



January 5, 2022

Township of North Huron

Dear Reeve Bailey and Council:

Re: 2022 Priorities and Draft Budget

I am writing to you at this time to outline Maitland Valley Conservation Authority's (MVCA) priorities along with our draft budget for council's review and comment.

MVCA's priorities and budget continue to focus on the following priorities:

1. **Flood and Erosion Safety:** Helping our member municipalities to reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption in flood and erosion prone areas of the watershed.
2. **Watershed Stewardship:** Helping our member municipalities and landowners to develop soil and water conservation systems to keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses and Lake Huron
3. **Conservation Areas:** Ensuring that our conservation areas set a high standard for conservation practices and are safe for the public to use.
4. **To stabilize our operating and capital budget to deliver our core services and maintain our essential infrastructure and equipment.**

In 2021 we had an unprecedented increase in use of our 28 conservation areas by watershed residents and visitors to the area. People have rediscovered the importance of nature for both their physical and perhaps more importantly their mental health.

There has also been an increase in demand for our watershed stewardship services as landowners are increasingly aware of the importance of looking after the health of their soil and the value of restoring natural areas on their farms and rural properties.

Development is increasing across the watershed and it seems that everyone wants to locate as close as possible to rivers, streams and Lake Huron. This increase in development has also led to increased work loads.

In October the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks approved a regulation that outlines the services and programs that we must provide.

MVCA is also continuing to implement it's infrastructure strategy so that we can continue to decommission surplus buildings and to invest in the equipment and infrastructure that is critical to our core services.

Increasing demand for services and new regulatory requirements have resulted in MVCA's Members identifying the need to increase the budget.

The 2022 draft budget includes a levy increase of \$136,222. A copy of the draft budget and levy apportionment table is attached to this letter.

The apportionment of the levy is based upon each municipality's assessment in the watershed. The assessment schedule is developed by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

We have included a newsletter that highlights the work that MVCA was able to accomplish in 2021 along with a newsletter outlining some of our major projects and activities planned for 2022.

We recognize that our member municipalities are also facing fiscal challenges associated with increasing development and the pandemic, however we ask that you take into account the changes that we are making to our services so that we can focus on our core services, equipment and infrastructure.

MVCA's Members plan to finalize the work plan and budget on Wednesday, March 16th, 2022. If your municipality has any comments regarding the draft work plan and budget please forward your comments to me and your member by March 7, 2022.

We look forward to working with you in 2022.

Respectfully submitted



Dave Turton
Chair
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

REVIEW of 2021

A snapshot of key activities undertaken in the past year.



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“We are focussing our services on mitigating the impacts of a rapidly changing climate.”

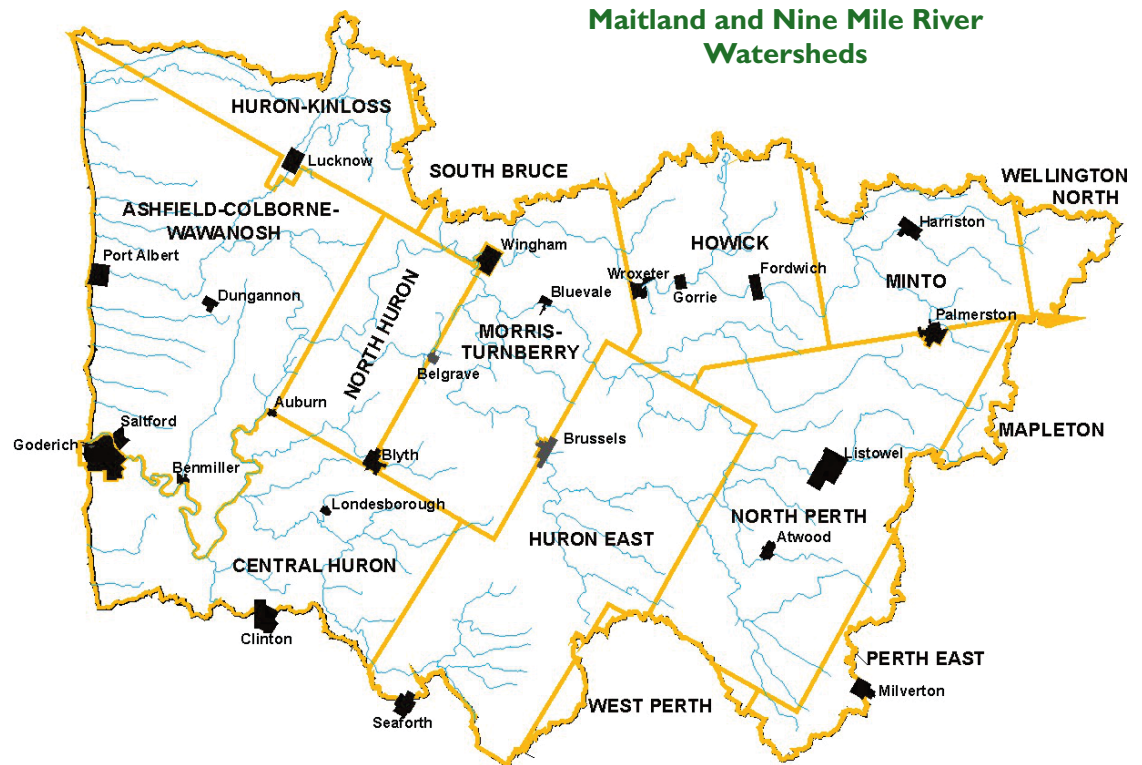
BACKGROUND

Maitland Conservation is jointly governed by its member municipalities.

Conservation Authorities are established by the provincial government at the request of municipalities. The activities of Maitland Conservation are driven by municipalities, landowners and community partners.

We are committed to providing effective community-based conservation services in a cost efficient manner.

Maitland Conservation is working to protect and enhance water, forests and soils in the Maitland and Nine Mile River watersheds.





Lake Huron Water Level and Erosion Risk Support

The water level of Lake Huron dropped during 2021 but continues to be above average. Staff delivered information on coastal processes and erosion risks to municipalities and landowners throughout the year including:

- Impending bluff failure mapping to ACW and Central Huron. Follow-up meetings held with municipal staff and emergency services.
- Bluff failure webinar delivered to the public over Zoom.
- Presentations made to two cottage associations.
- Over 1,100 newsletters mailed to shoreline landowners. Over 250 landowners completed a survey to gauge shoreline priorities and concerns.
- Lake level projection factsheet regularly updated and posted on website.

FLOOD & EROSION SAFETY SERVICES 2021

- **Harriston Flood Damage Reduction Support** - Continued technical support provided to the Town of Minto in selecting appropriate options for reducing the potential for flood damages in the community. Fisheries assessment completed in area of proposed downstream work.
- **Shoreline Hazard Mapping Update** - Lidar data delivered and reviewed. This precise, 3-D information will be used to create updated hazard mapping. RFP process completed for the mapping project.
- **Flood Forecasting System** - On-going maintenance of rain gauges and stream gauging stations. Monitoring of weather and gauge data 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. Messages issued for 11 events.
- **Wingham Flood Progression Mapping for the Township of North Huron and the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry** - The development of flood progression mapping is underway to assist municipal staff during flood events.

“Our stewardship efforts are focussed on keeping sediment and nutrients on the land and out of waterways.”

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES 2021

- **Wellington Rural Water Quality Program and Huron Clean Water Project** - 198 new projects approved this year. Grants totalling \$253,618 allocated with total estimated project costs of \$990,394. Top projects in 2021:
 - Cover crops (79)
 - Tree Planting (40)
 - Forest Management Plans (22)
- **Rural Stormwater Management** - 17 new erosion control and wetland projects initiated in 2021. New agreement with St. Clair Region C.A. for green infrastructure municipal drain demonstrations and case studies. Supported Pine River Watershed Initiative Network on wetland restoration proposal.
- **Forestry Program** - Tree and shrub order program had 129 customers totalling 18,078 trees. Assisted with 67 planting projects that saw 37,529 trees and shrubs planted, including 10.8 km of stream buffering.
- **Forest Health Study** - Assessments completed on 103 forest plots on 42 private properties across the watershed. Research being undertaken in partnership with the University of Toronto Forestry Conservation.
- **Healthy Lake Huron** - The Conservation Authorities involved in Healthy Lake Huron worked collaboratively to develop consistent approaches to:
 - erodible soil mapping
 - estimated adoption of vegetation cover and crop rotationStaff also developed detailed mapping for the Eighteen Mile River watershed that included information on the erosion potential of gullies.



