



August 14, 2018

Township of North Huron
Attn: Reeve Neil Vincent
Box 90
Wingham, ON
N0G 2W0

Dear Reeve Vincent and Members of Council:

Re: Draft Cost Sharing Proposal: Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure

We are writing to council at this time to obtain your input on the draft cost sharing proposal for water and erosion control infrastructure that MVCA owns or assists a member municipality in maintaining.

We have insufficient funding to maintain or repair all of the water and erosion control infrastructure that we are responsible for. Therefore the Board is faced with determining how to deal with this challenge in the years ahead.

MVCA's water and erosion control infrastructure consists of three recreational water control structures located in Gorrie (Gorrie Conservation Area-Township of Howick), Bluevale (Pioneer Conservation Area-Municipality of Morris-Turnberry) and Brussels (Brussels Conservation Area-Township of Huron East).

MVCA is also responsible for maintaining the Listowel Flood Control Structure and the Goderich Bluffs Stabilization project in partnership with the Municipality of North Perth and the Town of Goderich respectively.

All of these structures were constructed or repaired in the 1970's, 80's and early 90's when the Provincial Government had programs in place that provided grants of up to 85% to cover the costs of construction, repairs and maintenance.

These funding programs were eliminated in the mid 1990's and replaced with a \$5 million dollar Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure fund to provide 50% grants to conservation authorities to maintain, repair or decommission structures. Conservation Authorities in partnership with municipalities are responsible for over 900 dams, dykes, channels and erosion control structures with a replacement cost of \$2.7 billion dollars! It should be noted the new program is not designed to fund new or replacement structures.

All of these water and erosion control structures are aging and many are in in need of major repairs!

In 2018 conservation authorities submitted 126 projects to the WECI Fund that would require \$10 million of Provincial funding. Therefore not all of the projects could be funded. The number of projects will continue to increase without additional funding being added to this program.

MVCA's Board thinks that maintenance, repair, or decommissioning of water and erosion control infrastructure should be cost shared on a 50-50 basis with those municipalities where MVCA has water and erosion control structures.

At the present time MVCA has been cost sharing the maintenance, minor repairs and major repairs to flood and erosion control structures on a 50-50 basis with the Municipality of North Perth and the Town of Goderich, when work has been required. We have been fortunate to date of being able to obtain 50% funding from the Provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure fund to be able to help North Perth finance any major repair work to the flood control structure in Listowel.

MVCA has been utilizing accumulated surplus and the general levy funds to finance minor repairs and maintenance to recreational water and erosion control structures. Maintenance and repair work for recreational structures doesn't rank high enough to receive funding from the Provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Fund.

The primary purpose of the Provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Fund is to help conservation authorities and municipalities maintain flood and erosion control structures because these structures help to reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption.

MVCA's Board would appreciate council's feedback as to whether they think that the maintenance, repairs and/ or decommissioning costs of recreational water and erosion control infrastructure should be funded by all member municipalities through the general levy or if this work should be cost shared with the municipalities in which these structures are located? The Board thinks that this work should be cost shared on a 50-50 basis with the municipality in which the structure is located. While decommissioning is eligible for WECI program funding, it is very unlikely that work would rank high enough to be funded.

The Board is also seeking input as to whether your municipality thinks that MVCA should adopt the following policy. If a municipality is interested in having a recreational water and erosion control structure replaced, that MVCA transfer the ownership of the structure and associated lands to the municipality and allow them to pursue funding for this option.

Representatives from MVCA will be meeting with our local MPP's later this summer to ask them to support increasing the amount of funding for the Provincial Water and Erosion Control Program so that conservation authorities will have adequate funds to maintain, repair or replace necessary water and erosion control infrastructure.

In closing we recognize that all our member municipalities are facing similar challenges with respect to financing the maintenance, repairs and replacement of their own infrastructure.

We would appreciate receiving a response from your municipality by September 14, 2018 if possible.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Jim" is written with a large, looped 'J' and a small 'i'. The last name "Campbell" is written with a large 'C' and a series of connected loops for the remaining letters.

Jim Campbell
Chair

Existing Practice for Cost Sharing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure

	MVCA	Municipality where structure is located
Flood/Erosion Control Infrastructure Minor Repairs Preventative Maintenance	50%	50%
Major Repairs(including studies)	50% (subject to approval of WECEI funding)	50%
Recreational Water Control Structures Minor Repairs Preventative maintenance	100%	0%

Draft Cost Sharing Policy for Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure

	MVCA	Municipality where structure is located
Flood/Erosion Control Infrastructure Minor Repairs Preventative Maintenance	50%	50%
Major Repairs (including studies)	50% (subject to approval of funding from WECEI Program)	50%
Recreational Water Control Structures Minor Repairs Preventative Maintenance	50%	50%
Major Repairs(including studies)	50% (subject to approval of funding from WECEI Program)	50%
Decommissioning (including studies)	100% (subject to approval of WECEI funding-50% grant; 50% to be funded by general levy from all member municipalities	
Replacement/New Structure (including studies)		Local municipality be given option of taking over ownership of the structure and associated lands if interested.

Examples of Minor/Major repairs to Recreational Water Control Structures

Minor Repairs and Preventative maintenance: Safety signage replacement, touch up painting, small repairs to concrete surfaces, Lifting cable replacement, small equipment/tool replacement, etc.

Major Repairs: Decking Replacement, Stripping and repainting, Stop log replacement, Concrete repairs, Repairs to earth-filled embankments and downstream channels, stabilization of slopes, Dam safety studies, repairs to control structure, etc.