

Notice of Meeting
Meeting of the Membership #8-2024

Date: October 16, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Location: Administrative Centre, Wroxeter

Agenda

1. Welcome by the Chair
2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
3. Approval of the Minutes: Meeting #7 held on September 18, 2024.
4. Business Out of the Minutes:
 - a) 75th Anniversary Planning: Report #60-2024
 - b) Administrative Review Draft Policy: #61-2024
 - c) Technical Guidelines for Natural Hazards-Response from the Ministry of Natural Resources: Report #62-2024
5. Business Requiring Decision and or Direction:
 - a) 2025-2027 Work Plan and Budget Forecast: Report #63a&b-2024
 - b) Southern Lake Huron Coastal Action Plan-Restoring Sediment Pathways & Dam Decommissioning Project: Report #64-2024
 - c) Comments Received – Draft Watershed Strategy: Report #65-2024
 - d) Conservation Lands Strategy: Report #66-2024
6. Chair and Members Reports
7. Consent Agenda:
 - a) Revenue/Expenditure Report for September 2024: Report #67-2024
 - b) Agreements Signed: Report #68-2024
 - c) Carbon Footprint Initiative-October 2 Meeting Summary: Report #69-2024
 - d) Story: Destination Maitland
8. Adjournment: Next Meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 7:00pm.

Membership Meeting #7-2024

September 18, 2024

Members Present: Alison Lobb, Ed McGugan, Alvin McLellan, Megan Gibson, Andrew Fournier, Matt Duncan, Vanessa Kelly, Evan Hickey, Anita Van Hittersum, Ed Podniewicz

Members Absent: Sharen Zinn, Matt Duncan

Staff Present: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer
Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Services Coordinator
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning and Regulations Supervisor
Donna Clark, Source Water Protection Specialist
Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist
Sarah Gunnewick, Water Resources Engineer
Jason Moir, Park Superintendent
Michelle Quipp, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chair, Ed 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 #6-2024 held on June 19, 2024.

Motion FA #68-24

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Evan Hickey

THAT the minutes from the General Membership Meeting #6-2024 held on June 19 2024, be approved.

(carried)

4. Business out of the Minutes:

- a) Review of MVCA's Vision, Mission and Ends: Report #47-2024

Report #47-2024 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #69-24

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT a change is necessary to shift the short-term goals from "to stabilize MVCA's financial base" to "to ensure MVCA's financial stability."

(carried)

- b) Review of Members Roles and Responsibilities: Report #48-2024

Report #48-2024 was presented to the members and no motions were made.

- c) Emergency Meeting Policy Amendments: Report #49-2024

Report #49-2024 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #70-24

Moved by: Anita Van Hittersum

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT the Administrative Regulation be revised to incorporate the revised policy for organizing emergency meetings of the membership.

(carried)

- d) 75th Anniversary Planning: Report #50-2024

Report #50-2024 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #71-24

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Ed Podniewicz

THAT a report be provided from staff with revised details on a meal and tour and year-round activities.

(carried)

5. Presentations:

- a) **Aquatic Health Assessment:** Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist, provided the Members with an overview of the ongoing aquatic health assessment.

- b) **2024 Work Update Plan:** Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer, provided the Members with an overview of the activities undertaken by MVCA over the summer.

6. Business Requiring Decision and or Direction:

- a) Critical Infrastructure and Equipment Strategy: Report #51-2024

Report #51-2024 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #72-24

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Evan Hickey

THAT the Infrastructure and Equipment Strategy outlined in Report #51-24 be used to develop the 2025-2027 Work Plan and Budget Forecast and that the Forecast be updated in 2025 to incorporate the infrastructure and equipment required for Flood Safety Services.
(carried)

- b) Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Agreements: Report #52-2024

Report #52-2024 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #73-24

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the Authority authorize the signing of Recreational WECl cost share agreements with the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry;
AND THAT the Authority authorize the signing of the cost share agreement with the Municipality of Huron East once accepted. (carried)

- c) Pioneer Conservation Area-Possible Transfer of Lands: Report 53-2024

Report #53-2024 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #74-24

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT MVCA declare part of the Pioneer Conservation Area as surplus.
(carried)

Motion FA #75-24

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Anita Van Hittersum

THAT MVCA negotiates transfer of part of Pioneer Conservation Area to the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry.
(carried)

d) Administrative Review Policy Development & Status of Technical Guidelines for Natural Hazards-Section 28 Regulation: Report #54-2024

Report #54-2024 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #76-24

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Evan Hickey

THAT at least three of the following four: Chair, Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair and member who is representing that municipality, will be responsible for making decisions on requests for administrative reviews.

(carried)

e) Purchase of Backhoe Attachment–Fall Reserve Conservation Area: Report #55-2024

Report #55-2024 was presented to the members and the following motions were made:

Motion FA #77-24

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Anita Van Hittersum

THAT the 2024 Budget for the Falls Reserve Conservation Area be amended to include the purchase of a backhoe attachment that configures and matches with our current owned New Holland Boomer 55 tractor;

AND THAT the New Holland model 935GBH backhoe attachment be purchase from Roberts Farm Equipment for an amount \$19,000 plus HST;

AND THAT the purchase be funded from the Falls Reserve Accumulated Surplus.

(carried)

7. Correspondence for Direction: Report #56-2024

Report #56-2024 was presented to the members and the following motions were made:

Motion FA #78-24

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT MVCA will continue to participate in the Healthy Lake Huron initiative and that the General Manger represents MVCA on the steering committee.

(carried)

Motion FA #79-24

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Evan Hickey

THAT the Letter from Upper Thames River Conservation Authority be noted and filed.

(carried)

Motion FA #80-24

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Evan Hickey

THAT the letter about the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub be noted and filed.
(defeated)

Motion FA #81-24

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT MVCA will participant in the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub.
(carried)

Motion FA #82-24

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT the letter from Fern Wylie be noted and filed.
(carried)

8. Chair and Member Reports

Chair and General Manager met with the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, as well as MPP, Lisa Thompson, to discuss support for Healthy Lake Huron.

9. Consent Agenda:

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

- a) 2024 Work Plan and Budget Update: Report #57a&b-2024
- b) Revenue/Expenditure Report for June, July & August 2024: Report #58-2024
- c) Agreements Signed: Reeport #59-2024

Motion FA #83-24

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Vanessa Kelly

THAT Report #57b-59 along with the respective motions as outlined in the Consent Agenda be approved.
(carried)

10. Adjournment: Next meeting: October 16, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Administrative Centre, Wroxeter.

Motion FA #84-24

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT the Members Meeting be adjourned at 9:27 pm.
(carried)

Ed McGugan
Chair

Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

DRAFT

Members Report #60-2024

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer;
Jayne Thompson, Communications and GIS-IT Coordinator
Date: October 9, 2024
Subject: 75th Anniversary Planning Report

Purpose:

To provide Members with additional information concerning social media planning for the anniversary in 2026 and to provide an additional option for a 75th anniversary event.

Social Media:

Report #50 presented at the September Members' meeting included a reference to the development of social media anniversary content with an estimated cost of \$2,600. This estimate is based on a minimum of 14 posts:

- 3-4 high resolution slide scans per post at \$7 per scan - \$392.00
- 6 high resolution digital scans of historic documents (pamphlets, posters, newspaper clippings etc.) at approximately \$12 per scan - \$72.00
- 6 high resolution digital scans of historic photos at \$5 per scan - \$30.00
- Boosting of posts for watershed coverage (Facebook and X) at \$125 per post - \$1,750
- Design of anniversary social media template by graphic artist: \$325
- Total: \$2,569

Potential Anniversary Event

At the September meeting Members reviewed potential options for marking Maitland Conservation's 75th anniversary. Staff would like to provide an additional option for consideration.

Based on the success of this year's Water Festival in North Perth, and discussions with other Conservation Authorities about celebration events, staff are proposing a River Festival event open to the general public and community partners. The intent would be to provide an opportunity for visitors to participate in hands-on activities focused on the river ecosystem and the connections between the river, forests and soil. It would provide an opportunity to highlight our services and partnerships in an informal, family friendly way and broaden awareness of the Conservation Authority. In addition, it would spotlight the Maitland River and remind visitors about what a special resource it is.

Including partners in the event would lighten the load of planning while increasing the potential audience beyond our traditional connections.

While there would be numerous details to work out, key components could include:

- Activity and information stations relating to the river and conservation that visitors rotate through at their own pace (i.e. angling, stewardship, stream creatures, hiking, pollinators, flood safety and watershed monitoring). These stations would be led by Maitland Conservation staff and volunteers and community partners.
- Anniversary messaging incorporated into advertising, an MVCA display and/or remarks.
- A conservation project could potentially be worked into the event (tree planting, pollinator planting etc.)

Logistics

- If possible, offering free admission would help with making the event family friendly.
- Accessibility planning would be incorporated into event preparation.
- Potential timing – June 2026
- There are several possible locations for this type of event. If planning moves ahead staff will narrow potential locations down based on accessibility, access to the river, parking and activity requirements.
- Forming a planning committee would assist with recruiting partners and exhibitors and coordinating event logistics. It is expected that Maitland Conservation staff would handle items such as permits, insurance, safety considerations, advertising and budgeting.

Next Steps

If Members are interested in considering this event further, staff will develop an event outline and draft budget for review early in 2025.

Recommendation:

To be developed at the October 16, 2024, Members' meeting.

Members Report #61-2024

To: Members, MVCA
From: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer;
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning & Regulations Supervisor
Date: October 3, 2024
Subject: Draft Policies for Administrative Reviews under Section 8 of Ontario
Regulation 41/24

Purpose:

To review the draft policies developed for 'Administrative Reviews' under section 8 of Ontario Regulation 41/42, and the proposed composition of an Administrative Review Committee.

Administrative Review Background:

Ontario Regulation 41/24 (brought into effect April 1, 2024) lays out the abilities for an applicant to request an "administrative review". Section 8 of the Regulation establishes the eligibility, timeline, and notification requirements for an applicant to request a review of their permit application by the Authority.

An administrative review does not deal with the review of an application in terms of whether a permit is to be issued. An administrative review deals with only:

- (a) the applicant has not received a notice from the authority whether or not their application is complete.
- (b) the applicant disagrees with the authority's determination that the application for a permit is incomplete; or
- (c) the applicant is of the view that a request by the authority for other information, studies or plans is not reasonable.

On September 18, 2024 (Members Report #54-2024) the Members provide direction to draft a policy for future review and approval.

The policies drafted (Section 8 of MVCA Policies for Administering Ontario Regulation 41/24; attached) uses a policy framework developed by Conservation Ontario, adapting it to the Authorities existing policies, and proposing the following based on the Member's direction at the September Meeting:

Motion FA #76-24

THAT at least three of the following four: Chair, Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair and member who is representing that municipality, will be responsible for making decisions on requests for administrative reviews.

(carried)

The Section 8 Permit Review policies are composed of eleven subsections, addressing:

1. The purpose of these reviews, and what scope of issues they are design to address (8.1)
2. Discussing the value of pre-Submission consultation as a means to clarify and solve issues related to study requirements before and application is made (8.2)
3. Reference to where complete application requirements can be found (8.3)
4. Describing what constitutes eligibility for an administrative review (8.4)
5. Timeline for the administrative review (8.5)
6. Authority to Delegate Powers (8.6) – this section describes the actual parties who are delegated to authority to conduct these reviews on MVCA's behalf. As per the September 18th Members Motion this responsibility is delegated as follows:

“As such, the Authority delegates the above administrative review powers to a committee composed of:

1. At least three of the following Members:
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair (first)
 - c. Vice-Chair (second)
 - d. Member within whose Municipality the application was made

To be referred to as the Administrative Review Committee and supported by the General Manger-Secretary Treasurer.”

7. The process by which MVCA expects a request for Administrative Review to be submitted (8.7)
8. Administrative Review Process (8.8) – this section includes a subsection on evaluation criteria. This evaluation criteria relates to study requirements. In essence, the evaluation seeks to answer whether a particular plan or study is required for the Authority to make an informed decision on whether the proposed activity:
 - a. is not likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock; and
 - b. is not likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property;
9. The decision, specifically what it does and does not address and that it is final (8.9)
10. How the decision is to be relayed to the person requesting the review (8.10), and
11. Administrative Review Policy Updates (8.11)

Recommendation:

To approve the posting the draft Administrative Review policy for 30 days and to review any comments at the November 20th Members meeting.

MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

POLICIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SECTION 28 OF THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT AND ONTARIO REGULATION 41/24

Excerpt: Section 8.0 [“Administrative” or “Section 8” Reviews]

8.0 - SECTION 8 PERMIT REVIEWS

The Regulation describes the following:

Request for review

8. (1) An applicant may request a review by the authority if,

(a) the applicant has not received a notice from the authority within 21 days in accordance with subsection 7 (2);

(b) the applicant disagrees with the authority’s determination that the application for a permit is incomplete; or

(c) the applicant is of the view that a request by the authority for other information, studies or plans under clause 7 (1) (i) is not reasonable.

(2) A review requested by an applicant under subsection (1) shall be completed by the authority no later than 30 days after it is requested and the authority shall, as the case may be,

(a) confirm that the application meets the requirements of subsection 7 (1) and is complete or provide reasons why the application is incomplete; or

(b) provide reasons why a request for other information, studies or plans under clause 7 (1) (i) is reasonable or withdraw the request for all or some of the information, studies or plans.

For a review to be undertaken, the applicant must make a request in writing and specify their concern as being:

- More than 21 days since an application submission without comment on its completeness, and/or,
- Dispute of the studies or plans requested by the Authority as being reasonable
- Dispute of the staff determination on an application’s completeness

A Section 8 Permit review will not be undertaken in the absence of the above concern(s).

The policies outlined below are intended to guide the Authority or its delegate when receiving, evaluating, and making a decision related to a request for review (herein referred to as an “administrative review”) submitted in accordance with s. 8 of O. Reg. 41/24 made under the Conservation Authorities Act, as amended.

8.1 Purpose of an Administrative Review

The purpose of an administrative review is to provide the applicant with an opportunity to resolve issues specified in ss. 8 (1) of the Regulation.

Administrative reviews do not determine whether a permit will be issued, or the scope of conditions proposed to be attached to a permit; these factors will be assessed throughout the permit review process, after the administrative review is complete. An applicant will be provided with an opportunity to be heard by the Authority in a hearing should staff recommend refusal of their application, or should staff propose permit conditions the applicant disagrees with.

Details regarding eligibility for administrative reviews are provided in Section 8.2 below.

8.2 Pre-submission Consultation

The Authority recommends that pre-submission consultation occur for the purpose of confirming the requirements of a complete application to obtain a permit. Please see the Authority’s Section 4.0 for more information.

Where an application has been submitted without pre-consultation, complete application requirements should be communicated to the applicant, in writing, during the 21 days allotted for a complete application decision.

8.3 Complete Application Requirements

The Authority’s complete application requirements are in accordance with s. 7 (1) and (2) of O. Reg. 41/24 and are outlined in Section 5.0.

8.4 Eligibility

Requests for administrative review apply to applications made under s. 28.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act. Administrative reviews undertaken by the Authority (or its delegate) shall be conducted under the following circumstances:

- 1) The applicant has not received written confirmation from the Authority within 21 days upon submission of the application and fee in accordance with the Authority's Complete Application Policies; or,
- 2) The applicant disagrees with the Authority's determination that the application for a permit is incomplete; and/or,
- 3) The applicant is of the view that the request for other information, studies or plans is not reasonable.

The administrative review process is not available where the development activity has commenced without the necessary CA permits in place.

8.5 Timeline for Review

Administrative reviews are completed within 30 days of receipt of a requested review. However, there may be extenuating circumstances where it is not possible to complete the administrative review within 30 days. In these cases, the Authority (or its delegate) will provide notice to the applicant of any anticipated delays and obtain written approval of the applicant to extend the timeline, if feasible.

8.6 Authority (or Delegate) Powers

Subsection 8(2) of the Regulation establishes the outcome of an administrative review; being that the Authority (or its delegate) must:

- (a) confirm that the application meets the requirements for a complete application; or provide reasons why the application is incomplete; and/or,

(b) provide reasons why a request for other information, studies or plans is reasonable or withdraw the request for all or some of the information, studies, or plans.

Section 28.4 of the Conservation Authorities Act enables an Authority to delegate any of its powers related to the issuance or cancellation of permits or to the holding of hearings

in relation to the permits to its executive committee or to any other person or body subject to limitations or requirements prescribed by regulation. As such, the Authority delegates the above administrative review powers to a committee composed of:

1. At least three of the following Members:
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair (first)
 - c. Vice-Chair (second)
 - d. Member within whose Municipality the application was made

To be referred to as the Administrative Review Committee and supported by the General Manger-Secretary Treasurer.

8.7 Submitting a Request for Administrative Review

The administrative review process must be commenced by the applicant by notifying a CA staff member / generic email. The applicant will be provided with the “Request for Administrative Review” form (or directed to an on-line form.) Upon submission of the completed form and permit application fee, the Administrative Review Committee will commence the administrative review.

8.8 Administrative Review Process

Upon receipt of a completed “Request for Administrative Review” form, the Administrative Review Committee (the committee) shall review all the information provided through the submission as well as all information available on the application in question. The committee may also reach out to the applicant for clarification or questions regarding their request for administrative review.

The committee will evaluate the request for administrative review in accordance with s. 8.8.1 below.

8.8.1 Evaluation Criteria

The Authority (or delegate) shall evaluate the request for administrative review in accordance with the following standards:

- 1) That the request for review meets the eligibility criteria outlined in section 8.4 of these policies.
- 2) That the application and/or the requests for information, studies and plans by the CA are consistent with the requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act and O. Reg. 41/24.
- 3) That the applicant has submitted all information detailed in Section 5.0
- 4) To determine if the CA's request for other information, plans and studies is reasonable, the request must be made in accordance with the CA's Development Policies for the proposed project, must reflect site-specific hazards, and the request is consistent with similar application requirements within the watershed. The determination should be based on whether the plans or studies are required by the Authority to make an informed decision that:
 - (a) the activity is not likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock;
 - (b) the activity is not likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property; and
 - (c) any other requirements that may be prescribed by the regulations are met.

8.9 Decision

The decision for an administrative review is limited to determining a complete application and / or whether the request for all or some of the information, studies or plans is reasonable; it is not a decision as to whether or not to issue a permit, nor a process to settle permit fee disputes. The administrative review decision of the Administrative Review Committee is final.

Upon completing the administrative review, the Authority (or delegate) will notify the applicant of the decision in writing, which must:

- Confirm that the application meets the Authority’s complete application requirements and is complete or provide reasons why the application is incomplete; or,
- Provide reasons why requests for other information, studies or plans are reasonable, or withdraw the request for all or some of the information, studies or plans (if applicable).

A copy of or link to these policies will be included in the decision notice.

8.10 Notice and Communication

The Administrative Review Committee shall provide the following correspondence in writing to the applicant:

- 1) Within 1-2 business days, upon receipt of a “Request for Review” form, confirm the receipt of the request, set out the start and end dates of the administrative review period (requests for administrative review shall be completed within 30 days upon receipt of the request, unless an extension is approved by the applicant); and,
- 2) Forthwith, upon completion of the review, provide notice of decision, with reasons.

8.11 Administrative Review Policy - Updates

The Authority will review and update the Administrative Review Policies consistent with the CA’s Service Delivery Standards for Administration of Ontario Regulation 41/24. Draft updates to the policies will be posted on the CA’s website for a minimum of 30 days for stakeholder and public consultation in advance of consideration by the Authority’s Members.

Members Report #62-2024

To: Members, MVCA
From: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer;
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning & Regulations Supervisor
Date: October 3, 2024
Subject: Technical Guidelines for Natural Hazards-Response from MNR
Interim Approach for Reviewing Development Applications within the natural hazard areas along the Lake Huron Shoreline

Purpose:

To review the response from the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the timelines for release of the Technical Guidelines for Natural Hazards.

To outline the interim criteria that MVCA will use to review applications for development located within the limits of the natural hazard areas not subject to other management schemes (such as two-zone floodplain management or special policy areas) including areas along the Lake Huron shoreline.

Technical Guide Background:

On August 12, 2024, MVCA's Chair sent a letter to Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron Bruce requesting her assistance to determine the status of the release of the technical guidelines for natural hazards.

On September 26, 2024, MVCA received a response from Lisa Thompson's office. Copy attached. The technical guidelines are going to be released for public review in the winter of 2025 according to the email received from the MPP's staff.

In the interim, having no explicit date at which to expect a fully updated set of guidance documents, staff propose to include the following in Section 6 – [Granting Permissions] of MVCA Policies for Administering Ontario Regulation 41/24:

“MVCA will rely on the use of Provincial Technical Guides and Technical Bulletins, as available, to determine appropriate interpretations and limitations for development within hazardous lands” [section 6.o p.11]

MVCA will utilize the most contemporary Provincial technical guidance available to us, in order to make reasonable and responsible judgement when development applications are received, while waiting for the full release of updated technical guidelines for natural hazards.

Many CAs are undertaking thorough policy reviews since the release of Ontario Regulation 41/24. Furthermore, many are capitalizing on timely funding programs (largely through the Great Lake Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative and the Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Program, to develop shoreline management plans. Use of the most contemporary available technical guidelines, including information provided to the Conservation Authority network at a staff level in 2023, is expected to help develop consistency amongst CA development policies now, and into the near future.

Recommendation:

That the draft interim policy utilizing the most updated Technical guidelines available to MVCA be used to review development applications in hazardous areas And that the draft policy outlined in Report 62-2024 be posted for public comment for 30 days And further that the comments be reviewed by the Members at the November 20, 2024 meeting.

Received by email on September 26, 2024:

We shared the attached letter with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Please find below the messaging our office received from Ministry officials:

“As committed in Ontario’s Flooding Strategy, the MNR is reviewing and updating its suite of flood and erosion technical guidance, which will result in upwards of 8-10 new technical guides/bulletins. Given the technical nature and size of the documents, the updates are occurring in stages, guideline by guideline.

The Data Survey and Mapping Technical Bulletin was released in December 2023. The Technical Bulletin provides guidance on creating new or updating existing flood hazard mapping.

Updates to the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System Technical Guide, the new Hydrology and Hydraulics Technical Bulletin (which will include a policy proposal regarding the use of structural measures) and the River and Stream Systems: Erosion Hazard Limit are ongoing, with consultations slated for fall 2024, winter 2025, and Fall 2025, respectively.

Revisions to and consultations for additional priority materials – including the Incorporating Climate Change Technical Bulletin, the Flood Proofing Technical Bulletin, and Special Policy Area Policy and Procedures will follow in 2026 and 2027.”

Kind Regards,

Thanks So Much

Sarah Baird

Constituency Assistant

Lisa Thompson

MPP Huron-Bruce

408 Queen St. P.O. Box 426

Blyth, ON NoM 1Ho

P: 519-523-4251|1-800-668-9320|F:226-523-9296

Members Report #63A-2024

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer
Date: October 3, 2024

Subject: 2025-2027 Draft Work Plan

Purpose:

To outline the major activities and authority funded projects that need to be undertaken by MVCA over the next three years.

Background:

MVCA reviews and updates the three-year work plan and financial forecast annually.

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

Objectives:

The work plan focuses on the following objectives:

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. To ensure that MVCA has a stable financial base so that we can help our member municipalities to develop a healthy, resilient, and prosperous watershed.

Over the past ten years the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority has been transforming its services to help its member municipalities, businesses, and landowners to develop plans and to take action that will help them to reduce their carbon footprint, reduce the impacts of climate change, and develop healthy and resilient forests, rivers and soil across the watershed.

The watersheds within our jurisdiction have some of the best agricultural land and forests in Ontario. The Maitland River is one of the best small mouth bass rivers in Ontario. The Lake Huron shoreline is highly valued for recreation and tourism. These are all natural assets that provide the foundation for the prosperity of the communities and citizens who live in the watersheds within our jurisdiction.

However, our changing climate is having a major impact on the health of the watersheds within our jurisdiction.

The climate in the Great Lakes Region has changed significantly over the past 40 years. The trends and impacts that we have experienced include, hotter, drier, longer summers, and interspersed with intense localized rainfall events. These intense rainfall events have increased the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption in flood prone communities across the watershed. There is \$176 million dollars of development and several thousand people who live and or work in flood prone communities in the Maitland watershed.

There are over 800 residences valued at \$750 million dollars located in areas that are at greater risk of property damage from bluff collapse, gully erosion and shoreline erosion.

The watersheds within our jurisdiction have some of the most productive farmland in Ontario. Over 60% of the watershed (470,000 acres) is prime agricultural land.

A warmer climate holds more water vapor in suspension which results in more intense rainfall events. These types of rainfall events increase the potential for soil and nutrients to be washed into rivers, streams, and Lake Huron.

MVCA is in the process of transforming its services so that we can help municipalities, community groups, and landowners to develop plans and implement systems that will ensure that we have a healthy and resilient watershed for present and future generations.

Components:

MVCA's three-year work plan has been updated for each of MVCA's service areas. Watershed Monitoring and Health Assessment has been separated from Watershed Stewardship as a stand-alone service.

1. Corporate Services
2. Flood/Erosion Safety Services
3. Watershed Stewardship Services
4. Conservation Areas Services
5. Drinking Water Source Protection
6. Watershed Monitoring and Health Assessment

The work plan for each service area outlines the major activities and projects that are to be undertaken over the next three years. Activities and projects have been identified based upon:

1. Prior approval by the Membership
2. Major project
3. Activity or project is included as a separate project in the budget
4. Activity or project involves a member municipality

Recommendation:

THAT the three-year work plan outlined in Report #63a-2024 be approved for planning purposes as well as a guide for the development of the 2025 work plan.

CORPORATE SERVICES DRAFT WORK PLAN: 2025-2027.

Updated: September, 2024

1. Responsible for the leadership, governance, administration, and financial management of Maitland Conservation.

2. Service Components

a) Governance / Leadership Responsibilities (MVCA/MSPA) Conservation Authorities Act and Clean Water Act

- i) Financial Planning and Monitoring
- ii) Monitoring Progress of Annual Work Plan
- iii) Government Relations: Municipal, Provincial & Federal
- iv) Strategic Planning: Annual and Three-Year Work Plans
- v) Governance: MVCA, MSPA and Conservation Ontario
- vi) Partnerships: MCF, DWSP, CFI and HLH

b) Administration / Human Resources / Equipment

- i) Human Resources Planning and Administration
- ii) Workspace and Equipment Management
- iii) Records Retention and Management
- iv) Compliance with Legislation related to Employment, Health & Safety, and Accessibility

c) Financial Management

- i) Bookkeeping, Investments, Banking, Financial Planning
- ii) Tangible Capital Asset Management
- iii) Financial Agreements with External Funders

d) Communications

- i) Communications strategy development and implementation
- ii) Provide communications and marketing support to each service area

e) Information Technology and Geographic Information System

- i) IT /GIS support for all service areas

Staffing: General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer; Executive Assistant;
Administrative-Finance Coordinator; Clerk; Administrative Assistant; GIS Specialist;
Communications-GIS-IT Coordinator

<p>CORPORATE SERVICES Governance & Leadership</p> <p>Objective: To ensure that the Membership has the information it needs to provide direction on governance and policy matters.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Priorities-Budget-Levy 2. Three Year Work Plan/Budget 3. Government Relations Strategy: Federal/Provincial 4. Appointments to Committees/Boards 5. Draft Budget, Levy, Priorities 6. Members Training-Education 7. Conservation Ontario 8. Maitland Source Protection Authority Board & JMC 9. Maitland Conservation Foundation 10. Members' Meeting package 11. Governance Review Implementation 12. MOU for Services & Programs with Member Municipalities June 2026 13. First Nations & Meti Relationship development 14. Orientation of New Members 15. Carbon Footprint Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets needs of MVCA & approved by Membership and municipalities • Meets needs of MVCA & approved by Members • MPs & MPPs support MVCA Positions & priorities & projects • All positions filled • Meets needs of MVCA/approved in principle by the Members • Governance Training that meets needs & responsibilities of the Members • Provide technical support to Voting Delegate at council meetings • Reports & Agendas. Support Board to develop an agreement that meets MSPA's needs and responsibilities • Support MCF & JHETF Boards and Fundraising Committee • Agenda and reports that meet the needs of the Membership • Improved governance • Approval of MOU with all municipalities. • Working relationship developed with interested First Nations and Meti councils • Members understand role and responsibilities • Members continue to implement carbon footprint strategies consistent with the CFI's Framework.
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<p>Administration & Human Resources</p> <p>Objectives: To ensure that MVCA is compliant with all applicable legislation and has policies and procedures in place to meet the authority's needs and requirements.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personnel Policies and procedures 2. Health & Safety Policies compliant with applicable legislation and Authority needs. 3. Administrative support for the Huron Clean Water Project 4. AODA 5. Review and identify changes to MVCA's Records Retention Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets Authority's needs and legislative requirements. Approved by Membership • Health and Safety Policies and Procedure meet legislative requirements and needs of authority. Approved by the Membership. • Issue grant payments and correspondence to landowners, quarterly delivery payment to secondary authority, data entry to comply with data-base requirements of stewardship services. • Website accessibility review. Submit updated AODA compliance report following review. • Amendments address needs of MVCA.
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<p>Financial Management</p> <p>Objectives: To ensure that MVCA is maintaining its financial records in compliance with authority and government requirements.</p> <p>To provide each service area with the support needed to monitor and plan operating and project revenue and expenditures</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tangible Capital Asset Inventory Maintenance: inventory, replacement cost & schedule 2. Three Year Budget Updates for operations and projects. 3. Financial Document Management 4. Posting of Changes to Fees Policy for all services that require a fee for services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the inventory of MVCA assets and replacement costs are updated annually • Identifies operating & capital needs for each service area • Infrastructure strategy updated annually • Organize and purge files to meet requirements of legislation as outlined in the MVCA policy • Changes in fees approved by the Membership annually & that meets MNR Regulation for Fee Changes
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<p>Communications</p> <p>Objectives: To ensure that our member municipalities, MPP’s, MP’s and the public are aware of MVCA’s three-year work plan, annual budget and work plan, and meetings.</p> <p>To ensure that our members municipalities, counties and other partners are aware of upcoming changes to Conservation Authorities services</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual refinement and implementation of communications strategy 2. Implement communications requirements relating to Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 4. Digital Assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-2027: Build support for MVCA priorities and services amongst primary target audiences (municipalities, MPs and MPPs, media) • 2025-2027: Prepare annual workplan and budget information package in Dec. – Jan. • 2025: Develop and evaluate options for long term support of IT and Communications • 2025-2027: Communications materials and practices in compliance with AODA. Ensure customer service module completed by new employees. Provide notices of service disruption as required. • 2025: Consolidation of photo and video storage and purging of surplus images. Work with contractor to acquire photos and drone footage of priority stewardship projects and Conservation Areas. • 2026: Updated Aerial Photography
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SUMMARY:

Corporate Services are responsible for ensuring that MVCA meets all its regulatory requirements under the CA Act.

Corporate Services will also lead the review and renewal of a MOU for services and programs with all municipalities. This MOU must be approved by June 2026.

Corporate Services will continue to work with WSC Canada, University of Guelph and the One Health Institute to develop the environmental pillar for Healthy Watersheds, People and Wildlife Approach

Corporate Services will continue to encourage the Healthy Lake Huron Steering Committee to incorporate the Healthy Watersheds, People and Wildlife approach into their terms of reference.

Corporate Services will continue to consult with First Nations and Meti Councils to determine if they are interested in partnering with MVCA on projects of mutual interest.

Corporate Services will ensure that the Members have the information and processes they need to enable them to make decisions that will meet their governance responsibilities.

Corporate services will provide the administrative and financial support services that will help each service area to carry out their responsibilities safely, efficiently, and effectively.

Maitland Conservation will continue to support the Maitland Conservation Foundation by appointing a member to sit on the MCF and JHETF Board.

Maitland Conservation will continue to provide the services of the General Manager Secretary Treasurer to act as Interim Executive Director to provide support to the MCF and JHETF Boards and the MCF Fundraising Committee.

Corporate Services will also focus on building good working relationships with the MPPs, MPs and Member municipalities in the watershed.

Flood/Erosion Safety Services

- 1. Reduce the risk to life and property from flooding and/or erosion in a rapidly changing climate using emergency preparedness, flood forecasting, planning, regulation, and infrastructure.**
- 2. Conserve features and functions of the river systems and Lake Huron shoreline**

2. Service Components:

a) Preparedness

- i) Emergency planning and training for staff and municipalities
- ii) Flood/erosion risk mapping
- iii) Regulation of development in hazard areas
- iv) Planning support to municipalities regarding natural hazards
- vi) Natural Hazards Strategy Component of mandatory watershed management strategy
- vii) ice management plans for the Nine Mile at Port Albert and the Maitland River at Saltford

b) Monitoring

- i) Year-round monitoring and data acquisition for river levels, snow pack, precipitation and runoff potential
- ii) Maintenance of all monitoring equipment
- iii) Development and maintenance of flood forecasting tools
- iv) Monitoring bluff & gully collapse and toe erosion along the Lake Huon shoreline

c) Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructure (Listowel Conduit, Goderich Bluffs/Groyne and McGuffin Gully)

- i) Annual inspections
- ii) Annual minor maintenance
- iii) Major maintenance planning in conjunction with partners
- iv) natural hazard infrastructure operational management plan(s),
- vi) natural hazard infrastructure asset management plan(s)

d) Response

- i) Utilizing all MVCA staff as necessary to operate the flood forecast system and provide watch and warning messages to municipalities during flood and erosion emergencies

Staffing: Flood Forecast Supervisor, Planning and Regulations Supervisor, Field Services Coordinator, Field Services Technicians, Environmental Planner-Regulations Officer, Regulations Officer, Water Resources Engineer, and Communications-GIS-IT Coordinator, GIS Specialist, Natural Hazards & Stewardship Outreach Technician.

Flood Erosion Safety Service – 2025-2027 work plan:

Component	Priorities	Outcomes
<p>Preparedness</p> <p>Focus: Directing new development away from natural hazards. Ensuring municipalities have appropriate information to respond to a flood or erosion emergencies for existing development in hazard areas.</p>	<p>Administration of Development, Interference / Alteration Regulation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss of features/functions due to development in flood plain, shoreline, river valley dynamic beaches or wetlands • Development that does not affect flood control, erosion, pollution, dynamic beaches or conservation of land • No adverse alterations to watercourses • No interference to wetlands
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use Planning Support/Drainage Act Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: • MT OP/ZBL • HE OP • 2026: • County OP • BLU OP/ZBL • HOW OP/ZBL • 2027: • ACW OP/ZBL • NH OP/ZBL • GOD OP/ZBL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal land use plans that are consistent with the natural hazard policies in the Provincial Planning Policy • Municipal Land Use &/or zoning amendments that are consistent with the natural hazard policies in the PPS. • Municipal land use &/or zoning amendments that are complement MVCA’s development/interference policies with respect to wetlands and watercourses • Drainage Act applications that will not have an adverse impact on flood control, erosion, pollution or conservation of land • Conform with natural hazard policies in Provincial Policy Statement • Staff can consistently and appropriately allocate resources to alleged violations

	Flood Hazard Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop options to capitalize on future or renewed Contribution Agreements• Set priorities for rural flood plain mapping updates and develop workplan, scope, and quotes in preparation to pursue FHIMP funding out to 2028• Update Wingham FP mapping to reflect Howson Dam removal through 2024 FHIMP extensions• Update Huron-Kinloss FP mapping for Lucknow (comparable to the 2018 Harriston update and 2020 Wingham update)
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	<p>Southern Lake Huron Adaptation Action Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate formation of Littoral Cell Technical Committee (guidance and governance role in adaptation action plan pilots) • Deliver workplan items and progress in accordance with the Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Program (NRCAN) • Deliver workplan items and progress in accordance with the Great Lake Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (ECCC) • Works to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transformative development policy (shoreline development policy tools through zoning bylaws, policy recommendations to be developed) - Planned Retreat Manual (guide and gap identification document to assist municipalities in navigated shoreline asset and structure relocation (private and public) including jurisdictional review) - Work out options for sediment bypass for the Goderich Harbour, the main littoral drift disruptor in terms of MVCA's shoreline sediment supply - Assist Conservation Ontario in developing BMPs for the above - Implement sediment bypass designs south of Rotary Cove - Develop detailed sediment modelling for the MVCA shoreline (i.e. sediment budget) and assess stresses of shoreline changes such as hardening - Develop public information tools relating to the sediment scheme of the littoral cell - Form and reinforce relationships with shoreline communities, municipal partners, first nations, adjacent CAs, and others, surrounding these project outcomes and shoreline interests into the future
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding and Erosion Emergency Planning Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities with flood and or erosion damage centres are prepared to deal with flood and erosion emergencies. • Provide up-to date progression mapping for emergency services (such as North Perth when new mapping is available)
<p>Staff emergency training: annual exercise to be carried out with FESS staff and regular training to keep staff up to date</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff capable of carrying out their responsibilities during a flood and/or erosion emergency • Practical Training Run completed i.e. run through mock flood event
<p>S.28 support & General support for Minto with flood damage remediation strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage, and facilitate where possible, continued support for the Harriston flood mitigation project, promoting advocacy for Flood Mitigation works and funding • Work in partnership with Minto in implementing the flood mitigation strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in review and permit process of incremental flood mitigation strategy developed to reduce flood damages in Harriston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listowel Quantity/Quality Gauging Station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish new gauging station upstream of conduit with leftover FHIMP funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucknow Hydrology Project – continue data collection and pursue funding options for mapping • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To obtain sufficient flow information collected to calibrate the future flood forecast model for Lucknow area • Pursue Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping funding with support from Huron-Kinloss to update flood hazard mapping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Floodplain Mapping Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine hydrology data needs • Determine strategy to update and fund rural mapping through FHIMP • Assess scope of work required to update rural one-zone mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine cost estimate for hydraulic structure surveys
<p>Watershed Flood Forecast Model</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood forecast model that works in all seasons to accurately forecast magnitude and timing of flood events to aid municipal emergency response • Develop ML platform via partnership with Aquanty

	Replace adcon radio telemetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition Harriston & Listowel HPMN from cellular RA440s to Palmerston Water Tower (3G sunset Dec 2025) • Find radio-based telemetry to replace adcon equipment • Determine inventory & cost of existing adcon sensors that will also need to be replaced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of rain gauges and stream gauging stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure that gauges accurately record rainfall and streamflow information so that MVCA can better forecast potential flood events for member municipalities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hr day/7 days a week monitoring of weather and gauge data. Quality control and storage of all collected data. Operation of models as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all events with the potential for flood impacts identified to allow for activation of flood contingency plan. Ensures that MVCA can provide timely flood warnings to member municipalities
<p>Monitoring</p> <p>Focus: Monitoring rainfall and streamflow so timely flood messages can be issued to municipalities. Collecting accurate data to be used for hydrology modeling to improve flood forecasting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow Water Equivalent Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out MNRF snow survey program Provide data for snowpack modelling and runoff prediction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modelling development and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep continuous model updated • Improve runoff prediction • Improve snowpack modelling
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer rain gauge reader relationship building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since volunteer readers provide an improved understanding of rainfall events for flood forecasting and it is difficult to find new reliable readers, relationships will be built so that existing readers stay with the program
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular structure maintenance (Listowel Conduit, Goderich Bluffs/Groyne, McGuffin Gully) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor maintenance carried out as per annual inspection reports to keep them operating properly to continue to offer flooding/erosion protection
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for McGuffin Gully Erosion Control Project: Central Huron 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Options for maintenance and management. Municipal Drain or • Agreement between MVCA & landowners for Maintenance/Mgmt.

Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of structures (Listowel Conduit, Goderich Bluffs/Groyne, McGuffin Gully) Maintenance/Mgmt agreements signed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection reports completed and work plan developed for future maintenance so that budgeting can be done effectively WECI agreement to be approved on how future minor and major maintenance/repairs will be funded.
McGuffin Gully Erosion Control Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize all MVCA staff as necessary to operate the flood forecast system and provide watch and warning messages to municipalities during flood and erosion emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate flood messaging provided to municipalities to aid municipal decision making for municipal emergency response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document all flood/erosion emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation as per Flood Forecast and Warning Guidelines that may be used to increase flood standard if flood is beyond flood plain mapping

Summary:

The focus of Flood/Erosion Safety Services is to ensure that both MVCA and our member municipalities with flood and/or erosion prone areas are prepared to deal with the increasing probability of major flooding, shoreline erosion, bluff collapse and gully erosion.

Along 50 kms of the Lake Huron shoreline 2023 values show \$ 750 million of assessed property located within areas subject to shoreline, gully, or bluff erosion. The value of at-risk development on the shoreline has roughly tripled since last assessed in 2012, it is expected the at-risk development in urban flood damage centres has also tripled, which would bring the value to ~ \$ 500 million.

Additional priorities include:

- a) develop new flood forecast monitoring network telemetry
- b) Funding application for new rural flood hazard mapping
- c) Shoreline Deliverables, including:
 - a. Transformative development policy recommendations
 - b. Planned Retreat Manual development
 - c. Work out options for sediment bypass for the Goderich Harbour
 - d. Assist Conservation Ontario in developing BMPs for the above
 - e. Implement sediment bypass designs south of Rotary Cove
 - f. Develop detailed sediment modelling for the MVCA shoreline
 - g. Develop public information tools relating to the shoreline processes
 - h. Form and reinforce relationships with shoreline communities

Further to this, we want to support ongoing efforts including:

- Completion of new flood hazard mapping in Lucknow pursuant to FHIMP application
- Completion of Howson Dam removal flood hazard update pursuant to FHIMP application
- Supporting the Town of Minto in the development of the proposed Flood Mitigation project.

Conservation Areas Services:

1. Responsible for the management, development, and protection of significant natural resource lands, features, and infrastructure on Authority owned property as well as the management of the Authority's motor pool and equipment services.

2. Service Components:

a) Management/Development of Authority Lands

- i) Lands and Infrastructure - inspections, maintenance, and enforcement
- ii) Water Control Structures - inspections, maintenance, and operations
- iii) Forest Management
- iv) Administration

b) Land Acquisition

- i) Review land donations or purchases for conservation purposes

c) Leasing/Agreements on Authority Lands

- i) Review lease/use agreements that are compatible with the land use
- ii) Monitoring of agreements

d) Motor Pool Management

- i) Authority Vehicles - inspections, maintenance and purchasing
- ii) Authority Equipment - inspections, maintenance and purchasing
- iii) Authority emissions control and reductions

e) Falls Reserve and Wawanosh Park Conservation Areas

- i) Lands and Infrastructure - inspections and maintenance
- ii) Campground Operations - enforcement, gate control
- iii) Administration - financial, personnel, reporting

Staffing: Conservation Areas Coordinator; Field Services Specialists; Field Services Assistant; FRCA/WPCA Superintendent; FRCA/WPCA Assistant Superintendent; Water control structures require additional help from Watershed Monitoring Specialist and Flood Forecasting Supervisor.

Conservation Areas Service: 2025-2027 work plan:

Component	Priorities	Outcomes
<p>Management/ Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-2027 Forestry Management • 2025-2027 Conservation Areas inspections and maintenance • 2025-2026 Conservation Areas Signage • 2025-2026 Administration office renovations • 2025 Naftel’s Conservation Area Improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation and hardwood management completed as indicated in forest management plans. Renew expiring managed forest plans. • Continue with Invasive species control in Conservation Areas. Perform mechanical removal of buckthorn at Wawanosh Valley CA along agricultural fields to prepare for future naturalization of marginal areas. • Prioritize restoration efforts and complete planting of native trees to increase biodiversity and improve forest health. • Complete required inspections and remedy hazards including removal of hazard trees, trail surface repairs, and building repairs. • Replacement of property identification signage to inform users of permissible activities. • Renovate bathrooms in south part of building by updating fixtures and flooring for continued use. • Complete siding repairs on damaged wall section and repaint required areas. • Replace privy for continued community use in 2025. Work with possible funding partners to complete trail improvements including surface repairs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Maple keys building decommission. • 2025 Administration office parking lot • 2026 Pioneer Conservation Area • 2027 Gates and Barrier Replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove surplus building from woodlot. • Repair parking lot on south end of administration office with suitable material • Remove Privy from Parkland location. • Replace wooden posts at Pioneer C.A. and replace steel gates at Maple Keys C.A.
Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-2027 Wawanosh Valley CA. Agricultural land agreement • 2025 lease agreements at Turnberry Consv. Area • 2025 transfer agreement at Pioneer Consv. Area • 2026 user agreement at Kilgour Tract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew land agreement annually based on suitable agricultural practices. • Renew agreements that meet MVCA objectives/policies. • Begin negotiations for potential land transfer of ball diamond location with Municipality of Morris/Turnberry. • Renew user agreement with Maitland Trails Association for continued trail use.
Motor Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-2027 Carbon footprint strategy implementation • 2025 ½ ton truck replacement • 2025 Tractor and loader replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforest and naturalize lands to help store carbon and reduce fossil fuel use in fleet operations. • Replacement truck to be fuel efficient or electric powered that meets needs of MVCA and reduces carbon emissions. • Replacement with suitable hydrostatic model that meets the needs of the Authority.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2027 EV passenger vehicle replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace electric vehicle with suitable EV passenger car.
Falls Reserve Conservation Area,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-2027 FRCA Carbon Footprint Strategy Implementation • 2025-2027 Roadway and parking lot maintenance • 2025-2026 Falls Reserve CA Signage • 2025 Laptop replaced • 2025 Accessible picnic tables • 2025 Accessible trails • 2025 accessible campsites • 2025 Washroom stall partitions • 2026 Mower replacement • 2026 Maple washroom water heater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce fossil fuel use in park operations and plant trees/shrubs to sequester carbon. • Begin replacing asphalt roadway and parking areas for continued access. • Replacement of FRCA Roadway and park entrance signage to inform users of permissible activities. • Develop and install trail mapping signage. • Replace required IT infrastructure • Purchase accessible tables and replace • Design and start building accessible trails (day use area and connection trails between campgrounds) • Design and facilitate accessible campsites where feasible • Replace stall partitions in washrooms located in Maple and day use areas • Replace equipment with suitable fuel efficient or electric powered model that meets Authority requirements. • Replace large water boiler in Maple washroom with on demand energy efficient type

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026 Playground • 2027 Falls Access Stair and View Platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install a playground structure/equipment near the Falls Day-Use area • Engineering, design and install of a replacement stairs and view structure near the Falls Day-Use area.
Wawanosh Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Privy maintenance • 2025 Tree trimming maintenance • 2025 review operations at WPCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace roofing and fascia on privies, painting of outside boards to upkeep infrastructure. • Trimming of trees and overgrown vegetation around roadways, buildings, and campsite areas. • Review operations at WPCA and determine issues of compatibility, liability, feasibility for continued operations

Summary:

The priorities for Conservation Area Services over the next three years will be to:

1. Maintain, decommission, and develop priority infrastructure based on the needs and resources of the Authority.
2. Provide compatible recreational activities on Conservation Areas lands by monitoring use, educating users of acceptable activities and the issuance of permits where required.
3. Implement best management conservation practices on authority owned lands through the management of invasive species, completing forestry management identified in approved forestry management plans, and by developing “low maintenance” conservation areas.
4. Ensure that conservation areas are maintained to allow for public use by removing hazards and repairing essential infrastructure
5. Implement MVCA’s carbon footprint strategy to reduce the use of fossil fuels with respect to MVCA’s vehicles and equipment as well as to sequester carbon on MVCA lands through tree/shrub planting in conservation areas.

Watershed Monitoring and Health Assessment and Reporting

Work Plan 2025-2027

1. Assess ecological health of forests, wetlands and watercourses and collect environmental data to evaluate and report on the health of our aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in support of developing the ecosystem health component for Healthy Watersheds, People and Wildlife. Develop and use a suite of ecological health indicators using an ecosystems approach and provide a science-based holistic and robust analysis of our watershed's ecological integrity, environmental health and resiliency. Information and analysis will be provided in readily accessible formats to help staff and Board Members to focus and deliver program services, evaluate effectiveness, and to identify opportunities to progress and improve in the implementation of MVCA's mission to provide leadership to protect and enhance local water, forests and soil. To collect and provide information through the short, medium and longer terms as part of the foundation of building a watershed strategy.

2. Service Components:

a) Environmental Watershed Monitoring & Assessment

- i. Provincial Water Quality/Ground Water - Monitoring Network
- ii. Support service areas:
 - a. FESS – characterise features/functions of wetlands, watercourses
 - b. Conservation Areas – conservation and land management
 - c. DWSP – vulnerable areas planning
 - d. Stewardship – restoration
- iii. Assessment Projects:
 - a. Water sampling
 - i. Healthy Lake Huron, Pesticide
 - b. Aquatic Health Assessment
 - i. Survey ecological health of watershed aquatic ecosystems
 - c. Forest Health
 - i. NSCSF to identify better service landowners
 - ii. Continue monitoring for WA
 - iii. Interior Forest Bird Monitoring

Staffing: Watershed Monitoring Specialist
Watershed Ecologist

2026 - 2027 Work Plan

WORK PLAN 2024-2026

Component	Activities-Actions	Outcomes
<p>Watershed Monitoring & Assessment</p> <p>Focus: To understand the health of our watershed so that we can track progress and inform and guide decision making and restoration efforts using an integrated ecosystem approach.</p>	<p>Continue long-term environmental monitoring and reporting including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) – Partner with Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) to collect monthly water samples from PWQMN sites. • Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) – Partner with MECP to sample PGMN wells once a year and performs quality assurance at wells quarterly. Current agreement expires April 1, 2026. 	<p>Long term sampling will help to determine long term trends in water quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect information on surface water quality. • Collect information on ground water quality and quantity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Pesticide Water Monitoring Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term tracking of pesticides
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term Monitoring in Garvey-Glenn (Healthy Lake Huron) – Partner with MECP to collect 60 samples/year from mostly rain and melt events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve our understanding of small shoreline tributaries and their impact on Lake Huron. • Improve our understanding of run-off events and their impact on water quality

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Health Assessment Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of landowner interviews and evaluate options for forest management improvements (ECCC NSCSF Contract) • Continue with Citizen Science Forest Bird Monitoring and develop monitoring for forest pests and invasives • Continue to work with science advisory group and working towards improving forest resilience and health • Provide monitoring and assessment support to lands management and stewardship on outcomes of invasive plant management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Health Assessment Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct health survey across nine sub-watersheds • Field assessment on geomorphic and aquatic biota • Groundwater monitoring project Scott's Drain • Develop an aquatic science advisory group • Provide analysis and recommendations to improve resiliency and health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis, Reporting & Communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in CA Long-term Monitoring/SoCA group to advance skills in analysis, reporting and communication • Communicate findings and recommendations to service areas, partners, landowners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support FESS, Conservation Lands, DWSP, Stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information and data that is easily accessible for other staff to use based on the needs from other service areas

SUMMARY:

1. Watershed Monitoring and Health Assessment MVCA will continue to build a watershed health assessment and reporting program to improve MVCA's knowledge on the state of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems within the Maitland Watershed.
2. Assessment will be based on an ecosystem approach informed by sound indicators and science. This will provide a foundation to move towards multiple-indicator decision-making models/matrices (opposed to single-indicator decision models, e.g., producing board-timber) and performative evaluation (e.g., acreage of forests as opposed to health of forests). A multi-indicator model allows staff to robustly evaluate risks and opportunities, as well as the delivery of services and how these services might be improved in support of MVCA's mission. Multi-indicator evaluations also support approaches that can respond to cumulative impacts, as opposed to single impacts (e.g., most woodlots are experiencing more than five disturbances from disease to harvesting) to build resiliency.
3. Monitoring and reporting will include providing information in an easy-to-assimilate format that supports decision-making and program needs, identification of at-risk ecosystems and environmental scenarios, monitoring of immediate threats (e.g., new invasive pests) and corresponding management action, as well as information and recommendations provided to service areas to help identify and implement solutions through tools such as restoration plans and plantings.

Watershed Stewardship Services

Work Plan 2025-2027

1. Provide stewardship services to watershed landowners and municipalities that will help build watershed resiliency to protect and enhance our water, soils and forests.

2. Service Components:

a) Restoration

- i) Restoration planning services
- ii) Restoration promotion and demonstrations
- iii) Large stock and seedling sale

b) Soil Conservation Practices

- i) Rural storm water management and soil health support
- ii) Soil Conservation promotion and demonstrations

c) Watershed Stewardship Programs

- i) Delivery and administration of county water quality programs: Perth Stewardship Program, Huron Clean Water Project and Wellington Rural Water Quality Program
- ii) Development and administration of MVCA's Healthy Watersheds Programming
- iii) Active Partner in the Healthy Lake Huron Initiative

Extension Staffing: Restoration Supervisor, Agricultural Stewardship Supervisor, Watershed Forester, Stewardship Technician, Outreach Assistant. Forestry has support from Administration and Conservation Areas staff.

2025- 2027 Work Plan

*** Activities that will be dependent on additional funding sources for staffing key stewardship positions.**

WORK PLAN 2025-2027

Component	Priorities	Outcomes
Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Support and Project Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff provides technical support for stream buffers, wetlands, windbreaks, and fragile land retirement. • Planting plan service available to landowners • Support with funding applications for Perth Stewardship Program, Huron Clean Water Project, and Wellington Rural Water Quality Program, and special funds listed below: • Develop science support network
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • * Nature Based Climate Solutions Restoration Project (2024-2027) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for to restore floodplains and riparian across our watershed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Stream Restoration Project (2024-2027) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to remove private dams and online ponds to improve fish passage and sediment transport
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Middle Maitland Restoration Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for restoration projects within the Middle Maitland sub watershed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • * Shoreline Tributary Restoration Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for restoration in nearshore subbasins
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Community Planting Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host community planting events with partners • Increases community awareness of stewardship practices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Collaboration with Colleges and Universities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces new ideas, and approaches • Helps with recruitment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Tree and Shrub Sale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners and municipalities have access to native stock for conservation projects • Opportunity for staff to meet new clients and promote stewardship programs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate options to provide tree planting services for landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MVCA understands pros, cons and costs of delivering their own tree planting service. Currently utilize ABCA and SVCA to undertake some larger planting project, while MVCA develops capacity for smaller projects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop watershed strategy for restoration and review with key stakeholders
Soil Conservation and Rural Storm Water Management (RSWM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff help reduce barriers to project implementation by providing technical support and assistance with funding applications to Huron Clean Water Project, and Wellington Rural Water Quality Program, and special funds listed below • Develop science support network
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of erosion control structures, riparian plantings, and wetlands in municipal drains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of benefits and options for implementation • Ensures RSWM projects are maintained and protected into the future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *MECP and OMAFRA COA Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Soil Health Promotion in shoreline basins (2024) • Buffer planting and Rural Stormwater Management in shoreline basins (2024)
Watershed Stewardship Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huron Clean Water Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits and support with applications • Presentations to review committee • Processing all payments for the program • Builds watershed resiliency and improves water quality in Huron County.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures program categories and guidelines are updated to reflect needs in county
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellington Rural Water Quality Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits and support with applications • Presentations to review committee • Builds watershed resiliency and improves water quality in Wellington.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MVCA's Healthy Watersheds Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source external funds to support restoration in priority areas and cover crops • Nature Smart Climate Solutions, Environment Climate Change Canada, OMAFRA COA, MECP COA, OSCIA • Continue administering the Middle Maitland Restoration Fund
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Healthy Lake Huron Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand our Healthy Lake Huron stewardship efforts to all shoreline subbasins • Continue to participate in technical committee meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maitland Conservation Foundation (MCF) - Project Planning and Implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects builds watershed resiliency and improves water quality. • Develop three-year outline of projects • Provides MCF information on funding needs to support their fundraising efforts. • Coordinate and implement tour for Foundation members to showcase restoration projects

Summary:

The focus of Watershed Stewardship is to assist landowners and municipalities to restore the health of rivers, wetlands, and forests as well as to implement rural stormwater management systems, improve soil health and soil conservation projects. MVCA provides technical advice, project planning, and assistance with funding applications.

