

Notice of Meeting
Meeting of Members #11-2023

Date: Wednesday November 15th, 2023
Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Location: Admin. Centre, Wroxeter, Ontario

Agenda

1. Welcome by Chair: Matt Duncan
2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
3. Approval of the Minutes Meeting #10-2023 held on October 18, 2023.
4. Business Out of the Minutes:
 - a) Review of Cost Apportionment(Levy)Options: Report #55-2023
5. Business Requiring Decision and or Direction:
 - a) Proposed Authority Funded Projects 2024 Budget: Report #56-2023
 - b) Direction on Cost of Living Increase for 2024: Report #57-2023
 - c) Review of Fees Policy: Report #58-2023
 - d) Proposed Fee Changes for 2024: Report #59-2023
6. Chair and Members Updates:
7. Consent Agenda:
 - a) Revenue/Expenditure Report October: Report #60-2023
 - b) Carbon Footprint Initiative Meeting Summary: Report #61-2023
 - c) Agreements Signed: Report #62-2023
 - d) Office Hours over Christmas: Report #63-2023
 - e) What Are the Neighbours Up To Now: Story in Rural Voice
8. Adjournment: Next Meeting December 20, 2023 at 7:00pm

Membership Meeting #10-2023

October 18, 2023

Members Present: Alison Lobb, Ed McGugan, Alvin McLellan, Matt Duncan, Evan Hickey, Anita van Hittersum, Sharen Zinn, Megan Gibson, Ed Podniewicz, Andrew Fournier

Staff Present: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer
Jayne Thompson, Communications-IT-GIS Coordinator
Steward Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator
Danielle Livingston, Financial Services Coordinator
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Environmental Planner/Regulations Officer
Jeff Winzenried, Water Resources Technician
Shannon Millar, Shoreline Technician
Ben Van Dieten, Stewardship Projects Lead
Donna Clarkson, DWSP Co Supervisor

Others Present: Cory Bilyea, Wingham Advance Times

1. Call to Order

Chair Duncan welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm 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 #9-2023 held on September 20, 2023.

Motion FA #68-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the minutes from the General Membership Meeting #9-2023 on September 20, 2023 be approved.

(carried)

4. Presentation: Cover Crops-Ben Van Dieten, Agricultural Services Supervisor

Ben Van Dieten made a presentation on cover crops to the members. The Members thanked Ben for his informative presentation. Ben offered to take the Members on a tour next year to look at some farms that are using cover crops.

5. Business Requiring Decision and or Direction:

- a) MOU for Programs and Services: Municip. of Wellington North: Report #47-2023

Report #47-2023 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #69-23

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

That Report #47-2023 is received for information.

(carried)

- b) MECP Support for Healthy Lake Huron: Report: Report #48-2023

Report #48-23 was presented to the members for their information and direction.

Motion FA #70-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Ed McGugan

THAT Chair Duncan, contact Lisa Thompson to ask her to organize a meeting and tour with the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks.

(carried)

6. Business Requiring Decision and or Direction:

- a) 2024-2026 Work Plan: Report#49a-2023

Report #49a-23 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #71-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the three-year work plan outlined in Report #49a-2022 be approved for planning purposes as well as a guide to the development of the 2024 work plan.
(carried)

- b) 2024-2026 Budget Forecast: Report #49b-2023

Report #49b-23 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #72-23

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Andrew Fournier

THAT the 2024-2026 financial forecast, be accepted as presented for planning purposes;
AND THAT staff are to bring back a cost apportionment table that incorporates the full short fall for the operating forecast and a \$150,000 increase to the November 15, 2023 members meeting.
(carried)

- c) Approval of the Shoreline Hazard Mapping: Report #50-2023

Report #50-23 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #73-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Anita van Hittersum

THAT the Members adopt the updated Shoreline Hazard Mapping provided by Zuzek Inc. for the purposes of Planning & Regulations, and to fulfill the mandate to 'prepare for the impacts of a changing climate' under the Provincial Policy Statement.
(carried)

d) Proposed Air Quality Improvement Project-Admin. Centre: Report #51-2023

Report #51-23 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #74-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Anita van Hittersum

THAT the Members approve the quote of \$ 15,328.00 (plus HST) submitted by Bostech Mechanical for HVAC updates;

AND THAT Members approve the quote of \$4,500.00 (plus HST) submitted by Grubb and Gutscher (Basement Boss) to complete phase 1 for radon mitigation services.

(carried)

e) Proposed Amendment to Purchasing Policy: Report #52-2023

Report #52-23 was presented to the members for their consideration.

Motion #75-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Ed McGugan

THAT the Purchasing Policy be amended as follows: that if the funding agency does not require MVCA's signing officers to sign an agreement for project funding and the project is \$50,000 or less, then the GM ST or appropriate Coordinator or Supervisor may sign the agreement on behalf of MVCA.

(carried)

7. Chair and Members Updates:

Megan Gibson reported that there will be a grand opening for Howick's new trail system at the Gorrie Conservation Area on October 29, 2023 at 1pm.

8. Consent Agenda:

The following items were circulated to the Members for their information:

- a) Revenue/Expenditure Report September: Report #53-2023
- b) Conservation Ontario Council Meeting Summary: Report #54-2023
- c) Agreements Signed: Report #55-2023

The following motion was made:

Motion FA #76-23

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT Report #53-23 through Report #55-23 along with their respective motions as outlined in the Consent Agenda be approved.
(carried)

9. Adjournment: Next meeting: November 15, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

Motion FA #77-23

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT the Members Meeting be adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Matt Duncan
Chair

Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Members Report #55-2023

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer
Date: November 8, 2023

Subject: Review of Options for Cost Apportionment (Levy)
Increase to include in the 2024 Draft Budget

Purpose:

To provide direction on the 2024 cost apportionment increase to be used in the 2024 Budget.

To provide direction on whether to identify a draft apportionment increase for 2025 and 2026 for budget forecasting purposes.

Background:

At the October 18th meeting the following motion was passed:

Motion FA #72-23

THAT the 2024-2026 financial forecast, be accepted as presented for planning purposes;
AND THAT staff are to bring back a cost apportionment table that incorporates the full short fall for the operating forecast and a \$150,000 increase to the November 15, 2023 members meeting.

Staff have prepared two tables:

Table A: Identifies the increase in cost apportionment for each member municipality if the full shortfall in revenue (\$207,858) for the 2024 operating budget was incorporated into the increase.

Table B: Identifies the increase in cost apportionment that each member municipality would incur if it was increased by \$150,000 in 2024.

It should be noted that these increases do not consider the need to continue to increase funding for infrastructure and equipment by at least \$10,000 per year for the next three years. This increase may change once we have identified the financial resources we will need for replacing critical infrastructure and equipment.

Direction on Cost Apportionment Increase for 2024:

Recommendation:

To be identified at the meeting.

Direction on Cost Apportionment Increase to include in Three Year Forecast:

In October staff identified the challenges with developing a three year work plan when we have no direction on the cost apportionment increase that is to be used for budget forecasting. Staff identified the shortfalls that will occur for the next three years if there is no increase in cost apportionment for operating and capital expenditures. We also identified the compounding effect of not addressing the shortfall over the next three years.

See table from Report 49b-2023

The forecast is based on no increase in cost apportionment in each of the next three years.

Operating Forecast Summary 2024-2026

Revenue	2024	2025	2026
2023 Levy used for operating	\$1,730,181	\$1,730,181	\$1,730,181
DWSP	\$22,950	\$22,950	\$22,950
HCWP Administration	\$5,709	\$5,709	\$5,709
Interest Income Use	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Provincial (S.39)	\$36,424	\$36,424	\$36,424
Rent and Land Use Revenue	\$12,390	\$12,390	\$12,390
General Sales & Forestry	\$155,700	\$155,700	\$155,700
Regulations & Planning Revenue	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
Total Revenue	\$2,113,354	\$2,113,354	\$2,113,354
Expenses			
Corporate	\$273,927	\$279,406	\$284,994
Flood and Erosion	\$73,250	\$74,715	\$76,209
Watershed Stewardship	\$122,400	\$124,848	\$127,345
Conservation Areas	\$59,790	\$60,986	\$62,206
DWSP	\$1,478	\$1,508	\$1,538
Wages	\$1,790,367	\$1,898,947	\$2,023,923
Total Expenses	\$2,321,212	\$2,440,410	\$2,576,215
Projected Shortfall	\$207,858	\$327,056	\$462,861

Staff would recommend that the Members consider providing some direction on the cost apportionment increase that can be included in the 2025 and 2026 budget forecast for planning purposes. Staff would recommend that at a minimum, increases of \$150,000 per year be identified for operating and an additional \$10,000/year be included for the project budget forecast. Ideally, we would recommend including increases that incorporate the entire shortfall for each year.

Staff will always look for ways to reduce any shortfalls and identify how we can reduce expenditures and increase revenues. Over the years MVCA has been able to obtain some project or short-term program funding from Provincial or Federal programs where we are permitted to charge some staffing costs. When this occurs, MVCA can generate some savings within the operating budget. These savings help MVCA to put money away to help fund authority funded projects, infrastructure, and equipment. These savings can also be used to help make up shortfalls in future operating budgets. Our challenge is we never know if we will be approved for funding through these programs or if we can charge staff time.

Recommendation:

To be developed at the meeting.

2024 Draft Cost Apportionment Schedule Increase Amount: \$207,858 Municipality	% of Municipality In Watershed	2023 CVA (modified) in Watershed \$	Municipal Population in CA jurisdiction	CVA Based Apportionment Percentage	2023 Approved General Levy	2024 Draft General Levy	\$ Increase from Prior Year	2024 Draft Total Levy
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Twp.	100	\$1,338,594,680	4,620	12.4257	\$ 231,534	\$ 255,726	\$ 24,192	\$ 255,726
Central Huron Municipality	76	\$1,025,418,790	4,710	9.5186	\$ 178,147	\$ 195,897	\$ 17,750	\$ 195,897
Goderich Town	100	\$1,145,982,784	6,245	10.6378	\$ 198,931	\$ 218,930	\$ 19,999	\$ 218,930
Howick Twp.	92	\$476,723,985	2,672	4.4253	\$ 82,896	\$ 91,074	\$ 8,178	\$ 91,074
Huron East Municipality	72	\$1,124,550,003	5,760	10.4388	\$ 194,807	\$ 214,835	\$ 20,028	\$ 214,835
Huron-Kinloss Twp.	43	\$647,570,164	2,511	6.0112	\$ 111,827	\$ 123,713	\$ 11,886	\$ 123,713
Mapleton Twp.	5	\$96,841,174	385	0.8989	\$ 16,689	\$ 18,500	\$ 1,811	\$ 18,500
Minto Town	64	\$748,757,259	4,155	6.9505	\$ 129,241	\$ 143,044	\$ 13,803	\$ 143,044
Morris/Turnberry Municipality	95	\$560,702,290	2,741	5.2048	\$ 97,207	\$ 107,117	\$ 9,910	\$ 107,117
North Huron Twp.	100	\$603,628,746	3,935	5.6033	\$ 104,361	\$ 115,318	\$ 10,957	\$ 115,318
North Perth Municipality	98	\$2,447,981,384	10,828	22.7238	\$ 410,187	\$ 467,663	\$ 57,476	\$ 467,663
Perth East Twp.	9	\$189,777,262	857	1.7616	\$ 33,177	\$ 36,254	\$ 3,077	\$ 36,254
South Bruce Municipality	1	\$20,804,299	71	0.1931	\$ 1,309	\$ 3,975	\$ 2,667	\$ 3,975
Wellington North	16	\$294,847,208	1,472	2.7370	\$ 51,124	\$ 56,329	\$ 5,205	\$ 56,329
West Perth Municipality	3	\$50,586,083	225	0.4696	\$ 8,744	\$ 9,665	\$ 921	\$ 9,665
Total		\$10,772,766,111	51187	100.0000	\$ 1,850,181	\$ 2,058,039	\$ 207,858	\$ 2,058,039

2024 Draft Cost Apportionment Schedule Increase Amount: \$150,000 Municipality	% of Municipality In Watershed	2023 CVA (modified) in Watershed \$	Municipal Population in CA jurisdiction	CVA Based Apportionment Percentage	2023 Approved General Levy	2024 Draft General Levy	\$ Increase from Prior Year	2024 Draft Total Levy
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Twp.	100	\$1,338,594,680	4,620	12.4257	\$ 231,534	\$ 248,536	\$ 17,002	\$ 248,536
Central Huron Municipality	76	\$1,025,418,790	4,710	9.5186	\$ 178,147	\$ 190,389	\$ 12,242	\$ 190,389
Goderich Town	100	\$1,145,982,784	6,245	10.6378	\$ 198,931	\$ 212,775	\$ 13,844	\$ 212,775
Howick Twp.	92	\$476,723,985	2,672	4.4253	\$ 82,896	\$ 88,514	\$ 5,618	\$ 88,514
Huron East Municipality	72	\$1,124,550,003	5,760	10.4388	\$ 194,807	\$ 208,795	\$ 13,988	\$ 208,795
Huron-Kinloss Twp.	43	\$647,570,164	2,511	6.0112	\$ 111,827	\$ 120,235	\$ 8,408	\$ 120,235
Mapleton Twp.	5	\$96,841,174	385	0.8989	\$ 16,689	\$ 17,980	\$ 1,291	\$ 17,980
Minto Town	64	\$748,757,259	4,155	6.9505	\$ 129,241	\$ 139,023	\$ 9,782	\$ 139,023
Morris/Turnberry Municipality	95	\$560,702,290	2,741	5.2048	\$ 97,207	\$ 104,105	\$ 6,898	\$ 104,105
North Huron Twp.	100	\$603,628,746	3,935	5.6033	\$ 104,361	\$ 112,076	\$ 7,715	\$ 112,076
North Perth Municipality	98	\$2,447,981,384	10,828	22.7238	\$ 410,187	\$ 454,515	\$ 44,328	\$ 454,515
Perth East Twp.	9	\$189,777,262	857	1.7616	\$ 33,177	\$ 35,235	\$ 2,058	\$ 35,235
South Bruce Municipality	1	\$20,804,299	71	0.1931	\$ 1,309	\$ 3,863	\$ 2,555	\$ 3,863
Wellington North	16	\$294,847,208	1,472	2.7370	\$ 51,124	\$ 54,745	\$ 3,621	\$ 54,745
West Perth Municipality	3	\$50,586,083	225	0.4696	\$ 8,744	\$ 9,393	\$ 649	\$ 9,393
Total		\$10,772,766,111	51187	100.0000	\$ 1,850,181	\$ 2,000,181	\$ 150,000	\$ 2,000,181

Members Report #56-2023

To: Members
From: Phil Beard, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer;
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning & Regs Supervisor;
Jeff Winzenreid, Flood Forecast Supervisor;
Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator;
Jayne Thompson, Communications & GIS-IT Coordinator
Date: November 9, 2023
Subject: Proposed Authority Funded Projects: 2024 Draft Budget

Purpose:

To obtain direction from the Members on the projects to be included in the 2024 draft authority funded projects budget.

Background:

Authority funded projects are generally funded through the general levy, special benefiting levies, accumulated surpluses, and the Maitland Conservation Foundation. Some of these projects are funded through dedicated accumulated surpluses such as:

1. Motor Pool - vehicle and equipment purchases
2. Forestry - tree planting projects on MVCA lands.
3. Working Capital - conservation area projects, flood and/or erosion – safety equipment, studies, repairs, renovations to the administration centre, computer software/hardware. Some water and erosion control projects may be eligible for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Fund.

This report outlines the projects proposed in each service area and how they may be funded based upon the information that is available. The report also includes several projects that are still under development.

Flood/Erosion Safety	Outline & Proposed Funding Sources	2024 Cost
Flood Forecasting Monitoring Network Maintenance	Lifecycle replacement of equipment, primarily network equipment (telemetry & sensors), to ensure that the flood forecast network is always fully operational. After 2023, the preventative maintenance & replacement costs are expected to increase as more equipment is reaching the end of its lifespan. The HPMN radio telemetry will need full replacement as the manufacturer has ceased production of our equipment. The equipment continues to function thanks due largely to preventative maintenance, but they have been operating for over 14 years - replacements should be expected after 2023. Funding source: Project Levy	\$20,000
Shoreline Hazard Coastal Resilience Project	Expand shoreline hazard mapping, undertake vulnerability assessment for all shoreline hazard lands, increase public awareness of shoreline risks and develop neighbourhood scale coastal resilience strategies for at risk shoreline communities – Funding sources: Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP), contribution agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada. MVCA support: In kind-staff time	\$113,000
Total		\$133,000

Watershed Stewardship		
Watershed Health Assessment Project	Multi year project to improve indicators of watershed health and use the new indicators to determine health of rivers and streams in the watershed. Project will also identify where and how to improve the health of the forests and watercourses in the watershed: Funding from donations, working capital surplus, and the MCF/JHET.	\$80,679

Corporate Services	Outline and Proposed Funding Source	Cost
Administrative Centre Renovations	Accessibility Improvements to Entrance way and washrooms: Federal funding received in 2023 (\$56,758), Project Levy and WCAS	\$ 77,000
Administration Brick Repairs	Complete brick repairs on office building. Funding Source: Working Capital Accumulated Surplus	\$ 15,000
Administration Centre Phone Replacement	Replacement of phone system components throughout office. Funding Source: Working Capital Accumulated Surplus & Project Levy	\$ 25,000
Air Quality Improvement Project: Phase 2	Install Hepa filters on 3 furnaces and complete radon mitigation in basement location. Funding Source: Working Capital Accumulated Surplus	\$ 17,000
Computer Hardware and Software	Computer and tablet replacement, server maintenance and updates, standard and specialized software, property database updates, upgrade of wifi extenders, professional photography support for drone images. Funding Source: MVCA through Project Levy	\$ 55,600
Total		\$189,600

