

To:	Warden Halliday and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	November 22, 2018
Subject / Report No:	PDR-CW-43-18
Title:	Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Contract Renewal for Continued Forest and Trail Management and By-law Enforcement
Prepared by:	Randy Scherzer
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All Municipalities
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution <i>CW284-18</i> ; Endorsed by County Council on December 20, 2018 as per Resolution <i>CC05-19</i> .

Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CW-43-18 be received which provides an overview of the current contract agreements with Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) for managing the County Forests, general maintenance and risk management of County owned trails, and for providing By-law Enforcement of the County's Forest Management By-law; and
2. That based on the current contract agreements expiring on December 31, 2018 and March 1, 2019 respectively it is recommended that the agreements be extended to December 31, 2019 to allow the opportunity to update the agreements in 2019 and for Council to consider the renewal of the contract arrangement outside of the Lame Duck period; and
3. That Council acknowledges that an extension of the current agreements with Grey Sauble Conservation Authority to December 31, 2019 is required and staff be directed to move forward with these renewals as approved by the Chief Administrative Officer in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 of By-law 5029-18, being the Lame Duck By-law.
4. THAT the GSCA agreement continue as per 4.3 f) of Purchasing Policy stating that a single source procurement may take place when competitive procurement may be found to be impractical.

Executive Summary

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) has been managing the County Forests and enforcing the Forest Management By-law since February 2005. In 2007, Grey Sauble also took on the management of the CP Rail Trail which includes risk management and general maintenance. The relationship that the County has had with the staff from GSCA has been successful and has worked well for both sides over the past 13 years. There are currently two contract agreements with GSCA to provide these services being the Forest and Recreational Management Agreement and the Forest Management Agreement (By-law Enforcement). These agreements are set to expire on December 31, 2018 and March 1, 2019 respectively. It is recommended that these agreements be extended to December 31, 2019 to allow for budget planning purposes in 2019 for both the County and GSCA. This will also allow further time to update the agreements and bring this matter forward to Council in 2019 outside of the Restricted Acts period (Lame Duck period).

Background and Discussion

In February 2005, the County entered into a contract agreement with Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) to manage the County Forests and the trails within the County Forests as well as to enforce the County's Forest Management By-Law. In 2007, GSCA also took on the day to day management of the CP Rail Trail relating to risk management and general maintenance. The relationship that the County has had with staff from GSCA has been successful and has worked well for both sides over the past 13 years. GSCA is quick to respond to matters that arise, which has resulted in a great working relationship with County staff and a positive relationship with the public.

There are two current contract agreements with GSCA being the Forest and Recreational Management Agreement and the Forest Management Agreement (By-law Enforcement). The agreements are currently set to expire on December 31, 2018 and March 1, 2019 respectively. In order for the County and GSCA to properly plan for the 2019 budget, it is recommended that these agreements be extended to December 31, 2019. This will also allow further time to update the agreements to reflect the County's needs and interests for managing the County's forests and trails. Any recommendations from the soon to be completed Recreational Trails Master Plan can also be incorporated into the updated agreements. By extending the current agreements to December 31, 2019, it will also allow the revised agreements to be brought forward to Council in 2019 outside of the Restricted Acts period (Lame Duck period).

Legal and Legislated Requirements

Municipal Act

Forest Management By-law 4341-06, as amended

Financial and Resource Implications

The contract agreements would be extended based on the current terms and conditions outlined in the two agreements (see links to agreements below). The current contract costs for managing the County Forests, the County Trails and enforcing the Forest Management By-law is approximately \$160,000.

Based on the contract extension exceeding \$50,000 in value, the extension to the agreements would be approved by the Chief Administrative Officer in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 of By-law 5029-18, being the Lame Duck By-law.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal (Planning, Clerks, Agreement Staff, Chief Administrative Officer)
- External (Grey Sauble Conservation Authority)

Appendices and Attachments

[Forest and Recreation Management Agreement](#)

[Forest Management Agreement - By-law Enforcement](#)

[Forest Management By-law 4341-06, as amended](#)