

Notice of Meeting
Meeting of the Membership #12-2023

Date: December 20, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Administrative Centre, Wroxeter

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
3. Approval of Minutes: Membership Meeting #11-2023 held on November 15, 2023
4. Business Out of the Minutes:
 - a) Review of Comments on Proposed Changes to Fees Policy: Report #64-2023
 - b) Review of Comments on Proposed Changes to Fees Schedule: Report #65-2023
 - c) Coastal Resiliency Strategy-next Phase: #66-2023
5. Business Requiring Direction and or Decision:
 - a) Additional Fees Watershed Stewardship Services: Report #67-2023
 - b) Draft 2024 Work Plan and Budget: Report #68-2023
 - c) 2023 Annual Meeting: Report #69-2023
 - d) Declarations for Chair and Vice Chairs: Report #70-2023
 - e) Request from Maitland Conservation Foundation: Report #71-2023
6. Chair and Members Reports
7. Consent Agenda:
 - a) Revenue-Expenditure Report for November: Report #72-2023
8. In Camera Session: GM - ST Performance Review
9. Adjournment - Next Meeting Date, Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 7:00pm.
Meeting to be held at MVCA's Administrative Centre.



Membership Minutes

Membership Meeting #11-2023

November 15, 2023

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

Regrets: Matt Duncan

Staff Present: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer
Steward Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator
Michelle Quipp, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair, McGugan welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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 #10-2023 held on October 18, 2023. Motion FA #78-23

Motion FA #78-23

Moved by: Anita van Hittersum

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the minutes from the General Membership Meeting #10-2023 on October 18, 2023 be approved.
(carried)

4. Business Out of the Minutes

- a) Review of Cost Apportionment (Levy) Options: Report #55-2023

Report #55-2023 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #79-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Andrew Fournier

THAT 207,858 be used to develop the draft apportionment table.
(defeated)

Motion FA #80-23

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Ed Podniewicz

THAT \$175,000 be used to develop a draft apportionment table.
(carried)

Motion FA #81-23

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT \$175,000 be used for the draft budget forecast for 2025 and 2026
(carried)

5. Business Requiring Decision and or Direction:

- a) Proposed Authority Funded Projects 2024 Budget: Report #56-2023

Report #56-2023 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #82-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Evan Hickey

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.
(carried)

- b) Direction on Cost of Living Increase for 2024: Report #57-2023

Report #57-2023 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #83-23**Moved by: Megan Gibson****Seconded by: Evan Hickey**

THAT the cost-of-living increase to be included in the draft 2024 budget be 4.3%.
(carried)

c) Review of Fees Policy: Report #58-2023

Report #58-23 was presented to the members for their information and direction.

Motion FA #84-23**Moved by: Alison Lobb****Seconded by: Alvin McLellan**

THAT the Fees Policy be amended to include fees related to the use of conservation areas.
And THAT religious/spiritual groups be included in the exemptions list.
(carried)

d) Proposed Fee Changes for 2024: Report #59-2023

Report #59-23 was presented to the members for their information and direction.

Motion FA #85-23**Moved by: Megan Gibson****Seconded by: Anita van Hittersum**

THAT the proposed fee changes be posted for comment for 30 days.
(carried)

Motion FA #86-23**Moved by: Alvin McLellan****Seconded by: Evan Hickey**

THAT Member Per Diems-Mileage-Honorariums be left at the existing rates
(carried)

6. Chair and Members Updates:

Megan Gibson advised that the event held at the Gorrie Conservation Area for the Howick Trails grand opening was well attended and a success.

7. Consent Agenda:

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

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

The following motion was made:

Motion FA #87-23

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT Report #60-23 through Report #63-23 along with their respective motions as outlined in the Consent Agenda be approved.
(carried)

9. Adjournment: Next meeting: December 20, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

Motion FA #88-23

Moved by: Anita van Hittersum

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

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

Matt Duncan
Chair

Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Members Report #64-2023

To: Members, MVCA
From: Phil Beard, GM ST; Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator
Date: December 12, 2023
Subject: Review of Comments Received on Proposed Amendments to MVCA's User Fees Policy

Purpose:

To review comments on the proposed amendments to MVCA's Fees Policy.
To provide direction on the proposed amendments to MVCA's Fees Policy.

Background:

On November 15th the Members passed the following motion:

Motion FA #84-23

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT the Fees Policy be amended to include fees related to the use of conservation areas.
And THAT religious/spiritual groups be included in the exemptions list.
(carried)

Religious and spiritual groups have been added to the exemptions list in the updated draft.
(Updated Draft Fees Policy is attached to this report).

Comments Received:

MVCA has not received any comments as of the date of this report. The 30-day review period ends on December 18th. If any comments are received, they will be presented to the Members at the December 20th meeting.

Recommendation:

THAT the 2024 Fees Policy be approved.



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).
- Religious or Spiritual Service
- 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.

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.

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.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Fees Policy

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 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 #65-2023

To: Members
From: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer;
Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator;
Jason Moir, FRCA/WPCA Superintendent
Date: December 14th, 2023
Subject: Review of comments received on proposed 2024 Fee Schedule

Purpose:

To review comments on the proposed amendments to MVCA's Fees Schedule.
To provide direction on the proposed amendments to MVCA's Fees Schedule for 2024.

Background:

The following motion was approved at the November 15th meeting.

Motion FA #85-23

THAT the proposed fee changes be posted for comment for 30 days.

The proposed fee changes were posted for comment for 30 days. The last day to comment on the proposed fee increase is December 18th.

Extension of Freeze on Planning and Regulation Fees:

On December 13, 2023, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry advised all conservation authorities that he was extending the freeze on planning and regulation fees until December 31, 2024. (Letter attached).

The proposed 2024 fee schedule will need to be amended to state that the fees for planning and regulations will remain at 2023 levels for 2024.

Comments Received:

Comments received as of the writing of this report are included below. Any additional comments received will be presented at the Dec 20th meeting for consideration.

1. Comments received regarding seasonal camping fees at Wawanosh Park:

From: Tammy Palmer <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 1:03 PM

To: Alaina Lennox <maitland@mvca.on.ca>

Subject:

I have read and also been informed of the New cost to camp at Wawanosh Conservation re-Donneybrook. I am not impressed that the fee to camp at Wawanosh has risen to such an amount that many will not be able to pay. The park doesn't have water or hydro, where we as campers take care of the park together and maintain to the best of our ability with little help from the Authority so we can keep our fees to a minimum. I drive 2 1/2 hrs to enjoy the serenity and friendships of our park since the 70's. My father camped there in the late 60's. I purchased a tree in memory of him to which during a harsh winter it died and was never replaced.

These are hard times for everyone and this increase will inhibit many people from returning which will be a detriment to you the Authority as less people will be able to pay this gross increase.

I ask that you consider, if you will, a \$50.00 increase per year to allow the majority of us to afford. Donnybrook is our sanctuary as we gather as a family and have respect for the land.

In kind regards Tammy Palmer site 00

Rational:

Staff have proposed the increase from \$600 to \$800 for seasonal camping in 2024 based on Wawanosh Park Conservation Area (WPCA) operational expenses and the ongoing need to build reserves necessary for future infrastructure repairs or upgrades.

WPCA operates on a cost recovery basis with no financial assistance from MVCA that would impact levy increases. The Seasonal Campers at WPCA assist with many operational requirements to help keep costs down, however MVCA does own and manage the property which places a considerable liability obligation on MVCA, especially when the property accommodates overnight type camping.

With increasing costs for fuel, supplies and operations along with our staffing to complete property inspections and to perform the necessary work to manage the property, this proposed rate increase was considered reasonable to help keep WPCA sustainable.

WPCA does not have other similar operations to compare to that operate under similar conditions to that of WPCA. The closest comparison of other non-serviced camping types include:

- Falls Reserve CA (MVCA) rates are \$280.00 per week.
- Saugeen CA rates are \$246.00 per week or \$1,863.00 per season.
- Ontario Parks lowest service level rates are \$34.25 per night at \$239.75 per week.

WPCA operates from Mid-April to Mid-October. The proposed \$800 season camping fee per site is currently the only form of revenue. At the proposed \$800 season rate, each camper would pay \$33.33 per week. There are 29 seasonal campsites offered at WPCA which amounts to around \$20,000.00 in potential annual revenue (after HST deductions) for WPCA operations if all sites are occupied.

WPCA's 2024 draft operating budget is \$19,938.00 in annual expenditures.

Recommendation:

THAT the proposed fee increases for the Wawanosh Campground be amended for 2024 as follows: (to be determined).

Or:

THAT the proposed fee increases for the Wawanosh Campground be approved as proposed in the 2024 fee schedule;

THAT the Fees for planning and regulations remain as outlined in the 2023 fee schedule;

THAT the remainder of the Fee Schedule for 2024 be approved with the exception of the proposed fee increases for planning and regulations;

AND THAT the proposed 2024 fee schedule take effect as of January 1, 2024.

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

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Room 6630, Whitney Block
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
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December 13, 2023

TO: All Conservation Authorities

SUBJECT: Extension of Minister's Direction for Conservation Authorities Regarding Fee Changes Associated with Planning, Development and Permitting Fees

I am writing with regards to conservation authority fees for the 2024 year. As you are aware, a Minister's Direction ("Direction") was issued on December 28, 2022, directing conservation authorities not to change fees for programs and services associated with planning, development and permitting for the 2023 calendar year. I have provided a copy of this previous direction for your reference.

