

## Annual Meeting of the Membership#2-2024

February 14, 2024

**Members Present:** Alison Lobb, Ed McGugan, Alvin McLellan, Sharen Zinn, Ed Podniewicz, Matt Duncan, Vanessa Kelly, Anita Van Hittersum

**Members Absent:** Megan Gibson, Andrew Fournier, Evan Hickey

**Staff Present:** Phil Beard, Jayne Thompson, Michelle Quipp, Erica Magee, Mat Shetler, Jason Moir, Stewart Lockie, Barry Skinn, Cheryl Dobbyn, Danielle Livingston, Donna Clark, Elizabeth Huber-Hidby, Emily Shaw, Jeff Winzenrid, Karlene Zurbrigg, Marissa Roefs, Shannon Millar, Tim Prentice, Dave Nuhn

**Others Present:** Kriss Snell, John Thompson, Beth Ross, Erik Downing, Alana Dick, Amy Gangl; Rachel White; Ted Briggs, Bill Strong, Deb Shewfelt, Jim Campbell, Vince Judge, Glen McNeil, David Yates, Cory Bilyea, Jeff Brick, Jamie Heffer, Geoff King, Terry Fisk, Art Versteeg, Wilf Gamble, Marg Beard, Angela Coleman, Paul Heffer, Rosemary Rognvaldson, Dave Grummett, Shirley Moore, Larry Allison, Dave Turton, Dianne Dosman, Marg Anderson, Jim Ginn

### 1. Welcome by the Chair

Chair, Matt Duncan, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

### 2. Introduction of the Members of Maitland Conservation for 2024

Chair Duncan invited all the Members of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority introduce themselves and the Municipalities that they represent.

### 3. Introduction of Guests

Chair Duncan invited the following dignitaries to introduction themselves on behalf of their organization and to bring remarks: Angela Coleman, Executive Director, Conservation Ontario; Ben Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce, represented by Bill Strong; Glen McNeil, Warden, County of Huron, Mayor of ACW; Jamie Heffer, Mayor, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry; and Paul Heffer, Reeve, Township

of North Huron.

Chair Duncan introduced past Chairs, Vice Chairs and Second Vice Chairs of MCVA attending: George Wicke, Vince Judge, Wilf Gamble, Deb Shewfelt, Art Versteeg, Jim Campbell, Dave Turton and Terry Fisk.

#### **4. Chair's Remarks**

I have had the privilege of serving as MVCA's Chair for the past two years.

It has been an honour to work with the members over that time.

We have accomplished a lot and have worked well together to make decisions that are in the best interests of the health of the watershed.

As many of you may know we are fortunate to have some of the most productive farmland in Ontario

We also have some of the finest hardwood forests in Ontario.

The Maitland River is one of the best small mouth bass rivers in Southwestern Ontario.

The Lake Huron shoreline is highly valued for recreation and tourism.

These are all natural assets that help sustain prosperity in the Maitland watershed.

These natural resources are also the foundation of our life support system, along with clean air and a stable climate.

As you know the Provincial Government passed a regulation requiring conservation authorities to enter into an agreement with their member municipalities for programs and services that the Province considered to be non-mandatory.

These programs included watershed stewardship and watershed health. MVCA's Vision is working for a Healthy Environment, therefore it is critical that MVCA continue to provide programs that help to improve the health of rivers, forests, and soil.

MVCA Member municipalities agreed to continue to support these programs.

MVCA was one of the first if not the first conservation authority in the province to have an agreement in place with all its member municipalities.

Some of the other highlights for me from the past year include:

- developing an agreement with the Municipality of North Perth to lease the Galbraith Conservation Area
- the Watershed Stewardship work that we were able to undertake in cooperation with landowners and community groups in 2023
- a total of 179 stewardship projects were carried out in 2023 through the Huron and Wellington County Clean Water Projects
- the Forest Health assessment that was completed in 2023, this groundbreaking work will lead to the development of new approaches for improving the health of forests
- the coastal resiliency project that MVCA is leading to identify ways to use nature-based approaches to improving the health of the Lake Huron shoreline
- the continued success of the Falls Reserve Conservation Area for camping, hiking, swimming, and fishing.
- It is a natural gem that is highly valued by the public
- in 2023 accessible washrooms and showers were added
- The construction of the bat condo at the Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area, to provide

habitat for the colony of little brown bats now that the barn has been removed

- And finally, OMAFRA and MECP's continuing leadership and support for the Healthy Lake Huron collaborative.

- It is a model for how Federal and Provincial governments can work together with conservation authorities, counties, health units and other community groups to improve the health and resiliency of the rivers and streams that flow into Lake Huron.

- I would like to especially thank our MPP Lisa Thompson for her willingness to continue to champion the continuation of the Healthy Lake Huron initiative. You will hear more about this initiative later in our program.

To our member municipalities, I would like to thank you for your continued support of MVCA over the past year.

We appreciate your willingness to continue to support our work.

We can accomplish a lot and be more effective when we work together.

I would like to thank the Maitland Conservation Foundation and the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund Board for their continuing efforts to raise funds to help MVCA to upgrade the infrastructure in our conservation areas and to use for restoring natural areas across the watershed.

I would also like to thank the staff for their dedication and commitment to improve the health of the watershed.

Your professionalism and work ethic are appreciated by the members.

- In closing I thank the members for their support over the past two years and I look forward to continuing to serve as a member of MVCA.

## 5. Staff Service Awards

Chair Duncan and Vice Chair McGugan announced staff service awards:

- a) Mat Shetler, Watershed Monitoring Specialist: 15 years
- b) Jason Moir, Park Superintendent Falls Reserve Conservation Area: 20 years
- c) Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator: 25 years
- d) Erica Magee, Executive Assistant: 25 years

## 6. Election of Officers: Maitland Conservation & Maitland Source Protection Authority

### a) Appointment of Presiding Officer and Scrutineers

Chair Duncan called for an appointment of a Presiding Officer for the election of Chair.

### Motion FA #10-2024

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT Glen McNeill act as the Presiding Officer for the election of Chair, Vice, and Second Vice for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and the Maitland Source Protection Authority (MSPA).

(carried)

## **b) Election of Chair for 2024**

Presiding Officer McNeill called for nominations for the position of Chair for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and the Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024.

### **Motion FA #12-24**

**Moved by:** Alvin McLellan

THAT Ed McGugan be nominated for Chair of the MVCA and the MSPA for 2024.

(carried)

Presiding Officer McNeill called for nominations for the Chair position two more times. There were no further nominations and the Presiding Officer called for a motion to close nominations.

### **Motion FA #13-24**

**Moved by:** Sharen Zinn

**Seconded by:** Ed Podniewicz

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024 be closed.

(carried)

Ed McGugan agreed to stand for the position of Chair in 2024.

Presiding Officer, McNeill declared Ed McGugan as the Chair of the MVCA and MSPA for 2024.

## **c) Election of Vice-Chair for 2024**

Ed McGugan, Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024.

### **Motion FA #14-24**

**Moved by:** Alvin McLellan

THAT Matt Duncan be nominated for Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024.

(carried)

The Chair called for further nominations for Vice-Chair two more times and no others were made so then called for a motion to close nominations.

### **Motion FA #15-24**

**Moved by:** Anita Van Hittersum

**Seconded by:** Sharen Zinn

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024 be closed.

(carried)

Matt Duncan accepted the Vice-Chair position.

The Chair declared Matt Duncan Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024.

**d) Election of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair for 2024**

The Chair called for nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024.

**Motion FA #16-24**

**Moved by:** Alvin McLellan

THAT Evan Hickey be nominated for 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024.

(carried)

Evan Hickey agreed to stand for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair in 2024.

The Chair called for further nominations for 2nd Vice-Chair and this motion was made.

**Motion FA #17-24**

**Moved by:** Sharen Zinn **Seconded by:** Vanessa Kelly

THAT nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024 be closed.

(carried)

Chair McGugan declared Evan Hickey as 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024.

**7. “We Are Inspired by Nature” Campaign Update: Kriss Snell, Chair, Maitland Conservation Foundation**

Chair Snell provided an overview of the MCF’s “Inspired by Nature” campaign. He announced that the MCF raised \$104,000 in 2023 that can be used for nature restoration projects and for improving infrastructure in MVCA’s conservation areas.

**8. Presentations: “Celebrating Partnerships”**

- a) Healthy Lake Huron: Ted Briggs, Great Lakes Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks
- b) Trails-Gorrie Conservation Area: Alana Dick, Administrative Assistant, Township of Howick
- c) Galbraith Conservation Area Agreement: Amy Gangl, Manager of Programs, Municipality of North Perth
- d) Huron Clean Water Project: Rachel White, Biologist, County of Huron

The Chair thanked each of the presenters for partnering with MVCA on these projects.

**9. Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2024: Report #10-2024**

Report #10-2024 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

**Motion FA #18-24**

**Moved by:** Anita Van Hittersum      **Seconded by:** Vanessa Kelly

THAT the meeting schedule for 2024 be approved as outlined in Report #10-2024.

**10. Closing Remarks: Chair, MVCA**

Chair, McGugan thanked everyone for attending the Maitland Valley Conservation annual meeting and asked everyone to stay for a social time after the meeting is adjourned.

**11. Adjournment:**

Next meeting: March 20, 2024, at 7:00pm at MVCA's Admin. Centre located in Wroxeter.

**Motion FA #19-24**

**Moved by:** Vanessa Kelly      **Seconded by:** Sharen Zinn

THAT the Members Meeting be adjourned at 3:26pm.  
(carried)



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Ed McGugan  
Chair



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Phil Beard  
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer