

Notice of Meeting
Meeting of the Membership #3-2026

Date: March 18, 2026
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Administrative Centre, Wroxeter

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
3. Approval of Minutes: Membership Meeting #1-2026 held on January 28, 2026 & Meeting #2-2026 held on February 25th, 2026.
4. 2025 Draft Audit, Paul Seebach, Seebach and Company Report #11-2026
5. Provincial Announcement regarding the Consolidation of Conservation Authorities: Report #12-2026
6. Business Requiring Direction and or Decision:
 - a) 2026 Work Plan, Budget, and Cost Apportionment: Report #13-2026
 - b) Members Work Plan for 2026: Report #14-2025
 - c) Appointment to Committees for 2026: Report #15-2026
 - d) Appointment of Auditor, Solicitor and Bank: Report #16-2026
 - e) Meeting Schedule for 2026: Report #17-2026
 - f) Carbon Footprint Report 2025: Report #18-2026
7. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Revenue/Expenditure Report for January & February: Report #19-2026
 - b. Agreements Signed: Report #20-2026
 - c. Correspondence: Letter to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks from the Township of Huron Kinloss; Letter from Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks re: Fee Changes
8. Chair and Members Reports
9. Adjournment – Next Meeting Date, Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Administration Centre in Wroxeter.

Membership Meeting #1-2026

January 28, 2026

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

Staff Present: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer
Jayne Thompson, Communications Coordinator
Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Services Coordinator
Michelle Quipp, Executive Assistant

Others Present: Cory Bilyea, Midwestern News Media
Glenn Sheppard, Marsh

1. Call to Order

Chair Ed McGugan, requested Vice Chair, Matt Duncan, chair the meeting. Matt Duncan, 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

Motion FA #1-26

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Anita Van Hittersum

THAT the minutes from the General Membership Meeting #12-2025 held on December 17, 2025, be approved.
(carried)

4. Business out of the Minutes

- a) Discussion re: Advocacy regarding proposed Consolidation: Report #1-2026

Report #1-2026 was presented and the following motions was made:

Motion FA #2-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Vanessa Kelly

THAT the chair, vice chair and staff proceed with the actions listed in Report #1-2026 to continue with advocacy.

(carried)

b) Process for Requesting an Exemption for Chair and Vice Chair: Report #2-2026

Report #2-2026 was presented for the members and the following motion was made with a recorded vote:

Motion FA #3-26

Moved by: Anita Van Hittersum

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT the members request an extension to the 2026 term for the Chair and Vice Chair as required by the Conservation Authorities Act.

(carried)

| Member | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Ed McGugan, Township of Huron-Kinloss & South Bruce | x | |
| Alvin McLellan, Municipality of Huron East | x | |
| Megan Gibson, Township of Howick | x | |
| Matt Duncan, Municipality of North Perth | x | |
| Anita Van Hittersum, Township of North Huron | x | |
| Evan Hickey, Township of Ashfield- Colborne-Wawanosh | x | |
| Ed Podniewicz, Town of Minto, Township of Wellington N & Township of Mapleton | x | |
| Vanessa Kelly, Town of Goderich & West Perth | x | |
| Andrew Fournier, Township of Perth East | x | |
| Alison Lobb, Municipality of Central Huron | x | |
| Sharen Zinn, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry | x | |

c) Public Consultation: Closure of Wawanosh Campground: Report #3-2026

Report #3-2026 was presented and the following motions was made:

Motion FA #4-26

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Ed Podniewicz

THAT the authority implements the recommendations as outlined in Report #3-2026.

(carried)

d) Final Agenda-Annual Meeting: Report #4-2025

Report #4-2026 was presented to the members for their consideration.

5. Presentations

- a) Directors and Officers Liability & Cybersecurity: Glenn Sheppard, Marsh

Glenn Sheppard of Marsh presented information about Directors and Officers Liability & Cybersecurity.

- b) 2025 Work Plan Highlights: Jayne Thompson, Communications/IT/GIS Coordinator

Jayne Thompson presented about the highlights of the 2025 Work Plan.

6. Business Requiring Direction and or a Decision:

- a) Review of Members 2025 Work Plan: Report #5-2026

Report #5-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #5-26

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT the review of the 2025 Members work plan progress report be approved as outlined in Report #5-2026.

- b) 2025 Year End Revenue/Expenditure Report: Report #6-2026

Report #6-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #6-26

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT the year-end surpluses and deficits outlined in Report #6-2026 be directed to the appropriate accumulated surplus categories;

AND THAT all deferred revenue be directed to the designated projects in the 2026 draft budget.

(carried)

- c) Annual Review of the Members Manual: Report #7-2026

Report #7-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #7-26

Moved by: Megan Gibson **Seconded by:** Evan Hickey
THAT no changes be made to the Members Manual.
(carried)

d) Declarations for Second Vice Chair: Report #8-2026

Report #8-2026 was presented for the members for their consideration. Evan Hickey declared his interest in Second Vice Chair.

7. Consent Agenda

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

- a) Revenue/Expenditure Report for October: Report #9-2026
- b) Agreements Signed: Report #10-2026

Motion FA #8-26

Moved by: Ed Podniewicz **Seconded by:** Vanessa Kelly
THAT Report #9-2026 to Report #10-2026 along with the respective motions as outlined in those reports be approved.
(carried)

8. Chair and Member Reports

Ed McGugan shared his experience at the ROMA Conference.

9. Closed Session: Personnel Matter-Performance Review General Manager Secretary Treasurer

Motion FA #9-26

Moved by: Vanessa Kelly **Seconded by:** Anita Van Hittersum
THAT the meeting be moved into a closed session at 8:45 PM.
(carried)

Motion FA #10-26

Moved by: Sharen Zinn **Seconded by:** Megan Gibson
THAT the meeting be moved into an open closed session at 8:53PM.
(carried)

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date, Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 2:00pm at the Blyth Memorial Hall in Blyth.

Motion FA #11-26

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Vanessa Kelly

THAT the Members Meeting be adjourned at 8:55PM

(carried)

Ed McGugan
Chair

Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

DRAFT

Annual Meeting of the Membership#2-2026

February 25, 2026

Members Present: Alison Lobb, Ed McGugan, Ed Podniewicz, Anita Van Hittersum, Andrew Fournier, Evan Hicky, Sharen Zinn, Matt Ducnan, Alvin McLellan

Members Absent: Megan Gibson, Vanessa McMillan, Evan Hicky

Staff Present: Phil Beard, Jayne Thompson, Michelle Quipp, Stewart Lockie, Barry Skinn, Donna Clarkson, Elizabeth Huber-Kidby, Patrick Huber-Kidby, Karlene Zurbrigg, Tim Prentice, Dave Nuhn, Laura Hopkins, Amber Leis, Adam Youngblut, Erin Gouthro, Jason Moir, Cheryl Dobbyn, Danielle Livingston, Alaina Lennox

Others Present: Chris Akiwenzie, Dylan White, Cory Bilyea, Peter Shepherd, Art Versteeg, John Thompson, Walter McKenzie, Jim Ginn, Jamie Heffer, Paul Heffer, Marg Beard, Emily, Sophia and Finnley Hopf, Davin Heinbuck, Ray Chartrand, Erik Downing, Susan Chan, Wendy Hoernig, Steve McCabe, Shawn Loughlin, Glen McNeil, Dean Trentowsky, Jordan Nairn, Richard Keeso, Kriss Snell, Deb Shewfelt, David Yates

1. Welcome by the Chair

Chair, Ed McGugan, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

2. Introduction of the Members of Maitland Conservation for 2026

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

3. Introduction of Guests: Chair, Ed McGugan

Chair McGugan invited the following dignitaries to bring remarks:

Jamie Heffer –Warden of County of Huron

Dean Trentowsky – Warden of the County of Perth

Jim Ginn – Mayor of Central Huron
Walter McKenzie – Mayor of West Perth
Paul Heffer – Reeve of the Township of North Huron
Ray Chartrand – Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Steve McCabe – Councillor, Township of Wellington North
John Thompson – Councillor, Town of Goderich
Glen McNeil – Mayor of the Municipality of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
Erik Downing – General Manager, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

4. Remarks from Angela Coleman, Executive Director, Conservation Ontario

Chair McGugan provided remarks on her behalf as Angela was unable to attend the meeting.

5. Chair's Remarks: Ed McGuan

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for being here today.

It has become common practice nowadays to do a land acknowledgment at the beginning of any public meeting. I would like to expand that today a little bit.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of the indigenous peoples who have been here on this land for a long time and continue to live here.

I would like to acknowledge the pioneers who settled this land and who in many cases were escaping to here, from severe abuse and tyranny.

I would like to acknowledge the immigrants who have come to this land and this Country both for the opportunities and again, to escape war and starvation.

And I would like to acknowledge all of our veterans, who have fought and died and suffered unspeakably so that we may live in freedom here in this country.

We have made mistakes. Lots of them. Big ones too. Such is the stuff of history throughout this world and the sweep of history. And in this nation.

However, this country, this land, has been a beacon of hope and promise to very many people around the world.

This is a beautiful land that has been given to us to steward. It is a productive land. A land populated by a vast array of people who are industrious, hardworking and caring.

And they care for this land. Including its lakes and streams, rivers and forests.

And where we live, here in Ontario, as our Premier so recently pointed out, we are quite unusual

in North America at least, in that we have Conservation Authorities.

That is not normal. Most places do not have dedicated, statutory organizations specifically focused on flood and erosion hazard protection of people and property.

Organizations that protect environmentally sensitive lands and preserve beautiful areas where the public can go and enjoy the woods, the streams, rivers and lakes.

We have a great deal to be thankful and grateful for.

And today, I want to continue by thanking each one of you. All who support this Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. Those who work for the Authority, those who support the Authority, those on the Maitland Conservation Foundation and those Members of the Board.

A tremendous amount of thought, planning, consultation and work goes into the care of the land we are responsible for.

Sometimes we are obligated to make tough decisions. Decisions that are not necessarily popular. But decisions that follow our Mission and our Vision, decisions that **prioritize** the safety of the people we share some responsibility for.

We have strived to always keep in mind that it is rarely the wrong time to do the right thing. And to do the right thing, to make the right decision, in the right way. With lots of discussion, careful consideration and compassion.

Because it matters. The people affected matter. The land, the environment matter. Again because the people who live here, who live in this land matter.

One of the phrases I've heard this past year is: A Healthy Environment equals a Healthy People, which equals a Healthy Economy.

If you have any doubt about that, look around the world. Look at the sub-Saharan regions among others. The environment, while sensitive, is in bad shape. And consequently the people are not healthy. And the economy is in tatters.

A Healthy Environment, a Healthy People, and a Healthy Economy. That is one of the key things we bring to the table. We understand the principles and the details of our watershed.

There is a whole lot to be learned and in the last few years we have done a Forest Health Assessment and we are now underway with a streams and watercourses study.

We are continuing to work with the Wildlife Conservation Society, the University of Guelph and the One Health Institute on the environmental component of the Healthy Watersheds, People and Wildlife initiative.

We are continuing our efforts to collaborate with first nations and Metis Councils through the

Minutes of Maitland Conservation Membership Meeting held February 25, 2026

Shared Pathways initiative.

We are continuing to update our flood hazard mapping and working on the Restoring Natural Sediment Pathways project at the Goderich Harbour.

And, along with our partners, work is continuing and expanding on the Watershed Stewardship Services program that incorporates better farming and land management practices that keep the soil on the land for future generations and out of the streams, rivers and lakes.

There was a participatory seminar recently where the round table was shared between three indigenous leaders and one white haired guy in a wheelchair. And they explained their understanding of the Seven Generation Principle to me in a way that was somewhat revelatory.

And the Principle, as they stated it, goes like this:

You are one generation.

And you normally know your parents, and hopefully their parents, your grandparents.

That is three generations.

And you are blessed if you got to meet your great-grandparents. I don't remember them but I did know where they lived and knew quite a bit about them. They were real to me. And that's four generations.

And, on the other side, we normally know our children and hopefully their children, our grandchildren.

And, you are indeed blessed if you get to meet your great-grandchildren. That makes for seven generations.

So you know where you came from. You know your history. And you know the people directly involved in the future.

And that informs the indigenous decision making. Every decision is filtered through the understanding that it is affected by the people in our past and will affect the people in our future. People we are intimately connected to.

And it makes for better decisions.

May we learn from our indigenous brethren to remember the past and consider the future on a larger and longer scale.

2026 is our 75th Anniversary. Let's celebrate this year. Let's celebrate our connectedness, our past, and our future.

6. Staff Service Awards

Chair McGugan presented staff service awards to the following staff:

- a) Sarah Gunneweik, Water Resources Engineer-5 years
- b) Alaina Lennox, Administrative Assistant-5 years

7. Election of Officers: Maitland Conservation & Maitland Source Protection Authority

a) Appointment of Presiding Officer and Scrutineers

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

Motion FA #12-2026

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Sharen Zinn

THAT Jamie Heffer act as the Presiding Officer for the election of Chair for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and the Maitland Source Protection Authority (MSPA).

(carried)

b) Election of Chair for 2026

Presiding Officer, Heffer, called for the appointment of two scrutineers for the election of officers.

Motion FA #13-26

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Andrew Fornier

THAT Walter McKenize and Deb Shewfelt be scrutineers for the elections of officers; AND THAT the scrutineers be responsible for destroying ballots after an election, if needed.

(carried)

The Presiding Officer called for nominations for the position of Chair for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and the Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026.

Motion FA #14-26

Moved by: Anita Van Hittersum

THAT Ed McGugan be nominated for Chair of the MVCA and the MSPA for 2026.

(carried)

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

Motion FA #15-26

Moved by: Sharen Zinn

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and

Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026 be closed.
(carried)

Ed McGugan agreed to stand for the position of Chair in 2026.

Presiding Officer, Heffer declared Ed McGugan as the Chair of the MVCA and MSPA for 2026.

c) Election of Vice-Chair for 2026

Ed McGugan, Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026.

Motion FA #16-26

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

THAT Matt Duncan be nominated for Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026.
(carried)

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

Motion FA #17-26

Moved by: Anita Van Hittersum

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026 be closed.
(carried)

Matt Duncan accepted the Vice-Chair position.

The Chair declared Matt Duncan Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026.

d) Election of 2nd Vice-Chair for 2026

The Chair called for nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026.

Motion FA #18-26

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

THAT Evan Hickey be nominated for 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026.
(carried)

The Chair called for further nominations for 2nd Vice-Chair two more times and no others were

made so then called for a motion to close nominations.

Motion FA #19-26

Moved by: Andrew Fornier

Seconded by: Matt Duncan

THAT nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026 be closed.

(carried)

Chair McGugan declared Evan Hickey as 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2026.

8. Celebrating Partnerships”: Introductions-Chair & Vice Chair

- a) Maitland Conservation Foundation: Jordan Nairn, MCF Chair
- b) Ecosystem Approaches to Health: Dr. Jane Parmley, Associate Professor, Ontario Veterinary College
- c) Building Relationships: Chris Akiwenzie, Lead - Aki-Guardian, & Dylan White, Biologist, Bagida’waad Alliance
- d) Lake Huron Forever Pledge – Working towards a healthier Lake Huron cEcosystem: John Thompson, Town of Goderich

Chair, McGugan thanked each of the presenters.

9. Closing Remarks: Chair, MVCA

Chair, McGugan thanked everyone for attending the MVCA’s 75th Annual Meeting. The Chair added that he is looking forward to working with the Members and staff in 2026 as we celebrate MVCA’s 75th Anniversary.

10. Adjournment:

Next meeting: March 18, 2026, at 7:00pm at MVCA’s Administration Centre located in Wroxeter.

Motion FA #20-26

Moved by: Matt Duncan

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT the Members Meeting be adjourned at 3:45pm.

(carried)

Ed McGugan
Chair

Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2025

DRAFT

SEEBACH & COMPANY
Chartered Professional Accountants

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (the "Authority") are the responsibility of the Authority's management and have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, established by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, as described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgment, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The Authority's management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded from loss, transactions are properly authorized and recorded, and reliable information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements. These statements are monitored and evaluated by the Authority's management. The Board of Directors meets with management and the external auditor to review the financial statements and discuss and significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval.

The financial statements have been audited by Seebach & Company, independent external auditors appointed by the Authority. The accompanying Independent Auditor's Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Authority's financial statements.

MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

March 18, 2026



Danielle Livingston
Administrative Financial Services Coordinator

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority ("the Authority"), which are comprised of the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025 and the statements of operations, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at December 31, 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards (PSAB).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with PSAB, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Seebach & Company

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

Clinton, Ontario
March 18, 2026

**MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

| As at December 31 | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| FINANCIAL ASSETS | | |
| Cash | 504,107 | 899,181 |
| Short-term investments (note 3) | 382,664 | 366,446 |
| Accounts receivable | 385,600 | 67,036 |
| | <u>1,272,371</u> | <u>1,332,663</u> |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 54,323 | 47,951 |
| Deferred revenue (note 4) | 175,032 | 82,500 |
| | <u>229,355</u> | <u>130,451</u> |
| NET FINANCIAL ASSETS | 1,043,016 | 1,202,212 |
| NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS | | |
| Tangible capital assets, net (note 6) | 3,349,112 | 3,005,319 |
| Prepayments | 10,349 | 26,017 |
| | <u>3,359,461</u> | <u>3,031,336</u> |
| ACCUMULATED SURPLUS | \$ 4,402,477 | \$ 4,233,548 |

On behalf of the Members:

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

**MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

| For the year ended December 31 | 2025 Budget | 2025 Actual | 2024 Actual |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Municipal | | | |
| Municipal levies | 2,235,205 | 2,235,205 | 2,022,705 |
| Government Grants | | | |
| MNRF transfer payment | 36,424 | 36,424 | 36,424 |
| Other provincial | 12,600 | 12,658 | 170,068 |
| Federal | 173,213 | 332,229 | 32,535 |
| Partnership agreements | 737,910 | 969,916 | 706,743 |
| Authority Generated | | | |
| User fees, sales and admissions | 1,111,154 | 1,217,488 | 1,086,666 |
| Interest income | 60,000 | 71,591 | 108,569 |
| Donations and fundraising | 67,700 | 134,753 | 178,967 |
| Facility rentals | 7,975 | 7,470 | 6,914 |
| Deferred revenue - prior year | 82,500 | 82,500 | 293,732 |
| Deferred revenue - current year | (5,830) | (175,032) | (82,500) |
| | <u>4,518,851</u> | <u>4,925,202</u> | <u>4,560,823</u> |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Conservation land management | 1,372,166 | 1,026,913 | 939,965 |
| Flood safety services | 999,892 | 915,569 | 781,096 |
| Watershed stewardship | 1,370,715 | 1,771,096 | 1,645,873 |
| Corporate services | 1,063,957 | 876,185 | 950,806 |
| Amortization | - | 166,510 | 138,732 |
| | <u>4,806,730</u> | <u>4,756,273</u> | <u>4,456,472</u> |
| Annual surplus (deficit) | (287,879) | 168,929 | 104,351 |
| Opening balance | <u>4,233,548</u> | <u>4,233,548</u> | <u>4,129,197</u> |
| Closing balance | <u><u>\$ 3,945,669</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 4,402,477</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 4,233,548</u></u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

**MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS**

| For the year ended December 31 | 2025 Actual | 2024 Actual |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Annual surplus (deficit) | 168,929 | 104,351 |
| Amortization of tangible capital assets | 166,510 | 138,732 |
| Net acquisition of tangible capital assets | (510,303) | (205,076) |
| Decrease (increase) in inventory and prepaid expenses | 15,668 | (7,783) |
| Increase (decrease) in net financial assets | (159,196) | 30,224 |
| Opening balance | 1,202,212 | 1,171,988 |
| Closing balance | \$ 1,043,016 | \$ 1,202,212 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

DRAFT

**MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

| For the year ended December 31 | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Operating activities | | |
| Annual surplus (deficit) | 168,929 | 104,351 |
| Amortization expense not requiring cash outlay | 166,510 | 138,732 |
| Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable | (318,564) | (21,497) |
| Increase (decrease) in accounts payable | 6,372 | (80,696) |
| Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue | 92,532 | (211,232) |
| Decrease (increase) in inventory and prepaid expenses | 15,668 | (7,783) |
| Cash provided by (used for) operating activities | <u>131,447</u> | <u>(78,125)</u> |
| Capital activities | | |
| Net disposals (purchases) of tangible capital assets | (510,303) | (205,076) |
| Cash provided by (used for) capital activities | <u>(510,303)</u> | <u>(205,076)</u> |
| Investing activities | | |
| Decrease (increase) in short-term investments | (16,218) | (26,587) |
| Cash provided by (used for) investing activities | <u>(16,218)</u> | <u>(26,587)</u> |
| Increase (decrease) in cash position | (395,074) | (309,788) |
| Cash (overdraft) beginning of year | 899,181 | 1,208,969 |
| Cash (overdraft) end of year | <u>\$ 504,107</u> | <u>\$ 899,181</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2025

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (“the Authority”) is established under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario. The purpose of this Act is to provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in water sheds in Ontario. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 1. The watersheds include areas in the Municipalities of Central Huron, Huron East, Morris-Turnberry and South Bruce, the Townships of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, Howick, North Huron, Perth East, West Perth, Mapleton, Wellington North and Huron-Kinloss, and the Town of Goderich, North Perth and Minto.

The Authority is a registered charity and is exempt from income taxes.

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared by the management of the Authority in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for organizations operating in the local government sector as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

Significant aspects of accounting policies adopted by the Authority are as follows:

a) Accrual basis of accounting

Revenues and expenses are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting recognizes revenues as they are earned and measurable, and recognizes expenditures as they are incurred and measurable as a result of receipt of goods or services and the creation of a legal obligation to pay.

b) Portfolio investments

Investments are recorded at cost less amounts written off to reflect a permanent decline in value.

c) Vehicles and equipment

The Authority operates a motor pool of vehicles and equipment. Internal charges for the use of vehicles and equipment are made to the various projects of the Authority based on an hourly or distance travelled rate, which is designed to recover all costs of operating the pool including replacement of vehicles and equipment.

These internal charges are included in the appropriate expense classifications. Expenditures incurred by the motor pool for the purchase of equipment and the operating cost and the recovery of expenses by internal charges are reported in the statement of operations and surplus.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) **Tangible capital assets**

Tangible capital assets are recorded at historical cost. Historical cost includes the costs directly related to the acquisition, design, construction, development, improvement or betterment of tangible capital assets. Cost includes overheads directly attributable to construction and development.

Tangible capital asset, except land, are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives as follows:

| Category | Amortization Period |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Land | not applicable |
| Land improvements | 5 years |
| Buildings | 5 - 75 years |
| Contents | 5 - 50 years |
| Equipment | 5 - 40 years |
| Furniture | 45 - 50 years |
| Vehicles | 5 - 10 years |
| Machinery | 6 - 44 years |
| Information technology | 5 - 9 years |

Dams for the purposes of water control are not recorded as assets of the Conservation Authority.

e) **Contributed capital assets**

Contributed capital assets are recognized as assets and revenue at fair value at the time they are received.

f) **Deferred revenue**

Revenue restricted by legislation, regulation or agreement and not available for Authority purposes is reported as deferred revenue on the statement of financial position. The revenue is reported on the statement of financial activities in the year in which it is used for the specified purpose.

g) **Revenue recognition**

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized in revenue when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

h) **Government transfers**

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenues in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met, and reasonable estimates can be made.

i) **Classification of expenses**

Expenses are reported in four main categories based on the type of services provided. Within these categories, expenses are broken down into operations and projects.

j) **Accumulated surplus**

Appropriations are made from operations to accumulated surplus for future expenditures and contingencies for such amounts as are deemed appropriate, upon approval of the Membership.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

k) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the period, and the accompanying notes. Due to the inherent uncertainty in making estimates, actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Cash

Interest is paid on the Authority's bank accounts at the bank's monthly average prime rate less 1.7%.

3. Short-term portfolio investments

The Authority has purchased fixed income investments that have a cost of \$382,664 (2024 : \$366,446) and have a market value of \$379,124 (2024 : \$362,693) at year end.

4. Deferred revenue

The balance of the long-term liabilities reported on the consolidated statement of financial position is made up of the following:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| Garvey/Glenn project | 60,778 | 92,631 |
| Stewardship projects | 4,786 | 4,786 |
| Wellington clean water project | 5,830 | 5,830 |
| Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration | 79,731 | 92,869 |
| Carbon Footprint Initiative | 2,907 | 2,907 |
| Healthy Lake Huron | 24,545 | (6,163) |
| RALP | (61,098) | - |
| Forest Health | 59,177 | 10,285 |
| ECCC Restoration / Natural Hazard | 25,269 | (96,484) |
| Hazard Mapping | (32,773) | - |
| Floods Safety Coastal Resilience | 5,880 | (24,161) |
| | <u>\$ 175,032</u> | <u>\$ 82,500</u> |

5. Pension plan

Some employees of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority are members of a defined benefit pension plan (OMERS). Contributions made during the year on behalf of the employees amounted to \$187,673 (2024 : \$179,172) and have been included as an expense on the statement of operations.

6. Tangible capital assets

For additional information, see the Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets information on the tangible capital assets of the Authority by major class, as well as for accumulated amortization of the assets controlled.

7. Expenditures by object

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries and benefits | \$ 2,218,711 | \$ 2,059,428 |
| Operating goods and services | 2,371,052 | 2,258,312 |
| Amortization | <u>166,510</u> | <u>138,732</u> |
| | <u>\$ 4,756,273</u> | <u>\$ 4,456,472</u> |

8. Financial instrument risk management

Credit risk

The Authority is exposed to credit risk through its cash, trade and other receivables, and short-term investments. There is the possibility of non-collection of its trade and other receivables. The majority of the Authority's receivables are from users and government entities. For trade and other receivables, the Authority measures impairment based on how long the amounts have been outstanding. For amounts outstanding considered doubtful or uncollectible, an impairment allowance is setup.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Authority will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority has a planning and a budgeting process in place to help determine the funds required to support the Authority's normal operating requirements on an ongoing basis. The Authority ensures that there are sufficient funds to meet its short-term requirements, taking into account its anticipated cash flows from operations and its holdings of cash and cash equivalents. To achieve this aim, it seeks to maintain an available line of credit balance as approved by the Membership, at a minimum, expected requirements.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as foreign exchange rates or interest rates will affect the Authority's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to control market risk exposures within acceptable parameters while optimizing return on investments.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority is exposed to interest rate risk arising from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect the variable rate of temporary borrowings and long-term liabilities and the value of fixed rate long-term liabilities.

There has been no significant changes from the previous year in the exposure to risk or policies, procedures and methods used to measure risks.

9. Budget amounts

Under Canadian public sector accounting standards, budget amounts are to be reported on the statement of operations for comparative purposes. The 2025 budget amounts for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority approved by the Membership are unaudited and have been restated to conform to the basis of presentation of the revenues and expenditures on the consolidated statement of activities.

MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule of Continuity of Accumulated Surplus
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

| | Balance, beginning of year | From Operations | To Operations | Balance, end of year |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Internally restricted surplus | | | | |
| Vehicle and equipment purchases | 103,080 | 28,692 | (73,253) | 58,519 |
| Insurance deductible | 25,000 | | | 25,000 |
| Working capital | 644,886 | 519,069 | (448,765) | 715,190 |
| Short Term Disability | 38,000 | | | 38,000 |
| Forestry management | 109,088 | 48,968 | (75,526) | 82,530 |
| Falls Reserve Conservation Area | 272,920 | | (179,259) | 93,661 |
| Wawanosh Park Conservation Area | 35,255 | 5,210 | - | 40,465 |
| | <u>1,228,229</u> | <u>601,939</u> | <u>(776,803)</u> | <u>1,053,365</u> |
| Tangible capital assets | <u>3,005,319</u> | <u>343,793</u> | | <u>3,349,112</u> |
| | <u>\$ 4,233,548</u> | <u>945,732</u> | <u>(776,803)</u> | <u>\$ 4,402,477</u> |

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MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

| | Land | Land Improvements | Buildings & Infrastructure | Contents | Furniture | Vehicles | Machinery | Equipment | Information Technology | TOTAL Net Book Value 2025 | TOTAL Net Book Value 2024 |
|--|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cost | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | 1,220,137 | 6,394 | 2,098,528 | 26,783 | 17,786 | 389,050 | 70,121 | 348,108 | 193,145 | 4,370,052 | 4,214,168 |
| Add: Additions during the year | | | 340,286 | | | 47,712 | 101,226 | 13,981 | 7,098 | 510,303 | 205,076 |
| Less: Disposals during the year | | | (6,658) | | | (21,769) | (40,055) | | (8,575) | (77,057) | (49,192) |
| Balance, end of year | <u>1,220,137</u> | <u>6,394</u> | <u>2,432,156</u> | <u>26,783</u> | <u>17,786</u> | <u>414,993</u> | <u>131,292</u> | <u>362,089</u> | <u>191,668</u> | <u>4,803,298</u> | <u>4,370,052</u> |
| Accumulated Amortization | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | | 6,394 | 577,604 | 21,885 | 12,021 | 266,454 | 59,916 | 282,634 | 137,825 | 1,364,733 | 1,275,193 |
| Add: Amortization during the year | | | 89,530 | 336 | 368 | 30,473 | 12,764 | 14,608 | 18,431 | 166,510 | 138,732 |
| Less: Accumulated amortization on disposals | | | (6,658) | | | (21,769) | (40,055) | | (8,575) | (77,057) | (49,192) |
| Balance, end of year | <u>-</u> | <u>6,394</u> | <u>660,476</u> | <u>22,221</u> | <u>12,389</u> | <u>275,158</u> | <u>32,625</u> | <u>297,242</u> | <u>147,681</u> | <u>1,454,186</u> | <u>1,364,733</u> |
| Net Book Value of Tangible Capital Assets | <u>1,220,137</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,771,680</u> | <u>4,562</u> | <u>5,397</u> | <u>139,835</u> | <u>98,667</u> | <u>64,847</u> | <u>43,987</u> | <u>\$ 3,349,112</u> | <u>\$ 3,005,319</u> |

**MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES**

| For the year ended December 31 | 2025 Budget | 2025 Actual | 2024 Actual |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Conservation Area Services | | | |
| Falls Reserve Conservation Area | 590,540 | 565,303 | 504,942 |
| Management, development and operations | 322,916 | 320,355 | 303,357 |
| Motor pool | 19,650 | 16,680 | 13,195 |
| Wawanosh Park Conservation Area | 21,808 | 13,462 | 13,265 |
| Conservation Area Projects | | | |
| Falls Reserve Conservation Area | 213,227 | 62,628 | 66,544 |
| Forest management | 19,000 | 12,641 | 19,258 |
| WNC water treatment upgrade | - | - | - |
| Vehicle/equipment replacement | 130,000 | 5,068 | 478 |
| Conservation Areas general projects | 54,325 | 30,095 | 18,144 |
| Carbon offset, footprints to forests, and naturalization | 700 | 681 | 782 |
| Total Conservation Area | <u>1,372,166</u> | <u>1,026,913</u> | <u>939,965</u> |
| Flood Protection Services | | | |
| Regulations | 333,469 | 321,060 | 308,537 |
| Flood and erosion control structures | 4,790 | 3,063 | 4,193 |
| Flood forecasting and warning | 308,967 | 312,026 | 288,407 |
| Ice management, hazard prevention and information | 97,118 | 67,073 | 76,802 |
| Flood Safety Projects | | | |
| Shoreline | 21,428 | - | 58,996 |
| MNR low flow monitoring | - | 46,190 | - |
| Flood safety equipment | 30,000 | 16,629 | 20,000 |
| Water and erosion control | - | 149,528 | 24,161 |
| Coastal resiliency | 204,120 | - | - |
| Total Flood Safety Services | <u>999,892</u> | <u>915,569</u> | <u>781,096</u> |

**MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES**

| For the year ended December 31 | 2025 Budget | 2025 Actual | 2024 Actual |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Watershed Stewardship Services | | | |
| Reforestation services | 203,985 | 257,091 | 210,853 |
| Watershed monitoring and reporting service | 124,926 | 121,780 | 138,709 |
| Extension services | 184,085 | 166,459 | 162,088 |
| Health Assessment | 61,221 | 60,024 | - |
| Watershed Stewardship Projects | | | |
| Huron County clean water project | 500,000 | 410,540 | 446,474 |
| Garvey/Glen Watershed Co-ordination | 69,419 | 41,853 | 19,378 |
| Drinking water source protection - transition | 22,300 | 25,567 | 26,303 |
| Middle Maitland rejuvenation project | 33,186 | 70,722 | 93,838 |
| Stewardship short term projects | 4,786 | - | - |
| OMAFRA - COA Healthy Lake Huron | 12,837 | - | 35,363 |
| Watershed Health | 111,103 | 90,276 | 110,642 |
| Maitland Watershed Resiliency / CFI | 2,907 | - | 310 |
| Nature Based Climate Solutions | - | - | 229,262 |
| Stream Restoration / Natural Hazards | 34,130 | 161,363 | 98,111 |
| Wellington County | 5,830 | - | 5,700 |
| WS ECCC Restoration | - | - | 68,842 |
| RALP | - | 365,421 | - |
| Total Watershed Stewardship | <u>1,370,715</u> | <u>1,771,096</u> | <u>1,645,873</u> |

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**MAITLAND VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES**

| For the year ended December 31 | 2025 Budget | 2025 Actual | 2024 Actual |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Corporate Services | | | |
| Administration | 388,865 | 387,846 | 388,325 |
| Communications and IT/GIS | 313,192 | 259,842 | 232,416 |
| Financial management | 125,990 | 109,671 | 112,037 |
| Service area support costs | 54,600 | 54,320 | 51,878 |
| Governance | 18,100 | 18,797 | 14,557 |
| Motor pool | 10,500 | 9,649 | 7,947 |
| Corporate Services Projects | | | |
| Information technology upgrades | 48,400 | 27,949 | 17,770 |
| Corporate office renovation | 104,310 | 8,111 | 109,804 |
| Watershed strategy | - | - | 16,072 |
| Total Corporate Services | <u>1,063,957</u> | <u>876,185</u> | <u>950,806</u> |

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Members Report #12-2026

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer
Date: March 11, 2026

Subject: Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Purpose:

To summarize the Province's plan to consolidate Conservation Authorities
To determine if MVCA would like to respond to the Province's rationale for consolidating conservation authorities.

Background:

On Monday, March 9th, Conservation Authorities and municipalities were contacted by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks inviting us to attend a briefing by Minister McCarthy.

The Minister held a press conference at 10:30am on Tuesday, March 10 to announce the Province's plan to consolidate conservation authorities. The Minister held a briefing on the changes to conservation authorities at noon on Tuesday. An additional briefing was held with Mayors, Reeves, Wardens and Regional Chairs at 1:00pm.

