

# Notice of Meeting Meeting of the Membership #7-2023

Date: Wednesday June 21, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Meeting will be held at the Admin. Centre, 1093 Marietta Street, Wroxeter.

#### Agenda

- 1. Welcome by the Chair: Matt Duncan
- 2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
- 3. Approval of the Minutes: Meeting #6-2023 held on May 17, 2023.
- 4. Information Session: First Nations/Meti Engagement: Collette Isacc & Dave Stinson, Incite Planning
- 5. Presentation: 2023 Work Plan Highlights January-June: Jayne Thompson, Communications-GIS-IT Coordinator
- 6. Business Requiring Decision and or Direction:
  - a) 2023 Work Plan Highlights, Proposed Newsletter, Council Presentations:
     Report #34-2023
  - b) Healthy Watersheds, Healthy People, Healthy Wildlife Approach: Report #35-2023
  - c) Awarding of Contract to Decommission Buildings Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area: Report #36-2023
  - d) Joint Health and Safety Committee Recommendation: Report #37-2023
- 7. Chair and Member Reports
- 8. Consent Agenda:
  - a) Revenue-Expenditure Reports for May: Report #38-2023
  - b) Budget Update Report: January 1-May 31, 2023: Report #39-2023
  - c) Carbon Footprint Initiative May 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Report #40-2023
- 9. Correspondence: Lake Health Begins Inland: Story in June issue of Rural Voice
- 10. Adjournment: Next Meeting will be tour to Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area: July 19, 2023, at 7:00 pm.



# Membership Minutes

#### Membership Meeting #6-2023

May 17, 2023

Members Present: Alison Lobb, Andrew Fournier, Ed McGugan,

Alvin McLellan, Matt Duncan, Anita van Hittersum,

Sharen Zinn, Ed Podniewicz, Megan Gibson, Myles Murdock

**Members Absent:** Evan Hickey

**Staff Present:** Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer

Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator Jeff Winzenried, Flood Forecasting Supervisor

Jayne Thompson, Communications-IT-GIS Coordinator

Others Present: Cory Bilyea, Wingham Advance Times

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Duncan welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. and reviewed the meeting objectives.

#### 2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no pecuniary interests at this time.

#### 3. Minutes

The minutes from the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) General Membership Meeting #5-2023 held on April 19, 2023 have been circulated for information and approval. The Members agreed with the minutes and the following motion was made.

Motion FA #45-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT the minutes from the General Membership Meeting #5-2023 held on April 19, 2023 be approved. (carried)

#### 4. Business out of the Minutes:

a) Proposed Schedule for Information Sessions: Report #30-2023

Report #30-2023 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #46-23

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Sharen Zinn

THAT the proposed schedule for information sessions and tours be adopted. (carried)

#### 5. Presentation to Dave Turton, Retiring Director

Chair, Duncan made a presentation to Dave Turton on behalf of all the Members and thanked him for all his years of service with MVCA.

#### 6. Business Requiring Decision and or Direction:

a) McGuffin Gully Engineering Assessment: Report #31-2023

Report #31-2023 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #47-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT staff enter into discussion with the landowners on both options. (carried)

b) Leasing of Galbraith Conservation Area-Municipality of North Perth: Report #32-2023

Report #32-23 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #48-23

Moved by: Ed McGugan Seconded by: Andrew Fournier

THAT the Members approve entering into a lease agreement for the Galbraith Conservation Area with the Municipality of North Perth. (carried)

#### 7. Closed Session-Property Matter

Motion FA #49-23

Moved by: Anita van Hittersum

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the members move into closed session. (carried)

Motion FA #50-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Sharen Zinn

THAT the members move out of the closed session and back into full authority meeting. (carried)

#### 8. Chair and Members Reports:

Megan Gibson reported that Howick Council has agreed to sign the grass cutting agreement for the Gorrie Conservation Area for 2023 but they would like to renegotiate the agreement for 2024.

Alison Lobb reported that the JHETF plant sale raised \$4400.

#### 9. Consent Agenda:

The following item was circulated to the Members for their information.

a) Revenue-Expenditure Reports for April: Report #33-2023

The following motion was made:

Motion FA #51-23

Moved by: Anita van Hittersum Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT Report #33-2023 along with its respective recommended motion as outlined in the Consent Agenda be approved. (carried)

Motion FA #52-23 Moved by: Ed McGugan	Seconded by: Andrew Fournier
THAT the Members Meeting be adjourned at	8:10pm.
Matt Duncan Chair	Phil Beard General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
- Crian	Serieral Manager / Secretary Treasurer

10. Adjournment: Next meeting: June21, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

#### Members Report #34-2023

**To:** Members, MVCA

From: Phil Beard, GM ST; Jayne Thompson, Communications-GIS-IT Coordinator

**Date:** June 5, 2023

**Subject:** Work Plan Highlights Newsletter and Council Presentations

#### **Purpose:**

To receive direction on the content of the newsletter to be sent to all watershed municipalities;

To receive direction on the municipalities to be given presentations on the MVCA's progress with respect to the 2023 work plan.

#### **Background:**

Motion FA #39-2023

THAT the Chair and Vice Chairs meet with MP's John Nater and Ben Lobb; AND THAT the Chair and Vice Chairs follow up with MPP's Lisa Thompson and Matthew Rae;

AND THAT MVCA send out a newsletter to all member municipalities in June; AND FURTHER THAT presentations be made to 8 member municipalities in 2023. (carried)

#### **Newsletter Content:**

The 2023 work plan report and presentation will be used as the basis for the newsletter. The newsletter will be sent to all municipalities.

#### **Municipal Presentations:**

Presentations regarding MVCA's 2023 Work Plan and budget were made to the Municipality of West Perth and the Township of Wellington North earlier this year.

Presentations will be made to the following municipalities over the summer and early fall.

Town of Goderich, Municipality of Huron East, Municipality of North Perth, Municipality of Central Huron, Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh and the Township of North Huron.

Each presentation will also include specific projects that MVCA is undertaking in that municipality.

The Member for each of the municipalities where presentations will be made will assist with the presentation. Traditionally the Member introduces the presentation, and responds to any questions that are asked. The General Manager Secretary Treasurer will be responsible for covering the remainder of the presentation.

#### Recommendation:

To be developed at the meeting.

### Members Report #34-2023 Work Plan Progress Report: January to June 2023

# **Corporate Services**

Component	Work Plan Activities	Progress
Governance and Leadership	Inventory of services and programs Draft MOU for services & programs	Wellington North has received the Draft MOU from the GRCA and MVCA. They have advised that staff will review both MOUs and bring a report to council for their consideration. SVCA will be sending their Draft MOU to municipalities the week of June 12th.
Financial Management	Accounts	All accounts for payments, receipts and payroll processes are in order. Bank reconciliations, accounting transactions and financial activities have been balanced and recorded up to May 31 <sup>st</sup> .
	Financial Document Management	All financial documents are in order following the document management and retention procedures. Files due for purging will be identified and discarded according to policy.
	Fee Policy Schedule	Approved changes have been updated and posted.
	Inventory and Asset Management	2022 Asset and inventory changes, acquisitions and disposals were finalized in January for audit and insurance procedures. 2023 assets and inventory have been recorded or updated in the database for replacement values and schedules for the January to May period.
Communications	Marketing and promotion	<ul> <li>Radio, print and social media promotions completed for service areas: employment opportunities and tenders, Shoreline Working Group, FRCA, Huron Clean Water Project, stream buffers and cover crops.</li> <li>Signage completed for the Scott project.</li> </ul>

		<ul> <li>Participation in Perth Water Festival, Minto Safety Day (flood safety), CO Healthy Hikes for May and June</li> </ul>
IT and GIS	Annual computer hardware and software replacement and upgrades	<ul> <li>New backup server (used) installed and operating.</li> <li>New firewall security software and protocols implemented.</li> </ul>
	Website	<ul> <li>Website and email moved to new host, planning for updates and restructuring of website underway.</li> </ul>
	GIS Support to Service Areas	<ul> <li>Meetings with municipal drainage supervisors underway to facilitate updates to the watercourse mapping layers.</li> <li>New GPS unit purchased and put together, testing on unit progressing.</li> <li>Data for shoreline property assessments acquired for ACW and HK for coastal resiliency project.</li> <li>Developed a visual story map for the Watershed Monitoring and Reporting section of the website.</li> </ul>

## **DWSP and Maitland Source Protection Authority**

Component	Work Plan Activities	Progress
Governance and Leadership	Source Protection Committee (SPC) Source Protection Authority (SPA) Joint Management Committee (JMC)	<ul> <li>SPC met in March to review Annual Progress Report and finalize updates to the Source Protection Plans.</li> <li>SPA approved DWSP Annual Progress Report for submission to MECP</li> <li>JMC met in January to select new SPC member</li> </ul>
Implementation	Planning and Development	<ul> <li>Planning staff include DWSP in application reviews.</li> <li>They advise the DWSP Program Supervisor if the applicant is located in a Wellhead Protection Area.</li> </ul>

Implementation	Education and Outreach	<ul> <li>Providing communication support for implementation of the Source Protection Plans. Support was provided for '#Water Wednesday' social media campaign highlighting source water protection</li> <li>Support public consultation on updates to Source Protection Plans</li> </ul>
Implementation	Review Assessment Reports & Source Protection Plan	<ul> <li>Technical Team meeting in June-July to review technical work regarding changes to Lucknow and Century Heights (Saltford) wellhead protection areas</li> <li>Updated Source Protection Plans were submitted to province in March for approval per section 36, Clean Water Act</li> </ul>

#### **Conservation Areas**

Component	Work Plan Activities	Progress
Management and Development	Administration Centre Renovations	<ul> <li>Brick and window sill replacement completed on several damaged sections of building. Signage and lighting will be re-installed once mortar has fully cured this summer.</li> </ul>
	Admin. Centre Shed Renovations	<ul> <li>Contractor has been selected through RFP process. Building renovation is anticipated this fall. Storage container and shelving purchased to provide additional storage of service area supplies. Security cameras and wifi installed on equipment shed.</li> </ul>
	Lake Wawanosh Conservation Area	<ul> <li>Information kiosk built and installed at parking lot location. Temporary signs installed to inform users of compatible activities.</li> </ul>

Infrastructure Demolition/Removals	<ul> <li>Building demolition has been completed at the Turnberry Floodplain C.A. Site has been restored with additional cedar post installation planned for this summer.</li> <li>RFP completed for Barn Demolition/salvage at the Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. Successful contractor to be determined at the June Members meeting. Project to start in October.</li> <li>Brussels Conservation Area consent (severance) conditionally approved. Staff are currently completing conditions including obtaining a survey of the lands.</li> <li>Brussels Mill Well decommissioning has been completed.</li> </ul>
Conservation Areas Operations	<ul> <li>Galbraith Conservation Area: Draft lease agreement developed and sent to North Perth for review. Lease agreement expected to be finalized by July.</li> <li>Bat houses constructed and installed at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. One "mini condo" and eight bat houses installed. Monitoring by Toronto zoo will occur starting in June.</li> <li>Construction of security gates completed. Installation complete at Saratoga swamp including steel barrier posts. Stapleton Tract gate installation is currently underway with completion expected by mid-June.</li> <li>Spring inspections completed on day-use areas, trails, and dam infrastructure</li> <li>Authority owned dams installed during the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>-19th.</li> </ul>
Carbon Sequestration Program -Footprints to Forests and MVCA	<ul> <li>Planted 500 tree seedlings at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area.</li> </ul>

	Forestry Management	<ul> <li>Planted 1000 tree seedlings at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. Project was fully funded through Trees Ontario and the Huron Clean Water Project.</li> </ul>
Falls Reserve Conservation Area and Wawanosh Park	Campground Operations	<ul> <li>FRCA opened for camping on April 15th. Site bookings and revenue are on-track for another busy year. All seasonal sites are occupied for 2023.</li> <li>Summer staff have been hired for the season.</li> <li>WPCA opened for camping on April 21<sup>st</sup>. All seasonal sites are occupied for 2023.</li> <li>Contractor selected and repairs have started on washroom and shower improvements to day-use building. Estimated completion date of July.</li> <li>Purchased E-bike for FRCA maintenance and security operations.</li> <li>Planted 40 Largestock trees and shrubs at FRCA to provide natural buffering along day use areas.</li> <li>Planted 50 Largestock trees and shrubs at WPCA to provide natural buffer along pond and retired campsite.</li> </ul>
Motor Pool	Trailer Replacement	<ul> <li>Purchase complete of a new 22' equipment hauling trailer and a new 10' aluminum utility trailer.</li> <li>Previous trailer to be sold on govdeals website this summer.</li> </ul>

# Flood and Erosion Safety Services

Component	Work Plan Activities	Progress
Preparedness	Administration of Development, Interference / Alteration Regulation & Land Use Planning Support/Drainage Act Support	<ul> <li>85 permissions issued</li> <li>10 drain reviews completed with comments</li> <li>139 other development/planning inquiries</li> <li>36 planning inquires with comments</li> <li>2 formal violation notices issued, both resolved with landowner cooperation</li> </ul>
	Shoreline hazard mapping update	<ul> <li>Draft Mapping available for ongoing public review</li> <li>All mandatory notice and consultation requirements fulfilled.</li> <li>Phase Two workshop registration open</li> <li>Vulnerability Assessment underway</li> </ul>
	EEEC Funding Agreement	<ul> <li>Funding agreement signed and work in progress,</li> <li>Outreach Technician hired to support agreement and other service areas</li> </ul>
	Minto flood damage remediation strategies	<ul> <li>Work continues on preparatory studies for mitigation options.</li> </ul>
	FHIMP Funding	<ul> <li>Work continues on Flood Hazard Identification and Mitigation Program projects (Shoreline &amp; North Perth). First transfer payment complete.</li> <li>RFP process for North Perth flood plain mapping project complete.</li> <li>North Perth LiDAR obtained</li> </ul>
Asset Management	McGuffin Gully	McGuffin Gully Asset Condition Assessment
Monitoring	Maintenance of rain gauges and stream gauging stations	<ul> <li>On-going. Gauge calibration and battery servicing carried out at regular intervals.</li> </ul>

	24 hr day/7 days a week – monitoring of weather and gauge data. Quality control and storage of all collected data. Operation of models as required.	<ul> <li>Removed Molesworth rain gauge station and re-installed at new host property (MFS)</li> <li>Relocated H<sub>3</sub> rain gauge station for landowner</li> <li>On-going</li> <li>Snow survey program completed</li> <li>IT security upgrades that impacted FF system computers (DMZ)</li> <li>Purchased equipment to improve radio telemetry for Listowel &amp; Harriston rain monitoring networks</li> </ul>
Response	Provide watch and warning messages to municipalities during flood and erosion emergencies	<ul> <li>5 messages delivered (since January): Water</li> <li>Safety</li> </ul>

# Watershed Stewardship Services

Component	Work Plan Activities	Progress
Extension Services: Restoration	Tree/Shrub Planting	<ul> <li>Tree Pick Up held April 26-29th</li> <li>172 Customers</li> <li>19500 Seedlings</li> <li>4905 Large Stock</li> <li>43 projects completed and inspected</li> <li>16 projects planted through MVCA planting service</li> <li>Total Trees: 26,221</li> <li>Total Acres Restored: 51</li> <li>KM of Windbreaks: 3</li> <li>KM of Buffers: 4</li> <li>Survival Assessments on all demonstration sites</li> <li>Rural Landowner Workshop in Mitchell March</li> <li>23rd</li> </ul>
	Stream Restoration	<ul> <li>Engineering firm selected for ECCC funded dam removal projects</li> <li>Designs completed and permit applications</li> </ul>

		submitted Tender for construction closed on June 9th Shoreline workshop held with Green Goderich April 15th Tour and planting event with Goderich Highschool May 9th
Extension Services: Soil and Water Conservation Services	Rural Stormwater Management	<ul> <li>2 new Erosion Control projects initiated</li> <li>Healthy Lake Huron Municipal Drain Tour held</li> <li>May 17th.</li> </ul>
	Cover Crops	<ul> <li>104 spring cover crop residue site checks for HCWP and Cover Crop Leaders Program</li> <li>67 farmers involved</li> <li>Over 6600 acres</li> </ul>
<b>Extension Services:</b> Watershed Stewardship Programs	Huron Clean Water Project	<ul> <li>69 new applications initiated and approved</li> <li>Estimated grant of approved projects = \$106,463.74</li> <li>The highest number of applications in 2023 have come from: Fragile Land Retirement (36), Forest Management Plans (7), and Wellhead Protection (5)</li> <li>79 grants paid out to landowners</li> </ul>
	Wellington Rural Water Quality Program	<ul><li>1 cover crop project completed</li></ul>
	Healthy Watersheds Programming	<ul> <li>40 Farmers participated in 3 focus groups held in January</li> <li>Submitted three funding applications to support programming</li> <li>Bruce Power Environmental Fund application was successful</li> <li>Year End reporting submitted for Nature Smart Climate Solutions, ONFARM, OMAFRA COA, MECP COA, and Environment Canada Stream Restoration.</li> </ul>
Monitoring and Reporting	Long-Term Monitoring	<ul> <li>PWQMN samples collected monthly from January to June.</li> <li>PGMN wells were checked, loggers downloaded and data sent to MECP.</li> </ul>

Data Management	<ul> <li>Imported water quality data as well as historical fish records</li> </ul>
On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM)	<ul> <li>Presented findings at the final ONFARM Forum</li> <li>Feb 9th</li> <li>The original agreement with OSCIA/OMAFRA concluded Mar 31st.</li> </ul>
Forest Health Study	<ul> <li>Draft report completed and circulated to peer reviewers for comment.</li> <li>Working towards further biota assessment to ensure a system perspective of forests.</li> <li>Forest bird assessment with staff, 10 volunteer community citizen scientists and Birds Canada working together.</li> <li>Forest pollinator assessment undertaken with spring ephemeral flower survey completed</li> <li>Presented preliminary results to the local Huron Perth Woodlot Association.</li> </ul>

#### Members Report #35-2023

**To:** Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority **From:** Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer

**Date:** June 13, 2023

**Subject:** Healthy Watersheds, Healthy People, Healthy Wildlife Approach Update

#### **Purpose:**

To outline the progress that has been made in advancing support for this approach.