Conservation Areas	Outline and Proposed Funding Source	Cost
Conservation Area Signage	Replace property identification signage at Brussels, Lucknow and Turnberry Conservation Areas. Funding Source: Working Capital Accumulated Surplus (WCAS)	\$ 2,400
Naftel's Creek Conservation Area	Boardwalk replacement on the Blue Loop Trail. Final phase of project. Funding source MVCA through WCAS from previous MCF/JHETF donations.	\$ 8,000
Forest Management Activities	Invasive species control at Conservation Areas. Includes Buckthorn and Phragmites control at Lake Wawanosh, Naftel's, and Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. Funding Source: Forestry Mgmt. Accumulated Surplus	\$ 21,000
MVCA Carbon Sequestration Tree Planting	Costs to plant seedlings to sequester carbon. Funding raised from Directors and MVCA carbon sequestration fee on mileage rates. Funding Source: MVCA through Motor Pool Accumulated Surplus	\$ 500
Vehicle Replacement	Replace mini van with electric/hybrid minivan. Funding Source: Motor Pool Accumulated Surplus (\$8,000 revenue expected from sale of existing van)	\$55,000
Equipment Replacement	Replace riding mower with suitable electric or fuel efficient zero turn mower. Funding Source: Motor Pool Accumulated Surplus (\$5,000 revenue expected from sale of existing equipment)	\$15,000
Total		\$101,900

Capital Projects: Falls Reserve Conservation Area and Wawanosh Campground

Project	Description/Source of Funding	Cost
FRCA Roadway and Parking lot Repairs	Begin replacement of asphalt roadways and parking lots. Funding source: FRCA Reserves	\$ 20,000
FRCA Signage	Replace entrance and roadway signage. Funding Source: FRCA Reserves	\$ 10,000
FRCA Sycamore Washroom Upgrade	Replace Water heater in Washroom with efficient model. Funding Source: FRCA Reserves	\$ 5,000
FRCA Gatehouse Renovations	Update gatehouse including accessible windows, improve exterior access, heating and cooling system, and telephone system upgrades. Funding Source: FRCA Reserves	\$ 15,000
FRCA Workshop Generator	Install Backup generator at workshop/office. Funding Source: FRCA Reserves	\$15,000
FRCA Equipment	Purchase existing leased Tractor and Loader. Funding Source: FRCA Reserves	\$ 18,227
WPCA Privy Repair	Replace roofing, fascia and paint exterior of privy. Funding Source: WPCA Reserves	\$ 2,000
Total		\$ 85,227

2024 Projects: Funding Sources Summary Table	Total Cost	Project Levy	Working Capital	Federal Govt.	Forestry Acc. Surplus	Motor Pool Surplus	MCF JHETF Other	Falls & Wawanosh	Special Levy
Flood-Erosion Safety	\$133,000	\$20,000		\$113,000					
Corporate	\$189,600	\$100,000	\$32,842	\$56,758					
Conservation Areas	\$101,900		\$ 10,400		\$ 21,000	\$ 70,500			
Wshd. Stewardship	\$80,679		\$35,679				\$45,000		
Falls -Wawanosh	\$85,227							\$ 85,227	
Totals	\$590,406	\$120,000	\$78,921	\$169,758	\$21,000	\$70,500	\$45,000	\$85,227	

Summary:

The projects identified for 2024 are part of MVCA's three-year work plan that was approved at the October 18, 2024, meeting.

Additional Projects under Investigation:

Staff have identified several additional projects that could be included in the 2024 draft budget. However, there is insufficient information at this time to recommend that they be included in the 2024 draft budget. These projects will be brought forward for the Members consideration if they are supported by the appropriate municipalities and eligible for funding in 2024 from the Federal Government.

a) Coastal Resilient Communities Program (including Sediment Bypass Investigation for Goderich)

Natural Resources Canada has initiated a program for Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities covering up to 75% of project costs. This work would allow MVCA and member municipalities to continue to help our shoreline municipalities to determine how to deal with existing and future development. This Federal program aims to promote and pilot meaningful actions toward increased resiliency within the shoreline reaches along the Lake Huron shoreline. The three shoreline municipalities would need to agree to pay the local share of the cost. Staff are working with the coastal engineering consultant to identify the cost to undertake this work.

b) Rural Flood Plain Mapping Update:

Current Rural Floodplain mapping for the main branches of the Maitland River is not very accurate (+/-1m.) and incomplete. The Provincial Government has just prepared accurate topography (LIDAR) mapping(+/-10cm). This new base mapping will enable MVCA to develop more precise flood plain mapping. Many sections of the river and their tributaries have no flood plain mapping.

Flood forecast modelling, planning and regulations services would be able to provide more accurate information on the location of the flood hazard to municipalities, developers, and the public. This project is expected to be eligible for future intakes of the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP). Timing is unknown. The total cost to undertake this work is also unknown currently.

The Members would need to determine how the local share of this project would be financed (special levy vs general levy).

c) Lucknow Flood Plain Mapping Update:

Staff have contacted the Township of Huron-Kinloss to inquire if the municipality would be interested in updating the flood plain mapping along the Nine Mile River and tributaries that flow through Lucknow. The Municipality of Huron Kinloss would need to be willing to support the project and to agree to pay for the local share (50%) of the cost of the mapping. The estimated cost to update the mapping is approx. \$120,000.

d) North Huron Floodplain Mapping Update (To reflect removal of Howson Dam)

Assist the Township of North Huron in applying to the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) to update the flood plain mapping upstream and downstream of the Howson Dam once it has been removed. Preliminary flood risk mapping generated for discussion purposes when the flood plain mapping was updated for the Wingham ward revealed that there may be a reduction in the flood risk upstream of the former dam. The Township of North Huron would need to agree to pay the local share of the cost. The cost to undertake this work is estimated to be between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Recommendation:

THAT the authority funded projects outlined in Report #56-2023 be included in the 2024 draft budget and work plan AND THAT the additional projects outlined in Report #56-2023 be investigated to determine if there is support from the appropriate Member municipalities.

Members Report #57-2023

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer
Date: November 6, 2023
Subject: Direction on Cost-of-Living Increase – 2024 Draft Budget

Purpose:

To provide direction on the cost-of-living increase to be included in the 2024 budget.

MVCA Policy and Procedure for Calculating Cost of Living Increases:

The existing Consumer Price Index for Ontario (October 1-September 30th) is to be used to establish COLA increases annually in years when the CPI is 3% or less. In years when the CPI for Ontario is above 3% then MVCA will survey 5 member municipalities, the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority to determine what they are using for cost-of-living increases. This information is to be presented to the Members for direction on the COLA increase that is to be used for the next year.

The salary grid will be adjusted by the cost of living each year and applied to the midpoint of the salary grid and that \$ figure will be added to all other ranges and levels on the salary grid.

Consumer Price Index Increase for Ontario between October 1/22-September 30/23:

Staff have used the procedures outlined in MVCA's Benefits and Remuneration Policy to determine the increase in the Consumer Price Index over the past year. It is 4.53%. Since this percentage is above the 3% limit that the Members have identified in the policy, staff have surveyed five member municipalities and the SVCA and ABCA to determine what percentage they are applying to their 2024 salary grid.

The cost of applying a 4.53% increase to the mid point in the grid is \$1.03/hour plus mandatory employment costs. Staff have calculated that the total cost of incorporating this increase into the 2024 draft budget would be approximately \$43,548.

Survey Results:

1. Perth East	5.63%	Approved by Council
2. Huron East	3.8%	Approved by Council
3. Minto	4.0%	Approved by Council
4. Morris-Turnberry	3.6%	Approved by Council
5. Howick Twp.	4.54%	Approved by Council
6. ABCA	5.3%	Approved by Board
7. SVCA	3.2%	Approved by Board
Average Increase	4.3%	

There is a range of approaches and timeframes that are used by municipalities and conservation authorities to determine a cost-of-living increase. Some use the Consumer price Index for Canada and others use the Consumer Price Index for Ontario. Differing time periods are also used by each municipality and conservation authority. This results in a wide variation in the percentage that is used for determining a cost-of-living increase to apply to each municipality and authority's respective salary grid.

Recommendation:

To be developed at the meeting.

Members Report #58-2023

To: Members, MVCA
From: Phil Beard, GM ST
Date: November 8, 2023

Subject: Annual Review of User Fees Policy

Purpose:

To identify additions that need to be made to MVCA's Fees Policy.

Background:

In 2022 MVCA adopted a Fees Policy. The Fees Policy is to be reviewed by the Members annually. Any proposed changes to the Fees Policy must to be posted on MVCA's website for at least a one-month period. Any comments that are received are to be reviewed by the Members prior to making any changes to the Fees Policy.

Proposed Amendments:

Staff have reviewed the Fees Policy and are recommending that a policy be included for charging fees for some types of activities in conservation areas. The proposed policy has been highlighted in the attached policy document.

Recommendation:

THAT the Fees Policy be amended to include fees related to the use of conservation areas.

Or:

THAT the Fees Policy not include fees the proposed fees related to the use of conservation areas.



Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Fees Policy

Draft November 8, 2023

Effective January 1, 2024

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Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Fees Policy Background

Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act were undertaken in 2020 to clarify the programs and services that conservation authorities (CAs) deliver. In 2021, O. Reg. 686/21 Mandatory Programs and Services provided additional clarity regarding the programs and services that CAs are required to provide. In April 2022 the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks released Policy: Minister's list of classes of programs and services in respect of which conservation authorities may charge a fee ("Minister's List"). CAs may only charge a fee for a program or services that it provides if it is set out in the Minister's List. The Minister's List identifies that CAs may charge a fee for mandatory, municipal, and other programs and services where the user-pay principle is appropriate.

The Minister's List replaces the 1997 Policies and Procedures for the Charging of Conservation Authority Fees

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Fees Policy

which was approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. The new Minister's List will come into effect on January 1, 2023. This policy document is intended to fulfill the requirement for each authority to adopt a written policy with respect to the fees that it charges for the programs and services it provides.