Province's Rationale for Consolidation:

To protect Ontario's economy, workers and communities by making the province the best place to invest in the G7.

To bring more consistency and transparency to the cost and timelines for building homes.

Issues Identified by the Province:

- a) Patchwork of standards and service delivery
- b) Outdated and fragmented data systems
- c) Administrative Duplication
- d) Need for Accountability and transparency

Summary of Changes:

1. Regional Conservation Authority Boundaries: MVCA is included in the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority along with ABCA, SVCA, GSCA, NVCA and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority.
2. Governance:
 - a) Members will be appointed by Counties and Regions instead of lower tier municipalities.
 - b) The number of Members on the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority has not been determined as yet. The Ministry will establish a formula for determining how many members will be appointed from each County and Region. There will be a maximum and a minimum number of members that each County and Region can appoint based upon population.
 - c) Timing: The new members will be appointed by the Counties and Regions after the municipal election in October.
 - d) Watershed Councils: Each Regional Conservation Authority would be required to establish one or more watershed councils. They would assist the Regional Conservation Authority to identify local priorities for programs and services. The composition of the watershed council will be set out in regulation.
3. Transfer of Assets and Legal Obligations:

The Regional Conservation Authority would be responsible for:

 - a) All assets and liabilities
 - b) All rights and obligations
 - c) All partnerships, agreements and funding obligations
 - d) Employees of the conservation authorities
 - e) Permit applications made before the transition date
 - f) Any Hearings underway or hearing requests
4. Transition Process
 - a) The Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency will coordinate the transition and provide guidance. The OPCA will have a budget of \$20 million dollars as well as an additional \$3 million dollars annually to assist conservation authorities with transition.
 - b) A Transition Committee will be established for each Regional Conservation Authority. Each conservation authority will appoint one municipally elected member and its General Manager to the Committee.
 - c) The OPCA will appoint a Project Executive to Chair each Transition Committee and who would become the CAO for the Regional Conservation Authority for up to 24 months.

- d) The Transition Committee would develop and implement the transition plan based upon guidance provided by the OPCA.
 - e) The Committee will be dissolved following consolidation.
 - f) The date for consolidation to be completed is February 1, 2027.
5. Temporary Guardrails:
- a) The Minister will be enabled by legislation to issue directions to support an orderly consolidation. Conservation authorities will be required to obtain approval for extraordinary financial, asset or employment decisions from the Transition Committee or the OPCA.
6. 2027 Work Plan and Budget:
- a) The Minister will be enabled to issue directions to manage the 2027 budget process which could be used to provide clarity around timelines. This will be necessary as the existing Members will not be able to serve past the municipal election.
7. Next Steps:
- a) The Province will be introducing amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act to create the nine Regional Conservation Authorities including the governance and activities to be coordinated by the OPCA.
 - b) Technical briefings will be held to provide further information on the next steps.

Attached is a copy of the presentation made by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks along with a letter from the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks to the Chairs of each conservation authority.

Summary: The Province has outlined their rationale for the proposed consolidation and the need for the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency. Conservation Authorities are being asked by the media and public for a response to the proposed changes and to respond to the Province's rationale for making these changes. Attached is a copy of MVCA's original comments and questions that were developed when the proposed consolidation was announced last October. At the present time only one side of the story is being told.

Recommendations:

To be developed at the meeting.

**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs**



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 314-6790

357-2026-754

March 10, 2026

Dear Chairs:

I am writing to provide an update as we move into the next phase of improving Ontario's conservation authority system. This spring, the government intends to introduce legislative amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) that, if passed, would implement this next phase.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the consultation process. We listened closely, and the feedback we received directly shaped and strengthened our plan. Based on the feedback, we adjusted the planned regional boundaries—from the originally proposed boundaries that would have created seven regional conservation authorities—and optimized to boundaries that create nine new regional conservation authorities. These planned boundaries would accommodate areas with distinct geographies and development contexts, better balance differing priorities across rural, urban and northern areas and improve alignment with watersheds and with source protection regions.

We are also building in clear mechanisms to ensure local knowledge continues to guide decision-making. The plan is for the newly created regional CAs to create one or more Watershed Councils to ensure watershed planning is guided by local insights. Regional CAs will continue to operate as independent public bodies with municipally appointed boards that maintain strong local representation and oversight.

The planned consolidation to regional conservation authorities is targeted to occur in early 2027 and is designed to strengthen the system—not weaken it—by increasing consistency, modernizing standards, and providing better tools and resources to support the frontline work your teams deliver every day. Under this plan, regional conservation authorities will continue to rely on the deep local expertise, knowledge, and relationships that your staff bring to their communities. Those who know the watershed best will remain central to delivering local programs and on-the-ground support, helping to ensure decisions reflect the unique environmental priorities of each area.

...2

This plan to transition to regional conservation authorities marks the beginning of a renewed relationship—one that builds on local strengths while establishing greater consistency and shared capacity across the province. As part of this plan, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) will lead a gradual, carefully managed transition to ensure stability and continuity. Services, programs, and permitting will continue uninterrupted as planning for transition progresses toward early 2027. There will be no cuts to front line jobs. Protecting local service delivery is a guiding principle of this planned transition, and communities will continue to work with the same local teams at conservation authorities they rely on today.

To ensure a smooth and organized transition, the province is providing \$3 million in annual funding, to be administered by OPCA. These resources are planned to be used by OPCA to support conservation authorities throughout the transition period and, in the longer term, will enable regional conservation authorities to achieve program improvements.

Your leadership is vital as we begin this new chapter. I encourage you to share this message with your staff to provide reassurance that their work, expertise, and community relationships remain at the heart of Ontario's conservation system. In the coming weeks, you will be invited to technical briefings to provide further information on the next steps in the planned transition process.

For questions regarding the planned consolidation and the transition process, please contact CCEO@ontario.ca. If you have questions about the planned legislative amendments or day-to-day CA business, please reach out to MECP staff at ca.office@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment. We look forward to working with you over the next year to make important improvements to Ontario's conservation authority system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left and a smaller flourish extending to the right.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, MECP
Chloe Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land and Water Division, MECP

TECHNICAL BRIEFING

Improving Ontario's Conservation Authority System



**PROTECT
ONTARIO**

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

March 10, 2026

Ontario 

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2 The need for action; Actions to date

3 Why consolidation

4 Guiding principles

5 Our plan

6 Regional CA boundaries

7 Regional CA governance

8 Transition process

9 Next steps

10 Summary

1. Overview: Ontario's conservation authority system

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) administers the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) and is responsible for overseeing Ontario's 36 existing conservation authorities (CAs).

CAs play a vital role in **watershed management** and protecting communities from **natural hazards** like floods. They also deliver programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, and management of natural resources.

CAs issue **permits** to builders, municipalities, and property owners for development activities such as housing developments and installation of sewage systems in areas affected by risks of natural hazards such as floodplains, shorelines, river and stream valleys, and wetlands. Permitting helps to ensure that development does not happen in unsafe areas and that it does not worsen the impacts of flooding or erosion in surrounding areas.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall into a common outlet, such as a lake, bay or river.

2. The need for action

The Ontario government is taking action to protect Ontario's economy, workers, and communities by making the province the best place in the G7 to invest, create jobs, and do business. To achieve this, the government is making investments to build local infrastructure and taking action to bring more consistency and transparency to the cost and timelines of building homes.

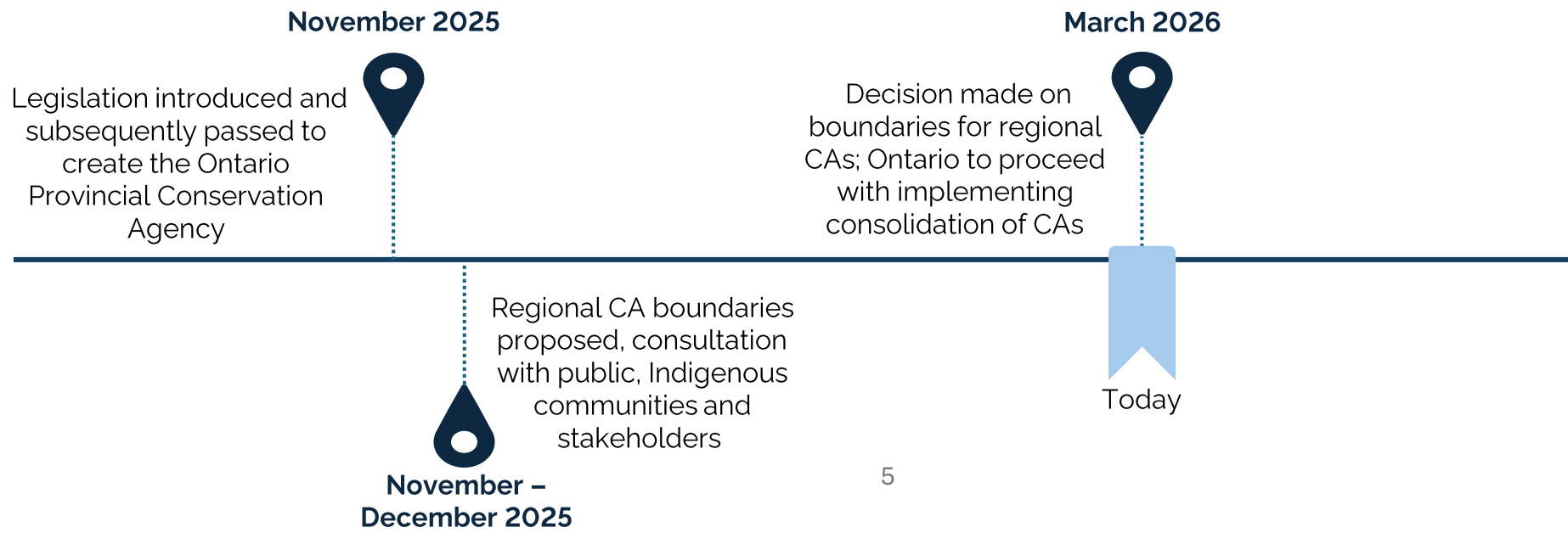
CAs are independent, local public sector organizations with significant variation in capacity, governance, transparency, and reliance on municipal funding. Over time, this has created a fragmented system with inconsistent standards and timelines.

Key challenges under the current framework that this proposal seeks to address include:

- **A patchwork of standards, service delivery:** Each CA has different policies, customer service standards, fees, processes and staffing, and technical capacity leading to unpredictable and inconsistent turnaround times for approvals across all CAs. This can result in uncertainty and delays for builders, landowners, and farmers seeking permits.
- **Outdated and fragmented data systems:** Lack of resources has led to discrepancies in the tools and technology that CAs use, leading to varying types and quality of technology and data management. This can compromise effective provincewide flood risk management and evidence-based decision making.
- **Administrative duplication:** Under the current framework, municipalities are forced to fund duplicate corporate functions (e.g., procurement, communications), diverting costs away from front-line conservation and service delivery.
- **Need for more accountability and transparency:** Lack of transparent asset management and inconsistent performance monitoring and reporting.

2. Actions to date

- Ontario is making progress on its commitment to enhance the effectiveness of conservation authorities, creating more consistency and modern standards and ensuring CAs remain strong, effective and ready to meet today's challenges. Since announcing our plan in fall 2025, we have passed legislation to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to provide centralized leadership and oversight of regional CAs, including coordinating a smooth and organized consolidation and key initiatives to improve the CA system, and we consulted extensively on the proposed regional CA boundaries.
- Consultations included virtual sessions with CAs, municipalities, stakeholders, and Indigenous communities, and regional workshops with CA and municipal leadership led by the Chief Conservation Executive and the Minister. More than 500 people participated, and 14,000+ comments were submitted on the proposed boundaries. We listened and used this feedback to strengthen the plan.
- The government is now moving forward with a framework for the regional consolidation of Ontario's 36 CAs into 9 optimized regional CAs that would deliver more consistent, more efficient, and more cost-effective outcomes for the communities that they serve. In the coming weeks, the government plans to introduce amendments to the CAA that would set out and enable the framework for consolidation of Ontario's CAs.



3. Why consolidation

Under the current system, more than half of all municipalities in areas served by CAs fall within the jurisdiction of two or more CAs, resulting in unnecessary duplication that diverts resources from front line conservation work and service delivery. Individual CAs have significant disparities in size and resources, with some lacking access to the latest tools and technology that support flood risk management and evidence-based decision making.

Consolidation would enable more consistent service delivery and more efficient resource and information sharing, making CAs more responsive to the needs of the communities they serve.

What these changes would mean:

- More resources for front-line services
- Improved flood management and erosion prevention
- Strong environmental protections maintained
- Faster permit approvals
- Modern service delivery
- Consistent standards and use of modern technology

What's not changing:

- Where CAs operate (areas currently served by CAs will continue to be served by CAs)
- The programs and services CAs provide, including the responsibility for source water protection, natural hazard and watershed management
- CA management of their lands and trails, providing access to green spaces, recreation and education programs
- Where and how CAs receive funding
- CA relationships with municipalities, developers, landowners
- Each CA being an independent, municipally-governed organization

4. Guiding principles

- The following principles informed the actions the province is taking to improve CAs, in addition to feedback heard during consultation:
 - **Retain local influence** – ensure local knowledge, expertise and interests inform the watershed management and conservation work of CAs
 - **Maintain CA watershed-based jurisdictions** – align with natural hydrological boundaries to support flood/water management. Align with drinking water source protection regions
 - **Reduce administrative overlap and duplication** – streamline requirements and processes for municipalities and conservation authorities
 - **Strengthen CA capacity** – improve and standardize the level of expertise and resources across CAs. Seek to balance the needs and interests of urban, rural, northern and southern watersheds
 - **Continuity of services** – minimize disruptions to CA operations and staffing, ensuring uninterrupted delivery of key programs such as permits, watershed management and trails and recreation for public use
 - **Improve customer service** – enhance consistency and clarity in process and timelines

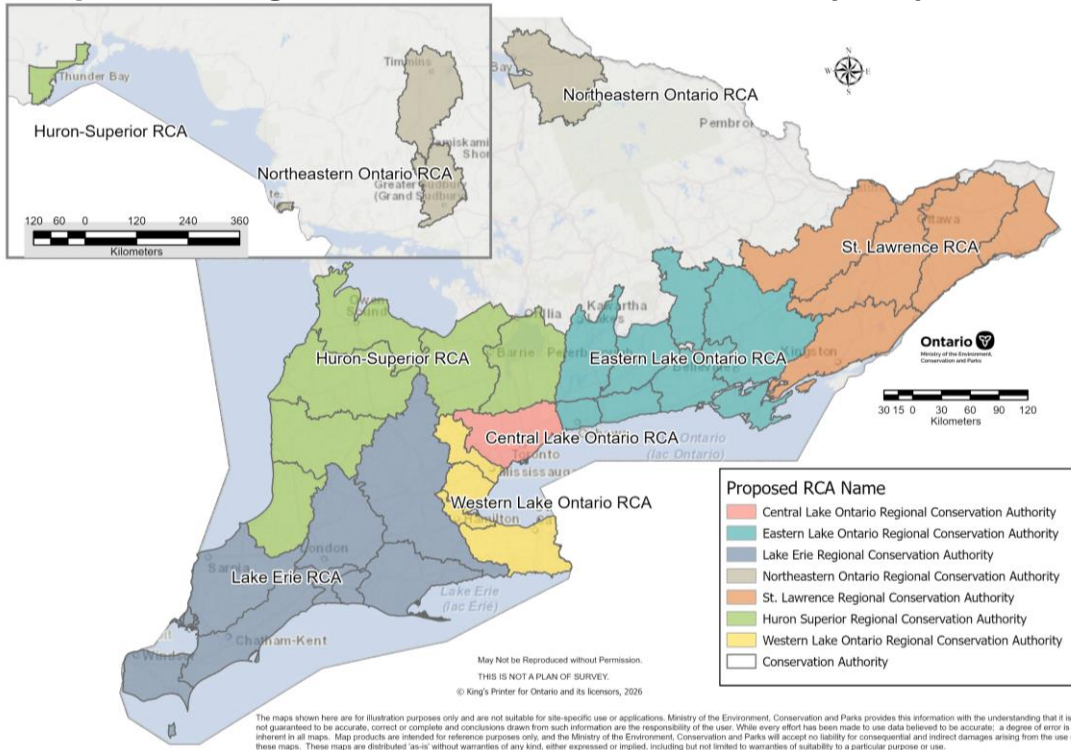
5. Our plan: Improving Ontario's CA system

- The government plans to introduce amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) that would set out the consolidation of Ontario's CAs in accordance with the framework described in this presentation.
- The plan is for CA consolidation to take effect early 2027, allowing for transition planning to occur throughout 2026. Over time, OPCA will further transform Ontario's CA system, including by developing a single digital permitting platform to provide a faster, more predictable approvals process and improved customer service
- To support regional CAs throughout the transition, the province is providing annual funding to OPCA in the amount of \$3 million, beginning in 2026. This funding will be used by OPCA to support regional CAs as needed during transition. Post-transition, this annual funding will support OPCA to help regional CAs achieve improvements and program standards set by OPCA.

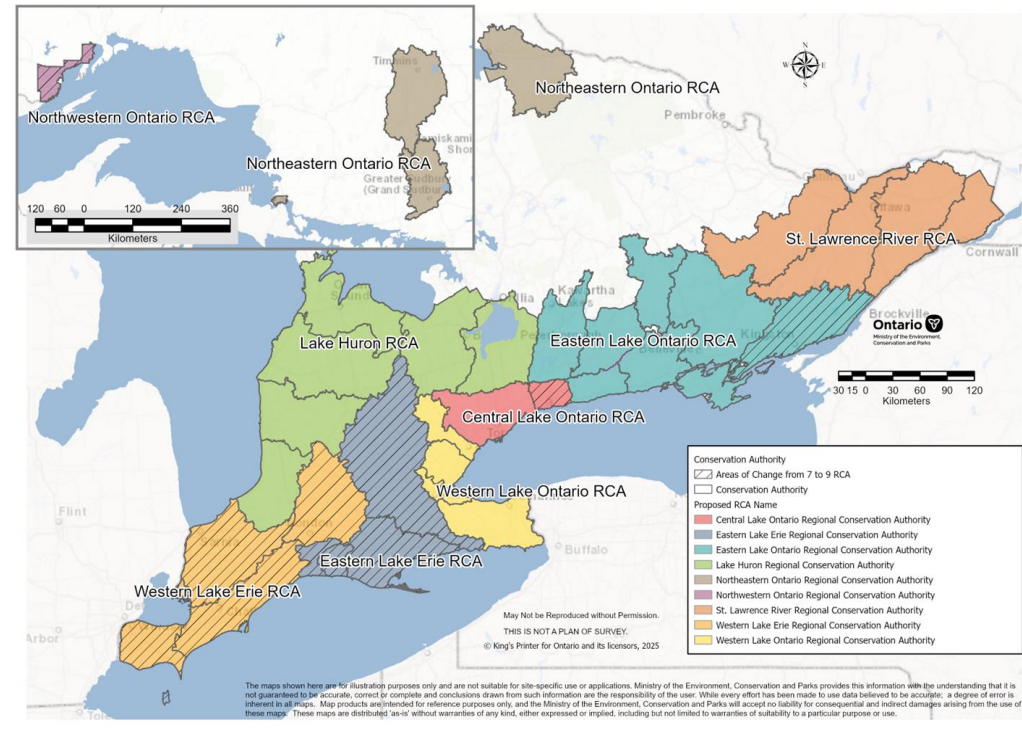
6. Regional CA boundaries

- The regional CA boundaries have been adjusted and refined (from 7 to 9). The feedback received during consultation directly informed the adjustments made to the final regional CA boundaries, which have been optimized to:
 - Accommodate areas with distinct geographies and development contexts
 - Balance differing priorities across rural, urban and northern areas
 - Better align with watersheds and with source protection regions

Proposed 7 Regional Conservation Authorities (RCA)



Final Optimized 9 Regional Conservation Authorities (RCA)



6. Regional CA boundaries: current corresponding CAs

| Proposed Regional CAs | List of predecessor (i.e., existing) CAs being consolidated | |
|---|---|--|
| Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Lake Ontario CA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto and Region CA |
| Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catfish Creek CA • Grand River CA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kettle Creek CA • Long Point Region CA |
| Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cataraqui Region CA • Crowe Valley CA • Ganaraska Region CA • Kawartha Region CA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Trent RegionCA • Otonabee Region CA • Quinte Region CA |
| Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ausable Bayfield CA • Grey Sauble CA • Lake Simcoe Region CA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maitland Valley CA • Nottawasaga Valley CA • Saugeen Valley CA |
| Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattagami Region CA • Nickel District CA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Bay Mattawa CA • Sault Ste. Marie Region CA |
| Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakehead Region CA | |
| St. Lawrence River Regional Conservation Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mississippi Valley CA • Raisin Region CA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rideau Valley CA • South Nation River CA |
| Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex Region CA • Lower Thames Valley CA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Clair Region CA • Upper Thames River CA |
| Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit Valley CA • Halton Region CA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton Region CA • Niagara Peninsula CA |

7. Regional CA Governance

- Consistent with previous commitments and feedback heard, regional CAs will continue to be municipally governed organizations.
- Under our plan, participating municipalities that are responsible for appointing members (i.e. “the board”) and for paying CA levies would be at the upper-tier (i.e., regional municipalities and counties) and single-tier levels (e.g. cities, towns etc.) This change would mean that lower-tier municipalities (e.g. towns and townships, etc.) within a county would no longer be participating municipalities, as is currently the case where there is a county as the upper-tier municipality.
- Rules for how members are to be selected would be set out in regulation based on each participating municipality’s percentage of the population in the regional CA’s jurisdiction . Small municipalities are ensured representation by requiring that each participating municipality appoint at least one member. Rules for the number of members may also include:
 - Capping the total number of members on a CA board.
 - Limiting any one municipality’s number of members (e.g., to 5) to ensure balanced representation.
- Following the municipal elections on October 26, 2026, newly-elected upper tier municipal councils would select the first members (i.e., “board”) for the new regional CAs prior to the targeted amalgamation date.

7. Regional CA Governance: CAs and municipalities

Regional consolidation of CAs would result in a reduction in the number of municipalities that belong to multiple CAs. This would empower Ontario's CAs in delivering more consistent, more efficient, and more cost-effective outcomes for the communities they serve.

| | Current State Regions, single-tier, lower-tier | Consolidated Regions, counties, single-tier | % Change |
|---|--|---|-----------------|
| Number of CAs | 36 | 9 | 75.0% |
| Municipalities part of 1 CA | 126 | 57 | 54.8% |
| Municipalities part of ≥ 2 CAs | 60 | 16 | 73.3% |
| Municipalities part of ≥ 3 CAs | 19 | 4 | 78.9% |
| Municipalities part of ≥ 4 CAs | 3 | 1 | 66.7% |
| Municipalities part of ≥ 5 CAs | 2 | 0 | 100% |

- Note: Municipalities and associated numbers represent 'participating municipalities' for CAs both in the current state and once consolidated. There is no change in the total number of municipalities that are within a CA's jurisdiction.

7. Regional CA Governance: Watershed Councils

Watershed Councils

- In response to feedback that emphasized the need for regional CAs to continue to rely on the deep local expertise, knowledge, and relationships built, the province plans to mandate that regional CAs create one or more local Watershed Councils to ensure watershed management continues to be informed by local knowledge and input.
- Watershed Councils would assist the CA in identifying local priorities for programs and services to ensure that local interests are considered as part the board's decision-making process.
- Specific requirements for membership composition of Watershed Councils may be set out in regulation (e.g., Indigenous representatives to enable considering Indigenous knowledge, as well as agriculture and development representation to consider other local watershed perspectives),

8. Transition process

Statutory Amalgamation

- With the proposed statutory amalgamation that would create the regional CAs, on the transition date, the former CAs would be amalgamated creating the regional CA ,and legal continuation is provided for:
 - All assets and liabilities of the predecessor CAs
 - All rights and obligations of the predecessor CAs
 - All partnerships, agreements and funding obligations of the predecessor CAs
 - Employees of the predecessor CAs (all rights, duties and liabilities)
 - Permit applications made before the transition date
 - Any hearings underway or hearing requests
- In other words, after the consolidation date, the new Regional CAs would replace the former CAs as legal entities. This approach is intended to avoid disruptions to existing partnerships and agreements with municipalities, Indigenous communities, or others.
- The amalgamation of the predecessor CAs in the new regional CAs would be governed by the *Public Sector Labour Relations Transition Act*, which sets out a clear, structured and neutral framework for dealing with labour relations issues following restructuring of public sector organizations (e.g. the need to rationalize bargaining units).



8. Transition process

To ensure service continuity and limit disruptions, and as informed by consultation feedback, under our plan OPCA will coordinate consolidation by establishing a transition committee and providing resources, tools and guidance to support transition efforts for each regional CA being consolidated.

Transition committees

- Transition committees for each regional CA would prepare for the amalgamation of the predecessor CAs into the new regional CA. Each predecessor CA will appoint one municipally elected member and its CAO or GM (or an alternate if they are not available) to the Transition Committee.
- OPCA will appoint a Project Executive to chair each Transition Committee and who would become the inaugural Chief Administrative Officer of the regional CA for up to 24 months.
- Committees would be dissolved following regional consolidation.

Transition plans

- With guidance from OPCA—including a transition playbook with templates and best practices—Transition Committees would develop and implement transition plans to guide each new regional CA through an orderly, step-by-step integration of its predecessor CAs across key functions such as HR, finance, assets, and IT.

8. Transition process

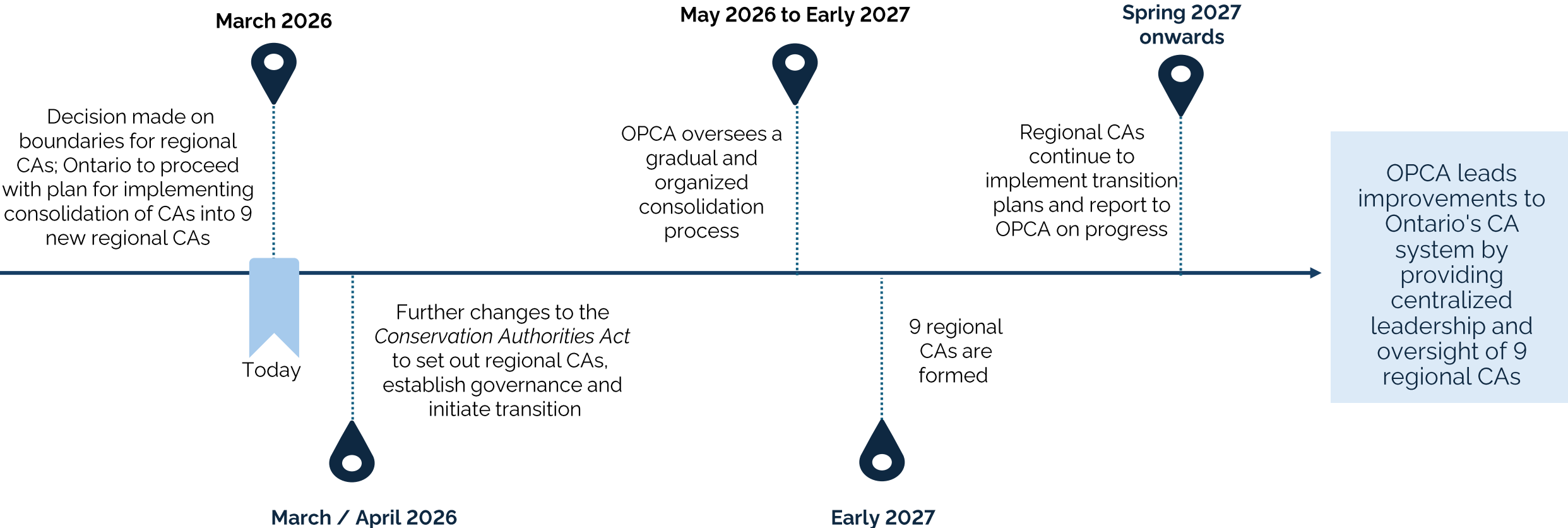
Temporary guardrails

- Our plan includes that temporary guardrails would be applied to extraordinary financial, asset, or employment decisions to mitigate risk and ensure a stable transition to the new regional structure and mitigate risk
- The Minister would be enabled to issue temporary directions to support an orderly CA consolidation. This is not intended to disrupt regular CA business and operations.
- For example, this power could be used to temporarily halt activities such as major land dispositions, significant procurements or material changes to management or organizational structures without review and authorization by the Agency or the Transition Committee.

2027 CA Budgets

- The minister would also be able to issue directions to manage the 2027 budget process for the 36 predecessor CAs, which could be used to provide clarity around timelines (e.g., direct that CA budgeting be completed by December 31, 2026 and levies be issued to the current participating municipalities).

8. Transition process: Timeline



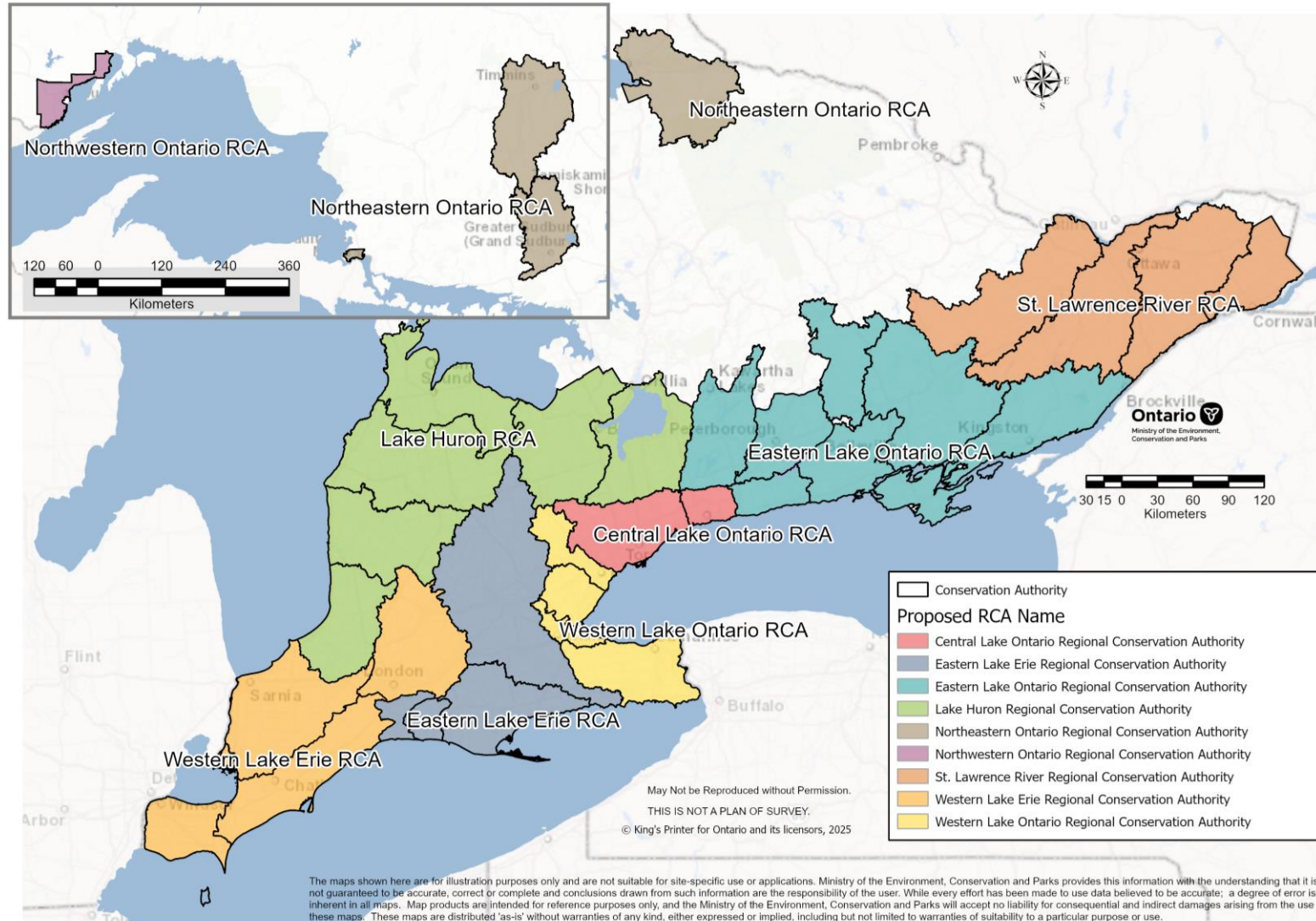
9. Next Steps

- In the coming weeks and months, the provincial government plans to:
 - Propose further amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) that, if passed, sets out the provincially led amalgamation of the 36 existing conservation authorities to create 9 regional CAs, including transitional governance and activities to be coordinated by the OPCA .
 - Invite you to technical briefings to provide further information on the next steps in the planned transition process.
 - Engage with CAs, municipalities, Indigenous communities and other interested partners to provide updates about the government's plans and consolidation.
 - Support the OPCA to coordinate transition planning for consolidation to take effect early 2027, with minimal disruptions/interruptions to CAs' services and staffing.
- The Office of the Chief Conservation Executive would lead CA transition activities as OPCA becomes fully operational. For questions regarding the plans for consolidation, please contact CCEO@ontario.ca.
- If you have questions about the planned legislative amendments and day-to-day CA business, please reach out to MECP staff via ca.office@ontario.ca.

10. Summary

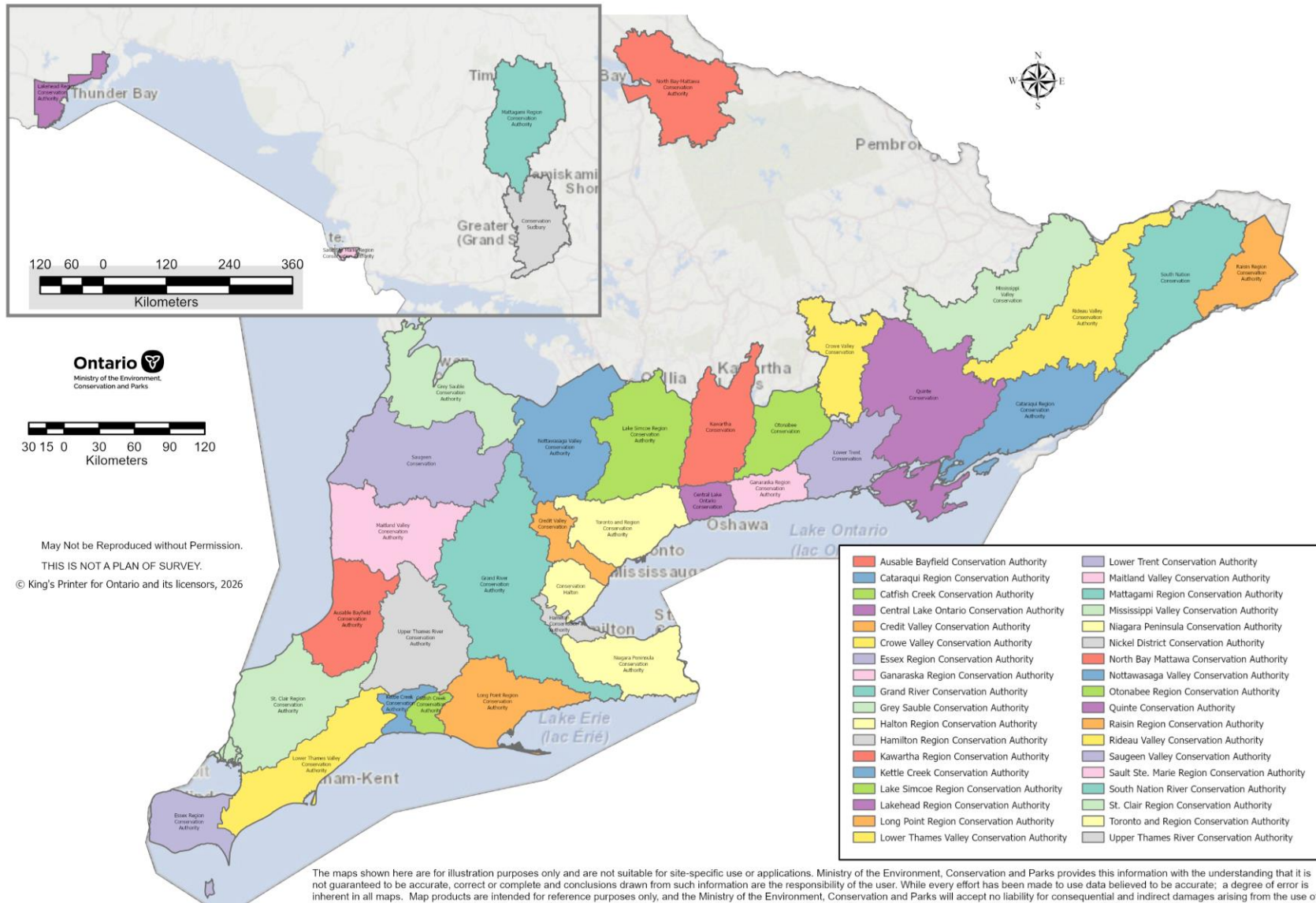
- Ontario's current CA system is fragmented, with inconsistent standards and timelines across 36 individual CAs that can slow down development approvals and risks hampering CAs' abilities to protect their communities from floods and other natural hazards.
- Since announcing our plan in fall 2025, we have consulted extensively. We listened and used this feedback to strengthen our plan, and we are now ready to move forward with plans to introduce amendments to the CAA that would set out and enable the consolidation of Ontario's 36 CAs to create 9 consolidation of Ontario's 36 CAs to create 9 new regional CAs, targeted to take effect in early 2027.
- With centralized leadership and independent oversight of CAs by the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, Ontario's CA system will provide streamlined, consistent, and improved service delivery without any reduction in environmental standards. These changes will better position CAs to support needed housing and infrastructure projects more efficiently while continuing to protect communities from flooding and other natural hazards, fulfilling provincially mandated programs such as drinking water source protection under the *Clean Water Act*, and managing CA-owned lands and recreational trails so that Ontarians have access to local natural areas and outdoor activities.

Appendix: Boundaries for Ontario's 9 new regional CAs*



*Plan is for this to take effect in early 2027, subject to amendments being proposed to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Appendix: Ontario's Current 36 CAs



The maps shown here are for illustration purposes only and are not suitable for site-specific use or applications. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks provides this information with the understanding that it is not guaranteed to be accurate, correct or complete and conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user. While every effort has been made to use data believed to be accurate, a degree of error is inherent in all maps. Map products are intended for reference purposes only, and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will accept no liability for consequential and indirect damages arising from the use of these maps. These maps are distributed 'as-is' without warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to warranties of suitability to a particular purpose or use.

MVCA Response – Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

On October 31, 2025, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) announced plans to create a provincial board-governed agency, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, to provide leadership, governance, and strategic direction to Conservation Authorities (CAs).

An [Amendment to the Conservation Authorities Act \(CAA\)](#) to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) has been introduced. The agency will be responsible for:

- developing a single digital permitting platform,
- streamlining and standardizing service delivery by setting provincewide performance, standards as well as maintaining centralized data and updated floodplain mapping,
- overseeing the consolidation of Conservation Authorities.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is proposing that the agency would require Conservation Authorities to pay for the costs of the agency.

The MECP has introduced an amendment to the Conservation Authorities Act that outlines the proposed boundaries for establishing Regional Conservation Authorities. MECP plans to consult with stakeholders, municipalities, Conservation Authorities, and Indigenous communities. The proposed consolidation will entail reducing the number of Conservation Authorities from 36 to seven. The proposed consolidated areas can be viewed in the posted [supplemented document](#) or on the [interactive map](#).

Consultation includes a policy proposal notice period posted on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) for 45 days, inviting review and comments on criteria applied to determine proposed regional boundaries and the proposed geographical jurisdiction of each regional CA.

The deadline for comments is December 22nd.

The general timeline for the changes is expected to be:

- Consultation process - winter of 2026,
- Conservation Authorities operate with present governance until after the 2026 Municipal election,
- Implementation of changes - January 1, 2027.

Several concerns related to these proposed changes have been identified:

- What is the cost of establishing and operating the proposed Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA)? The OPCA would require significant resources while local watershed advisory boards would still be needed to guide priorities and provide oversight.

- The province has not developed a business case to support the proposed changes. How do they know whether these changes will improve services and create efficiencies if they have not undertaken any analysis of the costs and the benefits?
- What is the cost of consolidation? Who will pay for these costs?
- As a local organization Maitland Conservation is responsive to community needs. Municipalities, landowners, and community partners drive the services and priorities of the organization. If the OPCA is going to provide strategic direction to Conservation Authorities, and Conservation Authorities are consolidated into seven regional Conservation Authorities, then this would mean less municipal input on service priorities.
- We are deeply concerned about whether the needs of rural communities and the agricultural sector will be adequately recognized and prioritized in this consolidation, particularly since the lead Conservation Authority is expected to be an urban one in each region.
- A core priority for Maitland Conservation is reducing the risk of loss of life and community damage caused by flooding and erosion. We are responsible for approving development in or near natural hazard areas, ensuring that new construction and additions are not at risk from flooding or erosion in floodplains or along the Lake Huron shoreline.

Our permitting process is efficient and consistent— in 2024, the average time to process all types of permits was just 5.7 days. From start to finish, our staff work closely with landowners, emphasizing customer service and helping them identify safe building locations outside hazardous areas. Will the proposed digital permitting platform be able to match our turnaround times and maintain this high level of customer experience? Additionally, what will the costs be for developing and maintaining this platform?

The average time for reviewing and issuing permits by all Conservation Authorities is 12.5 business days.

What’s Really Needed: A renewed relationship that is developed collaboratively focused on restoring healthy and resilient watersheds.

Conservation Authorities were founded on the principles of:

- watershed management,
- a partnership between the province and municipalities,
- a focus on local watershed priorities.

We would encourage the provincial government to work collaboratively with Conservation Authorities to build capacity and support local solutions to restore the health and resiliency of watersheds.

Member municipalities provide 80% of MVCA's operating budget while the province provides 2%. Across all Conservation Authorities the province provides 5% of the funding. A renewed partnership needs to include the province providing a greater share of funding as they did in the 1980' and 1990's.

To protect Ontario's prosperity, we need to focus on developing and protecting the health of watersheds. They are the foundation of not only our economic prosperity but our life support system as well. Clean water, diverse forests and healthy soils directly support key sectors like tourism, forestry and agriculture, which in turn support economically strong communities.

We encourage the province to work collaboratively with Conservation Authorities and their member municipalities to determine how we can best achieve healthy, resilient and prosperous watersheds.

Healthy Lake Huron (HLH) is a model of collaboration between federal, provincial and county agencies, five Conservation Authorities and several community groups. HLH has been successful in supporting stewardship initiatives aimed at improving water quality along the Lake Huron shoreline. Using this collaborative approach across all the watersheds in Ontario to build healthy watersheds would result in effective, cost-efficient results.

We encourage you to provide a response to the proposed plans by December 22, 2025.

Members Report #13-2026

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer,
Danielle Livingston, Administrative-Financial Services Coordinator
Shannon Millar, Restoration Supervisor
Ben Van Dieten, Agricultural Stewardship Supervisor
Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Services Coordinator
Jayne Thompson, Communications, GIS, IT Coordinator
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning and Regulations Supervisor
Jeff Winzenried, Flood Forecast Supervisor
Donna Clarkson, DWSP Supervisor
Date: March 9, 2026
Subject: 2026 Work Plan and Budget

Purpose:

To approve the 2026 work plan.
To approve the 2026 budget.

Background:

On December 17th, 2025, the members passed the following motion:

Motion FA #131-25

Moved by: Ed Podniewicz

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the 2026 draft budget, work plan and levy be approved for review and comment by MVCA's member municipalities;
AND THAT the final work plan and budget be brought back to the Members at the March meeting for final review and approval;
AND FURTHER THAT the municipal information package be developed and circulated to member municipalities in January based upon the direction provided by the Members. The authority funded projects outlined in Report #67-2025 be included in the 2026 draft budget and work plan.
(carried)

Municipal Feedback: The draft 2026 Work Plan and Budget were circulated to all member municipalities on January 28, 2026.

Municipalities were asked to provide comments by March 11, 2026. No comments have been received to date.

Vision:

1. Working for a healthy environment

Mission:

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

Ends:

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

Priorities:

1. Maitland Conservation has developed a three-year work plan that focusses our resources on delivering core services. Our priorities for the next three years are to:
2. Help our member municipalities reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption in flood and erosion prone areas.
3. 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.
4. Ensure that management of our conservation areas sets high standards of conservation practices and are safe for the public to use.
5. Develop a stable financial base for the MVCA so that we will be able to provide the support that our member municipalities require to develop a healthy, resilient, and prosperous watershed.

2

Service Area Priorities:**Corporate Services:**

Corporate Services will be responsible for the renewal of the agreement for services and programs with all municipalities. The new agreement will need to be approved by all 15 municipalities by June 17, 2026.

This will entail reviewing the new agreement and services and programs with each municipal council.

Municipalities to consult in 2026 include: Huron-Kinloss, Goderich, South Bruce, Howick, Morris -Turnberry, Wellington North and Mapleton.

1. Government Relations:

- a) Corporate Services will focus on dealing with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks with implementation the consolidation of conservation authorities. MVCA may need to develop a 2027 work plan and budget prior to the end of October.
- b) Member municipalities: To continue to make presentations to each municipality regarding the consolidation of conservation authorities as well as the 2027 work plan and budget.

2. Conservation Ontario: Work with Conservation Ontario Council and Executive to provide input to the proposed consolidation.

3. Maitland Conservation Foundation: Encourage the MCF to support watershed health science, stewardship projects that restore the health of natural areas and infrastructure projects in conservation areas.

4. MVCA's 75th Anniversary: To organize a variety of events and activities to celebrate MVCA's anniversary.

Flood & Erosion Safety:

The Flood and Erosion Safety Services prioritizes reducing 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. We will continue to carry out mandatory flood forecasting, planning, and regulatory functions, while focusing on major projects being initiated, or continuing through this year:

- 1. Regional Hydrology Model: Issue an RFP and retain a consulting engineer to design and build a watershed-wide HEC-HMS hydrology model
- 2. FHIMP Floodplain Mapping Projects: Huron-Kinloss & North Huron updates: complete the floodplain mapping update projects, with engineered mapping finalized by Spring 2026 and approved regulations mapping targeted for Fall 2026.
- 3. Coastal Resilience Project, sediment bypass mobilization and planned relocation manual & planning policy taskforce.

Watershed Stewardship:

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

- 1. Restore River Corridors and Tributaries: This will be achieved by providing technical assistance to landowners and providing grant funding to reduce the financial burden. The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP), in addition to local funding, will allow us to provide up to 100% funding for landowners.
- 2. Implement Rural Stormwater Management (RSM): RALP funding will reduce the financial burden, alongside local funding sources and MECP COA funding.
- 3. Improve Soil Health: Encourage and support local momentum in cover crop adoption, linking interested farmers with more advanced peers for knowledge sharing, providing cost-share grants and hosting workshops.

Watershed Health Assessment and Monitoring:

1. Undertake long-term environmental water quality monitoring through PWQMN, PGMN and HLH
2. Maitland Watershed Aquatic Health assessment project: undertake biotic assessment of fish community across nine sub-watersheds
3. Analyze data from physical assessment of aquatic health and ongoing forest health work. Develop a knowledge transfer strategy that includes priority setting on a geo-spatial basis. Provide information to other service areas, members, Maitland Foundation and other community partners.
4. To identify the types of programs and services needed to restore the health of forests and rivers across the watershed.
5. Ecosystem Health Siting Tool Project: To develop a methodology for identifying aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in a small watershed and at the property scale that need to be restored, enhanced or conserved. The methodology will be tested in the 18 Mile Watershed and at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area.

Conservation Areas:

1. Conservation Areas Infrastructure: Construct new pavilion at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area considering accessibility and available funds provided by the Maitland Conservation Foundation.
2. Administrative Office Renovations and Improvements: Replace wooden siding on the south-east side of the office to maintain the building in good repair. Naturalize an area of turf not suitable for mowing at the front of the administrative office using native shrubs and wildflowers.
3. Invasive Species Control: To showcase good forestry management practices, buckthorn and phragmites control will continue in 2026 to suppress the encroachment of these invasive species on C.A land. Buckthorn control along the agricultural land at Wawanosh Valley CA will also continue to prepare for future naturalization of marginal farmland areas.
4. Falls Reserve Conservation Area Improvements: Several infrastructure repairs are planned to maintain essential buildings including the gatehouse, maple washroom and 2 sheds. Campsite development will occur in the previous group camp area to provide additional RV sites.
5. Wawanosh Park Conservation Area: Planning will commence to identify surplus infrastructure and to naturalize previous campground areas. Additional monitoring and security measures will be implemented to prevent unauthorized activities.

Drinking Water Source Protection:

1. Governance & Leadership: Maitland Source Protection Authority meetings, to receive annual progress reports and program updates; Joint Management Committee meeting as needed, to recruit Source Protection Committee (SPC) members;
2. Communications: promotion of drinking water source protection program to the public;
3. Implementation/Technical Support: review of planning and development applications located within municipal wellhead and intake protection areas; Issue confirmation notices for new wells in Harriston and Palmerston in the Town of Minto, and

initiate amendment to the Maitland Source Protection Plan to incorporate the updated wellhead protection areas.

