

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre
Carleton Place

MINUTES

April 17, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Mason, Chair;
J. Hall, Vice-Chair;
J. Atkinson;
E. Burke;
F. Campbell;
R. Darling;
E. El-Chantiry;
T. Fritz;
G. Gower;
B. Holmes;
J. Inglis;
J. Karau;
P. Kehoe;
C. Lowry;
G. McEvoy;
P. Sweetnam;
K. Thompson.

STAFF PRESENT:

S. McIntyre, General Manager;
A. Millar, Treasurer;
A. Broadbent, Information Technology Supervisor;
M. Craig, Manager, Planning and Regulations;
R. Fergusson, Operations Supervisor;
S. Gutoskie, Community Relations Coordinator;
G. Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor;
J. Price, Director, Water Resource Engineering;
E. Levi, Recording Secretary.

VISITORS PRESENT:

R. Bolivar, Consultant, Bolivar=Phillips;
S. Levine, Federation of Canadian Municipalities;

J. Mason called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

B04/17/19-1

MOVED BY: F. Campbell

SECONDED BY: R. Darling

Resolved, That the agenda for the April 17, 2019 meeting of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adopted as presented.

“CARRIED”

BUSINESS:

1. Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting – March 20, 2019

B04/17/19-2

MOVED BY: T. Fritz

SECONDED BY: C. Lowry

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting held on March 20, 2019 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

2. Minutes – Policy & Priorities Advisory Committee Meeting – April 5, 2019

B04/17/19-3

MOVED BY: J. Karau

SECONDED BY: J. Atkinson

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Policy & Priorities Advisory Committee meeting held on April 5, 2019 be received as amended by the Board of Directors.

“CARRIED”

3. Business Arising

S. McIntyre reviewed the following Policy and Priorities Advisory Committee recommendations regarding Administrative By-Law Amendments:

- Secretary-Treasurer
- Voting by Proxy
- Invited Members

B04/17/19-4

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: K. Thompson

Resolved, That:

- 1. The General Manager be appointed as Secretary-Treasurer of the MVCA; and further that**
- 2. The Administrative By-Law be amended and approved as recommended by Staff Report #2999/19 and by the Policy and Priorities Advisory Committee.**

“CARRIED”

Mr. Sweetnam proposed that future consideration be given to proxy voting via phone if weather is a factor impeding member attendance at meetings.

B04/17/19-5

MOVED BY: F. Campbell

SECONDED BY: G. Gower

Resolved, That the amendments to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Administrative By-law regarding voting by Proxy be approved as recommended by Staff Report #3000/19 and amended by the Policy and Priorities Advisory Committee.

“CARRIED”

E. El-Chantiry noted that it should be strictly voting members sitting around the table in meetings.

P. Sweetnam noted there were many past members who have provided sage advice.

J. Karau commented that both past and future members will recognize that many others have experience providing valuable input on specific topics when required.

B04/17/19-6

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: T. Fritz

Resolved, That:

- 1. The Administrative By-law remain silent on Invited Members; and further that**
- 2. The General Manager or their delegate be identified as the official liaison between the MVCA Board and the MVCF Board.**

“CARRIED”

4. Report from Conservation Ontario meeting April 1, 2019

J. Mason reviewed the attached Report #3002/19 providing an update from the Conservation Ontario meeting held April 1, 2019.

P. Sweetnam inquired as to the annual levy paid to Conservation Ontario. S. McIntyre will advise.

S. McIntyre gave a presentation on Staff Report #3008/19 attached. The report outlined proposed legislative and regulatory changes affecting conservation authorities, and the recently announced cut in provincial transfers to CAs.

S. McIntyre advised that authorities have until May 21, 2019 to provide comments back to the Minister responsible. R. Darling asked whether municipalities will have input prior to the May 21 deadline and whether the Authority would be seeking municipal letters of support or solely representative support in the Board capacity. S. McIntyre noted that anyone may comment prior to that date and municipal letters of support in addition to Board support would be appreciated. She also advised that an *ad hoc* committee of board members was being proposed to generate a formal response.

J. Karau noted that similar considerations came up in the recent *Conservation Authorities Act* review. He advised that there is some relevant material available from those correspondences.

5. Asset Management for Conservation Authorities

J. Price gave an overview of Staff Report #3003/19 attached. He introduced Roddy Bolivar of Bolivar=Phillips who gave a presentation regarding asset management training for conservation authorities and municipal water resource managers being carried out in Eastern Ontario.

E. El-Chantiry expressed concern about liabilities and risk in identifying needs where a potential lack of resources to repair exists. S. McIntyre advised that the liability exists either way as owners are required to know the condition of property and any repairs needed. She noted that having needs assessed and prioritized allows for preparation of a plan that phases repairs/renewal projects in an affordable manner.

6. Budget Control Report

A. Millar presented Staff Report #3004/19 regarding year-to-date expenditures, as attached.

F. Campbell sought clarification of the \$6,028,733 listed under other revenues for the Administration Office. S. McIntyre explained that it was appearing in a column outlining 2011-2018 budgets when the loan was previously received for construction of the office building.

7. Quarterly Update

S. McIntyre reviewed Staff Report #3005/19 attached, referencing a 2-page summary highlighting long and short-term initiatives and planned activities for the Authority. Members were provided with copies of the summary and asked to distribute to their respective council colleagues.

8. Watershed Conditions Report

G. Mountenay discussed Staff Report #3006/19 attached. He reviewed the Flood Warning for Mississippi and Carp River watersheds and the Flood Watch for the Ottawa River, both issued April 17, 2019.

G. Mountenay also provided a comparison of current water levels and flows to historical averages at specific areas within the watershed.

S. McIntyre advised members to update their municipal websites with sandbagging information and arrange for stockpiling and distribution of (non-salted) sand.

9. Ontario Regulation 153/06 Permit Update

Staff Report #3007/19, as attached, was provided to the Board. It was noted that any questions should be directed to M. Craig following the meeting.

10. Other Business

J. Mason commented that members should use caution when opening emails from other board members as email addresses are publicized and are susceptible to malicious use.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

B04/17/19-7

MOVED BY: P. Kehoe

SECONDED BY: G. McEvoy

Resolved, That the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

“CARRIED”

“E. Levi, Recording Secretary

J. Mason, Chair”

REPORT

#3002/19

TO:	The Chair and Members of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors
FROM:	Janet Mason, MVCA Chair & Sally McIntyre, General Manager
RE:	Conservation Ontario Council Meeting and AGM Report
DATE:	April 10, 2019

Recommendation:

That the Board receive the Conservation Ontario Council Meeting and AGM Report for information purposes.

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with a summary of the Conservation Ontario Council Meetings

2.0 BACKGROUND

Conservation Ontario (CO) represents the 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs) in Ontario. Its role is to promote and strengthen a watershed-based conservation coalition at the provincial level.

- Influence policy development.
- Build capacity of conservation authorities (e.g. CA University, group insurance and benefits, Latornell Conference).
- Diversify relationships and funding sources.
- Promote value of watershed management.

CO's annual budget is approximately \$3M, which is funded by contributions from member CAs and project grant funding (about 50/50). CO has nine full-time staff.

On behalf of MVCA, Janet Mason (voting delegate), Jeff Atkinson (1st alternate), and Sally McIntyre (2nd alternate) attended the Conservation Ontario Council meeting and AGM on 1 April. We were accompanied by Mark Burnham, former MVCA board member and outgoing CO Council Vice-Chair, who provided background and context for the discussions.

3.0 SUMMARY

There was turnover of about 50% in CO Council members due to the fall municipal elections. It was noted that there was considerable experience at all three levels of government among members from the CAs.

CO Council members elected a new chair and vice chairs and 3 directors.

- Chair - Wayne Emmerson, Lake Simcoe CA
- Vice-Chair - Lin Gibson, Nickel District CA (Sudbury)
- Vice-Chair - Alan Revill, Cataraqui Region CA

The main issue of the meeting was a discussion on working effectively with the provincial government to demonstrate the value of conservation authorities to the province, municipalities, and residents of Ontario.

- CO hired a strategist in the fall to guide it. The outcome was two recommendations:
 - advise and promote that CAs' core mandate entails more than flood management, and
 - support the government in streamlining the approval process for new housing.
- CO met with Minister Clark (Municipal Affairs and Housing) and have a meeting set with Minister Phillips (Environment, Conservation, and Parks) in early April. Minister Yakabuski (Natural Resources and Forestry) had not responded to a meeting request at the time of the CO Council meeting.
- Key messages:
 - The core mandate of conservation authorities is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social and environmental benefits.
 - Conservation authorities deliver cost-effective services to the Province and municipalities under the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS): regulation and advice on natural hazards; assistance in planning applications; protection of source water.
 - Conservation Authorities can help the province increase housing supply.
 - (Driven primarily by housing shortage issues and delays in approvals in the Greater Toronto Area.)
- CO proposed that all CAs:
 - adopt a Collective Conservation Authority Core Mandate and Objectives; and
 - have their respective boards approve a resolution to undertake a CO-led Client Service and Streamlining Initiative. Approval requested by all boards by May 2019 at the latest.

- The Collective Core Mandate was approved by the CO Council - *The core mandate of conservation authorities is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social and environmental benefits.*
 - Objectives:
 1. *Develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.*
 2. *Develop and maintain programs that will conserve natural resources:*
 - *Ensure that Ontario's water resources are properly safeguarded managed and restored.*
 - *Protect, manage and restore Ontario's woodlands, wetlands and natural habitat.*
 - *Connect people to the natural environment.*
- Client Service and Streamlining Initiative objectives.
 - Improve client service and accountability - train CA staff; develop CA best practices; create standard approval process checklist.
 - Increase speed of approvals - develop representative process flow in order to undertake process streamlining.
 - Reduce red tape and regulatory burden.
- The CO Council approved the Client Service and Streamlining Initiative objectives and actions.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

At this time, MVCA's plan is to review the Core Mandate and the Client Service and Streamlining Initiative at the Policy and Priorities Committee before making a recommendation to the Board in May.

REPORT

#3007/19

TO:	The Chair and Members of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors
FROM:	Matt Craig, Manager, Planning and Regulations
RE:	Ontario Regulation 153/06 Permits Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
DATE:	April 10, 2019

Recommendation:

That the Board receive this report for information.

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with a summary of permits issued and permits-in-progress, as follows:

Table 1 – All permits issued February 12, 2019 to April 9, 2019

Table 2 – Category II through IV in-progress since January 1, 2019.

Permit applications are reviewed for control of flooding, erosion, pollution and the conservation of land. Wetlands are regulated to ensure the protection of their hydrologic and ecological functions.

ATTACHMENTS:

Table 1 – All permits issued February 12, 2019 to April 9, 2019

Table 2 – Category II through IV in-progress since January 1, 2019.

REPORT

#3004/19

TO:	The Chair and Members of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors
FROM:	Angela Millar, Treasurer
RE:	Q1 Budget Control Report
DATE:	April 10, 2019

Recommendation:

That the Board receive the Q1 Budget Control Report for information purposes.

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a comparison of year-to-date expenditures to the approved 2019 Budget. Prudent fiscal management requires periodic reviews of corporate revenues and expenditures to identify areas of potential risk. Early identification of concerns allows for consideration of options and mitigation of financial impacts.

2.0 FINDINGS

This Q1 Budget Control report reflects that expenditures are on target for this time of year. The summer months are much busier with program and project expenditures therefore, subsequent reports will provide a better indication of budget to actual variances.

Grant applications have been submitted for various seasonal and temporary positions. Notice of funding decisions are anticipated in late April.

3.0 RISKS

It is unclear from documents posted on the EBR Registry whether provincial transfers are to be maintained or downloaded to municipalities. In the past, through the WECI program, the Province has provided conservation authorities with an additional \$5 million in matching grants to address issues around conservation authority flood infrastructure (dams, dykes, etc). On March 27th, a letter was received asking Conservation Authorities to submit 2019-2020 WECI project proposals by April 12th. This submission deadline is much later than previous years and the letter also states that the WECI program is still subject to funding approval.

The MVCA 2019 Budget includes \$165,322 to be received through Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) cost shared program, which provides 50% funding and the remaining 50% to come from the Municipal Levy constituting **over 26% of our capital revenue** for 2019. If some or all of this grant is not approved, staff will table options for the Board's consideration and approval.

Similarly, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry annual transfer payment may also be at risk. This annual transfer has been fixed at \$248,792 since 2000 and constitutes **6.5% of the annual operating revenue**. If this funding is reduced or eliminated it would impact the Operating Budget and the Municipal Levy.

The Provincial Budget will be tabled on April 11th. As this report is written prior to the Provincial Budget being presented, staff will provide a verbal update to the Board of Directors should additional information be received.

3.0 NEXT STEPS

The next scheduled report will be as at June 30th unless changes occurring at the Provincial level warrant earlier reporting.

Staff will continue to gather information regarding the status of current and future funding sources and provide the Board of Directors with updates as they become available.

Beginning in the fall of 2019, management will provide projected revenues and expenditures along with the year-to-date actuals to provide the Board with a forecast of the year end position.

Management will continue to monitor and analyze the year-to-date operations and projected revenues and expenditures to achieve prudent fiscal management.

2019 Budget Control			
Operating Program			
Expenditures	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	Year-To-Date as at: Mar 29 2019
Corporate Services			
Administration	\$496,204	\$654,536	\$179,853
Communications	\$95,797	\$94,698	\$21,111
Operations	\$26,029	\$34,780	(\$6,090)
Sub-total	\$618,030	\$784,014	\$194,874
Watershed Management			
Information Management	\$191,077	\$209,346	\$49,683
Watershed Planning	\$316,661	\$351,473	\$75,598
Watershed Monitoring	\$221,896	\$294,580	\$55,655
Studies	\$130,074	\$137,352	\$32,712
Plan Review	\$207,772	\$230,728	\$56,335
Section 28 Regulations	\$348,410	\$326,983	\$64,513
Sub-total	\$1,415,890	\$1,550,462	\$334,496
Flood and Erosion Control			
Flood Forecasting & Warning	\$222,646	\$233,873	\$55,363
O&M Flood Control Structures	\$309,327	\$330,921	\$68,145
Prev. Maintenance of FCS	\$122,771	\$137,457	\$30,936
Sub-total	\$654,744	\$702,251	\$154,444
Conservation Services			
Conservation Services	\$83,664	\$237,043	\$17,352
Land Management	\$299,757	\$313,260	\$83,406
Conservation Education	\$103,886	\$110,708	\$27,257
Visitor Services	\$132,086	\$147,983	\$33,622
Sub-total	\$619,393	\$808,994	\$161,637
Total Operating	\$3,308,057	\$3,845,721	\$845,452
Revenues	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	Mar 29 2019
Municipal Levy			
- General benefiting	\$2,430,442	\$2,500,845	\$750,462
- Special benefiting	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-total	\$2,430,442	\$2,500,845	\$750,462
Provincial Transfer Payment	\$248,792	\$248,792	\$0
Special Grants	\$19,216	\$28,909	\$0
User Fees & Contract Revenue	\$428,074	\$416,000	\$77,032
Special Reserves	\$0	\$136,228	\$0
Other	\$247,013	\$514,947	\$17,958
Total Revenues	\$3,373,537	\$3,845,721	\$845,452
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$65,480	\$0	\$0

2019 Budget Control			
Capital Program			
Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure			
Expenditures	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	Year-To-Date as at: Mar 29 2019
Water & Erosion Control Infrast	\$125,542	\$330,643	\$6,998
Revenues	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	Year-To-Date as at: Mar 29 2019
WECI Grant	\$44,942	\$165,322	\$0
General Benefiting levy	\$80,600	\$165,322	\$6,998
Special Benefiting levy	\$0	\$0	\$0
Deferred Revenue - WECI	\$0	\$0	\$0
Water Control Structure Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$125,542	\$330,643	\$6,998
Administration Office			
Expenditures	2011-18 Actual	2019 Budget	Year-To-Date as at: Mar 29 2019
Administration Office	\$6,316,326	\$277,005	\$0
Revenues	2011-18 Actual	2019 Budget	Year-To-Date as at: Mar 29 2019
Provincial Transfer Payment	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Benefiting levy	\$287,593	\$277,005	\$0
Special Benefiting levy	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Reserves	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$6,028,733	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$6,316,326	\$277,005	\$0
Conservation Areas Development			
Expenditures	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	Year-To-Date as at: Mar 29 2019
Conservation Areas - Office Trails	\$11,467	\$18,000	\$1,657
Revenues	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	Year-To-Date as at: Mar 29 2019
General Benefiting levy	\$10,507	\$13,000	\$1,657
Other	\$960	\$5,000	\$0
Total Revenues	\$11,467	\$18,000	\$1,657

REPORT

#3003/19

TO: The Chair and Members of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors

FROM: John Price, Director Water Resources

RE: **MVCA April 2019 Update**

DATE: **April 10, 2019**

Recommendation:

That the Board receive this presentation for information.

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the presentation will be to inform Board Members of asset management training for conservation authorities and municipal water resource managers being carried out in Eastern Ontario, and the benefits of integrated asset management.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Conservation Authorities and municipalities both manage water resources in the watershed. Comprehensive and coordinated asset management can improve cost effectiveness, system integration, and reduce impacts on people, property and the environment.

In 2018, MVCA led a grant application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) under the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP). FCM approved 80% federal funding, with the balance funded in equal parts by the MVCA and partnering CAs:

- Cataraqui Region Conservation
- Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
- Lower Trent Conservation Authority
- Otonabee Conservation
- Quinte Conservation
- Raisin Region Conservation
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- South Nation Conservation

Municipalities in the watershed are invited to participate in these training sessions and other asset management training sessions approved under the MAMP.

REPORT

#3005/19

TO:	The Chair and Members of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors
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FROM:	Sally McIntyre, General Manager
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RE:	MVCA April 2019 Update
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DATE:	April 10, 2019
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Recommendation:

That the Board receive this document for information.

1.0 PURPOSE

Attached is a 2-page summary update. It is provided to Board Members as a communication tool to ease periodic updating of municipal Councils. It highlights a combination of long and short-term initiatives and planned activities.

2.0 NEXT STEPS

Print and electronic copies will be provided for distribution to Council colleagues.

ATTACHMENT

1. MVCA Update April 2019

REPORT

3008/19

TO: The Chair and Members of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors

FROM: Sally McIntyre, General Manager

RE: **Changes in Provincial Funding, Legislation, Regulation, and Policies**

DATE: **April 16, 2019**

Recommendation:

That the Board receive this report for information.

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to brief the Board on proposed legislative and regulatory changes affecting conservation authorities, and the recently announced cut in provincial transfers to CAs.

2.0 PROVINCIAL FUNDING

2.1 Operating: Natural Hazard Management Grant (for flood forecasting and mitigation)

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority has received a fixed provincial transfer of \$248,792 for ~20 years. On April 12, 2019 we received notice from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry that our Natural Hazard Management Grant would be reduced to \$128,437.87, leaving a deficit in our 2019 revenues of \$120,354 (refer to Attachment 1.) This grant is used to subsidize up to 50% of the salaries of core staff in the flood forecasting, warning, and operations group.

Management has reviewed year-to-date financials and, due to the extended absence of two employees, believes that MVCA will be able to accommodate this reduction in fiscal 2019 without reducing services and programs to the public.

The funding cut will impact fiscal 2020, however, and the management team has begun to identify grant opportunities and explore ways to reduce current operating costs and mitigate future

budget pressures. This work will be carried out as part of the Strategic Plan Update which

was to be launched this month in any event, with results and recommendations incorporated into the draft 2020 budget to be tabled at the Finance Committee in the fall.

2.2 Capital: Water and Erosion Control Structure Infrastructure (WECI) program

Application has been made to the province under the WECI program to carry out capital improvements at Shabomeka Dam, Widow Lake Dam, and Kashwakamak Dam. The total value of these works is estimated at ~\$330,600, with the MVCA 2019 budget indicating ~\$165,300 to be recovered through the WECI program. We have enquired but not heard whether this program was impacted by the provincial 2019 budget.

2.3 Students: Summer Experience Opportunities program

This program has been cancelled. Last year MVCA funded one student under this program.

3.0 PROPOSED CHANGES IN PROVINCIAL LAWS AND POLICIES

3.1 Legislation: changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

[Proposed amendments](#) to the *Conservation Authorities Act* aim to clarify the mandate of CAs to focus on:

- natural hazard protection and management
- conservation and management of conservation lands
- drinking water source protection (as prescribed by the *Clean Water Act*), and
- protection of the Lake Simcoe watershed.

While the focus on natural hazard protection management was expected, the confinement of our conservation and management role to CA properties represents a significant change in direction. Similarly, the explicit reference to Lake Simcoe watershed raises the question if or how other CAs will be involved in watershed planning and management.

Other changes propose to address governance matters such as how CAs levy municipalities and the process for CA/municipal agreements for the delivery of “mandatory” and “non-mandatory” programs and services. This was recognized by CAs as an area needing improvement and are the subject of motions tabled at Conservation Ontario earlier this month.

Lastly, some unproclaimed elements of the *Conservation Authority Act* are to be proclaimed and come into force. Unproclaimed sections are shown in “grey” in the e-law version posted [online](#). The province has not stated which of these sections it intends to proclaim. Refer to Table 1 for a summary of items contained in the provincial notice.

Table 1: Direction of Proposed Legislative Changes

MANDATE	GOVERNANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natural hazard protection and management ○ Conservation and management of CA lands (MOK, Purdon, Morris Is.) ○ Drinking water Protection, as prescribed under Clean Water Act ○ Protection of Lake Simcoe watershed • Non-mandatory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land conservation outside of Conservation Areas? ○ Watershed management? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal MOUs for non-mandatory services • Review levies for non-core services every 4-8yrs • Allow for auditing of CAs • Clarify duties of Board members • Transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost recovery methodology ○ Publish policies governing permitting review ○ Notify when there are changes in wetland and hazard mapping ○ Report on service standards • Proclaim other provisions, e.g. regulated areas and permits, enforcement and reinstatement, fees for service and municipal levy apportionment.

3.2 Regulation: Replace O.Reg. 97/04 and 153/06 (and others) with single Regulation

[Proposed changes](#) will replace current regulations that set out permit requirements and limits for all CAs (O.Reg. 97/04) and individual CAs (O.Reg. 153/06 for MVCA.) “The proposed regulation will make rules for development in hazardous areas more consistent to support faster, more predictable and less costly approvals.”

Table 2 summarizes key areas where changes are anticipated including the focus of “conservation of land” to mean “natural hazard management”, and thus apparently exclude all other natural system features and functions.

Table 2: Direction of Regulatory Changes

REPLACE O.Reg. 97/04 and 153/06	STREAMLINE APPROVALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development prohibited on or in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ river or stream valleys ○ hazardous lands ○ wetlands ○ adjacent land where development could interfere with the hydrologic function of a wetland ○ within flood Regulation Limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define “interference” and “conservation of land” to be consistent with “natural hazard management” • Reduce regulatory restrictions between 30m and 120m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed; • Exempt low-risk development activities • Establish timelines for Permit Review

As with the proposed legislative changes regarding governance, CAs and Conservation Ontario recognized that improvements in transparency and service delivery were needed, with working groups established to develop best practices. Unfortunately, insufficient details are provided to allow for determination of whether consideration is being given to the variation in development pressures, watershed size, and CA staff and resources across the province.

3.3 Policy: Housing Supply Action Plan

The province has announced its intention to publish a Housing Supply Action Plan in May that will include amendments to the *Planning Act* and the *Provincial Policy Statement*. This could affect MVC's role as commenters on matters of provincial policy as delegated by the province or under agreements with municipalities.

4.0 Next Steps

Comments to the province are due by May 21, 2019.

Documents published by the province are short on details, and meetings held and queries posed by Conservation Ontario have not yielded further information.

Consequently, Conservation Ontario has developed an advocacy and communications strategy that MVCA will help to implement. In addition, management and staff will:

- review and inform the Board of additional information as it becomes available
- prepare a response to the province for endorsement at the May Board meeting
- table motions for Board endorsement as appropriate, and
- examine ways to improve transparency, service delivery, and effectiveness through the Strategic Planning Update.