



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) - April 25, 2024**

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 19-24-SSEA  
**Date:** April 18, 2024  
**To:** Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** Julie Cayley, Executive Director

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**SUBJECT: Request for SSEA to Join “GB-5”**

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*Strategic Plan Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization*

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT:** Staff Report No. 19-24-SSEA regarding Request for SSEA to Join “GB-5” be received; **AND**

**FURTHER THAT:** The Board support SSEA joining “GB-5”.

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

To identify for the Board the opportunity to officially join the collaborative Georgian Bay “GB-5” community.

**Background**

Organizations with shared interest in Georgian Bay including Georgian Bay Association, Georgian Bay Forever, Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere and Georgian Bay Land Trust, collaborate where appropriate under the umbrella of the “GB-5” since approximately 2010.

From the informal agreement:

*It is recognized that the organizations that comprise the “GB-5” are independent of one another, with independent Boards of Directors, Governing By-Laws, Letters Patent, and in some cases charitable status. It is further recognized that there are overlapping and, for the most part complimentary, areas of interest between these organizations and that these organizations often interact with the same external parties including elected officials, government agencies, members of the public and, in some cases, funders and donors. Given the above it is felt that there should be a shared statement of intent between the organizations that will help guide future interactions.*

**The Statement of Intent:**

*The organizations that comprise the “GB-5” will endeavour to support and be seen to support one another’s initiatives by;*

- *Sharing information on initiatives with one another on a timely basis.*

- *Tabling concerns directly with the appropriate “GB-5” organization(s), not in a public forum.*
- *Whenever appropriate or possible, looking to each other to partner on specific projects. This is not to prevent “GB-5” organizations working with anyone else but does ask that consideration be given to creating partnerships amongst the “GB-5” organizations.*
- *Having Executive/Board members meet semi annually as a group to discuss areas of mutual interest.*
- *Having the Executive Directors of each organization meet at least quarterly to discuss areas of mutual interest.*
- *When meeting with external parties be supportive of fellow “GB-5” organizations and, when appropriate, refer third parties to a contact in the other organization for follow up.*

### **Analysis/Discussion**

The Severn Sound Environmental Association has joined meetings of the “GB-5” and collaborates on projects as outcomes and funding allow. Officially joining the “GB-5” would make this a more official arrangement. This will provide a forum to better share information, collaborate on projects and programs, funding opportunities in Severn Sound/Georgian Bay and decrease the potential for competition and overlap.

It will require a commitment of 1-2 meetings per year for an SSEA Board Executive member and quarterly meetings as well as project and funding specific meetings for the SSEA ED/Alternate. To date these meetings have been virtual and 1-2 hours maximum in length.

### **Conclusion/Recommendations**

Staff recommend officially joining the “GB-5”.

Prepared and Approved for Submission by:

*Original signed by*

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Julie Cayley, Executive Director