Operating Budget

The total operating budget is \$3,557,745. The following tables include the overall summary in Table 1, followed by individual draft budgets by service area

Operating Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Table 1

| ITEM | Revenue | Levy Funds | Deferred Revenue | Reserve Funds | Expense | NET Surplus/ Deficit |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Administration | 106,634 | 249,069 | | 41,319 | 397,022 | 0 |
| Financial Management | | 158,522 | | | 158,522 | |
| Governance | | 18,020 | | | 18,020 | |
| Services Areas Support | | 62,291 | | | 62,291 | |
| Communications, IT, GIS | 2,000 | 281,787 | | 21,000 | 304,787 | 0 |
| Source Water Protection | 22,974 | | | | 22,974 | -0 |
| Flood Control Structures | | 3,210 | | | 3,210 | |
| Erosion Control Structures | | 1,671 | | | 1,671 | |
| Flood Forecasting and Warning | 36,424 | 277,220 | | | 313,645 | -0 |
| Hazard Prevention | | 25,546 | | | 25,546 | |
| Natural Hazard Information | | 71,789 | | | 71,789 | |
| Regulations | 62,500 | 277,551 | | | 340,051 | -0 |
| Watershed Monitoring and Reporting | 2,000 | 103,235 | | | 105,235 | 0 |
| Watershed Health Assessment Reporting | | 138,291 | | | 138,291 | 0 |
| Extension Services | | 225,473 | | | 225,473 | 0 |
| Forestry Services | 189,100 | | | | 189,100 | 0 |
| Management/Development/Operations | 11,002 | 339,030 | | | 350,032 | 0 |
| Wawanosh Park Conservation Area | 2,000 | | | 36,044 | 38,044 | 0 |
| Motor Pool | 63,400 | | | | 26,050 | 37,350 |
| Falls Reserve Conservation Area | 757,650 | | | 8,344 | 765,994 | -0 |
| Total | 1,255,684 | 2,232,705 | | 106,707 | 3,557,745 | 37,351 |

| Corporate Services | 2026 Draft Budget | 2026 Budget | Rationale for Changes |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Administration | 397,125 | 397,022 | Minor change. |
| Financial Management | 120,857 | 158,522 | Health and safety projects from WSIB surplus. |
| Governance | 18,020 | 18,020 | No change. |
| Service Area Support | 62,291 | 62,291 | No change. |
| Communications - GIS/IT | 307,464 | 304,787 | Minor increase. |
| Total | 905,757 | 940,642 | Allocation and wage costs finalized. |
| SWP | 22,974 | 22,974 | No change. |

| Watershed Stewardship Services | 2026 Draft Budget | 2026 Budget | Rationale for Changes |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Watershed Health | 138,525 | 138,291 | Minor change |
| Watershed Monitoring | 105,395 | 105,235 | Minor change |
| Extension | 225,876 | 225,473 | Minor change |
| Forestry | 189,100 | 189,100 | No change |
| Total | 658,896 | 658,098 | Allocation and wage costs finalized. |

| Flood and Erosion Safety Services | 2026 Draft Budget | 2026 Budget | Rationale for Changes |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Flood Control Structures | 3,216 | 3,210 | Minor change |
| Erosion Control Structures | 1,674 | 1,671 | Minor change |
| Flood Forecasting & Warning | 318,257 | 313,645 | Minor change |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Hazard Prevention | 25,585 | 25,546 | Minor change |
| Natural Hazard Information | 71,905 | 71,789 | Minor change |
| Regulation Administration | 340,283 | 340,051 | Minor change |
| Total | 760,920 | 755,911 | Allocation and wage costs finalized. |

| Conservation Areas Services | 2026 Draft Budget | 2026 Budget | Rationale for Changes |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| Falls Reserve Conservation Area | 714,896 | 765,994 | Updated staffing and Capital expenditures finalized. |
| Wawanosh Park Conservation Area | 22,067 | 38,044 | Change of use -costs to decommission campground infrastructure and begin naturalization efforts. |
| Management/Development/Ops. | 350,530 | 350,032 | Minor change |
| Motor Pool | 26,050 | 26,050 | No Change |
| Total | 1,113,543 | 1,180,120 | Allocation and wage costs finalized. |

Projects Budget

The total Projects Budget is \$ 2,088,837. The Projects Budget is based upon utilizing \$209,003 from accumulated surplus.
Total Budget Summary:

| Flood and Erosion Safety Projects | 2026 Budget | Outline, Funding, Status |
|--|-------------|---|
| Flood Forecasting Monitoring Network/Hydrology Model | 174,799 | Cost apportionment and accumulated surplus. |
| FHIMP Lucknow | 17,906 | Cost apportionment and Provincial. |
| ECCC Natural Hazards Outreach & Education | 40,000 | Federal funding |
| NRCAN Coastal Resiliency Strategy Implementation | 43,380 | Cost apportionment and Federal. |

| Watershed Stewardship Projects | 2026 Budget | Outline, Funding, Status |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Watershed Health Assessment | 60,240 | Aquatic Health Assessment, Working Capital Surplus and MCF. |
| Carbon Footprint Initiative | 2,907 | Deferred Revenue-original funding from the MCF. |

| | | |
|--|---------|---|
| Garvey Glenn Coordination | 127,500 | Multi-year project, Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks and deferred. |
| Middle Maitland Restoration | 95,230 | Funded by Middle Maitland Restoration Fund through Stratford Perth Community Foundation, and MCF. |
| Huron Clean Water Program | 500,000 | Huron County |
| Wellington County Water Program | 5,830 | Multi-year projects, deferred. |
| OMAFRA COA | 25,545 | Multi-year projects, deferred. |
| Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program | 701,215 | Multi-year project funded by Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Agribusiness with Federal Funds |
| Watershed Stewardship Projects | 4,786 | Multi-year projects, deferred. |

| Conservation Areas Projects | 2026 Budget | Outline, Funding, Status |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Forestry Management | 11,000 | Invasive species management at several Conservation Areas, managed forest plan renewals and planting trees to improve forest health. Forest Management Accumulated Surplus. |
| Carbon Sequestration | 700 | Plant trees to sequester carbon from MVCA operations and members mileage. Motor Pool Accumulated Surplus . |
| Conservation Areas | 167,100 | Replace several signs at Conservation Areas. Build new pavilion at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. Working Capital Accumulated Surplus and Maitland Conservation Foundation . |

| Corporate Projects | 2026 Budget | Outline, Funding, Status |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| Administration Centre | 57,200 | Replace wooden siding on south-west wall. Naturalize area not suitable for grass cutting at front of building, air quality improvements, health and safety equipment, chemical storage shed. WSIB surplus , working capital accumulated surplus, MCF. |
| GIS/IT/Communications | 54,500 | Computer hardware, software; working capital accumulated surplus |

Table 2

Project Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

| ITEM | Revenue | Levy Funds | Special Levy Funds | Deferred Revenue | Working Capital Reserves | Forest Management Reserves | Motor Pool Reserves | Expense | Net Surplus / Deficit |
|--|------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Administration Centre | 3,155 | | | | 54,045 | | | 57,200 | |
| GIS/IT Management/Communications | | | | | 54,500 | | | 54,500 | |
| Flood Forecasting Monitoring Network/Hydrology Model | | 140,000 | | | 34,799 | | | 174,799 | |
| FHIMP Lucknow | 50,899 | | | -32,993 | | | | 17,906 | |
| ECCC Natural Hazards Outreach & Education | 14,738 | | | 25,262 | | | | 40,000 | 0 |
| NRCAN Coastal Resiliency Strategy Implementation | | | 37,500 | 5,880 | | | | 43,380 | 0 |
| Watershed Health Assessment Project | 16,050 | | | | 44,190 | | | 60,240 | |
| Carbon Footprint Initiative | | | | 2,907 | | | | 2,907 | |
| Garvey Glenn Coordination | 66,722 | | | 60,778 | | | | 127,500 | 0 |
| Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration | 15,500 | | | 79,730 | | | | 95,230 | |
| Huron Clean Water | 500,000 | | | | | | | 500,000 | |
| Watershed Stewardship Projects | | | | 4,786 | | | | 4,786 | |
| Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) | 762,313 | | | -61,098 | | | | 701,215 | |
| Wellington County Water Program | | | | 5,830 | | | | 5,830 | |
| OMAF COA | | | | 24,545 | | | | 24,545 | |
| Forestry Management | 5,000 | | | | | 6,000 | | 11,000 | |
| Carbon Sequestration Planting | | | | | | | 700 | 700 | |
| Conservation Area Projects | 152,331 | | | | 14,769 | | | 167,100 | |
| Net Project Budgets | 1,586,708 | 140,000 | 37,500 | 115,627 | 202,303 | 6,000 | 700 | 2,088,837 | |

Summary:

MVCA's total budget for operating and projects for 2026 is \$5,646,582.

Work Plan and Budget Approval Process:

Step 1: Approval of Cost Apportionment for 2026:

Each member is entitled to vote for each of the municipalities that they represent. The levy must receive approval from the municipalities who represent 51% of the Current Value Assessment (CVA) in the watershed. Each municipality's vote is weighted based upon the percent of CVA that each municipality has in the watershed

This is a recorded vote.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the cost apportionment be approved at \$175,000 for 2026; AND THAT the cost be apportioned to each municipality in accordance with the 2026 schedule.

Step 2: Approval of the 2026 Work Plan and Budget:

The approval of the work plan and budget requires a motion and a majority of the Members to be approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the 2026 Work Plan and Budget be approved as outlined in Report #12-2026.

| March 6, 2026 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 2026 Draft Cost Apportionment Schedule | % of | 2025 Tax Year | Municipal | CVA Based | 2025 | 2026 | \$ | % | 2026 | 2026 |
| Increase Amount: \$175,000 | Municipality | CVA (modified) | Population | Apportionment | Approved | Draft | Increase | Increase | Draft | Draft |
| Municipality | In Watershed | in Watershed | in CA jurisdiction | Percentage | General | General | from | from | Special | Total |
| | | \$ | | | Levy | Levy | Prior Year | Prior Year | Levy | Levy |
| Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Township | 100 | \$1,384,188,720 | 4,540 | 12.4700 | \$ 274,712 | \$ 295,857 | \$ 21,145 | 7.70% | \$ 10,000 | \$ 305,857 |
| Central Huron Municipality | 76 | \$1,035,741,710 | 4,638 | 9.3300 | \$ 207,463 | \$ 221,354 | \$ 13,891 | 6.70% | \$ 10,000 | \$ 231,354 |
| Goderich Town | 100 | \$1,177,412,345 | 6,117 | 10.6100 | \$ 233,615 | \$ 251,725 | \$ 18,110 | 7.75% | \$ 17,500 | \$ 269,225 |
| Howick Township | 92 | \$483,166,377 | 2,619 | 4.3500 | \$ 96,699 | \$ 103,198 | \$ 6,499 | 6.72% | | \$ 103,198 |
| Huron East Municipality | 72 | \$1,141,691,187 | 5,689 | 10.2900 | \$ 225,485 | \$ 244,136 | \$ 18,651 | 8.27% | | \$ 244,136 |
| Huron-Kinloss Township | 43 | \$672,008,699 | 2,537 | 6.0500 | \$ 133,620 | \$ 143,534 | \$ 9,914 | 7.42% | | \$ 143,534 |
| Mapleton Township | 5 | \$101,646,606 | 383 | 0.9200 | \$ 19,561 | \$ 21,814 | \$ 2,253 | 11.52% | | \$ 21,814 |
| Minto Town | 64 | \$792,497,158 | 4,136 | 7.1400 | \$ 156,476 | \$ 169,396 | \$ 12,920 | 8.26% | | \$ 169,396 |
| Morris/Turnberry Municipality | 95 | \$578,886,096 | 2,701 | 5.2200 | \$ 112,962 | \$ 123,840 | \$ 10,878 | 9.63% | | \$ 123,840 |
| North Huron Township | 100 | \$608,844,245 | 3,886 | 5.4800 | \$ 122,412 | \$ 130,009 | \$ 7,597 | 6.21% | | \$ 130,009 |
| North Perth Municipality | 98 | \$2,545,440,178 | 11,043 | 22.9300 | \$ 503,713 | \$ 544,046 | \$ 40,333 | 8.01% | | \$ 544,046 |
| Perth East Township | 9 | \$195,988,965 | 863 | 1.7700 | \$ 38,681 | \$ 41,982 | \$ 3,301 | 8.53% | | \$ 41,982 |
| South Bruce Municipality | 1 | \$7,678,683 | 51 | 0.0700 | \$ 1,539 | \$ 1,646 | \$ 107 | 6.95% | | \$ 1,646 |
| Wellington North Township | 16 | \$324,041,795 | 1,523 | 2.9200 | \$ 60,657 | \$ 69,268 | \$ 8,611 | 14.20% | | \$ 69,268 |
| West Perth Municipality | 3 | \$51,123,075 | 225 | 0.4600 | \$ 10,110 | \$ 10,899 | \$ 789 | 7.81% | | \$ 10,899 |
| Total | | \$11,100,355,839 | 50951 | 100.0100 | \$ 2,197,705 | \$ 2,372,705 | \$ 175,000 | 8.38% | \$ 37,500 | \$ 2,410,205 |

Members Report #14-2026

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager -Secretary-Treasurer
Date: March 12, 2026
Subject: 2026 Draft Work Plan: Members

Purpose:

To outline the major items of governance related business that the Members will be dealing with in 2026.

Background:

The Members work plan is based upon the major business outlined in MVCA's 2026 Work Plan. If there are any additional items that should be added, please identify them at the meeting.

Conservation Ontario-Provincial Government:

Conservation Ontario (CO) is the association that has been established by the 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs) in Ontario to deal with issues of interest to all members. Conservation Ontario is also responsible for developing policy papers, lobbying, and negotiating agreements with the Provincial and Federal Governments on behalf of all Conservation Authorities.

With the consolidation of conservation authorities and the establishment of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, conservation authorities will need to discuss what the future role of Conservation Ontario will be.

Government Relations Strategy:

The Members recommended that the Chair and Vice Chairs meet with watershed MPPs and MPs annually. There are two provincial ridings and two federal ridings that cover the Maitland Watershed (Perth-Wellington and Huron-Bruce).

The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that our Provincial and Federal representatives understand and support MVCA's priorities. MVCA also uses these meetings to outline how the Provincial and Federal Governments can fulfill their policy objectives by collaborating with conservation authorities.

The Members have directed that these meetings be organized by the Chair, Vice, and Second Vice. The GM-ST prepares briefing notes for these meetings. We will need to identify what business we would like to discuss with Federal and Provincial Members in 2026. We develop the Government Relations Strategy at the April 15th meeting.

Major Business requiring Direction and or Decision:

- a) Providing Input to MVCA's representative on the Transition Committee for the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority. The Members will need to identify their ideas for how the Regional Conservation Authority needs to be structured for the programs and services to be carried out in MVCA's area of jurisdiction.
- b) The renewal of the agreement for services and programs with all municipalities. The new agreement will need to be approved by all 15 municipalities by June 17, 2026. In 2025 the following municipalities approved and signed a new agreement: North Huron, Central Huron, Perth East, West Perth, Minto, Ashfield Colborne Wawanosh, Huron East and North Perth. Municipalities to consult in 2026 include: Huron-Kinloss, Goderich, South Bruce, Howick, Morris -Turnberry, Wellington North and Mapleton.
- c) 2027 Work Plan and Budget: MVCA will need to develop a work plan and budget for 2027 by the October 21st meeting.
- d) Critical Infrastructure Asset Management Plan: The critical infrastructure asset management plan will be updated once an equipment source has been located for radio telemetry equipment for the rain gauge network. MVCA will also need to determine if the replacement equipment will be paid for by the authority or the municipalities (Minto, North Perth and Huron Kinloss). Those municipalities agreed to pay for the original rain gauge network and equipment.
- e) 75th Anniversary Celebration: MVCA will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2026. The river festival will be held in Brussels on August 30th.
- f) Review and Approval of the updated flood plain mapping for the village of Lucknow and the flood plain mapping in Wingham to reflect the removal of the dam.

Summary:

This report outlines the major items of business that the Members will be dealing with in 2026. If the Members have any additional items that they think should be added to the work plan, please raise them at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the work plan for 2026 be adopted as outlined in Report #14-2026.

Members Report #15-2026

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer
Date: March 11, 2026
Subject: Appointments to Committees for 2026

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to identify the appointments that need to be made to the various committees that the authority requires representatives for in 2025.

Conservation Ontario

Conservation Ontario represents the 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Conservation Ontario deals with issues that affect all Conservation Authorities. Each Authority is to appoint one delegate to sit on Conservation Ontario's Council. Two alternates are also to be appointed. Conservation Ontario meets four times per year. The schedule for 2026 is as follows:

Monday, April 13th in person meeting (Annual General Meeting)
Monday, June 22 virtual meeting
Monday, September 21 in person meeting
Monday, December 7th virtual meeting

MVCA passed a motion in 2015 specifying that the Voting Delegate is to be the Chair and that the alternates are to be the Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Ed McGugan be appointed as the MVCA's delegate to Conservation Ontario;
AND THAT Matt Duncan and Evan Hickey be appointed as alternates.

Maitland Conservation Foundation

The Maitland Conservation Foundation is a non-profit organization that raises money for Conservation Authority projects. MVCA's Board appoints one Director to the MCF Board on an annual basis. The MCF meets twice a year (April 15th and the third week of November-date to be set). Meetings are held during the day. The MCF has two subcommittees, an events Committee for organizing events and a Fundraising Committee. The Fundraising Committee meets with potential donors to

raise money for the “Inspired by Nature” campaign. Vanessa MacMillan was the representative in 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT _____ be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Maitland Conservation Foundation for 2026.

John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund Board

The Maitland Conservation Foundation has established the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund in memory of John Hindmarsh who lived in the Goderich area. Mr. Hindmarsh donated several natural areas to MVCA over the years. The purpose of the Fund is to raise money for a variety of conservation projects. MVCA’s Members appoint a representative to this committee. This Committee usually meets four times each year, usually in the afternoon at the home of Susan Chan, who is a Board member.

Alison Lobb has been the Members appointee since 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT _____ be appointed to the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund Board for 2026.

MVCA Personnel Committee

MVCA appoints one Member to serve on MVCA’s Personnel Committee. The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to review MVCA’s Personnel Policies and Procedures and recommend any changes or additions to the Members for consideration. The Personnel Committee is comprised of the GM/ST, Health and Safety Officer and two representatives from staff. The committee meets 2-3 times per year starting in September. Andrew Fournier was the representative in 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT _____ be appointed to the Personnel Committee for 2026.

Huron County Water Protection Committee

Huron County has established a Water Protection Committee to provide recommendations to County Council with respect to improving water quality in the County. The County has asked the MVCA to appoint a representative to this committee. Alison Lobb was the Members Appointee in 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT _____ be appointed as the MVCA's representative to the Huron County Water Protection Steering Committee for 2026.

Carbon Footprint Initiative Leadership Team

The Leadership Team is comprised of one representative from MVCA's Board. Additional people who have volunteered to sit on the leadership team include: Richard Keeso; Tracy MacDonald, CEO of Trillium Mutual Insurance Company; Kriss Snell, CAO Municipality of North Perth; Ron Coghlin & Derek Mendez from Molesworth Farm Supply; Tara Lantz, Corteva Agrisciences; Derry Wallis from County of Huron; and Brendan Magee, Partner of Ward and Uptigrove.

The Leadership Team are focusing their efforts on reducing their carbon footprint but they are beginning to discuss broadening their interest to other environmental challenges. The Leadership Team usually meets 2-3 times per year. The Chair attended meetings in 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT _____ be appointed to the Carbon Footprint Initiative Leadership Team for 2026.

Members Report #16-2026

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Phil Beard, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: March 12, 2026

Subject: Corporate Services:
Appointment of Banks, Approval of Bank Borrowing By-Law,
Appointment of Solicitors; Auditor for 2026

Purpose:

This report is being presented for the members approval.

Background:

In accordance with the Authority's Administrative Bylaw, the above noted appointments and approvals are to be made annually by the Members.

Banking

MVCA utilizes the services of CIBC for banking services. Two branches are utilized as the Falls Reserve Conservation Area deposits are made at the Goderich branch of CIBC.

MVCA utilizes the Wingham Branch of CIBC for all its transactions.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

THAT the MVCA's banking transactions be handled by the Wingham and Goderich Branches of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.
AND THAT investments be made at the financial institutions offering the most favourable rate of interest to the maximum of the guaranteed limits set by the Canadian Depository Act.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

THAT the Members approve a bank borrowing by-law of \$200,000 for 2026 on revolving credit, at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Wingham Branch.

Solicitors

MVCA utilizes two solicitors on an as needed basis for legal support related to agreements, violations/prosecutions related to the Authority's development &/or alterations to watercourses regulation as well as any other legal matters that arise. The solicitors are not on a retainer. Mr. Greg Stewart also acts as MVCA's Integrity Commissioner.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the following solicitors be appointed to handle legal matters of the Conservation Authority for 2026: Darrell N. Hawreliak Professional Corporation, Kitchener and Greg Stewart, Donnelly & Murphy, Goderich.

Auditor for 2026

The Members passed the following motion in 2025:
The authority is required to formally appoint an auditor every year.

Motion FA #54-24

That the quote for audit services for the years 2026-2028 submitted by Seebach and Company dated May 9, 2025, be approved.
(carried)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Seebach and Company be appointed as MVCA's auditor for 2026.

Members Report #17-2026

To: Members, MVCA
From: Phil Beard, General Manager
Date: March 12, 2026
Subject: Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule

Purpose:

To outline the proposed meeting schedule for 2026

Background:

All meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month except for August as the AMO Conference will be held from August 16th to the 19th in Ottawa.

Meetings start at 7:00pm at MVCA's Admin. Centre located in Wroxeter.

Proposed Schedule:

1. April 15th
2. May 20th
3. June 17th
4. July 15th
5. August 26th
6. September 16th
7. October 21st

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the meeting schedule for 2026 be approved as outlined in Report #17-2026.

Members Report #18-2026

To: Members, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator
Phil Beard, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: March 4th, 2026
Subject: 2026 Carbon Reduction and Sequestration Report

Purpose:

To outline the progress that MVCA has made to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to sequester carbon through naturalizing conservation area lands.

To outline the proposed 2026 MVCA carbon reduction and sequestration activities.

2025 Carbon footprint strategy progress report:

Over the past several years, the Authority's strategy has followed scientific research recommending a two-pronged approach to CO₂ emission reduction and sequestration strategies. This includes the elimination of burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible in order to stabilize the climate and to restore natural areas and increase soil carbon in agricultural lands.

The Authority adopted the following strategy to meet this recommendation:

1. Reduce fossil fuel use by converting to electric vehicles and equipment when suitable technology is available at an affordable price. Fuel efficient vehicles/equipment will be considered if suitable electric options are not affordable or available at the time of replacement.
2. Ensure good forestry management practices are undertaken in our existing woodlands and reforest or naturalize marginal farmland and other areas within conservation areas to sequester carbon and restore the health of forests.

Each year, the Authority monitors fuel, electricity and paper use in all aspects of our operations to calculate how many tonnes of CO₂ were emitted. Results for 2025 are listed below:

| Product | Quantity | Emission Factor | Tonnes CO ₂ |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Gasoline | 9,504 Litres | 2.3 | 21.86 |
| Diesel | 938 Litres | 2.68 | 2.51 |
| Propane | 2,442 Litres | 1.52 | 3.71 |
| Electricity | 270,047 kWh | 0.031 | 8.38 |
| Director/staff mileage | 5,807 km | 2.3 | 1.98 |
| Paper (8 ½ x 11) | 59825 sheets | 0.0317 | 1.90 |
| TOTAL Tonnes CO ₂ | | | 40.33 |

The following chart shows a comparison of yearly authority CO₂ emissions. 2016 was used as a baseline when all fuel and electricity quantities were accounted for.

| Year | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| CO ₂ Emissions | 52.22 | 49.61 | 46.42 | 41.64 | 32.70 | 38.66 | 40.00 | 41.39 | 37.18 | 40.33 |

CO₂ emissions reductions were largely noted from 2016 to 2019 due to the conversion of two cars to all-electric models. 2020 seen the largest reduction however, this was due to restrictions in place due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Each year the authority has completed CO₂ reduction activities including the conversion of fuel burning equipment and vehicles to electric options when feasible. This strategy has been effective in our motor pool operations as the total CO₂ emissions per km for all vehicles has been reducing each year from 0.022 tonnes of Co₂/km in 2016 to 0.0142 tonnes CO₂/km in 2025. However, the focus continues to be on reducing the overall use of fossil fuels.

Each year several factors impact the amount of CO₂ use in authority operations, including the following:

- Authority projects and the requirements for vehicle/equipment use.
- Updated emission factors – paper emission factors were updated in 2025 to reflect the specific type of paper including recycled content. *Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator™ Version 4.1. For more information visit www.papercalculator.org.*
- Weather conditions - Heating and cooling requirements, Snow removal and vegetation mowing.

- Camping trends and demands. Increased usage impacts water heating use, electricity, and fuel use to meet the needs of users.

MVCA will experience a major reduction in CO₂ when suitable all-electric pickup trucks, and alternative water heating solutions become available.

Carbon Footprint Reduction and Sequestration Initiatives completed in 2025:

- Planted a total of 220 tree seedlings at Naftel's Creek and Wawanosh Valley C.A.
- Planted 173 largestock trees and 400 shrubs in Conservation Areas to increase biodiversity, vegetation and tree cover.
- Purchased an electric powered grass trimmer for field operations.
- Purchased a fuel efficient ½ ton truck for authority operations.
- Promoted driving electric vehicles and the most fuel-efficient vehicle for the task required.

Maitland Conservations Carbon Footprint Reduction and Sequestration Strategy for 2026:

The Maitland Conservations strategy continues to focus on the reduction of fossil fuel use that will lead to the elimination of Co₂ emissions by Authority operations in the future. It also recognizes that we need to restore natural areas on conservation authority lands that are not presently in natural cover with the exception of lands used for roads and buildings.

Carbon Footprint Reduction Strategy and 2026 Initiatives:

Reduce fossil fuel use by converting to electric vehicles and equipment when suitable technology is available at an affordable price. Fuel efficient vehicles/equipment will be considered if suitable electric options are not affordable or available at the time of replacement.

- Promote employees to use electric vehicles and the most fuel-efficient vehicle for the task required.
- Switching to 100% recycled paper for general office use.
- Replace lighting to LED technology when replacement is required.
- Replace equipment with energy efficient models when replacement is required.

Carbon Sequestration Strategy and 2026 Initiatives:

Ensure good forestry management practices are undertaken in our existing woodlands and reforest or naturalize marginal farmland and other areas within conservation areas to sequester carbon and restore the health of forests.

- Develop an Ecosystem Health prioritization tool to assist in identifying priority areas on conservation lands to conserve, restore and enhance.
- Plant a minimum of 250 tree seedlings and 100 largestock hardwoods in Conservation Areas to continue to improve forest health and diversity.
- Prepare Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area for future planting of marginal agricultural land by controlling invasive buckthorn along perimeters.
- Include naturalization components when developing areas around the new pavilion at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area.
- Implement the naturalization plan for the Administration office to remove a section of turf grass not suitable for mowing.
- Develop a Naturalization plan for previous campsites and grounds at Wawanosh Park Conservation Area for implementation once any invasive species are controlled.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT MVCA's carbon footprint progress report and 2026 strategic actions be approved as outlined in Report # 18-26

Member's Report #19/26

To Member's, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From: Danielle Livingston, Administrative and Financial Services Coordinator
Date March 10, 2026

Subject Corporate Services - Accounts Paid and Received for:
January and February 2026

Recommendation:

That the financial report be accepted as presented for the month of January, 2026;
And that accounts outlined in the appendix to this report be approved.

| Financial Summary Report Ending | January, 2026; |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Revenue Invoiced | \$574,045.22 |
| Accounts Paid | \$300,638.25 |

| Financial Status at Month Ending | January, 2026; |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Bank Loans Outstanding | \$0.00 |
| Bank Balance at Month End | \$1,589,596.31 |
| Total | \$1,589,596.31 |

Recommendation:

That the financial report be accepted as presented for the month of February, 2026;
And that accounts outlined in the appendix to this report be approved.

| Financial Summary Report Ending | February, 2026; |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Revenue Invoiced | \$118,149.53 |
| Accounts Paid | \$324,204.85 |

| Financial Status at Month Ending | 0 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Bank Loans Outstanding | \$0.00 |
| Bank Balance at Month End | \$1,463,943.73 |
| Total | \$1,463,943.73 |

**Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Accounts Receivable as of January 31, 2026**

Operating Budget Revenue

Corporate

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Corporate Services sale office support/rent office equipment | \$ 445.30 |
| WSIB surplus | \$ 37,739.10 |
| Drinking Water Source Protection rent/overhead | \$ 240.00 |
| bank interest | \$ 1,980.34 |
| Huron Clean Water Project administration | <u>\$ 497.49</u> |
| | \$ 40,902.23 |
| | |
| Source Water Protection ABCA funding | <u>\$ 1,020.09</u> |
| | \$ 1,020.09 |

Total Corporate Services \$ 41,922.32

Flood Safety

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Planning/Regulations planning application fees | \$ 930.00 |
| property advisory fees | \$ 270.00 |
| solicitor inquiries | \$ 470.00 |
| CWMS/watercourse regulations | \$ 205.00 |
| regulation applications | <u>\$ 910.00</u> |
| | \$ 2,785.00 |

Total Flood Safety Services \$ 2,785.00

Conservation Areas

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| FRCA camping and park admission | \$ 99,926.30 |
| donations | <u>\$ 400.00</u> |
| | \$ 100,326.30 |
| | |
| MDO property revenue | <u>\$ 125.00</u> |
| | \$ 125.00 |
| | |
| Motor Pool revenue | <u>\$ 2,684.17</u> |
| | \$ 2,684.17 |

Total Conservation Areas Operations \$ 103,135.47

Total Operating Budget Revenue \$ 147,842.79

Projects Budget Revenue

Flood Safety and Monitoring

FHIMP Provincial funding

\$ 21,997.85
\$ 21,997.85

ECCC Natrual Hazard Outreach Federal funding

\$ 380,000.00
\$ 380,000.00

Total Flood Safety Projects \$ 401,997.85

Watershed Stewardship

Huron County Clean Water funding

\$ 24,204.58
\$ 24,204.58

Total Watershed Stewardship Projects \$ 24,204.58

Total Project Budget Revenue \$ 426,202.43

Total Operating and Project Revenues \$ 574,045.22

**Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Accounts Receivable as of February 28, 2026**

Operating Budget Revenue

Corporate

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Corporate Services sale office support/rent office equipment | \$ 788.95 |
| WSIB surplus | |
| Drinking Water Source Protection rent/overhead | \$ 240.00 |
| bank interest | \$ 2,371.41 |
| Huron Clean Water Project administration | \$ 497.41 |
| | \$ 3,897.77 |
| Source Water Protection ABCA funding | \$ 2,755.69 |
| | \$ 2,755.69 |

Total Corporate Services \$ 6,653.46

Flood Safety

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Planning/Regulations planning application fees | \$ 825.00 |
| property advisory fees | \$ 180.00 |
| solicitor inquiries | \$ 280.00 |
| CWMS/watercourse regulations | \$ 395.00 |
| regulation applications | \$ 10,485.00 |
| | \$ 12,165.00 |

Total Flood Safety Services \$ 12,165.00

**Watershed Stewardship
Conservation Areas**

| | |
|---|--------------|
| FRCA camping and park admission donations | \$ 47,390.26 |
| | \$ 47,390.26 |
| MDO property revenue | \$ 225.00 |
| | \$ 225.00 |
| Motor Pool revenue | \$ 2,399.02 |
| | \$ 2,399.02 |

Total Conservation Areas Operations \$ 50,014.28

Total Operating Budget Revenue \$ 68,832.74

Projects Budget Revenue

Flood Safety and Monitoring

FHIMP Provincial funding

\$ 32,855.09

\$ 32,855.09

Total Flood Safety Projects \$ 32,855.09

Watershed Stewardship

Huron County Clean Water funding

\$ 16,461.70

\$ 16,461.70

Total Watershed Stewardship Projects \$ 16,461.70

Total Project Budget Revenue \$ 49,316.79

Total Operating and Project Revenues \$ 118,149.53

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Expense Reports

As of January 31, 2026

| Date | Num | Name | Amount |
|------------|------------|---|------------|
| 01-06-2026 | EFTJan2026 | Sun Life Financial | -7,947.54 |
| 01-12-2026 | 25740 | Corporation of Township of North Huron | -28.25 |
| 01-15-2026 | | Payroll | -53,493.01 |
| 01-16-2026 | 25741 | Maitland Conservation Foundation | -100.00 |
| 01-16-2026 | 25742 | Municipality of Central Huron | -1,000.00 |
| 01-16-2026 | 25743 | Municipality of South Huron | -1,250.00 |
| 01-16-2026 | 25744 | Wightman Telecom Ltd. | -1,293.47 |
| 01-16-2026 | 25745 | CIBC Visa Centre | -782.78 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01651 | ADT Security Services Canada Inc. | -552.57 |
| 01-16-2026 | EFT01652 | Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority | -9,668.80 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01653 | B.M. Ross & Associates Limited | -791.34 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01654 | Brandt Security | -22.60 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01655 | ContinuIT Corp. | -5,909.65 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01656 | Dale Rentals | -226.00 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01657 | Edward Fuels | -305.60 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01658 | Eric Cox Sanitation Ltd. | -444.34 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01659 | Erin Gouthro | -50.00 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01660 | GeoProcess Research Associates Inc. | -474.60 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01661 | Hoskin Scientific Limited | -945.81 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01662 | Mathew Shetler | -50.00 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01663 | MicroAge BASICS | -261.87 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01664 | Robert's Farm Equipment | -155.07 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01665 | Somerville Nurseries Inc. | -12,000.00 |
| 01-16-2026 | EFT01666 | Tim Prentice | -164.42 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01667 | Waterloo Biofilter | -2,847.60 |
| 01-16-2026 | 01668 | Westario Power Inc. | -124.14 |
| 01-30-2026 | 25746 | E&M Martin | -554.83 |
| 01-30-2026 | 25747 | Paul MacIntyre | -1,100.00 |
| 01-30-2026 | 25748 | Iceculture Inc. | -45.00 |
| 01-30-2026 | 25749 | Purolator Courier Ltd. | -21.48 |
| 01-30-2026 | 25750 | Saugeen First Nation c/o Jeanette Ladd | -14,525.50 |
| 01-30-2026 | 25751 | Ken Papple | -226.22 |
| 01-30-2026 | 25752 | Adam Braecker | -825.00 |
| 01-30-2026 | 25753 | GM Dalton Farms | -1,250.00 |
| 01-30-2026 | 25754 | Melrose Paving Co. Ltd. | -4,812.83 |
| 01-30-2026 | 01669 | Daniela Klicper | -292.66 |
| 01-30-2026 | 01670 | Erin Gouthro | -162.39 |

| | | | |
|------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01-30-2026 | 01671 | FAB Broadcasting Corp | -339.00 |
| 01-30-2026 | 01672 | Tatham Engineering Limited | -18,565.90 |
| 01-30-2026 | 01673 | Yellow Pages | -19.62 |
| 01-30-2026 | 01674 | Zuzek Inc. | -8,801.64 |
| 01-31-2026 | | Payroll | -54,150.04 |
| 01-31-2026 | 25755 | Receiver General | -57,412.78 |
| 01-31-2026 | EFTJan2026 | Minister of Finance | -3,330.71 |
| 01-31-2026 | EFTJan2026 | Workplace Safety & Insurance Board | -5,380.51 |
| 01-31-2026 | EFTJan2026 | OMERS | -27,932.68 |
| | | Total | <u>-300,638.25</u> |

**Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Expense Reports
As of February 28, 2026**

| Date | Num | Name | Amount |
|-------------|------------|--|---------------|
| 02-03-2026 | EFTFeb2026 | Sun Life Financial | -7,947.54 |
| 02-13-2026 | 25756 | Bell Mobility Inc. 500181172 | -930.48 |
| 02-13-2026 | 25757 | McDonald Home Hardware | -90.35 |
| 02-13-2026 | 25758 | Grant Haven Media | -146.90 |
| 02-13-2026 | 25759 | Angie Koersen | -75.00 |
| 02-13-2026 | 25760 | D & I Wattam Construction Ltd. | -791.00 |
| 02-13-2026 | 25761 | TMHC Inc. | -3,661.20 |
| 02-13-2026 | 25762 | Wightman Telecom Ltd. | -1,321.69 |
| 02-13-2026 | 25763 | Receiver General | -6,353.01 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01675 | Alaina Lennox | -100.00 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01676 | Avensys | -841.85 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01677 | Barry Skinn | -167.94 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01678 | Brandt Security | -22.60 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01679 | ComPsych Canada Ltd. | -623.49 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01680 | ContinulT Corp. | -4,331.42 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01681 | Donnelly and Murphy - Lawyers | -367.25 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01682 | Edward Fuels | -405.22 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01683 | Erin Gouthro | -50.00 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01684 | F.S. Partners | -103.32 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01685 | Foxton Fuels Limited | -65.83 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01686 | Hodgins BC Wingham | -211.98 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01687 | Lei`s Lumber Company Ltd | -2,812.24 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01688 | Mathew Shetler | -800.00 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01689 | MicroAge BASICS | -465.44 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01690 | North Huron Publishing Company Inc. | -359.13 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01691 | Pineneedle Farms | -2,694.06 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01692 | Riverbank Repose | -240.00 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01693 | Sarah Gunnewiek | -100.00 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01694 | Township of Perth East | -338.86 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01695 | Watson's Home Hardware | -435.05 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01696 | Xerox Canada Ltd. | -43.43 |
| 02-13-2026 | 01697 | Yellow Pages | -389.85 |
| 02-13-2026 | 25764 | CIBC Visa Centre | -8,145.54 |
| 02-15-2026 | | Payroll | -50,762.01 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25765 | Twp. of Ashfield Colborne Wawanosh | -2,508.00 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25766 | Corporation of the Twp. of Huron-Kinloss | -176.00 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25767 | Grant Haven Media | -146.90 |

| | | | |
|------------|------------|--|--------------------|
| 02-27-2026 | 25768 | Town of Goderich | -378.68 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25769 | Papple Aviation (Summer & Tyler Papple) | -692.13 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25770 | Mike and Marion Durst | -228.75 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25771 | Municipality of Central Huron | -691.00 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25772 | Solinst Canada Ltd. | -2,758.47 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25773 | TMHC Inc. | -27,385.55 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25774 | Township of Howick (Taxes) | -2,915.00 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25775 | Darrell N. Hawreliak | -276.85 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25776 | Marg Beard | -950.00 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25777 | Van Oenen Farms Inc. c/o David Van Oenen | -28,699.81 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25778 | Bluewater Chapter of OBOA | -150.00 |
| 02-27-2026 | 25779 | Corporation of the Twp. of North Huron | -3,269.00 |
| 02-27-2026 | 01698 | Avenir Energy Ltd. | -90.34 |
| 02-27-2026 | 01699 | ContinuIT Corp. | -461.54 |
| 02-27-2026 | 01700 | DeLageLandenFinancialServicesCanadaInc. | -1,475.70 |
| 02-27-2026 | 01701 | Edward Fuels | -333.36 |
| 02-27-2026 | 01702 | Karlene Zurbrigg | -43.66 |
| 02-27-2026 | EFT01703 | Municipality of Morris-Turnberry | -502.62 |
| 02-27-2026 | 01704 | Robert's Farm Equipment | -4,497.46 |
| 02-27-2026 | 01705 | Westario Power Inc. | -132.95 |
| 02-27-2026 | 01706 | Yellow Pages | -19.62 |
| 02-27-2026 | 01707 | Zuzek Inc. | -14,488.89 |
| 02-28-2026 | | Payroll | -50,179.99 |
| 02-28-2026 | EFTFeb2026 | OMERS | -25,531.00 |
| 02-28-2026 | EFTFeb2026 | Minister of Finance | -3,071.26 |
| 02-28-2026 | EFTFeb2026 | Workplace Safety & Insurance Board | -4,961.23 |
| 02-28-2026 | 25780 | Receiver General | -50,995.41 |
| | | Total | -324,204.85 |

Members Report # 20-2026

To: Members, MVCA
From: Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator;
Shannon Miller,
Patrick Huber-Kidby,
Date: March 4th, 2026
Subject: Agreements Signed

Purpose:

To outline recent agreements signed with other agencies for Authority projects, funding and services.

1. Falls Reserve Conservation Area – Agreement with the Maitland Trail Association

Maitland Conservation has renewed a 5-year, Trail Land-use agreement with the Maitland Trail Association (MTA). The agreement outlines the responsibilities and requirements for continued use of the Maitland trail that traverses through the Falls Reserve Conservation Area (FRCA) by the MTA and its members. The agreement specifies which parts of the FRCA lands and infrastructure are included in the agreement and any fees/discounts which are provided in this partnership. The agreement was signed by the FRCA Superintendent and General Manager-Secretary Treasurer.

2. Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program- Marginal Lands Targeted Initiative - Second Amending Agreement (“SAA”) with Conservation Ontario

A Second Amending Agreement (SAA) has been signed with Conservation Ontario to extend the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program. The agreement has been signed by the Chair and General Manager–Secretary Treasurer and provides \$1,545,000.00 in funding for restoration projects from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2028. Maitland Conservation will act as the lead organization and has entered into sub-agreements with Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and Pine River Watershed Initiative Network to deliver restoration projects within their respective watersheds using the program funds.

3. Healthy Lake Huron Implementation in the North Shore Basin and Eighteen Mile Watershed – Agreement with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

A 3-year agreement has been signed with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to assist with implementation of the Healthy Lake Huron program in the North Shore and Eighteen Mile sub-watersheds. The agreement has been signed by the Chair and General Manager–Secretary Treasurer and provides \$212,500.00 in funding for restoration and soil health projects from January 2, 2026, to March 31, 2028

4. Memorandum of Understanding for Planning Review Services between Bruce County and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.

A renewal of the Planning Review Services MOU with Bruce County, last updated in 2019. This agreement is substantially unchanged from the previous MoU with MVCA. The MoU is being renewed to achieve consistent wording across all three Conservation Authority MoUs in Bruce County, including MVCA, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. The MoU provides details of how the CAs will deliver mandatory planning review services for Natural Hazards across Bruce County.

Recommendation:

THAT Report#20-2026 be approved as outlined.



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

P.O. Box 130
21 Queen St.
Ripley, Ontario
N0G2R0

Phone: (519) 395-3735

Fax: (519) 395-4107

E-mail: info@huronkinloss.com

Website: <http://www.huronkinloss.com>

February 25, 2026

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Minister Todd McCarthy
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

Sent via email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Re: Copy of Resolution No.2026/02/02-31

The following resolution was passed at the February 2nd, 2026 meeting of Council. Note that the map is being adjusted to refine the borders of the LHRCA to deviate from the actual watershed boundaries to follow the demarcation lines of the municipalities where only a small portion of a municipality is encompassed by the watershed boundary. Thus reducing the number of Conservation Authorities a boundary area municipality would need to be a member of.

Moved by: Ed McGugan

Seconded by: Scott Gibson

Resolution:

WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposed new boundaries for the consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into regional conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss submitted comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting #025-1257 focused primarily on the need for consultation, maintaining watershed specific decision making, preserving the unique role of Conservation Authorities in Rural Ontario, and boundaries which are appropriately sized, and accurately reflect communities of interest with similar watershed features;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss recognizes the broader role that rural conservation authorities play in supporting tourism, outdoor recreation, agriculture and

rural quality of life, in addition to the flood control and development planning functions which are the primary focus in more urban areas;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss met with the Honourable Minister Todd McCarthy at the 2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Associations (ROMA) Conference, to discuss revising proposed CA boundaries from the Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority to better reflect existing working relationships, watershed characteristics, and current programs; and ensuring rural and agricultural representation is formally included in Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency governance;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss proposed a revised boundary approach that:

- a) Builds on existing partnerships and shared programs
- b) Aligns with similar watershed and geographic features, and
- c) Preserves effective, locally responsive service delivery;

AND WHEREAS the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and the rural areas within the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority have established working relationships through such programs as the Healthy Lake Huron Initiative;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss is proposing a Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA) which would more accurately reflect communities of interest and natural geographic features in an appropriately sized authority, which includes the above noted conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS the proposed LRCA would cover twelve (12) distinct areas noted on Appendix A, which could represent a voting area within the LHRCA board;

AND WHEREAS it is advisable to maintain existing conservation authority headquarters where possible as regional offices, but consolidate some administrative tasks into a centrally located head office;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Township of Huron- Kinloss recommend that the municipalities and conservation authorities within the area proposed support a Lake

Huron Regional Conservation Authority, with a board of twelve (12) members representing twelve (12) unique areas within the proposed authority, and a centralized head office, with satellite regional offices to support local work;

AND FURTHER THAT that Staff be directed to circulate to the municipalities and conservation authorities within the proposed new region (attached as appendix a) communications regarding the possible structure and format of a new Lake Huron Region Conservation Authority;

AND FURTHER THAT Staff propose to the impacted municipalities and conservation authorities that an initial meeting be conducted to discuss the viability and details of the proposal.

Carried

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact the Township of Huron-Kinloss Clerk to arrange a meeting with council representatives.

Sincerely,



Jennifer White
Clerk

Cc: Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula acroce@northernbruce.ca , Town of South Bruce Peninsula angie.cathrae@southburcepeninsula.ca , Town of Saugeen Shores morgan.mcculloch@saugeenshores.ca , Municipality of Brockton fhamilton@brockton.ca , Municipality of Arran-Elderslie cfraser@arran-elderslie.ca , Municipality of Kincardine jlawrie@kincardine.ca , Municipality of South Bruce vkennedy@southbruce.ca , Township of Howick clerk@howick.ca , Township of North Huron info@northhuron.ca , Municipality of Morris Turnberry thallam@morristurnberry.ca , Township Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Township clerk@acwtownship.ca , Town of Goderich

townhall@goderich.ca , Municipality Central Huron clerk@centralhuron.com , Municipality of Huron East clerk@huroneast.com , Municipality of Bluewater joverholt@municipalityofbluewater.ca , Municipality of South Huron clerk@southhuron.ca , Municipality of North Perth lraftis@northperth.ca , Township of West Perth info@westperth.com , Township of Perth East admin@pertheast.ca , Township of Wellington North township@wellington-north.com , Township of Mapleton lwheeler@mapleton.ca , Town of Minto info@town.minto.on.ca , Town of Hanover inquiry@hanover.ca , Municipality of West Grey info@westgray.com , Township of Georgian Bluffs clerks@georgianbluffs.ca , Municipality of Lambton Shores administration@lambtonshores.ca , Town of Plympton Wyoming ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca , Municipality of North Middlesex admin@northmiddlesex.on.ca

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority publicinfo@svca.ca
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority maitland@mvca.on.ca
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority explore@greysauble.ca
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority info@abca.ca
St. Clair Conservation Authority planning@scrca.on.ca

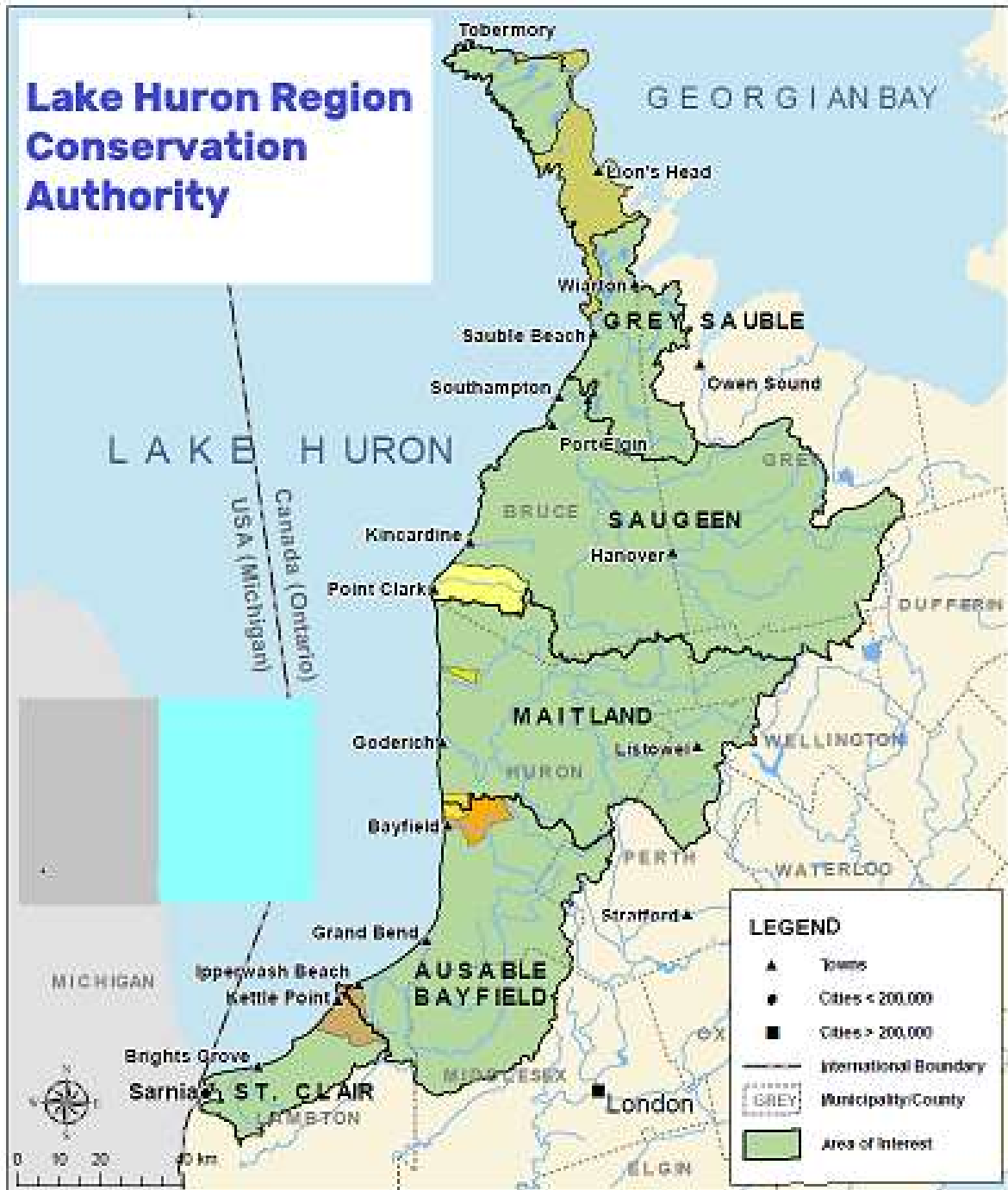
Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org
Steve Pinsonneault, MPP Lampton-Kent-Middlesex steve.pinsonneault@pc.ola.org
Paul Vickers, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound paul.vickers@pc.ola.org

APPENDIX

Representative Regions within the Lake Huron Region Conservation Authority

- 1) Bruce County - North
 - a) Town of South Bruce Peninsula, Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula.
- 2) Bruce County - Centre
 - a) Town of Saugeen Shores, Municipality of Brockton, Municipality of Arran-Elderslie.
- 3) Bruce County - South
 - a) Municipality of Kincardine, Township of Huron Kinloss, Municipality of South Bruce.
- 4) Huron County - North East
 - a) Township of Howick, Township of North Huron, Municipality of Morris-Tumberry.
- 5) Huron County - North West
 - a) Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, Town of Goderich.
- 6) Huron County - Centre
 - a) Municipality of Central Huron, Municipality of Huron East.
- 7) Huron County - South
 - a) Municipality of Bluewater, Municipality of South Huron.
- 8) Perth County
 - a) Municipality of North Perth, Municipality of West Perth, Township of Perth East.
- 9) Wellington County
 - a) Township of Wellington North, Township of Mapleton, Town of Minto.
- 10) Grey County
 - a) Town of Hanover, Municipality of West Grey, Township of Georgian Bluffs.
- 11) Lambton County
 - a) Municipality of Lambton Shores, Town of Plympton Wyoming.
- 12) Middlesex County
 - a) Municipality of North Middlesex.

APPENDIX



Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la
Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 314-6790



357-2026-736

March 10, 2026

TO: Conservation authorities as listed in Appendix A to the Attachment A
"Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 21.3 of the *Conservation
Authorities Act*"

SUBJECT: Minister's direction for conservation authorities regarding fee changes
associated with planning, development, and permitting fees

I am writing with regards to conservation authority planning, development and permitting fees. Pursuant to my authority under subsection 21.3 (1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, I am issuing a new Direction, attached to this letter as Attachment A. This Direction is consistent with the Directions that were previously in place for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 calendar years.

The purpose of this Direction, which is effective from March 10, 2026, to February 28, 2027, is to require a conservation authority not to change the amount of the fee it charges or the manner in which it determines the fee for any program or service related to reviewing and commenting on planning and development related proposals or land use planning policies, or for permits issued by conservation authorities. This Direction is intended to support less costly approvals in order to help increase housing supply and affordability in Ontario.

This Direction applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix A, who are encouraged to make the Direction publicly available on the Governance section of their websites.

If you have any questions regarding this Direction, please contact the ministry at ca.office@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to the authority of the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under section 21.3, the conservation authorities set out under Appendix "A" of this Direction (the "**conservation authorities**" or each, a "**conservation authority**") are hereby directed as follows:

Fee Changes Prohibition

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

Program and Service Fees Impacted

2. This Direction applies to any fee set out in the Fee Schedule of a conservation authority, including without limitation fees for any mandatory program or service (Category 1), municipal program or service (Category 2), or conservation authority recommended program or service (Category 3) related to reviewing and commenting on planning and

Attachment A

development related proposals, applications, or land use planning policies, or for conservation authority permitting.

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

Application

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

Effective Date and Term

6. This Direction is effective from March 10, 2026 (the "**Effective Date**").
7. The term of this Direction is the period from the Effective Date to February 28, 2027 (the "**Term**").

Attachment A

Amendments

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

HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF ONTARIO
as represented by the
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
March 10, 2026

APPENDIX A

LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

Ausable Bayfield CA

R.R. #3
71108 Morrison Line
Exeter ON N0M 1S5
Davin Heinbuck
dheinbuck@abca.on.ca

Cataraqui Region CA

Box 160
1641 Perth Road
Glenburnie ON K0H 1S0
David Ellingwood
dellingwood@crca.ca

Catfish Creek CA

R.R. #5
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