

Annual Meeting of the Membership #3-2023

Wroxeter Community Hall, Wroxeter, Ontario

February 15, 2023

- Members Present:** Matt Duncan, Alison Lobb, Ed McGugan, Kevin Freiburger, Anita van Hittersum, Alvin McLellan, Myles Murdock, Evan Hickey, Sharen Zinn, Andrew Fournier
- Members Absent:** Dave Turton, Megan Gibson, Ed Podniewicz
- Staff Present:** Phil Beard, Jayne Thompson, Stewart Lockie, Cheryl Dobbyn, Dave Nuhn, Jason Moir, Barry Skinn, Anna Soleski, Erica Magee, Sarah Gunnewiek, Erin Gouthro, Patrick Huber-Kidby, Karlene Zurbrigg
- Others in Attendance:** Kriss Snell – Chair, MCF; Larry Allison – Huron-Kinloss, John Thompson & Liz Petrie – Town of Goderich, Jennifer Stephens – SVCA, Roger Watt, Cheryl Matheson, , Deb Shewfelt, Jim Campbell, Vince Judge, , Glen McNeil, Warden – Huron County, Dave Burns, Robert McEachern, Dianne Dosman, Shirley Moore, Marg Beard, Jodi Snell, David Yates, Cory Bilyea, Matthew Rae, Evan Carey, Richard Keeso

1. Welcome and Remarks by the Chair, Matt Duncan

Chair Duncan called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and welcomed everyone to MVCA's 72nd Annual Meeting.

He reviewed the meeting objectives which were as follows:

- Presentation of Staff Service Awards
- Presentation to Retiring Members
- Election of Officers
- Presentation: Forest Health in the Watershed

2. Introduction of the Members of Maitland Conservation for 2023

Chair Duncan invited all the Members of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority introduce themselves and the Municipalities that they represent.

3. Introduction of guests: Matt Duncan introduced the following guests:

He introduced Glen McNeil-Warden of the County of Huron; Jim Ginn, Mayor of Central Huron; Mathew Ray, MPP and Jennifer Stephens, GM SVCA.

4. Chairs Remarks:

I have had the honour of serving as MVCA's Chair for the past year. It has been a privilege and an honour to work with the members over that time. We have accomplished a lot and we have developed a strong plan for the future. Some of the highlights include:

- Developing a services and programs agreement with 14 out of 15 member municipalities; On behalf of the Members, I would like to thank our member municipalities for their support. The approval of this agreement allows MVCA to plan our work for the next four years.
- The completion of phase 2 of the restoration of the Gorrie Conservation area for watershed residents to enjoy. I would especially like to thank the Township of Howick for developing the trail along the north side of the conservation area.
- The completion of the Scott Municipal Drain Watershed Restoration project. This project started in 2005 and was completed in 2022. The municipal drain has now been restored as a brook trout stream and with the support of North Huron and Bruce Power these works have been incorporated into the municipal drain report.
- OMAFRA and MECP's continuing leadership and support for the Healthy Lake Huron collaborative. It is a model for how Federal, Provincial can work with conservation authorities, counties, and other community groups to improve the health and resiliency of the rivers and streams that flow into Lake Huron. This work also helps to improve the water quality along the nearshore of Lake Huron, so that we will have fewer beach closures due to poor water quality.

I would like to especially thank our MPP's Lisa Thompson and Matthew Rae for their willingness to meet and to help champion the work of rural conservation authorities. Your support and assistance is appreciated, especially as we navigate our way through the changes to the conservation authorities act.

To our member municipalities, I would like to thank you for your continued support of MVCA over the past year. We appreciate your willingness to support our work and to work in partnership with us. We can accomplish a lot when we work together.

These are challenging times for both municipalities and conservation authorities. I would like to thank the Maitland Conservation Foundation and the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund Board for their continuing efforts to raise money to help MVCA to upgrade the infrastructure in our conservation areas and to use for restoring natural areas across the watershed.

I would also like to thank the staff for their dedication, commitment, and perseverance as we navigate the changes to the conservation act. Your professionalism and work ethic are appreciated by me and all the members.

5. Introduction of New Staff:

Matt Duncan introduced Anna Soleski, Environmental Planner-Regulations Officer and Karleen Zurbrigg, Environmental Planner-Regulations Officer to the members.

6. Presentation of Staff Service Awards: Ed McGugan, Vice Chair

Ed McGugan made a presentation to the following staff and thanked them for their years of service with the authority.

- a) Patrick Huber-Kidby, Planning & Regulations Supervisor: 5 years
- b) Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist: 10 years
- c) Cheryl Dobbyn, Clerk: 15 years
- d) Jayne Thompson, Communications-IT-GIS Coordinator: 30 years

7. Presentation to Retiring Members: Roger Watt, Kevin Freiburger, Cheryl Matheson, and Dave Turton

Chair Duncan made a presentation to Roger Watt, Kevin Freiburger, Cheryl Matheson and thanked them for their years of service with the MVCA Members. The Chair noted that Dave Turton was unable to attend the meeting and that a presentation would be made to him at a later date.

8. Election of Officers (Maitland Conservation and Maitland Source Protection Authority)

- a) Appointment of Presiding Officer and Scrutineers
- b) Election of Chair for 2023
- c) Election of Vice Chair for 2023
- d) Election of 2nd Vice Chair for 2023

Chair Duncan called for an appointment of a Presiding Officer for the election of Chair.

