



Staff Report

Report Title: Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Category Three Services Agreement

Prepared By: Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

Department: Legislative Services

Date: Oct. 2, 2023

Report Number: CLK-2023-10-60

File Number: C11 CLK 23

Attachments: Category 3 Apportioning Agreement Memo, Category 3 Preamble, Draft Category 3 Apportioning Agreement Template, Water Quality Program Business Case, Mandatory Programs Legislation, Transition Plan Legislation

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives Report Number CLK-2023-10-60, prepared by Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk;

AND FURTHER that Committee of the Whole agree to enter into an agreement with Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for provision of Category Three Services as presented;

AND FURTHER authorizes the appropriate by-law to be brought forward.

Background:

Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, (the Act) require that municipalities enter into cost apportioning agreements to continue the Category 3 programs and Services. An agreement with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority has already been approved by Council. The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) has provided the attached documentation to Council with respect to the changes to the Act and the proposed agreement for Category 3 programs and services.

Agreements must be in place by the end of 2023, and the SVCA has requested that the draft agreements be confirmed by member municipalities this fall.

Discussion:

Council has received information on changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (attached as mandatory programs legislation and transition plan legislation). One of the requirements of these changes is the creation of cost-apportioning agreements between conservation authorities and member municipalities. Council has already entered into an agreement (By-law No. 2022-101) with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority in June of 2022 for services within that area.

The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority has provided a draft agreement for Council's consideration, as well as a Business Case for the Water Quality Program (attached to this report).

For the SVCA to continue the Water Quality Program in 2024, Category 3 Cost Apportioning Agreements must be in place. The SVCA authority board passed a motion "THAT all watershed municipalities participate in order for all or any of the category 3 non-mandatory programs and services to continue.". Staff understand that at this time, many of the member municipalities have indicated their intention to participate.

Staff recommend pursuing the Cost Apportioning Agreement with the SVCA and continuing the Category 3 programs and services provided by SVCA.

Financial Impacts:

There will be no additional costs associated with this levy. The existing municipal levy will be decreased, and these funds would be reallocated via the cost apportioning agreements. The new would remain the same, and the change would be the method through which funds are collected.

Huron-Kinloss' draft apportionment for the Water Quality program and its associated communications is \$6,990/annum.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an environmentally conscious community that are good stewards of our natural environment: By protecting our natural assets; By using our resources wisely; By being aware and taking responsibility.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer