



January 28, 2021

Township of Huron - Kinloss
21 Queen Street,
Ripley,
N0G 2R0

Dear Mayor Twolan and Council:

Re: 2021 Priorities and Draft Budget

I am writing to you at this time to outline the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority's (MVCA) priorities for 2021 along with our draft budget and levy.

MVCA has been focussed on identifying efficiencies and eliminating non-core services since 2014. We have identified the following to be our core services:

1. Flood and Erosion Safety: Helping our member municipalities to reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption in flood and erosion prone areas of the watershed.
2. Watershed Stewardship: Helping our member municipalities and landowners to develop soil and water conservation systems to keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses and Lake Huron
3. Conservation Areas: Ensuring that our conservation areas set a high standard for conservation practices and are safe for the public to use.

We have made these changes in order to stabilize our operating and capital budgets. The Members want to ensure that MVCA has a stable financial base to fund its core services and essential infrastructure and equipment.

However it will take several years and a lot of funding to decommission and remove all of the infrastructure that we have identified as surplus to our core services as well as to upgrade our essential infrastructure.

One of the major projects that we will be moving ahead with this year is the decommissioning of the Gorrie Dam and the restoration of the conservation area for public use again.

In order to balance the 2021 budget, MVCA has eliminated any salary increases for staff except for a cost of living increase. This is the third year in a row that MVCA has eliminated any grid movement for staff. In order to balance the budget we have had to shift some staffing costs over to project funding in order to balance the 2021 budget. This approach is not sustainable in the long run, as project funding varies from year to year.

The 2021 budget includes a proposed levy increase of \$58,000. This increase is less than needed to cover increased costs for authority infrastructure projects and support for operating. MVCA will be utilizing a substantial amount from working capital accumulated surplus to undertake projects in 2021 as we have very limited access to Provincial or Federal Infrastructure funding. Conservation authorities were not allocated any funding for infrastructure improvements as part of the Federal Provincial Resiliency Stream that was announced in November 2020.

The apportionment of the 2021 levy is based upon each municipality's assessment in the watershed. The assessment schedule is developed by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

We have included a summary of the work that MVCA accomplished in 2020 along with an outline of our priorities for 2021.

Despite the restrictions that were in place for most of last year, we were able to accomplish a lot. Our conservation areas were used by unprecedented numbers of people in 2020. We anticipate that this use will continue in 2021.

We recognize that our member municipalities also have fiscal challenges however we ask that you consider the circumstances that we face and take into account the changes that we have made to focus our work and budget on our core services and infrastructure.

MVCA's Members plan to vote on the 2021 work plan, budget and levy on Wednesday March 17, 2021. If your municipality has any comments regarding the draft priorities, work plan or budget, please forward your comments to the Chair and your Member by March 9, 2021.

We look forward to working with you in 2021.

Yours sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Turton', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Turton
Chair
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Ed McGugan, Member
Mary Rose Walden, CAO

REVIEW of 2020

A snapshot of what
we accomplished in
a challenging year.



Maitland
CONSERVATION

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“We are focussing our services on mitigating the impacts of a rapidly changing climate.”

