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## Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, November 24, 2022

6:30 pm

*Members and the public are also able to join via Zoom given the ongoing pandemic.*  
Please contact Marissa Grondin at [marissa.grondin@rvca.ca](mailto:marissa.grondin@rvca.ca) or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1177 in advance of the meeting if you wish to receive instructions to join.

### AGENDA

<b>Meeting 8/22</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1.0 Land Acknowledgement Statement</b>	
<b>2.0 Agenda Review</b>	
<b>3.0 Adoption of Agenda</b>	
<b>4.0 Declaration of Interest</b>	
<b>5.0 Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2022</b>	
<b>6.0 Business Arising from Minutes</b>	
<b>7.0 Motts Mills Channel and Ponds Project (Phase 2)</b> Staff Report Attached (Dan Cooper).....	01
<b>8.0 2023 Conservation Ontario Levy</b> Staff Report Attached (Sommer Casgrain-Robertson) .....	05
<b>9.0 2023 Fee Schedules (Batch 2)</b> Staff Report Attached (Sommer Casgrain-Robertson) .....	09
<b>10.0 Financial Reports for the Period Ending September 30, 2022</b> Staff Report Attached (Kathy Dallaire).....	17
<b>11.0 2023 Revised Draft Budget and Levy Apportionment</b> Staff Report Attached (Kathy Dallaire).....	25

**Proudly working in partnership  
with our 18 watershed municipalities**

Athens, Augusta, Beckwith, Central Frontenac, Clarence-Rockland,  
Drummond/North Elmsley, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Merrickville-Wolford, Montague,  
North Dundas, North Grenville, Ottawa, Perth, Rideau Lakes, Smiths Falls, South Frontenac, Tay Valley, Westport

**12.0 Bill 23: *More Homes Built Faster Act***

Staff Report Attached (Sommer Casgrain-Robertson) ..... 31

**13.0 Meetings**

- a) MNRF Webinar on Bill 23: November 1, 2022
- b) Source Protection Committee Meeting: November 2, 2022
- c) Council Training within Leeds and Grenville: November 5, 2022
- d) Council Training within Frontenac: November 9, 2022
- e) Executive Committee Hearings: November 10, 2022
- f) Provincial General Managers Meeting: November 15, 2022
- g) Ottawa Riverkeeper Annual Public Meeting (speaker): November 22, 2022

Upcoming

- h) Conservation Ontario Council Meeting: November 28, 2022
- i) Provincial General Managers Meeting: December 12, 2022
- j) City of Ottawa Member Recruitment Info Session (in person): December 12, 2022
- k) RVCF Board of Directors Meeting: December 14, 2022
- l) City of Ottawa Member Recruitment Info Session (virtual): December 19, 2022
- m) RVCA New Member Orientation: January 30, 2022

**14.0 Member Inquiries**

**15.0 New Business**

**16.0 Adjournment**



**7.0 Motts Mills Channel and Ponds Project (Phase 2)  
Report #: 01-221124**

To: RVCA Board of Directors  
From: Dan Cooper  
Director of Conservation Lands and Stewardship  
Date: November 4, 2022

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attachment

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**Recommendation:**

**THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves Mike Redpath Dragline Service to complete the Motts Mills Channel & Ponds Project Phase II at a cost of \$82,000 plus HST; and**

**THAT staff be authorized to spend up to an additional \$12,300 (15 percent contingency) to cover any unforeseen project expenses.**

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**Purpose**

To seek approval from the Board of Directors to award a contract to provide heavy equipment, dragline operation and operator expertise to rehabilitate a section of the Hutton Creek Wetland upstream of the Motts Mills earthen berm.

**Background**

The Motts Mills Committee including RVCA, Leeds and Grenville Stewardship Council, Ducks Unlimited Canada, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, and local landowners have been working together to address issues in and around the former Motts Mills Dam near Toledo, ON.

A wetland management plan was written in 2011 and updated in 2016. The centrepiece of the plan involved the replacement of the Motts Mills Dam that was originally built in 1952. This major project was completed with the construction of an earthen berm in 2015.

Another important objective of the plan is to assess and rehabilitate the wetland. The area is currently 90% cattail and 10% open water. Historical air photos show that the Hutton Marsh Wetland was roughly 50/50 open water and emergent vegetation in 1963 (see figure 1). This hemi-marsh condition is often considered most ideal for waterfowl and generally supports the greatest wildlife species diversity. The wetland plan includes measures to help achieve this objective. One of the options is to initiate projects to mechanically remove the cattails and to dig ponds to encourage turtles and frogs.

Figure 1: Air photo comparison of open water to emergent vegetation

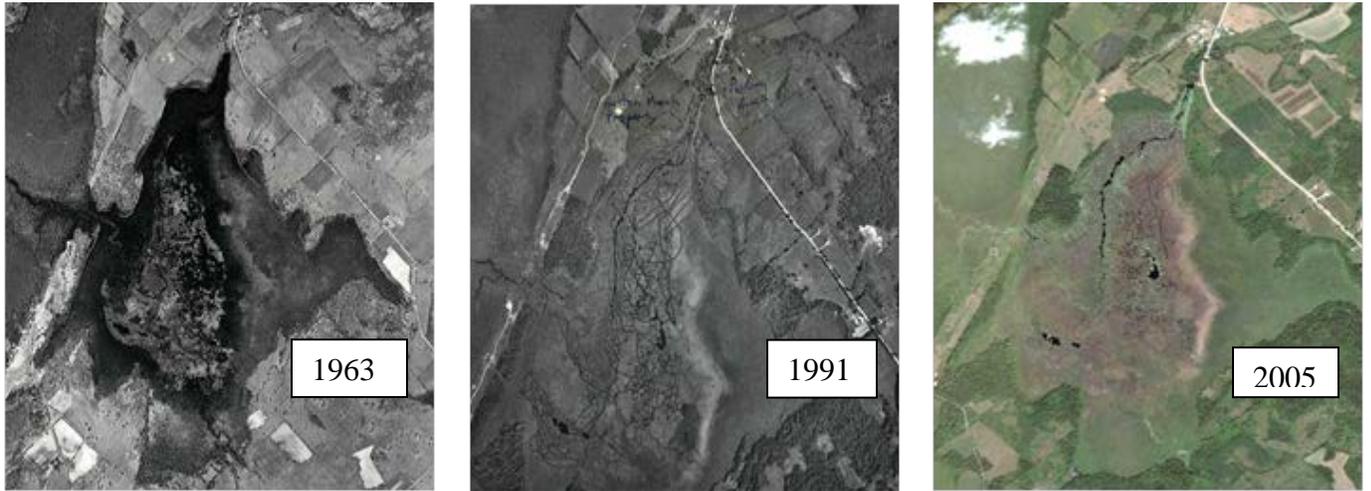
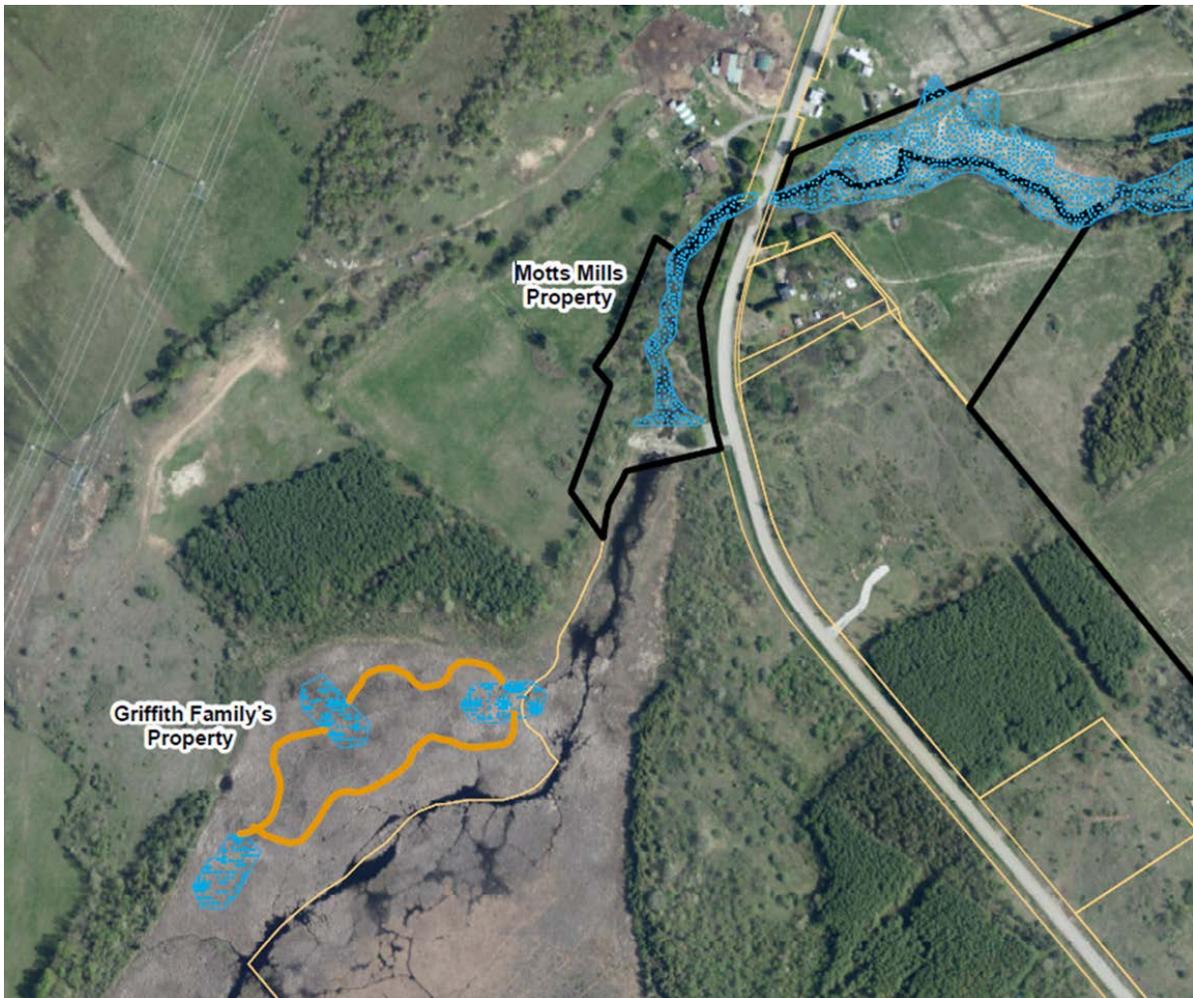


Figure 2: Location of proposed ponds



## Analysis

### Project Description

The Motts Mills Channel and Ponds Project Phase II involves the excavation of three 0.20 hectare ponds and a 600 metre connecting channel in a section of the Hutton Creek Wetland which is owned by a private property owner. The project will excavate a total of 14,256 m<sup>3</sup> of material (2,640 m<sup>3</sup> to create each pond and 6,336 m<sup>3</sup> to create the channel).

Excavating ponds and channels was recommended as one of the measures to restore the wetland and to return it to the preferred hemi-marsh condition. Many locations were considered and this one was chosen because it has a clay substrate and it met with the landowners' objectives. It is the committee's intention to offer a similar opportunity to the other landowners who share a portion of the Hutton Creek Wetland.

The Phase I project completed in 2020 was very similar in nature (3 excavated ponds and a connecting channel) so cost estimates and procedures for this phase are based on this recent experience. [A video of the Phase I](#) project can be viewed online.

### Request for Quotes

To complete the work, a "Request for Quotes" was sent to three contractors chosen by staff at Ducks Unlimited Canada and RVCA based on their knowledge and reputation related to this type of specialized work. The request was sent on September 20, 2022 and one contractor attended a site meeting held on October 11. Only one quote was received and is shown below. The Request for Quotes for the project included an Equipment Rental Agreement and the contractors were asked to submit what equipment they would use and the price per hour of each piece.

The estimated cost includes all activities related to the Equipment Rental Agreement, however, other anticipated costs will occur including equipment floating, refueling, siltation mitigation and delays caused by weather and unique terrain and conditions. These costs will be covered by the contingency.

Company	Attended Site Visit	Estimated Cost Based on Equipment Rental Quote
Mike Redpath Dragline	Yes	\$82,000
Erie Draglines	No	No Bid
Redpath Crane Draglines	No	No Bid

### **Input From Other Sources**

RVCA is considered the lead on this project but have relied heavily on our partners at Ducks Unlimited Canada for their expertise in understanding the complexity of the project. They were instrumental in providing experience to help to produce and evaluate the request for proposals.

### **Financial Considerations**

The Motts Mills Steering Committee approved an upset limit of \$84,400 (not including HST) for this portion of the project. Other elements of the project like signage and final site grading and planting, brings the total estimated project cost to \$111,000. Should any cost savings be realized during construction the extra funds will be used to build more or bigger ponds. The project is being paid for entirely through fundraising. Those efforts have been successful and confirmed at \$111,000 from the following groups: Wildlife Habitat Canada, Ontario Land Trust Alliance, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, Leeds and Grenville County Stewardship, and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunter Zone F.

### **Legal Considerations**

#### **Link to Strategic Plan**

This project supports Strategic Priority #2 under Strategic Direction #2 as well as Strategic Priority #3 under Strategic Direction #3:

- Continue to partner with landowners to reforest idle land, naturalize shorelines, enhance habitat and wetlands, re-inspect septic systems and implement other best management practices. Enhance these efforts where monitoring results indicate they are most needed.
- Continue to provide technical and financial assistance to help people undertake stewardship projects on their property.



**8.0 2023 Conservation Ontario Levy  
Report #: 02-221124**

To: RVCA Board of Directors  
From: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson  
General Manager  
Date: November 17, 2022

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**Recommendation:**

**THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve payment in the amount of \$45,453 to Conservation Ontario for their 2023 levy to the RVCA.**

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**Purpose**

To seek approval to pay RVCA's 2023 levy to Conservation Ontario.

**Background**

Conservation Ontario is a non-profit association that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. Its core business functions are:

- Policy and Program Development
- Business Development and Partnerships
- Communications
- Education and Training
- Collective Corporate Services
- Government Relations
- Information Management and Research

Its Vision is:

- Engage Conservation Authorities in matters of common interest and shape effective policy relating to Conservation Authorities.

Its Mission is:

- To promote and continually strengthen a watershed-based conservation coalition in Ontario.

Conservation Ontario is directed by a Council comprised of one voting delegate from each conservation authority. This Council meets four times a year and voting delegates are usually accompanied by their conservation authority's General Manager. The Council also elects a six-member Board of Directors who is responsible for governing Conservation Ontario. The Board for 2022 is:

- Alan Reville, *Chair* – Cataraqui Conservation
- Alan Dale, *Vice Chair* – Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
- *Vice Chair, (Vacant)*
- Rob Baldwin, *Director* – Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- Linda Laliberte, *Director* – Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
- Samantha Lawson, *Director* – Grand River Conservation Authority

Conservation Ontario currently employs 13 full-time staff and their main source of funding is from levies to each conservation authority (membership fees) supplemented by project funding and contracts. In 2021, Conservation Ontario's total expenditures were \$2,020,233 (69% operations, 24% special projects and 7% drinking water source protection). Revenues for 2021 were made up of the following:

- 65% Membership Fees
- 27% Special Projects
- 7% Drinking Water Source Protection
- 1% Other

### **Analysis**

Conservation Ontario apportions their levy to conservation authorities based on a three-year average of each conservation authority's annual budget. Attached is a sheet showing how the 2023 levy will be apportioned to conservation authorities.

Conservation Ontario's overall levy to conservation authorities has increased by \$32,000 over this year (from \$1,343,000 in 2022 to \$1,375,000 for 2023). RVCA's levy however has decreased to \$45,453 for 2023 (a decrease of \$441 over last year).

It is valuable for the RVCA to be a member of Conservation Ontario because as an umbrella organization they provide:

- **Advocacy** – Conservation Ontario can speak to key stakeholders like the Provincial Government and AMO on behalf of all conservation authorities creating a more powerful voice than individual conservation authorities alone (e.g. legislative review of conservation authorities, input to special flood advisor).
- **Cost Savings** – Conservation Ontario negotiates bulk purchasing where possible providing cost savings to conservation authorities (e.g. insurance, benefits, software licenses, training, consultant services).
- **Consistency** – Conservation Ontario facilitates consistency among conservation authorities where appropriate providing greater accountability (e.g. Admin Bylaw, client centric and streamlining initiative, policies and guidelines)
- **Training** – Conservation Ontario organizes key training sessions for conservation authority staff (e.g. Latornell, conservation areas, enforcement)
- **Shared Resources** – Conservation Ontario is able to generate common messaging and communication support and resources that conservation authorities can use (e.g. Conservation Areas brochure, flood messaging)

### **Input From Other Sources**

**Financial Considerations**

Conservation Ontario's levy is accounted for in RVCA's annual budget.

**Legal Considerations****Adherence to RVCA Policy****Link to Strategic Plan****Attachment**

- Conservation Ontario's 2023 Levies to Conservation Authorities

Conservation Authority	3 Year Average	2021	2020	2019	2022 Levy	2023 Levy
Ausable Bayfield	3,529,078	3,655,754	3,643,733	3,287,746	25,747	26,102
Cataraqui Region	4,158,029	4,382,818	3,954,013	4,137,255	27,364	28,174
Catfish Creek	1,290,490	1,286,351	1,307,287	1,277,832	19,367	19,186
Central Lake Ontario	6,630,883	7,042,707	6,453,211	6,396,732	34,059	35,548
Credit Valley	33,581,220	36,990,344	32,171,564	31,581,751	91,468	92,626
Crowe Valley	1,020,610	1,081,487	998,900	981,442	18,443	18,576
Essex Region	7,614,764	8,112,368	8,086,996	6,644,929	39,120	38,435
Ganaraska Region	3,412,384	3,524,694	3,206,658	3,505,800	25,354	25,651
Grand River	30,112,671	30,179,515	29,526,685	30,631,814	88,703	86,521
Grey Sauble	2,622,368	2,641,780	2,613,644	2,611,681	23,290	23,173
Halton (Cons. Halton)	30,921,916	30,337,742	28,614,972	33,813,033	89,860	86,788
Hamilton	15,575,920	16,070,405	15,407,231	15,250,123	57,020	58,267
Kawartha	3,244,178	3,253,076	3,171,440	3,308,017	25,001	24,944
Kettle Creek	2,310,663	2,454,150	2,084,089	2,393,750	22,535	22,626
Lake Simcoe Region	14,921,018	15,557,657	13,101,013	16,104,385	55,149	57,074
Lakehead Region	2,040,394	1,824,617	1,707,331	2,589,233	21,880	20,779
Long Point Region	5,113,822	5,292,598	4,128,236	5,920,631	30,966	30,734
Lower Thames Valley	3,658,074	4,239,618	3,895,661	3,420,487	25,838	27,768
Lower Trent	2,165,423	2,297,012	2,022,278	2,176,980	21,693	22,166
Maitland Valley	3,293,455	3,794,228	3,236,617	2,849,520	24,553	26,498
Mattagami Region	878,868	916,597	816,554	903,452	17,874	18,084
Mississippi Valley	4,218,173	4,907,533	3,953,478	3,793,509	26,827	29,655
Niagara Peninsula	11,285,690	12,688,464	10,415,571	10,753,035	46,645	50,173
Nickel (Cons. Sudbury)	1,864,693	2,224,428	1,723,545	1,646,105	20,578	21,954
North Bay-Mattawa	3,164,447	4,539,328	2,695,175	2,258,838	22,456	28,617
Nottawasaga Valley	5,038,154	5,630,558	4,583,348	4,900,556	29,678	31,432
Otonabee	3,198,498	3,148,296	3,053,711	3,393,487	26,780	24,661
Quinte	3,170,886	4,259,048	2,687,271	2,566,339	24,478	27,823
Raisin Region	2,371,139	2,599,456	2,299,809	2,214,151	22,117	23,049
Rideau Valley	10,976,659	10,802,377	10,470,082	11,657,518	45,894	45,453
Saugeen	4,115,217	4,322,982	3,915,790	4,106,878	27,481	28,004
Sault Ste Marie	678,657	738,268	648,852	720,988	17,549	17,551
South Nation	6,817,319	7,055,877	6,164,514	7,231,566	34,482	35,591
St. Clair Region	7,640,201	9,898,914	8,164,790	4,856,898	33,774	42,134
Toronto and Region	92,929,833	159,124,875	137,800,872	136,423,000	117,058	118,240
Upper Thames River	18,525,333	17,238,805	16,912,717	21,424,476	61,919	60,942

**1,343,000    1,375,000**



**9.0 2023 Fee Schedules (Batch 2)  
Report #: 03-221124**

To: RVCA Board of Directors  
From: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson  
General Manager  
Date: November 17, 2022

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**Recommendation:**

**THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the following fee schedules to take effect as indicated on each schedule:**

- **Schedule G: Conservation Areas**
- **Schedule H: Education Programs**
- **Schedule I: Stewardship Programs**
- **Schedule J: General Services**

**AND THAT the Board of Directors add the following fees to RVCA’s Schedule E: Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems fee schedule that was approved by the Board at their October 27, 2022 meeting to take effect January 1, 2023:**

- **Planning Comment (Per lot for Subdivision Plan Review) \$220**
- **Consent Application \$330**
- **Additional Consent Applications (same retained parcel) \$150**

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**Purpose**

To adopt 2023 fee schedules for conservation areas, education programs, stewardship programs and general services and to correct the septic program fee schedule approved last month.

**Background**

On January 1, 2023, the *Conservation Authorities Act* will be amended to enact Section 21.2 “Fees for Programs and Services”. In accordance with this new Section, the Minister also published a list of the programs and services that conservation authorities may charge a fee for (*Minister’s list of classes of programs and services in respect of which conservation authorities may charge a fee* (“Minister’s List”) was published on April 11, 2022).

Section 21.2 of the *Act* sets out that every conservation authority shall prepare and adopt both a written fee policy and fee schedules with respect to the fees that it charges for the programs and services it provides. On January 1, 2023, all conservation

authorities will be required to have a fee policy and fee schedules approved by their Members and posted on their website.

### **Analysis**

At their October meeting, RVCA's Board of Directors approved a fee policy as well as fee schedules for RVCA's planning and regulations programs to take effect January 1, 2023. Attached are additional proposed Fee Schedules for 2023 for RVCA's conservation lands and stewardship department as well as other general fees:

- Schedule G: Conservation Areas
- Schedule H: Education Programs
- Schedule I: Stewardship Programs
- Schedule J: General Services

The fee schedules for Conservation Areas and Education Programs reflect an increase of 10% over the fees set in 2020. This increase is necessary to offset cost of living and other expenditure increases experienced over the past 3 years as well as to improve or maintain cost recovery efforts and meet revenue targets set in RVCA's 2023 Draft Budget. The fee schedules for Stewardship Programs and General Services are status quo and simply reflect current fees.

There were also three fees that were included in the agreements we signed with municipalities to deliver septic review and approval services for them but were accidentally omitted from the fee schedule approved by the Board last month. The following three fees need to be added to Schedule E: Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems to take effect January 1, 2023:

- Planning Comment (Per lot for Subdivision Plan Review) \$220
- Consent Application \$330
- Additional Consent Applications (same retained parcel) \$150

### **Input from Other Sources**

#### **Financial Considerations**

See analysis section

#### **Legal Considerations**

Section 21.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act enables Conservation Authorities to charge fees for programs and services. The attached Fee Schedules are in accordance with the requirements in the Act and Minister's List.

#### **Link to Strategic Plan**

The revised fee schedule supports Priority Action #2 under Strategic Direction #4:

- Review delivery costs, revenue generation and value to the watershed for all programs and implement changes that improve efficiency, effectiveness and client service.

#### **Attachments:**

- Schedule G: Conservation Areas
- Schedule H: Education Programs
- Schedule I: Stewardship Programs
- Schedule J: General Services

### Schedule G: Conservation Areas

Program or Service	Capacity (people)	Fee
<b>Parking Pass</b>		
Annual Pass		\$55
Day Pass		\$8
<b>Rental Facilities – Baxter Conservation Area</b>		
Interpretive Centre		
Day Meeting (Mon to Fri, 8 am to 4 pm)	60	\$140
Evening Meeting (Mon to Fri, After 4 pm)	60	\$140
Extended Meeting (Mon to Fri, 8 am to 11 pm)	60	\$195
Weekend Meeting (Sat, Sun and Statutory holidays, 8 am to 4 pm)	60	\$200
Social Rentals (eg. personal events, celebratory gatherings)	60	\$275
Community Group Overnight (1 night)	25	\$300
Community Group Overnight (weekend: Fri to Sun)	25	\$470
River Cabin (day rental)	20	\$75
River Cabin (overnight rental)	10	\$125
Picnic Shelter	100	\$85 with 1-10 vehicles: \$150 with 11-20 vehicles: \$195 with 20+ vehicles: \$250
<b>Rental Facilities – Foley Mountain Conservation Area</b>		
Interpretive Centre		
Day Meeting (Mon to Fri, 8 am to 4 pm)	60	\$100
Evening Meeting (Mon to Fri, After 4 pm)	60	\$100
Extended Meeting (Mon to Fri, 8 am to 11 pm)	60	\$180
Weekend Meeting (Sat, Sun and Statutory holidays, 8 am to 4 pm)	60	\$180
Social Rentals (eg. personal events, celebratory gatherings)	60	\$225
Community Group Overnight (1 night)	25	\$250
Community Group Overnight (1 ½ days)	25	\$330
Community Group Overnight (weekend: Fri to Sun)	25	\$440
Silversides (day rental)	60	\$75
Silversides (overnight rental)	25	\$110
Silversides (overnight rental package)	25	\$220 / night \$385 / weekend
Group Camping Area	100	\$90 (1-15 people) \$180 (16-30 people) \$7 for each additional person over 30 people)
Picnic Shelter	100	\$75 with 1-10 vehicles: \$125 with 11-20 vehicles: \$175 with 20+ vehicles: \$225



Schedule G: Conservation Areas

<b>Rental Facilities – Other</b>		
Group Camping Area (Mill Pond)	100	\$90 (1-15 people) \$180 (16-30 people) \$7 for each additional person over 30 people)
Picnic Shelter (Rideau Ferry)	100	\$75 with 1-10 vehicles: \$125 with 11-20 vehicles: \$175 with 20+ vehicles: \$225

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## Schedule H: Education Programs

The Following Fees Take Effect January 1, 2023

Outdoor Education Programs	Fee
Virtual Outdoor Education Class	\$100
Summer Camp (Baxter Conservation Area)	\$250 / week
Summer Camp (Foley Mountain Conservation Area)	\$220 / week (one child) \$195 / week (multiple siblings)

The Following Fees Take Effect April 1, 2023:

Outdoor Education Programs	Fee
Forest School	\$55 / day
Forest School (half day Kinder program)	\$30 / day

The Following Fees Take Effect September 1, 2023:

Outdoor Education Programs	Fee
Outdoor Education: Half Day Program	\$200 / class
Outdoor Education: Full Day Program	\$275 / class



## Schedule I: Stewardship Programs

<b>Tree Planting</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Reforestation	
Site Visit and Planting Plan	Free
Materials (e.g. trees, site prep, planting, tending)	Market Rate*
Butternut	\$50 / tree
<b>Shoreline Naturalization</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Site Visit and Planting Plan	Free \$350 (if shoreline is in violation of Section 28)
Project Management (if RVCA is planting)	\$400
Materials (e.g. trees, plants, site prep, tending)	Market Rate*
* Fees for materials will be based on supplier costs and external funding received	

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### Schedule J: General Services

Administrative Services	Fee
Freedom of Information Requests	
Application Fee	\$5
Search Time / Record Preparation	\$7.50 / 15 minutes
Photocopies	\$0.20 / page
Shipping and Handling	Cost recovery
NFS Cheques	\$20
Late Payment	2% per month
Boardroom Rental (Main Office in Manotick)*	
Weekdays (8:30 am to 4:30 pm)	\$250
Weeknights (5 pm to 9 pm)	\$250
* Events cancelled at least 14 days in advance will receive a full refund, events cancelled less than 14 days in advance will be refunded less a \$50 administration fee	

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**10.0 Financial Reports for the Period Ending September 30, 2022  
Report #: 04-221124**

To: RVCA Board of Directors  
From: Kathy Dallaire  
Manager of Finance  
Date: November 17, 2022

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**Recommendation:**

**THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the Revenue and Expenditure Reports and Balance Sheet for the period ending September 30, 2022.**

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**Purpose**

To seek approval of financial reports for the period ending September 30, 2022.