Matthew Shakespeare assessing a forest plot - July 2021

- **Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration Project** -Nine new planting projects were completed in 2021 including 5 1/2 km of new watercourse buffers.
- **On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM)** - Focussed on monitoring soil health and water quality within the Garvey-Glenn watershed. This initiative is part of a larger provincial soil health monitoring effort. Water sampling was done at the watershed outlet and at the edge-of-field station. WISKI data management platform

implemented to improve efficiency and allow for future public access to data.

- **Monitoring and Reporting** - Extensive water sampling conducted throughout the year including:
 - 102 samples for the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network
 - 11 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells
 - Benthic invertebrate sampling at one site
 - Six sites in the Eighteen Mile River watershed were sampled and flow data collected.



Mat Shetler sampling in Salem Creek - August 2021



Jacobsen Restoration Project - Lucknow

CONSERVATION AREAS

2021

Best Management Practices on Conservation Lands

- Second phase of invasive Buckthorn removal from meadow areas at Wawanosh Valley completed.
- Phragmites control work undertaken at Galbraith and Gorrie.
- Naturalization of grounds at office continued with the planting of native species in the front garden.

Maintain Conservation Areas for Safe Public Use

The sharp rise in public use of properties seen in 2020, continued in 2021.

- Hazardous trees removed from Brussels and Gorrie.
- Inspections completed on day-use areas, trails, and dam infrastructure.
- New benches installed at Naftel's Creek.

Carbon Footprint Reduction Strategy

- 356 trees and 100 shrubs planted at Conservation Area
- Continued reduction of fossil fuel use through the purchase of fuel efficient and electric vehicles.



Gorrie Conservation Area following removal of the dam - September 2021

Gorrie Dam and Conservation Area

A major milestone was completed in 2021 with the decommissioning of the Gorrie Dam. The structure was damaged in a flood in June 2017.

- The contractor completed removal of the dam structure and site rehabilitation of the Conservation Area.
- Picnic shelter renovation was started with completion expected in spring 2022.
- A community planting day was held at the site in October.
- The Maitland Mills Association removed historical artifacts from the Gorrie Mill. A salvage company dismantled the mill building and undertook site restoration.

Falls Reserve Conservation Area

It was a late start to the camping season again in 2021, but both camping and day-use visits continued to rise.

- Operational procedures were adjusted based on local public health and provincial directives.
- Exterior siding was replaced on the washroom in the Maple Campground. New day-use sites were developed and made available for rent. The Cedar Campground was designated as radio/audio free and 15 sites closed to limit pressure on facilities.
- MECP approved the FRCA application for a septic system replacement. A contractor was selected and the project got underway in the fall. It is expected to be completed in late May, 2022.



Jason Moir, FRCA Superintendent, at new day use picnic site - July 2021



Installation of leaching cell for new septic system at FRCA - November 2021





Healthy Watersheds Tour with Clint Jacobs, Natural Heritage Coordinator for Walpole Island First Nation, Dan Krause, Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada, Dr. Justina Ray, WCS Canada, Erin Gouthro, Maitland Conservation and Ted Briggs, MECP

CORPORATE SERVICES 2021

Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

- Chair and General Manager/Secretary Treasurer met with Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce, to review MVCA's comments on the mandatory services consultation paper. Comments were sent to:
 - Randy Pettepiece, MPP, Perth Wellington,
 - Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks,
 - Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.
- A Transition Plan has been developed in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21 - Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act. This plan is being circulated to member

municipalities. An inventory of programs and services is also being developed and will be provided to municipalities by the end of February 2022.

Three-Year Budget for 2022-2024

- Draft three-year budget and work plan developed and reviewed by Members in October.

Infrastructure Plan

A five-year infrastructure and equipment strategy was developed for the organization.



Maitland Conservation Members' Tour of Falls Reserve Conservation Area - August 2021

Questions?

Contact your Maitland Conservation Member. Contact information is posted at mvca.on.ca or email maitland@mvca.on.ca.

KEY PRIORITIES for 2022

1. Reduce the risk of loss of life and community damage from flooding and erosion.
2. Keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses.
3. Ensure Conservation Areas are safe for visitors and showcase best management practices.
4. Develop agreement with member municipalities on the programs and services to be provided by Maitland Conservation under the updated Conservation Authorities Act.



WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

- Tree Planting - promote large stock and seedling program to landowners and municipalities for conservation projects.
- Delivery of Wellington and Huron Clean Water Projects - assist landowners to access funding to undertake stewardship projects.
- Continue water sampling to identify trends in water quality.
- Healthy Lake Huron - expand stewardship efforts to all shoreline sub-basins. Focus on cover crop and restoration projects. Maintain Garvey-Glenn and Eighteen Mile sub-watersheds as study sites.
- Forest Health Assessment - phase two of the study will get underway in 2022. Focus on identifying the current state of forests as well as forest health challenges and opportunities.



- Garvey-Glenn Watershed Restoration Project - continue to work with landowners on cover crop and ecosystem restoration projects. Water quality and soil health monitoring and modelling through the On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM) project. Collaborate with the soil modelling group at the University of Guelph to investigate the impacts of Best Management Practices on the local landscape.
- Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration Project - refinement of Middle Maitland Restoration Strategy. Target projects in areas highlighted through the Priority Area Mapping Project. Offer a winter workshops series to landowners.
- Case Studies - document Scott Municipal Drain Project and Garvey-Glenn Watershed Restoration Project.





Bluffs along the Lake Huron shoreline



FLOOD and EROSION SAFETY Services

- Continue to ensure our flood forecasting and warning system is maintained and monitored throughout the year.
- Complete flood progression mapping for the Wingham area.
- Monitor bluff and gully collapse and erosion of the bottom of the bluffs along the Lake Huron shoreline.
- Technical support on flood damage remediation strategies for the Town of Minto.
- Listowel and Lucknow Hydrology Projects - collect flow data to calibrate future flood forecast models.
- Shoreline Hazard Mapping Project - consultant will begin the initial phases of the mapping update project.
- Provision of land use planning support and Drainage Act support



CORPORATE Services

- Ensure member municipalities and target audiences are aware of and supportive of our priorities and work plan.
- Work with Member municipalities on changes to the Conservation Authorities Act including:
 - providing of an inventory of Maitland Conservation's programs and services by the end of February. Provide additional information on the programs and services that Maitland Conservation intends to provide as of January 1, 2024.
 - work with member municipalities to develop an agreement that will encompass all the services and programs that MVCA intends to provide as of January 1, 2024.
- Develop a 3-year budget (2023-2025) for operating and capital.
- Develop an education and training plan for Members.

Sarah Rixon at the edge-of-field sampling site, Garvey-Glenn watershed



CONSERVATION AREAS Services

- Gorrie Conservation Area - complete remediation of the site for community use. Install information signs and repair picnic shelter.
- Naftel's Creek Conservation Area - begin replacement of boardwalk and bridge.
- Brussels Mill - complete disposition of the mill and transfer ownership to the Maitland Mills Association.
- Galbraith Conservation Area - continue with disposition of property pending lease agreement with North Perth.
- Develop funding agreements for maintenance and repairs of dams - Municipality of Huron East (Brussels), Municipality of Morris-Turnberry (Bluevale).
- Renovate workshop for vehicle storage; construction of new storage shed.
- Complete installation of new septic system and campsite sewer connections at Falls Reserve C. A. Installation of new generator and controlled access gate.

Native species planted at Administration Centre - August 2021



Dec 6/21

Operating Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Table 1

ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Reserve Funds	Expense	NET Surplus/ Deficit
Corporate Services						
Administration	53,952	276,902		9,765	340,619	
Financial Management		100,538			100,538	
Governance		17,440			17,440	
Services Areas Support		55,772			55,772	
Communications, IT, GIS	3,000	221,189			224,189	
Total	56,952	671,841		9,765	738,558	
Flood Safety Services						
Flood Control Structures		6,282			6,282	
Erosion Control Structures		1,432			1,432	
Flood Forecasting and Warning	36,424	195,277			231,701	
Ice Management						
Hazard Prevention		21,013			21,013	
Natural Hazard Information		63,368			63,368	
Regulations	90,000	200,787			290,787	
Total	126,424	488,159			614,583	
Watershed Stewardship Services						
Watershed Monitoring and Reporting	2,000	92,520			94,520	
Extension Services	67,316	153,019			220,335	
Forestry Services	79,911				79,911	
Total	149,227	245,539			394,766	
Conservation Areas Management Services						
Falls Reserve Conservation Area	725,000			569,698	1,294,698	
Wawanosh Park Conservation Area	14,868			1,462	16,330	
Management/Development/Operations	5,800	244,865			250,665	
Motor Pool	51,595				25,600	25,995
Total	797,263	244,865		571,160	1,587,293	25,995
Net Operating Budgets	1,129,866	1,650,404		580,925	3,335,200	25,995

**Project Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Table 2**

Dec 6/21

ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Special Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Working Capital Reserves	Forest Management Reserves	Motor Pool Reserves	Expense	Net Surplus / Deficit
Corporate Services Projects									
Administration Centre		110,000			329,100			439,100	
GIS/IT Management/Communications					37,500			37,500	
Total		110,000			366,600			476,600	
Flood and Erosion Safety Services Projects									
Flood Control - Preventative Maintenance					16,000			16,000	
Shoreline Hazard Mapping			220,000					220,000	
Total			220,000		16,000			236,000	
Watershed Stewardship Services Projects									
Garvey Glenn Coordination	42,000			1,440				43,440	
Garvey Glenn Demos				28,000				28,000	
Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration	25,000			45,000				70,000	
Huron Clean Water	450,000							450,000	
CFI				3,749				3,749	
Watershed Health Project	50,000				54,044			104,044	
Watershed Stewardship Projects				8,100				8,100	
Nature Based Climate Solutions	132,000							132,000	
ONFARM Applied Research and Monitoring Project				61,576				61,576	
Rural Green Infrastructure (OMAFRA COA)	37,870							37,870	
Total	736,870			147,865	54,044			938,779	
Conservation Area Projects									
Forestry Management	1,000							1,000	
Vehicles/Equipment Replacement						17,000		17,000	
MVCA Carbon Offset							500	500	
Footprints to Forests Carbon Offsetting					500			500	
Gorrie Conservation Area	56,924							25,400	31,524
Conservation Area Projects	2,000				2,000			4,000	
Naftel's Creek Project					5,000			5,000	
Brussels Mill Project					17,500			17,500	
Total	59,924				25,000	17,000	500	70,900	31,524
Net Project Budgets	796,794	110,000	220,000	147,865	461,644	17,000	500	1,722,279	31,524

Draft Schedule of General Levies for 2022

November 2, 2021

**Increase
from prior
year**

Municipality	% of Municipality In Watershed	2020 CVA (modified) in Watershed \$	Municipal Population in CA jurisdiction	CVA Based Apportionment Percentage	2021 Approved General Levy	2022 Draft General Levy	\$
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Twp.	100	\$1,277,370,735	4,624	12.4777	\$ 202,216	\$ 219,658	\$ 17,442
Central Huron Municipality	76	\$997,254,863	4,845	9.7414	\$ 158,468	\$ 171,488	\$ 13,020
Goderich Town	100	\$1,103,574,739	6,282	10.7800	\$ 174,642	\$ 189,772	\$ 15,130
Howick Twp.	92	\$470,714,626	2,686	4.5981	\$ 74,360	\$ 80,945	\$ 6,585
Huron East Municipality	72	\$1,096,579,970	5,776	10.7117	\$ 175,522	\$ 188,569	\$ 13,047
Huron-Kinloss Twp.	43	\$622,719,150	2,457	6.0829	\$ 100,092	\$ 107,084	\$ 6,992
Mapleton Twp.	5	\$91,948,753	384	0.8982	\$ 14,515	\$ 15,812	\$ 1,297
Minto Town	64	\$703,718,677	4,136	6.8741	\$ 111,084	\$ 121,012	\$ 9,928
Morris/Turnberry Municipality	95	\$538,400,945	2,756	5.2592	\$ 85,765	\$ 92,583	\$ 6,818
North Huron Twp.	100	\$580,252,767	3,980	5.6681	\$ 91,938	\$ 99,781	\$ 7,843
North Perth Municipality	98	\$2,231,849,530	10,670	21.8013	\$ 351,974	\$ 383,789	\$ 31,815
Perth East Twp.	9	\$182,930,511	861	1.7869	\$ 29,636	\$ 31,457	\$ 1,821
South Bruce Municipality	1	\$7,163,307	50	0.0700	\$ 1,145	\$ 1,232	\$ 87
Wellington North	16	\$284,260,540	1,479	2.7767	\$ 45,094	\$ 48,881	\$ 3,787
West Perth Municipality	3	\$48,505,439	226	0.4738	\$ 7,731	\$ 8,341	\$ 610
		\$10,237,244,552	51212	100.0001	\$ 1,624,182	\$ 1,760,404	\$ 136,222