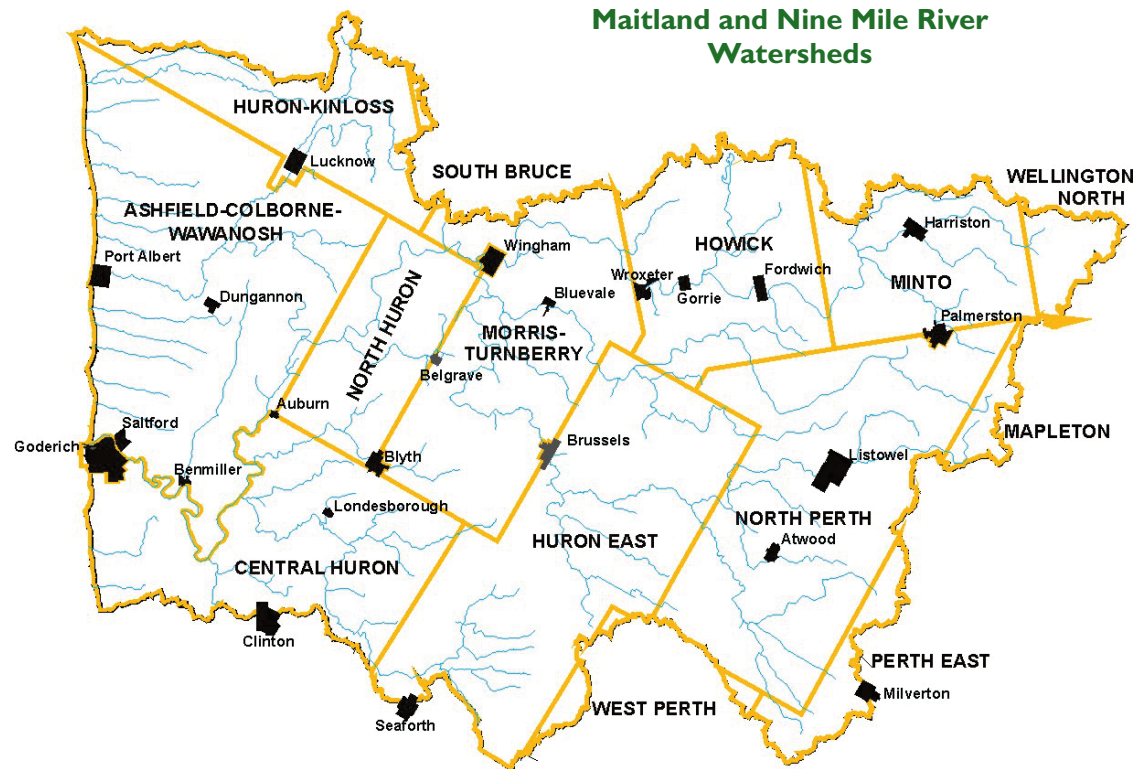
BACKGROUND

Maitland Conservation is jointly governed by its member municipalities.

Conservation Authorities are established by the provincial government at the request of municipalities. The activities of Maitland Conservation are driven by municipalities, landowners and community partners.

We are committed to providing effective community-based conservation services in a cost efficient manner.

Maitland Conservation is working to protect and enhance water, forests and soils in the Maitland and Nine Mile River watersheds.



FLOOD & EROSION SAFETY SERVICES 2020

- **Wingham Flood Mapping Update for the Township of North Huron and the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry** - Updated floodplain mapping completed and reviewed by municipalities, Maitland Conservation Members and public.
- **Harriston Flood Damage Reduction Support** - Provided assistance to the Town of Minto in selecting appropriate options for reducing the potential for flood damages in the community. Detailed modelling completed for downstream and by-pass options. Supported the technical report writing team.
- **Flood Forecasting System** - On-going maintenance of rain gauges and stream gauging stations. Monitoring of weather and gauge data 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. Messages issued for 16 events in 2020.
- **Land Use Planning Support & Drainage Act Support** - Staff responded to almost 1,000 inquiries. This is more than twice the annual average.



Lake Huron Water Level and Erosion Risk Support

The water level of Lake Huron continued to be well above average throughout 2020. Staff responded to a record number of inquiries from shoreline landowners. Information on coastal processes and erosion risks was provided to landowners in a variety of formats including:

- Video conferencing
- Presentations posted on website
- Mailing of newsletters and photos to shoreline landowners
- Lake level projection and shore protection
- factsheets posted on website and social media
- Two videos on shore processes created
- Check out this information at:
<http://www.mvca.on.ca/lake-huron-shoreline/>

“Our stewardship efforts are focussed on keeping sediment and nutrients on the land and out of waterways.”



WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES 2020

- **Wellington Rural Water Quality Program and Huron Clean Water Project** - 157 new projects approved and 177 projects completed. Grants totalling \$174,804 allocated with total project costs of \$705,064. Top projects in 2020:
 - Forestry Management Plans
 - Erosion Control
 - Tree Planting & Cover Crops
- **Forestry Program** - 63 spring orders totalling 4,836 trees. 41 planting projects completed totalling 20,993 trees and shrubs. 9 km of stream buffering completed.
- **Identification of Areas Needing Stewardship Work** (cover crops, rural stormwater management, buffer strips, floodplain and river valley restoration) - draft mapping completed and shared with Healthy Lake Huron project partners.
- **Garvey-Glenn Watershed Restoration Project** - 500 metres of new stream buffer planted and previous plantings restocked. 11 landowners participated in a the cover crop incentive program involving 950 acres.
- **Healthy Lake Huron Outreach Evaluation** - Review of outreach strategies and testing of new outreach approaches. Interviews were conducted with local Certified Crop Advisors and equipment dealers. Social media campaign implemented to highlight best management practices (check out #pieceofthepuzzle). This work was done in partnership with neighbouring Conservation Authorities and OMAFRA.