#### Background:

In October 2020, Dr. Justina Ray, President, and Senior Scientist with Wildlife Conservation Society Canada made a presentation to MVCA's Members regarding the need to develop an integrated approach to health to reduce the risk of future infectious disease outbreaks.

This approach is called the "One Health Approach"; however, we have framed it as Healthy Watersheds, Healthy People, Healthy Wildlife" as this identifies the outcomes we are working towards. See attached article from the Rural Voice.

Staff have been working with the Wildlife Conservation Society Canada since 2020 to encourage other organizations to consider working with us to develop this approach further.

Dr. Ray has made presentations to the steering committee for Healthy Lake Huron, Sustainable Huron, and the General Managers for Conservation Authorities in the Southwest Region of Ontario and at the Latornell Symposium hosted by Conservation Ontario.

There appears to be an increasing understanding of the need to develop a more integrated approach to health.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs have identified the One Health Approach as a priority along with soil health and climate change. OMAFRA has worked with the University of Guelph to establish a One Health Institute.

The One Health Institute has developed a degree program for students to take and they also organize courses and training for other organizations who are interested in learning about One Health.

The General Manger and Watershed Ecologist attended the One Health Fellowship that was organized by the One Health Institute in May. The Fellowship was attended by staff from the following agencies/businesses:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- 2. Ministry of Health (Office of the Medical Officer of Health)
- 3. Canadian Wildlife Service
- 4. Environment and Climate Change Canada
- 5. Public Health Agency of Canada
- 6. Conservation Authorities/Conservation Ontario
- 7. South West Vets

All participants were to bring questions that they would like to work on related to One Health.

#### MVCA's Questions were as follows:

- 1. How do we break down the silos between environmental, human and animal health
- 2. Systems thinking and developing approaches for integrating environmental, human and animal health
- 3. Developing a better understanding of the linkages between human health, animal health and environmental health
- 4. How to develop a one health approach at the watershed scale with public health and animal health agencies

We worked in small groups to develop ideas for tackling the most pressing questions raised by participants. The GM worked in a group with the Chief Veterinarian for the Ministry of Health to identify how to develop support for the One Health Approach within the Provincial Government and applicable Ministries. An additional follow up session is being organized by the One Health Institute to help each group develop the ideas identified at the session.

#### **Next Steps:**

OMAFRA: One of the key next steps is to meet with OMAFRA to discuss how MVCA and conservation authorities can help them develop the One Health Approach at the watershed scale. The Director of Environmental Management and staff would like to meet with MVCA staff this summer to discuss how we can work together to advance the One Health Approach.

- 2. Healthy Lake Huron: Staff are also encouraging OMAFRA and the Ministry of Environment Conservation & Parks to expand the terms of reference for Healthy Lake Huron to include the development of the One Health Approach. We will be encouraging them to reframe the One Health Approach as Healthy Watersheds, Healthy People, Healthy Wildlife to help people understand the outcomes HLH is working towards.
  - The present focus of Healthy Lake Huron is on improving nearshore water quality in Lake Huron. This is an important environmental goal; however, a broader focus is needed in order to achieve it because clean and healthy water is connected to healthy soils and healthy forests, which all together are the components of a healthy watershed.
- 3. The problems and challenges confronting healthy watersheds are cumulative and complex problems. The cumulative nature of stressors was shown in the current forest health assessment 2021/2022. 83 per cent of forests are being affected by more than one co-occurring threat. These threats can be antagonistic, additive or synergistic creating complex problems that need integrated management and collaborative approaches through a One Health framework.
- 4. Wildlife Conservation Society Canada: WCS Canada has developed a proposal for identifying how the One Health Approach could be implemented on a watershed basis in Ontario. They would like to use the Maitland watershed as the focus area for this project. A copy of their proposal is attached to this report.

  Staff have discussed this proposal with the One Health Institute, and they have indicated that they would be interested in working with WCS Canada to implement
  - Staff are trying to encourage an urban conservation authority to consider participating in this project as well.
  - It is important that this approach be developed so that it will work in urban and rural areas of the province.
- 5. Huron Perth Health Unit: Staff have contacted the Huron Perth Health Unit and provided them with information about the One Health Approach. Staff from HPPH are interested in meeting with staff from MVCA to learn more.

#### **Summary:**

their proposal.

MVCA is in the unique position of being able to help advance the One Health Approach in Ontario because of the interest we have taken in working with WCS Canada and OMAFRA.

This approach is integral to the future of conservation authorities as they are the only organization that can develop the healthy environment component of the One Health Approach. However, it will require all conservation authorities to invest in developing indicators for evaluating the health of forests, rivers and soil as well as restoring the health of forests, rivers, and soil.

The major question is whether conservation authorities will seize this opportunity and work to help advance this approach with government, health units and organizations such as Wildlife Conservation Society Canada.

#### **Recommendation:**

To be developed at the meeting.



One Health: Proposal to Unite Health Care and Nature Care

Wildlife Conservation Society Canada



#### **WCS Canada**

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Canada saves wildlife and wild places through science, conservation action, education, and by inspiring people to value nature. We envision a world where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and waters, valued by all cultures that embrace and benefit from the beauty, diversity, and integrity of life on Earth.

WCS Canada plays a unique role in the conservation landscape of Canada. We work at the nexus of biodiversity, climate change, and health in priority landscapes and seascapes where we have had a long-term field presence, and where there is high potential for durable conservation gains. We have strategic national programs to complement and expand our geographically focused work that addresses issues of Canadian and global concern such as biodiversity policy, Key Biodiversity Areas, climate change, and training the next generation of conservation scientists. We create bridges between science and policy to influence and direct conservation. Our efforts include a unique blend of on-the-ground field programs that work with local communities to protect priority places and priority species and a national program that influences conservation policy and practice across Canada and supports global efforts to conserve nature.

One of our key emerging programs is **One Health** which strives to reunite the health of ecosystems, wildlife, and people. WCS Canada is uniquely positioned to lead a One Health approach in Canada. This program will have many benefits. It will help to demonstrate the immense social value of conserving biodiversity. It will expand our approach to healthcare and disease prevention. And perhaps most importantly, it will ignite and foster stronger connections between the well-being of people and the well-being of nature.

Founded in 2004, WCS Canada is a registered charity affiliated with the global Wildlife Conservation Society – one of the world's oldest and most respected conservation organizations, operating in over 60 countries. WCS is the only global conservation organization with an embedded One Health program. Headquartered in Toronto, with offices in Thunder Bay; Kaslo, BC; and Whitehorse, WCS Canada has an annual budget of approaching \$9 million and 50 full-time staff.

#### One Health

#### Healthy ecosystems, healthy humans, healthy wildlife

In our modern world, we've largely separated environmental health and human health. Unfortunately, there are a growing number of examples of how this artificial division is failing nature and people. From the recent pandemic to "nature-deficient disorder" it is becoming increasingly clear that the deep connection between people and nature must be managed in a more holistic way. One Health reunites the well-being of nature, wildlife and people and has the potential to change the way we think about conservation and our society.











The Wildlife Conservation Society has been at the forefront of this movement when it led multi-sectoral discussions in 2004 on global health challenges at the nexus of human, animal, and ecosystem health. This led to the Manhattan Principles underpinning the concept of One World One Health (OWOH). These principles were advanced through a series of consultations, leading to the formal adoption of the OWOH approach by the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the World Bank. In 2019 just prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, WCS introduced the Berlin Principles on One Health - an 'update' of the Manhattan Principles - reintegrating ecosystem health and integrity while also addressing current pressing issues, such as climate change and antimicrobial resistance. These ten principles strive to unite health care and nature care through One Health.

