

Notice of Meeting
Meeting of the Membership #11-2026

Date: October 21, 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 #9-2026 held on September 16, 2026 and Meeting #10-2026 held on September 30, 2026.
4. Business Out of the Minutes:
 - a) Approval of the 2027 Work Plan and Budget: Report #73-2026
 - b) Communications Strategy Response from the MCF: Report #74-2026
5. Business Requiring Direction and/or Decision:
6. Consent Agenda:
 - a) Revenue & Expenditure Report for September: Report #75-2026
 - b) Agreements Signed: Report #76-2026
 - c) Conservation Ontario Council Meeting Summary September 21, 2026: Report #77-2026
 - d) Carbon Footprint Initiative Leaders Meeting Summary October 14, 2026: Report #78-2026
7. Chair and Members Reports
8. Closed Session: Legal Matter- Advice that is subject to solicitor – client privilege
9. Adjournment
10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 25, 2026 at 7:00pm

Membership Meeting #9-2026

September 16, 2026

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

Members Absent: Matt Duncan, Sharen Zinn, Vanessa McMillan

Staff Present: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer
Jayne Thompson, Communications Coordinator
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning & Regulations Supervisor
Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator
Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist
Mathew Shetler, Watershed Monitoring Specialist
Ethan Slater, Forest Health Assistant
Jason Moir, Park Superintendent Falls Reserve
Michelle Quipp, Executive Assistant

Others Present: Kelsey Bent, Midwestern News Media

1. Call to Order

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

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no pecuniary interests at this time.

3. Minutes

Motion FA #92-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT the minutes from the General Membership Meeting #8-2026 held on August 26, 2026, be approved.
(carried)

4. **Presentations**

Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist, presented to members an update on the Watershed Health of MVCA.

Motion FA #93-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the presentation about the Watershed Health Update be accepted.
(carried)

5. **Business Out of the Minutes**

a) **Review of Comments on Proposed Amendments to the Fees Schedule for 2027: Report #62-2026**

Report #62-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #94-26

Moved by: Ed Podniewicz

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the 2027 Fee Schedule be approved as presented.
(carried)

b) **Review of Comments on Revised Draft Guiding Principles for Transition: Report #63-2026**

Report #63-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #95-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Anita van Hittersum

THAT Report #63-2016 be accepted.
(carried)

c) **Communications Strategy Update: Report #64-2026**

Report #64-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #96-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Ed Podniewicz

THAT a communication strategy be developed with the Maitland Conservation Foundation.
(carried)

6. Business Requiring Direction and/or Decision:

a) Draft 2027 Work Plan & Budget: Report #65-2026

Report #65-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #97-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Alvin McLellan

THAT the 2027 draft budget, work plan and cost apportionment 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 October 21, 2026 meeting for final review and approval;

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

(carried)

b) Transition Committee Meeting #1-2026: Report #66-2026

Report #63-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #98-26

Moved by: Evan Hickey

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT Report #63-2016 be accepted.

(carried)

c) Program for October 21st Members Meeting: Report #67-2026

Report #67-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #99-26

Moved by: Anita van Hittersum

Seconded by: Andrew Fournier

THAT the recommendation within Report #67-2026 be accepted.

(carried)

d) Review of Policy for Storage of Trailers at Falls Reserve: Report #68-2026

Report #68-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #100-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Evan Hickey

THAT research be undertaken to determine the costs associated with permitting the winter storage of trailers in a consolidated lot;

AND THAT a consultation process be developed to gather input from the seasonal campers regarding storage of trailers over the winter months.
(carried)

e) Turnberry Flood Plain Conservation Area-Memorial Gate Request: Report #69-2026

Report #65-2026 was presented and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #101-26

Moved by: Anita van Hittersum

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT the Membership supports the request from the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry for the transfer of approximately 0.05 acres of land being declared surplus;
AND THAT a request for authorization be sent to the OPCA.
(carried)

7. Consent Agenda

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

- a) Revenue/Expenditure Revenue/Expenditure Report for August: Report #70-2026
- b) Agreements Signed: Report #71-2026
- c) January 1-August 31st Budget Update: Report #72-2026
- d) Correspondence: Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

Motion FA #102-26

Moved by: Evan Hickey

Seconded by: Megan Gibson

THAT Report #70-2026 to Report #72-2026 along with the respective motions as outlined in those reports be approved.
(carried)

8. Chair and Member Reports

Chair Ed McGugan shared that the River Festival that was held at the Brussels Conservation Area was a success and thanked staff and volunteers for their hard work in organizing the event.

9. Closed Session: Legal Matter

Motion FA #103-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Anita van Hittersum

THAT the Members meeting be moved into a closed session at 8:50pm.
(carried)

Motion FA #104-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Andrew Fournier

THAT the Members meeting be moved into an open closed session at 9:30pm.
(carried)

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date, Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Administration Centre in Wroxeter.

Motion FA#106-26

Moved by:

Seconded by:

THAT the Members Meeting be adjourned at 9:30pm.
(carried)

Ed McGugan
Chair

Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Membership Meeting #10-2026

September 30, 2026

Members Present: Ed McGugan, Alvin McLellan, Anita van Hittersum, Alison Lobb, Ed Podniewicz, Matt Duncan, Sharen Zinn, Vanessa McMillan, Megan Gibson, Evan Hickey,

Members Absent: Andrew Fournier

Staff Present: Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary-Treasurer

1. Call to Order

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

2. Closed Session: Legal Matter to Receive advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege

Motion FA #107-26

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Anita van Hittersum

THAT the Members meeting be moved into a closed session at 7:00pm.

(carried)

Motion FA #108-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by:

THAT the Members meeting be moved into an open closed session at 8:45pm.

(carried)

3. Adjournment

Motion FA#109-26

Moved by: Ed Podniewicz

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

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

(carried)

Ed McGugan
Chair

Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

DRAFT

Members Report #73-2026

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

Date: October 14, 2026
Subject: 2027 Work Plan and Budget

Purposes:

To approve the 2027 work plan.
To approve the 2027 budget.

Background:

On September 16th, 2026, the members passed the following motion:

Motion FA #97-26

THAT the 2027 draft budget, work plan and cost apportionment 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 October 21, 2026 meeting for final review and approval;

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

Municipal Feedback: The draft 2027 Work Plan and Budget was circulated to all member municipalities for review and comment on September 18, 2026. Comments of support were received from Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, and the Town of Minto. The Township of North Huron has submitted a letter (attached to report) outlining their concerns with the amalgamation and lack of information regarding the potential costs.

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.

Service Area Priorities:

1. Corporate:
 - a) Transition Plan: Development of a Go Live & Transition Plan for the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority.
 - b) Maitland Conservation Foundation Support: Request that support will continue to be provided by the LHRCA.
 - c) CFI Support: Request that the LHRCA will participate and provide support to the Carbon Footprint Initiative in 2027.
 - d) Healthy Lake Huron: Request that the LHRCA will participate in the steering committee for Healthy Lake Huron in 2027.

Budgetary Impacts of the draft 2027 work plan: Increases are due to increases in wages and benefits and supplies.

Unknowns: transition costs (staff time and funds).

All conservation authorities in the Province were instructed by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks on June 26, 2026 to develop the 2027 budget with no consideration for consolidation costs:

“The determination of revenue, expenses and costs under Section 5 of O. Reg. 402/22 and determination of reduced amounts to be apportioned under Section 6 of O. Reg. 402/22 should reflect continuity of normal operations of an authority according to current organization’s governance, financial structures, and programs and services. Any anticipated impacts from regional consolidation should not be considered or incorporated into the preparation of the budget for the 2027 calendar year under this direction.”

The cost of living (COL) increase of \$0.75 per hour has been factored in the salary projections. COL is based upon the changes in the consumer price index for Ontario for the past year (2%). MVCA’s practice is to review the average rate of the index August through

September and establish a per-hour rate to apply to each grid band. September data will be released on October 21st. Projected Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERCs) are included in the staffing cost estimates. Both CPI and MERCs will adjust staffing projections slightly when they are known and applied to the budget when finalized. Any additional revenue needed will come from working capital accumulated surplus.

2. Flood & Erosion Safety:

Flood & Erosion Safety Services will focus on equipping our municipalities with the information and support for a changing climate, and the increased incidence and impacts of severe weather. This includes forecasting and monitoring, administration of planning and regulatory legislation, and federally funded projects for increasing community resilience; specifically:

- a) Southern Lake Huron Coastal Resiliency pilot projects (Goderich restoration complex, Transformative Development Policy & b) Planned Relocation Task Force).
- c) Support our local municipalities through our growing and established partnerships, including the Conservation Authority Coastal Working Group, Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Steering Committee, Laurier University, The Coast Adapt Project, S.28 Committee, and others.
- d) Rural Communities: Apply for FHIMP funding to support floodplain mapping updates in rural flood prone communities in the watershed.
- e) Implement the 2026 regional hydrology model for operational use in flood forecasting and support of floodplain mapping updates.
- f) Headwater Precipitation Monitoring Network (HPMN) Telemetry Replacement: Monitor and optimize the newly installed telemetry units to identify and resolve any issues and ensure reliable performance.
- g) Develop flood progression mapping and tools to communicate forecasted flood extents for priority damage centres.
- h) Ontario Low Water Response (OLWR): Deliver the OLWR program during drought conditions. Define local impacts and associated indicators of severe drought specific to the MVCA watershed and establish impactful mitigation recommendations.

Budgetary Impacts of the draft 2027 work plan: Freeze on fee increases for planning and regulations expected to be extended to 2027. Increases are due to increases in wages and benefits and supplies; contract extension into 2027 while significant staff time continues to be needed on the Coastal Resilience projects.

3. 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.

- a) Restore Rivers Corridors and Tributaries: Providing technical assistance and funding to assist landowners, primarily through Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program, Ministry of Environment Conservation & Parks-Healthy Lake Huron, and Forests Canada funding.
- b) Implementing Rural Stormwater Management (RSM): Providing technical assistance and funding for wetlands, erosion-control berms and grassed waterways, primarily through RALP, MCF and Wellington RWQP.
- c) Improving Soil Health: Encouraging and supporting local momentum in cover crop adoption, linking interested farmers with more experienced peers for knowledge sharing. Also providing financial support through MECP COA funding.
- d) Implement Forest Health Resiliency Project: Build landowner capacity through targeted education and practical restoration guidance for forests impacted by invasive species. Provide advice on invasive species management and replanting strategies to restore forests impacted by the loss/decline of ash, beech, elm, and anticipated hemlock to improve forest diversity and long-term resiliency across the watershed.
- e) Developing Partnerships and Science Support Network: working with academic institutions, professionals and other agencies to network and developing scientific support for learning how to improve the health of soil, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Several Counties/Agencies are also in the process of reshaping or developing stewardship funding programs. Staff will cultivate relationships with these Counties/Agencies to help secure and inform these funding programs (Huron County, Bruce County, Clean Water Agency, Huron Stewardship Council).

4. Watershed Health Assessment and Monitoring:

- a) Undertake long-term environmental water quality monitoring through the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network, Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network and Healthy Lake Huron.
- b) Healthy rivers and streams: Continue assessing the health of our rivers and streams through a study on the small aquatic life. This benthic study will complete our initial efforts to understand where we have healthy stream and other streams that need attention, as well as how to help them.
- c) Build Knowledge: Complete analysis on the field measures including stream temperatures, stream physical form and aquatic life.
- d) Build Understanding: Bring together what we are learning about stream and forest health to identify priorities and share this information with our staff, Board, Foundation and community partners. Use the information to support a healthy environment.
- e) Build Knowledge Transfer: Use built knowledge and understanding. Make it readily accessible to staff and community partners by providing it to them in electronic formats to support their work outcomes this includes the Ecosystem
- f) Ecosystem Siting Tool Project completion and testing in Eighteen Mile Watershed and in one Conservation Area.

Budgetary Impacts of the 2027 Work Plan: Slight decrease in support costs.

5. Conservation Areas:

- a) Conservation Areas Infrastructure: Conservation areas service will continue to prioritize maintaining and developing infrastructure based on the needs and resources of the Authority. In 2027, projects will include replacing property signage that is due for replacement as well as barriers and gates to restrict users from sensitive areas. The development of a parking lot at the George Taylor C.A and Memorial Grove will provide onsite parking to access the property and trails. This project will be proposed to the Maitland Conservation Foundation for possible funding. Falls Reserve Conservation Area, a new addition to the existing workshop is proposed to provide office space and additional storage to support operations. An independent review of the FRCA policies, procedures, and operations will be conducted along with consultation to ensure operations meet MVCA and user expectations.
- b) Provide Recreational Opportunities: Provide compatible recreational activities on Conservation Areas lands by monitoring use, inspecting facilities for hazards, educating users of acceptable activities, and the issuance of permits or agreements where required. Campgrounds will continue to operate on a cost recovery basis while considering compatible uses.
- c) Forest Management: Implement best management conservation practices on authority owned lands by managing invasive species, improving forest health through tree planting and completing forestry management identified in approved forestry management plans. Priority areas will be identified to assist in effective management.
- d) Conservation Areas Strategy Review: Review and update the Conservation Areas Strategy to ensure current authority objectives and goals are being met. The Conservation Areas Strategy is reviewed every 3 years and will need to be approved by December of 2027.