Our priority over the next three years will be to promote and implement projects that will restore the health and resiliency of rivers, wetlands, and forest ecosystems.

We will be reviewing our restoration approaches and seeking to incorporate a greater understanding of ecosystem restoration principles as well as climate change science to ensure our stewardship approaches will have the most benefit and highest chance of success. We will work with new partners to undertake river and wetland restoration projects with the watershed.

Stewardship services is seeking to develop the capacity to deliver pro-active stewardship in priority areas including the Middle Maitland watershed and North Shore sub-basins.

MVCA will also continue to implement the current priorities outlined in the work plan that Healthy Lake Huron has developed and assist the steering committee to develop the 5-year workplan for 2025-2029.

MVCA Three Year Work Plan for 2025-2027 - DWSP

Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Service Area

DWSP Funding:

The forecast is based on receiving continued program funding from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

Service Components:

- a) Governance / Leadership:
 - Maitland Source Protection Authority; Source Protection Committee; Joint Management Committee
 - Maintenance of local source protection program, including issues management
- b) Communications:
 - Promote the local source protection program
- c) Program Implementation:
 - Ongoing support of local source protection program
 - Implementation of Source Protection Plan policies where applicable
 - Review of local applications and planning proposals in vulnerable areas to ensure source water protection is considered
- d) Technical Support / “Technical Team” *:
 - Support the preparation of amendments to local source protection plan and associated assessment report to incorporate regulatory changes as well as technical assessment completed for new and expanding drinking water systems
 - Issuance of confirmation notices to system owners under the Clean Water Act O. Reg. 287/07, as required, for new or altered drinking water systems.
 - Review technical information received regarding changes to the landscape, such as new transport pathways in wellhead protection areas (WHPA) and intake protection zones (IPZ), to determine if assessment reports or source protection plans should be updated.

* The Technical Team is comprised of staff from the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Conservation Authorities. MVCA staff include the Water Resources Engineer, Communications-GIS-IT Coordinator and the Planning and Regulations Supervisor

Staffing: General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer, Communications-GIS-IT Coordinator, Water Resources Engineer and the Planning and Regulations Supervisor

2025-2027		
Component	Priorities	Outcomes
Governance / Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maitland Source Protection Authority (M SPA) Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal of SPA agreement with AB SPA to meet SPA's needs and responsibilities • Program awareness
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Management Committee (JMC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures all Source Protection Committee positions are filled • Approval of MECP budget proposal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source Protection Committee (SPC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support for work of SPC • Protection of municipal drinking water sources
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the local source protection program • Update members on changes to Clean Water Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build awareness of program and support for policies • Build knowledge
Program Implementation; Technical Support (Technical Team)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Source Protection Plan policies where applicable • Review of local applications / planning proposals in vulnerable areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet annual reporting requirements for Source Protection Plan • ensure source protection is considered in development application
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue confirmation notices to Municipalities for new or altered drinking water systems • Anticipate new wells for Harriston and Palmerston drinking water systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets requirement of Clean Water Act O. Reg. 287/07 • Ensures source water for new municipal well or intake is protected
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the preparation of amendments to the Source Protection Plan (SPP) • Anticipate SPP update in 2025-26 to incorporate proposed changes to municipal wells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Source Protection Plan is current and that regulatory changes and new / expanding drinking water systems are incorporated • Source water is well-protected

Members Report #63 B-2024

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)
From: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer (GM-ST)
Danielle Livingston, Administrative and Financial Services Coordinator
Date: October 8, 2024
Subject: 2025-2027 Financial Forecast

Purpose:

To provide an overview of MVCA's projected budget requirements for the next 3 years.

Background:

The membership establishes long-term work plans and priorities and then provides direction for staff to develop the draft budget and levy schedule for the upcoming year.

MVCA identified a need to increase resources to the following services in order to implement the services and programs identified in the agreement with member municipalities. The three areas are:

1. Watershed Stewardship Extension: specifically, reforestation & naturalization
2. Watershed Health Assessment
3. Essential equipment and infrastructure for Corporate, Conservation Areas and Flood and Erosion Safety Services.

2025-2027 Projection Factors:

1. Staffing Costs

A cost of living (COL) increase of \$1.08 per hour has been factored in the salary projections. COL is based upon the changes in the consumer price index for Ontario for the past year (3%). MVCA's practice is to review the average rate of the index August through September and establish a per-hour rate to apply to each grid band. September data will be released on October 10th.

Projected Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERCs) are included in the staffing cost estimates.

2. Support Costs

Staff have included projected increases in electricity, insurance, internet, taxes, Conservation Ontario (CO) levy, photocopying, telephone, etc. in the budget projections. Estimates are also based upon the projected changes in support costs identified in each service area over the next three years.

3. Fee-Based Revenue

Calculations include projections for fee-based revenue expectations of development and planning applications, GIS, forestry and campground and general sales.

4. Provincial Funding in Operating Budget

- a) Revenue from The Ministry of Environment Conservation & Parks (MECP) for the Drinking Water Source Protection program is included. The MECP has committed to providing funding for this program until March 31, 2027 and there is no indication of an end to this funding program.
- b) Revenue of \$39,424 from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is included in the forecast for all three years.

5. Accumulated Surplus

The forecast projects the need for use of reserve funds of \$20,176 to cover the projected shortfall in 2025 and to help reduce cost-apportionment increases to our member municipalities.

This table outlines MVCA's accumulated surplus and budgeted use for 2024.

Accumulated Surplus	Balance as of December 31, 2023	2024 Budgeted Use
Insurance	\$25,000	None
Vehicle & Equipment	\$126,740	\$59,400
Working Capital	\$643,568	\$219,445
Forestry Management	\$115,502	\$44,744
Short Term Disability	\$38,000	None
Total	\$948,810	\$323,589

Operating Forecast Summary 2025-2027

Revenue	2025	2026	2027
Levy	\$2,067,705	\$2,222,705	\$2,222,705
DWSP	\$22,311	\$22,974	\$26,299
HCWP Administration	\$5,823	\$5,940	\$6,058
Interest Income	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Provincial (S.39 portion \$36,424)	\$39,024	\$39,024	\$39,024
Rent and Land Use Revenue	\$12,805	\$12,952	\$12,980
General Sales & Forestry	\$185,500	\$185,500	\$185,500
Regulations & Planning Revenue	\$76,500	\$76,500	\$76,500
Total Revenue	\$2,469,668	\$2,625,595	\$2,628,997
Motor Pool Revenue to Reserve	\$18,450	\$19,330	\$20,208
Expenses			
Corporate	\$314,319	\$313,002	\$308,587
Flood and Erosion	\$73,530	\$73,916	\$74,309
Watershed Stewardship	\$152,305	\$152,305	\$152,305
Conservation Areas	\$62,840	\$63,983	\$65,170
DWSP	\$500	\$500	\$500
Wages	\$1,886,350	\$2,034,453	\$2,156,520
Total Expenses	\$2,489,844	\$2,638,158	\$2,757,391
Projected Shortfall (excluding motor pool surplus)	\$20,176	\$12,564	\$128,394

6. Levy

The Membership gave direction by Motion FA #81-23 to project a levy increase of \$175,000 when developing the 2025 and 2026 forecast but did not identify the amount to increase the levy for 2027.

7. Campgrounds

Falls Reserve Conservation Area (FRCA) and Wawanosh Park Conservation Area (WPCA) operate independently of each other and the MVCA. Levy is not directed to these service areas as funds are generated from user fees, sales, and summer employment programs.

FRCA and WPCA Forecast Summary 2025-2027

Revenue	2025	2024	2027
FRCA Camping	\$675,000	\$705,000	\$740,000
WPCA Camping	\$19,558	\$20,709	\$21,860
Federal Funding	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
General Sales	\$27,200	\$27,200	\$27,200
Total Revenue	\$732,758	\$763,909	\$800,060
Expenses			
FRCA Operating Expenses	\$196,420	\$197,535	\$200,996
FRCA Capital Expenses	\$125,926	\$152,000	\$200,000
WPCA Operating Expenses	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
Wages	\$406,103	\$430,469	\$456,297
Total Expenses	\$736,949	\$788,504	\$865,793
Outcome	-4,191	-24,595	-65,733

Accumulated Surplus	Balance as of December 31, 2023	2024 Budgeted Use
FRCA	\$212,422	\$16,698
WPCA	\$28,988	None
Total	\$241,410	\$16,698

8. MVCA Project Levy Forecast:

The MVCA is responsible for funding repairs, upgrades and decommissioning of equipment and infrastructure that we own. The sources of funding for these upgrades, repairs and replacement costs are:

- a) Municipal levy
- b) Maitland Conservation Foundation (MCF)
- c) MVCA's accumulated surplus. The MVCA has established accumulated surpluses for expenditures related to vehicles and equipment replacement, forestry management and authority funded projects.
- d) Provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program.

MVCA allocates \$120,000 in levy to authority funded projects. Staff are recommending that we continue to increase the amount of levy directed towards authority funded projects by \$10,000 each year for the next three years. This increase will reduce the need to utilize accumulated surplus to fund shortfalls in funding for authority funded projects identified for the next three years. Most of these projects were identified in the Essential Equipment and Infrastructure report that was approved by the Members at the September 18th meeting.

Summary:

MVCA is making great progress in addressing the shortfall in funding for its services and equipment and infrastructure. The shortfall in funding identified for 2025 and 2026 arises solely due to the forecasted decrease in revenue from planning and development applications and the freeze on increases to these fees imposed by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The shortfall for 2027 is forecast to be \$128,394. Staff are recommending that the Members support including this amount as a proposed levy increase for 2027 for the purposes of the three-year forecast.

Recommendations:

THAT the 2025-2027 financial forecast be accepted with the addition of the inclusion of including a proposed levy increase of \$128,394 for 2027 for planning purposes;
AND THAT the 2025 draft budget include a proposed levy increase of \$175,000
AND Further that the amount of the approved levy allocated for projects be increased by \$10,000 per year over the next three years.

Members Report #64-2024

To: Members, MVCA
From: Shannon Millar, Restoration Supervisor
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Supervisor of Planning & Regulations
Date: October 4, 2024
Subject: Southern Lake Huron Coastal Action Plan: Restoring Natural Sediment Transport Pathways Project (2024-2028)
Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative: Environment Canada

Purpose:

To provide an overview of the Southern Lake Huron Coastal Action Plan: Restoring Natural Sediment Transport Pathways.

Background:

The recently announced projects list from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) includes the Southern Lake Huron Coastal Action Plan: Restoring Natural Sediment Transport Pathways. This project will restore and protect the natural transport pathways along Lake Huron's southern shores. The project will also remove the remnants of a former mill dam located near Londesboro to reconnect the South Maitland River to Lake Huron.

This project builds on previous work and strong relationships established with Environment and Climate Change Canada, for smaller dam decommissioning and coastal resilience groundwork facilitated through the shoreline hazard mapping project.

This project will:

- Enhance local water quality in the South Maitland and Maitland River by reducing sediment and nutrient accumulation therefore reducing susceptibility to algal blooms
- Expand aquatic wildlife habitat, including sport fish and Species at Risk mussels by reconnecting 204km of upstream river
- Establish background sediment budgets for the nearshore (budgets for beaches)
- Assess nearshore stresses and impacts of shore hardening
- Help implement sediment bypass techniques from designs supported by detailed coastal modelling and engineering

Project Budget:

Environment Canada is providing 100% of the funding for this project. The total budget for the two components of this project is \$1,050,000. The Project was announced by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on June 26, 2024. See attached letter.

Project Coordination and Technical Support:

The technical work will be led by Pete Zuzek, Coastal Geomorphologist with Zuzek Inc. Daniela Klicper has been hired as Project Coordinator.

This project was identified in MVCA's 2024 work plan.

Recommendation:

That MVCA's 2024 budget be amended to include the funding received from Environment Canada and Climate Change for the Southern Lake Huron Coastal Action Plan: Restoring Natural Sediment Transport Pathways Project (2024-2028).



JUN 26 2024

Mr. Patrick Huber-Kidby
Planning and Regulations Supervisor
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
1093 Marietta Street
Wroxeter ON N0G 2X0

Dear Mr. Huber-Kidby:

I am pleased to inform you of the approval of funding for your project "Southern Lake Huron Coastal Action Plan: Restoring Natural Sediment Transport Pathways." This funding has been approved for a total value of up to \$1,050,000, payable up until March 31, 2028.

As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I seek the highest level of environmental quality in order to enhance the well-being of Canadians. In this regard, one of my priorities is to protect, conserve and have a positive impact on the environment.

Please note that this offer of funding is conditional on the successful negotiation of the project details and the signature of a contribution agreement by you and Environment and Climate Change Canada. Departmental officials will contact you to advise on the next steps and to work out the agreement details. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Mr. Daniel Wolfish, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister for the Department's Canada Water Agency, at daniel.wolfish@ec.gc.ca.

Specific administrative information associated with this contribution is enclosed.

I wish you every success in carrying out this important initiative for a healthy environment, and I extend my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Guilbeault".

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)

Enclosure

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION RELATED TO AN APPROVED CONTRIBUTION

It is important to note that no payments will be made by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) prior to the signature of the agreement by both parties. Furthermore, payments may be made only if you meet all of the terms and conditions set out in the agreement.

Expenditures made by you for the project before an agreement is signed may be considered for reimbursement by ECCC. However, only those expenditures described in an agreement will be considered for reimbursement by ECCC.

Members Report #65-2024

To: Members, MVCA
From: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer;
Jayne Thompson, Communications-IT-GIS Coordinator
Date: October 3, 2024
Subject: MVCA Draft Watershed Strategy-Municipal Comments

Purpose:

To review the comments received from member municipalities.
To outline the next steps in the process.

Background:

All conservation authorities are required to submit a watershed strategy to the Ministry of Natural Resources by December 31, 2024.

MVCA decided to base its watershed strategy on the 2024-2026 work plan that was approved by the Members on October 18, 2023.

MVCA has an agreement for services and programs with its member municipalities that must be renewed by June 30, 2026.

Circulation to Member Municipalities:

A summary of the draft watershed strategy was circulated to all Member municipalities on August 27, 2024. Municipalities were requested to submit comments to MVCA by September 30, 2024.

MVCA was invited to make a presentation on the draft watershed strategy to the following municipalities:

1. Township of Huron Kinloss
2. Municipality of Morris -Turnberry
3. Town of Minto
4. Township of Mapleton

Comments Received to date:

1. Township of Howick: see attached letter.
2. Town of Minto: passed motion of support
3. Township of Mapleton: passed motion to receive the information.

Public Review:

A draft summary of the watershed strategy was posted on MVCA's website in early August. The draft of the full version of the strategy was posted on the website in late September. Members of the public were invited to share their comments on the draft documents by emailing or calling.

Social media posts linking to the summary and full strategy were made on Facebook and X.

In addition, staff had copies of the summary available at a series of public events over the summer including the Steam Threshers Reunion, Froggy Fest in Goderich, horticultural club presentations, 4-H environment event and a Huron County Museum presentation.

Next Steps:

The draft Watershed Strategy will be amended based upon direction from the Members.

The final Watershed Strategy will be brought back to the Members at the November 20, 2024 meeting for adoption. After the Watershed Strategy has been approved by the Members, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Recommendation:

To be developed based upon direction from the members after reviewing comments received from Member municipalities.

Watershed-Based Resource MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024 - 2026



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BACKGROUND

Conservation Authorities are required to submit a watershed-based resource management strategy to the Ministry of Natural Resources by December 31, 2024.

Maitland Conservation has an agreement with its member municipalities outlining the services and programs provided. This agreement is in place until June 2026. This watershed strategy is based on Maitland Conservation's 2024-2026 work plan.

The watershed strategy has been developed to include an overview of how the watershed has changed over the past 200 years. This provides some context for the organization's services and programs.



SECTION 1: WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION



In southern Ontario interest in conservation was indicated first by reforestation and woodland management, and more recently this has broadened out to include flood and pollution control, improved land use and provision of recreational facilities. While the progress in these activities has been steady up to the present, most of this progress heretofore were initiated by government departments. Recently, however, there has been a growing conception of personal obligation.....

Introduction to the Middle Maitland Valley Conservation Report, 1954

A river story

Every river has a story. This story flows from the waters of the river and up through its streams and creeks and into the surrounding farms, forests, and towns. Those waters become part of the story of the people and communities in the watershed (Figure 1, Box 1). The Maitland Valley watershed has a rich story that spans back for thousands of years to the Indigenous Peoples

that relied on these waters and lands for transportation, hunting, fishing, and farming. The original peoples of the Maitland Valley watershed called the river the Menesetung River, meaning “laughing waters” [1]. While the name was changed in the 1800s, the original name is still in local use, such as the Menesetung Bridge in Goderich.

