



Grey Sauble
CONSERVATION

FORGING AHEAD

**Discussing the Regulatory Changes of
the “New” Conservation Authorities
Act**

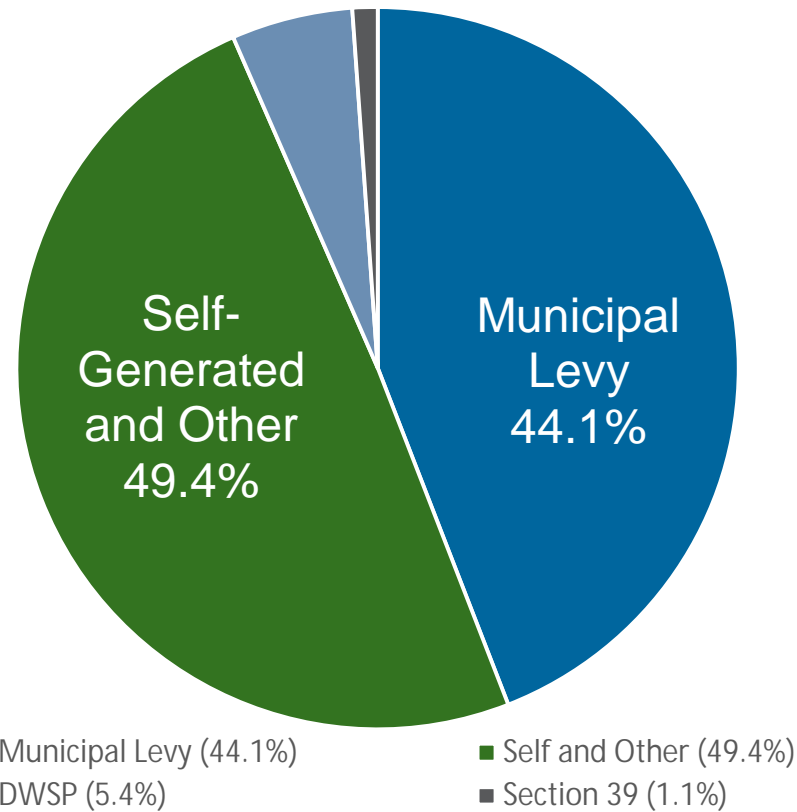


GSCA BACKGROUND

- 8 Member Municipalities
- 11 Board Members (all elected officials)
- > 3100 Square Kilometers
- > 155km of Shoreline
- ~25 Staff
- \$3.1M Annual Operating Budget
- GSCA plants or distributes between 70K-100K trees per year into the watershed
- Offers valuable environmental education programming and stewardship opportunities
- Protect people and properties through land-use planning, development review and flood forecasting and warning
- Manage 29,000 acres of natural areas for recreation, natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystem services



GSCA 2021 Budget Breakdown



Regulatory Changes under the Conservation Authorities Act

Phase 1

The current regulatory proposal consists of the following:

- Mandatory vs. Non-Mandatory Programs
- Transition Plans and MOU Timelines
- Community Advisory Boards
- Section 29 Regulations

Mandatory v. Non-Mandatory

What does Mandatory mean?

Through recent changes to the CAA, the Province has defined Mandatory programs as programs and services related to:

- Natural Hazards
- Management of Conservation Authority owned or managed lands
- Drinking Water Source Protection
- Other Items to be Prescribed:
 - Core Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy
 - Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring

Mandatory v. Non-Mandatory



What does Non-Mandatory mean?

Non-Mandatory is divided into two categories:

- Municipal Service Agreements (ie: Planning Agreements or RMO Agreements)
- Other Programs and Services



Mandatory v. Non-Mandatory



Current Levy Structure:

- Board of Director's votes on and approves total budget and total levy portion of the budget.
- Weighted collection of levy from all member municipalities based on their percentage of Modified Current Value Assessment.
- Special project may be fee for service or special benefiting levy.



Mandatory v. Non-Mandatory



New Levy Structure:

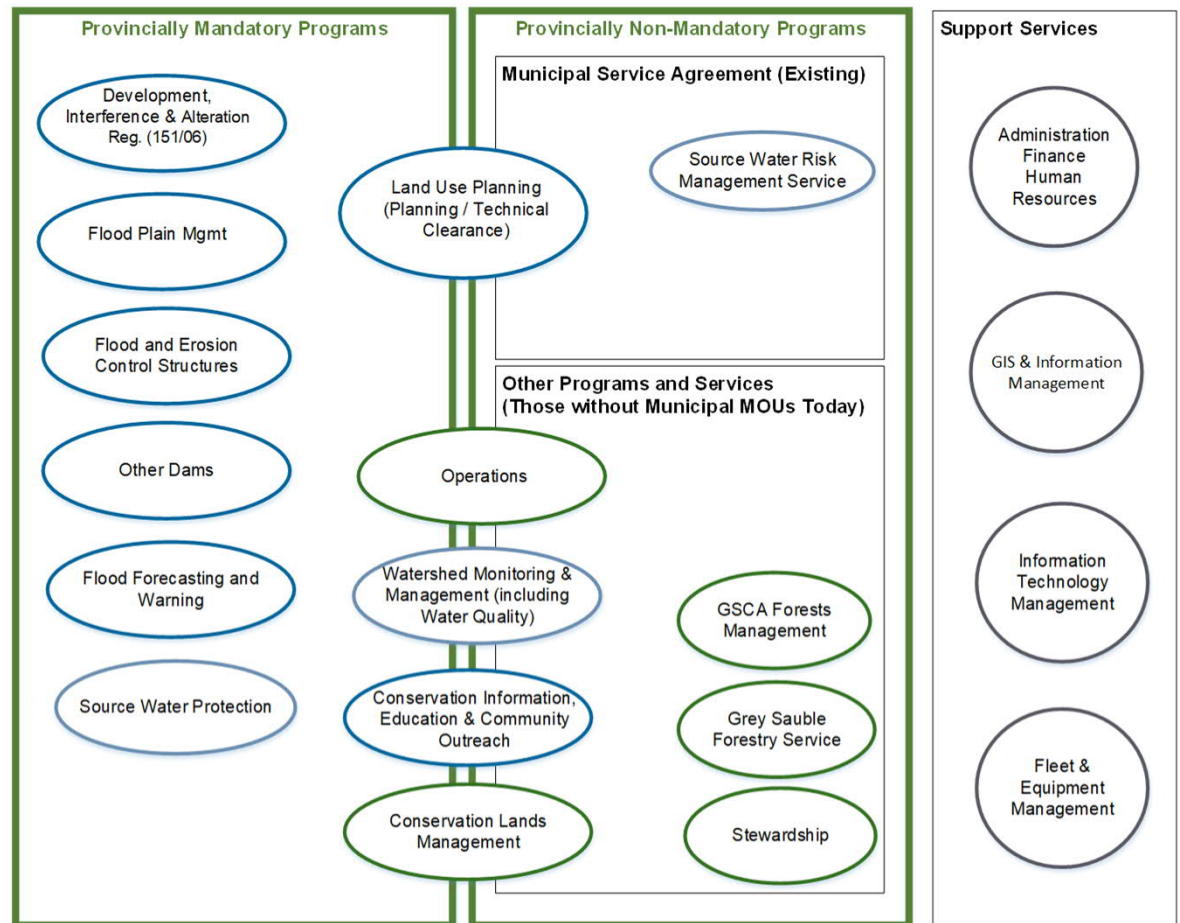
- Mandatory programs and services will maintain the current levy structure.
- Municipal Services will require an agreement to defines fee for service or levy amount.
- Other programs and services will either need to be wholly funded by the CA or will require an MOU/Agreement with each municipality for its share of the requested levy.



GSCA PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

A general breakdown of GSCA's program areas identifies which programs and services are considered mandatory, non-mandatory municipal service, and non-mandatory "other programs and services".

Some program areas are divided between mandatory and non-mandatory

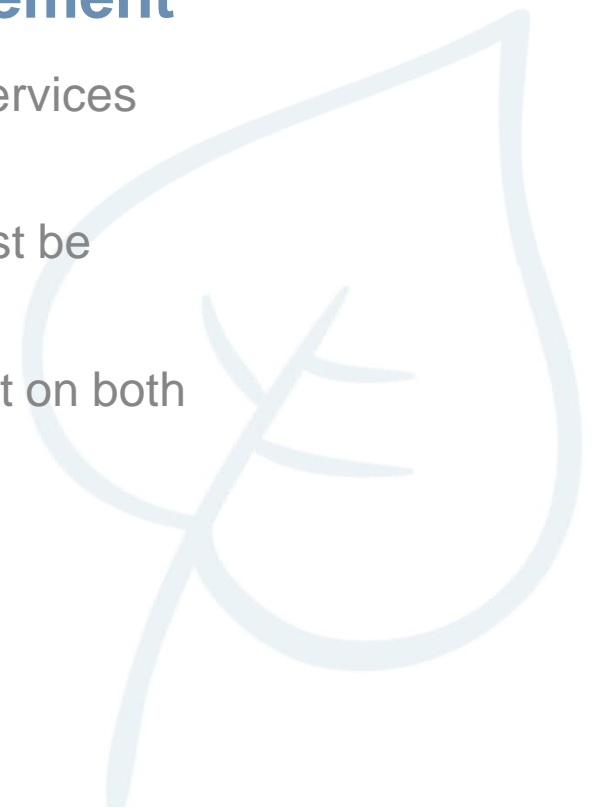


Transition Plans and MOU's



Working Together for Watershed Management

- MOU/Agreements for Non-Mandatory programs and services are required to be in place by January 1, 2023.
- Transition plans defining how we'll accomplish this must be completed by December 31, 2021.
- Moving to this new fee structure will require some effort on both the part of the CA's and the part of the municipalities.





COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS

Government prescribed terms:

- Quorum, Chair, Vice-Chair and secretary to align with Administrative By-Law
- Members must reside in Area of Jurisdiction
- Public permitted to be members
- Minimum number of members is 5
- Where possible, members represent the geographic range of authority's jurisdiction
- Must seek out a variety of members including youth and indigenous representation



COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS

Government prescribed terms (continued):

- Appointment process of members by public notification and application
- A minimum of one authority Member (and an Alternate) to be appointed
- Maximum authority representation is 15%
- CA must provide administrative support
- Meetings open to the public



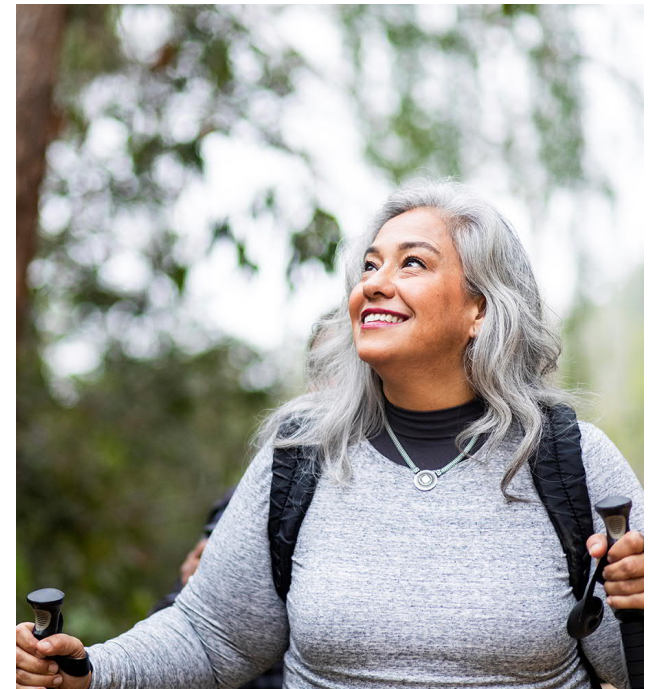
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS

CA Board to develop TOR:

- Composition (technical skills/rural/urban, etc.)
- When meetings occur
- Term/duration of appointments
- Additional activities or functions of members
- Number of members
- Activities
- Functions
- Duties and procedures

CHANGES TO SECTION 29 REGULATIONS

Once the new section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act is proclaimed, a Minister's regulation is proposed to consolidate the current individual authority section 29 'Conservation Areas' regulations regarding activities on lands owned by conservation authorities into one regulation.



Concerns / Issues



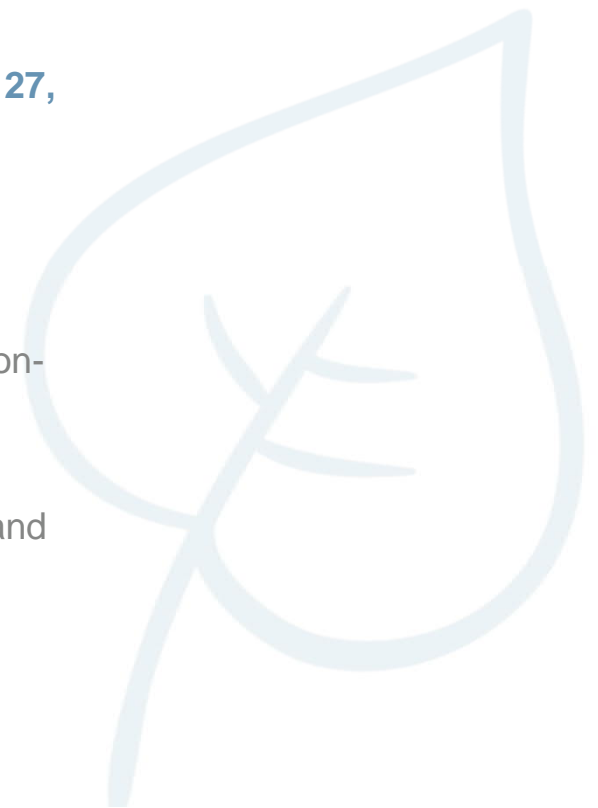
GSCA is already lean on resources. The proposed changes raise the following concerns.

- Timelines for agreements lines up with new municipal councils. Lame duck issues?
- Recreation exclusion from Mandatory definition for Management of CA owned lands.
- Concerns about costs and staff resource requirements to address any new service standards and timelines associated with delivery of mandatory programs, including:
 - Possible increases in natural hazard management.
 - Core Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy
 - Land Management Strategy.
 - Property Management Plans.
 - Community Advisory Boards.

Next Steps

As we move forward through this transition, the following immediate and longer-term actions are necessary:

- Prepare Comments on the Regulatory Proposal ERO posting by **June 27, 2021**.
- Meet with Senior municipal staff and municipal councils (**ongoing**).
- Prepare transition plan for MECP by **December 31, 2021**.
- Negotiate, draft and execute agreements with municipal partners for non-mandatory services by **December 31, 2022**.
- Seek clarity on requirements and timelines for Core Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy, Strategic Plan for GSCA Properties and Management Plans for GSCA Properties (**TBD**).
- Determine ToR for Community Advisory Board (**TBD**).
- Establish Community Advisory Board (**TBD**)



PHASE 2

**Additional Regulatory Proposals
Expected Later in 2021**

Phase 2 Regulatory Proposal

Phase 2 is expected to include a minimum levy for Conservation Authority costs not related to delivery of specific programs and services which could include:

- Staffing and expenses for the authority members (governance costs)
- General corporate services: management, clerical, financial (e.g., accounting, payroll), general asset management planning, IT staff, senior management costs, legal costs, office equipment and supplies, IT infrastructure, vehicles and machinery, and insurance
- General Administrative Assets: workshop space, main office occupancy costs (e.g., heating, utilities, potentially rent), general asset management planning, IT infrastructure, vehicles and machinery, depreciation on owned buildings and equipment and main office maintenance and repair.
- Property taxes.





THANK YOU