Legislation

On January 1, 2023, the Conservation Authorities Act is amended by enacting section 21.2 (1)-(12) "Fees for Programs and Services". Subsection (1) enables the Minister to determine the classes of programs and services in respect of which an authority may charge a fee and (2) requires the minister to publish a List in a policy document. CAs may only charge a fee for a program or service that it provides if it is set out on this list.

Under the Conservation Authorities Act, programs and services delivered by conservation authorities include:

- **Mandatory programs and services.** Mandatory programs and services that the conservation authority is required to provide [see 21.1 for further details]. These services are further defined in O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services and may be funded by provincial grants, other sources, municipal apportionment and/or conservation authority self-generated revenue (e.g., user fees) where the user-pay principle is appropriate.
- **Municipal programs and services.** Programs and services that an authority agrees to provide on behalf of a municipality under a MOU or agreement [see 21.1.1 for further details]. The program or service may be funded by the municipality or by other funding mechanisms (e.g., user fees where the user-pay principle is appropriate) as per the MOU or agreement.
- **Other programs and services.** Programs and services that an authority determines are advisable to further the purposes of the Act [see 21.1.2 for further details]. The program or service may be funded by the municipality or by other funding mechanisms (e.g., user fees where the user-pay principle is appropriate) as per the cost apportioning agreement and the Minister's List.

Policy Scope

This policy would apply to all classes of programs and services for which a conservation authority may charge a fee. This policy does not include those instances where the authority is already authorized under another statute to charge a fee for a program or service.

Policy Direction

When updating existing fee schedules or establishing new fees the following policy direction will be considered:

- 1) fees need to be set regarding legislative requirements, ability to sustain programs, and be based on a user-pay philosophy.
- 2) fee increases should include inflation.
- 3) fees must not exceed the costs of delivering the services.
- 4) refunds of fees may carry an administrative cost/penalty.
- 5) fees will be reviewed at least annually and regular adjustments to fees are desirable.
- 6) fees schedule will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to inform the budget for the following year.

Exemptions and In-Kind Services

The Authority may waive fees for non-profit conservation groups contributing to the protection and restoration of the natural environment.

In addition, the Authority routinely provides in-kind technical services to assist non-profit conservation groups. Technical services may be required for non-profit groups that do not have qualified professionals nor the funding to acquire the expertise to undertake projects to further achieve the environmental targets of the Authority.

Process and Public Notification

When developing and establishing fees, the Authority also considers the fees of Conservation Authorities offering the same level of service and technical advice, the fees set by neighbouring Conservation Authorities, fees charged by local municipalities and agencies, and fees charged by the private sector for similar services.

Fees account for estimated staff time, travel, equipment, and material costs plus a reasonable charge to cover administration of the program, which normally includes an allocation for shared corporate services.

This Fees Policy has been established by the MVCA Members and is administered and applied by staff of MVCA.

The public is notified of any proposed increases or revisions to the Fee Schedule, by way of posting a notice on the MVCA website that the Fee Schedule will be reviewed on an identified date, at an open meeting of the Authority's Members.

Implementation

This section outlines how the fees are administered in each service area.

1. Planning and Regulations (Section 28 Permit Fees, Planning Act and Technical Reviews)

MVCA administers its fee program for Planning and Regulations to achieve a partial cost recovery to-date for the plan review function. MVCA's program aims to ensure that fees cover the actual cost of reviewing applications. It is also intended to reflect that significant effort and resources are used for pre-consultation related to activities, proposals, and inquiries prior to application submissions as well as compliance activities. The fee schedules are based on the complexity of the application and technical review required which influences the staff time and resources needed for the review. Administration may consider the following issues and data, where and when relevant to revise the fee schedule:

- analysis of trends in workload changes because of shifts in the development market and types of applications.
- consultation with developers/municipalities about work effort, new planning/legislative requirements and streamlining.
- general overview of status of cost recovery.
- statistics related to the number of applications and annual changes, where required.
- level of service/review expectation for processing timing.
- areas for improvement of level of service/staffing demands.
- cost-cutting measures as required.
- reserve fund requirements.
- identification of specific/specialized municipal requirements.
- trends in legal costs associated with appeals to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, Mining and Lands Tribunal, and other legal services.

It is the objective of the MVCA to provide an effective and efficient delivery of services consistent with the *Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review*, endorsed by Conservation Ontario Council, June 24, 2019.

Exemptions to the application of these fees include:

- Non-profit conservation groups contribute to the protection and restoration of the natural environment.
- MVCA for permit applications, Planning Act applications, inquiries, and site assessments.

2. Conservation Area Fees

Conservation area fees are charged for the use of land owned by MVCA and may include entrance and camping fees, facility and rental fees, hunting, land-use permits, and leasing agreements.

Land use permits are required when indicated by R.R.O. 1990, REGULATION 117 section 4 and 7.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act or by Ontario Regulation 688/21 section 5 and 10 when it comes into force on the day subsection 27 (1) of Schedule 4 to the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017 comes into force.

- Fees are reviewed and updated annually.
- Fees for hunting and land-use permits are based upon anticipated operational expenses, comments and feedback from applicants and permitted users, as well as comparisons to similar opportunities at other Conservation Authorities.
- Land use permit fees may be adjusted based on the requested use of the property and factor in additional operational expenses or fee sharing agreements.
- Fees for leasing agreements will be determined on an individual basis and by contract.

Exemptions to the land-use and leasing fees may include:

- Non-profit conservation groups contributing to the protection and restoration of the natural environment.
- Scouts, guides, cadets, emergency services (Ontario Provincial Police, Huron & Area Search and Rescue, etc).
- Member Municipalities

Falls Reserve Conservation Area & Wawanosh Campground Fees

Conservation Areas fees are reviewed annually by Conservation Areas staff following the end of the camping season in October. Criteria for setting fees are:

- anticipated operational expenses that will be incurred that will impact the budget.
- comments and feedback from CA users.
- comparison to similar operations and opportunities in the industry, including trends.

As part of the fee setting process, staff also review operational policies that pertain to the various aspects of the Conservation Area services and programs. Refund policies are included in this review and adjusted as necessary. Information pertaining to these policies is shared on our websites as well as available in print. Seasonal campers receive an electronic copy of both the fee schedule and policies annually.

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Fees changes are approved at the November Members meeting and come into effect January 1 of the new year. Once approved, new fees become public.

To be consistent with Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Regulation (0.Reg. 429/07) and the Human Rights Code, the Conservation Areas permit people with disabilities who use a support person to bring that person with them while accessing goods or services in premises open to the public or third parties, free of charge.

3. Stewardship Services Fees

Fees for trees and services are reviewed and updated annually.

The cost of providing these services is based on the following principles:

- tree costs are based on wholesale tree costs dependent on individual stock items. A mark-up is applied to cover costs associated with staffing for administration and handling, as well as tree delivery and storage requirements.
- planting coordination fees are based on staffing, mileage, and material costs to plan and coordinate plantings.
- planting fees for both machine and hand planting are based on staffing and equipment costs.

4. Corporate Services Fees

- Fees are reviewed and updated annually.
- Fees for equipment and office rental are based upon current market rates.

5. Resource Data Fees

- Fees are reviewed and updated annually. Fees may also need to be updated more frequently if the cost of materials changes prior to the annual review. MVCA will update fees to reflect any changes in the cost of the materials used for plotting.
- Fees are based upon the staff time and materials needed to prepare and plot the requested information.

Refunds

The MVCA does not issue refunds for services or products once the application or order is submitted and the payment has been processed.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Fees Policy

Policies regarding refunds related to camping or day use at the Falls Reserve Conservation Area are posted on MVCA's website as well as copies are distributed to seasonal campers. Links to the websites are updated by January 1 for the upcoming operating season. Refunds are not offered for inclement weather nor are they offered when a permit holder is being evicted from the premises.

Appeal

The fee appeal process will only apply to plan review and Section 28 regulations fees. The appeal process will be based on the principles of fairness, opportunity, and notification.

Application for an administrative review may be received for, 1) an appeal if a fee is contrary to the fees set out in the fee schedule, or 2) that the fee set out in the fee schedule is excessive in relation to the service or program received.

Requests for an administrative review must be in writing to the General Manager (or delegate) and specify the reason(s) for the request for review. Upon reconsideration of a fee that was charged by the authority, the authority may:

- a) Order the person pay the fee in the amount originally charged.
- b) Vary the amount of the fee originally charged, as the authority considers appropriate; or
- c) Order that no fee be charged for the program or service.

If not satisfied with the outcome, then an appeal will be directed to the MVCA's Members for a decision. Once heard, the appeal will be dismissed or upheld through a resolution passed by the Members. The appellant will be notified accordingly of the Members decision.

Date of Effect

The Fee Policy becomes effective as of the date of MVCA Members approval unless stated otherwise.

Transition

The establishment of this Fee Policy supersedes and replaces all previous fee policies and/or schedules.

Review

This Fee Policy and Schedules will be reviewed annually by the MVCA, in conjunction with the annual budgeting process. MVCA will seek information regarding fees, from various sources, as identified in the process and public notification section above; prepare a proposed revised Fee Schedule with a report to members regarding recommendations. The proposed

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Fees Policy

changes

to the fee schedule will be posted on MVCA's website in November for public review and comment. Comments received will be reviewed by the Members at their next meeting. The Members shall receive and make recommendations as to the proposed Fee Schedule. Once approved, the revised Fee Schedule to this policy will be published on MVCA's website.