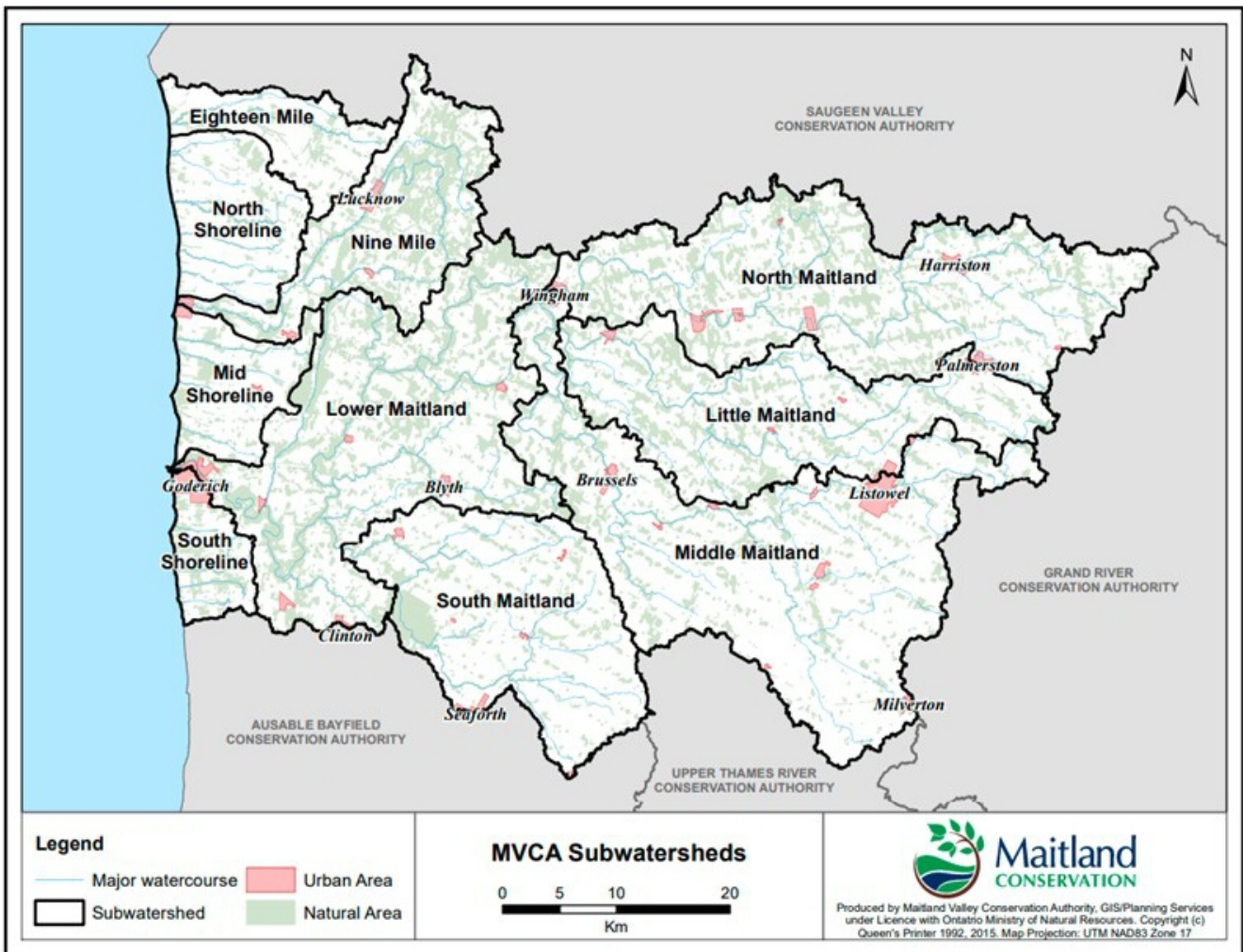


Figure 1: The Maitland Valley watershed is comprised of 15 smaller sub-watersheds.

Box 1: Maitland Conservation’s Watersheds, by the numbers

Watershed area: 3270 square km

Length of the Maitland River: 150 km

Number of sub-watersheds: 10

Length of Lake Huron coastline: 50 km

Population: 60,000

Public Land: 1%

Private Land: 99%

Number of Counties: 4

Number of Municipalities: 15



Figure 2: Fishing in the Maitland River near Ethel, 1912 (Huron County Archives) The waters, lands, and beaches of the Maitland Valley watershed have been used for recreation and tourism for over a century.

The first European settlers were also attracted to the region for the abundant natural resources in the Maitland Valley watershed. The vast forests of old-growth Sugar Maple, American Beech, and Eastern Hemlock provided both fuel and timber that supported early industries. Over sixty dams were built on the Maitland River and its tributaries to power sawmills, flour mills and wool mills [2]. The river and beaches along Lake Huron also provided recreation for residents and a growing tourism industry (Figure 2).

However, by the turn of the 20th century, deforestation and water pollution were beginning to take a toll on the health of the Maitland Valley watershed. Direct discharges of sewage and industrial waste into the river reduced water quality and fish habitat [3]. Increased erosion as a result of stripping the river and its tributaries of protective buffers and rapid deforestation across the watershed increased siltation of the once clean waters, threatened the productivity of farmland,



Figure 3: Many Conservation Area Forest Tracts and County Forests in the Maitland Valley watershed have been donated by landowners. Naftel's Creek Conservation Area was created through John Hindmarsh's generous donation of land.

and heightened the risk of flooding. Many of the dams that once powered industry became obsolete and a liability that both blocked the migration of fish and created large areas of stagnant water allowing the buildup of toxins, sediment, and increased water temperatures [4].

A century of community-based conservation

By the early 1900s forest cover in the watershed had dipped to under 10% and it was becoming increasingly clear that new approaches were needed to halt and reverse the declining quality of lands and waters in the Maitland Valley watershed. Reforestation programs began in 1905 to work with local landowners to increase forest cover, with a focus on areas along waterways and on marginal farmlands (Figure 3). Huron, Grey, and other counties passed by-laws under The Trees Act (1950) to support good forestry practices. Conserved tracts of forest were established, often through donations by private landowners (Figure 3).

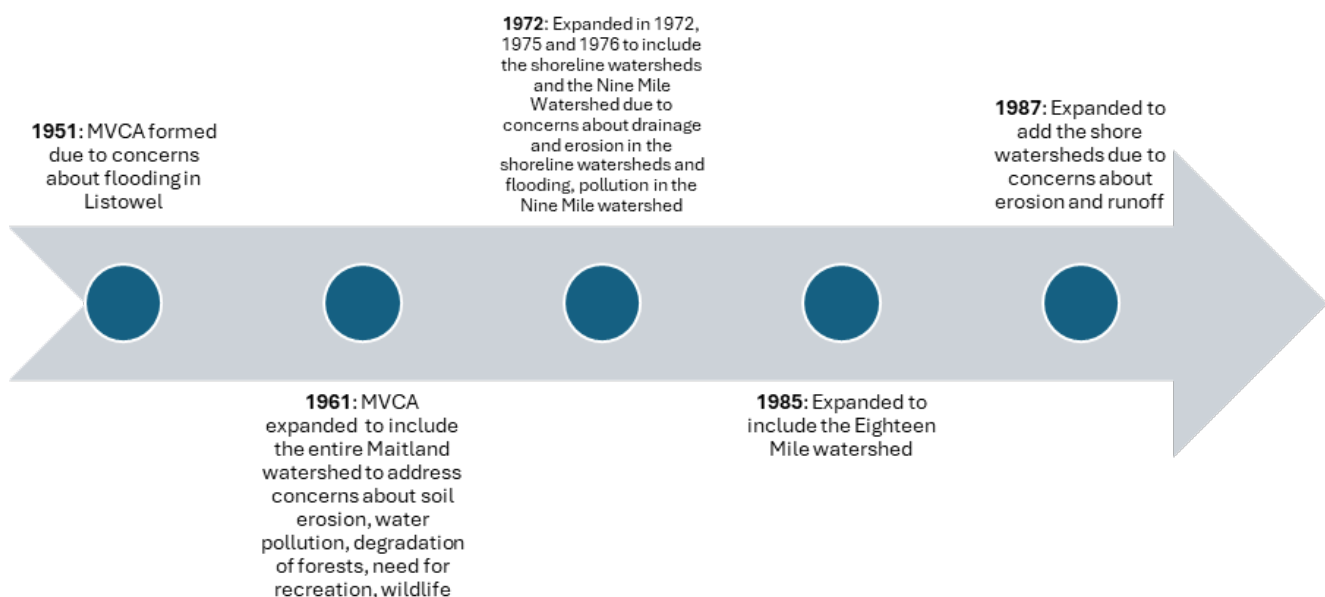
There was also increasing recognition that good stewardship of lands and waters needed a watershed approach. Formed in 1951, the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) emerged as part of a network of conservation authorities established across southern Ontario under the Conservation Authorities Act (1946). Enacted by the province of Ontario in response to concerns raised by agricultural, naturalist, and sports groups, the Act aimed to address the degradation of renewable natural resources in the province. These groups included the Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association and the Ontario Crop Improvement Association, both established in 1937 to help restore lands and waters. Land and water degradation was primarily attributed to inadequate land, water, and forestry practices, such as grazing cattle in woodlots. This was exacerbated by droughts and deforestation, which resulted in widespread erosion of topsoil and flooding.

The rationale of establishing conservation authorities was the result of the growing recognition that healthy lands and waters were essential for any community to thrive, and that watershed protection needed to be coordinated and led by local residents [5]. Since its establishment almost 75 years ago, the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority has been working

with landowners, local governments, and residents to protect the quality of life in the watershed. Originally established as the Middle Maitland Valley, the Conservation Authority was expanded between 1961 and 1987 to include all the Maitland Valley watershed (Figure 4).

In addition to flooding and soil erosion, one of the major challenges faced in the Maitland River watershed in the 1950s was water pollution. The first water quality sampling in the Maitland Valley watershed began in the 1960s by the Ontario Water Resources Commission [3]. Back then only Listowel and Palmerston provided some treatment of sewage discharge, and it was recognized that untreated industrial and domestic wastewater was threatening activities such as swimming, fishing and boating. Sampling done at some locations in the 1960s shows that bacteria levels were over 400 times what is now considered safe for recreational use [3]. Water quality sampling has been continued by the Conservation Authority in partnership with the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network since 1964. Regular water sampling has proven to be critical in monitoring watershed health and directing stewardship activities to reduce loadings of nutrients and bacteria from runoff.

Figure 4: Timeline of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority



Our conservation progress is at risk

Over a century of community stewardship activities have helped to protect the quality of life in the Maitland Valley watershed, but the health of our watershed remains at risk.

While public reforestation programs and the introduction of forest conservation bylaws led to an increase in forest cover from 10 per cent (1961) to 16 per cent [6], forest cover is again starting to decline as small family farms become industrialized and invasive species such as Emerald Ash Borer sweep through out woodlots. Today the forests of the Maitland Valley watershed are younger, second-growth forests that reflect the history of overharvesting. Healthy, diverse understory plant and forest bird communities are becoming increasingly rare in our forests (Figure 5). Emerging threats to forest cover and health include beech leaf disease and hemlock woolly adelgid [6].

In addition to land use changes, water quality in the Maitland Valley watershed is threatened by a changing climate. Extreme rainfall events are becoming more frequent, and what was once a hundred-year storm is happening every few years. Heavy rains, combined with less natural cover to hold and filter storm waters results in erosion, flooding and increased water pollution. These extreme rainfall events are also now accompanied by an increase in the frequency and duration of heat waves and droughts [7].

Declining water quality in rivers and streams also threatens drinking water from Lake Huron and its beaches. Increasing residential developments near the shoreline, aging infrastructure including septic systems and high amounts of agricultural activity further impact nearshore water quality [8, 9]. Rising water temperatures have also resulted in more ice-free days and greater lake-effect storms creating more erosion along the Lake Huron coastline [7]. The outcome has been an increase in algal blooms, increased turbidity, bluff erosion, warming surface water temperatures, and bacterial contamination leading to more beach closures to protect human health [7, 8].



Figure 5: Large healthy trees that are critical for forest regeneration are becoming less common in the woodlots of the Maitland Valley watershed as a result invasive species and poor forestry practices.





Figure 7: Solving the complex problems of land use change and climate change will require cooperation and coordination across the 15 member municipalities of the Maitland Valley watershed.

Our watershed, our future

The watershed health challenges in the Maitland Valley watershed are diverse and complex. They can't be solved only by a single organization or government agency, but by working together across communities of the 15 member municipalities and communities in the watershed (Figure 7).

Today our watershed challenges include a changing climate responsible for more frequent and intense storms that quickly flush soil and nutrients off the lands and into our waters. Invasive species including the Emerald Ash Borer, as well as a history of overharvesting woodlots, have resulted in declining quality and amount of forest cover. The loss of forests, wetlands, and buffer strips along waterways threatened fish habitats, water quality and the health of both the rivers and Lake Huron.\)

Fostering and supporting this 'watershed ethic' is an essential role of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and essential for the future of healthy lands and waters.

Box 2

“The more we can do to conserve water, to conserve the soil, it's going to lead to good production in the end. You're only given land once, we only have so much water, we have to take care of it.”

***Melanie Pitch, Murray Scott Farm
(source OMAFRA video on
Twitter/X)***

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority is continuing to play a role in coordinating and supporting our community to address these challenges and improve the health of our lands and waters for now and for future generations.

SECTION 2:

VISION, MISSION, ENDS AND OBJECTIVES

Vision	Mission	Ends
<p>We're working for a healthy environment!</p>	<p>Maitland Conservation is a community-based organization dedicated to providing leadership to protect and enhance local water, forests, and soils.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">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.

OBJECTIVES

The management strategy focuses on the following objectives:

1. Helping our member municipalities reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption in flood and erosion prone areas.
2. Assisting member municipalities and landowners to 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 the management of our conservation areas sets high standards of conservation practices and are safe for the public to use.
4. Ensure a stable financial base for Maitland Conservation so that we can help our member municipalities to develop a healthy, resilient, and prosperous watershed.

SECTION 3:

SERVICE AREA THREE-YEAR WORK PLANS

CORPORATE SERVICES 2024 - 2026

Corporate Services is responsible for the leadership, governance, administration and financial management of Maitland Conservation.

Priorities for 2024-2026

Maitland Conservation has established the following priorities:

1. Renew our agreement for services and programs with all member municipalities by June 2026. The Ministry of Natural Resources requires conservation authorities to develop agreements with their member municipalities for all non-mandatory services. These services include watershed stewardship and watershed health assessment. MVCA recognizes that we can only achieve our Vision: Working for a Healthy Watershed by providing stewardship and watershed health services.
2. Contact First Nations and Métis Councils to determine if they are interested in developing an informal or formal working relationship with Maitland Conservation. First Nations and Métis Councils share an interest in some of the services and programs that the MVCA provides. Maitland Conservation is also interested in learning more about the treaties that cover the lands and waters within our area of jurisdiction and our responsibilities related to these treaties.
3. Continue to champion provincial and federal support and leadership for the Healthy Lake Huron collaborative. The health of Lake Huron cannot be improved without restoring the health of the watersheds that flow into the lake. The Healthy Lake Huron collaborative is a model for how governments and agencies can work together towards this goal.
4. Champion the inclusion of the Healthy Watersheds, People and Wildlife approach into the terms of reference and work plan for Healthy Lake Huron. Maitland Conservation recognizes that the health of people and wildlife is directly linked to the health of the forests, rivers, and soil in the watersheds within our area of jurisdiction.
5. Continue to lead the Carbon Footprint Initiative and encourage members to expand the framework for the initiative to include the Sustainable Development Goals developed by the United Nations.
6. Develop an asset management strategy for essential equipment and infrastructure. The asset management strategy will identify essential equipment and infrastructure. It will also outline the funding required to replace and/or maintain the equipment and infrastructure deemed essential.

FLOOD AND EROSION SAFETY SERVICES 2024 - 2026

The focus of Flood and Erosion Safety Services (FESS) is to ensure that both Maitland Conservation and our member municipalities with flood and/or erosion prone areas are prepared to deal with the increasing probability of major flooding, shoreline erosion, bluff collapse and gully erosion.

Along the 50 kilometers of the Lake Huron shoreline, there is \$750 million of assessed property (2023 values) located with the areas subject to shoreline, gully, or bluff erosion. The value of at-risk development on the shoreline has roughly tripled since it was last assessed in 2012. It is expected that at-risk development in urban flood damage centers has also tripled, which would bring the value to approximately \$500 million.

Priorities for 2024-2026

- a. Develop an ice management plan for areas prone to ice jamming. The plan will outline what measures will be undertaken if an ice jam occurs that may cause damage to development located upstream or downstream of the jam.
- b. Develop an asset management plan for flood and erosion control structures (Goderich Bluffs Stabilization Structure, McGuffin Gully Erosion Control Project and the Listowel Flood Control Structures). The plan will outline measures that need to be undertaken to operate, maintain, repair and decommission the control works.
- c. Develop a drought monitoring plan. This plan will identify when river levels are reaching critical levels and initiate communications in accordance with Ontario's Low Water Response guidelines.
- d. Develop an outreach and education plan related to natural hazards. The plan will outline the areas where natural hazards are located, the risks associated with natural hazards and how they may be impacted by climate change. It will also outline how the risks will be managed and promote public awareness of riverine and shoreline natural hazards.
- e. Identify new flood forecast monitoring network equipment: A significant component of a monitoring network that provides real-time meteorological and streamflow information is the data delivery system, which is referred to as telemetry. Our network uses a combination of satellite and radio telemetry, with satellite primarily servicing the streamflow gauging stations sending data on an hourly basis; and the radio servicing our 'Headwater Precipitation Monitoring Network (HPMN)' in the communities of Harriston, Listowel and Lucknow.

Radio telemetry is proven to be robust, relatively inexpensive and especially effective in our rural watershed which provides open areas and good line-of-site. Radio also provides much more frequent transmissions - sending and receiving data at ten-minute intervals, which is important for headwater communities that aren't afforded any upstream warning other than direct rainfall. Because of its affordability, it allows for the use of multiple units and a dense coverage area. Maximizing coverage and minimizing the time it takes to become aware of high intensity rainfall events in headwater areas is in some ways the most effective strategy in delivering timely flood forecasting and warning for these communities.

The current radio telemetry employed in the MVCA monitoring network is comprised of Adcon radio telemetry units (RTU's), which have recently been discontinued by the manufacturer. Further to that issue, it relies on a 3G cellular bridge, which service providers will be shutting down nationally by December 2025. Measures are currently underway to extend the life and use of our current equipment and function beyond the 2025 3G sunset date; however, finding a suitable replacement will be a priority over the next coming years.

- f. Update floodplain mapping for Lucknow in partnership with the Municipality of Huron-Kinloss
- g. Update flood hazard mapping along the Maitland and Nine Mile Rivers outside of villages and towns. This mapping will identify natural hazard areas within the river valleys.
- h. Lake Huron Shoreline Processes and Natural Hazards Adaptation Strategy: This project will develop strategies to maintain and improve natural shoreline processes within the littoral cell that forms the beaches along the Lake Huron shoreline and reduce exposure to the risks of flooding and erosion. This project will identify how to re-establish the flow of sand to the beaches located south of the Goderich Harbour increasing resiliency during lake level changes and restore natural sediment supplies.



Harriston, June 2017



Palmerston Precipitation Station



North Perth
Floodplain Mapping
Update Meeting, 2024

CONSERVATION AREAS SERVICES 2024 - 2026

Conservation Area Services is responsible for the management, development, and protection of significant natural resource lands, features, and infrastructure on MVCA owned property, as well as the management of the Authority's motor pool and equipment services.