6. Drinking Water Source Protection:

- a) The Maitland Source Protection Authority (SPA) works in partnership with the Ausable Bayfield SPA in support of the DWSP program. The partnership agreement between the two SPAs will need to be renewed in early 2027, as the current three-year agreement expires March 31, 2027.
- b) The SPA will review annual reports on the implementation of the Source Protection Plan, to ensure that source water is protected as planned.
- c) The Joint Management Committee for the Maitland and AB SPAs will meet as needed to recruit new members of the Source Protection Committee.
- d) Source Protection Plan (SPP) amendments: The Maitland Source Protection Plan and associated assessment report will be amended as needed to incorporate changes to municipal drinking water systems, plus changes to the Clean Water Act. The next amendment is anticipated in 2027, to incorporate two new municipal wells in the Town of Minto.

Operating Budget

The total operating budget is \$3,918,018. 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	70,000	310,868		1,204	382,072	
Financial Management		128,957			128,957	
Governance		18,847			18,847	
Services Areas Support		66,400			66,400	
Communications, IT, GIS	2,000	305,261			307,261	
Source Water Protection	26,229				26,229	
Flood Control Structures		3,262			3,262	
Erosion Control Structures		1,696			1,696	
Flood Forecasting and Warning	36,424	289,912			326,336	
Hazard Prevention		24,383			24,383	
Natural Hazard Information		72,830			72,830	
Regulations	62,500	317,748			380,248	
Watershed Monitoring and Reporting	2,000	101,879			103,879	
Watershed Health Assessment Reporting		136,373			136,373	
Extension Services		295,795			295,795	
Forestry Services	189,100			93,681	282,781	
Management/Development/Operations	10,680	350,107			360,787	
Motor Pool	51,350				26,174	25,176
Falls Reserve Conservation Area	800,400			173,308	973,708	
Total	1,250,683	2,424,318		268,193	3,918,018	25,176

Corporate Services	Draft Budget	Final Budget	Rationale for Changes
Administration	\$382,072	\$382,072	No change
Financial Management	\$128,957	\$128,957	No change
Governance	\$18,847	\$18,847	No change
Service Area Support	\$66,400	\$66,400	No change
Communications - GIS/IT	\$307,261	\$307,261	No change
Total	\$903,537	\$903,537	
SWP	\$26,229	\$26,229	No change

Flood and Erosion Safety Services	Draft Budget	Final Budget	Rationale for Changes
Flood Control Structures	\$3,262	\$3,262	No change
Erosion Control Structures	\$1,696	\$1,696	No change
Flood Forecasting & Warning	\$326,336	\$326,336	No change
Hazard Prevention	\$24,383	\$24,383	No change
Natural Hazard Information	\$72,830	\$72,830	No change
Regulation Administration	\$379,044	\$380,248	Contract extension for Regulations Staff to allow Planning/Regs Supervisor to focus on Coastal Resilience Projects.
Total	\$807,551	\$808,755	

Watershed Stewardship Services	Draft Budget	Final Budget	Rationale for Changes
Watershed Health Assessment	\$136,373	\$136,373	No change
Watershed Monitoring	\$103,879	\$103,879	No change
Extension	\$295,795	\$295,795	No change
Forestry	\$189,884	\$282,781	The 2026 Forestry surplus of \$93,179 will be carried forward for use in 2027. Approximately \$40,000 will be used to convert an existing shed into a permanent tree seedling storage cooler, supporting the long-term expansion of forestry services. The remaining \$53,179 will support additional staffing for annual tree sales and tree planting services, as well as implementation of the forest health resiliency project identified under Stewardship Priority (d).
Total	\$725,931	\$818,828	

Conservation Areas Services	Draft Budget	Final Budget	Rationale for Changes
Falls Reserve Conservation Area	\$948,708	\$973,708	Independent review and consultation on operations and policies added.
Management/Development/Ops.	\$360,787	\$360,787	No change
Motor Pool	\$26,174	\$26,174	No change
Total	\$1,335,669	\$1,360,669	

Projects Budget

The total Projects Budget is \$1,591,857. The Projects Budget is based upon utilizing \$116,780 from accumulated surplus.

Total Budget Summary:

Conservation Authority					Project Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Table 2				Table 2
ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Special Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Working Capital Reserves	Forest Management Reserves	Motor Pool Reserves	Expense	Net Surplus / Deficit
Communications Strategy		10,500						10,500	
GIS/IT Management/Communications		30,350						30,350	
Flood Forecasting Monitoring Network/Hydrology Model		15,000						15,000	
ECCC Natural Hazards Outreach & Education	50,000							50,000	
NRCAN Coastal Resiliency Strategy Implementation	107,000		37,500		19,980			164,480	
Watershed Health Assessment Project	15,500	20,931						36,431	
Garvey Glenn Coordination	100,000			60,296				160,296	
Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration				31,500				31,500	
Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)	984,500							984,500	
OMAFRA COA				12,000				12,000	
Forestry Management						9,500		9,500	
Vehicles/Equipment Replacement							50,000	50,000	
Carbon Sequestration Planting							700	700	
Conservation Area Projects					36,600			36,600	
Net Project Budgets	1,257,000	76,781	37,500	103,796	56,580	9,500	50,700	1,591,857	

Funding sources from Municipal cost apportionment (CA), accumulated surplus for working capital(WC), motor pool (MP), forestry management (FM), Falls Reserve (FR), Conservation Ontario (CO), Federal (FED), Provincial (PRO) other partners (OP) special apportionment (SA – CA) and projected deferred revenue from carry over projects (DEF), are identified in the details for each program.

*Projects will be proposed to the Maitland Conservation Foundation (MCF) for possible funding and when determined, the amount from accumulated surplus may be reduced.

Corporate Projects	Budget	Funding Source(s)	Details
Communications Strategy	\$10,500	CA	Communications strategy development with the MCF.
GIS/IT/Communications	\$30,350	CA	Computers, software, hardware, licensing, server.

Flood and Erosion Safety Projects	Budget	Funding Source(s)	Details
Flood Forecasting Monitoring Network/Maintenance/Hydrology Model	\$15,000	CA	Forecasting network telemetry changeover.
ECCC Natural Hazards Outreach & Education	\$50,000	FED	Carry over project, expenses reimbursed at report ends.
NRCAN Coastal Resiliency Strategy Implementation	\$164,480	WC \$19,980 SL \$37,500 CO \$107,000	Carry over project, expenses reimbursed at report ends.