Note: Some fees may need to be adjusted between formal reviews to reflect changes in the cost of providing the service, for example, cost of trees for spring and fall planting; increases in paper costs for printing maps and other printed materials. These fees will be adjusted to reflect any increased or decreased costs without the fee schedule having to be formally amended by the Members.

Members Report #59-2023

To: Members
From: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer;
Date: November 8, 2023
Subject: Proposed Fee Schedule Changes for 2024; Members Per-diems, Honorariums, and mileage rates

Purpose:

To obtain direction on the proposed changes to MVCA's fee schedule for 2024;
To determine if the Member's would like to make any changes to per diem and mileage rates or honorariums payments.

A) Proposed Changes to MVCA's Fee Schedule for 2024:

Staff have reviewed the fee schedule and identified changes that need to be made to incorporate increased costs. Changes are highlighted on the attached table.

MVCA must consult with the public on any proposed changes to fees. If the Members support an increase in fees, then we must provide the public with at least 30 days to review the proposed changes. The Members can review any comments received and provide direction on the fee changes at the December 20th meeting.

It should be noted that the current freeze on planning and regulation application fees is due to expire at the end of the year. We do not know if the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry will continue to freeze planning and regulation fees in 2024.

Recommendation:

To be developed.

B) Member Per Diems-Mileage-Honorariums:

The Members haven't made changes to per diems or honorariums since 2009.

Per Diems: \$120 for full day meetings
\$66 for half day or evening meeting.

Honorariums: \$1,600/year for the Chair
\$500/year for the 1st Vice-Chair.

Mileage: \$.53 per kilometre.

Recommendation:

To be developed.



Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Fees

Effective January 1, 2024

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Fee Schedules

Schedule 1: Planning and Regulations Fees (includes MVCA Section 28 Permit Fees, Plan Review Fees, Technical Review Fees, and other fees)

O. Reg 164/06 Application and Review Fees	2023 Fee	Proposed 2024
Alteration to Watercourses/Wetland/Regulated Area		
Accessory Works	\$205.00	\$220.00
Minor	\$395.00	\$420.00
Standard	\$975.00	\$1,045.00
Major	\$2180.00	\$2,345.00
Complex	\$3780.00	\$4,090.00
Application to Alter a Regulated Area Floodplain, Shoreline, Adjacent Lands (Development Application)		
Accessory Works	\$205.00	\$220.00
Minor	\$395.00	\$420.00
Standard	\$695.00	\$745.00
Standard 2	\$975.00	\$1,045.00
Major	\$2,180.00	\$2,345.00
Complex	\$3780.00	\$4,090.00
Minor Permit Revisions (after permit has been issued)	\$190.00	\$220.00
Major Permit Revisions (after permit has been issued)	\$190.00 minimum	\$200.00
Special Board Hearing	\$1,855.00	
Technical Clearance Fees (Development & Alteration/Interference)		
Solicitor inquiry	\$190.00	\$195.00
Solicitor/Written comments required, within 5 business day of request	\$290.00	\$300.00
Buyer's/Seller's Reports	\$90.00	\$95.00
Technical Clearance Letter/Letter of Permission (i.e., structure located within MVCA Regulated Lands, where no permit required) (No technical review or site inspection required)	\$105.00	\$120.00
Drainage Act Review		
Standard	\$235.00	\$255.00
Planning Advisory Fees: Huron, Perth, & Wellington Counties		

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(Bruce County - fees as per Bruce County Planning Application Fees, 2015 agreement)		
Planning Application Fees		
Official Plan Amendment	\$275.00	\$290.00
Zoning By-Law Amendment	\$275.00	\$290.00
Consent (Severance)	\$275.00	\$290.00
Minor Variance	\$205.00	\$220.00
Lot Grading or Drainage Plans (non-regulated area)	\$410.00	
Plan of Subdivision/New Trailer Park Site Plan Review	\$80.00 to \$720.00 per lot or unit, maximum \$9,920.00	\$85.00 to \$765.00 per lot or unit, up to maximum \$10,200.00
Plan of Condominium	\$80.00/lot or res. unit min. \$720.00/max. \$9,920.00	\$85.00 to \$765.00 per lot or unit, up to maximum \$10,200.00
Private Multi-Lot Residential Development	\$80.00/lot or res. unit min. \$720.00/max. \$9,920.00	\$85.00 to \$765.00 per lot or unit, up to maximum \$10,200.00
Technical Review		
Lot Grading and Drainage Plan within Regulated Area	\$670.00	
Minor - (Per report i.e., SWM, Geotechnical, Hydrology, EIS)	\$925.00	
Major - (Per report i.e., SWM, Geotechnical, Hydrology, EIS)	\$2,885.00	
Class EA Review	\$1,750.00	
D.A.R.T Standard compliance Requirements (S.C.R.)	\$100.00	
Major Permit Revisions (after permit has been issued)	Minimum of Minor Permit Revision Fee	
Violations/Restoration Agreement	2 x permit fee	
Technical Clearance Fees (Development & Alteration/Interference)		
First Application	Full fee noted above	

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Technical Review Fees (no permit required)		
Supplementary Fee (outsource review)	Amount invoiced to proponent for cost of review	

Schedule 2a: Conservation Area Fees (includes fees associated with land-use, campground and day use fees)

Admin. Fees	2023 Fee	Proposed 2024
Land-use permit	New	\$75.00
Annual Hunting Fee		
Resident – owns property in a member municipality	New	\$75.00
Non-resident	New	\$125.00

Schedule 2b: Falls Reserve Conservation Area & Wawanosh Campground Fees

Admin. Fees	2023 Fee	Proposed 2024
Reservations-Online	\$16.00	
Reservations-By Phone	\$20.00	
Change Reservation-Online	\$12.00	
Change Reservation-By Phone	\$16.00	
Cancellation Fee-Online	\$20.00	
Cancellation Fee-By Phone	\$24.00	
Short Notice Cancellation penalty of 2 nights forfeit camping fee. Bookings that fall on holiday weekends are subject to short-notice cancellation penalty fees of 3 nights. Forfeit camping and shortened stay on holiday weekends are non-refundable.		
Camping Fee		
Non-serviced sites		
Nightly	\$46.00	
Weekly	\$280.00	
30-amp hydro / water		
Nightly	\$57.00	
Weekly	\$347.00	
30-amp hydro/water/sewer		
Nightly	\$63.00	
Weekly	\$384.00	
Monthly	\$1,336.00	

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Seasonal	\$3,700.00	
30-amp hydro and water - pull through site		
Nightly	\$59.00	
Weekly	\$360.00	
Seasonal - 50-amp hydro/water/sewer		
Nightly	\$67.00	
Weekly	\$408.00	
Monthly	\$1,420.00	
Group Camping Fees – (paid in full on booking (6 families of 6 people maximum up to 30 people per group site)		
Nightly - Hydro Serviced	\$250.00	
Nightly – Vehicle fee	\$15.00	
Additional Vehicle/Motorcycle/Tow in vehicle fees		
Additional Vehicle - Nightly (only one vehicle permit is included with camp permit)	\$15.00	
Additional Vehicle - Weekly	\$92.00	
Additional Vehicle/Motorcycle – Monthly and Seasonal (issued a gate card for 28 days or all season for seasonal campers)	\$130.00	
Additional Motorcycle - Nightly (only one vehicle permit is included with camp permit)	\$8.00	
Additional Motorcycle - Weekly	\$49.00	
Tow-In Vehicle - Nightly (Only one vehicle permit is included with camp permit)	\$4.00	
Tow-In Vehicle - Weekly	\$25.00	
Tow-In Vehicle - Monthly	\$87.00	
Additional Adult Camping fees		
Additional Adult– Daily Adult Visitor Pass (daily charge per each additional adult visiting the campsite)	\$5.00	
Additional Adult – Weekly Adult Visitor Pass (daily charge per each additional adult visiting the campsite)	\$31.00	
Additional Adult – Monthly Adult Visitor Pass (daily charge per each additional adult visiting the campsite)	\$108.00	
Pond Permits and Sales & Services		
Daily Adult Pond Permit (18 years of age and older) (Must possess an Ontario Fishing License)	\$8.00	

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Daily Youth Pond Permit (ages 13 – 17)	\$4.00	
Daily Child Pond Permit (ages 12 and under)	No fee	
Other Fees		
Ice	\$4.00	
Firewood per bag	\$12.00	
Spawn -per dozen	\$6.00	
Worms - per dozen	\$5.00	
Day Use Fees		
Daily Membership Pass (gate access card)	\$130.00	
Replacement Membership Pass CARD (charge to lost stolen or misplaced cards)	\$20.00	
Daily Maximum Vehicle Rate (peak season July-August)	\$20.00	
Daily Maximum Vehicle Rate (Spring, Fall and Winter)	\$15.00	
Daily Walk-in/Cyclist (per adult person)	\$5.00	
Daily Walk-in/Cyclist (3 plus adult persons) – permits entrance parking for one vehicle only	\$15.00	
Daily Walk-in/Cyclist Group (10 + people)	\$40.00	
Daily Family walk-in Permit (Off season)	\$15.00	
Daily Child (12 years and under accompanied by an adult)	No fee	
Daily Mini-Bus Day pass (7 to 20 occupants)	\$70.00	
Daily Bus Day Pass (21 and over occupants)	\$150.00	
Facility Rentals		
Day Use Rental Sites - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. (Vehicle entry fees extra).	\$30.00 + entry fee	
Pavilion Daily Rental + park entry fee (full Pavilion)	\$60.00 + entry fee	

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Pavilion Daily Rental + park entry fee (half Pavilion)	\$30.00 + entry fee	
Family Photo Permit (2 hr. entry – includes up to 5 vehicles)	\$50.00	
Wedding Ceremony (set up and includes 100 guests)	\$700.00	
Wedding Photo Permit (2 hr. entry – includes up to 5 vehicles)	\$180.00	\$50.00
School Events, Cross Country, or Trail Races		
Students fee (all ages)	\$3.50	
Spectator vehicle entry/parking	\$5.00	
School Bus entry fee	\$80.00	
Trail Race Events – (up to 200 race participants) \$8.00 extra charged per each participant over 200 persons	\$1,500.00	
Other Seasonal Camping Fees		
Off Season Trailer Storage (including shed/storage)	\$325.00	
Off Season shed/deck storage	\$100.00	
Seasonal Site Deposit (Non-refundable, deposit subtracted from seasonal camp rate on arrival)	\$200.00	
Other Camping Fees		
Sewage Dumping Fee (non-camper disposal)	\$50.00	
Daily trailer storage fee	\$10.00	
WPCA Camping Fees – non serviced		
WPCA Seasonal non-serviced by cash, cheque, or e-transfer	\$600.00	\$800.00
WPCA Seasonal non-serviced by credit card (payment received at FRCA)	\$615.00	\$815.00
Nightly (overnight seasonal camper visitor, non-transient)	\$20.00	
Daily Maximum Vehicle Rate	\$5.00	
Walk-in/cyclist (per person)	\$2.00	
Walk-in/Cyclist (Group)	\$10.00	
FRCA Membership Pass	\$130.00	

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Schedule 3: Stewardship Services Fees

Forestry	2023 Fee	Proposed 2024
Planting Plans - Professional Fees Small acreage: Planting plans, design input, funding, planting supervision, survival assessment-2 years.	\$250.00 per plan	\$300.00 per plan
Planting Plans - Professional Fees Larger tracts: Planting plans, design input, funding, planting supervision, survival assessment-2 years and 5 years.	\$250.00 per plan	\$500.00 per plan
Wetland Plans – Service Fees Wetland design, construction supervision and final inspection	New	\$65.00 per hour
Tree Sale Administration Fee	\$20.00	
Large Stock Trees		
Sugar Maple	\$22.00	\$22.80
Native Red Maple	\$25.75	\$22.80
Freeman Maple	\$21.25	\$22.80
Silver Maple	\$19.25	\$19.70
Red Oak	\$21.25	\$26.80
Bur Oak	\$25.00	\$26.80
Swamp White Oak	\$25.00	\$26.80
Black Walnut	\$25.00	\$26.80
Hackberry	\$19.75	\$22.80
Tulip Tree	\$21.50	\$22.80
Sycamore	\$21.50	\$22.80
Basswood	\$21.50	\$22.80
Yellow Birch	New	\$22.80
Black Willow	New	\$19.70
White Cedar	\$18.00	\$20.15
Black Cedar	\$18.25	\$20.55
Norway Spruce	\$18.75	\$21.20
White Pine	\$19.75	\$22.50
White Spruce	\$19.25	\$21.70
Tamarack	\$19.25	\$15.05

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Colorado Spruce	\$19.00	\$25.20
Seedlings		
Sugar Maple	\$3.00	\$2.45
Native Red Maple	\$2.70	\$2.45
Bur Oak	\$2.40	\$2.45
White Oak	\$2.15	\$2.45
Red Oak	\$2.25	\$2.45
Black Walnut	\$2.15	\$3.65
Black Cherry	\$3.00	\$2.95
Sycamore	\$3.00	\$3.15
White Birch	\$2.50	\$2.55
Tulip Tree	\$3.00	\$2.95
Bitternut Hickory	\$2.70	\$3.00
Norway Spruce	\$2.45	\$2.00
White Spruce	\$1.75	\$2.00
White Cedar	\$2.25	\$2.55
White Pine	\$1.60	\$1.55
Tamarack	\$2.00	\$2.00
European Larch	\$2.25	\$2.00
High-Bush Cranberry	\$2.25	\$3.05
Red-Osier Dogwood	\$2.25	\$2.55
Wildlife Shrubs		
Sandbar Willow	New	\$12.00
Red Osier Dogwood	\$11.00	\$12.00
Alternate Leaf Dogwood	New	\$12.00
Serviceberry	\$11.00	\$12.00
Staghorn Sumac	\$11.00	\$12.00
Elderberry	\$11.00	\$12.00
Ninebark	\$11.00	\$12.00
High-Bush Cranberry	\$11.00	\$12.00
Nannyberry	\$11.00	\$12.00
Spicebush	New	\$12.00

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Fees Policy

Black Raspberry	New	\$12.00
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Schedule 4: Corporate Services Fees

Office Fee Schedule	2023 Fees	Proposed 2024
Boardroom rental (free to non-profit groups)	\$60.00 per day \$35.00 per half day	
AV equipment use with room rental (digital projectors)	\$5.00 per day	
Off-site AV equipment use digital projectors (no charge for the screen)	\$15.00 per day	
Mileage	\$0.53 per kilometer	
Freedom of Information Application	\$5.00	
Freedom of Information Request Searches	\$30.00 per hour	
Office Rental monthly	\$220.00	\$230.00
Kitchen facilities-(included with boardroom rental - groups may bring their own supplies or we can supply coffee at \$0.50/cup)		
NSF cheques	\$25.00	\$40.00
Service charge for outstanding account receivable balances over 30 days	3%	
Snowshoes Rental	\$5.00 per pair	

Schedule 5: Resource Data Fees

Resource Data Fees-Air Photos	2023 Fee	Proposed 2024
Plotting of 2020 air Photos (8 1/2" X 11" or 11" X 17")	\$32.00 for first copy + \$2.00 for each additional copy	
Plotting of 2020 air Photos (24" and up)	\$30.00 + \$2.00 per square foot	

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Aerial Photography - 2020 photography of watershed (Individual JPEG2 2020 (1km x 1km) (8 1/2" X 11" or 11" X 17"))	\$30.00 per image	
Custom Photography 2020 (jpegs/png/etc.) 8 1/2" X 11" or 11" X 17" sizes	\$30.00 per image	
Aerial Photography - 2020 photography of watershed (Member Municipalities)	No fee	
Historic Photography (1951 - 2006)- Digital file - 8 1/2" X 11" or 11" X 17" sizes	\$30.00 per image	
Historic Photography (1951 - 2006)- Printed (non-digital copy) - 8 1/2" X 11" or 11" X 17" sizes	\$50.00 per image	
Historic Photography (Member Municipalities)	No fee	
Entire Watershed 2010, 2015 & 2020 JPEG2 (14 tiles) plotter printout	\$100.00 + \$2.00 per square foot	
Maitland Conservation maps - General image Plotting - colour images	\$15.00 per image plus \$2.00 per square foot	
Custom map creation (Consulting Firms)	\$150.00 plus \$50 per hour	\$150.00 plus \$45.00 per hour
Custom map creation (Landowners)	\$75.00 per project	
Custom map creation (Member Municipalities)	No fee	
Data layers (Consulting Firms)	\$350.00 per project	
Data layers (Landowners)	\$75.00 per project	
Data layers (Member Municipalities)	No fee	
Confirm with GIS Staff what layers can be sold		
Hydrology information-Special Note** The Authority has streamflow information for the major tributaries of the Maitland and Nine Mile River. This information is used by engineers to design bridge projects. It typically costs approximately \$1,000. to \$1,500.		
Discharge values for a range of flow magnitudes - where flow values are available	\$300.00 per project	

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Fees Policy

Discharge values for a range of flow magnitudes - where flow values must be calculated	\$500.00 per project	
Streamflow & Rainfall (HEC)	\$30.00 minimum charge plus \$55.00 per hour	
Maitland Conservation maps - colour photocopies (8 1/2 x 11)	\$0.20 per copy	
Maitland Conservation maps - colour photocopies (8 1/2 x 14)	\$0.25 per copy	
Maitland Conservation maps - colour photocopies (11 x 17)	\$0.40 per copy	

Members Report #60-2023

To: Member's, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Danielle Livingston, Administrative and Financial Services Coordinator
Date: November 6, 2023

Subject: Corporate Services - Accounts Paid and Received for:
October 2023

Recommendation:

THAT the financial report be accepted as presented for the month of October 2023;
AND THAT accounts outlined in the appendix to this report be approved.