**Background**

The first attachment presents revenues and expenditures to September 30, 2022, the 2022 budget, the actual results for the year ended December 31, 2021, and projections to December 31, 2022.

The second attachment presents revenues and expenditures by program, side-by-side, with projections to year end.

The third attachment presents the Balance Sheet as at September 30, 2022.

**Analysis**

As at September 30, operations are generally proceeding as planned.

At a high level, we are showing an operating surplus of \$1.9M as at September 30, 2022. This is consistent with the same period in the prior year. The surplus is due to the front-loading of levy revenue; we have recognized all of our annual levy revenue by September 30 but have incurred 9 months of operating expenses

However, we are projecting a year end net income of approximately \$11,000.

**Program Highlights**

- **Watershed Science and Engineering Services**

Overall watershed Science and Engineering Services are forecasting a surplus of \$97,000 in 2022. Costs in each program are forecasted to be slightly higher or lower than budgeted as staff resources are allocated following program needs and priorities. Of note,

- Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring: After a two year pause due to the pandemic, staff and volunteers returned to the City Stream Watch Program. However, monitoring initiatives were still restricted due to staff vacancies and COVID-19 restrictions. Therefore, the program is forecast a surplus of \$213,000 in 2022.
- Watershed Report Cards program is forecasting a deficit of \$57,000 due to more time spent by staff in this program than anticipated to meet work plan goals.

- **Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services**

Overall costs in this department are tracking close to expected with a forecasted deficit of \$20,000 to year end, however costs in each program can be higher or lower than budgeted as staff resources are deployed in response to the public's permit requests.

- **Stewardship Services**

Overall, this department is forecasted to have a surplus of \$29,000 with minor variances spread across all programs within the group.

- **Conservation Land Management Service**

Overall, this department is tracking close to budget.

- **Corporate Services**

Corporate Services are forecasting a surplus of \$200,000 due to the following program specifics:

- Finance and Administration is forecasting a surplus of \$154,000 due to higher-than-expected interest revenue on deposit accounts and investment holdings.
- Management and Members is forecasting a surplus of \$15,000 due to lower expenditures on travel, and mileage due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.
- Communications is forecasting a surplus of \$17,000 due to a staff vacancy for part of the fiscal year.

- **Capital Projects**

- Please note that in 2022, these projects are of the fee-for-service type. We do not assume ownership of the asset at the end of the project. As such, the costs of the projects appear as expenses in our actual results, rather than as capital assets (a “below the line” item). There is no net change to the accumulated surplus of the RVCA from this difference.

- **Tangible Capital Assets**

Total budgeted capital expenditures for 2022 are \$920,997 but it is forecasted that capital expenditures in 2022 will be \$759,000.

Work is well underway on the Baxter Bridge/Boardwalk project but will continue into 2023. To September 30 \$185,700 has been spent. Accounting standards require that costs be capitalized when a project is substantially complete and ready to be put into service. It is expected the boardwalk/bridge project at Baxter will be completed in 2023. Therefore, the full cost of the capital expenditure will be reflected in 2023.

Work has begun on the Chapman Bridge replacement as well and it is expected that this will be completed in 2022 at an estimated cost of \$265,000.

Work has begun on the McManus accessible washroom project and work in progress amounts to \$13,000.

Tangible capital asset expenditures to September 30, 2022, total \$291,700 and include the following capital expenditures and work in progress expenditures.

- Baxter Conservation Area: replacement of the bridge/boardwalk at Baxter Conservation area in the amount of \$185,700.
- McManus Accessible Washrooms: Professional fees of \$13,000
- Vehicles: A new truck (GMC Canyon) costing \$41,200 was purchased to support an aging fleet.
- Information Technology \$29,800: To September 30, RVCA has purchased new laptops and monitors for staff to support the work from home model as well as to replace obsolete equipment.
- Machinery and Equipment \$22,000 for a new trailer.

It is forecasted that RVCA will incur total capital expenditures of \$849,200 for the year ended December 31, 2022 which include the following:

● Chapman Bridge Replacement	\$265,000
● Vehicles: Truck	\$41,200
● Hydrometric equipment	\$40,000
● Information Technology	\$35,000
● Infrastructure	\$30,000
● Machinery and Equipment: Trailer	\$22,000

- Building Principal Repayment \$202,704
- Required Reserve Transfers \$123,293 which includes:
  - Building Lifecycle \$70,000
  - Infrastructure \$31,500
  - Vehicle \$6,793
  - Mike II \$6,000
  - Topographical Data \$5,000
  - Drape \$3,000
  - Flood Aerial Imaging \$1,000

**Input From Other Sources**

**Financial Considerations**

See Analysis section

**Legal Considerations**

**Adherence to RVCA Policy**

**Link to Strategic Plan**

The attached financial reporting supports Priority #3 under Strategic Direction #4

- *Modernize financial processes, including budgeting and reporting, to increase automation, strengthen internal controls and provide timely and reliable data.*

**Attachments:**

- Revenue and Expenditure Report (January to September 30, 2022) – actuals vs budget and prior year
- Revenue and Expenditure Report (January to September 30, 2022) – side-by-side format
- Balance Sheet as at September 30, 2022

<b>For the period ending September 30, 2022</b>	<b>Fiscal 2021 Audited</b>	<b>2022 Approved Budget</b>	<b>2022 Year to Date Actuals</b>	<b>Forecast to December 31, 2022</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>11,001,460</b>	<b>11,639,142</b>	<b>10,584,329</b>	<b>11,138,613</b>
<b>Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services</b>	<b>3,444,635</b>	<b>3,518,715</b>	<b>3,312,476</b>	<b>3,441,696</b>
Program Management	103,906	64,568	64,568	64,568
Watershed Report Cards	160,659	165,160	165,160	165,160
Drinking Water Source Protection	199,083	217,020	178,057	217,020
Surface Water Quality Monitoring	451,342	447,111	459,056	473,690
Hydrometric Monitoring and Forecasting	288,991	417,787	285,087	300,787
Flood Erosion and Drought Studies	521,344	424,562	386,171	401,378
Groundwater Monitoring	113,575	156,461	156,461	156,461
Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring	421,539	380,387	345,801	373,776
Water Control Infrastructure Operations	1,184,197	1,245,658	1,272,114	1,288,856
Amortization	-	-	-	-
<b>Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services</b>	<b>2,574,675</b>	<b>2,553,378</b>	<b>2,342,839</b>	<b>2,653,486</b>
Program Management	132,418	138,997	138,997	138,997
Site Specific Plan Review	755,032	649,265	641,055	723,454
Non-Site Specific Plan Input	170,690	178,231	178,407	178,231
S. 28 Conservation Authorities Act	684,257	807,312	761,026	807,312
S. 28 Conservation Authorities Act - Program Developme	48,276	37,013	37,013	37,013
Part IV Clean Water Act	5,274	44,880	12,818	44,880
Part VIII Building Code Act	733,700	627,774	511,978	653,693
Septic Re-Inspection Program	45,027	69,906	61,546	69,906
Amortization	-	-	-	-
<b>Stewardship Services</b>	<b>1,502,606</b>	<b>1,651,914</b>	<b>1,443,824</b>	<b>1,740,932</b>
Program Management	157,257	162,603	162,603	157,257
LRC - Storefront\General Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Private Land Forestry Assistance	748,436	739,158	518,976	841,813
Clean Water Program	296,496	458,145	495,931	449,854
Shoreline Stewardship Program	230,342	217,289	177,524	217,289
Beaver Management	6,210	6,421	6,421	6,421
Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre	63,864	68,298	82,369	68,298
Amortization	-	-	-	-
<b>Conservation Land Management Services</b>	<b>1,387,849</b>	<b>1,777,144</b>	<b>1,405,746</b>	<b>1,395,110</b>
Program Management	79,381	86,847	86,847	86,847
Land Donations / Acquisitions	-	15,000	59,056	15,000
Baxter Conservation Area	334,909	471,231	374,540	377,906
Foley Mountain Conservation Area	321,141	314,522	320,240	320,812
Other Developed Conservation Areas	367,681	605,037	303,422	301,037
Other Conservation Lands	252,738	252,508	261,641	261,508
Lease and Management Agreements	32,000	32,000	-	32,000
Amortization	-	-	-	-
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>1,946,015</b>	<b>1,955,712</b>	<b>2,038,320</b>	<b>1,811,412</b>
Management and Members	326,755	331,170	331,171	331,170
Finance and Administration	546,442	546,910	625,018	670,315
Communications	307,267	294,868	299,368	299,868
Foundation	95,697	98,598	98,598	98,598
Watershed Information Management System	239,380	253,690	253,690	253,690
Headquarter Lease and Management	430,475	430,475	430,475	157,771
<b>Internal Recoveries</b>	<b>27,688</b>	<b>66,793</b>	<b>5,638</b>	<b>6,793</b>
Amortization	-	-	-	-
Internal Recoveries	27,688	66,793	5,638	6,793
<b>Engineering Projects</b>	<b>110,308</b>	<b>111,500</b>	<b>31,500</b>	<b>81,500</b>
Water Control Structures/Engineering	110,308	111,500	31,500	81,500
<b>Non Pension Benefit Obligation</b>	<b>7,684</b>	<b>3,986</b>	<b>3,986</b>	<b>7,684</b>
Non-Pension Benefit Obligation	7,684	3,986	3,986	7,684
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>9,771,673</b>	<b>11,639,144</b>	<b>8,604,400</b>	<b>11,127,086</b>

<b>Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services</b>	<b>3,020,873</b>	<b>3,518,717</b>	<b>2,803,022</b>	<b>3,344,659</b>
Program Management	97,361	64,568	80,011	85,311
Watershed Report Cards	161,252	165,160	185,882	221,874
Drinking Water Source Protections	199,083	217,020	168,967	208,071
Surface Water Quality Monitoring	391,142	447,113	320,597	462,238
Hydrometric Monitoring and Forecasting	282,742	417,787	189,026	279,710
Flood Erosion and Drought Studies	524,033	424,562	291,282	386,136
Ground Water Monitoring	61,747	156,461	106,806	164,235
Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring	143,293	380,387	144,423	159,889
Water Control Infrastructure Operations	1,043,597	1,245,659	1,218,505	1,244,163
Amortization	116,623	-	97,524	133,032
<b>Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services</b>	<b>2,393,699</b>	<b>2,553,378</b>	<b>2,043,374</b>	<b>2,673,493</b>
Program Management	121,425	138,997	81,042	138,997
Site Specific Plan Review	631,203	649,265	567,042	657,234
Non-Site Specific Plan Input	238,363	178,231	116,261	231,688
S.28 Conservation Authorities Act	696,456	807,312	656,280	853,257
S.28 Conservation Authorities Act - Program Developme	45,252	37,013	46,484	59,332
Part IV Clean Water Act -E	4,504	44,880	1,128	7,821
Part VIII Building Code Act	600,325	627,774	512,435	653,693
Septic Re-Inspection Program	53,435	69,906	60,649	68,735
Amortization	2,736	-	2,052	2,736
<b>Stewardship Services</b>	<b>1,381,301</b>	<b>1,651,914</b>	<b>1,247,024</b>	<b>1,711,399</b>
Program Management	155,598	162,603	121,006	158,627
LRC - Storefront\General Stewardship	-	-	-	-
LRC - Production Centre	-	-	-	-
Private Land Forestry Assistance	646,281	739,158	644,580	843,130
Clean Water Program	296,496	458,145	259,187	444,527
Shoreline Stewardship Program	230,813	217,289	148,836	217,289
Beaver Management	2,873	6,421	1,625	3,500
Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre	46,572	68,298	69,790	41,659
Amortization	2,667	-	2,001	2,667
<b>Conservation Land Management Services</b>	<b>1,244,483</b>	<b>1,777,145</b>	<b>1,060,040</b>	<b>1,396,828</b>
Program Management	77,132	86,847	61,707	85,902
Land Donations/Acquisitions	7,973	15,000	19,810	15,000
Baxter Conservation Area	338,745	471,231	278,773	341,032
Foley Mountain Conservation Area	254,489	314,523	229,796	293,250
Other Developed Conservation Areas	282,351	605,037	238,376	332,621
Other Conservation Lands	203,304	252,508	181,603	251,433
Lease and Management Agreements	32,000	32,000	15,119	32,000
Amortization	48,489	-	34,857	45,590
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>1,465,019</b>	<b>1,955,711</b>	<b>1,207,637</b>	<b>1,611,447</b>
Management and Members	304,744	331,170	229,605	316,536
Finance and Administration	433,036	546,910	360,104	516,434
Communications	247,701	294,868	207,945	283,291
Foundation	95,457	98,598	80,446	99,571
Watershed Information Management System	226,310	253,690	203,209	237,844
Headquarter Lease and Management	157,771	430,475	126,328	157,771
<b>Internal Recoveries</b>	<b>187,660</b>	<b>66,792</b>	<b>240,426</b>	<b>297,290</b>
Common Cost	(3,323)	-	59,349	-
Vehicles and Equipment	(73,456)	66,792	(25,106)	26,829
Amortization	270,950	-	206,182	270,461
Gain on Disposal	(6,511)	-	-	-
<b>Engineering Projects</b>	<b>70,953</b>	<b>111,500</b>	<b>(113)</b>	<b>84,286</b>
Water Control Structures/Engineering	70,953	111,500	(113)	84,286
<b>Non Pension Benefit Obligation</b>	<b>7,684</b>	<b>3,986</b>	<b>2,989</b>	<b>7,684</b>
Non-Pension Benefit Obligation	7,684	3,986	2,989	7,684
<b>Annual Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>1,229,787</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>1,979,930</b>	<b>11,527</b>

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority									
For the period ending September 30, 2022									
Dept	Budget Line	Revenue	Expense	Net Income	Projections to December 31 2022				
					Revenue	Expense	Net Income		
<b>10-Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services</b>	WSES Program Management	64,568	80,011	(15,443)	64,568	85,311	(20,743)		
	Watershed Report Cards	165,160	185,882	(20,722)	165,160	221,874	(56,714)		
	Drinking Water Source Protection	178,057	168,967	9,091	217,020	208,071	8,949		
	Surface Water Quality Monitoring	459,056	320,597	138,459	473,690	462,238	11,452		
	Hydrometric Monitoring and Forecasting	285,087	189,026	96,060	300,787	279,710	21,077		
	Flood Erosion and Drought Studies	386,171	291,282	94,889	401,378	386,136	15,242		
	Groundwater Monitoring	156,461	106,806	49,655	156,461	164,235	(7,774)		
	Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring	345,801	144,423	201,378	373,776	159,889	213,887		
	Water Control Infrastructure Operations	76,100	22,490	53,610	92,841	48,148	44,693		
	Watershed Information Mgmt System	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Ice Management - Rideau River	1,196,015	1,196,015	-	1,196,015	1,196,015	-		
	WSES Amortization	-	97,524	(97,524)	-	133,032	(133,032)		
<b>10-Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services Total</b>		<b>3,312,476</b>	<b>2,803,022</b>	<b>509,454</b>	<b>3,441,696</b>	<b>3,344,659</b>	<b>97,037</b>		
<b>20-Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services</b>	PARS Program Management	138,997	81,042	57,955	138,997	138,997	-		
	Site Specific Plan Review	641,055	567,042	74,014	723,454	657,234	66,220		
	Non-Site Specific Plan Input	178,407	116,261	62,146	178,231	231,688	(53,457)		
	S. 28 Conservation Authorities Act	761,026	656,280	104,745	807,312	853,257	(45,945)		
	S.28 Conservation Authorities Act - Program Development	37,013	46,484	(9,471)	37,013	59,332	(22,319)		
	Part IV-Clean Water Act	12,818	1,128	11,690	44,880	7,821	37,059		
	Part VIII - Building Code Act	511,978	512,435	(457)	653,693	653,693	-		
	Septic Re-Inspection Program	61,546	60,649	897	69,906	68,735	1,171		
	PARS Amortization	-	2,052	(2,052)	-	2,736	(2,736)		
<b>20-Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services Total</b>		<b>2,342,839</b>	<b>2,043,374</b>	<b>299,466</b>	<b>2,653,486</b>	<b>2,673,493</b>	<b>(20,007)</b>		
<b>30-Stewardship Services</b>	WSS Program Management	162,603	121,006	41,597	157,257	158,627	(1,370)		
	LRC Storefront/General Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Private Land Forestry Assistance	518,976	644,580	(125,604)	841,813	843,130	(1,317)		
	Clean Water Program	495,931	259,187	236,744	449,854	444,527	5,327		
	Shoreline Stewardship Program	177,524	148,836	28,687	217,289	217,289	-		
	Beaver Management	6,421	1,625	4,796	6,421	3,500	2,921		
	Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre	82,369	69,790	12,579	68,298	41,659	26,639		
	WSS Amortization	-	2,001	(2,001)	-	2,667	(2,667)		
<b>30-Stewardship Services Total</b>		<b>1,443,824</b>	<b>1,247,024</b>	<b>196,800</b>	<b>1,740,932</b>	<b>1,711,399</b>	<b>29,533</b>		
<b>40-Conservation Land Management Services</b>	CLMS Program Management	86,847	61,707	25,140	86,847	85,902	945		
	Land Donations / Acquisitions	59,056	19,810	39,246	15,000	15,000	-		
	Baxter Conservation Area	374,540	278,773	95,767	377,906	341,032	36,874		
	Foley Mountain Conservation Area	320,240	229,796	90,445	320,812	293,250	27,562		
	Other Developed Conservation Areas	303,422	238,376	65,046	301,037	332,621	(31,584)		
	Other Conservation Lands	261,641	181,603	80,038	261,508	251,433	10,075		
	Lease and Management Agreements	-	15,119	(15,119)	32,000	32,000	-		
	CLMS Amortization	-	34,857	(34,857)	-	45,590	(45,590)		
<b>40-Conservation Land Management Services Total</b>		<b>1,405,746</b>	<b>1,060,040</b>	<b>345,706</b>	<b>1,395,110</b>	<b>1,396,828</b>	<b>(1,718)</b>		
<b>50-Corporate Services &amp; Internal Recoveries</b>	Management and Members	331,171	229,605	101,565	331,170	316,536	14,634		
	Finance and Administration	625,018	360,104	264,914	670,315	516,434	153,881		
	Communications	299,368	207,945	91,424	299,868	283,291	16,577		
	Foundation	98,598	80,446	18,152	98,598	99,571	(973)		
	GIS	253,690	203,209	50,481	253,690	237,844	15,846		
	Headquarters & Lease	430,475	126,328	304,147	157,771	157,771	-		
<b>50-Corporate Services &amp; Internal Recoveries Total</b>		<b>2,038,320</b>	<b>1,207,637</b>	<b>830,683</b>	<b>1,811,412</b>	<b>1,611,447</b>	<b>199,965</b>		
<b>60-Corporate Services &amp; Internal Recoveries</b>	Common Cost	(1,155)	59,349	(60,504)	-	-	-		
	Vehicles and Equipment	6,793	(25,106)	31,899	6,793	26,829	(20,036)		
	Amortization	-	206,182	(206,182)	-	270,461	(270,461)		
	Gain on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>60-Corporate Services &amp; Internal Recoveries Total</b>		<b>5,638</b>	<b>240,426</b>	<b>(234,787)</b>	<b>6,793</b>	<b>297,290</b>	<b>(290,497)</b>		
<b>80-Corporate Services &amp; Internal Recoveries</b>	Non-Pension Post Retirement Benefit Obligation	3,986	2,989	997	7,684	7,684	-		
<b>80-Corporate Services &amp; Internal Recoveries Total</b>		<b>3,986</b>	<b>2,989</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>7,684</b>	<b>7,684</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>90-Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services</b>	Water Control Structures	31,500	(113)	31,613	81,500	84,286	(2,786)		
<b>90-Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services Total</b>		<b>31,500</b>	<b>(113)</b>	<b>31,613</b>	<b>81,500</b>	<b>84,286</b>	<b>(2,786)</b>		
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>10,584,329</b>	<b>8,604,400</b>	<b>1,979,930</b>	<b>11,138,613</b>	<b>11,127,086</b>	<b>11,527</b>		

<b>Rideau Valley Conservation Authority</b>	<b>September 30,</b>	<b>December 31,</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021 (Audited)</b>
Cash and Short Term Investments	11,437,906	9,733,014
Accounts Receivable	1,806,826	672,539
	<b>13,244,733</b>	<b>10,405,553</b>
	-	-
<b>Liabilities</b>	-	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,231,384	1,862,612
Vacation pay and sick leave entitlements	294,225	237,001
Deferred revenues	1,494,899	1,998,430
Non pension post retirement benefits	457,350	454,361
Obligation under capital lease	1,955,699	2,107,727
	<b>7,433,557</b>	<b>6,660,130</b>
	-	-
	-	-
<b>Net Financial Assets (Debt)</b>	<b>5,811,176</b>	<b>3,745,424</b>
	-	-
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>	-	-
Tangible capital assets	10,456,347	10,645,015
Prepaid expenses	180,506	77,661
	<b>10,636,853</b>	<b>10,722,675</b>
	-	-
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>	<b>16,448,029</b>	<b>14,468,099</b>

**Accumulated Surplus consists of:**

	-	-
Unrestricted Surplus(Deficit)	1,421,625	191,838
Reserves	4,496,453	4,496,453
Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	8,550,021	8,550,021
Year-to-date Surplus	1,979,930	1,229,787
<b>Accumulated Surplus (Check)</b>	<b>16,448,029</b>	<b>14,468,099</b>



**11.0 2023 Revised Draft Budget and Levy Apportionment  
Report #: 05-221124**

To: RVCA Board of Directors  
From: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager  
Kathy Dallaire, Manager of Finance  
Date: November 17, 2022

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachments – 2 pages

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**Recommendation:**

**THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority directs staff to revise RVCA’s 2023 Draft Budget and Levy Apportionment sheet (dated October 20, 2022) to reflect Scenario B1;**

**AND THAT the Board directs staff to circulate this revised Draft Budget and Levy Apportionment sheet to all member municipalities for review and comment.**

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**Purpose**

To seek approval from the Board to revise RVCA’s 2023 draft budget and levy apportionment and circulate it to municipalities for review and comment.

**Background**

RVCA’s annual budget process takes the following course:

1. September – Staff provide a summary of budget factors and seek budget direction from the Board
2. October – Staff presents a preliminary draft budget for review and comment
3. November – Staff return with a revised draft budget based on any Board input and further staff refinement. Staff requests approval from the Board to circulate this draft budget to member municipalities for review and comment.
4. February – Staff presents a final draft budget for Board approval where the Board takes into consideration any comments received from municipalities.

At their September meeting, the Board received an overview of 2023 budget factors and pressures. The Board then directed staff to prepare a preliminary draft budget for 2023 incorporating the following factors:

- A levy increase of 2.0% plus assessment growth which was estimated at 1.4%
- An increase in fees of approximately 2%
- A cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for salaries proposed by senior management.

At their October meeting, the Board received a draft budget based on the parameters outlined above and a cost-of-living increase of 3%. Following discussion, the Board directed staff to prepare some alternative budget scenarios for Board consideration in November that incorporate the following factors:

- Update the municipal levy increase to reflect assessment growth of 1.5%
  - The draft budget presented in October included assessment growth of 1.4% as only an estimate was available at that time
  - It has now been confirmed that 1.5% is the correct assessment growth figure for our watershed based on modified CVA data from MNRF
- Show the impact on budget of a 2.5% levy increase plus growth
  - The draft budget presented in October included a levy increase of 2.0% plus growth.
  - Preliminary budget direction from the City of Ottawa is to stay within a levy increase of 3.0% plus growth
  - SNC have budgeted for an increase of 2.5% plus growth while MVCA is considering an increase of 3.0% plus growth
- Show the impact on budget of a cost-of-living increase of less than 3% combined with a one-time flat rate amount.
  - The draft budget presented in October included a cost-of-living increase of 3.0%

### Analysis

In the chart below, Scenario A1 shows the parameters of the [draft budget and levy apportionment sheet presented to the Board in October](#) with the updated assessment growth figure of 1.5%. The chart then presents four additional scenarios for the Board’s consideration based on direction received in October

- The difference between Scenarios A (blue) and B (green) is a levy increase of 2.0% plus growth versus 2.5% plus growth. Attached are levy apportionments sheets showing how each would be apportioned to municipalities.
- The difference between Scenarios 1 (blue) and Scenarios 2 and 3 (green) is a cost-of-living increase of 3% versus 2% plus a one-time flat rate amount (OTA).
- Each Scenario also indicates the impact on budget by showing the amount needed to be drawn from reserves to balance the budget.

Budget Factor	Scenario A1	Scenario A2	Scenario B1	Scenario B2	Scenario B3
Assessment Growth	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Tax Increase	2.0%	2.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Total Levy Increase:	3.5%	3.5%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Cost of Living	3.0%	2.0% and \$1,000	3.0%	2.0% and \$1,000	2% and \$1,500
Reserve Draw:	\$100,503	\$107,485	\$64,752	\$74,614	\$111,185

### Levy

Given preliminary budget direction from the City of Ottawa of a tax increase of no more than 3% and indications from the incoming Mayor of Ottawa of a desire to keep tax increases between 2% and 2.5%, staff recommend a levy increase of 2.5% plus growth to help keep pace with inflation and other rising costs like insurance rates. The attached levy apportionment sheets show the difference between the two levy rates, 91% of which is paid by the City of Ottawa. We have also confirmed that South Nation Conservation and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority are budgeting a levy increase of between 2.5% and 3.0% plus growth.

### Cost-of-Living

After running various cost-of-living scenarios using both a fixed percentage and a combination of a percentage and a one-time flat rate amount, our financial analysis found that unless the percentage was reduced substantially (i.e. to 1%) the most the flat rate amount could be is \$1,000 to stay within a similar budget envelope. After deductions, a flat rate of this amount does not result in substantial equalization between the lower and upper salary bands, especially when salary growth will be limited across all bands in future years by 1% if a cost-of-living figure of 2% is used instead of 3%. Given the current competitive job market and the need for RVCA's salary scale to keep pace with inflation, it is recommended that cost-of-living be set at 3%. This is also the lowest cost option for the 2023 budget.

### Reserves

Under any of the Scenarios, the budget will require a one-time transfer from reserves to support operational costs. Over the past three years, the RVCA has been able to build its reserves to address unforeseen budget issues like high inflation. RVCA's Working Fund Reserve has a current balance of \$1.2 million and a transfer of \$64,752 would represent less than 0.5% of RVCA's budget. In 2023, staff will be restructuring RVCA's programs and budget, adopting a new funding model and undertaking a review of all fees to align with changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and its regulations which take effect in 2024.

### **Input From Other Sources**

A draft budget will be circulated to all member municipalities for review and comment. Staff will also offer to present to municipal councils and any comments received from municipalities will be considered by the Board before voting to approve a budget at their February meeting.