One Health integrates information and institutions to look at the health of ecosystems, people, and wildlife through a single lens and discover new opportunities that cannot be found by pursuing the siloed independent way in which our governance systems are generally structured. It recognizes that many issues impacting nature and our well-being, and most importantly solutions we need, can only be found by looking at our ecology and society as a whole system. One Health is a way to recognize our reliance on the natural world and rebuild our relationship with nature. It can help individuals, institutions and societies rediscover the connections between people and place, and to help us all thrive in a thriving natural world.

While social determinants of health, such as economic stability, neighbourhood characteristics, education, and access to health care, have a very strong history of implementation in Canada, recognition of ecological determinants that are equally as important for human physical and mental health lag in terms of integration in public health programs. One Health recognizes that many of the issues impacting human and ecosystem well-being can only be solved by looking at our ecology and society as a whole system.

In addition to WCS's global leadership in One Health, WCS Canada is at the forefront of advocating for One Health approaches in Canada. We have connected with universities, researchers, physicians, governments, and key organizations across the country. While there is broad acceptance of the need for One Health, we need to increase awareness and demonstrate practical, on-the-ground approaches to implementation.

Rebuilding our connection to the natural world and increasing our understanding of the benefits of nature to human well-being through a One Health Approach is one of our best opportunities to mainstream nature conservation and accelerate our efforts to protect wildlife and wild places, while improving the lives of people in Canada.

#### A Watershed Approach to One Health

While One Health is conceptually compelling, finding practical approaches for its implementation has been more elusive. The scope and scale of a watershed have many benefits as a focal unit of One Health implementation. Water connects us all, and the geophysical bounding of watersheds provides an excellent scale to implement One Health approaches in the context of Canada's southern agricultural and urban landscapes. Watersheds are effective units in which to link our discussion of agriculture, biodiversity, and health management because of the function of water as the "bloodstream" of the social and ecological system. They offer an ideal context for transdisciplinary research and finding solutions that extend beyond resource governance to providing settings for health, including that of humans, other species, and ecosystems. Watersheds can also serve as a linking or integrative mechanism to foster intersectoral action across many domains.

Southern Ontario is a unique forum to test the application of a One Health approach within a watershed unit. Ontario has well-established watershed-based Conservation Authorities that date back to 1947. These watershed governance agencies are now required by the province to develop core watershed-based resource management strategies by 2024, providing a clear opportunity to integrate a One Health approach. The basic concepts of One Health are not new to Conservation Authorities. Many already have watershed-based activities that impact health including source water protection and flood management. However, institutions and knowledge holders that are relevant to operationalizing One Health (e.g., agriculture, public health, wildlife health, land use, development planning) operate independently from one another. There remain opportunities to heighten the ties between water and soil quality, and habitat fragmentation and disease risk in agricultural landscapes, along with evidence for the role of nature in human wellbeing. For example, extreme weather events from climate change cause soil erosion and runoff from farmlands and can reduce food production, but these can also impact freshwater ecosystems and transfer nutrients and pathogens that result in beach closures and drinking water advisories.

WCS Canada has been exploring the concept of watersheds and One Health with partners in Ontario including Conservation Authorities and universities. We are now ready to develop these concepts into a clear guide on how One Heath can be implemented. The pieces and partners for a One Health approach are waiting. Many of Ontario's Conservation Authorities have been monitoring and reporting on aspects of forest health and water health and are asking for more practical guidance. Regional health units monitor our sickness and health. Provincial ministries collect data on wildlife health, livestock health, soil health and crop health. We have great expertise in the region, including the One Health institute at University of Guelph, and international links through our affiliation to WCS colleagues around the world in the only conservation organization with an embedded heath program. Our challenge is to bring these practices and practitioners together and connect the dots between disciplines and make these implementable.

Without natural cover to hold and filter surface runoff, streams can flush contaminants into the Great Lakes that expose people to bacteria that may cause diarrhea or infections of the ears, nose, throat, eyes, and skin. In the worst-case scenarios, these contaminants make their way into our drinking water. This natural cover also provides habitat for songbirds and improves water quality for fishes.



#### **Funding Request**

We are requesting \$75,000 from the Foundation over the next year to develop and pilot a One Health + Watershed approach in southern Ontario.

Over the past year, we have completed a scan of the latest scientific information on One Health and have been engaging with potential partners including Conservation Ontario, the University of Guelph, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and global One Health experts. We are now ready to turn this research into action. **Phase 1** of our project will develop and test an implementation "playbook" of a One Health + Watersheds approach. This thought-leadership paper will identify the principles and practical approaches for integrating watershed management and One Health.

This project will retain a small team of transdisciplinary experts to address the following:

- Identify the evidentiary basis for a watershed approach to One Health including:
  - risks in agricultural landscapes/domestic animals with a One Health lens (including risks for disease emergence)
  - wildlife
  - o environmental and social determinants of human health
  - water quality and human/wildlife/domestic animals
- Identify practical recommendations in a "playbook" for a One Health + Watershed plan and implementation in southern Ontario, including the actors (government agencies, experts, stakeholders and rightsholders) that would need to be convened.
- Identify measures of success of One Health at the watershed scale.

Phase 1 will set the stage for **Phase 2** where we take the guidance of the playbook and work with partners to develop and pilot a One Health Plan in an Ontario watershed. This is likely to be in the Maitland Valley watershed (surrounding Goderich) where we have already been in discussions with many key partners. This phase of the project will include expert surveys and a workshop that will convene experts in various aspects of health, including human, watershed, soil, and wildlife that have never worked together. The final product of this phase will be Canada's first action plan to implement a One Health approach.

### **Budget and Timeline**

Deliverable	Timeline	Budget
Phase 1		
Scan of current directions on One Health, including recent	Completed	NA
WHO adoption and current One Health related initiatives in		
Canada, in partnership with University of Guelph.		
Convene experts on key One Health topics and themes to	2022-Winter 2023	\$5,000
design the structure of the playbook and its components.		
Work with technical writer to develop a 'playbook' to guide	2022-Spring 2023	\$35,000
implementation of a One Health and Watershed approach.		
Phase 2		
Engage and survey other potential partners.	Spring 2023	\$3,000
Workshop (2 days) develop a One Health + Watershed Plan	Spring 2023	\$17,000
with transdisciplinary experts.		
Draft and finalize pilot One Health + Watersheds Plan	Fall 2023	\$10,000
Communications and media on project and results.	2022-Fall 2023	\$5,000
Total		\$75,000

Total budget includes 15% administration

#### Impact of Investment

One Health is a new and transformative approach to solving issues related to both environmental degradation and human health. While the concepts are in place, practical approaches to implementation have not been developed.

This project will create the first guide on how to implement a One Health approach and the benefits of using the watershed as a planning unit. We expect that this document alone will receive national and global attention and help to further socialize and advance the principles of One Health. This project will also create Canada's first action plan to implement a One Health approach. This will also create greater awareness about One Health and attract additional funding to research and implement this transdisciplinary approach.

In addition, we expect that this project will help to improve the environment and wellbeing of people that live in the pilot watershed where the One Heath plan is developed.

#### **Evaluation**

The outputs of this project within the timeline will include a guide on how to implement One Health and a One Health + Watershed plan for our pilot area. We will also track numbers on media and community engagement to report on the expanded awareness of One Health.

In addition to these measures of success, we will also provide updates to the Foundation on the progress of the implementation of the One Health + Watershed plan for our pilot area including changes in the measures of success that are identified in the plan.

### **Recognition and Making Your Gift**

WCS Canada will be pleased to recognize your generous support in our annual report and impact report according to your wishes. Your support can also be recognized in the thought-leadership papers and presentations that will result from this project.

#### **Making Your Gift:**

WCS Canada can receive gifts through:

- Cheques made payable to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
- Electronic Funds Transfer
- Online Donations at wcscanada.org/donate
- Gifts of Securities

For questions, please contact Forough Shafiei, Fundraising Manager at fshafiei@wcs.org.

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Wildlife Conservation Society Canada 204-344 Bloor Street West Toronto, ON M5S 3A7





# One Health for watersheds, wildlife and well-being

# Water connects us all, and watersheds may be the ideal way to think about One Health, says Dan Kraus

#### By Dan Kraus, Director of National Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society

The forest we stood under was magnificent. Sugar Maple, Black Cherry and Hophornbeam were at their best during a warm autumn day in the Maitland River watershed near Goderich, Ontario. Forest monitoring by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) ranked it one of the best woodlots remaining in the watershed.

Despite its magnificence and pedigree, this forest was not at peak health. American Elm were reduced to a few stragglers by Dutch Elm Disease. American Beech were showing signs of decline from an introduced pathogen called Beech Bark Disease. White, Green and Black Ash were the standing dead, killed by invasive Emerald Ash Borer.

The lands around this forest had also changed dramatically. Over the last two centuries the thick blanket of woodland that once laid upon these gentle rolling hills had become patches of isolated woodlots that now covered just 13 per cent of the watershed. What had been a landscape dominated by family farms with a mosaic of crops, hedgerows, pastures and orchards just a few decades ago had now largely transformed to vast fields of corn and soy.

Fragmented forests in a landscape of increasingly intensified agriculture impacts more than just trees. Rain and snowmelt once held by that forest blanket slowly percolated into the soils to provide continuous and cool baseflow to streams. But water now moves faster and warmer in this landscape. Streams and creeks swell from trickles to torrents during heavy rains and carry runoff laden with sediments from towns, roads and farms downstream to the Maitland

River and Lake Huron. Water sampling has found disease-causing bacteria with ominous names like Salmonella, Yersinia and Campylobacter. This downstream flush can expose swimmers along Lake Huron's sandy beaches to bacteria that may cause diarrhea or infections of the ears, nose, throat, eyes and skin. In the worst-case scenarios, these contaminants make their way into our drinking water.

This new ecosystem also impacts wildlife. Birds that need large areas of intact forests such as Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager are now rare. Tens of thousands of insecteating bats have disappeared because of White-nose Syndrome and many pollinators have declined or disappeared. White-tailed Deer thrive in these fragmented forests with an all-you-can-eat buffet of corn and soy. Their high numbers contribute to the spread of Lyme Disease and now they may be catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from us.

Around the world, our actions that push the boundaries of nature are changing our climate and putting up to one million species at risk of extinction. Our broken relationship with nature is also impacting our health. There is growing evidence that being in nature and having a connection with the natural world improves the mind and body.

Nature and people are inextricably linked. This is not new knowledge – it's still held within the traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples and it's the wisdom of your grandmother telling you to get some fresh air. It's why I feel really good standing in a forest in the Maitland Valley and less good sitting on a subway in Toronto.

In our modern world we've largely separated environmental health and human health. Unfortunately, in our efforts to pull



Dan Kraus
Wildlife Conservation Society

apart the well-being of people from well-being of the natural world, we've also created cracks in our ecosystems that both nature and people fall through. But there is growing recognition that reuniting the health of nature, wildlife and people benefits everyone. Through a new One Health approach we can help nature and people to thrive.

In 2021 the Wildlife Conservation Society introduced the Berlin principles on One Health to rebuild bridges between the well-being of people and nature. These 10 principles strive to unite health care and nature care. One Health integrates information institutions to look at the health of nature, people, wildlife and livestock through a single lens and discover connections that cannot be found by looking at the world in separate silos. It recognizes that many of the issues impacting nature and our wellbeing — and most importantly solutions we need — can only be found by looking at our ecology and society as

#### Advice .....

a whole system.

The pieces and partners for a One Health approach are waiting. The MVCA, like many of Ontario's Conservation Authorities have been monitoring and reporting on forest health and water health. Regional health units monitor our sickness and health. Provincial ministries collect data on wildlife health, livestock health and crop health. Our challenge is to bring these practices and practitioners together and connect the dots between disciplines.

And there is progress. The World Health Organization identifies the protection of nature as an essential strategy in our recovery from COVID-19. Conservation Ontario promotes EcoHealth and the benefits of visiting conservation areas. Family doctors in Canada are now prescribing nature.

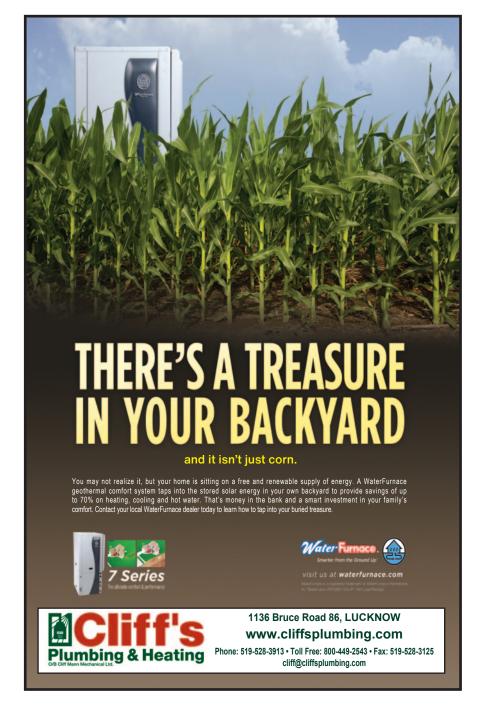
Our biggest challenge might be reimagining a world where people and nature are integrated; where lines between traditional departments and disciplines fade; where family doctors, farmers, ecologists and vets work together and share ideas to keep people and nature healthy.

The farm we visited that autumn day provided a glimpse of the world that could be. The farming family that owned and managed that woodlot was connected to the land and took pride in their stewardship. They had restored the municipal drain to a brook trout stream and created buffers around fields to slow run-off and hold nutrients on the land. These actions helped nature on their property, but also cascaded downstream to other properties and eventually to Lake Huron.

Water connects us all, and watersheds may be the ideal way to think about One Health. The actions of each landowner cascade to neighbour and community. What makes nature healthy on one property, contributes to watershed health, wildlife health and the wellbeing of people.

We are all downstream of nature. One Health is a way to recognize our reliance and rebuild our relationship, rediscover the connections between people and place, and to help us all thrive in a thriving natural world. ◊





#### Members Report #36-2023

**To:** Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority **From:** Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator

**Date:** June 12, 2023

**Subject:** Awarding of Contract for Barn Demolition Services

#### Purpose:

To obtain direction from the Members on awarding the contract for demolition services of four structures at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area.

#### **Background:**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 a request for proposal (RFP MC#23-03-CA) was posted for Barn demolition services at the Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. The RFP included the removal and site rehabilitation for four structures located on the property, including two bank barns and two driving sheds (Structure locations and pictures included at the end of this report). Decommissioning of the structures was identified and approved by MVCA members in 2018, after reviewing the structural conditions of the buildings as well as considering our future storage and infrastructure requirements for all service areas.

The RFP outlined the MVCA's objectives and requirements including demolition of all structures, salvaging and removal of all materials, and site-specific rehabilitation requirements.

At the Wawanosh Nature Centre Barn location, additional requirements were outlined as follows:

- -Retain current silo for potential re-use by MVCA
- -Retain foundation stones for re-use in future picnic shelter structure
- -Retain several large beams for re-use in future picnic shelter structure.

The RFP was posted with a tender deadline of June 9th, 2023.

At the tender deadline, two tenders had been received for consideration. Tenders were to include the tendered price excluding HST, optional cost to retain several large beams for MVCA, and confirmation of project start and end dates. Both tenders provided the required information with total cost details listed below:

Name of Contractor	Tender Price
C&R Barn Removal and Salvage Company	\$11,440.00
Reclaimed Spaces Inc.	\$59,610.00

The optional cost to retain several large wooden beams from the WNC barn location was indicated as no cost (\$0.00) from both contractors.

After reviewing both tenders, staff are recommending the contract be awarded to C&R Barn Removal and Salvage Company. The anticipated start date of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 would meet our requirements with site rehabilitation expected to be completed by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The work areas would be closed off for public access during the demolition period however access to the hiking trails at Wawanosh Valley C.A would remain open.

#### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Members approve the tender price of \$ 11,440.00 (plus HST) submitted by C&R Barn Removal and Salvage Company for demolition services as specified in RFP MC#23-03-CA at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area.

#### Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area 38854 Nature Centre Road, Belgrave, Ontario





#### Members Report #37-2023

**To:** Members, MVCA

**From:** Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer,

Health & Safety Coordinator, Co-Chair: Joint Health and Safety Committee

**Date:** June 12, 2023

**Subject:** Health and Safety Policies and Procedures Amendment

#### **Purpose:**

To amend MVCA's Health and Safety Policies and Procedures Manual to allow the General Manager Secretary Treasurer to amend procedural changes to the manual.

#### **Background:**

MVCA's current Occupational Health and Safety Manual requires all proposed amendments and additions to policies and procedures to be approved by the Members prior to them coming into effect. Section 2.3: Occupational Health and Safety Responsibilities is attached to this report.

The current process for making amendments and additions to the OH&S Manual is that the Members review all proposed amendments and additions both legislative and those recommended by the Joint Health and Safety Committee at the December Members Meeting.

The Joint Health and Safety Committee have recommended that amendments to Occupational Health and Safety Policies and procedures need to be made in a more timely matter in order to address any health and safety issues that arise in the work place.

