



Membership Minutes

Annual Meeting of the Membership#2-2025

February 26, 2025

Members Present: Alison Lobb, Ed McGugan, Alvin McLellan, Ed Podniewicz, Matt Duncan, Vanessa Kelly, Anita Van Hittersum, Andrew Fournier

Members Absent: Sharen Zinn, Megan Gibson, Evan Hickey

Staff Present: Phil Beard, Jayne Thompson, Erica Magee, Mat Shetler, Stewart Lockie, Barry Skinn, Donna Clarkson, Elizabeth Huber-Kidby, Patrick Huber-Kidby, Karlene Zurbrigg, Shannon Millar, Tim Prentice, Dave Nuhn, Kirsten Snoek, Ben van Dieten, Laura Hopkins, Ethan Dykstra

Others Present: Kriss Snell, Geoff King, Susan Chan, Shirley Moore, Richard Keeso, Davin Heinbuck, Erik Downing, Jim Campbell, Tara Lantz, Doug Walker, Evelyn Weston, Jeff Brick, Art Versteeg, Lisa Thompson, Nick McGregor, Angela Coleman, Cory Bilyea, Nigel Bellchamber, Wendy Hoernig, Marg Beard, Emily & Sophia Hopf, Janet Haines, Jim Ginn, Doug Grant, Janice Hallahan, Marlene Ottens, Glenn McNeil, Jamie Heffer, Paul Heffer, Joy Rutherford, Ben Miltenburg, Leah Noel,

1. Welcome by the Chair

Chair, Ed McGugan, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

2. Introduction of the Members of Maitland Conservation for 2025

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 McGugan invited the following dignitaries to bring remarks:

Jamie Heffer – Warden of Huron County & Mayor, Morris-Turnberry
Paul Heffer – Reeve, North Huron
Glen McNeil – Mayor, Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
Jim Ginn – Mayor, Central Huron
Marlene Ottens – Councillor, Township of Mapleton
Leah Noel – Deputy Mayor, Town of Goderich Goderich
Angela Coleman – Conservation Ontario

4. Chair's Remarks

Welcome to the 2025 Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Annual Meeting.

A warm welcome to all our guests, our Staff and the members of our Board of Directors. We also welcome the members of the Maitland Conservation Foundation who, along with the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund we will be hearing from further along in the meeting.

We have had a busy year again in 2024 with so much work done that I need to apologies right up front that we don't want to take enough time to mention everything so we will try to highlight only some of the items.

Governance Review:

We developed a better process for our Governance Review last year. We employed an outside facilitator, a former member and Chair, Art Versteeg, who helped the Members and staff to identify improvements and changes that would improve our governance going forward.

Conservation Lands Strategy:

We developed a Conservation Lands Strategy in 2024 that meets the Ministry of Natural Resources requirements by leveraging MVCA's three-year work plan for 2024 thru 2026. No small task to satisfy the MNR and we can be grateful that we did quickly meet their requirements.

Coastal Action Plan:

Funding was received from Natural Resources Canada to launch the Climate Resilient Coastal Communities program, to develop Collaborative Coastal Resiliency Plans. This program involves the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and a thank you goes to Conservation Ontario in assisting with this.

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority will be working with its many partners to develop these plans to help protect over 900 homes and cottages along our lakeshore worth an estimated one billion dollars. And in some cases develop strategies to enact a safe retreat when the homes simply cannot be protected from the power of the lake.

Healthy Watersheds, People & Wildlife Approach (One Health)

One Health, which is a systems thinking approach to our environment, is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent.

And the MVCA has been working hard to think in terms of the broader scope of the environment as opposed to allowing ourselves to work within silos that isolate one area of expertise and influence from other areas. And working with our partners is an essential part of this integrated, collaborative thinking approach.

Conservation Areas:

The MVCA submitted to our member municipalities a draft Conservation Area Strategy late last year that we hope to receive member approval of early this year. And a great deal of credit goes to our wonderful staff who not only operate and manage the Wawanosh Park and the Falls Reserve Conservation Area in a stellar fashion, but who also put together an awesome plan that received rave reviews.