- **Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration Project** - 2.7 km of new stream buffer planted and previous plantings restocked.
- **On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM)** - Focussed on monitoring soil health and water quality within the Garvey-Glenn watershed, this initiative is part of a larger provincial soil health monitoring effort. Water sampling of 18 storm/snow melt events was conducted and an additional 10 events were sampled at the edge-of-field monitoring station. Data was incorporated into a water information systems database.

- **Monitoring and Reporting** - Due to COVID-19 water sampling was on hiatus from mid-March until early October. Despite this:
 - 7 sampling runs of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network were completed and 44 samples submitted for analysis from 12 sites.
 - Samples were collected from 8 wells through the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
 - 6 pesticide samples were collected from 1 site





Gorrie Dam and Conservation Area

Work continued throughout the year to address the impact of the June 2017 flood at Gorrie Conservation Area.

- GSS Engineering Consultants completed dam decommissioning and remediation plans.
- The proposed plans were presented to Maitland Conservation Members and Township of Howick Council.
- Scoping meetings held with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- Newsletters distributed to community residents and design plans posted on website.

CONSERVATION AREAS 2020

Best Management Practices on Conservation Lands

- Removal of Buckthorn from meadow areas at Wawanosh Valley; phragmites control work completed at Naftel's and Gorrie.
- Naturalization of grounds at office
- Tree harvesting completed at Galbraith. Tree marking completed in Wawanosh Valley plantations and hardwood areas.

Maintain Conservation Areas for Safe Public Use

There was a significant increase in public use of properties in 2020. Inspections undertaken, maintenance completed and additional signage installed to support COVID-19 protocols. In addition:

- Trail repairs undertaken at Naftel's Creek
- New privy installed at Lake Wawanosh
- Hazardous trees removed at Naftel's Creek and Wawanosh Valley

Carbon Footprint Reduction Strategy

- 410 trees and 270 shrubs planted
- Carbon use monitored for all Maitland Conservation operations

Falls Reserve Conservation

Despite a late start to the camping season due to COVID-19, visitation at the park was up significantly in 2020. This increase included both camping and day-use visitors.

- Operational procedures were developed, and adjusted as required, to follow COVID-19 guidelines. Facilities and signage were modified based on local public health and provincial directives.
- Hydro upgrades were completed in the Maple campground.
- The application for a septic system replacement was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Park. Staff are waiting for approval from the MECP to move ahead with the project.





Tree and shrub planting at the Administration Centre, October 2020



Members Alvin McLellan (Municipality of Huron East) and Ed McGugan (Township of Huron-Kinloss and Municipality of South Bruce) at the Annual Meeting, Feb. 2020

CORPORATE SERVICES

Advocacy Efforts With MPs and MPPs

- Along with representatives from the Ausable Bayfield and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authorities, the MVCA met with MPP Lisa Thompson to discuss:
 - Healthy Lake Huron initiative
 - need for a Federal-Provincial Flood and Erosion Damage Reduction Program
 - proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.
- Contacted local MPs and MPPs requesting support for allocating funds from the Federal Provincial Resilience Funding to Conservation Authorities

Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

- Provided information on concerns about Schedule 6 in Bill 229 to member municipalities. Letters also sent to the Premier and relevant

Ministers. Information about Schedule 6 provided to local media and posted on website and social media.

Members' Governance Review

- Governance practices reviewed by members. Administrative bylaw updated to allow for electronic meetings.

Three-Year Budget for 2021-2023

- Draft three-year budget and work plan developed and reviewed by Members in October.

Capital Infrastructure Plan

- Inventory of infrastructure completed and Members provided direction on current surplus infrastructure. Long range infrastructure plan currently being developed.

Questions?

Contact your Maitland Conservation Member. Contact information is posted at mvca.on.ca or email maitland@mvca.on.ca.

KEY PRIORITIES for 2021

- 1. Reduce the risk of loss of life and community damage from flooding and erosion.
- 2. Keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses.
- 3. Ensure Conservation Areas are safe for visitors and showcase best management practices.
- 4. Work towards stabilizing our operating budget.