Priorities for 2024-2026

1. Develop a Conservation Lands Strategy and Inventory by December 31, 2024, as required by the Ministry of Natural Resources. This strategy will outline key management and operational objectives to ensure our conservation lands remain protected while allowing for compatible recreational public use. In addition the strategy will provide guidance on land acquisitions and dispositions.
2. Maintain, decommission, and develop priority Conservation Areas infrastructure based on the needs and resources of the Authority. Priorities will include repairs and accessibility renovations to the Administration building and infrastructure that supports recreational use at designated Conservation Areas. Surplus structures at Maple keys Conservation Area will be decommissioned to reduce liabilities and expenses.
3. Implement best management conservation practices on MVCA owned lands to ensure we lead by example in the protection and restoration of environmental resources. This will be accomplished by managing invasive species at several properties and by completing forestry harvesting and management identified in approved forestry management plans. "Low maintenance" Conservation Areas will also be developed to reduce the amount of vegetation maintenance required and to increase species diversity in traditional turf grass areas.
4. Ensure that Conservation Areas are maintained to allow for public use. Hazards including dead trees and trail surface issues will be identified during inspections and removed or repaired. Essential infrastructure including signs and roadways will be repaired to provide continued access and to keep users informed while using our properties.
5. Implement Maitland Conservation's carbon footprint strategy to reduce the use of fossil fuels. A focus will be to replace vehicles and equipment with electric options as well as to sequester carbon on MVCA lands through tree and shrub planting in Conservation Areas.



WATERSHED HEALTH MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING 2024 - 2026

Watershed Health Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting is responsible for evaluating the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems within the Maitland Valley watershed, identifying threats to these ecosystems, and providing recommendations to service areas and partners.

Priorities for 2024-2026

1. Continue to collect long-term data on water quantity and quality for rivers and groundwater in partnership with the Province of Ontario. We recognize that our rivers and aquifers contribute to the health of people and wildlife. Contributing to long-term, provincial datasets helps us understand how our water is changing locally, and informs provincial and Conservation Authority programs.
2. Communicate the results of the forest health assessment. This assessment included forest birds, bees and spring flowers. Data collected in previous years will be circulated internally and to external partners. The MVCA recognizes that our forests contribute to a resilient landscape and are complex ecosystems that encompass more than just trees. Providing decision makers, land managers and woodlot owners with information on the health of their forests will assist them in making informed decisions and help us to design more effective stewardship services.
3. Evaluate aquatic ecosystems using a suite of indicators to assess the physical processes, channel structure and biology of the rivers and streams in local watersheds to determine their health. The MVCA understands that healthy rivers and streams contribute to the health of people and wildlife. Healthy rivers and streams are also the foundation for tourism and recreation in the watershed. Understanding their condition and stressors will allow us to design effective services and restoration projects that maximize the cost benefits and promote healthy and resilient river systems.
4. Expand citizen science programs to help the MVCA fill in gaps in knowledge about the health of rivers and forests. Promoting citizen science programs, such as the Forest Bird Monitoring Protocol, enables us to partner with landowners to collect environmental data that can be used to supplement more formal assessments.
5. Collaborate with experts and stakeholders to establish science advisory committees for aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and develop a Healthy Watershed, People and Wildlife approach within the MVCA. We are part of a complex natural system and there are many challenges to protecting and expanding natural areas. Science advisory committees can help guide our assessments to ensure indicators, collection methods and analysis are appropriate. They can also act as a sounding board for new ideas and concepts. Stakeholders can help disseminate information and validate recommendations. Initiatives, such as Healthy Watershed, People and Wildlife can foster an understanding that our collective health depends on the health of the environment. These advisory committees can also help MVCA to determine how to improve our services and outcomes.

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES 2024 - 2026

The focus of Watershed Stewardship is to assist landowners and municipalities to restore the health of rivers, wetlands, soils and forests as well as to implement rural stormwater management systems and soil conservation projects. Maitland Conservation provides technical advice, project planning and assistance with funding applications.

Priorities for 2024-2026

1. Promote and implement projects that will restore the health and resiliency of rivers, wetlands and forest ecosystems. This includes projects such as fragile land retirement, stream buffering, rural stormwater management, wetlands, barrier removals and cover crops. MVCA will continue to source local, provincial and federal grants to assist stakeholders in implementing projects. We will also provide technical guidance to develop and design these projects for stakeholders.
2. Review MVCA's restoration approaches and seek to incorporate a greater understanding of ecosystem restoration principles and climate change science to ensure our stewardship approaches will have the most benefit and highest chance of success. For example, are there certain tree species we should be planting in lieu of others, which will fare better with the changing climate.
3. Develop the capacity to deliver pro-active stewardship in priority areas including the Middle Maitland watershed and North Shore sub-basins. Maitland Conservation will do this by continuing to source external funds to support restoration projects and staffing to implement these projects.
4. The MVCA will also continue to implement the current priorities outlined in the work plan that Healthy Lake Huron has developed and assist the steering committee to develop the 5-year work plan for 2025-2029.



DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION (DWSP) 2024 - 2026

Priorities for 2024-2026

1. Amendments to the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan and associated assessment report, to incorporate regulatory changes. Technical assessment completed for new and expanding drinking water systems. This includes 2024 updates to wellhead protection areas for the Lucknow and Century Heights municipal water supply systems, plus anticipated updates to the Minto systems.
2. Implementation of Source Protection Plan policies where applicable and review local applications and planning proposals in vulnerable areas to meet the annual reporting requirements and ensure source protection is considered in the development application.
3. Issue confirmation notices to municipalities for new or altered drinking water systems and new wells for Harriston and Palmerston drinking water systems to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act O. Reg. 287/07 and ensure the source for new municipal wells or intakes are protected.
4. Review technical information received regarding changes in vulnerable areas for source water, to determine if Source Protection Plans should be revised. This ensures that changes on the landscape, such as new transport pathways in wellhead protection areas (WHPA) and Intake Protection Zone (IPZ), are incorporated in source protection documents.

DWSP Funding:

This program is funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.



SECTION 4:

REVIEW AND UPDATE OF WATERSHED-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Maitland Conservation will review and update its watershed strategy annually to ensure that we are always planning three years ahead.

The Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy will be circulated to our member municipalities to obtain their comments. The strategy will also be published on our website for public review and comment.

SECTION 5:

REFERENCES

1. Lee, R.C., *The Canada Company and the Huron Tract, 1826-1853: Personalities, Profits and Politics*. 2004: Dundurn.
2. Hazlitt, J. and T. Turner, *The power of the Maitland: powering pioneer settlement in an Ontario watershed*. 2011: Possibilities Publishing.
3. Quance, R., *Water pollution survey of the Maitland River 1960 to 1963*. 1963.
4. Environment and Climate Change Canada and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *State of Great Lakes 2019 Technical Report*. 2021. p. 663.
5. Barnes, A. and A. Richardson, *Conservation by the People*. 1974: University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division.
6. Gouthro, E. and M. Shakespeare., *Forest health study 2021-2022: vegetation survey*. 2023, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.
7. Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Centre. *Lake Huron climatology*. *Lake Huron Climatology 2024* [cited 2024; Available from: <https://glisa.umich.edu/sustained-assessment/huron-climatology/>].
8. Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Lake Huron Canadian nearshore assessment, 2021 highlights and results report*. 2022, ECCC. p. 71.
9. Luinstra, B., Snell, L., Steele, R., Walker, M., Veliz, M. , *Watershed characterization Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley source protection region*. 2008.
10. Morrison, K., et al., *Ecohealth and watersheds: Watersheds as settings for health and well-being in Canada*. 2012, International Institute for Sustainable Development: Winnipeg.

Appendix A:

Technical Studies and Assessment Reports

The following is a list of technical studies and reports by MVCA that were referenced in the body of this watershed strategy:

- Gouthro, E., & M. Shakespeare. 2023. Forest health study 2021-2022: Vegetation survey. Maitland Conservation.
- Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Lake Huron Hazard Mapping – December 15, 2023 - MVCA 1061.01 MVCA Lake Huron Hazard Mapping; prepared by: Zuzek Inc. in association with SJL Engineering & DHI
- North Perth Flood Hazard Mapping Project Hydraulic Modelling Report – February 29, 2024 – Project Reference 67308; prepared by: Aquafor Beech Limited
- Drinking water source protection plan

Appendix B: Terms and Definitions

- Health: occurs when an ecosystem has reached a stable state where it can maintain its composition, structure and function, as well as demonstrating resilience when facing disturbances
- Watershed: area of land that drains water into a specific waterbody
- Sub-watershed: portion of a watershed that drains over a specific area
- Riparian: the area directly adjacent to a watercourse such as a river

QUESTIONS?

Contact Maitland Conservation at:

[t] 519-335-3557 ext. 231

[e] maitland@mvca.on.ca

or contact your Maitland Conservation member.

Contact information is posted on our website at:

<https://mvca.on.ca/about-us/board-of-directors/>



September 12, 2024

Phil Beard
General Manager Secretary Treasurer
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
via email: pbeard@mvca.on.ca

Dear Mr. McGugan:

Re. MVCA 2024-2026 Draft Watershed Strategy

At their September 10, 2024, Regular Council Meeting, The Council of the Township of Howick received and reviewed MVCA's 2024-2026 Draft Watershed Strategy.

Council had the following comments to share:

- The Township has received several complaints regarding the naturalization of a portion of the Gorrie Conservation Area property, on the south side of the river over the past couple of months.
- Complaints have mostly involved weeds, concern for and notice of ticks located in the long grass and having no washrooms or porta potties available on the property over the summer months.
- Council feels that these complaints discourage the public from using the property.
- Council feels the naturalized area of the property doesn't promote "compatible recreational public use" as is described as part of the conservation lands strategy in the Draft Watershed Strategy.
- Howick Council agreed that the Township would cut and maintain the Gorrie Conservation Area property located on the North side of the Maitland River for 2024, with the hope that Maitland Valley Conservation Area would take over cutting this area of your property in 2025.
- The North side of the Maitland River is used regularly for compatible, recreational public use such as walking dogs, soccer etc.
- The Township of Howick does not want the North side of the Gorrie Conservation Area to be naturalized like the South Side.
- The Township of Howick is willing to continue to cut and maintain the property located on the north side of the river if MVCA will conduct community outreach and request feedback from the public regarding the naturalized area located on the south side of the river.

Thank you for providing Council with the opportunity to provide their comments on the draft strategy. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Caitlin Gillis
Clerk-Administrator, Township of Howick
clerk@howick.ca



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Tel 519-338-2511
Fax 519-338-2005
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Mr. Ed McGugan, Board Chair
Mr. Phil Beard, General Manager – Secretary Treasurer
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
1093 Marietta Street, P.O. Box 127
Wroxeter, ON, N0G 2X0

Friday September 6, 2024

RE: Town of Minto Endorsement of MVCA 2024 – 2026 Watershed Strategy

Dear Chair McGugan and Mr. Beard:

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Minto, at its Tuesday September 3rd, 2024 Council meeting, has officially endorsed the MVCA's 2024 – 2026 Watershed Strategy. Council and staff appreciated your delegation to Council on Tuesday August 13th, 2024 and looks forward to participating in the Watershed Strategy's rollout.

MOTION: COW 2024-119

Moved By: Councillor Podniewicz; Seconded By: Councillor Elliott

THAT the Council of the Town of Minto hereby endorses the MVCA 2024 to 2026 Watershed Strategy; AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Town of Minto directs staff to provide the MVCA with an official letter of endorsement that includes this motion.

Carried

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gregg Furtney, Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Minto, Via email at gfurtney@town.minto.on.ca or by phone at 519-338-2511.

Thank you.

Most Sincerely,

Gregg Furtney, Chief Administrative Officer

CC. Ed Podniewicz, MVCA Board Director & Town of Minto Council Member
Dave Turton, Mayor, Town of Minto
Annilene McRobb, Clerk, Town of Minto Clerk

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLETON COUNCIL

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Resolution: 2024-14-02

Item: 7.1.

Moved: Councillor Maureen Otter

Seconded: Councillor Reid

THAT Township of Mapleton Council receive for information the Delegation of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), Phil Beard (General Manager Secretary Treasurer) & Ed Podniewicz (Mapleton, Minto, Wellington North - Representative) regarding the MVCA Watershed Strategy.

Carried: ✓

Defeated: _____

Postpone: _____

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Neh</u>
Councillor M. Martin	_____	_____
Councillor M. Ottens	_____	_____
Councillor A. Reid	_____	_____
Councillor M. Tamlyn	_____	_____
Mayor G. Davidson	_____	_____

Davidson
Mayor Gregg Davidson

Larry Wheeler
Clerk Larry Wheeler

Members Report #66-2024

To: Members, MVCA
From: Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator
Date: October 8, 2024

Subject: MVCA Draft Conservation Areas Strategy

Purpose:

To review and receive members comments on the draft Conservation Areas (C.A) Strategy.
To obtain direction on consultation requirements the Authority considers advisable.

Background:

Ontario Regulation 686/21, under section 10 of the regulation, requires All Conservation Authorities to complete a C.A Strategy by December 31, 2024.

The Purpose of the CA Strategy is to provide objectives to inform decision making related to the land MVCA owns and operates. It also identifies the mandatory and non-mandatory services and programs it provides along with the sources of funding.

Land-use categories are also identified in the CA Strategy to be used in the development of a land inventory. Land use categories were developed earlier this year with assistance from Conservation Ontario. This approach was requested to provide consistency among all Conservation Authorities. The land inventory will be completed before December 31st, 2024 to meet the requirements of O. Reg 688/21 section 9(1)(3).

The MVCA C.A Strategy was compiled considering the MVCA's mandate and vision along with the MVCA watershed strategy and workplan objectives. The focus of the CA strategy was to ensure the Authority is providing by example in the management of its lands. The Draft MVCA C.A. Strategy has been attached to the end of this report for Member review and comment.

Public and Stakeholder Consultation:

As part of O.Reg 688/21, public and stakeholder consultation shall be completed on the C.A strategy in a manner considered advisable by the Authority.

Staff are recommending the following approach for consultation:

- Provide the Draft C.A Strategy to Municipalities for comment.
- Post the Draft C.A Strategy on the MVCA website.
- Indicate on social media the Draft CA Strategy is available for comment
- Request all comments be received by November 11th, 2024.

Next Steps:

The draft C.A. Strategy will be amended based upon any comments received from the Members.

The draft C.A. Strategy will be re-formatted to include visuals and to improve the appearance of the document.

The C.A. Strategy will be posted for public and stakeholder consultation with any comments received provided at the November Members meeting for consideration and final approval.

Recommendation:

That the Members approve the Draft Conservation Areas Strategy (or as amended);
And that the members approve public and stakeholder consultation be performed as outlined.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Conservation Areas Strategy

PURPOSE

This strategy has been developed by Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) to provide key objectives to inform decision making relating to the land owned and managed by MVCA. The strategy will identify the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services that are provided on these lands, along with the sources of funding required to provide these services. Land use categories will also be identified and used in a Conservation Authority owned land inventory.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Ontario Regulation 686/21 under the Conservation Authorities Act, sets out the Mandatory Programs and Services which must be delivered by all Conservation Authorities (CAs) in Ontario. Section 10 of the regulation requires all CAs to prepare a “Conservation Area Strategy” as a required component of the “Conservation and Management of Lands” mandatory CA program and service area. This strategy will meet the requirements of O. Reg 686/21.

MAITLAND CONSERVATIONS VISION, MISSION, AND ENDS

The strategy will incorporate and consider the MVCA’s mandate and vision in the decision-making process of how lands owned by MVCA are managed or considered when acquiring and disposing of lands. Conservation Area strategies will also meet the overall MVCA Watershed Strategy and its objectives to ensure the authority is providing by example in the management of its lands.

Vision

Working for a healthy environment.

Mission

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

Ends

1. To protect life and 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

Short-term Goals (long-term effect)

1. To strengthen capacity of flood and erosion safety services.
2. To strengthen capacity of watershed stewardship services.
3. To ensure MVCA’s financial stability.

Property ownership is one of several tools used by the MVCA to achieve its goals. As a result of property ownership, outdoor recreation opportunities are offered to the public when and where appropriate (e.g., hiking, canoeing, biking, etc.). These opportunities create value among users for the watershed’s environmental features and therefore function as an important tool to assist in achieving the Authority’s goals or ends.

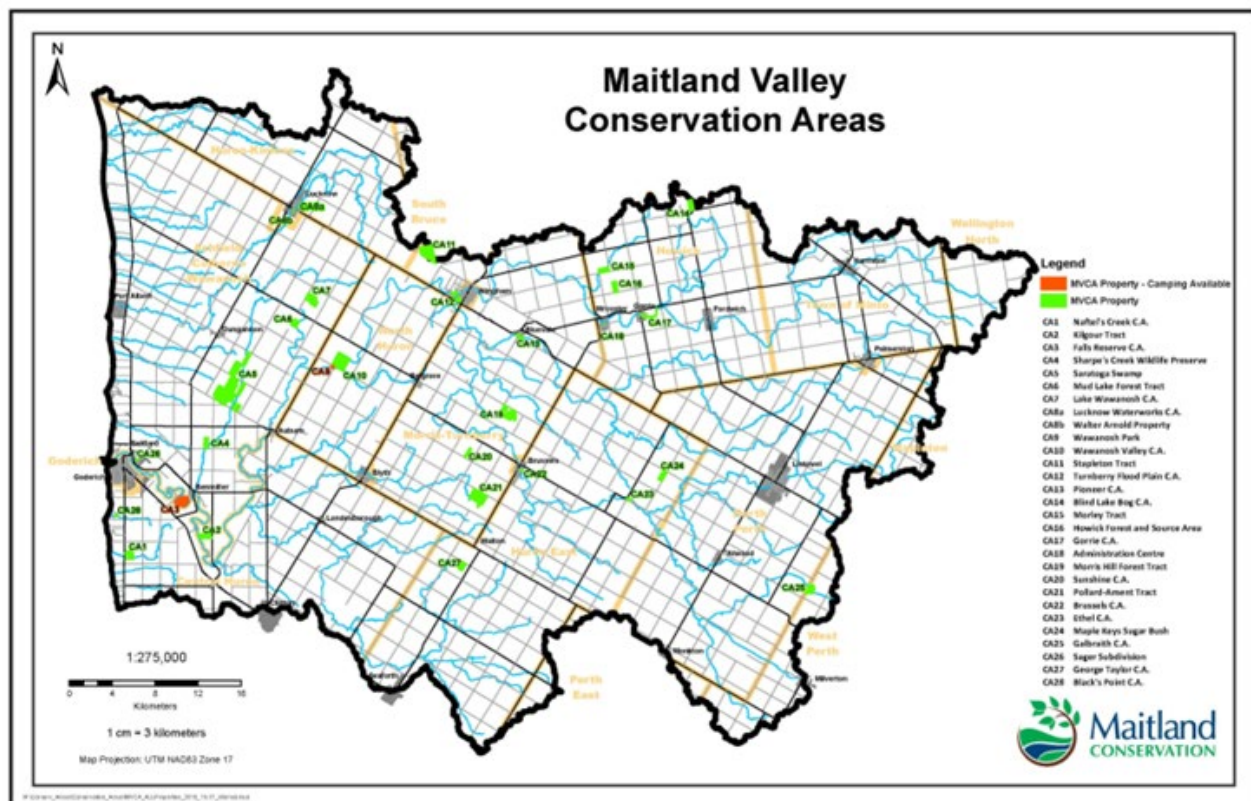
HISTORY

Formed in 1951, the MVCA is committed to working with our community partners to create a healthier environment. Our area of jurisdiction covers the watershed, or drainage area, of the Maitland, Nine Mile and Eighteen Mile Rivers, along with smaller watersheds on the Lake Huron shoreline.

Land acquisition began in 1954 through the establishment of a land acquisition committee with funding programs administered by the Province. This program continued with the majority of MVCA properties being acquired during the 1960's and 70's. The program ended by 1990 when funding was no longer provided by the Province. Property acquisitions after 1990, were limited to donations and considered only when the Authority deemed them as significant in terms of resource protection.

MVCA OWNED LANDS

MVCA owns and manages 28 properties which totals approximately 4,600 acres (1,862 hectares). These properties environmental features range from wetlands, river valleys, forests, rivers, and meadows. Small areas of parkland and agricultural fields also exist where compatible with the land and surrounding features.



GUIDELINES FOR CONSERVATION AREAS MANAGEMENT.

Maitland Conservation lands have been categorized into four types of land-use. These categories are consistent with those developed by Conservation Ontario and are based on the types of activities that occur on each parcel or other matters of significance related to the parcel. Some Conservation Areas will have multiple types of land-use based on past development, usage and natural heritage features of the parcel. These parcels will meet the objectives for each type of land-use identified.

Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services also includes three category descriptions and how those programs and services may be offered and funded. In 2022, the MVCA Membership approved the programs and services which are described under each land-use category along with the associated financing requirements. These programs and services are provided in Appendix A. The three categories for Conservation Authority programs and services are described below:

- Category 1 programs and services are mandatory and are defined in regulation. Municipal levy funds can be used for these programs.
- Category 2 programs and services are those provided at the request of a member municipality or municipalities and are funded through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Agreement with the participating municipality or municipalities. Currently, no programs or services are provided under this Category under Conservation Areas.
- Category 3 services are those other programs and services an Authority determines advisable by the Authority's Board and must be self-financing. Any municipal funds used for Category 3 programs and services must be provided under an MOU or Agreement. At present, all MVCA Category 3 programs and services on Conservation Area lands are funded internally and do not rely on municipal funding.

While specific objectives have been identified for each land-use category in this report, the following objectives pertain to all land-use categories and will be used when considering future management and planning:

General Objectives:

- Ensure all current and future landholdings contribute to the goals and objectives of the MVCA.
- Build resiliency and demonstrate good resource management on all authority owned lands.
- Promote and ensure the protection of natural heritage systems through naturalization and habitat creation.
- Ensure the Rules of Conservation Areas (O. Reg 688/21) are followed. Provide education and enforcement of these rules to encourage compliance.
- Identify permitted and prohibited uses while considering all environmental features.
- Land-use permits will be required for any requirement listed under O. Reg 688/21. Commercial operations will be restricted or limited based on the type of use proposed.
- Perform inspections to ensure land holdings are protected from encroachment or illegal activities.
- Ensure all infrastructure and lands meet appropriate safety standards.

- Incorporate accessibility standards when appropriate when replacing or creating new infrastructure.
- Identify essential infrastructure and dispose of surplus items.
- Monitor and manage invasive species, diseases and pests.
- Ensure signage is provided to convey desired information regarding safety, environmental or educational aspects and is accessible to users.
- Ensure service disruption notifications are provided to all applicable users in a timely manner.
- When appropriate, integrate municipal, provincial or other publicly accessible trails and lands with authority lands including any future land acquisitions.

LAND USE CATEGORIES

1. Conservation Areas Active Recreation

This category includes areas that require direct support or supervision and have been developed for compatible recreational uses including campgrounds. These lands are usually well promoted, require staffing of buildings, and require entrance and usage fees.

Active Recreation properties are identified as Category 3 services under Ontario Regulation 686/21 of the Conservation Authorities Act for Mandatory Programs and Services. These properties are currently self-funded using user-fees and require no municipal levy. Any Surplus revenue raised is used to fund infrastructure upgrades or major maintenance to facilities.

Conservation Areas with Active Recreation and Category 3 Services:

- i) Falls Reserve Conservation Area.
Falls Reserve Campground and day-use services provides camping, picnicking, hiking, biking, skiing, fishing, and educational services.
- ii) Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area.
Wawanosh Park Campground Services provides seasonal camping, picnicking, and fishing.

Specific Objectives:

- Balance the protection of natural heritage features of the area with compatible public use.
- Enforce the rules and regulations of the C.A to ensure protection of the environment and the safety of all users.
- Identify and plan for future requirements of the conservation area to expand or enhance opportunities for active recreation when considered appropriate.
- Ensure financial sustainability of these areas by monitoring usage, trends, and yearly adjustment of fees.

2. C.A. Passive Recreation

This classification includes areas where day-use recreational opportunities are offered but do not require direct support or supervision. Recreational opportunities offered to the public include walking trails, picnic areas, pavilions, parking lots, and urban parklands. Where recreational development has been completed on existing land for community use (soccer fields, ball diamonds, recreational multi-use pads, playgrounds, etc) existing Municipal partnerships will be required to operate and maintain this infrastructure for continued operations.

These properties are identified as Category 1 programs and services which are funded through Municipal levy or funded through partnerships and donations.

Conservation Areas with Passive Recreation:

- i) Gorrie Conservation Area
- ii) Pioneer Conservation Area
- iii) Brussels Conservation Area
- iv) Lucknow Water Works Conservation Area
- v) Turnberry Floodplain Conservation Area – Galbraith Soccer Fields

Specific Objectives:

- Partnerships with local Municipalities to facilitate maintenance and development of these areas will be encouraged to provide existing or compatible services.
- MVCA will focus on the naturalization and environmental protection of these areas when future planning.
- Recreational uses will be monitored to ensure compatibility with the land and adjusted if required.

3. Management Area

Management areas are lands where natural resources are protected or managed with limited or no recreational use. Properties may meet any of the following designations: Natural Heritage Lands, Natural Hazard Lands, Water Management Areas, Forest Management Lands, Environmentally Sensitive Lands, etc. Recreational use is usually limited to hiking trails, hunting, fishing, boating and nature appreciation.

These properties are identified as Category 1 programs and services which are funded through Municipal levy or from self-generated revenue. Funding assistance is also sought through various programs, partnerships and donations to assist in the maintenance and development of these properties.

Conservation Areas under a Management Designation:

- i) Forest Management
 - Stapleton Tract, Morely Tract, Pollard Ament Tract, Howick Seed and Source Area, Wawanosh Valley C.A, Ethel C.A, Naftel's Creek C.A, Morris Hill Forest Tract, Falls Reserve Conservation Area, Sharpes Creek Nature Preserve, Kilgour tract, Galbraith C.A, Maple Keys C.A,
- ii) Agriculture Management Area
 - Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area
- iii) Conservation Lands (Provincially Significant Wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Habitat of endangered species, Community Conservation Lands)
 - Saratoga Swamp, Mud Lake, Blind Lake Bog, Turnberry Floodplain, CA

- iv) Recreational Water Control Infrastructure
 - Pioneer C.A, Brussels C.A, Lake Wawanosh C.A.

Specific Objectives

- Support environmental research (internally and externally). Organizations outside of MVCA will require to obtain a research permit. Research findings will be requested as part of the permit process to assist the MVCA in future planning and development.
- Forest Management Plans will be created or renewed for lands eligible under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program. Properties will be managed as indicated in the approved Forest Management plans based on the resources of the Authority.
- Forest management will consider forest succession, from plantations to healthy, mature hardwood stands where native local ecology can thrive and better resist invasive degradation. Climate change will be factored into forestry management planning.
- Lands that are designated under the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program will be managed in accordance with the principles outlined in the program.
- Agricultural lands determined suitable for agriculture will be identified and offered for lease. Lease details will be determined based on the land features with a focus on best farming and environmental practices.
- Recreational opportunities will be limited and may include hiking, hunting, fishing, boating and nature appreciation. Hunting will be permitted on designated lands only and will require a permit to be obtained following O. Reg 688/21 requirements.
- Recreational Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure will be operated and maintained following operational plans where required. Financing agreements will be in place with the local Municipality following the approved cost sharing policy adopted by the Membership.
- Motorized vehicles will be prohibited from these lands unless authorized by the Authority.

4. C.A. Administrative Area

Administrative areas include those lands that contain buildings to support the operations and delivery of the Authority programs and services.

These properties are identified as Category 1 programs and services which are funded through Municipal levy.

Conservation Areas with Administrative Area designation:

- Administrative Centre.
 - This property consists of the main office building and workshops to support the operations of the MVCA.

Specific Objectives

- Infrastructure development or replacement will consider environmental products that can be used as demonstration and educational components with consideration to the Authorities resources.

LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION

Historically, acquisition of properties by the MVCA occurred prior to 1990 when Provincial funding was available. Property acquisitions from 1990 to current, largely occurred from donations or through notification from other agencies of land that may benefit from Authority ownership.

The MVCA realizes that property ownership provides protection of natural heritage systems, hazard lands, and can provide community recreational opportunities. The MVCA does not actively seek land securement opportunities, however, considers potential parcels from willing landowners on an individual basis. Consideration can be through donation, land bequest, or fee simple purchase.

A land Acquisition and Disposition policy will be developed based on the following principles and guidelines:

Land Acquisitions

- Properties will be reviewed by Authority staff to determine if it meets one or more of the required criteria for further investigation.
 - Property joins an existing MVCA land holding.
 - Property contains significant natural heritage or hazard land features.
 - Property is within the MVCA watershed
 - Acquisition will further promote the objectives, and goals of the authority
 - Reviewed for potential concerns including structures, contamination and access.
- MVCA Members are notified of potential acquisition for further decision if acquisition meets the initial criteria.
 - Land Acquisition Committee established consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, and a Member representing the Municipality where the property is located if motioned to proceed.
- All Acquisitions will be conducted in a confidential manner

Land Disposition

- Disposal of land will be considered if the following apply:
 - Property no longer meets the goals and objectives of the Authority
 - Property is determined surplus to the Authority's needs.
- Disposal of properties obtained with Section 39 Provincial funding will require approval from the Minister following the Conservation Authorities Act regulations.
- All land dispositions require Membership approval.

CONSERVATION AREAS STRATEGY REVIEW

The Conservation Areas strategy will be reviewed and updated every 3 years to ensure the priorities and objectives remain current, based on any changes in resources and priorities of the MVCA. If the Strategy remains current, the MVCA Membership may approve the strategy for another 3 years. Public consultation requirements on any revisions will be determined by the Membership, based on the revision and impact to the Conservation Areas Service.

Appendix A

Category 1: Mandatory Services:
Conservation Areas Services:
Includes the management, development, and protection of significant natural resource lands, features, and infrastructure on authority owned property. MVCA has 28 conservation areas with a land area of 4,600 acres (1,862 hectares).
<p>Service Components:</p> <p>a) Management & Development of Authority Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build resiliency and demonstrate good resource management on 28 Conservation areas ranging from day-use parklands, wetlands, and forest tracts. <p>i) Lands and Infrastructure – inspections, maintenance and enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and removal of hazards to reduce liability • Maintain essential infrastructure and dispose of surplus items. • Manage public use that is compatible with the land and enforcement of regulations. <p>ii) Water Control Structures – inspections, maintenance and operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation of recreational dams following regulatory requirements • Develop and monitor funding agreements with Municipalities where dams are located for maintenance and major repairs. <p>iii) Forest Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement activities identified in managed forest plans to improve forest health including harvesting, tree planting and monitoring of woodlots • Removal of invasive species and monitoring of disease and pests. <p>iv) Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of policies and procedures for conservation area use. <p>b) Land Acquisition</p> <p>i) Review land donations or purchases for conservation purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify benefits and concerns for potential land acquisitions for members direction. <p>c) Leasing and Agreements</p> <p>i) Review Agreements that are compatible with the land-use</p> <p>ii) Monitoring of agreements.</p>

Category 3 Programs & Services:
Falls Reserve and Wawanosh Campground Service:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MVCA provides overnight and seasonal camping at the Falls Reserve Conservation Area. The Conservation area also provides day-use services. • MVCA provides seasonal camping at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. • Campgrounds are funded through user-fees. • All revenue raised is used to fund the operations of the campgrounds. Any surplus revenue is used to fund infrastructure upgrades and major maintenance to equipment and facilities.

Member's Report #67-2024

To: Member's, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Danielle Livingston, Administrative and Financial Services Coordinator
Date: October 10, 2024

Subject: Corporate Services - Accounts Paid and Received for:
September 2024

Recommendation

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

Financial Summary Report Ending	0
Revenue Invoiced	\$163,189.83
Accounts Paid	\$331,649.83

Financial Status at Month Ending	0
Bank Loans Outstanding	\$0.00
Bank Balance at Month End	\$2,240,137.56
Total	\$2,240,137.56

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Accounts Receivable as of September 30, 2024

Operating Budget Revenue

Corporate

Corporate Services sale office support/rent office equipment	\$ 765.25
Drinking Water Source Protection rent	\$ 230.00
bank interest	\$ 8,354.54
Huron Clean Water Project administration	\$ 475.75
	\$ 9,825.54

Source Water Protection ABCA funding	\$ 1,250.82
	\$ 1,250.82

Communications sales and donations	\$ 3.66
	\$ 3.66

Total Corporate Services \$ 11,080.02

Flood Safety

Planning/Regulations planning application fees	\$ 550.00
solicitor inquires	\$ 570.00
CWMS/watercourse regulations	\$ 235.00
regulation applications	\$ 7,705.00
	\$ 9,060.00

Total Flood Safety Services \$ 9,060.00

Watershed Stewardship

Forestry Provincial funding	\$ 200.00
seedling user fees	\$ 51.01
	\$ 251.01

Total Watershed Stewardship Services \$ 251.01

Conservation Areas

FRCA camping and park admission	\$ 41,006.09
sales/concession booth	\$ 6,476.89
Canada Summer Jobs	\$ 10,703.00
	\$ 58,185.98

WPCA camping	\$ 159.29
	\$ 159.29

MDO property revenue	\$ 990.10
	\$ 990.10

Motor Pool revenue	\$ 4,901.38
	<u>\$ 4,901.38</u>

Carbon Offset Maitland Valley Conservation director's/staff	\$ 8.53
	<u>\$ 8.53</u>

Total Conservation Areas Operations	\$ 64,245.28
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Total Operating Budget Revenue	\$ 84,636.31
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Projects Budget Revenue

Watershed Stewardship

Healthy Lake Huron/COA funding	\$ 35,838.00
	<u>\$ 35,838.00</u>

Huron County Clean Water funding	\$ 33,603.97
	<u>\$ 33,603.97</u>

Total Watershed Stewardship Services	\$ 69,441.97
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Conservation Areas

Vehicle Replacement sales	\$ 9,111.55
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Total Conservation Areas	\$ 9,111.55
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Total Project Budget Revenue	\$ 78,553.52
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Total Operating and Project Revenues	\$ 163,189.83
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**Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Expense Reports
As of September 30, 2024**

Date	Num	Name	Amount
09-03-2024	Sep24EFT	Sun Life Financial	-5,939.97
09-06-2024	25175	Preston's Principled Electric Ltd.	-973.05
09-06-2024	25176	Roelf and Diety Bos	-1,121.53
09-06-2024	25177	Horton's Dairy	-1,396.73
09-06-2024	25178	Municipality of Central Huron	-834.89
09-06-2024	25179	Twp. of Ashfield Colborne Wawanosh	-2,631.42
09-06-2024	25180	Jeff Borland	-6,273.00
09-06-2024	25181	Township of Howick (Taxes)	-2,910.57
09-06-2024	25182	Art Burns	-7,317.00
09-06-2024	25183	Huron Stewardship Council	-21,539.65
09-06-2024	25184	D & I Wattam Construction Ltd.	-1,101.75
09-06-2024	25185	Andrew Wagemans	-969.95
09-06-2024	25186	Paul Bollinger	-1,965.50
09-06-2024	25187	Sherry Taylor	-611.99
09-06-2024	25188	Bell Mobility Inc. 500181172	-975.97
09-06-2024	25189	Bruce Godkin	-5,017.29
09-06-2024	25190	Crump Enterprises Ltd.	-27,199.10
09-06-2024	25191	Dan Kraus	-1,000.00
09-06-2024	25192	DeLageLandenFinancialServicesCanadaInc.	-1,475.70
09-06-2024	25193	Telizon Inc.	-16.89
09-06-2024	25194	Bell Canada-properties	-498.06
09-06-2024	01035	Beard, Phil	-33.89
09-06-2024	01036	Borrmann's Garage	-71.99
09-06-2024	01037	Bureau Veritas Canada Inc.	-96.14
09-06-2024	01038	ContinuIT Corp.	-3,264.02
09-06-2024	01039	Emily Shaw	-33.71
09-06-2024	01040	Eric Cox Sanitation Ltd.	-451.45
09-06-2024	01041	F.S. Partners	-339.38
09-06-2024	01042	Foxton Fuels Limited	-203.17
09-06-2024	01043	Hodgins BC Wingham	-47.01
09-06-2024	01044	Key West Gates Inc.	-870.10
09-06-2024	01045	Mathew Shetler	-50.00
09-06-2024	01046	Maxim Environmental and Safety Inc.	-501.20
09-06-2024	01047	Mid Western Newspapers	-66.11
09-06-2024	01048	Municipality of Morris-Turnberry	-5,521.47
09-06-2024	01049	North Huron Publishing Company Inc.	-1,526.48
09-06-2024	01050	Pagonis Live Bait	-494.38

09-06-2024	01051	Robert's Farm Equipment	-392.58
09-06-2024	01052	S.L. Natural Fibre Products Inc.	-694.95
09-06-2024	01053	Shannon Millar	-34.33
09-06-2024	01054	Sparlings Propane-Parkland Corporation	-176.18
09-06-2024	01055	Township of Perth East	-338.33
09-06-2024	01056	Waste Management of Canada Corporation	-1,573.51
09-06-2024	01057	Watson's Home Hardware	-167.44
09-06-2024	01058	Westario Power Inc.	-30.00
09-06-2024	01059	Yellow Pages	-14.80
09-15-2024		Payroll	-52,407.77
09-20-2024	25197	Receiver General	-2,588.72
09-20-2024	25196	Corporation of the Twp. of North Huron	-3,360.01
09-20-2024	25195	VOID	0.00
09-20-2024	25198	M.R.C. Systems Inc.	-1,746.71
09-20-2024	25199	Municipality of Huron East	-1,142.92
09-20-2024	25200	Wightman Telecom Ltd.	-1,019.21
09-20-2024	25201	Xerox Canada Ltd.	-223.84
09-20-2024	25202	Auburn Riverside Retreat	-1,367.42
09-20-2024	25203	Schmidt's Power Equipment	-339.21
09-20-2024	25204	CIBC Visa Centre	-4,247.45
09-20-2024	25205	Kurt Hoggart	-350.00
09-20-2024	01060	Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	-9,704.98
09-20-2024	01061	Borrmann's Garage	-150.06
09-20-2024	01062	Brandt Security	-22.60
09-20-2024	01063	Donnelly and Murphy - Lawyers	-847.50
09-20-2024	01064	Jayne Thompson	-110.02
09-20-2024	01065	Mars-Bluewater Recycling Association	-189.84
09-20-2024	01066	MicroAge BASICS	-88.78
09-20-2024	01067	Sepoy Wiring Ltd.	-1,160.03
09-20-2024	01068	Westario Power Inc.	-30.14
09-30-2024		Payroll	-56,688.20
09-30-2024	25206	Receiver General	-48,492.62
09-30-2024	EFTSep24	OMERS	-28,204.54
09-30-2024	EFTSep24	Minister of Finance	-3,200.77
09-30-2024	EFTSep24	Workplace Safety & Insurance Board	-5,203.86
		Total	-331,649.83

Members Report #68-2024

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Shannon Millar, Restoration Supervisor
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Supervisor of Planning & Regulations
Date: October 16, 2024
Subject: Agreements Signed

1. R.J. Burnside and Associates Limited

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was distributed for engineering and aquatic monitoring services for the dam removal project on the South Maitland River (as per Members Report #64-2024). By the closing date, staff had received two tenders. One from GSS Engineering Consultants Ltd. with a price of \$93,460.00 excluding HST. The second from R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited with a price of \$79,268.25 excluding HST. Both consultants had qualified staff and experience and could perform the work within the scope and timeline in the RFP. MVCA staff selected R.J. Burnside and Associates Limited as the higher scoring proposal due to cost effectiveness of the proposal.

Recommendation:

THAT the Members support the signed Client/Engineer Agreement for Professional Consulting Services between MVCA and R.J. Burnside and Associated Limited.

2. Zuzek Inc.

Further to Environment and Climate Change Canada agreement “Enhancing water quality and ecosystem health by engaging the Lake Huron community in place-based planning and action for nearshore health, streambank stabilization and barrier removal projects” (agreement GCXE23P105 2022-2024), MVCA signed an agreement with Zuzek Inc. for Phase 2 to support our Coastal Resilience work (signed May 3, 2023).

A new agreement continues that support through Phase 3, under the now announced Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (and NRCAN Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Program) for \$261,160. This consultant agreement supports MVCA’s agreement (GCXE25A069) with the Federal Government.

Recommendation:

THAT the Members support the Phase 3 Year One agreement signed with Zuzek Inc to facilitate support in carrying out agreement GCXE25A069.



Carbon Footprint Initiative Meeting #2-2024

Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Location: Trillium Mutual Insurance Office, Listowel

Attendance: Tracy MacDonald, Trillium Mutual Insurance; Ron Coghlin, MFS; Derry Wallis & Matheus Cantero, Cty of Huron; Mark Hackett, North Perth; Hannah Cann, Cty of Perth; Richard Keeso; Jason Brooks, BTE; Tara Lentz, Corteva Agrisciences; Ed McGugan & Phil Beard, MVCA;

Guests: Martin Tamlyn, Twp. Of Mapleton.

Summary:

1. Welcome and Introductions: Tracy asked everyone to introduce themselves. Martin Tamlyn, Climate Change Coordinator for the Township of Mapleton introduced himself and he was encouraged to see if the Township of Mapleton would consider joining the CFI.
2. Summary of Meeting held on May 9th, 2024. Everyone was in agreement with the summary.
3. CFI Framework Update: Everyone in attendance was in agreement with the proposed changes. Phil will circulate to the CFI leaders who have not responded as yet. Brendan Magee, Ward & Uptigrove and Martin Vogt, EFS Plastics.
4. CFI Leader Updates:
 - a) Tara Lentz provided an overview of the pollinator garden that Corteva has planted at their site outside Wingham.
 - b) Tracy MacDonald, Trillium Mutual Insurance Company: Provided an overview of their community funding program called Roots. It provides up to \$5,000 in funding to a variety of community projects get started. One of the funding categories is Sustainability.
 - c) Ron Coghlin, MFS outlined that they are pleased with the electric pickups & hybrid vehicles that they have purchased. Still investigating the feasibility of using hydrogen to fuel trucks.

c) Mark Hackett, North Perth: developed a green procurement component to their purchasing policy; continue to undertake tree planting; purchased 3 hybrid vehicles and installed 2 EV chargers.

d) Hannah Cann, Perth County: Developing information on return on investment from switching to electric vehicles. Updated Energy Demand Study.

e) Derry Wallis, Huron County: Conducted economic valuation of county forests. Provided update that it is difficult to communicate the importance of natural environment features to woodlot owners/farmers due to the high price of land.

f) Ed/Phil, MVCA: Installed heat pumps in workshop/vehicle storage building to replace propane furnace; purchased hybrid van; forest health assessment has revealed that forests are becoming carbon emitters due to number of dead ash trees; reforestation at the Turnberry Conservation area is progressing thanks to assistance from CFI.

5. Presentation: Perth County Stewardship Program: Hanna outlined the Perth Stewardship Program- three categories; forest health, tree planting, community projects. Uptake good in 2024, funding increased to \$100,000 in 2025.
6. Outreach Strategy for the CFI. How can we attract more companies and municipalities to develop a carbon footprint strategy. Discussed idea of organizing tour and information days for businesses and municipalities to learn more about how they can reduce their carbon footprint and sequester carbon. To be discussed in more detail at next meeting. Richard will circulate his ideas on how the CFI could be more active in getting more work down on the ground.
7. Next Meeting Date: Derry offered to host the next meeting in Goderich. Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 starting at 9:30am. Tentative Agenda items- Invite Sustainable Waterloo to make a presentation; discussion on which sustainable development goals fit with the updated framework for the CFI; Outreach Strategy for 2025.

Carbon Footprint Initiative Framework

Date: May 31, 2024



OVERVIEW:

The Carbon Footprint Initiative is a ~~not-for-profit alliance~~ collaborative of public and private sector entities. Our members represent local government, agribusiness, forestry, insurance, seed, automotive and electrical supply sectors.

This collaborative has been formed because we share a common interest in finding ways to reduce our carbon footprint, especially the use of fossil fuels. We are also interested in restoring natural areas by planting trees, shrubs, and plants that will remove to sequester carbon and to improve the health of the watershed.

We are dedicated to developing ways to reduce our carbon footprint and subsequent use of fossil fuels. Our initial interest is in tracking fossil fuel use and identifying ways to reduce our use and in time identify alternative energy sources to use.

Our focus at the present time is to develop carbon footprint strategies and share what we have learned with other businesses, municipalities and community groups and to encourage others to develop their own carbon footprint strategies.

We have identified two community projects that we will support by providing native trees and shrub as part of our carbon sequestration and naturalization objectives.

The CFI members support the Sustainable Development Goals. Each member is encouraged to include some or all the sustainable development goals into their strategic plans as time and resources allows. Members are encouraged to report on their progress in meeting the sustainable development goals. A copy of the Sustainable Development Goals is attached to the framework.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION:

A tree can absorb as much as .02 tonnes (48 pounds) of carbon dioxide per year and can sequester 1 ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old.

BACKGROUND:

Climate change presents a major threat to the present and future prosperity and well-being of the communities and businesses located within the Maitland watershed. The economy in the Maitland watershed is based upon the prosperity of three major sectors: agriculture, seasonal

recreation along the Lake Huron shoreline and forestry. These sectors rely on a stable and predictable climate and the health of soil, rivers, Lake Huron and forests. However, climate change is reducing the stability of the climate and making it difficult for these sectors to continue using the same approaches to the management of the resources they have traditionally used. The primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels and the subsequent accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. There is growing recognition that civilization needs to eliminate its dependency upon fossil fuels and transition to carbon free energy sources. There is also a growing understanding that we need to **restore natural areas in order to sequester carbon.** ~~reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere to levels that will stabilize the climate.~~ The transition away from using fossil fuels will pose unique challenges and solutions in rural ~~communities~~ **municipalities** and businesses due to our dependency upon these energy sources for transportation.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To demonstrate how businesses and **municipalities**~~communities~~ can measure & reduce their carbon footprint.
2. To encourage businesses and **municipalities** to measure and develop a strategy for reducing their carbon footprint.
3. To encourage businesses and **municipalities** to plant native trees and shrubs to sequester carbon and restore natural areas.
4. **To encourage businesses and municipalities to incorporate the sustainable development goals into their strategic plans.**

COMMUNITY PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE CFI:

1. ~~**The Listowel Memorial Park Rehabilitation Project.** This project will help to restore the river and flood plain through the planting of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in the park. The project is also aimed at improving the health of the river.~~
2. **The Middle Maitland Restoration Project:** The objective of this project is to naturalize flood plain and river valley lands along the Middle Maitland River from Wingham upstream to its headwaters located in Mapleton. This work will help to restore the health of the river by **improving stream flow, aquatic habitat, and water quality in the Middle Maitland River.**

COMMITTMENT:

Each member commits to developing a carbon footprint strategy and providing annual updates on their progress in reducing their carbon footprint and in their efforts to sequester carbon.

CARBON FOOTPRINT INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Sharen Zinn, MVCA; Kriss Snell, CAO, Municipality of North Perth; Richard Keeso; Tracey MacDonald, CEO, Trillium Mutual Insurance Company; Ron Coghlin & Derek Mendez, Molesworth Farm Supply Ltd.; Tara Lantz, Corteva Agriscience, Wingham Parent Seed Plant; Martin Vogt, President, EFS Plastics Ltd.; Brendan Magee, Ward & Uptigrove; Derry Wallis, Climate Change Coordinator, County of Huron.

Ontario *of* OUT of DOORS



Drawing the line
HOW FAR IS TOO FAR WITH A BOW?

FALL 2024 WWW.OODMAG.COM

PUBLISHED BY THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



Cornfield bandits

HUNTING BEARS
IN THE MAIZE

Moose project

MNR WORKING
TO REVERSE
DECLINE

the Maitland

EXPLORING ONE OF OUR TOP
STEELHEAD RIVERS

Bass + bluegills

FIND THE KEY TO A
BUCKET'S MOUTH

Deer

HUNTERS AND
WHITETAILS WILL
ALWAYS ADAPT



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PHOTOS: JASON FORDE AND NICK ROMAN

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lanning a multi-day steelhead fishing adventure is something I look forward to each season. Southern Ontario has many Great Lakes tributaries to pick from, but one is always at the top of my list: the Maitland River. The picturesque Maitland begins in Arthur Township in Wellington County and empties into Lake Huron in the small town of Goderich. The river is a cold and warm-water species fishery, but the allure of catching a migratory steelhead draws anglers from afar. The river offers kilometres of accessible riverbank via many bridge crossings and public trails. Many access points to put in and take out drift boats and rafts are available. Around every bend in the valley lies premium

steelhead-holding water, whether swift runs, or deep pools. The riverbank is commonly lined with long-flooded grasses, creating a challenge for wading, but gentle on fish when you land them. This river offers it all no matter what angling techniques you prefer. Here's what you need to know.

Top locations

Whether exploring on foot or floating in a river vessel, there are seemingly endless locations throughout the watershed to access premium steelhead water. Be it spring or fall, there are plenty of opportunities to catch steelhead. The spring season opens on the fourth Saturday in April and there is a short window on the Maitland to get into drop-back, post-spawn

DESTINATION MAITLAND

steelhead. Bass anglers will frequent the lower river in the summer months but come fall it's back to steelheading for many. There is an extended fall season, as well as a limited year-round season.

The extended fall season (Oct. 1 until Dec. 31) stretches from Lake Huron all the way to the town of Wingham. Following the river downstream from Wingham, numerous bridge crossings can be found, some of which have trailer accessible put-ins/launches for boats. The Maitland may very well be the most accessible river in southern Ontario for downstream float trips with many options for launches and take-outs. Several parking locations where trails can be accessed follow the river, so a boat is not required to properly explore this river.

The limestone river substrate is carved out to generate large holding pools in some locations, while in others, it acts as a barrier to migration, creating falls, or steps that steelhead must navigate over on their upstream journey. One particularly popular fishing location where these steps and pools can be found is Falls Reserve Conservation Area. The falls spill over a river-wide limestone ledge that anglers will frequent trying to intercept migrating steelhead. Crossing the falls is a leap that steelhead prefer to make when the water temperatures haven't slowed their

a must to get into some good fishing. Many bridge crossings and parking areas offer park-and-fish options with good water very close by.

Spin fishing

The Maitland is a river angler's paradise in terms of viable angling methods that work for steelhead. Casting hardware such as Mepps spinners and Little Cleo spoons is one of my favourite ways to bring a steelhead to the net.

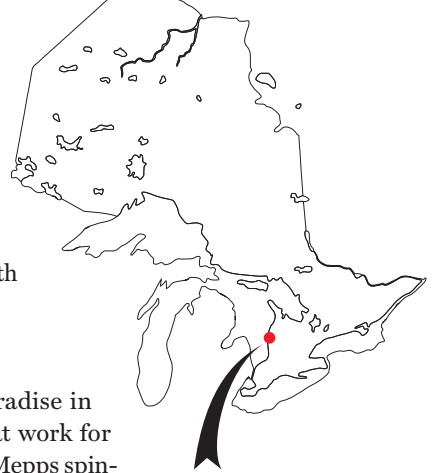
I focus on slowly swinging the lure across the current, casting on a downstream angle. I only reel if the lure is snagging on bottom, otherwise I will just let the river do the work for the most part. As the lure is taken by the current, the line will tighten, and the force of the river will impart action to it. The river current, paired with a slow retrieve, will get the lure moving faster if it's snagging on bottom or not spinning properly. Experiment with different sizes and casting angles to work your lure at varying depths.

Casting hardware requires you to get familiar with the river bottom as you need to get a feel for how deep you are. I often have my best success with a lure that, when cast at a 30- to 45-degree angle downstream and across current, gets deep enough that when I'm barely reeling in,

it will occasionally tick off the bottom with a low rod tip. Raising the rod tip can help lift the lure higher in the column. Come equipped with a full box of lures and doubles of your favourites because snagging is an unfortunate reality.

Centre-pin fishing

The many ledges, swifts, and pools on the Maitland can be fished very effectively with a float rod/reel. I prefer to fish floats on a centre-pin reel paired with a 13- to 15-foot rod. Larger floats loaded with split shot are in order on this river as you will be fishing pools often more than 10-feet deep. Using roe bags, beads, and soft plastics under floats with long leads in some of the Maitland's deepest pools is my go-to method for success in cold weather. The cold water makes fish lethargic, and they love to hold up tight to the bottom in these pools. Float fishing is undoubtedly the best method for success when fish are holding in this type of water. Accessing the river off Orchard Line or Black Hole Road will lead you to some of the prime float-fishing water, but be prepared for a hike.



Getting there

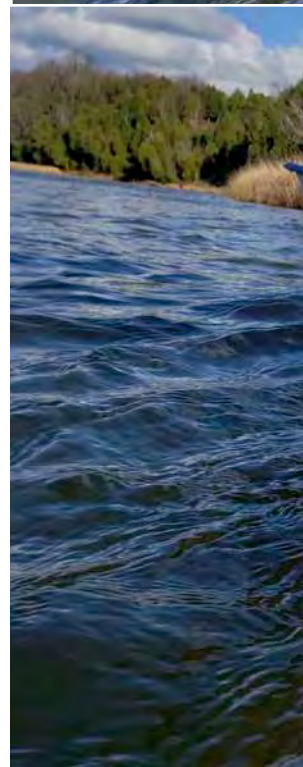
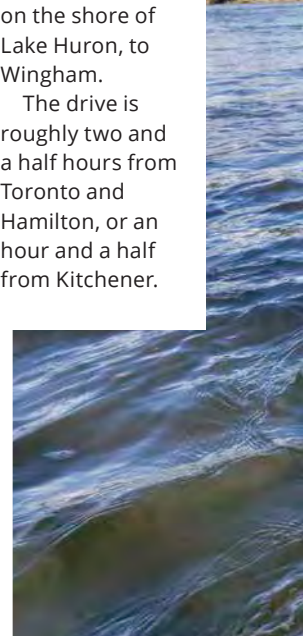
The majority of its fishable length runs from Goderich on the shore of Lake Huron, to Wingham.

The drive is roughly two and a half hours from Toronto and Hamilton, or an hour and a half from Kitchener.

LONG HIKES ARE NOT A MUST TO GET INTO SOME GOOD FISHING. MANY BRIDGE CROSSINGS AND PARKING AREAS OFFER PARK-AND-FISH OPTIONS WITH GOOD WATER VERY CLOSE BY.

metabolism. This makes the falls a ledge where steelhead often stack up in large numbers when river temperatures plummet.

The year-round section of the Maitland is in place from Hwy. 21 downstream to the lake. This section gives steelhead anglers open-water opportunities as well as a chance to ice fish in the marina waters in Goderich. Finding pools, runs, and river features that look fishy is best done using satellite imagery. This will also help you find parking lots and trails, which are often visible and labeled on apps such as Google Maps. While I won't give away my favourite steelhead honey holes, I will say that if you follow this advice and go for a few hikes in the woods along the Maitland, or a float downriver, it won't be long until you have your own list of spots that you hold close. That said, long hikes are not





The Maitland showcases gorgeous scenery around every bend. Starting in Wingham, the river has a gentle flow with agricultural vistas. Livestock can be found grazing near the river edge with rolling hills and fields as the backdrop. As you continue downstream near Goderich, the river cuts through limestone rock where its banks become steep and lined with thick cedars.



Where to stay

Cedar Lodge Motel

Located in Goderich, this clean and affordable motel has varying options for rooms and even has an indoor pool and hot tub to relax in after a long day on the water. There is room in the parking lot to facilitate trailers for drift boats.

Benmiller Inn

If fancier accommodations are what you seek, the Benmiller Inn is a cozy hotel that has a unique riverside setting in the village of Benmiller. There is river access one minute from the hotel at the bridge crossing.

Falls Reserve Conservation Area Camping

For those who prefer a more rugged approach, this conservation area offers camping into October.

Tapping the pros

Hiring a local guide is a great way to explore the river. Any one of these guides will give you an unforgettable fishing experience that will have you coming back to the Maitland.

Fly Fitters

Mike (Maitland Mike)
Verhoef
www.flyfitters.ca

Fly Water Guiding

Tyler Dunsmore
www.flywaterguiding.com

Affinity Angling

Neil Leduc
www.affinityangling.ca



The Maitland is not just for colder days and steelhead.