Watershed Stewardship Projects	Budget	Funding Source(s)	Details
Watershed Health Assessment	36,431	\$5,500 FED \$20,931 CA \$10,000 MCF	Aquatic and forest health research and data collection.
Garvey Glenn Coordination	\$160,296	\$60,296 DEF \$100,000 PRO	Staffing, cover crop incentives, and funds for restoration projects in priority North Shore and Eighteen-Mile watershed.
Middle Maitland Restoration	\$31,500	DEF	Funds for riparian buffers and wetland creation projects throughout the watershed, with priority in the Middle Maitland sub-watersheds.
Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program	\$984,500	CO	Funding for staffing and restoration projects throughout the watershed. Also includes funding for projects in the Saugeen Valley and Pine River watersheds.
OMAFRA COA	\$12,000	OP	Funds for soil health initiatives in priority North Shore and Eighteen-Mile watersheds.

Conservation Areas Projects	Budget	Funding Source(s)	Details
Forestry Management	\$9,500	FM	Invasive species control and planting of native trees and shrubs to increase biodiversity.
Vehicle/Equipment Replacement	\$50,000	MP	Replace 2017 electric car with similar vehicle.
Carbon Sequestration	\$700	MP	Plant trees on C.A properties following Carbon Sequestration strategy.
Conservation Areas	\$36,600	WC *MCF	Develop new parking lot at George Taylor Conservation Area for community use. Replace signage, gates, and barriers where scheduled for replacement.

Summary:

MVCA's total budget for operating and projects for 2027 is \$5,509,875.

Work Plan and Budget Approval Process:

Step 1: Approval of Cost Apportionment for 2027:

Each member is entitled to vote for each of the municipalities that they represent. The cost apportionment 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 \$128,394 for 2027; AND THAT the cost be apportioned to each municipality in accordance with the 2027 schedule.

Step 2: Approval of the 2027 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 2027 Work Plan and Budget be approved as outlined in Report #73-2026
And further that the year-end surpluses and deficits be directed to the appropriate accumulated surplus categories; AND THAT all deferred revenue be directed to the designated projects in the 2027 budget.

September 9, 2026	% of	2026 Tax Year	Municipal	CVA Based	2026	2027	\$	2027	2027
2027 Draft Cost Apportionment Schedule	Municipality	CVA (modified)	Population	Apportionment	Approved	Draft	Increase	Draft	Draft
Increase Amount: \$128,394	In Watershed	in Watershed	in CA jurisdiction	Percentage	General	General	from	Special	Total
Municipality		\$			Levy	Levy	Prior Year	Levy	Levy
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Township	100	\$1,398,943,756	4,547	12.3900	\$ 295,857	\$ 309,886	\$ 14,029	\$ 10,000	\$ 319,886
Central Huron Municipality	76	\$1,047,679,566	6,104	9.2800	\$ 221,354	\$ 232,102	\$ 10,748	\$ 10,000	\$ 242,102
Goderich Town	100	\$1,243,854,785	6,114	11.0100	\$ 251,725	\$ 275,371	\$ 23,646	\$ 17,500	\$ 292,871
Howick Township	92	\$486,115,152	2,840	4.3000	\$ 103,198	\$ 107,547	\$ 4,349		\$ 107,547
Huron East Municipality	72	\$1,156,268,422	7,940	10.2400	\$ 244,136	\$ 256,112	\$ 11,976		\$ 256,112
Huron-Kinloss Township	43	\$688,052,368	5,919	6.0900	\$ 143,534	\$ 152,317	\$ 8,783		\$ 152,317
Mapleton Township	5	\$102,528,764	7,674	0.9100	\$ 21,814	\$ 22,760	\$ 946		\$ 22,760
Minto Town	64	\$798,624,618	6,482	7.0700	\$ 169,396	\$ 176,828	\$ 7,432		\$ 176,828
Morris/Turnberry Municipality	95	\$585,206,119	2,832	5.1800	\$ 123,840	\$ 129,557	\$ 5,717		\$ 129,557
North Huron Township	100	\$615,399,340	3,854	5.4500	\$ 130,009	\$ 136,310	\$ 6,301		\$ 136,310
North Perth Municipality	98	\$2,579,048,801	11,266	22.8400	\$ 544,046	\$ 571,251	\$ 27,205		\$ 571,251
Perth East Township	9	\$199,439,404	9,538	1.7700	\$ 41,982	\$ 44,269	\$ 2,287		\$ 44,269
South Bruce Municipality	1	\$7,834,494	5,154	0.0700	\$ 1,646	\$ 1,751	\$ 105		\$ 1,751
Wellington North Township	16	\$332,114,590	9,558	2.9400	\$ 69,268	\$ 73,532	\$ 4,264		\$ 73,532
West Perth Municipality	3	\$51,846,012	7,504	0.4600	\$ 10,899	\$ 11,505	\$ 606		\$ 11,505
Total		\$11,292,956,191	97326	100.0000	\$ 2,372,704	\$ 2,501,098	\$ 128,394	\$ 37,500	\$ 2,538,598



October 6, 2026

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer
Box 127
Wroxeter, Ontario N0G 2X0

SENT VIA EMAIL: pbeard@mvca.on.ca

RE: Maitland Valley Conservation Authority - 2027 Draft Work Plan and Budget

Dear Mr. Beard:

Please be advised that at their Regular Council meeting held on October 5, 2026, the Council of the Township of North Huron requested that a letter be sent to the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority regarding the 2027 Draft Work Plan and Budget. The Township of North Huron is currently concerned with the speedy amalgamation process that the Province is undertaking for Conservation Authorities. With the lack of information pertaining to the operating structure, and proposed work plan, the Township is anxious about the proposed amalgamation on February 1, 2027 and feels unprepared, and uninformed for this transition.

Further, the Township strives to provide transparency to taxpayers on the spending of public funds. Without information on the budgeting process and lack of financial planning, the Township is concerned that the transition to the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority has the potential to increase taxation and thus cause hardship to the local tax base. Finally, the lack of Council representation leaves much to be desired, as well as the absence of information addressing potential disruptions, and the programs and services that will be offered to residents. The Township of North Huron appreciates these comments being forwarded to the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Board for review, and to the Province, as deemed necessary.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Regards,

Tyler Zamostny, AMP, Dipl.M.A.
Deputy Clerk/Planning Coordinator

Cc: Carson Lamb, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk: clamb@northhuron.ca

Members Report #74-2026

TO: Members, Maitland Conservation
FROM: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer
DATE: October 13, 2026
SUBJECT: Development of a Communications Strategy

Purpose:

To provide the Members with the response from the Maitland Conservation Foundation and Carbon Footprint Initiative regarding their interest in being involved in the development of a communications strategy.

To identify the next steps in the development of a communications strategy.

Background:

On September 16, 2026 the Members approved the following motion.

Motion FA #96-26

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Ed Podniewicz

THAT a communication strategy be developed with the Maitland Conservation Foundation.
(carried)

On September 29, 2026 the Maitland Conservation Foundation Board met to discuss the development of a joint communications strategy.

The MCF Board supported working with MVCA on the development of a Communications Strategy.

The MCF Board thinks that this strategy would help them to increase their fundraising for watershed science and to undertake stewardship projects for improving the health of forests and rivers in the watershed.

The Carbon Footprint Initiative Leaders discussed the idea at there meeting on October 14, 2026. They would like to review the draft strategy and key messages before they will agree to provide support. They do support the need for a communications strategy to champion the conservation needs in the watershed.

Next Steps:

Staff will contact Redbrick Communications to discuss dates for reconvening the representatives from the MCF and MVCA to begin the development of key messages and the development of a strategy. Funding for this project is included in the 2027 budget.

The timeline for completion of the strategy will be early January 2027.

The attached story “Local Watersheds Matter” reflects some of the messaging that we need to incorporate into a strategy.

Why local watersheds matter



Aerial view of the Maitland River, with a forested riparian buffer and natural meander

By Kate Procter

One of the most amazing things about a healthy watershed is that it quietly works away providing benefits for all who live within, while building the foundation for a healthy planet. Protecting and maintaining these vital pieces of our environment ensures that humans, animals, soil, and forests can remain healthy. A healthy watershed is more resilient and able to withstand the challenges we are experiencing as our climate changes.

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) provides an inspiring example of what is made possible when people care enough to act. The value brought to the broader community includes the ability to read signals early and respond before expensive emergencies are on our doorstep. This has been achieved through monitoring local water, soil, and forest health, planting trees, protecting streambanks, and working with landowners for 75 years.

“MVCA is a terrific expression of the incredible link between global and local at the watershed scale,” said Dr. Justina Ray, who is the founder, president, and senior scientist of Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (WCS). She explained how global crises can seem overwhelming

and at the same time abstract, until they arrive at your doorstep. This photo provides an example of a healthy watershed located within the Maitland Valley.

Dr. Ray has worked in many parts of the world, studying ecosystems and learning about bringing planetary health perspectives to the local watershed level. She presided over the first wolverine study in Canada in the far north to understand the history and relationship between harvest, local indigenous knowledge, global myths, and how it all relates to conservation today.

While it may seem like Dr. Ray’s work is far removed from the Maitland Valley watershed, connections can be made when looking through the eyes of local species and the ecosystem where they live. Dr. Ray’s work involves studying animals in places where they have not been studied before, learning more about how they are adapting and confronting the changes that are happening.

“Water connects humans, animals, and the broader ecosystem, fitting for the One Health approach,” Dr. Ray explained. This approach requires understanding that human, plant, animal, and ecosystem health are all connected. Forests are also a vital piece of this puzzle because they clean the air and provide cooling





Dr. Justina Ray, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

by absorbing carbon dioxide and giving shade. “A stressed forest is not only a forest issue. It is a water issue, a habitat issue, a climate issue, and a community resilience issue,” she said.

A One Health approach makes the connection between water quality, wildlife disease, and public health – for example, linking algal blooms with fish kills and beach closures, explained Dr. Ray. By making these connections, a more thorough understanding is obtained, which allows earlier warning before serious

events occur, and helps to build trust within communities because people can see that crises are being prevented through earlier interventions.

This is where MVCA can help people gain a better understanding about why it matters so much to protect, care for, and enhance our natural environment. A healthy watershed can handle more intense storms, hotter summers, invasive species, and land use pressure, said Dr. Ray. We can all help keep our watershed healthier by protecting wetlands, improving soil health, stabilizing stream banks, and improving biodiversity and habitat connectivity.

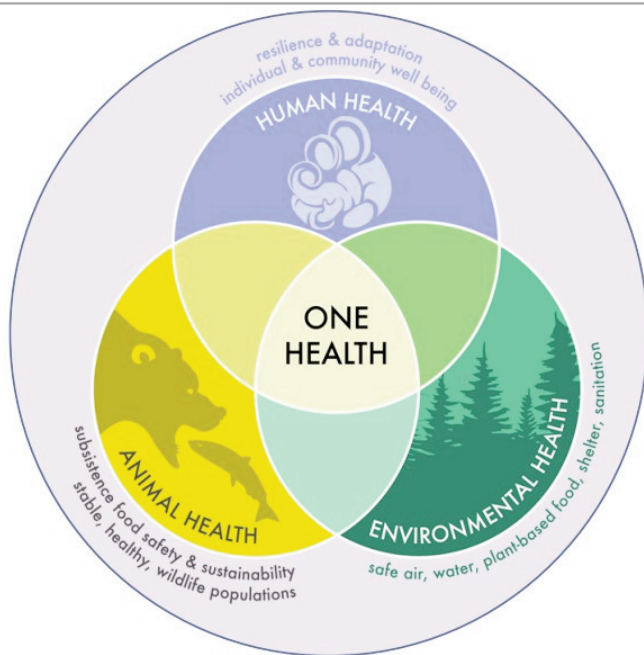
This involves including all components of a watershed. Wetlands slow water down, which results in less flooding downstream. Forests increase biodiversity by cooling streams, stabilizing banks, and storing carbon. Soil is also a vital part of the entire system – absorbing rainfall, filtering water, growing food, and reducing runoff. Buffers along the edge of rivers and streams help reduce water erosion, keeping soil where it should be and reducing the nutrients and bacteria that end up in the river, and eventually the lake. Finally, pollinators work tirelessly to

support food systems by enabling plant reproduction, explained Dr. Ray.

When we talk about changes to the environment in a global scale, we use words like “climate change”, “biodiversity loss”, “pandemic”, “ecosystem degradation”, and “water insecurity”. This language makes it feel very overwhelming and like something that is not within the capacity of anyone to address, she explained.

But then these issues arrive at the local level and they seem much more real and tangible. “Until you feel it at the local scale, you cannot understand why it matters so much,” she says. Climate change shows up for us as more intense heat stress, drying, and heavier rainfall events, leading to more erosion. This leads to biodiversity loss – stressed forests, changing habitat, and declining bird, insect, and wildlife populations. Water insecurity and degradation on the ground looks like warmer water, drought pressure, wetland stress and loss, lower flows, and water quality risk. All of this puts growing pressure on people and ecosystems. This means more strain on communities and infrastructure, with cascading effects on shoreline systems, flora, and fauna.

Health of people, animals, plants, and ecosystems is connected



When watershed functions weaken, risks move through water, food, disease, heat, and infrastructure systems.



The work that has been done by the staff at MVCA provides a wonderful example of changes through the decades and helps us gain a better understanding of what is happening at the local level. The photo of the Goderich harbour after an intense rainfall event that occurred in June 2017 provides an excellent visual of the erosion and deposition that happened. This helps us gain a better understanding of the watershed health and how the entire system is affected. The heavy rainfall in these types of events impacts drinking water, beaches, and fish habitat. People and wildlife are more exposed to pathogens, pollutants, and bacteria as the more intense water movement carries all of these into the rivers and lake.

Our land use over the years has set us up to experience the effects of heavy rainfall. As more intense rainfall events cause more flooding of farm fields, tile drainage has become more concentrated, which increases the speed at which the water moves off the land. While this is good for crops, combined with the removal of stream buffers, it ensures that more nutrients and soil reach the lakes and rivers, explains Dr. Ray.

Agriculture is an important economic driver in the Maitland watershed. But this also means that the ecosystem is impacted by being in one of Canada's highest livestock manure intense regions. Heavy cultivation, extensive tile drainage, livestock density, fertilizer and manure pressure all play a role. The southern and central subwatersheds exhibit measurable surface-water

stress, with heat and drought affecting crops, forests, wetlands, streams, and wildlife.

When water moves quickly from the surface into the ground during heavy storms, soil, bacteria, and nutrients also move faster than the system can absorb them. This has a negative impact on human health, recreation, fisheries, and public trust. Slowing this down by increasing natural cover and using water holding areas can help reduce some of these negative effects.

Stressed forests provide another warning signal of an ecosystem that is suffering. The Maitland Valley watershed has lost about 80 per cent of its historical forest cover, increasing carbon and reducing biodiversity. Less shade leads to higher stream temperatures, which changes the habitat for the aquatic creatures who live there.

It is important to understand the challenges we are facing through a changing climate so we can make

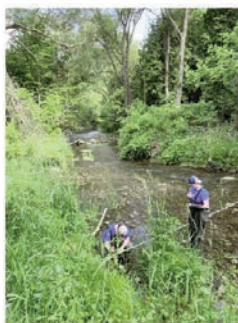
progress toward developing solutions. Considering our environment through the watershed helps us understand in a relatable way that the water, soil, forests, wildlife, agriculture, infrastructure and people are all connected. So what hurts one part of the system hurts all of it.

It also helps to consider water as a vital part of a broader system, rather than merely as a concern for public health through contamination, or a flooding hazard that causes property damage. Watershed boundaries were formed long ago and do not change with changing political whims or as communities change. Management at the watershed level makes sense because water movement does not follow municipal boundaries – neither does erosion, flooding, drought, habitat change, water quality, or wetland loss.

The MVCA has conducted important work over the years to monitor the health of the components within the watershed, including the Aquatic Health Project, as well as working with landowners on many restoration projects.

While thinking about environmental issues on a global scale can feel overwhelming, taking a step back and considering them from a watershed basis seems much more manageable. The MVCA has been working through the decades to build resilience and health one tree, one streambank, one buffer at a time. Work at the watershed level is more important now than it has ever been. "It is one of the most practical ways communities can protect health, resilience, and ecological function in a changing world," concluded Dr. Ray.◇

Watershed work is larger than local



Aquatic Health Project



Oakes Wetland Restoration

Member's Report #75/26

To: Member's, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
From Danielle Livingston, Administrative and Financial Services Coordinator
Date: October 14, 2026
Subject Corporate Services - Accounts Paid and Received for:
September 2026

Recommendation

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

Financial Summary Report Ending September 2026	
Revenue Invoiced	\$135,870.85
Accounts Paid	\$326,740.92

Financial Status at Month Ending September 2026	
Bank Loans Outstanding	\$0.00
Bank Balance at Month End	\$2,869,292.65
Total	\$2,869,292.65

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Accounts Receivable as of September 30, 2026

Operating Budget Revenue

Corporate

Corporate Services	sale office support/rent office equipment	\$	932.40
	WSIB surplus		
	Drinking Water Source Protection rent/overhead		
	bank interest	\$	6,167.86
	Huron Clean Water Project administration	\$	497.41
		\$	<u>7,597.67</u>
Source Water Protection	ABCA funding	\$	1,794.50
		\$	<u>1,794.50</u>

Total Corporate Services \$ 9,392.17

Flood Safety

Planning/Regulations	planning application fees	\$	1,840.00
	property advisory fees	\$	450.00
	solicitor inquiries	\$	380.00
	CWMS/watercourse regulations	\$	395.00
	regulation applications	\$	705.00
		\$	<u>3,770.00</u>

Total Flood Safety Services \$ 3,770.00

Watershed Stewardship

Forestry	large stock user fee	\$	2,618.28
		\$	<u>2,618.28</u>

Total Watershed Stewardship Services \$ 2,618.28

Conservation Areas

FRCA	camping and park admission	\$	38,645.68
	concession sales	\$	7,399.17
		\$	<u>46,044.85</u>
MDO	Federal funding	\$	5,688.50
	property revenue	\$	500.00
		\$	<u>6,188.50</u>
Motor Pool	carbon offset	\$	26.84
	revenue	\$	5,920.61
		\$	<u>5,947.45</u>

Total Conservation Areas Operations \$ 58,180.80

Total Operating Budget Revenue	\$ 73,961.25
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Projects Budget Revenue

Flood Safety and Monitoring

Coastal Resilency NRCAN Funding	\$ 3,500.00
	\$ 3,500.00

Total Flood Safety Projects	\$ 3,500.00
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Watershed Stewardship

Watershed Health Federal funding	\$ 8,748.50
	\$ 8,748.50

Huron County Clean Water funding	\$ 49,661.10
	\$ 49,661.10

Total Watershed Stewardship Projects	\$ 58,409.60
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Total Project Budget Revenue	\$ 61,909.60
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Total Operating and Project Revenues	\$ 135,870.85
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Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Expense Reports
As of September 30, 2026