Motion FA #11-2023

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Myles Murdock

THAT Matthew Rae act as the Presiding Officer for the election of Chair, Vice and Second Vice for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and the Maitland Source Protection Authority (MSPA).
(carried)

a) Appointment of Scrutineers by Presiding Officer

Presiding Officer Rae declared all offices vacant and called for a motion to appoint two Scrutineers.

Motion FA #12-2023

Moved by: Anita van Hittersum

Seconded by: Alison Lobb

THAT Deb Shewfelt and Jim Campbell be appointed as Scrutineers for the election of officers; AND THAT the Scrutineers be responsible for destroying ballots after the election if needed.
(carried)

b) Election of Chair for 2022

Presiding Officer Rae called for nominations for the position of Chair for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and the Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2023.

Motion FA #13-2023

Moved by: Ed McGugan

THAT Matt Duncan be nominated for Chair of the MVCA and the MSPA for 2023.

Presiding Officer Rae called for nominations for the Chair position two more times. There were no further nominations and the Presiding Officer called for a motion to close nominations.

Motion FA #14-2023

Moved by: Andrew Fournier

Seconded by: Myles Murdock

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2022 be closed.
(carried)

Matt Duncan agreed to stand for the position of Chair in 2023.

Presiding Officer, Rae declared Matt Duncan as the Chair of the MVCA and MSPA for 2023.

c) Election of Vice-Chair for 2023

Chair, Duncan called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2023.

Motion FA #15-2023

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

THAT Ed McGugan be nominated for Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2023.

Presiding Officer, Duncan called for further nominations for Vice-Chair two more times and no others were made so then called for a motion to close nominations.

Motion FA #16-2023

Moved by: Alison Lobb

Seconded by: Evan Hickey

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2023 be closed.
(carried)

Ed McGugan accepted the Vice-Chair position.

Chair, Duncan declared Ed McGugan as Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2023.

d) Election of 2nd Second Vice-Chair for 2023

Chair, Duncan called for nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2023.

Motion FA #17-2023

Moved by: Alison Lobb

THAT Evan Hickey be nominated for 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2023.

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

Motion FA #18-2023

Moved by: Myles Murdock

Seconded by: Ed McGugan

THAT nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2023 be closed.
(carried)

Presiding Officer, Duncan declared Evan Hickey as 2nd Vice-Chair of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Maitland Source Protection Authority for 2022.

9. “We Are Inspired by Nature” Campaign Update: Kriss Snell, Chair, Maitland Conservation Foundation

Thank you for the invitation to address MVCA’s Members and guests this afternoon.

The Maitland Conservation Foundation (MCF) works in partnership with Maitland Valley Conservation Authority to raise funds to improve the health of forests, rivers across the watershed as well as to improve infrastructure located in MVCA’s 28 conservation areas. The Foundation is a registered, charitable organization that is led by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The MCF has been raising funds for significant local projects since its incorporation in 1975. Citizens and businesses can contribute to projects that protect and restore the health and resiliency of forests and rivers.

The MCF has developed the “We are Inspired by Nature” Campaign to raise funds in two areas:

1. Restoring natural areas in flood plains, river valleys and along rivers and streams; as well as to restore the health of forests throughout the watershed. This work is needed to help natural areas develop the resiliency it needs to cope with the impacts of an increasingly unstable climate.

2. Improving Accessibility to Nature by developing and improving infrastructure, such as boardwalks, bridges, and trails in MVCA’s conservation areas.

We have set a target of raising \$650,000 over the next five years through this campaign. Some of the major projects that we are raising money for include:

- a) The construction on a picnic shelter at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area
- b) The forest health assessment

The MCF raised a total of just over \$82,000 in 2022 that can be directed to supporting projects in 2023. We have set a target of raising another \$80,000 in 2023. I encourage all of you to support the “We are Inspired by Nature” campaign. Future generations will thank you for investing in nature! Remember: Where Nature Thrives – People thrive. Nature is vital to our health and well-being! I would be happy to meet with you and show you how your investment in this campaign helps to improve the health of rivers, forests and people. Information about our campaign is available at our display table located at the side of the hall. Thank you.

10. Presentation: Forest Health in the Watershed: Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist

Erin Gouthro made a very informative presentation on Forest Health in the watershed to all of the members and guests.

11. Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2023: Report #9-2023

Report #9-2023 was presented to the members and the following motion was made:

Motion FA #19-2023

Moved by: Sharen Zinn

Seconded by: Anita van Hittersum

THAT the meeting schedule for 2023 be approved as outlined in Report #9-2023
(carried)

12. Closing Remarks: Chair, MVCA

In closing I thank the members for their support over the last year and I look forward to working with the new members in 2023. Chair, Duncan then thanked everyone for attending the Maitland Valley Conservation annual meeting and asked everyone to stay for a social time after the meeting is adjourned.

13. Adjournment: Next meeting date: March 15, 2023, at 7:00 pm

The meeting adjourned at 3:34pm with the following motion:

Motion FA #20-2023

Moved by: Alvin McLellan

Seconded by: Ed McGugan

THAT the meeting be adjourned.
(carried)

Matt Duncan
Chair

Phil Beard
General Manager Secretary Treasurer