



Maitland Valley CONSERVATION AUTHORITY Work Plan Summary 2015 - 2017

Why has the MVCA developed a three-year Work Plan?

- To focus limited resources on doing a few important things well.
- To help member municipalities and landowners identify appropriate measures to deal with the increasing potential for flooding, erosion, and drought due to a rapidly changing climate.
- To help identify needed improvements and maintenance on infrastructure, equipment, and services.

Priorities over the next three years:

- 1) To strengthen the capacity of Flood and Erosion Safety Services: This will help municipalities reduce the potential for damage to development and land in areas prone to flood and erosion.
- 2) To strengthen Watershed Stewardship Services: This will help member municipalities and landowners to develop rural stormwater management systems and soil and water conservation systems. This will also help to protect municipal outlet drainage systems and soil and water resources.
- 3) To stabilize the MVCA's financial base to:
 - a) ensure Flood and Erosion Safety Services and Watershed Stewardship Services have adequate resources; and
 - b) sustain the equipment and infrastructure required to provide core services.

Flood and Erosion Safety Services

Services we must provide:

- 1) Information for municipalities on areas that are at risk of damage, loss of life, and social disruption due to flooding. This includes:
 - a) flood forecasting system,
 - b) flood progression mapping,
 - c) flood emergency planning support services, and
 - d) technical expertise to review development proposals in flood prone areas.

Why? Several thousand people live and work in flood-prone areas across the watershed. This represents \$176 million worth of tax assessment.

- 2) Information for municipalities on areas at risk from bluff and gully erosion along the Lake Huron shoreline. This includes:
 - a) erosion risk monitoring system,
 - b) erosion risk mapping, and
 - c) technical support for reviewing development proposals in hazard areas.

Why? Development and land worth \$366 million are at risk from shoreline bluff erosion and 2,000 acres of land worth \$90 million is at risk from gully erosion.



Watershed Stewardship Services

Services we must provide:

- 1) To assist municipalities and rural landowners develop appropriate rural stormwater management systems and soil and water conservation systems. This will help prevent damage to municipal drainage infrastructure and the loss of soil and nutrients from agricultural land.
- 2) Technical expertise, outreach, and education related to rural stormwater management including reforestation and soil health.
- 3) Outreach and education to assist with the development, design, and funding for installing rural stormwater management systems (grassed waterways, berms, wetlands) windbreaks, buffer strips, and the reforestation of marginal farm land.

Why? The watershed contains 470,000 acres of prime agricultural land that is worth \$4.7 billion! Municipalities, landowners, and the Province of Ontario have invested millions of dollars to build and maintain municipal outlet drains. In addition, there are over 50,000 acres of marginal farmland in production across the watershed.

Priority Projects:

- Garvey Glen Watershed Restoration Project
- Scott Municipal Drain Watershed Restoration Project
- Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration Project
- North Maitland Watershed Restoration Project

Conservation Areas

Service we should provide:

- 1) Management of MVCA properties should showcase good examples of the conservation of soil, forests, and floodplains.

Why? The MVCA owns 28 Conservation Areas representing over 4,600 acres of land. These properties include floodplains, wetlands, upland forests, and river valley lands.

Priorities:

- To reduce maintenance costs through naturalization and slow growing turf mixtures at the MVCA Administration Centre and Gorrie Conservation Area;
- To lease out Falls Reserve Conservation Area to reduce infrastructure replacement and maintenance costs;
- To reforest marginal agricultural lands located adjacent to forested lands;
- To modify board systems in dams to reduce operating requirements;
- To develop a plan for existing infrastructure that requires major repairs or is surplus to our needs. This includes the Maitland Mill in Gorrie, Logan Mill in Brussels, and Wawanosh Nature Centre; and
- To expand the MVCA carbon compensation tree planting program for the public and the Conservation Authority.

Corporate Services

Service we must provide:

- 1) Governance and leadership of the MVCA - MVCA Directors are the link between the Authority and member municipalities.

Priorities:

- Develop a stable funding base for the MVCA to assist member municipalities and landowners in developing a more resilient and prosperous watershed.
- Limit levy increases over the next two years to between \$55,000 and \$58,000. 2016 forecast: an additional \$73,150 for operating is required and an additional \$15,000 to allocate towards projected infrastructure and equipment needs (total of \$88,150). The shortfall of \$33,150 (\$88,150 - \$55,000) will have to come from savings and/or outside funding.
- Reduce tangible capital assets from \$3.8 million to less than \$2.4 million.
- Ensure that services are restructured to achieve the outcomes identified in the 2015-2017 Work Plan.
- Develop stronger partnerships with counties and municipalities that have the greatest potential for flood and erosion damage and/or have lands with greatest rural stormwater management and soil and water conservation needs.



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