#### **Amendment for Consideration:**

Staff would recommend that the Members consider amending Section 2.3.2: Membership responsibilities section to read as follows:

"Policy changes and additions recommended by the Joint Health and Safety Committee shall be approved by Membership". Legislative changes will be inserted into the OH&S Manual upon their enactment by the Provincial Government. Staff would recommend that proposed changes to policy be considered by the Members at the next available meeting rather than waiting until the December meeting to be considered.

Staff would recommend that the Members consider amending Section 2.3.3: General Manager's responsibilities to read as follows:

"That the General Manager Secretary Treasurer may make the appropriate amendments to procedures in the Occupational Health and Safety Manual in response to recommendations from the Joint Health and Safety Committee and/or legislative changes.

A copy of Section 2.3 OHS Responsibilities is attached to Report #37-2023

#### **Summary:**

The proposed amendments would allow MVCA to respond to recommendations for changes to the OH&S Manual to be made from the Joint Health and Safety Committee and General Manager Secretary Treasurer to be approved in a timelier manner.

#### Recommendation:

That Section 2.3 of MVCA's Occupational Health and Safety Manual be amended as outlined in Report 37-2023.

#### 2.3 OH & S Responsibilities

#### 2.3.2 Membership

Members are responsible for understanding and operating within the laws affecting the MVCA including health and safety standards. Members may be personally liable for failure of the MVCA to comply with the Health and Safety Legislation.

The approval of MVCA's Health and Safety Policies and Procedures are the responsibility of the

Members and include:

- Take all reasonable care to ensure that the MVCA complies with the Occupational Health & Safety Act, as well as with any orders and or requirements of Ministry inspectors, Directors and the Minister;
- Ensure every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for worker protection is available;
- Ensure, when appointing a supervisor, a competent person is appointed;
- Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures shall be approved by Membership motion;
- Policy and procedure changes and additions shall be approved by Membership motion;
- Carry out investigations of complaints of senior management relating to workplace violence and harassment procedures.

## 2.3.3 General Manager Secretary-Treasurer

Reporting to the Membership, the General Manager Secretary-Treasurer is responsible to ensure that the MVCA as a whole and including all workers under his direct or indirect supervision comply with all legislated requirements, to ensure a healthy and safe work environment.

For the purposes of the Act, the General Manager Secretary-Treasurer takes on the role of supervisor to:

- Ensure compliance with Federal and Provincial legislation and the MVCA's Health and Safety Manual policies and procedures;
- Take all reasonable care to ensure that the MVCA complies with the Occupational Health & Safety Act, Highway Traffic Act and Regulations as well as with any orders and or requirements of Ministry inspectors, Directors and the Minister;
- Set an example for supervisors and workers by wearing PPE and using protective devices as may be required, from time to time, and as stipulated by the Act and the MVCA;
- Ensure every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for worker protection is taken:
- Hold supervisors and workers accountable through utilization of established progressive discipline measures for adherence to the Act and the MVCA's specific policies, procedures and safe work practices;
- Ensure information, instruction and supervision is provided to a worker to protect the health and safety of the worker;
- Ensure, when appointing a supervisor, a competent person is appointed;
- Carry out investigations relating to workplace violence and harassment procedures;
- Ensure assistance and co-operation is afforded to the joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative in the carrying out of any of their functions;
- Ensure a person who is under such age as may be prescribed is not knowingly permitted to work in or about a workplace as stated in the Industrial Regulations and the Construction Regulations;
- Ensure a copy of the Act and any explanatory material prepared by the Ministry of Labour, both in English and the majority language of the workplace, outlining the rights, responsibilities and duties of workers is posted in each workplace. This will include Ministry of Labour and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board definition posters:
- Respond in writing within twenty-one (21) days to written recommendations from the Joint Health and Safety Committee or a Health and Safety Representative.

## Member's Report #38-23

**To:** Member's, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

From Danielle Livingston, Administrative and Financial Services Coordinator

**Date:** June 6, 2023

**Subject** Corporate Services - Accounts Paid and Received for:

June 2023

### Recommendation

**That the** financial report be accepted as presented for the month of June 2023; **and that** accounts outlined in the appendix to this report be approved.

Financial Summary Report Ending	June 2023
Revenue Invoiced	\$123,577.55
Accounts Paid	\$408,272.08

Financial Status at Month Ending	June 2023
Bank Loans Outstanding	\$0.00
Bank Balance at Month End	\$2,969,738.02
Total	\$2,969,738.02

## Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Accounts Receivable as of May 31, 2023

## **Operating Budget Revenue**

Corporate			
-	sale office support/rent office equipment	\$	636.65
·	Drinking Water Source Protection rent/overhead	\$	440.00
	bank interest	\$	9,484.50
	Huron Clean Water Project administration	\$	466.49
	•	\$	11,027.64
Flood Safata	Total Corporate Services	\$	11,027.64
Flood Safety	planning application fees	۲.	2 125 00
i lailillig/itegulations	property advisory fees	\$ \$	3,135.00 360.00
	solicitor inquires	\$ \$	2,450.00
	CWMS/watercourse regulations	\$	7,620.00
	regulation applications	\$	2,420.00
	regulation applications	\$	15,985.00
		7	15,905.00
Watershed Stewardship	Total Flood Safety Services	\$	15,985.00
•	large stock user fees	\$	2,923.50
	seedling user fees	\$	1,535.88
		\$	4,459.38
	Total Watershed Stewardship Services	\$	4,459.38
Conservation Areas			
FRCA	camping	\$	52,029.81
	sales/concession booth	\$	659.58
		\$	52,689.39
WPCA	camping	\$	3,233.82
		\$	3,233.82
Motor Pool	revenue	\$	5,525.77
		\$	5,525.77
	Total Conservation Areas Operations	\$	61,448.98
	Total Operating Budget Revenue	\$	92,921.00

Total Operating and Project Revenues	\$ 123,577.55
Total Project Budget Revenue	\$ 30,656.55
Total Special Projects	\$ 3,346.19
	\$ 3,346.19
Special Projects DWSP Transition Ausable Bayfield Conservation reimbursement	\$ 3,346.19
Total Watershed Stewardship Services Conservation Areas	\$ 27,310.36
	\$ 1,000.00
Watershed Health donations	\$ 1,000.00
	\$ 26,310.36 26,310.36
Watershed Stewardship Huron County Clean Water funding	\$ 26,310.36

## Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Expense Reports As of May 31, 2023

Date	Num	Name	Amount
			_
05/02/2023	• -	Sun Life Financial	-5,608.17
05/12/2023		Bell Mobility Inc. 500181172	-557.62
05/12/2023 2		D & I Wattam Construction Ltd.	-1,046.38
05/12/2023 2		Triple Jeb Farms Inc.	-1,518.00
05/12/2023 2		James & Megan Eddington	-3,597.50
05/12/2023 2		Jake Rylaarsdam	-2,067.50
05/12/2023		Peavey Industries LP	-435.02
05/12/2023	24577	Bell Canada-properties	-344.70
05/12/2023	24578	D & M Auto Service	-163.85
05/12/2023	24579	Bell Mobility (FRCA 501214021)	-295.54
05/12/2023	24580	Cliff's Plumbing & Heating	-461.02
05/12/2023	24581	Hortico Inc.	-13,712.55
05/12/2023	24582	Huron Telecommunications Co-op Ltd.	-25.99
05/12/2023	24583	Townsend Tire	-620.94
05/12/2023	24584	Ontario Delivery Ltd.	-1,655.45
05/12/2023	24585	Xerox Canada Ltd.	-122.67
05/12/2023	24586	Receiver General	-26,717.32
05/12/2023	24587	Lake Huron Coastal Centre	-90.00
05/12/2023	24588	Ontario Soil Network	-5,650.00
05/12/2023	24589	Bureau Veritas Canada Inc.	-246.18
05/12/2023	24590	Arend Streutker	-1,068.00
05/12/2023	24591	Capstone Development Training	-90.40
05/12/2023	24592	CIBC Visa Centre	-12,327.31
05/12/2023	489	AGO Industries Inc.	-324.30
05/12/2023 4	490	ALS Canada Ltd.	-216.96
05/12/2023	491	Eric Cox Sanitation	-583.77
05/12/2023	492	F.S. Partners	-185.48
05/12/2023		Foxton Fuels Limited	-59.45
05/12/2023	494	GRIT Engineering Inc.	-1,491.15
05/12/2023		Hodgins BC Wingham	-144.63
05/12/2023	496	Ideal Supply Inc.	-375.97
05/12/2023	497	Lei`s Lumber Company Ltd	-123.01
05/12/2023	498	MARCC Apparel and Promotions	-2,060.84
05/12/2023 4		Maxim Environmental and Safety Inc.	-550.43
05/12/2023		MicroAge BASICS	-422.79
05/12/2023	-	NVK-Connon Nurseries	-19,400.38
05/12/2023	502	Pagonis Live Bait	-203.40
05/12/2023		Pineneedle Farms	-4,646.00
05/12/2023		Sparlings Propane-Parkland Corporation	-124.24
05/12/2023		T Giesbrecht Custom Service Ltd.	-452.00
05/12/2023		Waste Management of Canada Corporation	-319.19
. رـــــ بر	<b>-</b>		5.55

05/12/2023 507	Watson's Home Hardware	-1,061.37
05/12/2023 508	Westario Power Inc.	-31.94
05/15/2023	Payroll	-49,204.73
05/30/2023 24593	Desco Plumbing & Heating Supply Inc.	-182.36
05/30/2023 24594	Wightman Telecom Ltd.	-1,029.99
05/30/2023 24595	ADS	-559.35
05/30/2023 24596	Purolator Courier Ltd.	-10.41
05/30/2023 24597	Bell Mobility Inc. 500181172	-546.44
05/30/2023 24598	Gibson Restoration	-13,802.95
05/30/2023 24599	Twp. of Ashfield Colborne Wawanosh	-1,466.81
05/30/2023 24600	Wayne Caldwell	-1,000.00
05/30/2023 24601	Huron Telecommunications Co-op Ltd.	-25.99
05/30/2023 24602	Maclyn Dust Control	-2,418.20
05/30/2023 24603	Wingham Columbus Centre	-138.89
05/30/2023 24604	Elizabeth Borland	-6,908.00
05/30/2023 24605	Jeff Borland	-1,463.00
05/30/2023 24606	Hugh Ryan	-987.00
05/30/2023 509	Brandt Security	-22.60
05/30/2023 510	ContinulT Corp.	-7,431.91
05/30/2023 511	Elizabeth Huber-Kidby	-421.51
05/30/2023 512	Eric Cox Sanitation	-4,064.38
05/30/2023 513	Evans Wholesale	-232.00
05/30/2023 514	Mathew Shetler	-575.00
05/30/2023 515	North Huron Publishing Company Inc.	-249.17
05/30/2023 516	R. J. Burnside & Associates	-1,967.21
05/30/2023 517	Shannon Millar	-429.80
05/30/2023 518	Sloan's	-36,153.23
05/30/2023 519	Somerville Nurseries Inc.	-15,280.90
05/30/2023 520	Upper Thames River Cons. Auth.	-250.00
05/30/2023 521	W.D. Hopper & Sons Ltd.	-636.99
05/30/2023 522	Yellow Pages	-13.67
05/30/2023 523	Zuzek Inc.	-11,415.83
05/31/2023	Payroll	-53,026.48
05/31/2023 May23EFT	Receiver General	-50,531.86
05/31/2023 May23EFT	Minister of Finance	-3,077.49
05/31/2023 May23EFT	OMERS	-26,656.12
05/31/2023 May23EFT	Workplace Safety & Insurance Board	-4,892.40
	Total	-408,272.08

#### Members Report #39-2023

**To:** The Members of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)

**From:** Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer;

Danielle Livingston, Administrative and Financial Services Coordinator

**Date:** June 6, 2023

**Subject:** Budget Update Report for the January 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023 period

## **Purpose:**

To outline the year-to-date status of the budget and explain any variances for the period of January 1st through May 31st.

### Background:

The authority has received all but one partial levy payment from our member municipalities. The outstanding balance owing from Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh levy is \$115,767.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has confirmed that they are providing transfer payments for Section 39 for the 2023-24 period to conservation authorities. MVCA has submitted a budget summary request for eligible items totalling \$727,344. Funding hasn't been received yet for the new fiscal period. In 2022, MVCA received \$36,424 for this grant.

Drinking Water Source Water Protection funding from the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) is continuing to flow to the lead authority for the April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 fiscal period. MVCA has been allotted \$23,437 for this program.

The MNRF reported in February that there were remaining funds for the water and erosion control infrastructure (WECI) program to be used by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Staff were able to complete work on the McGuffin drain by the deadline and secure \$7,650 from MNRF under this program.

All other revenues included in the approved budget are expected to be received.

## Cash and Investment Status Report

Balance	Account	Interest Received in Fiscal Period	Rate	Maturity Date
\$337,313	GIC	\$4,828	3.75-3.85%	2025
\$2,632,424	Chequing/Saving	\$25,836	4.64-5.00%	Reviewed annually

## **Summary:**

The summary of expenditures along with explanation of any variances are outlined in the tables below.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority - Operating Budget Summary as of May 31, 2023					
ltem	Budgeted	Expenditure			
	Expenditure	to Date	Comments if Variations for Period that is being Reported		
Corporate Services					
Administration	348,382	145,930			
Financial Management	119,298	84,688	Many annualized expenses are already allocated (insurance and audit).		
Governance	14,100	3,804			
Service Area Support	53,350	23,954			
Communications and IT	227,848	81,890	Computer replacement and software expenses occur latter part of year.		
Total	762,978	340,267			
Flood Safety Services					
Flood Control Structures	5,972	729			
Erosion Control Structures	1,488	2,897	Consulting costs for compiling McGuffin Gully background material and upgrading condition assessment report		
Flood Forecasting and Warning	278,539	85,120			
Ice Management					
Hazard Prevention	28,478	4,375	Consulting reviews were not invoiced until June		
Natural Hazard Information	64,485	13,586			

Regulations	267,338	109,337	
Total	646,300	216,044	
Watershed Stewardship Services			
Watershed Monitoring and Reporting	110,766	44,017	
Extension Services	150,367	39,370	Peak expense period is September through December.
Forestry Services	146,217	111,936	
Total	407,350	195,323	
Conservation Areas Management Services			
Falls Reserve Conservation Area	613,370	157,686	Majority of program expenses occur June through December.
Wawanosh Park Conservation Area	17,369	5,325	Majority of program expenses occur June through December.
Management, Development and Operations	284,178	121,952	
Motor Pool	27,900	12,871	
Total	942,817	297,833	
Total Operating Budget	2,759,445	1,049,467	

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority - Projects Budget Summary as of May 31, 2023				
ltem	Budgeted	Expenditure		
	Expenditure	to Date	Comments on Variations for Period that is being Reported	
Corporate Services				
Administration	282,000	47,364	Majority of project work takes place later in year	
GIS-IT Management-Communication	44,500	9,058	Majority of project work takes place later in year	
Total	326,500	56,422		
Flood Safety Services				
Flood Control-Preventative Maintenance	18,000	0	Project activities haven't taken place in period being reported.	
Shoreline Hazard Mapping	80,000	47,910		
McGuffin Gully	15,300	15,300		
Total	113,300	63,210		

Watershed Stewardship Services			
Garvey-Glenn Coordination	88,183	51,081	
Garvey-Glenn Demos	9,836	8,089	
Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration	75,000	124	Fall planting and incentive payments expected later in the year
Huron Clean Water Program	500,000	201,877	
Carbon Footprint Initiative	3,326	0	Project activities haven't taken place in period being reported.
Watershed Health	103,000	43,905	On track for this time period.
Watershed Stewardship Projects	8,119	0	Project work expected to be underway later this year.
Nature Based Climate Solutions	157,368	164,948	Added funding and deliverables, project continues into 2024
Stream Restoration and Natural Hazards	138,537	25,392	Majority of work expected later in year, project continues into 2024
ONFARM Research and Monitoring	5,336	5,336	
OMAFRA COA HLH	57,221	18,194	Majority of work expected to be later in year and carrying over
Total	1,145,926	518,947	
Conservation Areas Management			
Services			
Forestry Management	6,000	0	Majority of project activities expected to occur later in year.
Vehicle/Equipment Replacement	15,000	16,266	Higher expenses for trailer expected to be offset from sale.
MVCA Carbon Offset	500	0	Transactions occur at yearend
Footprints to Forests Carbon Offsetting	500	0	Transactions occur at yearend
Conservation Areas Projects	72,300	25,598	Majority of project activities expected to occur later in year.
Naftel's Creek	10,000	0	Project planned for October/November.
Total	104,300	41,864	
Total Projects Budget	1,690,026	680,444	

## Recommendation:

THAT the budget update outlined in Report #39-2023 be accepted as presented.



## Report #40-2023

Meeting Summary: May 24, 2023

Attendance: Ron Coghlin, Derek Mendez, MFS Ltd.; Tim MacDonald; Derry Wallis, County of Huron; Tracy MacDonald, Trillium Mutual Insurance; Sharen Zinn, Phil Beard, MVCA; Kriss Snell, Municipality of North Perth

Guests: Jim and Jason Brooks, BTE Enterprises Ltd.

Regrets: Richard Keeso; Martin Vogt, EFS Plastics; Chet Calhoun, Corteva Agrisciences

## 1. Updates:

- a) MVCA carbon footprint has increased but is still lower than it was in 2019. A heat pump will be installed in the workshop this year to replace a propane furnace.
   MVCA continues to naturalize areas to reduce grass cutting, restore ecosystems and to sequester carbon.
- b) MFS: Still researching the feasibility of powering their feed trucks using hydrogen. Trucks can be converted to run on hydrogen. Biggest challenge is the production of hydrogen on site.
- c) County of Huron: Installing EV stations around the county; new affordable housing build will be a net zero building. Undertaking energy audits on all buildings owned by the county. Naturalizing along 2kms of roadways in 2023. Will also be planting trees along some roadways.
- d) Trillium Mutual Insurance: converted to driving hybrid vehicles; Donating to the Elmira Nature Reserve to offset some greenhouse gas emissions. Installed two EV stations. Undertaking education initiatives on climate change, how to prevent loss and e-waste
- e) Tim MacDonald: Provided an update on Ideal Supply's carbon footprint initiatives. Purchasing 100 electric vehicles; installing EV charging stations at all stores; developing an EV charging station installation service. Tim outlined the Middle Maitland River Restoration Fund that has been established with the Stratford Perth Community Fund. The fund will be promoted in the Listowel Banner in June. Tim encouraged everyone to consider supporting the Fund:

Link to Fund: <a href="https://spccf.ca/middle-maitland-restoration-fund/">https://spccf.ca/middle-maitland-restoration-fund/</a>

Tim encouraged the group to consider inviting Randall Howard to speak at a future meeting about the sustainability initiatives that he is working on. Link to Randall's website: <a href="https://randalljhoward.com/">https://randalljhoward.com/</a>

- f) North Perth: Biggest challenge finding cost effective alternatives for energy efficient trucks and large equipment. CO2 emissions still below 2014 levels even though they have increased over the last two years.

  Naturalizing storm water management ponds, sewage treatment property. Installing a level 3 charger and more level 2 chargers. Updating flood plain mapping; County of Perth developing a stewardship program and hiring a climate change coordinator.

  Kriss advised that North Perth has collected 50 tractor trailer loads of mattresses to be sent for recycling that would otherwise have been put in the landfill site.
- 2. Is it time to expand the framework for the CFI?
  - a) Tracy MacDonald outlined that Trillium is looking at the 17 sustainable development goals that the UN has established. They will look at one goal per month and talk about what they can do as a company and individually to advance that goal. In September Trillium will learn how to calculate how they are doing in terms of contributing to advancing the 17 goals.

    Link to Sustainable Development Goals and Principles:

#### https://www.sdg.services/principles.html

Trillium has visited the SDG Idea Factory in Kitchener to learn more about the Sustainable Development goals.

https://www.sdgideafactory.ca/en/index.aspx

- 3. Climate Change backgrounder. Originally developed as a primer on climate change for the CFI members to use. Is it still useful or does it need to be revised? Those in attendance agreed to review and provide feedback.
- 4. Outreach Opportunities and Follow Up:
  - a) Huron Municipal Officers Association: no meeting scheduled for 2023. Will consider inviting the CFI to speak in 2024.
  - b) Listowel Chamber of Commerce: Kriss to provide contact information.
  - c) Perth Municipal Officers Association: Kriss has contacted them.
- 5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Meeting to be held at MVCA's office in Wroxeter.



# Lake health begins inland, says LAMP speaker

## Landowners and cottagers learn details of the Lakewise Action and Management Plan (LAMP) to improve Lake Huron

The guest speaker drove over two hours to share work on the Lakewide Action and Management Plan known as LAMP at a Lake to Lake Workshop on April 15 but good weather kept busy farmers away.

It was unfortunate for organizers who put a lot of work into the event but cottagers were there who had a lot to say about the erosion of their banks with one expressing her desire for "concrete solutions — and by that I mean concrete" to protect their properties from disappearing. However, concrete is not the preferred solution, said Elizabeth Huber-Kidby, an outreach technician with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.

"Erosion is a natural process and not always preventable but we want to mitigate it. However, bluff hardening is not effective," she said.

Cottagers had more to say but in fact, the goal of the meeting was to talk about how to keep the lake healthy with water and land practices inland because Lake Huron has been assessed in "fair" condition.

Featured speaker Paul Parete, a Great Lakes Program Officer-Chemicals & Groundwater with Environment Canada explains that LAMP is a bi-lateral plan with the United States and stressed everyone needs to be in it together. "Conservation authorities, government, Indigenous communities, farmers and cottagers, we are coming together and this is a tool to focus our efforts on dealing with stressors on the lake."

The threats to the lake are many and include chemical contaminant pollution, nutrient and bacterial overload, threats to habitat and species and invasive species. "Climate change overall is also a concern and exacerbates all the other threats," explained Parete.

The key threats to Lake Huron are



Shannon Millar (above) a Restoration Specialist with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority points out areas of water quality concern at a Land to Lake Workshop held in Goderich in April. Guest speaker, Paul Parete (right) spoke about the Lakewide Action and Management Plan to improve Lake Huron.

invasive species and recreational use. Part of LAMP is to determine where improvement dollars are best allocated and a draft form of the action plan is available for comments from the public. In March, the federal government announced it would invest \$420 million over 10 years towards the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes.

"You live here and we take all that information and use it because you understand the local conditions," said Parete. More information on LAMP can be found at https://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/lake-huron-lamps-and-associated-reports#plans

The most vocal voices at the meeting were from cottagers who expressed their dismay. One expressed concern that cottagers "have millions in property and pay their taxes only to see it wash away. I know we are working against nature but as a landowner, I would like to

keep my land. How far will you let erosion go?"

Huber-Kidby says MVCA has a shoreline hazard map indicating where the erosion line will likely exist in 25 years and 100 years. "The erosion is significant on the border," she said. Trees, shrubs and native plants do help with erosion as their root system stabilizes soil and are worth planting. However, they may not be there at that 25 or 100 year erosion line.

MVCA restoration specialist, Shannon Millar, further explained that there are two sides to the issue. One is restoration and the other is adapting to erosion. "We are looking at the science and figuring out what to do on a large-scale."

Jim Ginn, the mayor of Central Huron, was also in attendance. He sits on on various water health committees and says lake water traditionally rises and falls and in this period of high water, everyone is relearning how to cope with flooding and erosion. "The years 1986 to 2005 were a low period and people never saw high water." Now that it is back, "erosion on the lake bank will happen," he says. "Large rocks, steel and concrete will eventually wash away. When water levels go down, that is when we need to do the work," he said.

Another cottager said "we need solutions!" She brought up the idea of terracing as a potential solution. However, every time heavy equipment is brought in to create solutions, the weight and vibration of the machines actually weakens the existing banks and bluffs.

Ginn said research is being directed to nature-based solutions. The problem is most solutions are "extremely expensive" and can cost more than the cottages themselves. Another cottager suggested cottagers would be moved back onto farmland. Again, Ginn suggested the cost of moving everyone would be extremely expensive, with the added issues of those who owned cottages closest to the lake would fuss if they were then furthest back from the lake.

Millar then took the floor to bring the conversation back to the concept of Lake to Lake and how strategies adopted on land can improve the ecosystem health of the lake.

"Our watershed is agriculturebased," explained Millar. "Our goal is to reduce the loss of soil and nutrients from agricultural lands." Alongside that, the MVCA helps farmers source funds for protection work, provides technical support and coordinates projects.

Stream buffers are one such project, which encourages farmers not to work land too close to waterways. It also protects waterways from nutrients running off from the fields. Reduced tillage is another goal as it helps increase organic matter, which then creates "spongier" ground that can absorb more water. The addition of cover crops also helps with water filtration so that by the time water reaches the lake, it is cleaner, explained Millar.

Wildflower meadow strips are a newer project being promoted while berms, grassed waterways and tree planting are long standing projects of the MVCA.

Millar shared slides of a stream connecting project where barriers are removed between waterways, increasing the accessibility of the river for migrating fish. Old barriers can create areas of sitting water that cause algae blooms while dams can create problems with rushing water and erosion.

Speaking to the audience, she encouraged everyone to:

- plant native vegetation (Lake Huron Coastal Centre has a list of native species for planting on bluffs)
- have regular septic inspections
- volunteer with water health organizations
- join a local environmental group (Lake Huron Coastal Centre, Green Goderich, Pine River Watershed)
- talk to neighbours and spread awareness about water issues
- plant trees (the MVCA has tree ordering opportunities in spring and fall) ◊

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