Pursuant to my authority under subsection 21.3 (1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, I am issuing a new Direction that extends the previous Direction for the upcoming year (attached to this letter as Attachment A). The Direction will be in effect from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 and applies to fees for the same programs and services specified in the Direction that was in effect for 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Keyes, Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch, at 705-761-4831 or jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graydon Smith".

The Honourable Graydon Smith
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

**Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 21.3 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*
(this "Direction")**

WHEREAS section 21.2 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* permits a Conservation Authority to charge a fee for a program or service if the program or service is included in the Minister's list of classes of programs and services in respect of which a Conservation Authority may charge a fee;

AND WHEREAS subsections 21.2 (6) and 21.2 (7) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* provide that a Conservation Authority shall adopt a written fee policy that includes a fee schedule listing the programs and services that it provides in respect of which it charges a fee, and the amount of the fee charged for each program or service or the manner in which the fee is determined (a "**Fee Schedule**");

AND WHEREAS subsection 21.2 (10) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* provides that a Conservation Authority may make a change to the list of fees set out in the fee schedule or to the amount of any fee or the manner in which a fee is determined, provided the authority shall give notice of the proposed change to the public in a manner it considers appropriate;

AND WHEREAS section 21.3 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* provides the Minister with the authority to give a written direction to an authority directing it not to change the amount of any fee it charges under subsection 21.2 (10), in respect of a program or service set out in the list referred to in subsection 21.2 (2), for the period specified in the direction;

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to the authority of the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry under section 21.3, the Conservation Authorities set out under Appendix "A" of this Direction (the "**Conservation Authorities**" or each, a "**Conservation Authority**") are hereby directed as follows:

Fee Changes Prohibition

1. Commencing on the Effective Date and for the duration of the Term of this Direction, a Conservation Authority is prohibited from making a change under subsection 21.2 (10) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* to the amount of any fee or the manner in which a fee is determined in its fee schedule if such a change would have the effect of changing the fee amount for the programs and services described in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Direction.

Program and Service Fees Impacted

2. This Direction applies to any fee set out in the Fee Schedule of a Conservation Authority, including without limitation fees for any mandatory program or service

(Category 1), municipal program or service (Category 2), or Conservation Authority recommended program or service (Category 3) related to reviewing and commenting on planning and development related proposals, applications, or land use planning policies, or for Conservation Authority permitting.

3. For greater certainty, this Direction applies to any fees in respect of the following programs or services provided under the Mandatory Programs and Services regulation ([O. Reg. 686/21](#)):
 - a. Section 6: programs and services related to reviewing applications and proposals under the *Aggregate Resources Act*, *Drainage Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, and the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*, for the purpose of commenting on the risks related to natural hazards arising from the proposal,
 - b. Section 7: programs and services related to ensuring that decisions under the *Planning Act* are consistent with the natural hazards policies in the policy statements issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act* and are in conformance with any natural hazard policies included in a provincial plan as defined in section 1 of that Act,
 - c. Section 8: programs and services related to Conservation Authority duties, functions, and responsibilities to administer and enforce section 28 and its regulations, section 28.0.1, and section 30.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*,
 - d. Paragraph 4 of subsection 13 (3): programs and services related to reviewing and commenting on any proposal made under another Act for the purpose of determining whether the proposal relates to a significant drinking water threat or may impact any drinking water sources protected by a source protection plan, and
 - e. Subparagraph 4 iv of section 15: programs and services related to reviewing and commenting on proposals made under other Acts for the purpose of determining the proposal's impact on the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Application

4. This Direction, applies to all Conservation Authorities in Ontario, listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction.
5. For greater certainty, this Direction also applies to the Conservation Authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction when such Conservation Authorities are meeting as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

Effective Date and Term

6. This Direction is effective from January 1, 2024 (the "**Effective Date**").

7. The term of this Direction is the period from the Effective Date to December 31, 2024 (the “**Term**”).

Amendments

8. This Direction may be amended in writing from time to time at the sole discretion of the Minister.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF ONTARIO
as represented by the
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry



The Honourable Graydon Smith
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
December 13, 2023

APPENDIX A

LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

Ausable Bayfield CA

R.R. #3
71108 Morrison Line
Exeter ON N0M 1S5
Brian Horner
bhorner@abca.on.ca

Cataraqui Region CA

Box 160
1641 Perth Road
Glenburnie ON K0H 1S0
Katrina Furlanetto
kfurlanetto@crca.ca

Catfish Creek CA

R.R. #5
8079 Springwater Road
Aylmer ON N5H 2R4
Dusty Underhill
generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca

Central Lake Ontario CA

100 Whiting Avenue
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Members Report #66-2023

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, GM ST; Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning & Regulations Supervisor
Date: December 14, 2023
Subject: Coastal Resiliency Strategy Implementation Project: 2024-2027

Purpose:

To provide an overview of the proposed project.

To review the agreement between Conservation Ontario and the Great Lakes Cities Initiative regarding Coastal Resilience Initiatives.

To provide an overview of the proposal that Conservation Ontario is coordinating on behalf of six conservation authorities, including MVCA.

Background:

At the November 15th meeting the Members reviewed the list of authority funded projects to include in the 2024 draft work plan and budget.

There were several projects that staff identified that were still under discussion. One of these projects is the next phase of the coastal resiliency strategy. The Members requested that staff report back on this project to identify whether there is support for the next phase of the project.

Support From Shoreline Municipalities & Federal Funding:

Presentations have been made to the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh (November 21st) and the Municipality of Central Huron (December 4th). ACW and Central Huron have both unanimously passed motions to support an application to the Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) - Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Program, committing financial support to cover the 25% (\$150,000 over four years) local funding required for eligible applications. The local cost sharing would be allocated as follows: ACW-\$40,000; Central Huron-\$40,000, Goderich-\$70,000.

NRCAN will provide 75% funding for each pilot project.

The estimated cost of the project is \$600,000. If funding is approved for the project, it is expected to start in the spring of 2024 and be completed by 2027.

Staff from the Town of Goderich have circulated a similar request to Council recommending that council support of the project and agree to pay the local share of the cost. A presentation is being made to Goderich Town Council on December 18th.

Overview Of Proposed Project & Federal Funding:

MVCA is in the fortunate position of being able to build on 3 years of experience and momentum building and looks at this opportunity as Phase 3 of our Coastal Resilience work.

We have also spent considerable time with our growing and diverse group of shoreline stakeholders to establish their values as they relate to the coastal environment of Lake Huron, values including resource security (water quality), economic exposure (risks to flooding and erosion), ecological value (ecosystem health), and social/recreational value (resilient and accessible beaches).

Phase 3, through the Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Program, will seek to share knowledge and experience with our partners in different geographic or temporal points on a shared adaptation pathway. We are also seeking to limit the opportunity for maladaptation, encourage sustainable development, and maximize the possibility for economic co-benefits. This will be achieved by cooperation and building an identity and governance structure around the appropriate geo-physical scale represented by the Southern Lake Huron Littoral-cell. The Littoral-cell Technical Committee will guide three distinct pilot efforts to:

- **Develop a Restored Sediment Pathway around the Goderich Harbour Structure**
- **Draft and prepare to implement Transformative Development Policies**
- **Create a Manual for Planned Retreat**

The strategies above are designed to address key social and economic challenges that affect the Lake Huron shoreline. We also anticipate that these strategies will also benefit the health, recreation, and biodiversity concerns identified through our recent public engagement sessions.

Restoring a sediment pathway around the port at Goderich will repurpose sediment material, already removed for maintenance dredging, and reduce the erosion of bluffs located south of Goderich.

Transformative development policies will allow for an assessment of what current policy strategies are working to prevent additional risks to people and property located in the

shoreline hazard area. They will also identify what policies need to be refined or restructured to ensure the principles of hazard prevention are kept at the forefront of future development proposals.

A manual for planned retreat will act as a vital tool for shoreline municipalities, who are already contending with the relocation of homes and roads due to bluff collapse. This manual will help identify the policy environment in which relocation occurs, and clearly layout the variety of considerations and options available. The manual will also elaborate on the gaps that exist in legislation and programming, from other levels of government.

The project also proposes to develop partnerships with First Nations over the next four years and invite them to be part of the multi stakeholder littoral cell technical committee.

The project will be supported by a strong technical team comprised of:

Pete Zuzek, Professional Geoscientist & President of Zuzek Inc.; Seth Logan, President of SJL Engineering Inc. & Coastal Engineer; Danker Kolijn, Coastal Engineer, Head of Marine and Coastal Solutions for Western Americas, DHL.

Agreement Between Conservation Ontario & Glci-Mayors Commission On Coastal Resilience:

Conservation Ontario has developed a draft agreement with the Great Lakes Cities Initiative-Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience to work together on shoreline initiatives along the Great Lakes and connecting waterways. CO and the GLCI-Mayors Commission have agreed that Conservation Ontario will take the lead on coordinating a submission to NRCAN for six pilot projects to be undertaken around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The following conservation authorities have identified pilot projects: Cataraqui, Lower Thames, Niagara, Grey Sauble, Lakehead, and the Maitland.

Each pilot project is to represent a different type of shoreline. The lessons learned from these pilot projects will then be shared with other conservation authorities and members of the Great Lakes Cities Initiative-Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience. The Mayors Commission supports conservation authorities developing the technical expertise on coastal initiatives in Ontario. In the past the Great Lakes Cities Initiative has not been willing to work with conservation authorities on shoreline issues. This new partnership has been championed by the Jim Ginn, Mayor of Central Huron, and Gerry McNamara, Mayor of Tecumseh. Mr. McNamara is one of the Co Chairs of the GLCI-Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience.

The draft agreement between Conservation Ontario and the Great Lakes Cities Initiative-Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience was approved by Conservation Ontario council in September 2023.

The agreement will be formally signed by the Chair of Conservation Ontario and the two Canadian Co Chairs of the Great Lakes Cities Initiative-Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience early in 2024.

Recommendation:

THAT MVCA include the next phase of the Coastal Resilience Project in the 2024 budget, if funding is approved by Natural Resources Canada;
AND THAT MVCA agrees to be a partner in Conservation Ontario's application to Natural Resources Canada's application for funding to undertake six coastal resilience pilot projects.



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To: Conservation Ontario Council
From: Bonnie Fox, Policy and Planning Director
Date: November 30, 2023
Subject: Update: Memorandum of Collaboration - Great Lakes St Lawrence Cities Initiative's Mayors' Commission on Coastal Resilience

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive for information this report and the attached Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Mayors' Commission on Coastal Resilience/Conservation Ontario Memorandum of Collaboration (MOC) (December 2023).

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the status of the Memorandum of Collaboration between Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) Mayors' Commission on Coastal Resilience (MCCR) and Conservation Ontario. The long-term strategy for increased investments in coastal resilience is to collaborate with the GLSLCI's MCCR to unify our approach to advocacy. The MOC has been finalized in collaboration with their Senior Director Canada Policy and approved by their President and CEO for signatures. Plans are underway to host an in-person event in early 2024 with the Chair CO and the Co-Chairs of MCCR so the MOC can be included in our 2023 Annual Report with photos.

DISCUSSION:

The long-term strategy for increased investments in coastal resilience is to collaborate with the GLSLCI's MCCR to unify our approach to advocacy. At the September 2023 CO Council meeting, the following resolution was endorsed:

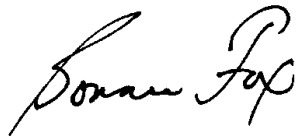
THAT Council approve in principle the DRAFT Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Mayors' Commission on Coastal Resilience/Conservation Ontario Memorandum of Collaboration (MOC) (September 2023) for finalization and signatures.

B.Fox met with Eamonn Horan-Lunney (Senior Director Canada Policy) on a weekly basis to discuss items of mutual interest and including the draft MOC. It was anticipated that the Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience would meet in late November/early December, however this has not occurred. A final draft of the MOC was reviewed and approved by their President and CEO (Jonathan Altenberg) on November 30, 2023, for signatures.

Additions to the draft MOC include:

- “Whereas statements” addressing the climate change imperative for this initiative and the respective roles of both partners in coastal resilience, and,
- Commitments that both partners will support opportunities to increase staff and Member attendance at each other’s events.

A celebratory event for the MOC to be signed in person will be arranged at an early 2024 event (e.g. Jan 21-23 ROMA Conference in Toronto, Mar 28 GLSLCI Ontario Member Meeting in The Blue Mountain). An event will be selected where Chair White and the Canadian Co-Chairs of the MCCR: Sandra Easton (Mayor of the Town of Lincoln) and Gary McNamara (Mayor of the Town of Tecumseh) will already be in attendance. This milestone will be highlighted in our 2023 Annual report with photos.



Bonnie Fox
Policy and Planning Director

Attachment 1: Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Mayor’s Commission on Coastal Resilience/Conservation Ontario Memorandum of Collaboration (December 2023)

**Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Mayor's Commission on Coastal
Resilience/Conservation Ontario
Memorandum of Collaboration (MOC)**

December 2023

WHEREAS climate change is a clear and present danger to communities, residents and businesses across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin; and

WHEREAS climate adaptation and disaster mitigation and response in Canada are shared responsibilities between municipal, provincial/territorial, federal and Indigenous governments and agencies; and

WHEREAS the Canadian side of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River has more than 10,000 km of shoreline which are at increasing risk of flooding, erosion and severe storm impacts; and

WHEREAS conservation authorities are science-based watershed management organizations mandated through provincial legislation and governed by a municipally appointed Board of Directors to study, research and regulate natural hazards including the Great Lakes St Lawrence River shoreline; and

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are mandated to be consistent with the natural hazards policies in the Ontario Provincial Policy Statement under the Planning Act and are frontline actors that will bear the most costs for adapting their infrastructure and communities

NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree as follows:

Purpose of the MOC

Conservation Ontario, representing the collective of Conservation Authorities generally and those Conservation Authorities with shoreline jurisdiction on the coast of the Great Lakes, connecting channels and the St. Lawrence River will collaborate with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, through its Mayor's Commission on Coastal Resilience (MCCR), to identify sustainable workable solutions to address coastal erosion, flooding, and storm impacts. The collaboration is guided by this MOC.

Objectives

- To maximize limited resources through collective advocacy, collaboration, and fundraising for local implementation related to shoreline priorities.
- To address science and implementation gaps through capacity building, shared technical expertise, and resources for Conservation Authorities and Municipalities.
- To recognize and support the Conservation Authorities' mandate in coastal resilience through demonstration of progressive shoreline projects in collaboration with local shoreline communities.

- To proactively address climate vulnerabilities and risks to coastal communities by increased advocacy and investments by all levels of governments.

Responsibilities/Collaborative Actions

GLSLCI MCCR roles in collaboration is to involve Conservation Ontario in:

- further development of coastal resilience sections of the GLSLCI Annual survey and its circulation to coastal conservation authorities.
- development of advocacy messaging for funding.
- planning and delivery of Ottawa Hill Day(s).
- development of related funding applications and partnership agreements (e.g., letters of support, compensation for CO staff and/or CA staff roles as appropriate).
- showcasing on the ground strategies and projects to advance good planning.
- development of joint communications.
- development of opportunities to support CO/CA staff attendance at GLSLCI events

CO roles in collaboration are to:

- provide technical expertise.
- participate in further development of the GLSLCI annual survey, particularly on questions relating to coastal resilience, and increase CA response rates.
- contribute to development of GLSLCI MCCR Federal and Provincial advocacy messaging e.g., future resolutions.
- contribute concurrent and reinforcing resources and messaging to Ottawa Hill meetings.
- provide input to and letters of support for GLSLCI MCCR funding applications and co-development of joint communications as appropriate.
- communicate activities around the development of CO funding applications to assess opportunities for engagement of GLSLCI MCCR (e.g., letters of support, compensation for GLSLCI roles as appropriate).
- co-develop consistent frameworks and tools and joint education opportunities as appropriate to build capacity and expedite shoreline resilience work for local communities.
- develop opportunities for GLSLCI staff and members to attend CO events

Meeting Schedule

Meetings will occur on an ongoing basis as necessary to support advocacy and collaboration efforts.

Remuneration

Staff of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and Conservation Ontario will collaborate as in-kind support for mutually beneficial actions. Third-party fundraising to support implementation will be leveraged to compensate GLSLCI and CO time through individual partner agreements when appropriate.

Conclusion

This MOU shall be in effect on the date it is signed by the Parties and for the life of the GLSLCI Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience (MCCR). This MOU may be amended from time to time by written agreement of the Parties and either party may terminate this Agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.

The Collaboration will play a critical role in ensuring positive outcomes for Coastal Resilience in Ontario. Conservation Ontario looks forward to working with the GLSLCI MCCR to advance coastal resilience and improve the technical resources available for the conservation authority and municipal sectors. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth in this MOU.

For Conservation Ontario:

Chair

Date: _____

For GLSLCI Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience:

Canadian Co-Chair

Date: _____

Canadian Co-Chair

Date: _____

Members Report #67-2023

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Shannon Millar, Restoration Supervisor
Date: December 12th, 2023

Subject: Additional 2024 Stewardship Fees

Purpose:

To identify additional stewardship fees to be included in MVCA's 2024 fee schedule. MVCA's stewardship service is planning to take the first step in building capacity for our existing forestry planting service. In 2024, we plan to plant a few sites that in the past were planted by neighbouring Conservation Authorities. The additional fees are as follows:

Service	Cost
Seedling Markup	\$0.60/seedling
Hand Planting	\$1.30/seedling
Storage and Transportation	\$0.20/seedling
Note: There are a minimum 1,000 seedlings per property. Any plantings under 1,000 seedlings will be charged the "Hand Planting" fee for 1,000 seedlings.	

Note these prices are only for projects planted by MVCA. Neighbouring Conservation Authority fee schedules will apply if projects are coordinated but not planted by MVCA.

Recommendation:

THAT the additional stewardship fees for 2024 be circulated for comment and that any comments received be reviewed at the January 24th, 2024 meeting.

Members Report #68-2023

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer,
Danielle Livingston, Administrative-Financial Services Coordinator
Shannon Millar, Restoration Supervisor
Ben Van Dieten, Agricultural Stewardship Supervisor
Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Services Coordinator
Jayne Thompson, Communications, GIS, IT Coordinator
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning and Regulations Supervisor
Jeff Winzenried, Flood Forecast Supervisor
Donna Clarkson, DWSP Supervisor
Date: December 14, 2023
Subject: Draft 2024 Work Plan and Budget

Purpose:

To outline the priorities for each service area and the draft budget for 2024
To obtain direction on the draft work plan and budget for 2024.

Background:

On October 18th, 2023, the members passed the following motion:

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)

MVCA has developed the following vision, mission, and ends:

Vision:

Working for a healthy environment

Mission:

Providing leadership to protect and enhance local water, forests, and soils.

Ends:

1. To protect life, property and prevent social disruption from flooding and erosion hazards.
2. To protect water and related resources for present and future generations.
3. To protect and expand natural areas

Priorities:

Maitland Conservation has developed a three-year work plan that focusses our resources on delivering core services. Our priorities for the next three years are to:

1. Help our member municipalities reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption in flood and erosion prone areas.
2. Help our member municipalities and landowners develop and implement soil and water conservation systems that will help keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses and Lake Huron.
3. Ensure that management of our conservation areas sets high standards of conservation practices and are safe for the public to use.
4. Develop a stable financial base for the MVCA so that we will be able to provide the support that our member municipalities require to develop a healthy, resilient, and prosperous watershed.

Service Area Priorities:

A) Corporate:

1. Watershed Strategy: Corporate Services will lead the design and public consultation component of the strategy. The preparation of a Watershed Strategy is a mandatory requirement and must be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by December 31, 2024. MVCA is planning to submit the 3-year work plan for 2024-2026.
2. Healthy Lake Huron Terms of Reference: Encourage MECP and OMAFRA to expand the terms of reference to include improving the health of watersheds, people, and wildlife. The steering committee for HLH will be developing a new five-year work plan in 2024. The addition of Healthy Watersheds, People, and Wildlife (the One Health Approach) is a priority of OMAFRA and the Ministry of Health.
3. First Nations & Meti Relationship Building: Continue to explore interest in developing a working relationship with First Nations and Meti.
4. 2025-2027 Work Plan and Budget Forecast: Update MVCA's three year forecast so that we are always planning three years ahead.

Budgetary Impacts of the draft 2024 work plan: Increases are due to increases in wages and benefits and estimated increases in insurance and supplies.

B) Flood & Erosion Safety:

Maintain a robust and reliable flood forecasting monitoring network. Radio telemetry has proven reliable and effective for our watershed, but existing equipment is nearing end-of-life and has been abruptly discontinued by the manufacturer. Planning and implementing the replacement of this equipment will be a priority for the monitoring network in 2024.

1. Implement Coastal and Flood Hazard Projects through federal programs and agreements. This includes continuing work through the Flood Hazard identification and Mapping program (FHIMP) (Shoreline Climate Scenarios & North Perth Floodplain mapping update), potential future intakes of the FHIMP Program (Lucknow & rural flood hazard), our existing contribution agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Coastal Restoration program from ECCC to be announced December 2023, and Conservation Ontario's current application to the Natural Resources Canada Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Program
2. Respond to significant guidance and legislative changes. This includes updated guidance for Natural Hazards from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and a potential new Conservation Authority Regulation to be created by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

3. Meet the Provincial requirements for changes to be made by CAs by December 31, 2024, including:
 - a. Develop an ice management plan for areas prone to ice jamming
 - b. Develop an asset management plan for flood and erosion control structures:
 - i. Goderich Bluffs
 - ii. McGuffin Gully
 - iii. Listowel Conduit
 - c. Develop a drought monitoring plan
 - d. Develop an outreach and education plan related to natural hazards
 - e. Develop the FESS component of MVCA's Watershed Strategy

Budgetary Impacts of the draft 2024 work plan:

The full salary for MVCA's Water Resources Engineer has been included in the 2024 budget. We will be utilizing more support from B.M. Ross and Associates to help MVCA fulfill its mandatory requirements to prepare asset management plans for the Listowel Conduit, Goderich Bluffs and McGuffin Gully and an ice management plan. Staff time that was covered by project funding in 2023 has been included in the 2024 draft budget.

C) Watershed Stewardship:

The goal of Watershed Stewardship is to keep soil and nutrients on land and out of rivers. MVCA prioritizes restoration in vulnerable areas such as along watercourses, flood plains, river valleys and wetlands. We also promote practices that improve soil health through our cover crop programs. We need to expand our core stewardship team to include a Watershed Forester. This will allow us to provide a stable and consistent reforestation service. Over the past few years we have only been able to employ a forester on a contract basis, which has resulted in the position having to be refilled every year as staff seeks permanent employment. The priorities for Watershed Stewardship are:

1. Natural Areas Restoration: provide technical and financial support for stream buffers, wetlands, windbreaks and fragile land retirement. Staff conduct site visits, develop planting plans, arrange planting contractors, secure funding, and inspect completed projects. Staff also organize and deliver the annual tree/shrub order to generate revenue for the forestry account. This involves securing stock from nurseries, tracking landowner order forms, scheduling pick-up, and invoicing customers.
2. Delivery and Administration of County Stewardship Programs: Delivery of Huron Clean Water Project, Wellington Rural Water Quality Program, as well as assistance with Perth County Stewardship Program. Staff coordinate projects and funding from start to finish and provide 'on-the-ground' assistance for landowners. This includes handling inquiries, presenting projects to a review committee, inspecting completed projects, and processing grant

payment. We also provide technical support to the Counties to develop eligibility requirements and provide program statistics for reporting purposes. Through these programs we are able support a wide variety of projects, such as tree planting, invasive species removal, structural erosion control, well upgrades and decommissioning, as well as cover crops (among others).

3. Securement and Delivery of Federal and Provincial funding programs: MVCA staff apply for, and secure funding from Federal and Provincial funding sources, which complement our existing stewardship activities. We leverage the contribution from the levy to secure over 10x funding from Federal or Provincial programs. These programs allow us to deliver stewardship services throughout the watershed and they provide significant funding for targeted activities (stream buffering, cover crops, rural stormwater management).
4. Healthy Lake Huron (HLH): collaborate with stakeholders from different levels of government. Through HLH partner funding, we provide 'on-the-ground' staff to get projects implemented. We deliver stewardship services on behalf of OMAFRA and MECP.
5. Middle Maitland Restoration Project: Targeted stewardship efforts to restore natural areas along the Middle Maitland River and its tributaries upstream of Wingham.

Budgetary Impacts of the draft 2024 work plan: The budget includes funding from working capital accumulated surplus to help cover the costs of the resources needed to implement MVCA's reforestation program. The three-year forecast includes funding to phase in the funds needed to stabilize funding for a watershed forester position so that MVCA is able to prepare planting plans to restore flood plains, river valleys, wetlands and stream buffers.

D) Watershed Health Assessment and Monitoring:

Watershed's forests and rivers have many stresses that are affecting their health. They respond to these stresses in different ways. These stresses can create conditions that can make people, livestock and/or wildlife sick. For example, algae blooms watercourses caused by excessive nutrients. Assessment allows MVCA to determine how the health of forests and streams are changing and identifies problems. Once MVCA is able to identify the causes of ill health, we will then focus our efforts on identifying how to improve the health of forests and rivers in the watershed.

The two core services for assessment and monitoring are:

1. Surface & Ground water Monitoring
 - 2024 continue field work to collect water samples for the provincial surface and ground water monitoring program. This is a mandatory service.

2. Watershed Health Assessment

- Forests are foundational to healthy communities but are affected by competing pressures. New ways to keep our forests healthy are needed. In 2024 MVCA will tackle this challenge by undertaking the Forest Health Improvement project to speak directly with landowners and recommend concrete actions to steward forests. MVCA will continue to provide findings to the forest health study to our partners and to follow key findings to find answers to problems such as forest regeneration which is dominantly ash.
- MVCA will begin aquatic assessment to evaluate the health of our streams and rivers. This assessment is critical for understanding the key problems facing the health of our streams, tailoring programs and driving innovation towards effective interventions.

Budgetary Impacts of the 2024 Work Plan:

MVCA's Watershed Health assessment has been financed by donations over the past three years. This work is essential to understanding the health of forests, rivers, and wetlands across the watershed. The three-year forecast includes increases in the levy over the next three years to phase in the resources needed to stabilize support for this work.

E) Conservation Areas:

1. Conservation Areas Strategy and Land Use Inventory: Mandatory requirement of the Conservation Authorities Act, O. Reg 686/21 to be completed by December 31, 2024. The strategy will outline the objectives, programs and services offered on lands owned by MVCA including policies for land acquisition and dispositions. Stakeholder and public consultation will be completed during the development of the strategy. Staff will also complete a land use inventory of all parcels owned by MVCA to meet the mandatory requirements.
2. Conservation Areas Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan: A thorough list of assets owned by MVCA will be reviewed to indicate present and future planning requirements. This plan will help guide MVCA in asset management including financial needs in the years ahead.
3. Administrative Office Renovations and Repairs: Several projects are planned for 2024 including washroom and front entrance door renovations to meet accessibility standards. Air quality improvements will include radon mitigation and improved filtration to provide a safe working environment for staff and visitors.
4. Invasive Species Control: To showcase good forestry management practices, buckthorn and phragmites control will continue in 2024 to suppress the encroachment of these invasive species on C.A land. Buckthorn control along the agricultural land at Wawanosh Valley CA will be implemented to prepare for future naturalization of marginal farmland areas.
5. Falls Reserve Conservation Area Improvements: In order to provide continued recreational opportunities at FRCA,

several infrastructure projects are planned. Renovations to the gatehouse will provide improved access including accessibility updates. Roadway and parking lot replacement will also begin to ensure this required infrastructure remains in good condition.

Budgetary Impacts of the 2024 Work Plan: Increases in the operational budget are mainly due to wages and estimated property taxes. Projects require the use of applicable Reserves (working capital, forestry management, FRCA) to complete.