Maitland Conservation 2021 Work Plan Priorities



WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

- Tree Planting - promotion of large stock and seedling program. Develop a new tree planting service to be offered in partnership with neighbouring Conservation Authorities.
- Incorporate climate science into restoration and rural stormwater management initiatives.
- Delivery of Wellington and Huron Clean Water Projects - assist landowners to access funding to undertake stewardship projects.
- Continue water sampling to determine trends in water quality.
- Healthy Lake Huron - map priority areas for restoration work. Test approaches for delivering stewardship initiatives basin-wide using landowner interviews and surveys. Preliminary stewardship plan for the Eighteen Mile River watershed.



- Garvey-Glenn Watershed Restoration Project - continue to work with landowners on cover crop and ecosystem restoration projects. Water quality and soil health monitoring and modelling through the On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM) project.
- Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration Project - restore floodplain and river valley lands and buffer watercourses in partnership with landowners. Target areas based on priority mapping.
- Scott Municipal Drain Project - additional stream restoration work. Incorporate existing conservation measures into municipal drainage report to ensure they will be maintained over the long term.
- Update Forest Health Assessment - begin work to improve indicators of watershed health.





Goderich, November 2020



FLOOD and EROSION SAFETY Services

- Continue to ensure our flood forecasting and warning system is maintained and monitored throughout the year.
- Develop flood progression mapping for the Township of North Huron and the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry.
- Monitor bluff and gully collapse and erosion of the bottom of the bluffs along the Lake Huron shoreline.
- Update data on the value of properties at risk from flooding and erosion.
- Provide technical support on flood damage remediation strategies to the Town of Minto.
- Listowel & Lucknow Hydrology Projects - collect flow data to calibrate future flood forecast models.
- Shoreline Hazard Mapping Project - develop the terms of reference for project with support from coastal experts.



CORPORATE Services

- Develop an infrastructure and equipment strategy for the organization.
- Ensure member municipalities and target audiences are aware of and supportive of our priorities and work plan.
- Undertake a dialogue with our municipalities about changes to the Conservation Authorities Act including:
 - mandatory services set by the province
 - adjustments required to be in compliance with new regulatory requirements.
- Develop a 3-year budget (2022-2024) for operating and capital.
- Develop an education and training plan for Members.



Sensor upgrade to monitor evapotranspiration



CONSERVATION AREAS Services

- Gorrie Conservation Area - Public Information Centre outlining plans for decommissioning of the dam and site remediation.
- Naftel's Creek Conservation Area - installation of benches along trails.
- Gorrie & Brussels Mills - finalize disposition of mills previously identified as surplus to Authority's needs.
- Galbraith Conservation Area - discussions with the Town of North Perth regarding leasing of property or continue with disposition.
- Develop funding agreements for maintenance and repairs of dams - Municipality of Huron East (Brussels), Municipality of Morris-Turnberry (Bluevale)
- Continued removal of invasive species and hazard trees at Conservation Areas.
- Replacement of septic system at Falls Reserve Conservation Area.



Falls Reserve Conservation Area

Dec 9/20

Operating Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Table 1

ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Reserve Funds	Expense	NET Surplus/ Deficit
Corporate Services						
Administration	30,003	264,127		8,079	302,209	
Financial Management		90,300			90,300	
Governance		20,640			20,640	
Services Areas Support		58,615			58,615	
Communications, IT, GIS	3,000	202,664			205,664	
Total	33,003	636,346		8,079	677,428	
Flood Safety Services						
Flood Control Structures		6,991			6,991	
Erosion Control Structures		2,780			2,780	
Flood Forecasting and Warning		214,434			214,434	
Ice Management		822			822	
Hazard Prevention		20,953			20,953	
Natural Hazard Information		92,500			92,500	
Regulations	88,000	138,971			226,971	
Total	88,000	477,451			565,451	
Watershed Stewardship Services						
Watershed Monitoring and Reporting	4,500	77,247			81,747	
Extension Services		150,331			150,331	
Forestry Services	59,454				58,520	934
Total	63,954	227,578			290,598	934
Conservation Areas Management Services						
Falls Reserve Conservation Area	617,600			175,432	793,032	
Wawanosh Park Conservation Area	14,000				13,289	711
Management/Development/Operations	4,800	182,807			187,607	
Motor Pool	55,985				24,015	31,970
Total	692,385	182,807		175,432	1,017,943	32,681
Net Operating Budgets	877,342	1,524,182		183,511	2,551,420	33,615

Dec 9/20	Project Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority								
ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Special Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Working Capital Reserves	Forest Management Reserves	Motor Pool Reserves	Expense	Net Surplus / Deficit
Corporate Services Projects									
Administration		50,000						50,000	
GIS/IT Management/Communications		50,000			1,600			51,600	
Total		100,000			1,600			101,600	
Flood and Erosion Safety Services Projects									
Flood Control - Preventative Maintenance					16,000			16,000	
Shoreline High Water Level			25,000		5,000			30,000	
Total			25,000		21,000			46,000	
Watershed Stewardship Services Projects									
Garvey Glenn Coordination	60,000			64,892				67,769	57,123
Garvey Glenn Demos	35,000			10,000				35,000	10,000
Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration	22,014			136,825				158,839	
Huron Clean Water	508,000							508,000	
CFI				3,749				3,749	
Watershed Health Project					95,947			95,947	
Watershed Stewardship Short-Term Projects				67,599				67,599	
Healthy Lake Huron Outreach Evaluation Project	10,469			19,591				29,808	252
Applied Research and Monitoring Project	74,120							73,156	964
Healthy Lake Huron Mapping Project	78,750							73,391	5,359
Total	788,353			302,656	95,947			1,113,258	73,698
Conservation Area Projects									
Forestry Management						3,000		3,000	
Vehicles/Equipment Replacement							39,600	39,600	
MVCA Carbon Offset							500	500	
Footprints to Forests Carbon Offsetting					500			500	
Gorrie Conservation Area					350,000			350,000	
Naftel's Creek Project					1,500			1,500	
Brussels Mill Project					17,500			17,500	
Total					369,500	3,000	40,100	412,600	
Special Projects									
Drinking Water Source Protection									
Total									
Net Project Budgets	788,353	100,000	25,000	302,656	488,047	3,000	40,100	1,673,458	73,698

DRAFT Schedule of General Levies for 2021

October 13, 2020

Municipality	% of Municipality In Watershed	2020 CVA (modified) in Watershed \$	CVA Based Apportionment Percentage	2020 Approved General Levy	2021 Draft General Levy	Increase from prior
						\$
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Twp.	100	\$ 1,253,148,265	12.45	\$ 195,715	\$ 202,215	\$ 6,500
Central Huron Municipality	76	\$ 982,042,170	9.76	\$ 154,996	\$ 158,468	\$ 3,472
Goderich Town	100	\$ 1,082,268,839	10.75	\$ 175,199	\$ 174,641	-\$ 558
Howick Twp.	92	\$ 460,815,063	4.58	\$ 68,929	\$ 74,360	\$ 5,431
Huron East Municipality	72	\$ 1,087,723,372	10.81	\$ 166,828	\$ 175,521	\$ 8,693
Huron-Kinloss Twp.	43	\$ 620,276,208	6.16	\$ 98,212	\$ 100,092	\$ 1,880
Mapleton Twp.	5	\$ 89,955,130	0.89	\$ 13,696	\$ 14,515	\$ 819
Minto Town	64	\$ 688,403,214	6.84	\$ 107,058	\$ 111,084	\$ 4,026
Morris/Turnberry Municipality	95	\$ 531,494,942	5.28	\$ 80,118	\$ 85,765	\$ 5,647
North Huron Twp.	100	\$ 569,746,659	5.66	\$ 91,586	\$ 91,938	\$ 352
North Perth Municipality	98	\$ 2,181,221,224	21.67	\$ 333,911	\$ 351,974	\$ 18,063
Perth East Twp.	9	\$ 183,656,752	1.82	\$ 28,468	\$ 29,636	\$ 1,168
South Bruce Municipality	1	\$ 7,094,818	0.07	\$ 1,122	\$ 1,147	\$ 25
Wellington North	16	\$ 279,449,887	2.78	\$ 42,959	\$ 45,094	\$ 2,135
West Perth Municipality	3	\$ 47,915,023	0.48	\$ 7,385	\$ 7,731	\$ 346
		\$ 10,065,211,566	100.00	\$ 1,566,182	\$ 1,624,182	\$ 58,000