Date	Num	Name	Amount
09-04-2026	EFTSep2026	Sun Life Financial	-7,399.69
09-10-2026	26057	PennySaver Signs and Graphics	-152.55
09-11-2026	26058	Art Burns	-8,000.00
09-11-2026	26059	Bell Mobility Inc. 500181172	-939.80
09-11-2026	26060	Jenny Dalton	-282.50
09-11-2026	26061	Municipality of Central Huron	-1,200.00
09-11-2026	26062	J. A. Porter Holdings	-183.02
09-11-2026	26063	McDonald Home Hardware	-90.01
09-11-2026	26064	Michael's Stabling Developments Inc.	-4,138.06
09-11-2026	26065	Preston's Principled Electric Ltd.	-307.20
09-11-2026	26066	G.W.G. Resources Services	-4,434.80
09-11-2026	26067	Horton's Dairy	-176.65
09-11-2026	26068	Darrell N. Hawreliak	-488.50
09-11-2026	26069	Wightman Telecom Ltd.	-1,301.32
09-11-2026	01937	Amber Leis	-172.15
09-11-2026	01938	Beard, Phil	-140.50
09-11-2026	01939	Blackburn Media Inc.	-1,130.00
09-11-2026	01940	Brandt Security	-22.60
09-11-2026	01941	ContinuIT Corp.	-8,753.24
09-11-2026	01942	Erin Gouthro	-78.14
09-11-2026	01943	F.S. Partners	-163.67
09-11-2026	01944	Foxton Fuels Limited	-465.72
09-11-2026	01945	Hodgins BC Wingham	-138.31
09-11-2026	01946	Jayne Thompson	-113.18
09-11-2026	01947	Lei's Lumber Company Ltd	-271.20
09-11-2026	01948	Mathew Shetler	-50.00
09-11-2026	01949	MicroAge BASICS	-280.36
09-11-2026	01950	Mid Western Newspapers	-593.25
09-11-2026	01951	North Huron Publishing Company Inc.	-1,518.69
09-11-2026	01952	Speare Seeds Limited	-576.64
09-11-2026	01953	T Giesbrecht Custom Service Ltd.	-452.00
09-11-2026	01954	Telizon Inc.	-10.83
09-11-2026	01955	The Drafting Clinic Canada Limited	-543.12
09-11-2026	01956	Township of Perth East	-371.60
09-11-2026	01957	Waste Management of Canada Corporation	-2,493.37
09-11-2026	01958	Watson's Home Hardware	-101.04
09-11-2026	01959	Xerox Canada Ltd.	-159.41

09-11-2026	01960	Yellow Pages	-135.74
09-11-2026	26070	CIBC Visa Centre	-14,558.64
09-15-2026	26071	Transport Canada/Transports Canada (NRC)	-1,190.00
09-15-2026		Payroll	-64,884.24
09-25-2026	26072	Marcus A. Sluys	-625.00
09-25-2026	26073	Bachert's Xcavating Ltd.	-1,537.03
09-25-2026	26074	EagleEyes Photography & Media Prod.	-1,000.00
09-25-2026	26075	Luke Shanahan	-255.21
09-25-2026	26076	Wingham Columbus Centre	-172.33
09-25-2026	26077	Hortico Inc.	-4,174.22
09-25-2026	26078	Peak HydroMet Solutions Inc.	-8,602.65
09-25-2026	01961	Adam Youngblut	-159.33
09-25-2026	01962	Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	-3,000.00
09-25-2026	01963	Avenir Energy Ltd.	-240.19
09-25-2026	01964	Bureau Veritas Canada Inc.	-163.62
09-25-2026	01965	Conservation Ontario	-7,230.55
09-25-2026	01966	Eric Cox Sanitation Ltd.	-968.86
09-25-2026	01967	Maxim Environmental and Safety Inc.	-328.95
09-25-2026	01968	North Huron Publishing Company Inc.	-271.20
09-25-2026	01969	Patrick Huber-Kidby	-84.76
09-25-2026	01970	The Drafting Clinic Canada Limited	-420.81
09-25-2026	01971	Westario Power Inc.	-31.62
09-25-2026	01972	Yellow Pages	-22.74
09-30-2026		Payroll	-67,214.40
09-30-2026	26079	Receiver General	-62,872.37
09-30-2026	EFTSep2026	OMERS	-28,934.54
09-30-2026	EFTSep2026	Workplace Safety & Insurance Board	-6,070.01
09-30-2026	EFTSep2026	Minister of Finance	-3,898.79
Total			-326,740.92

Members Report #76-2026

To: Members, MVCA
From: Jeff Winzenried, Flood Forecasting Supervisor
Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning & Regulations Supervisor
Date: October 6, 2026
Subject: Agreements Signed

Purpose:

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

1. Amended FHIMP Transfer Payment Agreement – **Ministry of Natural Resources.**

Funds from the Federal Flood Hazard Identification Mapping Program (FHIMP) are delivered to eligible recipients in Ontario by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Successful applicants enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with MNR, which formalizes eligible expenses, funding, scope, deliverables and schedules for floodplain mapping projects.

In June 2025, MVCA reported entering into a multi-project Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with MNR for FHIMP funding for the Lucknow and Wingham (Howson Dam Removal) floodplain mapping updates (Members Report #48-2025).

The Wingham project has since been completed. The Lucknow project has been delayed while awaiting direction from MNR regarding the approved flood standard for the Nine Mile River. MVCA has signed an amendment to the TPA that extends the final project milestone to January 31, 2027 and increases the FHIMP contribution for the Lucknow project from \$51,000 to \$52,468.75. The additional funding is allocated to the flood hazard mapping deliverable.

2. Coastal Projects Funding Support – **Coast Goderich.**

The primary developer of the subdivision lands south of Goderich, *Coast Goderich*, has expressed interest in supporting sediment bypass and restoration activities at the toe of Lake Huron bluff south of Rotary Cove and the Dog Run (the lands fronting the subdivision on the

lake-side) being undertaken by MVCA. The final design of the *Goderich Restoration Complex* was approved and successfully tendered in August (Members Report #54-2026)

At the end of September an agreement was signed for a financial contribution toward implementation of the *Goderich Restoration Complex*.

Recommendation:

THAT Report 76-2026 be accepted as outlined.

Members Report #77-2026

TO: Members, Maitland Conservation
FROM: Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer
DATE: October 15, 2026
SUBJECT: Conservation Ontario Council September 21 Meeting Summary

Purpose:

To summarize the major decisions made by Council.

Attendance: The Chair and the General Manager Secretary Treasurer attended the Council meeting in Toronto on September 21, 2026.

Summary of Major Decisions Made by Council:

1. Membership in Conservation Ontario after Amalgamation:

Proposed Resolution 1: Confirm Members

“RESOLVED THAT Council acknowledges that, automatically upon Amalgamation, and without further action by the Board, Council or the amalgamated Conservation Authorities, the Members of the corporation will be the 9 Members comprised of the 8 amalgamated Conservation Authorities and Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority.”

It was noted that there was one in opposition to this resolution.

CARRIED

2. Appointment of Members to Conservation Ontario Council After Amalgamation:

Proposed Resolution 2: Update Representatives

“RESOLVED THAT as soon as possible following the consolidation, each amalgamated Member will designate in writing at least one and up to three Representatives pursuant to Section VI.2 of the corporation’s By-law.”

It was noted that there were two in opposition for this resolution.

CARRIED

3. Existing Directors to Stay In Office Until New Board is Established: RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 39/26

Proposed Resolution 3: Confirm Directors

“RESOLVED THAT

(1) notwithstanding any inconsistency with the by-law of the corporation, each director in office immediately prior to the amalgamation contemplated by Bill 97 will not cease to qualify as a director prior to the first post-amalgamation Council meeting solely as a result of ceasing to be a Representative of a Member during such time; and
(2) the directors will call a post-amalgamation Council meeting as soon as possible following amalgamation and the designation by the 8 amalgamated Members of their updated Representatives.”

It was noted that there were two in opposition to this resolution.

CARRIED

**4. Deadline for Paying 2027 Levy to Conservation Ontario:
RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 40/26**

Proposed Resolution 4: Adjust Annual Levy Timing

“RESOLVED THAT

(1) given the intended amalgamation date under Bill 97, the Corporation is authorized to require Members to pay in full the annual levy by January 31st, 2027 notwithstanding Section XII.1 of the By-law; and
(2) apportionment of the annual levy for years subsequent to 2027 shall be deferred to a post-amalgamation Council meeting.”

There was a friendly amendment by Scott Greig to remove the second bullet from this proposed resolution, and Council received the friendly amendment.

Please Note: (MVCA’s Levy to Conservation Ontario in 2027 will be: \$29,397)

It was noted that there was one in opposition to this resolution.

CARRIED

5. Ratification: Conservation Ontario Board of Directors’ Decision to Appoint a Director due to Vacancy

a) RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL – 42/26

THAT Council ratifies Conservation Ontario’s Board of Directors’ Resolution 39/26:

THAT the Board of Directors appoint Tammy Cook (CAO, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority) to the position of Director of Conservation Ontario Board of Directors to fill the vacancy of Brad McNevin.

CARRIED

- b) Ratification: Conservation Ontario Board of Directors' Decision to Appoint Treasurer for Conservation Ontario Board of Directors and Chair of the Budget and Audit Committee**

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 43/26

THAT Council ratifies Conservation Ontario's Board of Directors' Resolution 40/26:
THAT the Board of Directors appoint Director Tammy Cook (CAO, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority) to the position of Treasurer of Conservation Ontario and Chair of the Budget and Audit Committee.

CARRIED

Carbon Footprint Initiative Leaders Meeting Summary



Date: October 14, 2026

Location: Admin. Centre, Municipality of North Perth, 330 Wallace Avenue North, Listowel

Attendees: Ed McGugan, Phil Beard, Tracy MacDonald, Tara Lantz, Kriss Snell, Ron Coghlin, Jason Brooks

Regrets: Brendan Magee, Paul McInnis, Richard Keeso

1. Review of Summary of meeting held on October 17th, 2025

2. Business Out of the Minutes

a) Carbon Footprint Strategies-Annual Reporting: There was also interest in changing the requirement that each member update their carbon footprint strategy each year, as there are few changes from year to year. Focus could shift to providing updates on progress, roadblocks and identifying areas where assistance is required.

Attendees agreed that it would be better to focus on the progress that has been made by each member as well as to identify any barriers they are facing that prevent them from reducing their fossil fuel use. It was also suggested that we add in reporting on activities that each member is undertaking with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Phil to follow up with the members who were not in attendance to determine if they are in agreement with these changes.

b) Sustainable Development Goals: Shift to Focusing on the Goals related to the Biosphere?

i) Life on Land: restoring the health of forests, land, freshwater ecosystems; sustainable agriculture and wildlife

ii) Life below Water: protect ocean, sea and marine ecosystems

iii) Clean Water and sanitation: safe drinking water, water quality, ecosystem protection and restoration; water use efficiency; integrated water management

iv) Climate Action: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters; integrate climate change measures into planning and policies; build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change

Attendees agreed that the CFI could focus in on more specific actions that relate to the needs of the watershed(soil health, forest health, river health, buffer strips, rural storm water management, naturalizing grassed areas) as well as actions that are related to what their municipality/business is interested in. Some members are still interested in undertaking actions related to other goals as well (poverty, hunger etc.).

Phil to identify some of the specific conservation activities that are needed in the watershed to both adapt to the impacts of climate change and to improve the resiliency of the forests, rivers, and agricultural soil.

c) CFI info Graphic: Members agreed that the graphic is a better way to outline what the CFI does.

Attendees identified the following changes:

- Who we are: add automotive assembly, financial services, remove electrical supply and insurance. Insurance to be covered under financial services.
- Our Shared Purpose: Revise Number 3 to read: Pursuing actions related to Sustainable Development Goals for restoring the health and resiliency of watershed forests, rivers, lakes and agricultural land.
- Why We Exist: change “natural resource” to “watershed” health
- Change natural areas to forests, rivers and soil in rural communities.
- Objectives #3: Incorporate sustainable development goals into their strategic plans and activities
- CFI Leadership Team: Remove Derek’s name; Change Corteva to Pioneer Hybrid Production; add the word “Assembly” to BTE.

3. Future of the Carbon Footprint Initiative with the Amalgamation of MVCA: Phil and Ed explained that MVCA is being amalgamated with five other conservation authorities that will form the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority. We do not know if the new Regional Conservation Authority will continue to be involved with the CFI or if it will provide any secretariat support to the CFI. Kriss advised the members that he will see if that is a role that North Perth could take on.

4. Development of a Communications Strategy to Champion the Conservation Needs in the Maitland Watersheds.

Attendees decided to wait until the draft strategy and key messages have been developed before they will decide whether to participate or not.

5.Round table Updates: What progress have you been able to make in terms of reducing fossil fuel use and undertaking projects to sequester carbon through planting trees/shrubs?

Updates provided by:

North Perth: Has put together a Green Team to identify activities that the municipality could take to reduce their carbon footprint and to naturalize areas in the municipality. They continue to support the Middle Maitland Rejuvenation Committee. They also continue to naturalize the storm water management ponds in Listowel.

Molesworth Farm Supply: Completed the installation of LED Lighting; use battery and hybrid vehicles for sales and marketing; replacing their charging station; introduced an no idling policy for all feed trucks coming to the mill; still do roadside clean ups.

Pioneer: Plenum Dryer installed to dry seed, second smaller drying to be installed next year; gradually replacing gas powered equipment with electrically powered equipment (weed whippers); pollinator garden has been revitalized; moving to digital documentation; compost food waste.

BTE Assembly: Gradually replacing older equipment with more energy efficient equipment; recycling

Trillium Mutual Insurance: Focus on education related to the Sustainable Development Goals; e-waste pick up day; zero hunger day; roadside clean up days; 5% of funds in sustainable investment to support affordable housing projects; focusing on prevention of barn fires.

MVCA: focusing on sequestering carbon and naturalization. Wildflower meadow established at the Admin. Centre; planting trees and shrubs in conservation areas; measuring carbon used from using photo copy paper-shifting to 100% recycled photo copy paper.

Huron Kinloss joined Fire Smart Program. Focus is on fire prevention.

6. Next Meeting will be held on May 19, 2027 at the Pioneer Plant located east of Wingham.
Meeting to start at 10:00am.