F) Drinking Water Source Protection:

1. Governance & Leadership: Maitland Source Protection Authority meetings; renewal of agreement with ABCA; approval of budget for program.
2. Communications: promotion of drinking water source protection program to the public.
3. Implementation/Technical Support: review of planning and development applications located within municipal well head and intake protection areas; amendments to Maitland Source Protection Plan to incorporate changes in wellhead protection area around well in Century Heights subdivision located in the Colborne Ward in the Municipality of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, and in Lucknow ward of the Municipality of Huron-Kinloss.
Issue confirmation notices for new wells planned in Harriston and Palmerston.

Budgetary Implications for 2024 Work Plan:

The funding for this program is provided by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

2024 Draft Operating Budget

The draft operating budget is summarized by service area. The following table includes the 2023 approved budget, 2024 draft budget and the rationale for any changes. A summary (Table 1) is attached to this report.

Flood and Erosion Safety Services	2023 Budget	2024 Draft Budget	Rationale for Changes
Flood Control Structures	5,972	3,026	Reduced staffing time in this category.
Erosion Control Structures	1,488	1,600	Staffing wage change.
Flood Forecasting & Warning	278,539	297,134	Water Resources Engineer position to full time.
Hazard Prevention	28,478	24,507	Staff time shifted to Natural Hazard Prevention
Natural Hazard Information	64,485	68,936	Staff time shifted from Hazard Prevention.
Regulation Administration	267,338	313,059	Increase in technical and legal expenses, less staffing expenses covered by project funds in 2024.
Total	646,300	708,262	

Watershed Stewardship Services	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Rationale for Changes
Watershed Health, Monitoring	110,766	142,932	Watershed Ecologist position phasing in over three years
Extension	150,367	171,573	Wshd. Forester position phasing in, change in service area organization from Coordinator to Supervisory job-sharing.
Forestry	146,217	171,784	Watershed Forester position added in 2024 to design tree planting plans: Shortfall covered by accumulated surplus
Total	407,350	486,189	

Corporate Services	2023 Budget	2024 Draft Budget	Rationale for Changes
Administration	348,382	371,645	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reflects increase in wages
Financial Management	119,298	114,256	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in insurance cost.
Governance	14,100	16,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reflects cost of Members Meetings
Service Area Support	53,350	57,450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in telephone and fibre optic service
Communications - GIS/IT	227,848	232,824	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reflects increase in wages
Total	762,978	792,775	

Conservation Areas Services	2023 Budget	2024 Draft Budget	Rationale for Changes
Falls Reserve Conservation Area	613,370	644,847	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase due to wages and additional days for summer students.
Wawanosh Park Conservation Area	17,369	19,938	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase due to staffing and site maintenance requirements.
Management/Development/Ops.	284,178	307,763	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in staffing expenses and property taxes
Motor Pool	27,900	25,570	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of scheduled repairs and licensing costs.
Total	942,817	998,118	

Operating Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority						Table 1
ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Reserve Funds	Expense	NET Surplus/ Deficit
Corporate Services						
Administration	77,349	294,296			371,645	
Financial Management		114,256			114,256	
Governance		16,600			16,600	
Services Areas Support		57,450			57,450	
Communications, IT, GIS	2,000	230,824			232,824	
Total	79,349	713,426			792,775	
Flood Safety Services						
Flood Control Structures		3,026			3,026	
Erosion Control Structures		1,600			1,600	
Flood Forecasting and Warning	36,424	260,710			297,134	
Hazard Prevention		24,507			24,507	
Natural Hazard Information		68,935			68,935	
Regulations	90,000	223,059			313,059	
Total	126,424	581,837			708,261	
Watershed Stewardship Services						
Watershed Monitoring and Reporting	2,000	140,832			142,832	
Extension Services		171,573			171,573	
Forestry Services	142,200			29,584	171,784	
Total	144,200	312,405		29,584	486,189	
Conservation Areas Management Services						
Management/Development/Operations	10,250	297,513			307,763	
Motor Pool	47,414				25,570	21,844
Total	57,664	297,513			333,333	21,844
Campgrounds						
Falls Reserve Conservation Area	658,100				644,847	13,253
Wawanosh Park Conservation Area	20,532				19,938	594
Total	678,632				664,785	13,847
Drinking Water Source Protection Implementation						
Source Water Protection	22,950				22,950	
Total	22,950				22,950	
Net Operating Budgets	1,109,219	1,905,181		29,584	3,008,293	35,691

2024 Projects Budget

The 2024 Projects Budget includes both new and ongoing projects.

Some projects are long term in design and will have funding carried over from 2023. We will not know the exact amount of funding that will be carried over into 2024 until the end of the year.

Flood/Erosion Safety Projects	Draft Budget	Outline, Funding, Status
Flood Control/Preventative Maintenance	\$20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventative maintenance, equipment upgrades/replacements: levy
Shoreline Hazard Mapping/ North Perth Flood Plain Mapping Project	\$113,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish new floodplain mapping for the Middle Maitland River: FHIMP (NRCAN & North Perth funded) Map additional Climate Change scenarios for shoreline, host permanent mapping portal, continue with coastal resilience working group: FHIMP (NRCAN & Shoreline Special Levy) and ECCC Contribution agreement
Total	\$133,000	

Watershed Stewardship Projects	Draft Budget	Outline, Funding, Status
Garvey Glenn Coordination	\$53,004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding from MECP for buffers, soil health, and water quality monitoring projects in the North Shore watersheds(ACW)
Middle Maitland Restoration	\$50,050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing project to restore flood plains, river valleys and buffer strips in the Middle Maitland watershed
Huron Clean Water	\$504,055	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of ongoing funding from Huron County to administer clean water projects within the County
Watershed Stewardship Projects	\$4,786	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry over funding for infilling MTO planting projects
Nature Based Climate Solutions	\$90,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final year of 3-year agreement for cover crop incentives and restoration throughout the entire watershed
OMAFRA COA	\$8,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final year of 3-year agreement of OMAFRA funding for soil health and drainage outreach initiatives

Stream Restoration & Natural Hazards Outreach	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final year of 3-year agreement of federal funding for stream restoration, and for shoreline hazard outreach project
Carbon Footprint Initiative	\$3,262	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support costs for activities, deferred revenue MCF
Total	\$723,157	

Watershed Health Assessment	Draft Budget	Outline, Funding, Status
Forest Health Follow Up and aquatic health assessment	\$90,667	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest health follow up with science advisory group; start of aquatic health assessment work across the watershed. Donations & grants

Conservation Areas Projects	Draft Budget	Outline, Funding, Status
Forestry Management	\$21,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species removal at several conservation areas. Focus at Wawanosh Valley CA to prepare marginal farmland areas for restoration. \$15,000 Working Capital Surplus, \$6,000 JHETF.
Vehicle and Equipment Replacement	\$70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace minivan with suitable electric/hybrid model and purchase a new mower for vegetation maintenance. \$57,000 Motor pool surplus, \$13,000 sale of existing vehicle & mower.
Carbon Sequestration	\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant trees to sequester carbon from MVCA operations and Members mileage. \$500-Working Capital Accumulated Surplus.
Conservation Areas	\$10,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and install property signage at Conservation areas. Finish boardwalk replacement at Naftels Creek CA 10,400 Working Capital Accumulated Surplus-MCF

Corporate Projects	Draft Budget	Outline, Funding, Status
Administration Building Repairs and Maintenance, Telephone System	\$134,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate washrooms and front entranceway to meet accessibility requirements. • Complete Brick repairs to exterior of office • Install HEPA filters on furnaces and complete radon mitigation to improve air quality in the administration office. • Replace office telephone system components throughout office. Total of \$59,200 Working Capital Reserve (includes ECCC funding received in 2023), \$74,800 Levy.
GIS/IT Equipment/Software	\$56,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of computers, software, and hardware: \$30,800 Working Capital Surplus, \$25,200 Levy.

Project Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority									Table 2
ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Special Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Working Capital Reserves	Forest Management Reserves	Motor Pool Reserves	Expense	Net Surplus / Deficit
Corporate Services Projects									
Administration Centre		74,800			59,200			134,000	
GIS/IT Management/Communications		25,200			30,800			56,000	
Total		100,000			90,000			190,000	
Flood and Erosion Safety Services Projects									
Flood Forecasting Monitoring Network		20,000						20,000	
North Perth Shoreline Mapping Update (FHIMP)	113,000							113,000	
Total	113,000	20,000						133,000	
Watershed Stewardship Services Projects									
Watershed Health Assessment Project	64,200			11,975	14,492			90,667	
Carbon Footprint Initiative				3,262				3,262	
Garvey Glenn Coordination	85,000			39,930				53,004	71,926
Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration	5,000			50,000				50,050	4,950
Huron Clean Water	504,055							504,055	
Watershed Stewardship Projects				4,786				4,786	
Nature Based Climate Solutions	97,998							90,000	7,998
OMAFRA COA	8,000			8,000				8,000	8,000
ECCC Stream Restoration and Natural Hazards Ou	10,000							10,000	
Total	774,253			117,953	14,492			813,824	92,874
Conservation Area Projects									
Forestry Management	6,000					15,000		21,000	
Vehicles/Equipment Replacement	13,000						57,000	70,000	
Carbon Sequestration Planting							500	500	
Conservation Area Projects	2,500				10,400			10,400	2,500
Total	21,500				10,400	15,000	57,500	101,900	2,500
Net Project Budgets	908,753	120,000		117,953	114,892	15,000	57,500	1,238,724	95,374

Summary:

Projects Budget

The total draft Projects Budget is \$1,238,724. The Projects Budget is based upon utilizing \$176,900 from working capital accumulated surplus.

Total Budget Summary:

MVCA's total draft budget for operating and projects for 2024 is \$4,247,017.

A copy of the draft cost apportionment for 2024 is attached to this report.

Draft Information Package For Member Municipalities:

Staff will develop a draft information package to circulate to our member municipalities with respect to the draft 2023 work plan and budget. The information package typically includes the following:

- i) Letter from the Chair
- ii) Highlights from 2023
- iii) Priorities for 2024
- iv) Summary budget tables for operating and projects
- v) Draft Levy Schedule

Staff would appreciate the Members' input with respect to the information that they would like to see included in the letter that is to be sent to Member Municipalities.

Possible information to include:

1. Thank municipalities for supporting MVCA
2. Highlights from 2023 such as: Agreement with North Perth re: Galbraith Conservation Area.
3. Challenges facing in 2024: Provincial regulatory requirements, natural hazards infrastructure plan for Listowel Flood Control Works, Goderich Bluffs and McGuffin Gully, ice management plan, watershed strategy, conservation areas inventory and strategy. Must be completed by December 31, 2024
4. Staffing and wage increases: cost of living increase restricted to 4.3%
5. 2024 Infrastructure: Admin. Centre Renovations-accessible washrooms and entrance

Recommendation:

THAT the 2024 draft budget, work plan and levy be approved for review and comment by MVCA's member municipalities;

AND THAT the final work plan and budget be brought back to the Members on March 20, 2024, for final review and approval;

AND FURTHER THAT the municipal information package be developed and circulated to member municipalities based upon the direction provided by the Members.

2024 Draft Cost Apportionment Schedule Increase Amount: \$175,000 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	\$ 251,643	\$ 20,109	\$ 251,643
Central Huron Municipality	76	\$1,025,418,790	4,710	9.5186	\$ 178,147	\$ 192,769	\$ 14,622	\$ 192,769
Goderich Town	100	\$1,145,982,784	6,245	10.6378	\$ 198,931	\$ 215,435	\$ 16,504	\$ 215,435
Howick Twp.	92	\$476,723,985	2,672	4.4253	\$ 82,896	\$ 89,620	\$ 6,724	\$ 89,620
Huron East Municipality	72	\$1,124,550,003	5,760	10.4388	\$ 194,807	\$ 211,405	\$ 16,598	\$ 211,405
Huron-Kinloss Twp.	43	\$647,570,164	2,511	6.0112	\$ 111,827	\$ 121,738	\$ 9,911	\$ 121,738
Mapleton Twp.	5	\$96,841,174	385	0.8989	\$ 16,689	\$ 18,204	\$ 1,515	\$ 18,204
Minto Town	64	\$748,757,259	4,155	6.9505	\$ 129,241	\$ 140,760	\$ 11,519	\$ 140,760
Morris/Turnberry Municipality	95	\$560,702,290	2,741	5.2048	\$ 97,207	\$ 105,407	\$ 8,200	\$ 105,407
North Huron Twp.	100	\$603,628,746	3,935	5.6033	\$ 104,361	\$ 113,477	\$ 9,116	\$ 113,477
North Perth Municipality	98	\$2,447,981,384	10,828	22.7238	\$ 410,187	\$ 460,196	\$ 50,009	\$ 460,196
Perth East Twp.	9	\$189,777,262	857	1.7616	\$ 33,177	\$ 35,676	\$ 2,499	\$ 35,676
South Bruce Municipality	1	\$20,804,299	71	0.1931	\$ 1,309	\$ 3,912	\$ 2,604	\$ 3,912
Wellington North	16	\$294,847,208	1,472	2.7370	\$ 51,124	\$ 55,429	\$ 4,305	\$ 55,429
West Perth Municipality	3	\$50,586,083	225	0.4696	\$ 8,744	\$ 9,510	\$ 766	\$ 9,510
Total		\$10,772,766,111	51187	100.0000	\$ 1,850,181	\$ 2,025,181	\$ 175,000	\$ 2,025,181

Members Report #69-2023

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer
Date: December 9, 2023

Subject: 2024 Annual Meeting: A time to Celebrate Partnerships

Purpose:

To obtain direction on the agenda, time, and location for the 2024 Annual Meeting.
To determine if the Members would like to refocus the Annual Meeting on celebrating partnerships that have developed or achieved milestones.

Background:

The Annual Meeting is traditionally used to review the authority's progress over the past year, recognize staff service awards and retiring Members, and the election of officers. The Annual Meeting could also be used as a forum for celebrating the development of partnerships and highlighting conservation milestones within and beyond the boundaries of the watershed.

Maitland Conservation has been a strong advocate for developing partnerships and collaborative networks to advance conservation. In 2023 several innovative partnerships have been developed that are worthy of celebrating.

1. In 2023 MVCA and the Municipality of North Perth signed an agreement to allow North Perth to use the Galbraith Conservation Area. This agreement keeps the Galbraith Conservation Area for public use. It will be used for a range of outdoor education programs.
2. Healthy Lake Huron Collaborative: MVCA advocated for the MECP to continue to provide funding to the five Conservation Authorities for stewardship work in the watersheds that drain into Lake Huron. Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron Bruce has been a champion for HLH as it is co-lead by OMAFRA along with Ted Briggs, Great Lakes Advisor for the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.
3. Howick Trails: The Township of Howick has developed a walking trail within Gorrie Conservation Area.
4. Huron Clean Water Project: The HCWP is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2024. This partnership between ABCA, MVCA and the County of Huron has helped to further stewardship work across the Maitland/Nine Mile watersheds.

We could invite representatives from each of the four partnerships to attend the Annual Meeting and provide them with an opportunity to talk about the partnership. This would allow MVCA to formally thank each of the groups for their willingness to work with us to further conservation in the watershed.

Tentative Agenda if the Members would like to recognize these partnerships at the Annual Meeting.

1. Welcome and Introduction of Members & Guests
2. Chairs Remarks
3. Staff Service Awards
4. Election of Officers: Chair, Vice, and Second Vice
5. MCF Chairs Remarks
6. Celebration of Partnerships:
7. Closing Remarks: Chair
8. Social Time

Date:

The Annual Meeting is traditionally held the third Wednesday of the month in the afternoon. The third Wednesday is February 21st.

If the Members would like to invite Lisa Thompson to attend to speak to about Healthy Lake Huron, we would need to move the meeting to Wednesday, February 14th as the legislature resumes sitting on February 20th. I have contacted Lisa Thompson's office to see if she would be available to attend the Annual Meeting if it was held on February 14th.

Location:

The meeting could be held in the upstairs hall at the Wroxeter Community Centre if it is available.

Time:

Over the past few years, the Annual Meeting has been held in the afternoon starting at 2:00 pm and finishing by 3:30pm.

Recommendation:

THAT the Annual Meeting be held on February xxxxxx at xxxxx;
AND THAT the draft agenda outlined in Report #69-2023 be approved.

Members Report #70-2023

To: Members
From: Phil Beard, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: December 7, 2023

Subject: First Call for Declarations for Chair, Vice & Second Vice for 2024

Purpose:

To provide an opportunity for the Members to identify any possible candidates for Chair, Vice and Second-Vice for 2024.

Background:

It is the Members practice to provide an opportunity for any Member to declare whether they are interested in running for Chair, Vice or Second-Vice in the coming year. There is no requirement for anyone to put their name forward at this time.

This report is provided for the Members information and discussion. The call for declarations will also be included in the agenda for the January 24, 2024 Members meeting.

It should be noted that the Chair and Vice Chair may only stay in their respective positions for a maximum of two years.

Members Report #71-2023

To: Members, MVCA
From: Kriss Snell, Chair; MCF
Date: December 7, 2023

Subjects: Fundraising Update by the Maitland Conservation Foundation
Request for Support for GM to act as Interim Executive Director

Purpose:

To provide the Members with a progress report on the MCF's fundraising campaign.
To request that the MVCA Members allow the GM-ST to act as Interim Executive Director for the MCF in 2024.

Background:

The Maitland Conservation Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that has been established to raise money for projects that the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. The MCF is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of volunteers from the watershed.

MVCA's General Manager Secretary Treasurer has acted as Interim Executive Director for the MCF for several years. We appreciate MVCA's Members for providing this support to the MCF Board.

The MCF is pleased to report that we have been able to recruit three new board members who will join the Board in 2024. The three new members are: John Thompson, Beth Ross and Peter Shephard. All three live in the Goderich area.

2023 Board of Directors:

Chair, Kriss Snell; Vice Chair, Kate Procter

Directors: Ruth Knight, Jordan Nairn, Nigel Bellchamber, Ben Miltenburg, Francis Hogan and MVCA appointee, Matt Duncan.

Secretary-Treasurer: Lori Gordon

2023 Fundraising Update:

The Maitland Conservation Foundation set a goal of raising \$85,000 in 2023. We are pleased to report that we have exceeded this goal with the help from the Goderich Lions Club who have donated \$49,500 to the MCF in 2023. The Goderich Lions Club has established the John Grace Environmental Fund in memory of Mr. Grace who passed away in 2022.

We will provide MVCA with the total amount of funding that the MCF will be able to donate to MVCA after our meeting on January 31, 2024.

A copy of the MCF's 2023 Newsletter and the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund's newsletter is attached to this report for the Members information.

Interim Executive Director Support:

The MCF Board a passed a motion at their November 21st meeting requesting that the MVCA allow the GM ST to serve as Interim Executive Director again in 2024.

The GM ST has advised the MCF Board that he is interested in serving in that role in 2024.

Recommendation:

THAT the General Manager Secretary Treasurer continue to serve as Interim Executive Director to the MCF Board in 2024.

Maitland Conservation Foundation

2023

Message from Kriss Snell, Chair of MCF

The Maitland Conservation Foundation (MCF) works in partnership with Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) to raise funds to improve the health of the watershed forests and rivers as well as to improve infrastructure located in MVCA's 28 conservation areas.

The MCF's "We are Inspired by Nature" Campaign is raising funds in two main areas:

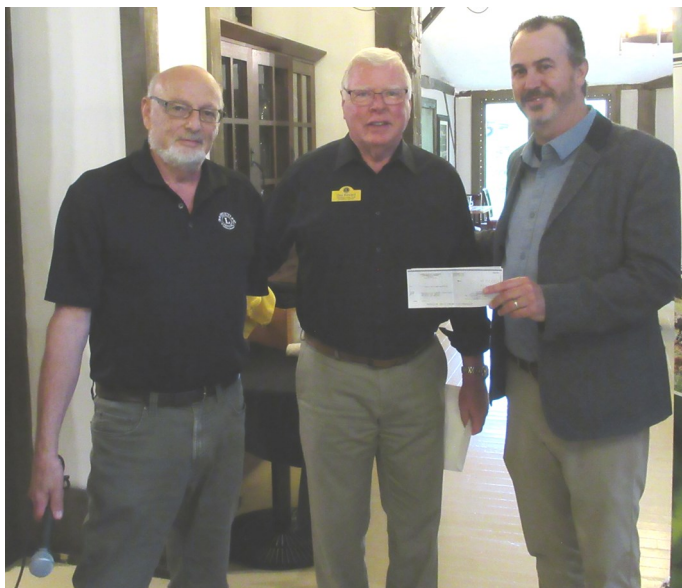
1. Restoring Nature's place with a focus on restoring natural areas in flood plains, river valleys and along streams.
2. Improving Accessibility to Nature which is focused on the Conservation Areas

Thanks to your donations, the MCF (Maitland Conservation Foundation) supports projects of the MVCA. Last year the MCF raised over \$82,000 to support projects. Our goal is to raise \$650,000 during this 5 year campaign and we are eager to see more projects completed every year.

I encourage all of you to support the "We are Inspired by Nature" campaign. Your continued support of the Maitland Conservation Foundation ensures we can support projects such as the picnic shelter at the Wawanosh Conservation Area and Forest Health Assessment.

I would be happy to meet with you and show you how your donations improve the health of rivers, forests and people.

Kriss Snell, Chair MCF



Thank you to the Goderich Lions

Thank you to the Goderich Lions for their donations to our Campaign and to improvements at Naftels Creek Conservation Area. Photograph: MCF President Kriss Snell, Lions President Don Edward & Peter Shephard, Environment Committee Chair.

The Goderich Lions Club donations have been made through the new **John Grace Environmental Fund**. The Goderich Lions Club created this fund to honour the late John Grace who was the past President of the Club. John was an avid environmentalist. This donation is directed to the Restoring Nature's Place campaign to restore natural areas across the watershed.

The Maitland Conservation Foundation is a registered, charitable non-profit organization that supports conservation and environmental projects being undertaken by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.

Forest Health Assessment

The MCF supported the MVCA Forest Health Project that will help determine how the health and resiliency of area forests can be improved across the watershed.



Blayne and Praneet are two of the students doing Forest Assessment. The assessment included a pollinator study and found Eastern bumblebees in healthy forests. There was one rare bee species found in the area. Blayne also worked with the Interior Bird Study. Interestingly, they found at least three species of birds not known to live in the area forests.

The MVCA is finalizing its first Forest Health Report and will summarize the tree health in the watershed.

Every Contribution Counts

Invest your time and skills to help build a healthy environment. You can serve as an MCF Board Member or volunteer on one of our committees. The MCF has a fundraising committee and an events committee.

Follow us on
Facebook!



If you would like to make an annual, monthly or one time donation to the campaign please contact:

foundation@mvca.on.ca
or pbeard@mvca.on.ca
519 335 3557 ext 231



Are you an Avid Photographer

We are running a monthly photography contest.

Details are on our
Facebook Page

Memorial/Celebration Grove

For a \$100 donation a tree will be planted in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a milestone or event. The Grove is located at the George Taylor Conservation Area near Walton.

Thank you to all donors!

Your donations enable us to support conservation projects

Did you know that the Maitland Conservation Foundation has supported projects of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority for **48 years**.

Photography Workshop



In June 2023 we hosted a Photography Workshop and Guided Tour at the Wawanosh Conservation Area. Photographer, Cory Bilyea shared tips on capturing beautiful nature photographs.

Watch for details as we plan another Photography Workshop in 2024 and a photography contest (details will be available on our Facebook page).

Donation by Howick Mutual Insurance



Thank you to Howick Mutual Insurance for a generous donation to the new Picnic shelter at Wawanosh Conservation Area. Photographed is MCF director Kate Procter, Howick Mutual Representatives, Tammy Hickling and Annette Mackenzie.

John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund

The JHETF has supported numerous projects at the Conservation Areas this year including this new kiosk at Lake Wawanosh Conservation Area. Other projects the JHETF has supported this year include a new Horse Tie and gate sign at the Saratoga Conservation Area.



Our fundraising goal for 2023 is to raise \$85,000 for the Inspired by Nature Campaign.

It is easy to make donations: There are many convenient ways you can make a donation.

1. Online donations -Visit www.canadahelps.org and search for the Maitland Conservation Foundation.
2. Credit Card—Please contact us at foundation@mvca.on.ca or 519 335 3557 ext 246 to make arrangements
3. Cheque or cash- Please make cheques payable to the Maitland Conservation Foundation and mail to:
Maitland Conservation Foundation
Box 127
Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0
4. E-transfer –To e-Transfer a donation to the MCF please use the email address foundation@mvca.on.ca to send your donation. Please let us know your address for your receipts.

We are committed to protecting the privacy of our donors. We do not make our mailing list available to other organizations. If you would prefer to not receive communication from us please let us know:

Maitland Conservation Foundation
Box 127
Wroxeter, ON
N0G 2X0

519-335-3557
Lori Gordon -extension 246
Phil Beard -extension 231

foundation@mvca.on.ca



MCF Directors: from left to right: Kate Procter (Past Chair), Francis Hogan, Ben Miltenburg, Kriss Snell (Chair), Phil Beard (interim Executive Director), Nigel Bellchamber, front row: Jordan Nairn (vice chair) and Ruth Knight
Missing from photo Matt Duncan and Lori Gordon (secretary/treasurer)

Join Our Monthly Giving Club!

Your monthly gift will ensure continued success for the environmental projects we support.



The Maitland Conservation Foundation is a registered, charitable non-profit organization that supports conservation and environmental projects being undertaken by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.

Newsletter 2023



A new kiosk at the popular Lake Wawanosh Conservation Area.

JHETF Directors:

Chair: Geoff King

Secretary: Klaus Seeger

MCF Liaison: Phil Beard

Treasurer: Lori Gordon

Directors: Susan Chan

Clare Day

Marg Gould

Wendy Hoernig

Brian Jeffray

Alison Lobb

Honorary Director:

Mark Sully

Maitland Conservation
Foundation

Box 127

Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0

519-335-3557 ext. 231 (Phil) or
246 (Lori)

Thanks to your donations the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund continues to work towards ensuring a strong natural environment both for today's world and for the future one that belongs to our children.



MVCA staff member Erin Gouthro discussed Forest Health Assessment with the JHETF.



New Gates were installed at Saratoga Swamp Conservation Area and Lake Wawanosh Conservation Area.



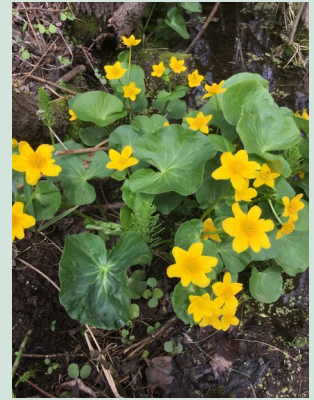
During their October 2023 tour JHETF board members stood on the bridge that heads the major project of replacing the extensive **Boardwalk at the Naftel's Creek Conservation Area**. Stewart provided an update on recent improvements at Naftel's and at **Lake Wawanosh, Saratoga Swamp and Stapleton Tract Conservation Areas**. Erin and Mat reviewed the **Forest Health Assessment Project**, with it's ground-breaking research bringing much needed attention to the importance of forest health.

Left to right are: Mat Shetler (MVCA), Geoff King, Erin Gouthro (MVCA), Susan Chan, Stewart Lockie (MVCA), Marg Gould, Wendy Hoernig, Klaus Seeger and Clare Day.

Donations to Nature Last More than a Lifetime

You can help the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund support environmental and conservation projects.

1. Online donations -Visit www.canadahelps.org and search for the Maitland Conservation Foundation. On the Foundation page look for the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund.
2. Credit Card—Please contact us at foundation@mvca.on.ca or 519 335 3557 ext 246 to make arrangements
3. Cheque or cash- Please make cheques payable to the Maitland Conservation Foundation and mail to:
Maitland Conservation Foundation
Box 127
Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0
Please indicate the JHETF with your donation.
4. E-transfer –To e-Transfer a donation to the MCF please use the email address foundation@mvca.on.ca to send your donation. Please let us know your address for your receipt and specify that your donation is to the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund.



Annual Spring Hike, Plant and Compost Sale

The annual **Plant and Compost Sale on May 13th 2023** was a huge success. We are looking forward to seeing you again in 2024.