### **Financial Considerations**

See analysis section

### **Legal Considerations**

RVCA's Draft Budget and municipal levies are in accordance with:

- *Conservation Authorities Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27
- O. Reg. 670/00: Conservation Authority Levies
- O. Reg. 139/96: Municipal Levies

In accordance with Section 14(4.0.1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, any Member appointed from the agricultural sector cannot vote on budgetary matters:

Limitation on voting

(4.0.1) The member of an authority appointed under subsection (4) shall not vote on,

[...]

(d) a resolution relating to any budgetary matter that is presented at a meeting held under section 16. 2020, c. 36, Sched. 6, s. 2 (5)

**Adherence to RVCA Policy**

A transfer from RVCA's *Working Fund Reserve* to balance the Draft Budget is in accordance with RVCA's Reserve Policy.

**Link to Strategic Plan**

This budget supports the implementation of multiple key priorities in the Strategic Plan.

**Attachments:**

- Scenario A: Levy Apportionment Sheet
- Scenario B: Levy Apportionment Sheet

**Rideau Valley Conservation Authority - 2023 Draft Municipal Levy Apportionment  
Scenario A**

RVCA Member Municipality	Percentage in Watershed	Population	Population in Watershed	Current Value Assessment (modified) in Watershed			Levy Portion Based on CVA (modified)			Municipal Levy		
				For 2022	For 2023	Difference	For 2022	For 2023	Difference	For 2022	For 2023	Difference
Athens*	4	2,418	97	\$ 13,222,636	\$ 13,249,531	\$ 26,895.00	0.0119	0.0116	-0.0003	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$100.00
North Dundas*	1	9,079	91	\$ 17,551,439	\$ 17,886,367	\$ 334,928.00	0.0156	0.0156	0.0000	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$100.00
Clarence-Rockland	3	21,410	642	\$ 100,262,780	\$ 102,500,096	\$ 2,237,316.00	0.0879	0.0879	0.0000	\$ 5,733.61	\$ 5,976.69	\$243.08
Westport	100	506	506	\$ 119,285,300	\$ 120,611,425	\$ 1,326,125.00	0.1069	0.1069	0.0000	\$ 6,821.42	\$ 7,032.74	\$211.32
Augusta	19	6,111	1,161	\$ 164,304,292	\$ 165,056,598	\$ 752,306.00	0.1458	0.1458	0.0000	\$ 9,395.87	\$ 9,624.30	\$228.43
Central Frontenac	22	3,714	817	\$ 216,393,797	\$ 217,970,547	\$ 1,576,750.00	0.1917	0.1917	0.0000	\$ 12,374.65	\$ 12,709.66	\$335.01
Merrickville-Wolford	100	2,546	2,546	\$ 418,440,239	\$ 426,082,854	\$ 7,642,615.00	0.3665	0.3665	0.0000	\$ 23,928.83	\$ 24,844.50	\$915.67
Montague	100	2,990	2,990	\$ 430,361,629	\$ 438,443,929	\$ 8,082,300.00	0.3790	0.3790	0.0000	\$ 24,610.57	\$ 25,565.27	\$954.70
South Frontenac	13	15,182	1,974	\$ 452,736,490	\$ 457,407,604	\$ 4,671,114.00	0.3995	0.3995	0.0000	\$ 25,890.09	\$ 26,671.02	\$780.93
Elizabethtown - Kitley	61	7,754	4,730	\$ 723,399,938	\$ 728,393,304	\$ 4,993,366.00	0.6478	0.6478	0.0000	\$ 41,368.19	\$ 42,471.95	\$1,103.76
Beckwith	64	6,915	4,426	\$ 847,980,357	\$ 877,636,866	\$ 29,656,509.00	0.7383	0.7383	0.0000	\$ 48,492.42	\$ 51,174.21	\$2,681.79
Drummond/North Elmsley	70	6,502	4,551	\$ 820,843,880	\$ 828,598,881	\$ 7,755,001.00	0.7283	0.7283	0.0000	\$ 46,940.60	\$ 48,314.84	\$1,374.24
Tay Valley	65	4,827	3,138	\$ 851,523,719	\$ 850,744,426	\$ (779,293.00)	0.7597	0.7597	0.0000	\$ 48,695.05	\$ 49,606.13	\$911.08
Smiths Falls	100	6,195	6,195	\$ 933,515,691	\$ 1,052,314,561	\$ 118,798,870.00	0.8229	0.8229	0.0000	\$ 53,383.83	\$ 61,359.50	\$7,975.67
Perth	100	4,520	4,520	\$ 968,031,898	\$ 988,665,408	\$ 20,633,510.00	0.8384	0.8384	0.0000	\$ 55,357.66	\$ 57,648.18	\$2,290.52
Rideau Lakes	51	8,700	4,437	\$ 1,242,170,109	\$ 1,249,295,835	\$ 7,125,726.00	1.1061	1.1061	0.0000	\$ 71,034.47	\$ 72,845.30	\$1,810.83
North Grenville	67	14,050	9,414	\$ 1,903,251,589	\$ 1,943,393,319	\$ 40,141,730.00	1.6700	1.6700	0.0000	\$ 108,838.94	\$ 113,317.49	\$4,478.55
Ottawa	46	792,149	364,389	\$ 102,732,350,105	\$ 104,177,240,245	\$ 1,444,890,140.00	90.9838	90.9838	0.0000	\$ 5,874,830.06	\$ 6,074,479.85	\$199,649.79
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>915,568</b>	<b>416,622</b>	<b>\$ 112,955,625,888</b>	<b>\$ 114,655,491,796</b>	<b>1,699,865,908</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,461,296</b>	<b>\$ 6,687,442</b>	<b>\$ 226,145</b>
											<b>Levy Increase</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

\*Athens and North Dundas are charged our minimum levy amount which is \$1,900 for 2023.

**Rideau Valley Conservation Authority - 2023 Draft Municipal Levy Apportionment  
Scenario B**

RVCA Member Municipality	Percentage in Watershed	Population	Population in Watershed	Current Value Assessment (modified) in Watershed			Levy Portion Based on CVA (modified)			Municipal Levy		
				For 2022	For 2023	Difference	For 2022	For 2023	Difference	For 2022	For 2023	Difference
Athens*	4	2,418	97	\$ 13,222,636	\$ 13,249,531	\$ 26,895.00	0.0119	0.0116	-0.0003	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$100.00
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Clarence-Rockland	3	21,410	642	\$ 100,262,780	\$ 102,500,096	\$ 2,237,316.00	0.0879	0.0879	0.0000	\$ 5,733.61	\$ 6,005.58	\$271.97
Westport	100	506	506	\$ 119,285,300	\$ 120,611,425	\$ 1,326,125.00	0.1069	0.1069	0.0000	\$ 6,821.42	\$ 7,066.74	\$245.32
Augusta	19	6,111	1,161	\$ 164,304,292	\$ 165,056,598	\$ 752,306.00	0.1458	0.1458	0.0000	\$ 9,395.87	\$ 9,670.82	\$274.95
Central Frontenac	22	3,714	817	\$ 216,393,797	\$ 217,970,547	\$ 1,576,750.00	0.1917	0.1917	0.0000	\$ 12,374.65	\$ 12,771.10	\$396.45
Merrickville-Wolford	100	2,546	2,546	\$ 418,440,239	\$ 426,082,854	\$ 7,642,615.00	0.3665	0.3665	0.0000	\$ 23,928.83	\$ 24,964.59	\$1,035.76
Montague	100	2,990	2,990	\$ 430,361,629	\$ 438,443,929	\$ 8,082,300.00	0.3790	0.3790	0.0000	\$ 24,610.57	\$ 25,688.84	\$1,078.27
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Elizabethtown - Kitley	61	7,754	4,730	\$ 723,399,938	\$ 728,393,304	\$ 4,993,366.00	0.6478	0.6478	0.0000	\$ 41,368.19	\$ 42,677.24	\$1,309.05
Beckwith	64	6,915	4,426	\$ 847,980,357	\$ 877,636,866	\$ 29,656,509.00	0.7383	0.7383	0.0000	\$ 48,492.42	\$ 51,421.56	\$2,929.14
Drummond/North Elmsley	70	6,502	4,551	\$ 820,843,880	\$ 828,598,881	\$ 7,755,001.00	0.7283	0.7283	0.0000	\$ 46,940.60	\$ 48,548.38	\$1,607.78
Tay Valley	65	4,827	3,138	\$ 851,523,719	\$ 850,744,426	\$ (779,293.00)	0.7597	0.7597	0.0000	\$ 48,695.05	\$ 49,845.91	\$1,150.86
Smiths Falls	100	6,195	6,195	\$ 933,515,691	\$ 1,052,314,561	\$ 118,798,870.00	0.8229	0.8229	0.0000	\$ 53,383.83	\$ 61,656.09	\$8,272.26
Perth	100	4,520	4,520	\$ 968,031,898	\$ 988,665,408	\$ 20,633,510.00	0.8384	0.8384	0.0000	\$ 55,357.66	\$ 57,926.83	\$2,569.17
Rideau Lakes	51	8,700	4,437	\$ 1,242,170,109	\$ 1,249,295,835	\$ 7,125,726.00	1.1061	1.1061	0.0000	\$ 71,034.47	\$ 73,197.41	\$2,162.94
North Grenville	67	14,050	9,414	\$ 1,903,251,589	\$ 1,943,393,319	\$ 40,141,730.00	1.6700	1.6700	0.0000	\$ 108,838.94	\$ 113,865.23	\$5,026.29
Ottawa	46	792,149	364,389	\$ 102,732,350,105	\$ 104,177,240,245	\$ 1,444,890,140.00	90.9838	90.9838	0.0000	\$ 5,874,830.06	\$ 6,103,841.84	\$229,011.78
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>915,568</b>	<b>416,622</b>	<b>\$ 112,955,625,888</b>	<b>\$ 114,655,491,796</b>	<b>1,699,865,908</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,461,296</b>	<b>\$ 6,719,748</b>	<b>\$ 258,452</b>
											<b>Levy Increase</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

\*Athens and North Dundas are charged our minimum levy amount which is \$1,900 for 2023.



**12.0 Bill 23: *More Homes Built Faster Act*  
Report #: 6-221124**

To: RVCA Board of Directors  
From: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson  
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer  
Date: November 21, 2022

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachments – 20 pages

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**Recommendation**

**THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the attached comments to include in RVCA’s submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario regarding posting numbers 019-6141, 019-2927, 019,6161 and 019,6160.**

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**Purpose**

To seek approval to submit ERO comments pertaining to Bill 23.

**Background**

In June 2019, changes were made to the *Conservation Authorities Act* through Bill 108 (*More Homes, More Choice Act*). These changes laid the groundwork for new or revised regulations to be introduced under the *Conservation Authorities Act* including:

- Defining mandatory programs and services
- Requiring agreements with municipalities for non-mandatory programs
- New or updated definitions for key regulatory terms
- Reduction of regulatory restrictions between 30m and 120m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed
- Exempting low-risk development activities from requiring a permit

In late 2020, further changes were made to the *Conservation Authorities Act* through Bill 229 (*Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act*). These changes included:

- Defining mandatory programs and services (Category 1)
- Requiring agreements with municipalities for Category 2 programs and services
- Requiring cost-apportioning agreements with municipalities for Category 3 programs and services
- Changing Board governance rules, as well as budgeting and levy processes
- Requiring CAs to issue permits for development approved through MZO

Throughout 2021 and into 2022, the Ministry worked with a multi-stakeholder *Conservation Authorities Working Group* to develop the regulations necessary to implement the changes contained in Bill 229.

## Analysis

On October 25, 2022, additional changes were proposed to the *Conservation Authorities Act* through Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*) as well as proposed changes to other regulations and provincial guidance documents including:

- [ERO Posting 019-6141](#)
  - Bill 23, Schedule 2 (*Conservation Authorities Act* amendments)
- [ERO Posting 019-2927](#)
  - Consultation Guide (Section 28 Regulation amendments)
- [ERO Posting 019-6161](#)
  - Discussion Paper (provincial offsetting policy proposal)
- [ERO Posting 019-6160](#)
  - Updated Ontario Wetland Evaluation System manual

All four postings affect the work, programs and services currently delivered by conservation authorities as well as our member municipalities. Key concerns include:

- Prohibiting municipalities from entering into agreements with conservation authorities to provide comments on planning applications beyond natural hazards
- Exempting development approved under the Planning Act in specified municipalities from requiring a CA permit
- Defining a list of “low risk” activities exempt from requiring a CA permit
- Limiting the scope of conditions that CAs can include in a permit to natural hazards
- Reducing the regulated area around provincially significant wetlands from 120 m to 30 metres
- Changing the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System manual to prohibit the complexing of wetlands, remove habitat from evaluation criteria, remove references to CA regulations and watershed planning and removing MNRF as being responsible for administering the OWES
- Allowing offsetting to compensate for the loss of natural heritage features
- Giving the Minister the ability to freeze CA fees

The main message being conveyed to the Province is to reconvene the *Conservation Authorities Working Group* to consult on the proposed changes affecting CAs and the services we provide to our member municipalities before moving ahead. The changes as they stand now would have detrimental and irreversible impacts on local watersheds and development review processes.

Bill 23 received second reading on October 31, 2022 and was referred to Standing Committee. Conservation Ontario was granted permission to address Standing

Committee as well as a number of other groups including other CAs, ENGOs and development associations. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), however, was not granted permission to address the Committee.

- Conservation Ontario as well as many individual CAs issued media releases outlining concerns with Bill 23.
- RVCA worked with neighbouring CAs to brief municipal planning staff on Bill 23 at the City of Ottawa and within Lanark County and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (October 28, November 1 & 4, 2022 respectively)
- RVCA also worked with neighbouring CAs to brief new Councils on Bill 23 at council member training held within the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and Frontenac County (November 5 & 9, 2022 respectively)
- RVCA issued a media release on November 10, 2022
- RVCA also worked with the nine other conservation authorities in Eastern Ontario to prepare a letter to the Province and Standing Committee outlining our shared concerns with Bill 23 and the impacts it would have on eastern Ontario. The letter was circulated to all member municipalities seeking endorsement from Mayors. Over 35 signed the letter prior to it being submitted to the Province on November 17, 2022.
- RVCA also participated in a number of media interviews including the Frontenac News and Ottawa Citizen.

The final step is to submit comments to the ERO by the deadlines of November 24 and December 30, 2022 on the four postings listed above. Each submission will have a cover letter highlighting the concerns and recommendations outlined in the joint Eastern Ontario letter, however, staff have also prepared additional technical comments to include in the submission as well. These comments are attached for Board consideration. The attached comments are in line with comments being submitted by other CAs, Conservation Ontario and many municipalities and are recommended to include with RVCA's ERO submission.

### **Input from Other Sources**

Many of RVCA's planning, regulations and science staff contributed to RVCA's draft ERO submissions, but the following four staff took the lead in preparing the attached comments and consulting with other staff, a big thank you to:

- Jennifer Lamoureux, Aquatic Biologist
  - Lead author on ERO posting 019-6161
- Martin Czarski, Ecologist
  - Lead author on ERO posting 019-6160
- Eric Lalande, Planner
  - Lead author on ERO posting 019-6164
- Jamie Bachelor, Planner

- Lead author on ERO posting 019-2927

RVCA also worked very closely with our neighbouring CAs on media releases, staff and partner briefings and the development of messaging and other resources. We also worked very closely with municipal staff and all the eastern Ontario CAs in the preparation of our joint letter to the province.

Great assistance and leadership was also provided by Conservation Ontario who organized numerous discussions amongst the General Managers as well as taking the lead on media interviews in the early days, preparing messaging and resources and leading provincial advocacy through Standing Committee and other efforts.

### **Financial Considerations**

If the Minister chooses to freeze conservation authority fees, it will have an impact on budgets depending on which fees are frozen and for how long. Changes to the scope of work would also have an unknown financial impact on RVCA's budget.

### **Legal Considerations**

### **Adherence to RVCA Policy**

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

This work supports Priority #8 under Strategic Direction #2:

- *Prepare an implementation strategy to address any changes made to the Conservation Authorities Act that may result from the legislative review currently underway.*

### **Attachments**

- Eastern Ontario CA Letter to Premier Ford and Ministers Clark, Smith and Piccini (November 15, 2022)
- Draft RVCA ERO Comments (2 documents)

## Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities

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November 15, 2022



The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
College Park 17th Floor, 777 Bay St,  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
[minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)



The Honourable Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St W,  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3  
[minister.mnrf@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mnrf@ontario.ca)

The Honourable David Piccini  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay St,  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
[minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)



**Re: Loss of Local Decision-Making: Bill 23 Does Not Work for Eastern Ontario**

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Dear Premier Ford, Minister Clark, Minister Smith, and Minister Piccini,



With housing affordability affecting much of Ontario, we understand your government's target to build 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years.



Conservation Authorities (CAs) have always supported long-term sustainable growth. In fact, our role is to ensure land-use decisions made today do not impede future growth tomorrow. We accomplish this by ensuring development has minimal impacts on flooding, erosion, slope stability and water quality by guiding development away from natural hazards and protecting the function of natural features. This can only be accomplished when evaluating growth and its cumulative impacts across a watershed, which is the value and service CAs provide to municipalities. Water flows across municipal boundaries and so do the impacts of development.



In Eastern Ontario, CAs have been working closely with municipalities to reduce barriers to development and streamline processes to provide the best service possible to municipalities, communities, homeowners, and developers. For many, this includes modernizing policies and procedures, streamlining approvals, reducing timelines, meeting and reporting on service standards, and promoting pre-consultation with applicants. CAs are not a barrier to growth, but an assurance that growth is safe and sustainable, and we have been a source of cost-effective expertise for municipalities and developers for decades.



We are committed to doing our part to help increase Ontario's housing supply, but it needs to be accomplished through smart, sustainable growth that will not have detrimental impacts down the road.

## Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities

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We are concerned that some changes proposed in the *More Homes Built Faster Act* will:

- Weaken the ability of conservation authorities to continue protecting people and property from natural hazards such as floods;
- Diminish our ability to protect critical natural infrastructure like wetlands which reduce flooding, droughts and improve water quality in lakes and rivers; and,
- Place new downloaded responsibilities on municipalities related to natural hazards and natural resources that they are unprepared and under resourced to tackle.

We are calling on your government to press pause on the proposed changes highlighted below and to reconvene the multi-stakeholder *Conservation Authorities Working Group* that your government created. This group can help identify alternative solutions that will increase Ontario's housing supply without jeopardizing public safety or downloading additional responsibilities to municipalities. At a time when climate change is causing more frequent and intense storm events, the role and watershed mandate of CAs has never been more critical.

### **Proposed Changes of Concern and Their Potential Impact:**

1. If conservation authorities are no longer allowed to provide planning comments to municipalities beyond natural hazards:
  - Municipalities have indicated that they will need to contract this work out to the private sector, where there is already a limited labour market, as most do not have the expertise or capacity to take on this expanded role.
  - Municipalities anticipate higher costs, and possible delays, that will be passed on to applicants and developers. The current model enables municipalities to use existing expertise within the CAs (such as biologists, water resource engineers, ecologists, hydrogeologists) to fulfill responsibilities under the Provincial Policy Statement pertaining to natural heritage and water, while saving time and money for applicants.
  - Municipalities have shared conflict of interest concerns due to the limited availability of consultants in Eastern Ontario and shared concerns about the lack of local knowledge should they need to secure consultants from other regions.
  - Municipalities are also concerned with the loss of the watershed perspective in making planning decisions, which will result in a narrow review of the impacts to natural hazards and natural heritage. Municipalities formed CAs to address this very issue.

## Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities

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2. If development that is subject to a planning approval is exempt from requiring a permit from the conservation authority:
  - Municipalities will assume greater responsibility and liability for the impact of development on flooding, erosion, slope stability and water quality within municipal boundaries and in upstream and downstream communities.
  - Municipalities and CAs will require more detailed studies and designs at the planning stage which are normally not required until the permitting stage. This would make planning applications more onerous and costly for developers and slow down approvals.
  - Municipalities will also have limited mechanisms to ensure compliance outside of the permitting process if development is not constructed properly.
  
3. If certain types of development are deemed “low risk” and exempted from requiring a conservation authority permit:
  - Public safety and property damage risks may not be adequately addressed as a single list of exempted activities across the province will not capture local conditions and constraints. Some activities which may be low risk in one watershed, such as fencing or auxiliary buildings, may be a significant risk in others that have retrogressive landslide areas or ravines.
  - It should also be acknowledged that CAs already have the ability to exempt or streamline review processes for activities that are low risk in their watershed and this practice is already in use by most CAs.
  
4. If the scope of conservation authority permits is narrowed to only address natural hazard issues (removal of “pollution” and “conservation of land” considerations, restrictions on conditions that can be required as part of a permit):
  - CAs may not be able to require development setbacks from water, protect naturalized shorelines or require sediment control during construction.
  - CAs would no longer be able to address water quality concerns, which are required under federally and provincially approved “Remedial Action Plans” for designated “Areas of Concern”.
  - CAs use pollution and conservation of land considerations and conditions to limit sediment and nutrient runoff into lakes and rivers that contribute to poor water quality, excessive weed growth and algae blooms. Municipalities would become responsible to address these types of concerns.

## Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities

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- Water quality in lakes and rivers is an important economic driver in Eastern Ontario as it impacts property values, tourism, recreation, and commercial fisheries, and it is the source of drinking water for many permanent and seasonal residences.
  - CAs and municipalities would welcome a consistent definition of “conservation of land” in the new regulations, pertaining to the protection, management, and restoration of lands to maintain or enhance hydrological and ecological functions.
5. If the protection of wetlands is diminished (changes to wetland evaluation criteria, elimination of wetland complexing, reduction in the area around wetlands that is regulated, introduction of offsetting measures to compensate for wetland loss and the withdrawal of MNRF as the body responsible for wetland mapping and evaluations):
- Municipalities are concerned that the withdrawal of MNRF from administering the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System and maintaining wetland mapping will be downloaded to municipalities to manage reevaluation reports from consultants and maintain up-to-date wetland mapping that is needed for development review.
  - Municipalities and CAs are concerned that there will be a loss of wetlands that will have immediate and long-term impacts. Removing wetlands is like removing dams and reservoirs. Wetlands act as infrastructure that absorb and retain a significant volume of snow melt and rain which reduces flood levels during spring runoff and storm events. They also release this water slowly throughout the rest of the year, helping augment water levels in lakes and rivers during low flow periods which reduces drought conditions. Wetlands also filter nutrients and sediment from runoff which improves water quality.
  - These benefits are particularly important where lakes and rivers are supporting agriculture, recreation, tourism, and fisheries and acting as a source of drinking water. Municipalities and CAs could never afford to build the infrastructure it would take to replace wetland functions which is estimated to be billions.
6. If the Minister freezes conservation authority fees:
- Taxpayers, not developers, would absorb increasing costs for development review. In this scenario, growth would not be paying for growth.
  - Legislative amendments made earlier this year directed conservation authorities to demonstrate that self-generated revenue such as fees for service are considered where possible to reduce pressure on the municipal levy. This includes plan review and permitting fees that are collected to offset program costs, but not exceed them.

## Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities

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### Recommendations:

1. Municipalities should retain the choice to enter into agreements with conservation authorities for natural heritage and water-related plan review services.
  - Recent legislative amendments by this government now require agreements to include defined terms, timelines, and performance measures, and CAs have demonstrated that they can provide these comments to municipalities in a cost-effective and timely manner. CAs are also already prevented by these earlier amendments from commenting beyond natural hazards if they do not have an agreement with a municipality.
2. Development that is subject to plan approval should not be exempt from requiring a conservation authority permit.
  - The planning process is not sufficient to ensure natural hazard concerns are addressed through appropriate design and construction. This change would also place additional responsibility and liability on municipalities.
3. Conservation authorities should determine which types of developments are deemed “low risk” through their regulations policies.
  - CAs are already able to create exemptions and streamline review processes that are appropriate locally, given watersheds have unique conditions.
4. Maintain “pollution” and “conservation of land” as considerations when conservation authorities are reviewing permit applications but provide a clear definition of each to ensure a consistent approach on how it is applied.
  - Streamlining these definitions will allow CAs to provide consistency to municipalities and developers and meet obligations under other pieces of legislation that require water quality-related comments from CAs.
5. Continue to protect wetlands to reduce flooding, provide flow augmentation.
  - Wetlands are critical pieces of natural infrastructure and municipalities cannot afford to build the infrastructure it would take to replicate wetland function to protect upstream and downstream communities from flooding and drought.
6. Do not freeze fees to ensure growth pays for growth.
  - Recent legislative amendments by this government now require CAs to demonstrate through their budget process that development review fees are offsetting, but not exceeding, program costs.

## Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities

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Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns and recommendations with you.

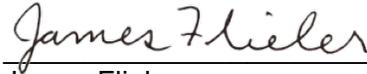
Our goal is to support you in creating more housing in Ontario while ensuring changes to Ontario's land use planning and permitting system do not have unintended and irreversible consequences on the protection of people, property, and natural resources.

We sincerely hope that you will remove the amendments we have highlighted from Bill 23 before it is passed, and that you will reconvene your government's *Conservation Authorities Working Group* to work with your Ministry to propose alternative improvements and refinements to conservation authority development review processes.

Sincerely,



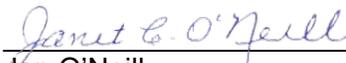
Martin Lang  
Chair  
Raisin Region Conservation Authority



James Flieler  
Chair  
Quinte Conservation Authority



Pierre Leroux  
Chair  
South Nation River Conservation Authority



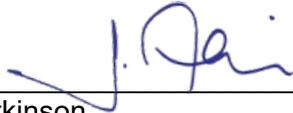
Jan O'Neill  
Chair  
Crowe Valley Conservation Authority



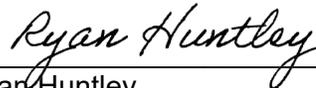
Pieter Leenhouts  
Chair  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority



Eric Sandford  
Chair  
Lower Trent Conservation Authority



Jeff Atkinson  
Chair  
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority



Ryan Huntley  
Chair  
Otonabee Region Conservation Authority



Paul McAuley  
Chair  
Cataragui Region Conservation Authority



Mark Lovshin  
Chair  
Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority

This letter has also been endorsed by the following municipal partners:



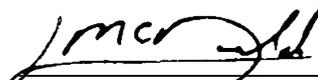
Mayor Glen Grant  
City of Cornwall



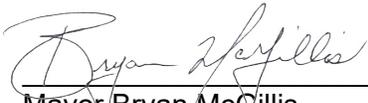
Mayor Francois Landry  
Township of North Stormont



Warden & Deputy Mayor Carma Williams  
Township of North Glengarry



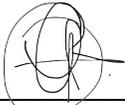
Mayor Lachlan McDonald  
Township of South Glengarry



Mayor Bryan McGillis  
Township of South Stormont



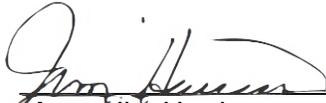
Mayor Tony Fraser  
Township of North Dundas



Mayor Genevieve Lajoie  
Municipality of Casselman



Mayor Nancy Peckford  
Municipality of North Grenville



Mayor Jim Harrison  
City of Quinte West



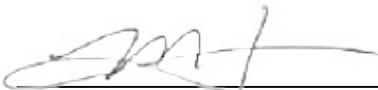
Mayor Tory Deschamps  
Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal



Mayor Brian Ostrander  
Municipality of Brighton



Mayor Normand Riopel  
Township of Champlain



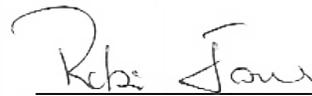
Mayor Marg Isbester  
Town of Greater Napanee



Mayor Pierre Leroux  
Township of Russell



Mayor Mario Zanth  
City of Clarence-Rockland



Mayor Robin Jones  
Village of Westport



Deputy Mayor George Darouze  
City of Ottawa



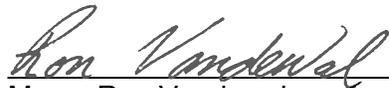
Mayor Bob Mullin  
Township of Stirling-Rawdon



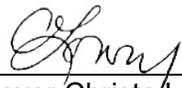
Mayor Michael Cameron  
Village of Merrickville-Wolford



Reeve Rob Rainer  
Tay Valley Township



Mayor Ron Vandewal  
Township of South Frontenac



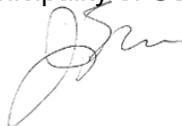
Mayor Christa Lowry  
Municipality of Mississippi Mills



Reeve Peter McLaren  
Township of Lanark Highlands



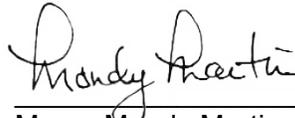
Mayor Tom Deline  
Municipality of Centre Hastings



Mayor Judy Brown  
Town of Perth



CAO Darlene Noonan  
Township of Athens



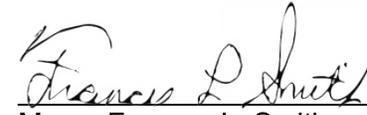
Mayor Mandy Martin  
Township of Cramahe



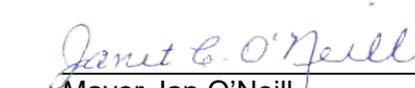
Reeve Steve Fournier  
Township of Drummond/North Elmsley



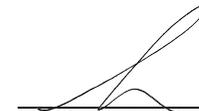
Mayor Arie Hoogenboom  
Township of Rideau Lakes



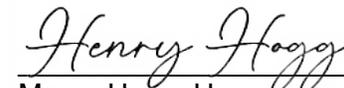
Mayor Frances L. Smith  
Township of Central Frontenac



Mayor Jan O'Neill  
Municipality of Marmora and Lake



Mayor Shawn Pankow  
Town of Smiths Falls



Mayor Henry Hogg  
Township of Addington Highlands



Mayor Roger Haley  
Township of Front of Yonge



Mayor James Hegadorn  
Loyalist Township



## **Conserving Ontario's Natural Heritage & Updates to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System**

ERO Posting 019-6161  
ERO Posting 019-6160

Wetlands play a critical role in mitigating floods. Further wetland loss may result in serious flooding, putting the safety of communities at risk. Wetlands are a cost-effective strategy for protecting downstream properties. The government must be prudent when considering changes like offsetting, which could negatively affect the ability of wetlands to reduce flooding and confuse roles in wetland management and protection between municipalities and conservation authorities. (Source: Conservation Halton).

A wetland hydrology report completed by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in 2009 used numerical modeling to quantify the potential cumulative effect of the loss of wetlands on peak flood discharges and minimum dry weather flows at selected locations within the Rideau watershed. The study quantified that at present, all wetlands within the Rideau watershed (provincially significant wetlands, locally significant wetlands and unevaluated wetlands) probably reduce the 1:100 year flood by roughly 10%. The study also found that the 1:100 year flood flow will increase by about 4% at the local scale if all non-provincially significant wetlands are removed.

**ERO Posting 019-6161**  
**Discussion Paper: *Conserving Ontario's Natural Heritage***

### **Planning Considerations:**

- Currently under the existing planning context, development and site alteration are “prohibited” in Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs) which has been a simple and effective process. If an applicant submits a proposal for development within a PSW the response is no development in the wetland.
- Offsetting considerations must be considered early in the planning process (e.g. before new lands are zoned for development or brought into the official plan as future development lands) and not only when the physical activity is proposed to occur. Under the current proposed discussion paper, it may be possible for lands to be rezoned without any offsetting discussions/considerations until after they are rezoned.
- Although the mitigation hierarchy is referenced within the “Conserving Ontario’s Natural Heritage” discussion paper there should be more emphasize on the “Protection First” approach as wetland offsetting is a costly and uncertain path.

- Stormwater management facilities are not equipped to mitigate losses of wetland ecosystems. Stormwater ponds that are often created to serve development are often sized much smaller than associated wetland areas. In addition, they are regularly maintained through dredging activities to clean out the pond to ensure performance standards. Cleanouts result in removal of wetland vegetation and habitat functions.
- It is unclear in the discussion paper who will be responsible for ensuring compliance with offsetting projects.
- Catchment areas that don't meet the minimum 6% wetland cover prescribed by ECCC in their *How Much Habitat is Enough* document, should not incur any further wetland losses due to future development.

### **Offsetting Considerations:**

The discussion paper states: "In practice, this means taking steps to avoid or mitigate the impact on natural heritage – and where that's not possible, offset for the loss of natural heritage to restore or create new natural heritage features."

There must be clear rules and guidance regarding when offsetting is permitted. If there isn't clear guidance, offsetting will become a default which will result in loss of existing wetlands.

- The guiding principle must be a "Protection First Approach" when it comes to wetlands.
- Offsetting should only be considered once the mitigation hierarchy has been adequately applied first – avoid, minimize, mitigate.
- An offsetting plan would apply only after the decision to offset has been made by approval authorities.
- The location of offsetting should follow a hierarchy
  1. take place on-site within the catchment
  2. off-site within the catchment area where the loss occurs
  3. off-site within the subwatershed
  4. off-site within the watershed
- Offsetting should be informed by the current knowledge of the existing wetland ecosystem through detailed baseline studies.
- Compensation outcomes should strive to fully replace the same level of lost *ecosystem structure* and *function* in proximity to where the loss occurs and achieve an overall gain.
- Compensation should be directed to on-the-ground ecosystem restoration and be informed by strategic watershed and restoration planning.
- It should be carried out in a transparent and timely manner (recommend prior to the impact or loss of wetland).
- It should be based on an adaptive management approach incorporating long-term monitoring and evaluation (Year 1, 3, 5 and 10 as a minimum).
- Offsetting projects must include a minimum of 10% of the overall project budget for contingency planning if future remediation or maintenance is required.

### **Offsetting Fund - Cash in Lieu:**

The discussion paper states: “In some cases, the baseline assessment and offset ratios would also be used to determine a compensation amount that would be paid to a fund that could be used to implement an offset, including construction, monitoring and adaptive management. Ideally, offsets should be located in the same watershed; however, offsets outside the watershed could be considered where there is opportunity for greater conservation outcomes.”

- Cash in lieu is a concern as this will likely result in local losses to catchments that may already be significantly compromised with historical wetland loss. For example, there are catchment areas within the Rideau watershed that have less than the minimum 6% recommended wetland cover from the *How Much Habitat Is Enough*, document prepared by ECCC. The Barrhaven Jock River catchment for example, has less than 1% wetland cover meaning any further wetland loss would be extremely harmful to the catchment.
- Finding lands that are in public ownership that can be protected over the long term may be difficult to find for large scale offsetting projects.
- There are examples where funds are created, and projects are not implemented in a timely manner.

The discussion paper also states: “A fund could also invest in areas of the province where natural heritage loss has been the greatest.”

- This would likely divert funds to other parts of the province, which will over time lead to areas that were once considered healthy from a watershed perspective to unhealthy due to future wetland losses. This will result in loss of flood storage, increased erosion on the receiving watercourses, habitat destruction, water quality impacts, loss of species at risk habitat, reductions in biodiversity, etc.

### **Offsetting Ratios:**

As noted above there is a brief reference to ratios for offsetting within the discussion paper.

- Minimum ratios of 3:1 with higher ratios becoming industry standard for wetland offsetting.
- As the science evolves, ratios must be adjusted to ensure that wetland offsetting is in fact achieving the overarching goal of a net environmental gain.
- There are a number of risks and uncertainties associated with attempting to replace wetland ecosystems. The re-establishment of similar ecosystem functions and associated services is far from certain and can take a significant amount of time. A set of standards and a guidance document will be required to ensure that an offsetting policy is effective. This must be informed through a review of the latest science and experts in this field should be consulted.
- Costs to create or restore a wetland should not be underestimated as they can be costly and complex undertakings. As an example, costs are an average of

\$1500 / m<sup>2</sup> for newly restored wetland habitat. This includes design, construction, monitoring and potential remediation if required.

- There may be additional costs associated with potentially purchasing lands to house the offsetting project.

### Implementation Considerations

- The discussion paper is unclear as to who will be responsible for developing, implementing and overseeing offsetting programs under a provincial framework. Will a provincial ministry like MNR have a role or will this responsibility be downloaded to municipalities by requiring them to have an “offsetting” provision in their Official Plans.
- There is also a concern that property owners will remove natural heritage features on their property prior to submitting a planning application if offsetting is required. Many municipalities do not have site alteration by-laws to address the removal of such features which can act as a deterrent in some instances.
- It is recognized that most municipalities struggle protecting natural heritage features subject to Planning Act applications; even those attempting to achieve that through their Official Plan policies have a very hard time addressing this. Any provincial guidance to help municipalities with this very important issue would be most welcome as a starting point to providing the tools (including prescriptive manuals) that municipalities desperately need to address the ongoing loss of their natural heritage features.

In conclusion, the Province should proceed cautiously in deciding whether offsetting of natural heritage features should be permitted. If it does, it will be essential to craft an effective offsetting strategy or policy otherwise compensation could actually facilitate the removal of natural heritage features. It is also essential that any policy have limits that ensure features like provincially significant wetlands and older growth trees are not lost as they cannot be replaced or replicated through offsetting. A clear, rigorous, science-based policy will be required to avoid the common failures of offsetting policies as summarized below by Ontario Nature:

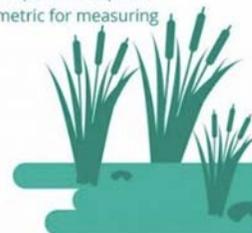


## Where Wetland Offsets Fall Short

**Wetland offsetting policy and practice are plagued by the following weaknesses:**

- ⚠ Failure to treat offsets as a last resort and avoid harm first
- ⚠ Failure to consult with affected Indigenous communities
- ⚠ Lack of performance standards
- ⚠ Low levels of compliance monitoring
- ⚠ Lack of oversight and enforcement by governing agencies

- ⚠ Poor design:
  - Lack of science to determine baseline conditions
  - Failure to consider multiple values and benefits
  - Failure to consider landscape-level impacts
  - Lack of an appropriate metric for measuring losses and gains
- ⚠ Careless implementation
- ⚠ Poor record keeping



**ERO Posting 019-6160**  
***Proposed Updates to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System Manual***

It is concerning that under the proposed changes, the MNRF would no longer be responsible for administering the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System. Historically MNRF actively mapped and evaluated wetlands, providing a consistent essential data layer to provincial ministries, municipalities, conservation authorities and other agencies to use for many purposes including land use planning and development review.

- If MNRF is not overseeing wetland mapping and evaluations, it is unclear who will be responsible for evaluating wetlands, storing wetland evaluation data, maintaining wetland mapping, reviewing new wetland evaluations or re-evaluations, and ensuring that wetland evaluations are following the OWES. The posting suggests this responsibility may be downloaded to municipalities which will put significant risk and responsibility on them as they traditionally do not have this knowledge or expertise. How will the OWES be administered consistently if municipalities are responsible for reviewing the work of wetland evaluators and how are differences in opinion between evaluators and municipalities to be resolved? The removal of MNRF as administrator of the OWES will create a huge gap in oversight and accountability that is not addressed in the proposed changes.

### **Changes to Wetland Evaluations**

- The inability to complex wetlands when evaluating them would affect many wetlands (units) on the landscape that are ecologically and hydrologically important but would not score as provincially significant on their own. Furthermore, the proposed ability to reevaluate existing wetland complexes and remove individual wetland units from the complex would result in many wetlands losing their “provincially significant” designation. The complexing of wetlands is a recognized scientific practice as wetland complexes are commonly related in a functional way, that is, as a group they tend to have similar or complementary biological, social and/or hydrological functions. The posting does not provide a scientific rationale or explanation for why complexing will no longer be permitted or the intent of this change.
- The proposed removal of scoring for endangered and threatened species and their habitats when evaluating wetlands is also concerning. Knowing that many wetlands provide habitat, feeding, hibernation, staging and movement corridors for such species it is unclear what the scientific rationale is for this proposed change. Scoring wetlands without consideration for the habitat they provide to vulnerable species will have a negative effect on the scoring of those wetlands as they would not otherwise score as provincially significant on their own.

- The removal of wetland complexing and the narrowing of wetland scoring could also have financial impacts on many private property owners who rely on PSW designations on their land to provide much needed property tax relief through the CLTIP program. The result would be property owners having to pay full municipal taxes on land that should not be developable leading to increased pressure on natural features that are critical infrastructure and need to be protected for the common good.
- The updated OWES manual also proposes the removal of the following clauses which indicate how wetland evaluations are used by conservation authorities which are both important aspects of protecting wetlands and watershed health:
  - *By conservation authorities as an aid in implementing regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act. Conservation authorities for purposes of public safety, natural hazard prevention and management, regulate wetlands for flood attenuation, natural storage capacities and for preventing shoreline erosion. Conservation authorities also regulate areas around wetlands that may interfere with the hydrologic function of the adjacent wetland including in general areas within 120 metres of all PSWs and areas within 30 metres of all other wetlands. Many conservation authorities evaluate wetlands; MNR retains authority to identify PSWs.*
  - *By conservation authorities who at the request of their municipalities or as approved by their boards may be developing a broad watershed plan or study to provide technical advice to municipalities for plan input or to direct management on conservation authority owned land.*

Despite wetland protections being strengthened in recent decades through the Provincial Policy Statement, conservation authority regulations and other tools, wetland loss is still occurring across Ontario. The proposed changes in Bill 23 and associated postings like the discussion paper on natural heritage offsetting and updates to the OWES manual, will further weaken protection measures and lead to greater wetland loss. With wetlands playing a critical role in carbon sequestration, flood and drought mitigation, water quality improvement, critical habitat and climate change resiliency, it is the opposite of the direction Ontario should be going in regarding the protection of wetlands. It would take billions of dollars to try and replace the function of these features through built infrastructure like stormwater management ponds and water treatment plants and would use up land that could be used for housing.



## Bill 23, Schedule 2 & Proposed Updates to the Regulation of Development for the Protection of People and Property from Natural Hazards in Ontario

ERO Posting 019-2927  
 ERO Posting 019-6141

Restricting the advice and services conservation authorities can provide to their member municipalities and limiting the scope of CA permits will hinder development efforts and will be felt most in rural municipalities. The unintended consequences of these proposed changes include:

- Downloaded responsibilities to municipalities that they are not resourced or experienced to undertake.
- Increased risk and liability for municipalities as a result of downloaded responsibilities and the limiting of CA input and permitting
- Increased time and costs for applicants and developers if municipalities have to contract services normally provided by CAs to third parties
- Increased cost to taxpayers if CA fees are frozen
- Increased risk of flooding, erosion and unstable soils as a result of inadequate oversight by CAs due to the limiting of CA permits

It is also important to note that the Province’s “Housing Affordability Task Force Report” introduced 55 recommendations to increase the housing supply in Ontario and CAs were not named within the report.

Section	CA Comments
<b>Limit CA Comments on Planning Applications to Natural Hazards &amp; Prohibit CAs from Commenting under Certain Acts</b>	<p>For decades, conservation authorities have reviewed planning applications and provided comments to municipalities regarding natural hazards. When reviewing these applications, many municipalities also ask conservation authorities to provide comments on natural resource issues such as natural heritage, hydrogeology and stormwater management. Municipalities value this efficiency and service as it allows them to make use of specialized expertise within conservation authorities to fulfill their responsibilities under the Planning Act, without having to employ their own technical experts like biologists, water resource engineers, hydrogeologists and ecologists. It also ensures development is looked at comprehensively across the watershed to ensure no upstream or downstream impacts on communities in other municipalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Most municipalities in Eastern Ontario do not have the expertise to review planning files for natural hazard or natural resource issues and many have</li> </ul>

	<p>indicated that they do not have the capacity to take on additional responsibilities. If conservation authorities are not able to provide this service, municipalities will have to contract it out to the private sector and anticipate higher costs, and possible delays, that will be passed on to developers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The conservation authority model is an efficient cost-effective service for partner municipalities, providing comments within specified timelines and not delaying development.</li> <li>○ Increased application costs would have the most impact on small scale intensification which is a core facet of Bill 23.</li> <li>○ Forcing reliance on privatized consulting services would also put a burden on the development industry limiting the number of consultants available to support new development projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exempting Development Authorized under the <i>Planning Act</i> from Requiring a CA Permit in Specified Municipalities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The potential for a project being exempt from a <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> permit if a <i>Planning Act</i> approval is granted is of great concern. Often, the details required for a <i>Planning Act</i> application are different and sometimes less detailed than what would be required for a <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> permit. In many situations, the <i>Planning Act</i> approval is allowed to move forward (approved) while the details for the permit are sorted out during or after the approval under the <i>Planning Act</i>. This allows certain aspects of the development to proceed ahead of the permit approval process, as the permit is not always required for all aspects of a proposal. For example, the details on a stormwater outlet to watercourse are not always required prior to the beginning of construction on a building. This allows for a much more efficient process from a timeline perspective. If a <i>Planning Act</i> approval would exempt a project from a <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> permit, then there is the risk that the <i>Planning Act</i> application timeline is increased as a result of the necessary details that would be required to ensure all aspects that are normally dealt with through the permitting process are addressed through the <i>Planning Act</i>. This could lead to a further delay in getting shovels in the ground on certain projects.</li> <li>○ There is also a concern that many municipalities will not have the expertise and resources to properly ensure the technical details specific to natural hazards are properly addressed during the buildout stage of a project. This could lead to increased liability, damages, and loss of life if aspects regarding natural hazards are not properly managed.</li> <li>○ The type of <i>Planning Act</i> application will also play an extremely important role if any exemptions are granted through an approval under the <i>Planning Act</i>. For example, many of the necessary details to address site specific technical details regarding natural hazards is not available at some higher-level applications such as Secondary Plans, Official Plan Amendments, and Zoning By-law Amendments.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Removal of Pollution” and “Conservation of Land” Tests for CA Permits</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The proposed removal of the “pollution” and “conservation of land” tests from the issuance of Section 28 permits is concerning as these tests are fundamental to the protection of regulated areas and mitigate impacts of natural hazards to life and property.</li> <li>○ In lieu of removing the “conservation of land” test, a definition of this term should be provided in regulation. Conservation Ontario has established a definition for conservation of land that is used by CAs that relates to protection, management, and restoration of lands to maintain and enhance hydrologic and ecological functions.</li> <li>○ It is also essential that the “pollution” test is maintained for CA permits because it is an important first line of defence in pollution prevention during development. Pollution is defined in the Conservation Authorities Act as any deleterious substance or other contaminant that has potential to be generated by development activity. This provision helps to prevent unwanted substances entering into waterbodies and wetlands. Removing this test may have serious environmental implications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exempting “Low-Risk” Activities From Requiring a CA Permit</b></p>	<p>Streamlining approvals for low-risk activities, which may include exempting the need for a permit if certain requirements or conditions are met (i.e., requiring that an activity be registered with an authority).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The second item noted for possible exemption is an unenclosed detached deck or patio 10 square metres or less that is not placed adjacent or close to the shoreline of a lake or within hazardous land and does not utilize any method of cantilevering. It is not clear what is contemplated by “adjacent or close to the shoreline.” This is too subjective and a specific distance from the shoreline should be specified for consistency.</li> <li>○ The seventh listed exemption is very confusing. Based on the wording it would appear the only areas this would be exempt would be within the floodplain? Consistency is required for the manner in which CAs apply the regulation to tile drainage installation and maintenance. RVCA generally does not require permits for the installation of tile drainage or maintenance of such in flood risk areas. Tile drainage in the wetland proper is prohibited because it is “interference” with the wetland. We currently exempt tile drainage installation and maintenance in the adjacent lands (other lands) because those works do not constitute “development” within the context of the Act. We provide best practice advice to ensure that the drainage area and hydroperiod of the wetland is not altered. This proposal will result in regulating tile drainage in the adjacent lands which is not consistent with current practice. If the desire is to have a streamlined approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exempt tile drainage and maintenance in the floodplain provided there is no change to existing grade</li> <li>○ Exempt tile drainage and maintenance in the adjacent lands (other lands) and rely on best practice to ensure drainage area and hydroperiod are not altered</li> <li>○ Require that these activities be registered with the CA as a way to screen if a permit is required (i.e., they do not meet the criteria for exemption).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Based on the wording, the eighth exemption related to offline ponds for watering livestock would seem to exempt it from a permit in hazardous lands including near or adjacent unstable slopes (unstable soils). This is a serious concern as there are sensitive marine clay soils in Eastern Ontario. Within Eastern Ontario, slopes with sensitive marine clays have been historically attributed to large scale landslides including earth spreads and earth flows. These slides often occur 100 metres or greater from the headscarp of the slope and can include very significant areas of land. The RVCA has engaged a third party engineering firm with specialized expertise in large landslides over the course of the past few years to assist in understanding this natural hazard. As part of their work, pools and ponds near slopes have been identified as a factor which can increase the probability of a large scale landslide. Therefore, offline ponds should not be exempt from a permit within hazardous lands associated with unstable soils.
- The exemption for the maintenance and repair of a driveway/access that is outside of a wetland or maintenance or repair of an existing public road... may become difficult for a landowner to assess on their own. It has been our experience that many “private driveway maintenance projects” which did not go through a permitting process have experienced some sort of elevation change which at times has cause local drainage issues or flooding. Also, a better understanding of “maintenance” is required as it is a very subjective term. In the absence of CAs regulating this activity in a flood risk area, municipalities would have to consider 1:100 year flood elevations and potential impacts of alterations on the local drainage system. They would not be able to rely on the CA as they do now.
- The last exemption is for the maintenance and repair activities for existing municipal drains, including pipes, junction boxes or catch basins, in accordance with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act (DART) Protocol. The DART Protocol already prescribes what activities could be allowed through the completion of an SCR which would serve as the written permission under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. This exemption seems to formalize the recommendations in the protocol. One consequence of this is that often the Conservation Authority provides mitigation advice on projects in order to minimize the impact to the aquatic and ecological functions of a municipal drain. In the RVCA watershed, some of our largest and more productive creek systems also function as municipal drains. If projects subject to a SCR are exempt from a CA permit, then there is risk that proper mitigation measures are not identified or implemented.
- It is recommended that any SCR be registered with the Conservation Authority in order to distinguish between projects which have been approved through the SCR and those which have proceeded with no appropriate approval under any act. The Conservation Authority is usually the first contact when the public observes any work on drains, therefore

	<p>having a record of what falls under the SCR will save a lot of staff time and resources investigating reports from the public.</p>
<p><b>Redefining Areas where Activities are Prohibited</b></p>	<p>Watercourse Definition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The updated definition of a “watercourse” will leave many headwater drainage features (HDF) unprotected and subject to indiscriminate filling and removal from the landscape. HDF’s provide a multitude of ecological and hydrological functions such as recharge, discharge, infiltration, and the provision of food, water, sediments, nutrients, organic matter, and energy to downstream reaches. The importance of maintaining HDFs on the landscape is accentuated by the fact that the largest portion of a stream or river’s flow may be generated by the collective contributions of HDFs. The inability to regulate most HDFs will result in loss of natural features and functions and flood control. HDFs store and convey water during high runoff events and their loss will contribute to reduced ecological diversity and increased downstream flows and water levels. They are a component of natural resiliency to climate change. The HDF guideline was developed to bring consistency to the assessment of these features and the related decision-making process. In our experience, the guideline has been a very useful tool and has been well received. This is an example of where CAs took a proactive approach to a challenging issue and developed a consistent and science-based process to inform and expedite decision making.</li> </ul> <p>Updating the “other areas” in which the prohibitions on development apply to within 30 metres of all wetlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 30 metres offers very little protection to wetlands. Often, the impacts of development on a wetland from a hydrologic perspective can occur beyond 30 metres. Failure to account for large scale development impacts beyond 30 metres could result in degradation or dewatering of wetlands. Much like the 120 m adjacent lands, the 30 metres is arbitrary and does not reflect a scientific approach to the protection of wetlands. The hydrologic function of a wetland can be impacted by any activity within its catchment area which, in most landscapes, would not be captured by a 30 m buffer. At least the 120 m had a greater chance of limiting impact to hydrologic function. If indeed the adjacent lands are reduced to 30 m, the legislation should reflect a prohibition of development within that 30 m, such that there is no further reduction possible by virtue of submitting an EIS. This would be a consistent approach, the expectations are well defined and no need to submit a study.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Permit Application Requirements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ h) The wording in this minimum requirement places an emphasis on identifying the required information and technical studies prior to the confirmation of a complete application. While the intention of this requirement is understood, clarification may be required. One interpretation is that we would not be able to ask for additional “studies” if we have already identified what we need at pre-consultation and before the application is deemed complete. This puts the onus on the CA, and appropriately so, to be careful and thorough when we identify the required studies. We do not interpret this to mean that we cannot ask for additional information related to the studies we have requested. For example, if we</li> </ul>

	<p>had a slope stability analysis that was missing some critical cross-sections, we would be able to ask for that because it was a reasonable expectation that it would have been included in support the study conclusions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If the intent is that the Conservation Authority cannot ask for any additional information once the application has been deemed complete, the Conservation Authority will have to complete to a full review of an application prior to deeming an application complete. This may not be feasible within a 30 day timeframe, particularly where technical reviews are required.</li> </ul>
<b>Limits on Permit Conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is not clear if conditions related to sediment and erosion control would be captured by the scope of conditions permitted by regulation. One interpretation is that we can include conditions that relate to erosion and sediment control since it states that conditions can be used to mitigate erosion.</li> </ul>
<b>Mapping of Regulated Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ While the intention is understood, it is not clear whether this would include having all watercourses mapped as well.</li> <li>○ It is also not clear in which cases regulated areas will still need to be confirmed based on the technical description as set out in the regulation. Clarification is required.</li> </ul>
<b>Minister's Ability to Freeze CA Fees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Legislative amendments made earlier this year will require conservation authorities to demonstrate through their budgeting process that self-generated revenue such as fees for service are considered where possible to reduce pressure on the municipal levy. This includes plan review and permitting fees that are collected to offset program costs, but not exceed them. If the Minister freezes CA fees at current levels for any length of time, this will place more burden on the levy.</li> <li>○ Conservation authorities usually increase fee schedules annually to try and keep pace with inflation. If fees are frozen, increasing program costs will need to be covered through the municipal levy meaning the taxpayer, not developers, will absorb increased costs for development services.</li> <li>○ Freezing fees will only cause CA cost-recovery efforts to lag behind even further, reducing the CAs ability to respond to fluctuating market demands and staff's ability to accommodate development review demands, both impacting approval timelines. It seems unlikely that CA fees are contributing significantly to development costs as CAs are commonly approached by developers to provide expedited service for higher fees as developers indicate that timelines are their greater priority.</li> </ul>
<b>Identifying CA Lands for Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The province's requirement for CAs to identify CA-owned or controlled lands that could support housing development is deeply concerning. Nearly all of the land owned by the RVCA contains significant natural heritage features or is hazardous lands and would not be appropriate for development. This holds true for most other CAs across the Province.</li> <li>○ Lands held by CAs or any other land trust for the purpose of protecting natural features and their functions in perpetuity or holding lands vulnerable to natural hazards should not be considered for development.</li> </ul>