Financial Summary Report Ending		October 2023
Revenue Invoiced		\$115,345.69
Accounts Paid		\$344,557.52

Financial Status at Month Ending		October 2023
Bank Loans Outstanding		\$0.00
Bank Balance at Month End		\$2,275,472.60
Total		\$2,275,472.60

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Accounts Receivable as of October 31, 2023

Operating Budget Revenue

Corporate

Corporate Services sale office support/rent office equipment	\$ 486.85
Drinking Water Source Protection rent/overhead	\$ 220.00
bank interest	\$ 9,893.73
Huron Clean Water Project administration	\$ 466.49
	<u>\$ 11,067.07</u>

Communications sales and donations	\$ 8.00
	<u>\$ 8.00</u>

Total Corporate Services \$ 11,075.07

Flood Safety

Planning/Regulations planning application fees	\$ 1,375.00
property advisory fees	\$ 180.00
solicitor inquires	\$ 2,090.00
CWMS/watercourse regulations	\$ 1,975.00
regulation applications	\$ 2,395.00
	<u>\$ 8,015.00</u>

Total Flood Safety Services \$ 8,015.00

Watershed Stewardship

Forestry large stock user fees	\$ 22,734.34
	<u>\$ 22,734.34</u>

Total Watershed Stewardship Services \$ 22,734.34

Conservation Areas

FRCA camping and park admission	\$ 24,287.69
sales/concession booth	\$ 2,244.33
special events	\$ 3,246.50
donations	\$ 955.50
	<u>\$ 30,734.02</u>

MDO donations	\$ 75.00
	<u>\$ 75.00</u>

Motor Pool revenue	\$ 4,552.40
	<u>\$ 4,552.40</u>

Carbon Offset Maitland Valley Conservation director's/staff	\$ 4.44
	\$ 4.44

Total Conservation Areas Operations	\$ 35,365.86
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Total Operating Budget Revenue	\$ 77,190.27
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Projects Budget Revenue

Watershed Stewardship

Huron County Clean Water funding	\$ 35,315.47
	\$ 35,315.47

Watershed Health funding	\$ 1,000.00
	\$ 1,000.00

Total Watershed Stewardship Services	\$ 36,315.47
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Conservation Areas

Motor Pool sales	\$ 455.60
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Total Conservation Areas	\$ 455.60
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Special Projects

DWSP Transition Ausable Bayfield Conservation reimbursement	\$ 1,384.35
	\$ 1,384.35

Total Special Projects	\$ 1,384.35
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Total Project Budget Revenue	\$ 38,155.42
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Total Operating and Project Revenues	\$ 115,345.69
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Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Expense Reports
As of October 31, 2023

Date	Num	Name	Amount
10/04/2023	Oct23EFT	Sun Life Financial	(6,218.25)
10/13/2023	24724	Bell Canada-properties	(479.40)
10/13/2023	24725	Bell Mobility Inc. 500181172	(612.50)
10/13/2023	24726	ON PARR AGRA c/o Michael Groot	(3,110.50)
10/13/2023	24727	Huron & Bruce Safe T Training Inc.	(949.20)
10/13/2023	24728	Landmark Municipal Services ULC	(791.00)
10/13/2023	24729	Peavey Industries LP	(114.05)
10/13/2023	24730	Bell Mobility (FRCA 501214021)	(287.93)
10/13/2023	24731	Wightman Telecom Ltd.	(1,092.25)
10/13/2023	24732	Ron Brintnell	(169.50)
10/13/2023	24733	Schmidt's Power Equipment	(86.42)
10/13/2023	24734	CIBC Visa Centre	(6,998.22)
10/13/2023	24735	RPM Promotions	(493.40)
10/13/2023	00668	ALS Canada Ltd.	(216.96)
10/13/2023	00669	Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	(11,186.26)
10/13/2023	00670	Brandt Security	(22.60)
10/13/2023	00671	Elizabeth Huber-Kidby	(254.25)
10/13/2023	00672	Eric Cox Sanitation	(538.16)
10/13/2023	00673	F.S. Partners	(166.38)
10/13/2023	00674	Foxton Fuels Limited	(385.96)
10/13/2023	00675	Ideal Supply Inc.	(98.30)
10/13/2023	00676	Jayne Thompson	(146.69)
10/13/2023	00677	Mathew Shetler	(14.89)
10/13/2023	00678	MicroAge BASICS	(327.32)
10/13/2023	00679	Public Services Health & Safety Ass.	(1,439.62)
10/13/2023	00680	Sparlings Propane-Parkland Corporation	(654.41)
10/13/2023	00681	Waste Management of Canada Corporation	(1,381.45)
10/13/2023	00682	Watson's Home Hardware	(57.36)
10/13/2023	00683	Zuzek Inc.	(11,968.93)
10/15/2023		Payroll	(42,016.70)
10/24/2023	24736	Jesse Lambert	(904.00)
10/27/2023	24737	Bruce Wilbee	(5,489.61)
10/27/2023	24738	Dorothy Thomson	(1,107.41)
10/27/2023	24739	Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority	(91,102.94)
10/27/2023	24740	407 ETR	(13.43)
10/27/2023	24741	Nathan Cann	(750.00)
10/27/2023	24742	Doug Kuyvenhoven	(2,842.92)
10/27/2023	24743	Matthew Van Ankum	(2,541.66)
10/27/2023	24744	Bryan Vickers	(1,650.00)
10/27/2023	24745	Purolator Courier Ltd.	(14.92)
10/27/2023	24746	Marsh Canada Limited	(510.46)

10/27/2023	24747	CDW Canada Inc.	(141.32)
10/27/2023	24748	Hortico Inc.	(8,537.26)
10/27/2023	00684	Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	(881.49)
10/27/2023	00685	Beard, Phil	(120.17)
10/27/2023	00686	ContinuIT Corp.	(1,059.94)
10/27/2023	00687	Dale Rentals	(2,090.50)
10/27/2023	00688	Fastenal Canada, LTD	(528.26)
10/27/2023	00689	Hodgins BC Wingham	(759.04)
10/27/2023	00690	Laura Hopkins	(230.88)
10/27/2023	00691	Mid Western Newspapers	(88.20)
10/27/2023	00692	R. J. Burnside & Associates	(636.19)
10/27/2023	00693	S.L. Natural Fibre Products Inc.	(915.30)
10/27/2023	00694	Speare Seeds Limited	(22.00)
10/27/2023	00695	The Drafting Clinic Canada Limited	(234.72)
10/27/2023	00696	Weather Innovations Consulting LP	(1,560.76)
10/27/2023	00697	Westario Power Inc.	(31.94)
10/27/2023	00698	Yellow Pages	(14.80)
10/27/2023	00699	Zuzek Inc.	(5,569.77)
10/31/2023		Payroll	(44,522.85)
10/31/2023	Oct23EFT	Receiver General	(40,066.65)
10/31/2023	Oct23EFT	Minister of Finance	(2,686.97)
10/31/2023	Oct23EFT	Workplace Safety & Insurance Board	(4,271.64)
10/31/2023	Oct23EFT	OMERS	(30,380.66)
			<u>(344,557.52)</u>

Members Report #61-2023

Carbon Footprint Initiative Leaders Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Location: Admin. Centre, MVCA, 1093 Marietta Street, Wroxbeter
Time: 1:00pm- 2:30pm

Attendance: Ron Coghlin, Richard Keeso, Jason Brooks, Kriss Snell, Tracy MacDonald, Joe Dietrich, Brendan Magee, Phil Beard

Regrets: Martin Vogt, Derry Wallis, Sharen Zinn, Shawn Lawlor, Ben Hogervorst

Summary:

1. Richard Keeso agreed to Chair the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. Business out of May 24th meeting:
 - a) At the last meeting the group tabled the discussion of whether of whether there is an interest in broadening the focus of the group to include the 17 goals for Sustainability that have been established by the United Nations.
 - i) Joe Dietrich, ICMIF: Provided an overview of the 17 Sustainability Goals. See attached presentation. Joe encouraged the CFI leaders to focus on a few goals of interest to start and then if comfortable with your progress gradually add additional goals. Joe recommended focusing on progress not perfection. Establish some measurable goals and monitor your progress. Learn from others who are already working on the same goals.

There is more urgency to work on sustainability now due the challenges society faces.

Encouraged all present to not stay silent on the need for action on sustainability.
 - ii) Trillium Mutual Insurance: Tracy stated that Trillium Mutual has broadened the focus of their Carbon Footprint Committee to include the 17 Sustainable Development goals. This has resulted in more staff wanting to join the committee. Staff work on goals of interest and are supported if they would like to undertake volunteer work related to a particular Sustainability goal in the community.

Trillium is using the calculator developed by ICMIF to monitor their progress on each of the Sustainability goals.

Climate change action is still a major focus of the company due to the impacts that extreme weather events are having on their business.
 - iii) MVCA: UN Sustainability Goal 15- Life on Land: Phil outlined some ways we can help to meet this goal in the Maitland watershed. A copy of Phil's presentation is included with the summary.

iv) Richard asked the group if there is interest in broadening the focus of the CFI to include all or some of the 17 Sustainability Goals. Joe posed this question to the group: What are the opportunities?

Ron: Suggested that we “cherry pick” the goals of interest and work on them as a group and within our own companies/municipalities/MVCA. Do what we can at the local level.

Molesworth Farm Supply will continue to focus on reducing their carbon footprint.

Kriss: Focusing on a few key goals will have a ripple effect on many of the other goals, for example focusing on climate action and nature will help improve many other goals. If we don't have environmental health, then we will not have healthy humans or wildlife.

Tracy: Broadening their focus increased interest and involvement from more staff.

What are the risks?

Richard: Taking a stand and action could result in criticism from others in the community, however not taking a stand could result in the situation becoming worse or condoning business as usual.

Joe observations: I think this group is ready to take on more. Pick one or two goals that you are all interested in and identify some actions that the group would like to take related to each of them.

Focus on progress not perfection.

Follow Up Actions:

Resend the 17 goals to each of the CFI leaders for review along with the existing Framework that the CFI has adopted. Each of the leaders is to review the 17 goals and identify any that are of interest to discuss at the next meeting. We will also review whether there is a need to revise the CFI Framework at our next meeting.

v) Outreach Activities: Perth Municipal Day: November 15th: Kriss and Derry will be making a presentation on behalf of the CFI and their respective municipalities. The presentation will focus on what North Perth and the County of Huron are doing to reduce their carbon footprint and to sequester carbon. They will also provide those in attendance with information about the CFI.

4. Next Meeting: Richard offered to host the next CFI meeting at his family's net zero cottage in Amberly. The next meeting will be held mid week during the second week of May, 2024.(Wednesday, May 8th or Thursday, May 9th). Phil will poll everyone to finalize the date and time for the meeting.

5. Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator, MVCA will take everyone on a tour of MVCA's building and grounds to look at the changes that MVCA has put in place to reduce fossil fuel use, improve energy efficiency, to sequester carbon and naturalize some of the turf grass areas at the Admin. Centre in Wroxeter.

Carbon Footprint Initiative



About ICMIF

- Global Member Association
- 204 members in 60 countries
- Value Proposition – Strategic Themes
 - Mutuality (purpose driven)
 - Sustainability & Social Responsibility
 - Business Transformation
- A partner with United Nations



The SDG's

- Established 01.01.16
- United Nations Facilitation
- Main goal (the WHY) ... **to transform our world** ... a call to:
 - 1. end poverty & inequality**
 - 2. protect the planet**
 - 3. ensure all people enjoy health, justice & prosperity**



The SDG's

- Seventeen Goals
 - Complex
 - Interconnected and indivisible nature
 - Treat them in their entirety – ideological
 - Start with a few and celebrate your wins
 - regulatory requirement in some industries



The SDG's



The Current State ...

[\(76\) The SDG Report 2023: Special Edition - YouTube](#)



Members Report #62-2023

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer
Date: November 8, 2023

Subject: Project Funding Approved and Agreements Signed

Purpose:

To identify projects that have been approved for funding and the agreements that have been signed.

1. Ducks Unlimited Canada: MVCA received \$15,000 in funding for two wetland restoration projects.

Recommendation:

THAT the Members support the signing of the funding agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada for two wetland restoration projects.

Members Report #63-2023

To: Members
From: Phil Beard, General Manager
Date: November 2, 2023

Subject: Corporate Services
Proposed Office Hours over Christmas and New Year's

Purpose:

To identify the proposed days that the office will be closed over Christmas and New Year's.

Background:

In the past, the Conservation Authority office has been closed during the week between Christmas and New Year's. While the office is closed, Flood and Erosion Safety Services staff will continue to monitor flood and ice conditions across the watershed to ensure that municipalities with flood damage centres are notified of any impending flood events and/or frazzle ice conditions that could result in flooding.

If time is taken off by staff during the holiday season, they must have either overtime to use, or vacation time to be able to take the time off with pay. Staff who does not have vacation days or overtime to use will be required to work or to take the time off without pay.

Proposed Office Hours:

The office would be closed from Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 11:30am until Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Recommendation:

THAT the MVCA office be closed from December 21, 2023, at 11:30am until January 2, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.



Kate Procter.....➤

Kate farms, hikes, canoes, and plays guitar in Huron County.

What are the neighbours up to now?

Checking out what is going on at your neighbours' places seems to be a common thing for most farmers. Whether you messed up planting... or are putting up a new building... or tearing down an old one... you can be sure you will see the slow drive by as the neighbours check it out. We always want to know how much rain fell on the next concession, and when everyone else has their combine rolling. Not to mention when the neighbours do something really nuts that you can't even figure out from the road...

I'm sure there were some thoughts

along that line this spring as we started a new project that couldn't be missed as you drove on our road. And given that it is one of the main roads leading to our local landfill, our road is practically a rural superhighway.

I have written in a previous column about the fact that the Shorthorn cattle found new homes over the last few months of 2022. That left several pastures vacant and ready for a new project. The land that we have used as pastures had long been considered unsuitable for cropping, mostly because of the Maitland River running through it. The steep slopes leading down to the river and the floodplain are better put to other uses.

As a long time member of the Ontario Woodlot Association, I have been on different tours showcasing healthy woodlots and have learned about all the benefits they can bring to a farm. After one such tour several years ago, I had in my mind a great use for our pastures once the cows were not using those spaces.

I called the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and with much help from Shannon Millar, we started planning a tree planting project for the 2023 spring planting season. We have three areas and made separate plans for each, with two of these areas being planted in May. Covering 13 acres, Saugeen Conservation Authority staff planted 8,800 new seedlings, including 80 per cent conifers, 10 per cent hardwood, and 10 per cent shrubs. Species included White Pine, White Spruce, White Cedar, Tamarack, Sugar Maple, Silver Maple, Bur Oak, Sycamore, Hackberry, Swamp White Oak, Black Willow, Ninebark, Red-osier Dogwood, Elderberry, Smooth Arrowwood, and Pussy willows.

Tree planting on our farm is nothing new. We have planted many windbreaks over the years. My Dad had planted several areas roughly 60 years ago with white pine and spruce, and one of the new projects is an extension of his original planting. At the time, they planted trees for some of the same reasons we are planting now – to have useful trees rather than allow the areas to grow up with weeds and to improve water quality. At that time, the local townships were also hoping to develop lands to be recreational areas and the Junior Farmers group helped plant some of those trees. Today, that area is still used by many people who access the river to fish and boat.

Data from the MVCA shows that 40 per cent of the streams in the watershed need buffers restored. This adds up to about 1,300 km. An additional 16,000 acres of floodplain, riparian areas, and river valley also need restoration work. Forest Health Studies, conducted every five years, reveal that forest cover in the MVCA watershed continues to shrink. Between the years of 1985 to 2000, there was a loss of 635 acres; between 2015 and 2020, there was a loss of 509 acres.

Walking along the river last fall, it was disturbing to see that a jungle of giant ragweed had already started to establish itself. If you haven't seen this weed for yourself – it is difficult to describe in a way that does it justice – but in places it towered over



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me and is easily double my height. Short jokes aside, it is a weed that we definitely do not want gaining a hold of our former pasture areas and from there jumping into the fields.

The final project area along the river is not accessible or visible from the road and has a portion that stays wet year round. It has provided a valuable service all these years as a natural holding area for water that has come from the tile drain outlets and allowed any sediment to settle out before reaching the river. As we discussed what to do in that area, we decided that with a little excavation, we could form a pond that would support ducks and still retain its settling pond function.

Working with Ducks Unlimited (DU) and MVCA, we decided to go forward with a plan that included planting White Cedar, Tamarack, White Pine, White Spruce, Silver Maple, Black Willow, Basswood, Bur Oak, and Sycamore. The species for all the plantings were selected with a focus on what will thrive in the future in this area. The excavation happened earlier in the summer when the area was at its driest and 2,800 seedlings will be planted next spring. DU has conserved and restored over one million acres in Ontario since 1974. They have 2,002 projects and 3,723 landowner partners “supporting phosphorous reduction, biodiversity, clean water, and overall watershed health,” (ducks.ca).

Support for the projects will come from DU for the duck pond area, Environment and Climate Change Canada through their Nature Smart Climate Solutions Program, the Huron Clean Water Project (HCWP), as well as the MVCA. HCWP has helped complete 3,645 projects throughout the County, including planting 674,878 trees on 1,001 acres, 232 km of windbreaks, upgrading 432 private wells, and helping establish 40,000 acres of cover crops, (huroncounty.ca).

While the areas may not look that great yet – I have high hopes that in a few years the trees planted this spring will thrive and not raise as many questions in the minds of drivers-by as they do now. ◇



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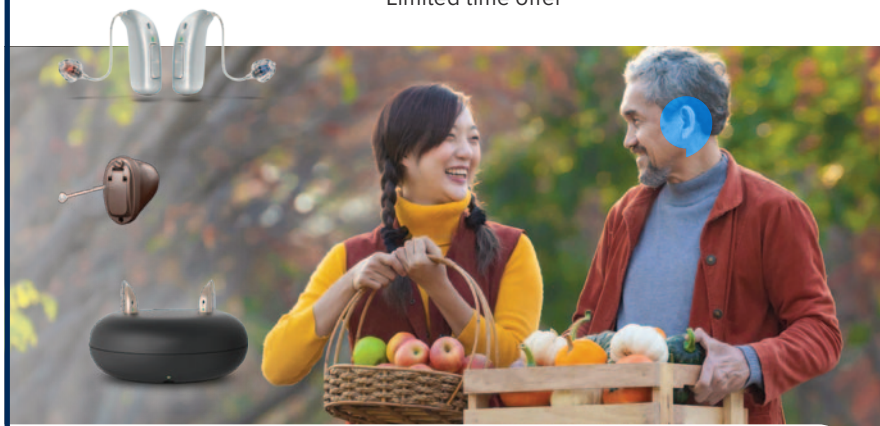
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