources at budget time. Mr. Lanthier responded that he believes that the LHRCA Board will fill a governance role only, operations will likely be in the hands of staff.

Chair Greig emphasized the need to have connection and communication between the Board and the local communities.

Member Day expressed support with Member Bell's concerns and noted that many local communities share these concerns. Member Dubyk echoed this support.

Member Mackey expressed concern around the Representation by Population formula.

Vice Chair Shaw noted that those Members selected to represent the upper tier municipality will have a lot of responsibility in speaking on behalf of the entire county.

Vice Chair Shaw asked if the GSCA Board would like to put forward questions around some of the costs associated with the transition and whether OPCA intends to cover those extra costs rather than the local municipalities. Mr. Lanthier noted that those costs were not to be included in GSCA's 2027 budget.

Member Maxwell expressed concern around the LHRCA's ability respond to issues and concerns of the local municipalities.

Mr. Lanthier noted that the CAA includes the option for the Minister to appoint an agricultural representative to the Board and that a similar element could be included in the comments submitted by GSCA.

Member Nadia supported altering the population formula to remove the fourth tier.

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Jennifer Shaw**
FA-26-079	**Seconded By:**	**Tobin Day**

THAT, the Board of Directors direct staff to clarify with the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency how and by whom the costs related to the Transition Committee activities, related travel, and other related costs will be funded.

Carried

c. October, November, and December Meeting Status

CAO Lanthier clarified the language and legislation regarding makeup of the Board of Directors and noted that all Members must be elected officials.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the 2026 Board Schedule that was approved at the December 2025 meeting. This approved schedule included meetings in October and December that had been moved up to the 3rd week of the month to account for the October election and winter holidays.

Concern was raised around the December meeting and if it will be necessary in light of the election and any new members who may need to be appointed to the Board.

Mr. Lanthier will connect with the municipal clerks around when inauguration will take place.

A suggestion was made to maintain the established and approved schedule and reassess if and when needed.

General agreement to maintain the current schedule, a motion was not necessary.

9. New Business

Nothing at this time.

10. CAO's Report

CAO Lanthier updated the Board on the Arboretum Trail project noting GSCA has received several letters of support from local community groups. It was noted that the original scope of the work has been expanded to include dementia friendly elements with the goal becoming a recognized dementia friendly trail. Staff will be applying for a grant through the Community Foundation Grey Bruce and will be initiating a fundraising campaign.

Member Mackey asked for the details on what makes a dementia friendly trail. Mr. Lanthier responded that the standards include specifics around trail width, colour, benches, wayfinding signage, and reducing the possibility of getting off trail. It was noted that staff will be connecting with the appropriate agencies to help with the details.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the Arran Lake meeting held regarding the dock and pavilion removal. In response to the community's feedback, operations staff have cleaned up the areas and built and installed a new dock structure at Arran Lake. Additionally, staff are moving up the management plan of Arran Lake up to 2027.

Vice Chair Shaw extended thanks on behalf of the community for GSCA staff's engagement and efforts to listen and act on the community's concerns in a timely manner.

Mr. Lanthier has been visiting municipal councils to present on and answer questions regarding the 2027 budget and the conservation authority amalgamation.

Upcoming Events:

- August 27 – The Glen Ribbon Cutting and Walker Community BBQ Event
- September 18th – Echoes of the Marsh Signage Reveal
- September 21st – Conservation Ontario Council Meeting
- October 1st – GSCA Administrative Centre Grand Opening and Council Appreciation Event
- October 22nd – Volunteer Appreciation Day

11. Chair's Report

Chair Greig had nothing to report.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

The Board recessed at 3:01 p.m. for 10 minutes.

The Board resumed session at 3:10 p.m.

13. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Scott Mackey**
FA-26-080	**Seconded By:**	**Jennifer Shaw**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors proceed into closed session at 3:11 pm to discuss matters related to the following:

i. **Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting held on July 22, 2026; and,**

ii. **To discuss an item in the Town of Arran-Elderslie related to a position, plan procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on by or on behalf of the Authority. (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4 (xvii)(h)).**

AND FURTHER THAT CAO, Tim Lanthier and Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman will be present.

Carried

14. Declaration that the Board of Directors Has Resumed Open Session

Board resumed open session at 3:30 pm.

15. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes – July 22, 2026

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Jennifer Shaw**
FA-26-081	**Seconded By:**	**Rick Winters**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the July 22, 2026, Closed Session minutes as presented in the closed session agenda.

Carried

16. Reporting Out of Closed

Members discussed the closed session minutes of July 22, 2026, and gave direction to staff on items that were identified and nothing else.

17. Next Full Authority Meeting

Wednesday August 26, 2026

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Scott Greig, Chair

Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant