

MEDIA RELEASE

Wetland Policy Approved by MVCA Board of Directors

For immediate release

September 21, 2017, Carleton Place — In a recorded vote of 10-5, the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) Board of Directors officially approved a change in policy that would see all wetlands in the Mississippi Valley watershed regulated, not just Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs).

MVCA is now in line with the vast majority of conservation authorities across the province that implemented the regulation as intended when it was mandated by the Province of Ontario in 2006. MVCA applied the regulation to PSWs only due to cost, mapping issues and limited staff resources.

Under Section 2 (1) of Ontario Regulation 153/06, “Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority: Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses, development is prohibited within:

(c) wetlands; or

(d) other areas where development could interfere with the hydrologic function of a wetland, including areas within 120 metres of all provincially significant wetlands and areas within 30 metres of other wetlands. O. Reg. 153/06.”

The regulation will include other wetlands that meet the following criteria:

- Wetlands greater than 0.5 ha (1.2 acres) in size
- Wetlands that have hydraulic connectivity (i.e. connected to a waterbody/watercourse)

The policy will come into effect October 1, 2017. MVCA staff is dedicated to working with the public and landowners in the event their property is impacted. Staff will conduct a field visit; assess if the wetland in fact meets the criteria for protection under the regulation; provide guidance on how to proceed and work with the landowner to arrive at a solution. To view the policy, visit www.mvc.on.ca/wetlandspolicy.

MVCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Formed in 1968, MVCA’s mandate is to manage the watershed’s resources in partnership with our eleven member municipalities and the Province of Ontario. For more information, visit www.mvc.on.ca, follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook.

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