JHETF Annual Spring Hike, Plant and Compost Sale **May 11th, 2024** Columbus Centre Parking lot, Goderich



We are committed to protecting the privacy of our donors. We do not make our mailing list available to other organizations. If you would prefer to not receive our mailings please contact us.

The John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund is administered by The Maitland Conservation Foundation (MCF). The MCF is a registered, charitable non-profit organization that supports conservation and environmental projects being undertaken by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. Charitable number 119029403 RR001



Member's Report #72-2023

To: Member's, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From Danielle Livingston, Administrative and Financial Services Coordinator
Date: December 13, 2023

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

Recommendation

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

Financial Summary Report Ending November 2023	
Revenue Invoiced	\$265,091.84
Accounts Paid	\$557,564.41

Financial Status at Month Ending November 2023	
Bank Loans Outstanding	\$0.00
Bank Balance at Month End	\$1,883,825.41
Total	\$1,883,825.41

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Accounts Receivable as of November 30, 2023

Operating Budget Revenue

Corporate

Corporate Services	sale office support/rent office equipment	\$	515.70
	Drinking Water Source Protection rent/overhead	\$	220.00
	bank interest	\$	9,060.41
	Huron Clean Water Project administration	\$	466.49
		\$	10,262.60

Total Corporate Services \$ 10,262.60

Flood Safety

Planning/Regulations	planning application fees	\$	2,610.00
	property advisory fees	\$	180.00
	solicitor inquires	\$	1,430.00
	CWMS/watercourse regulations	\$	3,030.00
	regulation applications	\$	825.00
		\$	8,075.00

Total Flood Safety Services \$ 8,075.00

Conservation Areas

FRCA	camping and park admission	\$	1,517.69
	sales/concession booth	\$	226.00
		\$	1,743.69

MDO	property revenue	\$	8,142.29
		\$	8,142.29

Motor Pool	revenue	\$	3,672.87
		\$	3,672.87

Total Conservation Areas Operations \$ 13,558.85

Total Operating Budget Revenue \$ 31,896.45

Projects Budget Revenue

Watershed Stewardship

Nature Climate Solutions	funding	\$	81,320.38
		\$	81,320.38

ONFARM funding	\$ 2,922.03
	\$ 2,922.03
Restoration/Natural Hazard funding	\$ 92,500.00
	\$ 92,500.00
Middle Maitland Restoration donations	\$ 5,000.00
	\$ 5,000.00
Huron County Clean Water funding	\$ 47,860.15
	\$ 47,860.15
Total Watershed Stewardship Services	\$ 229,602.56
Conservation Areas	
Conservation Area Projects donations	\$ 96.00
Vehicle Replacement sales	\$ 2,231.52
	\$ 2,231.52
Total Conservation Areas	\$ 2,231.52
Special Projects	
DWSP Transition Ausable Bayfield Conservation reimbursement	\$ 1,361.31
	\$ 1,361.31
Total Special Projects	\$ 1,361.31
Total Project Budget Revenue	\$ 233,195.39
Total Operating and Project Revenues	\$ 265,091.84

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Expense Reports
As of November 30, 2023

Date	Num	Name	Amount
11/01/2023	Nov23EFT	Sun Life Financial	(5,719.67)
11/14/2023	24749	Bell Canada-properties	(479.40)
11/14/2023	24750	Bell Mobility Inc. 500181172	(554.24)
11/14/2023	24751	Bell Mobility (FRCA 501214021)	(351.39)
11/14/2023	24752	Domm Construction Ltd	(135,212.41)
11/14/2023	24753	Huron Telecommunications Co-op Ltd.	(25.99)
11/14/2023	24754	Telizon Inc.	(15.31)
11/14/2023	24755	Sherry Snell	(212.68)
11/14/2023	24756	N.C. Jones & Sons Ltd.	(28,544.21)
11/14/2023	24757	Brad Borland	(4,554.00)
11/14/2023	24758	Greg Love	(4,125.00)
11/14/2023	24759	Aquafor Beech Limited	(44,426.98)
11/14/2023	24760	Kimberly Zinger	(171.01)
11/14/2023	24761	Wightman Telecom Ltd.	(1,023.35)
11/14/2023	00700	ALS Canada Ltd.	(216.96)
11/14/2023	00701	AnnaMarie Soleski	(90.00)
11/14/2023	00702	Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	(3,597.52)
11/14/2023	00703	B.M. Ross & Associates Limited	(9,333.80)
11/14/2023	00704	Brandt Security	(22.60)
11/14/2023	00705	Conservation Ontario	(9,277.36)
11/14/2023	00706	ContinuIT Corp.	(5,352.84)
11/14/2023	00707	Elizabeth Huber-Kidby	(287.04)
11/14/2023	00708	Erin Norsworthy	(125.15)
11/14/2023	00709	F.S. Partners	(125.14)
11/14/2023	00710	Fastenal Canada, LTD	(36.63)
11/14/2023	00711	Foxton Fuels Limited	(312.95)
11/14/2023	00712	Hodgins BC Wingham	(180.48)
11/14/2023	00713	Huron Tractor Ltd.	(34.32)
11/14/2023	00714	Ideal Supply Inc.	(165.45)
11/14/2023	00715	Kirsten Snoek	(111.24)
11/14/2023	00716	Laurie Little	(111.24)
11/14/2023	00717	Lei's Lumber Company Ltd	(188.16)
11/14/2023	00718	Maitland Trail Association	(692.25)
11/14/2023	00719	Mars-Bluewater Recycling Association	(361.60)
11/14/2023	00720	MicroAge BASICS	(102.10)
11/14/2023	00721	Mid Western Newspapers	(154.40)
11/14/2023	00722	North Huron Publishing Company Inc.	(27.29)
11/14/2023	00723	Public Services Health & Safety Ass.	(450.87)
11/14/2023	00724	R. J. Burnside & Associates	(9,001.61)
11/14/2023	00725	Sepoy Wiring Ltd.	(160.10)

11/14/2023	00726	Shannon Millar	(317.52)
11/14/2023	00727	Sparlings Propane-Parkland Corporation	(290.74)
11/14/2023	00728	T Giesbrecht Custom Service Ltd.	(452.00)
11/14/2023	00729	Waste Management of Canada Corporation	(848.20)
11/14/2023	00730	Watson's Home Hardware	(46.74)
11/14/2023	00731	Westario Power Inc.	(33.00)
11/14/2023	24762	Cliff's Plumbing & Heating	(9,682.97)
11/14/2023	24763	TAS Excavating & Rentals Ltd.	(72,000.63)
11/14/2023	24764	Affordable Waste Disposal	(592.00)
11/14/2023	24765	Federal Express Canada Corp.	(58.09)
11/14/2023	24766	CIBC Visa Centre	(3,536.72)
11/15/2023		Payroll	(42,316.11)
11/28/2023	24767	Arcadis Canada Inc	(1,243.00)
11/28/2023	24768	John Bosman	(750.00)
11/28/2023	24769	Glenn and Erma Hartung	(125.00)
11/28/2023	24770	Mark Penhale	(450.00)
11/28/2023	24771	Matthew Elligson	(1,199.92)
11/28/2023	24772	Mark Montgomery	(1,066.92)
11/28/2023	24773	Schmidt's Power Equipment	(74.47)
11/28/2023	24774	Solid Ground Landscaping	(2,909.75)
11/28/2023	24775	M.G.M. Townsend Tire	(276.96)
11/28/2023	24776	C & R Barn Removal and Salvage	(12,927.20)
11/28/2023	24777	James Armstrong	(900.00)
11/28/2023	24778	Friends of Hullett	(747.71)
11/28/2023	24779	Gerretsen Farms Ltd.	(2,500.00)
11/28/2023	24780	Tony and Allison Dekroon	(825.00)
11/28/2023	24781	Huron Telecommunications Cooperative Ltd	(25.99)
11/28/2023	00732	Blackburn Media Inc.	(226.00)
11/28/2023	00733	Borrmann's Garage	(146.49)
11/28/2023	00734	Car Quest Goderich #6511	(42.67)
11/28/2023	00735	Donnelly and Murphy - Lawyers	(339.00)
11/28/2023	00736	Edward Fuels	(254.52)
11/28/2023	00737	Elizabeth Huber-Kidby	(167.61)
11/28/2023	00738	Fastenal Canada, LTD	(550.51)
11/28/2023	00739	James Kaye	(2,125.00)
11/28/2023	00740	Karlene Zurbrigg	(680.00)
11/28/2023	00741	Laura Hopkins	(235.04)
11/28/2023	00742	Marianne Love Consulting Services Inc.	(339.00)
11/28/2023	00743	Michelle Quipp	(41.00)
11/28/2023	00744	North Huron Publishing Company Inc.	(197.57)
11/28/2023	00745	Postmedia Network Inc.	(179.99)
11/28/2023	00746	Stewart Lockie	(200.00)
11/28/2023	00747	The Drafting Clinic Canada Limited	(600.75)
11/28/2023	00748	Yellow Pages	(14.80)
11/28/2023	00749	Zuzek Inc.	(4,952.79)

11/28/2023	24782	Municipality of Central Huron (customer)	(6,858.98)
11/30/2023		Payroll	(44,123.38)
11/30/2023	Nov23EFT	OMERS	(30,712.98)
11/30/2023	Nov23EFT	Minister of Finance	(2,638.31)
11/30/2023	Nov23EFT	Receiver General	(35,612.46)
11/30/2023	Nov23EFT	Workplace Safety & Insurance Board	(4,194.18)
		Total	(557,564.41)