



February 25, 2022

Township of Huron Kinloss

Dear Mayor Twolan and Council:

RE: Inventory of Services and Programs

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks issued a regulation on October 1, 2021, that requires all conservation authorities to provide their member municipalities with an inventory of services and programs.

We are writing to your municipality to provide you with the list of services and programs that MVCA intends to maintain for your review and comment.

All programs and services have been categorized as per the regulation:

1. Provincially mandated: These are programs that the province requires all conservation authorities to provide. These programs include Risk of Natural Hazards, Conservation Areas, Drinking Water Source Protection, Surface, and Ground Water Monitoring.
2. Programs delivered for Municipalities or Counties: The Huron Clean Water Project is the only municipal program delivered through agreement. The County provides funding to support the delivery of this program.
3. Conservation Authority Programs: These are programs and services that each individual conservation authority has identified as important to maintain. MVCA has identified the following services as priorities to maintain:
 - a) Watershed Stewardship Services which include extension, forestry, and monitoring. Over 75% of the land in the watersheds within MVCA are used for agriculture. We think that it is crucial to maintain stewardship services for the agricultural community to help them to develop and obtain financial support for stewardship projects.
 - b) Falls Reserve and Wawanosh Campgrounds. These campgrounds must operate on the revenue raised through user fees.

A copy of MVCA's Inventory of Services and Programs is included with this letter. The inventory includes an outline of the services and programs that will continue to be provided.

It also summarizes additional services and reports that each conservation authority is required to prepare.

The regulation approved by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks also requires conservation authorities to enter into an agreement with their member municipalities to provide a levy for any services which are not Provincially mandated if a levy is required to support the service.

MVCA has only one service, Watershed Stewardship, which is not provincially mandated and that requires some levy funding to support its delivery. It is important to note that municipalities have already been paying for this service through the levy, so this is not something that will result in additional charges.

MVCA's stewardship staff also help to support mandatory service areas such as natural hazards and conservation areas. We are a small organization that requires staff to work in multiple service areas.

MVCA would appreciate receiving your municipality's comments on the proposed inventory of services and programs by Wednesday, April 6, 2022. Additionally, we would appreciate receiving council's comments on the idea of supporting an MOU that covers all MVCA's services. This MOU would specify that no services or programs would be added or removed without consultation with member municipalities.

If there is sufficient support for an MOU that covers all services, we will the MOU to all municipalities for review and approval before June 30, 2022.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is proposing to maintain the current process for the approval of the annual municipal levy. This process maintains a weighted vote for each municipality based upon current value assessment in the watershed.

In closing we look forward to working with all our member municipalities as we move through this transition to meet the requirements of this new regulation.

Sincerely;



Matt Duncan
Chair

Category 1: Mandatory Services: Risk of Natural Hazards: Flood and Erosion Safety Services

a) Preparedness

- i) Flood & or Erosion Risk Emergency response planning with municipalities
- ii) Flood & or erosion risk mapping updates
- iii) Administration of Development, Interference, Alteration Regulation in flood prone, shoreline, river valleys, dynamic beaches, wetlands, and watercourses
- iv) Plan input and review support to municipalities regarding natural hazard policies and development applications.

b) Monitoring

- i) Year-round monitoring and data acquisition for river levels, snowpack, precipitation, and runoff potential
- ii) Maintenance of all rainfall and streamflow monitoring equipment
- iii) Development and maintenance of flood forecasting software and hardware
- iv) Monitoring bluff collapse, gully, and toe erosion along the Lake Huon shoreline

c) Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructure: (Listowel Flood Control Structures, Goderich Bluffs Stabilization Project and McGuffin Gully Erosion Control Project)

- i) Annual inspections
- ii) Annual minor maintenance
- iii) Major maintenance planning in conjunction with the

d) Response

- i) provide flood and or erosion warnings and updates to municipalities regarding flood and or erosion events

Five Year Average 2018-2022 Operations	Average	Percentage	Five Year Average: Projects	Average	Percentage
Levy	\$409,206	75%	Levy	\$13,553	19%
Self Generated	\$94,762	17%	Grants	\$2,205	3%
Grants	\$44,050	8%	Reserves	\$6,442	9%
			Special Levy	\$49,500	69%
Total	\$548,018	100%	Total	\$71,700	100%

Required Services: Ontario Regulation 686/21

Identification of Additional & or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements

1. Managing the risk posed by the natural hazards within their jurisdiction, including flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, hazardous sites, hazardous lands, low water, or drought conditions. This program or service shall be designed to:

Develop an awareness of areas important for the management of natural hazards (e.g., wetlands, rivers or streams, shoreline areas, unstable soils, etc.)

Understand risks associated with natural hazards and how they will change as the climate warms

Manage risks associated with natural hazards

Promote public awareness of natural hazards

- MVCA will need to develop a more comprehensive communications, education, and outreach program to meet these regulatory requirements. Currently MVCA does not have the resources to provide a program to the extent required.
- MVCA will need identify where we can find the expertise needed to develop a better understanding of the impact of climate change on natural hazards and low water or drought conditions in the watershed.

2. Ice management services (preventative or remedial) as appropriate and as supported by a CA-approved ice management plan, including:

- MVCA is required to develop an ice management plan for the mouth of the Nine Mile River and the Maitland River plan on or before December 31, 2024

3. Infrastructure: Operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of Flood and Erosion Control Structures:

- MVCA is required to develop an operational and asset management plan for the Goderich Bluffs, Listowel Conduit and McGuffin Gully by December 31, 2024

4. Review of applications and issuance of permits under section 28 and 28.0.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act, including associated enforcement activities

- MVCA will require some additional technical support for reviewing applications for development in flood and erosion prone areas along the Lake Huron shoreline.

Category 1: Mandatory Services: Conservation Areas:

Conservation Areas Services:

Includes the management, development, and protection of significant natural resource lands, features, and infrastructure on authority owned property. MVCA has 28 conservation areas with a land area of 4,600 acres (1,862 hectares).

Service Components:

a) Management & Development of Authority Lands

- Build resiliency and demonstrate good resource management on 28 Conservation areas ranging from day-use parklands, wetlands, and forest tracts
- i) Lands and Infrastructure - inspections, maintenance, and enforcement
 - Identification and removal of hazards to reduce liability
 - Maintain essential infrastructure and dispose of surplus items
 - Manage public use that is compatible with the land and enforcement of regulations.
- ii) Water Control Structures - inspections, maintenance, and operations
 - Operation of recreational dams following regulatory requirements
 - Develop and monitor funding agreements with municipalities where dams are located for maintenance and major repairs
- iii) Forest Management
 - Implement activities identified in managed forest plans to improve forest health including harvesting, tree planting and monitoring of woodlots.
 - Removal of invasive species and monitoring of disease and pests
- iv) Administration
 - Development of policies and procedures for conservation area use

b) Land Acquisition:

- i) Review land donations or purchases for conservation purposes
 - Identify benefits and concerns for potential land acquisitions for members direction.

c) Leasing & Agreements on Authority Lands

- i) Review agreements that are compatible with the land use
- ii) Monitoring of agreements

Five Year Average 2018-2022 Operations	Average	Percentage	Five Year Average 2018-2022 Projects	Average	Percentage
Levy	\$184,908	96%	Levy	\$2,176	2%
Self Generated (donations and fees)	\$8,092	4%	Self Generated (donations and fees)	\$8,952	8%
			Grants	\$55,261	48%
			Reserves	\$47,782	42%
Total	\$193,000	100%	Total	\$114,171	100%

Required Services: Ontario Regulation 686/21
Identification of Additional & or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements
<div>1. A conservation area strategy, prepared on or before December 31,2024 for all lands owned or controlled by the authority. The strategy will include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Objectives to provide decision making on lands including acquisition and disposition.An assessment of how lands owned may augment natural heritage and integrate with provincial, municipal, or publicly accessible lands and trails.</div> <div>2. A land inventory, prepared on or before December 31, 2024, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identification of all parcel details including historical information, location, and surveysDesignation of land use categories based on activities or other matters of significance related to the parcel.</div> <div>3. Programs and services to ensure that the authority performs its duties, functions, and responsibilities to administer regulations made under section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enforcement of Regulation 688/21: Rules of conduct in conservation areas. Enhanced enforcement and control measures are required to limit trespassing of unauthorized vehicles on conservation area lands.</div>

Category 1: Watershed Monitoring & Reporting	Required Services: Ontario Regulation 686/21
Services & Programs: Category 1: Mandatory Program	Identification of Additional & or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements
Monitoring and Reporting i) Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network ii) Ground Water - Monitoring Network	Programs and services to support the authority's functions and responsibilities related to the development and implementation of a watershed-based resource management strategy on or before December 31, 2024.

Five Year Average 2018-2022	Average	Percentage
Levy	\$77,760	96.4%
Donations	\$2,440	3%
Grants	\$552	.6%
Total	\$80,752	100%

Drinking Water Source Protection: Category 1 Mandatory Service	Additional Regulatory Requirements: Ontario Regulation 686/21
<p>Services</p> <p>a) Governance / Leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maitland Source Protection Authority; Source Protection Committee; Joint Management Committee • Maintenance of local source protection program, including issues management <p>b) Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the local source protection program <p>c) Program Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support of local source protection program • Implementation of Source Protection Plan policies where applicable • Review of local applications / planning proposals / decisions in vulnerable areas to ensure source protection is considered <p>d) Technical Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the preparation of amendments to local assessment report and source protection plan to incorporate regulatory changes as well as technical assessment completed for new and expanding drinking water systems 	<p>Additions or Enhancements needed to Existing Program</p> <p>No additional changes need to be made to existing services.</p>

- Issuance of confirmation notices to system owners under the Clean Water Act O. Reg. 287/07, as required, for new or altered drinking water systems.
- Review technical information received regarding changes to the landscape, such as new transport pathways in WHPA and IPZ, to determine if assessment reports or source protection plans should be revised.

Note: This program is currently funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Five Year Average 2018-2022	Average	Percentage
Grant	\$21,372	100%

Category 1: Mandatory Services:	Required Services: Ontario Regulation 686/21
Corporate Services:	Identification of Additional and or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements
<p>a) Governance & Leadership Responsibilities (MVCA/MSPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Setting Priorities & Policiesii) Financial Planning & Monitoringiii) Services and Project Developmentiv) Conservation Ontario Council & Committeesv) Reporting to Member Municipalities <p>b) Administration / Human Resources / Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Human Resources Planning and Administrationii) Workspace and Equipment Managementiii) Records Retention and Managementiv) Compliance with Legislation related to Employment, Health & Safety, Accessibility etc. <p>c) Financial Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Bookkeeping, Investments, Banking, Financial Planningii) Tangible Capital Asset Managementiii) Management of Financial Agreements with External Funders <p>d) Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Communications strategy development and implementation <p>e) Information Technology and Geographic Information System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Provide IT and GIS support	No additional requirements.

f) Vehicles, Equipment & Infrastructure:

- i) Provide & maintain vehicles and equipment
- ii) Maintain & upgrade buildings and related infrastructure

Five Year Average 2018-2022: Operating	Average	Percentage	Five Year Average 2018-2022 Projects	Average	Percentage
Levy	\$599,034	88%	Levy	\$59,892	36.5%
Self Generated	\$72,509	10.5%	Self Generated	\$17,911	11%
Reserves	\$7,152	1.5%	Reserves	\$85,863	52.5%
Total	\$678,695	100%	Total	\$163,666	100%

Category 2: Huron Clean Water Project	Agreement: County of Huron-MVCA-ABCA
County of Huron	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watershed Stewardship extension staff from ABCA and MVCA deliver this project on behalf of the County of Huron: - assist landowners in the County of Huron to apply for funding for eligible stewardship projects - assist landowners with applications for funding - present the projects to the review committee for approval - review projects upon completion 	<p>The County of Huron has retained the services of project of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority to deliver this project.</p> <p>Agreement between the County of Huron and ABCA & MVCA signed: May 4, 2016</p>

Huron Clean Water Project Expenditures 2018-2022	Average	Percentage
County of Huron	\$374,695	100%

Category 3: Watershed Stewardship Extension, Forestry & Monitoring Services

Provide stewardship services to watershed landowners and municipalities that will:

- a) Help improve the health and resiliency of rivers, soil, and forests.
- b) Help keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses

2. Restoration of Natural Areas:

- Projects include: floodplains, river valleys, riparian areas, forests and wetlands
- Technical support for landowners
- Support with funding applications
- Coordination of planting projects
- Purchase trees and shrubs in bulk for municipalities and residents.
- Benefits include:
 - Increases natural areas on the landscape
 - Improves water quality
 - Climate change resilience

3. Soil & Water Conservation:

- Rural Storm Water Management and Cover crops
- Technical support for landowners
- Support with funding applications
- Benefits: reduces soil erosion & improves soil health for agricultural production

4. Watershed Stewardship Programs and Projects:

- Delivery of rural water quality programs for Huron and Wellington Counties
- Leverage other funding to support our extension work
- Develop proposals and necessary partnerships to secure funding
- Key examples are Healthy Lake Huron and Middle Maitland Restoration Project

5. Watershed Health Monitoring and Reporting:

- Monitor and report on the health of forests, rivers, and soil.
- Used to help focus our extension services.
- Used to determine extent and type of stewardship work needed in the watershed
- This information is required to support the need for funding for stewardship projects when applying to Provincial and Federal Agencies

Note: MVCA intends to develop an agreement with its member municipalities to fund the levy portion of this program starting in 2024.

Five Year Average 2018-2022 Operating	Average	Percentage	Five Year Average 2018-2022 Projects	Average	Percentage
Levy	\$133,024	62%	Grants	\$481,467	83%
Self-Generated: Fees & donations	\$83,201	38%	Self-Generated	\$86,317	15%
			Reserves	\$10,808	2%
Total	\$216,225	100%	Total	\$578,592	100%

Category 3: Falls Reserve Campground Service

MVCA provides overnight and seasonal camping at the Falls Reserve Conservation Area. The conservation area is also funded by user fees charged for day use to the area. The campground is funded through user fees. The revenue raised is used to fund the operations of the campground. Any surplus revenue is used to fund infrastructure upgrades and major maintenance to equipment and facilities.

Five Year Average 2018-2022	Average	Percentage
Self-Generated	\$628,202	100%

Category 3: Wawanosh Campground Service

MVCA provides seasonal camping at the Wawanosh Campground. This campground is located on the Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. Fees from seasonal camping and day use fund the operation of the campground. Any surplus revenue raised is used to fund infrastructure upgrades and major maintenance to facilities.

Five Year Average 2018-2022	Average	Percentage
Self-Generated	\$13,630	100%