



To: Clerks, CAO's and Planning and Building Departments of Watershed Municipalities

RE: Legislative and regulation changes affecting conservation authorities, effective January 1, 2023

Further to letter provided from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry dated December 28, 2022, the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) would like to share the following clarifications regarding its programs and services.

Plan Review Services

This regulation does not affect conservation authorities' provision of mandatory programs or services (Category 1) related to reviewing and commenting on a proposal, application, or other matter made under those Acts. Plan review and commenting under the Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation (O.R. 686/21) which includes natural hazards and source water protection continues to be unaffected and circulation of applications shall continue as outlined below:

7. (1) An authority shall provide programs and services to ensure the authority satisfies the functions and responsibilities set out in subsection (2), whether acting on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or in its capacity as a public body under the Planning Act, for the purposes of helping to ensure that the decisions under that Act are,

(a) consistent with the natural hazards policies in the policy statements issued under section 3 of the Planning Act, but not including those policies related to hazardous forest types for wildland fire; and

(b) where applicable, conform with any natural hazards policies included in a provincial plan as defined in section 1 of the Planning Act, but not including those policies related to hazardous forest types for wildland fire.

[Ontario Regulation 596/22: Prescribed Acts](#) passed effective January 1, 2023. Sections 21.1.1 and 21.1.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act prohibit authorities from providing a program or service related to reviewing and commenting on proposals, applications, or other matters under prescribed Acts are specific to non-mandatory review and commenting services for development applications under the following Acts:

- The Aggregate Resources Act
- The Condominium Act, 1998
- The Drainage Act
- The Endangered Species Act, 2007
- The Environmental Assessment Act
- The Environmental Protection Act
- The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act
- The Ontario Heritage Act
- The Ontario Water Resources Act
- The Planning Act

We must still review proposals under these Acts to determine if they will impact natural hazards and drinking water source protection. Therefore, municipalities are still required to circulate applications to MVCA for review and comment.

Updated Fee Schedule

In addition, under the new section 21.3 the Minister provided a direction to freeze our fees effective January 1, 2023, until December 31, 2023. The MVCA's 2023 fee schedule was approved by our Membership on December 21, 2022, therefore the changes to the fee schedule are in effect.

Other Services Provided through MOUs/Agreements

The recent legislative changes do not affect other services provided to municipalities.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the changes with you to ensure a smooth transition, please contact either Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning Regulations Supervisor at 519-335-3557, extension 237 or myself at extension 231 if you have any questions.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with your municipality.

Yours Truly,



Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer