

Membership Meeting #3-2026

March 18, 2026

Members Present: Ed McGugan, Alvin McLellan, Megan Gibson, Matt Duncan, Anita Van Hittersum, Evan Hickey, Ed Podniewicz, Vanessa McMillan, 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
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Supervisor of Planning & Regulations

Others Present: Cory Bilyea, Midwestern News Media
Paul Seebach, Seebach and Company

1. Call to Order

Chair Ed McGugan, welcome 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 #21-26

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT the minutes from the General Membership Meeting #1-2026 held on January 28, 2026, and Meeting #2-2026 held on February 25, 2026, be approved.
(carried)

4. 2025 Draft Audit, Paul Seebach, Seebach and Company Report #11-2026

Paul Seebach from Seebach and Company, Chartered Professional Accountants, made a presentation and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #22-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Matt Duncan

THAT the Auditor’s report for 2025 be approved as presented.

(carried)

5. Provincial Announcement regarding the Consolidation of Conservation Authorities: Report #12-2026

Report #12-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #23-26

Moved by: Matt Duncan

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT a draft response for the municipalities and public is to be developed and discussed at the April 15th meeting.

(carried)

6. Business Requiring Direction and or Decision of the Minutes

a) 2026 Work Plan, Budget, and Cost Apportionment: Report #13-2026

Report #13-2026 was presented and the following motions were made:

Motion FA #24-26

Moved by: Vanessa McMillan

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

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

(carried)

Chair McGugan called for the Member’s to vote on behalf of their respective Municipality on the levy apportionment as outlined in Report #13. The approval of the work plan and budget requires a motion and a majority of the Members to be approved.

Municipality	Member	Assessment Value (%)	In Favour	Not In Favour	No Comment	Absent
Central Huron	Alison Lobb	9.44	✓			
ACW	Evan Hickey	12.5	✓			
Goderich	Vanessa McMillan	10.63	✓			
Howick	Megan Gibson	4.40	✓			
Huron East	Alvin McLellan	10.26	✓			
Huron Kinloss	Ed McGugan	6.08	✓			
Mapleton	Ed Podniewicz	0.89	✓			
Minto	Ed Podniewicz	7.12	✓			
Morris-Turnberry	Sharen Zinn	5.14	✓			
North Huron	Anita van Hittersum	5.57	✓			

North Perth	Matt Duncan	22.92	✓			
Perth East	Andrew Fournier	1.76	✓			
South Bruce	Ed McGugan	0.07	✓			
Wellington North	Ed Podniewicz	2.76	✓			
West Perth	Andrew Fournier	0.46	✓			

The results of the recorded vote was 100% in favour therefore the following motion was carried:

Motion FA #25-26

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT the 2026 Work Plan and Budget be approved as outlined in Report #13-2026.
(carried)

b) Members Work Plan for 2026: Report #14-2025

Report #14-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #26-26

Moved by: Evan Hickey

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

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

c) Appointment to Committees for 2026: Report #15-2026

Report #15-2026 was presented and the following motions were made:

Motion FA #27-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

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

Motion FA #28-26

Moved by: Matt Duncan

Seconded by: Anita Van Hittersum

THAT Vanessa McMillian be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Maitland Conservation Foundation for 2026.
(carried)

Motion FA #29-26

Moved by: Ed Podniewicz

Seconded by: Vanessa McMillan

THAT Alison Lobb be appointed to the John Hindmarsh Environmental Fund Board for 2026.
(carried)

Motion FA #30-26

Moved by: Ed Podniewiz

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT a member will not be appointed to the Personnel Committee for 2026.
(carried)

Motion FA #31-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Anita Van Hittersum

THAT Alvin McLellan be appointed as the MVCA's representative to the Huron County Water Protection Steering Committee for 2026.
(carried)

Motion FA #32-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Matt Duncan

THAT Ed McGugan be appointed to the Carbon Footprint Initiative Leadership Team for 2026.
(carried)

d) Appointment of Auditor, Solicitor and Bank: Report #16-2026

Report #16-2026 was presented and the following motions were made:

Motion FA #33-26

Moved by: Evan Hickey

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

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.
(carried)

Motion FA #34-26

Moved by: Matt Duncan

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

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.
(carried)

Motion FA #35-26

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

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.
(carried)

Motion FA #36-26

Moved by: Anita Van Hittersum

Seconded by: Vanessa McMillan

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

e) Meeting Schedule for 2026: Report #17-2026

Report #17-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #37-26

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Matt Duncan

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

f) Carbon Footprint Report 2025: Report #18-2026

Report #18-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #38-26

Moved by: Megan Gibson

Seconded by: Evan Hickey

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

7. Consent Agenda

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

- 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

Motion FA #39-26

Moved by: Matt Duncan

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT Report #19-2026 to Report #20-2026 along with the respective motions as outlined in those reports be approved.
(carried)

8. Chair and Member Reports

Ed McGugan thanked MVCA, on behalf of Don Murray Mayor of Huron Kinloss and council, for their actions during the recent flooding event in Lucknow.

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date, Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Administration Centre in Wroxeter.

Motion FA #40-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the Members Meeting be adjourned at 8:46 PM.

(carried)



Ed McGugan
Chair



Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer