

GREATER SUDBURY WATERSHED ALLIANCE INC.
GENERAL MEETING
Monday, November 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom

MINUTES

PRESENT: 21 Participants including 19 stewardship representatives and 2 guests.
14 of GSWA's 22 member groups were represented

QUORUM: YES

GUESTS from CGS: Taylor Menard; Stephen Monet

REGRETS: Chair, Alex Cieslewicz

GSWA ATTENDEE	WATER BODY
Nicholas Smit*, Vice Chair	Simon
Richard Witham, Past Chair	Long
Susan Darling, Secretary	Long
Mary Henderson *	Long
Lori Adams*	Long
David Young, Treasurer; substitute voting member*	McFarlane
Lin Gibson, substitute voting member*	McFarlane
Sandi Willock*	Grant
Jim Gomm *	Rock
Valerie Lalonde *	Fairbank
Margaret McLaughlin*	Fairbank
Tom Muir*	Forest
Elaine Porter*	Ramsey
Mandy Hey*	Nepahwin
Norm Eady *	Wahnapiatae
John Gaul, substitute voting member *	Minnow
Stu Greaves*	Panache
Ruth Debicki*	St. Charles
Nick Benkovich*	Tilton

** indicates voting representative for their association*

1. AGENDA approval. Vice Chair Nicholas Smit presided over the meeting in the absence of Chair Alex Cieslewicz. MOTION to approve agenda by Margaret M; seconded by Jim. **CARRIED**
2. MINUTES of January 11, 2021. MOTION to approve by Mary H; seconded by Val L. **CARRIED**
3. BUSINESS ARISING/Previous Business
We noted that an action plan to create a salt working group evolved into creating a Water Protection Committee. One of its focuses will be salt and chloride.
4. CORRESPONDENCE - Letters and responses were screen shared.
 - a) GSWA letter to CGS Mayor & Council re protecting LU green space.
 - b) Letter of response from Mayor Bigger indicated agreement with our concerns.

c) GSWA letter to CGS Mayor & Council supporting Business Case for enhanced catchment basin cleaning. No response was expected. Several WP members followed up with phone calls to Councillors to ensure receipt of the letter.

d) GSWA Letter of Appreciation to Cheryl Beam, Program Lead for CGS Water & Wastewater Task Force, who was a guest presenter to Board in September.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT – Dave Young's report (attached) shows our bank balance to be \$10,372.97. He advised of the new practice of acknowledging speakers with donations to non-profit organizations that are aligned with the guest's topic. GSWA has made a \$50 donation to Ontario Invasive Plants Council in lieu of a gift to Taylor Menard, tonight's guest presenter. MOTION to receive and file by David; seconded by Lin G. **CARRIED**

6. PRESENTATION (7 – 8:00 p.m.) by Taylor Menard, Lake Water Quality Program Coordinator with the City of Greater Sudbury, "*Phragmites: A Growing Concern*". Taylor explained both the native and invasive subspecies of Phragmites and how to identify each. He emphasised the persistence of the invasive type, and illustrated its life cycle as well as the removal techniques that can be used. Taylor provided a page of resources about Phragmites and will post his report on the city's website. A link to the GSWA YouTube recording will be distributed to stewardship representatives. Nicholas Smit thanked Taylor for his excellent presentation and also expressed appreciation to Stephen Monet for participating in the discussion. David Y explained the GSWA donation to the Ontario Invasive Plants Council in lieu of a speaker's gift.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Water Protection Committee - Mandy

Members are: Mandy, Nick Benkovich, Gisele Chretien, Norm Eady, Lesley Flowers, Margaret McLaughlin. The committee has met four times since its first meeting April 26, 2021.

To date GSWA-WPC has:

- Developed and submitted a Terms of Reference to the GSWA Board
- Refined its area of focus to:
 - Salt levels in the Ramsey Lake (DWPZ) and Nepahwin Lake watershed
 - Inflow, Infiltration and Leakage (II&L) concerns in the Sanitary Sewer System and associated concerns Storm Water System
- Developed a Workplan for "Salt" Initiatives that address the 3 primary sources: municipal roads, commercial and private parking lots and residential use.

ACTIONS

SALT:

Municipal roads:

- Salt routes for both watersheds were retrieved.
- Outreach to Tony Ceccutti to be given a CGS Salt Management Plan contact and were directed to Paul Javor, Drainage Engineer. WP was advised that there is a delay in the review of the Salt Optimization Plan. A Level of Service request brought to CGS from within the Nepahwin Lake Watershed can't be reviewed until 2022.

Commercial and private parking lots:

WPC followed up with Jennifer Babin-Fenske, Earthcare coordinator about outcomes from "Hold the Salt". There had been no uptake on Smart about Salt (SAS) Certification since the

forum. CGS has since offered 5 free SAS certification courses to local contractors; to date the uptake has been poor. GSWA-WPC will work to assist in the promotion of this offering (see below). GSWA-WPC also connected Jennifer Babin-Fenske with the Ottawa Riverkeepers that are also offering free SAS courses to share lessons learned.

Residential Ice Melts:

- GSWA Decision Aid was developed in January 2021 and a reminder was given to Stewardship Groups that this would be a good time of year to circulate/ promote it to their memberships.
- Nepahwin Lake Watershed Stewardship Group (NLWSG) has had 20 copies of the Decision Aid printed on sturdy tear-proof paper and is reaching out to residential road salt vendors in the South End with information on environmental impact on local lakes as well as highlighting current free SAS courses. In discussions with some GSWA board members prior to the meeting, it was thought that using a modified letter to approach the Big Box Kingsway vendors in the Ramsey Lake Watershed on GSWA letterhead might be more appropriate. The letter was revised and presented to the General Meeting:

MOTION: to approve a letter to Sudbury Community Business partners (who sell residential ice melts and traction aids) highlighting the Decision Aid and the CGS FREE Smart about Salt course. Moved by Ruth, seconded by Norm. **CARRIED**

Action: Mandy will send GSWA Secretary the FINAL GSWA Decision Aid
Mandy will be sent the FINAL letter to vendors on GSWA letterhead for distribution to Big Box Kingsway vendors.

Inflow, Infiltration & Leakage and Storm System Operations and Maintenance:

- Nick B. invited Cheryl Beam to present on II&L to the GSWA Board September 28.
- Nick and Norm did a walk about on Ramsey and Nepahwin shores and took some graphic photos of discharge drains. This led to GSWA/WPC-developed letter to Mayor and Council in support of the Business Case for enhanced cleaning of catchment basins in the Ramsey Lake watershed.
- CGS has developed a Storm Water Asset Management Plan that indicates operations and maintenance fall behind industry standards and would require a tax levy. In late October, CGS released their commissioned Sustainability Storm Water Funding Study with the goal to be sustainable, equitable and reliable and favours a stormwater rate based on imperviousness of the property. The study suggests all detached residential properties contribute the same amount but non-residential are based on their measured impervious area. A credit system for properties that reduce their impact on the system is possible. A Public commentary period is planned for Q1 2022, with the goal to have a budget in place by Q1 2023. The WPC plans to review this Study and submit commentary. Mandy will follow-up with Paul Javor to find out more about the consultation process.

b) Communications Committee - Richard W reported that this committee drafted the letters described under Correspondence.

c) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS-EWM) - Ruth Debicki reported on the committee's Oct 6th zoom meeting with MNR staff and with Taylor Menard. The purpose was to share the findings of Lake Aquatic Invaders Controls In Sudbury (LAICS). There was good representation: Dr. Ramcharan, 5 NRF staff, Taylor Menard for CGS, and 10 members

of GSWA/AIS. The MNRF was reminded of the GSWA-MNRF meeting February of 2017 and the Ministry's request for more science before approving work permits for benthic mats, and that LAICS was a citizen scientist project under the leadership of biologist Dr. Ramcharan. The AIS-EWM advised that Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is a growing problem in Sudbury area lakes; provided examples of studies and projects elsewhere in the province that have been supported or approved by MNRF; and expressed the hope that EWM could be officially recognized under the Ontario Invasive Species Act. [Ruth noted that we learned we did not meet the deadline before the list was finalized.] The MNRF advised they do not create policy but implement it, and that their office does not have the capacity to deal with a large influx of work permit requests. Overall there were few substantial outcomes, but a few action items were documented and participants are eager to keep lines of communication open.

8. Next General Meeting was set for Monday, February 7, 2022 by zoom. There will be a focus on healthy shorelines. We will have information about the new by-law including how enforcement will be complaint driven. We will investigate possible guest speakers on either native plants for naturalizing shorelines, or recognizing invasive plants, or both. E.g. Watersheds Canada or staff from the CGS Environmental Planning.

9. Other Business

Re winter and salt: GSWA's *Decision Aid for Ice Melts and Traction Aids* is intended to educate consumers and vendors as to how we can have options that address safety and are environmentally friendly at the same time. It will be distributed to GSWA member groups with a reminder to promote.

Next Board meeting is January 10, 2022.

10. Adjournment at 8:45 p.m. Moved by Margaret, seconded by Tom.

Recorder, Susan Darling

**Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance
Treasurer's Report to the General Meeting
November 22, 2021**

version 10.05 2021 Nov 22

Date	Description	Debit	Deposit	Balance
<u>2021</u>				10404.47
April 6	Membership 2021 to March 2022 1.Panache (Mar 2018-Mar 2023) 2.L. Wahnapiatae 3.St. Charles (Mar 2020-2022) 4.Grant L. (Mar 2020-2022) 5.Richard L (Mar 2020-Mar 2022 6. Tilton L. (Mar 2020-Mar2022 by N. Benkovich & by R. Fabbro) 7. Long L. (Mar 2020-2022) 8.Fairbank L. 9.McFarlane Lk. 10.Nepahwin 11.Forest 12.Junction Cr		Paid and recorded already	
April 7 to 19	Membership 13. Grassy L. 14.Rock L. 15.Nepawassi L. 16.Ramsey L.17.Simon L. 18. Minnow L.19.Whitewater L. 20. Little Lake Penage 21. Four Lakes 22. Clear L.		200.00	10604.47
May 7	#9 FOCA membership Federation of Ontario Cottager's Association	125.00		10479.47
May 7	#10 ReThink Green Membership	56.50		10422.97
Nov. 23	Donation to OntarioInvasivePlant Council on behalf of our presenter Taylor Menard, Lake Water Quality Program Coordinator	50.00		10372.97