Great work is important of course, but the ability to communicate well is paramount.

Especially in the challenging and dynamic times in which we live. And our staff has performed admirably. So, thank you.

Our Foundations:

The Maitland Conservation Foundation has also had a stellar year who along with the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund has raised a record amount of money for the work of Conservation in our watershed.

We will be hearing from the Foundation Vice-Chair in a few minutes so I am not going to steal his thunder, but let him tell you all how much money they raised. That way, all the applause can go to our wonderful Foundation members!

Again, thank you to all the members for your hard work, our Staff for their dedication, our Foundations for their commitment, and our guests for taking the time to come out today and join us in celebrating our partnerships.

And please take note that next year, 2026 will be the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority's 75th anniversary. We are looking forward to that and we have already been working on plans to appropriately celebrate that incredible milestone

Thank you all for coming today.

5. Staff Service Awards

Chair McGugan and Vice Chair Duncan presented staff service awards to the following staff:

- a) Barry Skinn, Assistant Park Superintendent, Falls Reserve-5 years
- b) Shannon Millar, Restoration Supervisor-5 years:
- c) Danielle Livingston, Admin-Finance Coordinator-10 years
- d) Jeff Winzenried, Flood Forecasting Supervisor-10 years
- e) Phil Beard, General Manager Secretary Treasurer-45 years

6. 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 #10-2025

Moved by: Ed Podniewicz

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT Art Versteeg 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 2025

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

Motion FA #11-2025

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Andrew Fournier

That Janice Hallahan and Jim Campbell be appointed as scrutineers.

(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 2025.

Motion FA #12-25

Moved by: Anita Van Hittersum

THAT Ed McGugan be nominated for Chair of the MVCA and the MSPA for 2025.

(carried)

Presiding Officer, Versteeg 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 #13-25

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Vanessa Kelly

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2025 be closed.

(carried)

Ed McGugan agreed to stand for the position of Chair in 2025.

Presiding Officer, Versteeg declared Ed McGugan as the Chair of the MVCA and MSPA for 2025.

c) Election of Vice-Chair for 2025

Ed McGugan, Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2024.

Motion FA #14-25

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

THAT Matt Duncan be nominated for Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2025.

(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 #15-25

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Anita Van Hittersum

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2025 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 2025.

d) Election of 2nd Vice-Chair for 2025

The Chair called for nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2025.

Motion FA #16-25

Moved by: Alison Lobb

THAT Evan Hickey be nominated for 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2025.

(carried)

Evan Hickey agreed to stand for the position of 2nd Chair in 2025.

The Chair called for further nominations for 2nd Vice-Chair and this motion was made.

Motion FA #17-25

Moved by: Andrew Fournier

Seconded by: Vanessa Kelly

THAT nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2025 be closed.

(carried)

Chair McGugan declared Evan Hickey as 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2025.

7. Presentations: “Celebrating Partnerships”: Introductions-Chair & Vice Chair

- a) Carbon Footprint Initiative: Kriss Snell, CAO, Municipality of North Perth & Tara Lantz, Corteva Agriscience:
- c) Middle Maitland Rejuvenation Committee: Doug Grant, Chair
- d) John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund: Geoff King, Chair
- e) Maitland Conservation Foundation: Nigel Bellchamber, Vice Chair

Chair, McGugan thanked each of the presenters.

8. Closing Remarks: Chair, MVCA

Chair, McGugan thanked everyone for coming to the MVCA annual meeting and looks forward to working with the board and staff in 2025.

9. Adjournment:

Next meeting: March 19, 2025, at 7:00pm at MVCA’s Admin. Centre located in Wroxeter.

Motion FA #18-25

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Andrew Fournier

THAT the Members Meeting be adjourned at 3:37pm.

(carried)



Ed McGugan
Chair



Phil Beard
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer